



# Chile & Easter Island



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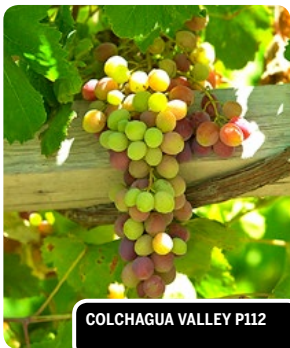
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# Itineraries



4  
WEEKS

## Best of Chile

Skate through Chile's amazing diversity in one month. From **Santiago**, feed your imagination exploring boho **Valparaíso**. In winter hit nearby powder stashes at top Andean resorts like **Portillo**.

Then turn up the dial with desert heat. Fly or bus to the highland village of **San Pedro de Atacama**. Absorb altiplano ambience visiting the moonlike **Valle de la Luna**, the steaming and strange **El Tatio Geysers** and the stark **Reserva Nacional Los Flamencos**. Wind up days of hiking, horseback riding or volcano climbing with mellow evening bonfires and star-stocked skies. Or skip the desert to hop a plane to **Easter Island (Rapa Nui)** and puzzle over its archaeological treasures for five days.

Head south to delve into temperate rainforest in **Pucón**, where rafting, hiking and hot springs fill up your Lakes District dance card. From **Puerto Montt**, detour to folklore capital **Chiloé**, or cruise on a four-day ferry ride through glacier-laced fjords to **Puerto Natales**. By now you are probably in top shape for **Parque Nacional Torres del Paine**. Take three days to a week at this world-famous hiking destination.



## La Capital & Wine Country

Explore Chile's vibrant wine scene with urban vinotecas and vineyards in the shadow of the Andes.

In **Santiago**, stroll around the historic center, break for a seafood lunch in the clamoring Mercado Central and tour La Chascona, Pablo Neruda's home. Sip champagne at Bocanaríz or catch experimental dance at the Centro Gabriela Mistral.

Big-bodied reds are crafted in Santiago's outskirts; in the Maipo valley, visit the wineries at **Viña Santa Rita** and **Viña Cousiño Macul**. Sample the whites of **Casablanca Valley**, where aspiring pickers can join Viña Casas del Bosque's March harvest. Tren Sabores del Valle offers train service from Santiago to Santa Cruz with wine tastings.

On to funky **Valparaíso** to roam steep hills and ride antique elevators. Admire open-air graffiti, step into Neruda's La Sebastiana getaway and feast on freshly caught fish. Then hit nearby resort cities **Viña del Mar**, **Zapallar** or **Maitencillo** for a quick beach getaway.

Finish in Chile's best-known wine region, **Colchagua Valley**. Overnight in **Santa Cruz** with a morning visit to the Museo de Colchagua before a carriage ride at Viu Marent, or a world-class prix-fixe lunch at Lapostolle. Surf in relaxed **Pichilemu** or visit the lesser-known wineries of **Maule Valley**.



4  
WEEKS

## Pioneer Patagonia

If you wish to travel only back roads, if you desire getting dirty, almost lost and awe-inspired, look no further than this four-week plan. Following the Carretera Austral, this route crisscrosses its little-known offshoots and gives you plenty of time on the hoof. Summer, with better connections and warm weather, is the best time to go.

From **Puerto Montt**, ferry to **Parque Nacional Pumalín** and explore ancient forests and climb to the steaming crater of Volcán Chaitén. Ramble the Carretera Austral to **Futaleufú**, for stunning rural vistas and heart-pumping white water. Check out the hot-springs options near **Puyuhuapi** or camp under the hanging glacier at **Parque Nacional Queulat**.

**Coyhaique** is the next major hub. After making connections to **Chile Chico** on the enormous Lago General Carrera, hop the border to **Los Antiguos** and travel Argentina's classic Ruta 40 to **El Chaltén** for hiking around the gnarled tooth of Cerro Fitz Roy. Take two days to visit **El Calafate**, spending one under the spell of the magnificent glacier Perito Moreno in the **Parque Nacional Los Glaciares**. While you're there, feast on giant steaks and bottles of peppery Malbec.

From El Calafate it's an easy bus connection to **Parque Nacional Torres del Paine** via **Puerto Natales**. Hike the 'W' route or go for the full weeklong circuit. By now you're in prime hiking shape – enjoy passing others on the trail. Return to Natales for post-trek pampering, namely hand-crafted beer, hot tubs and thin-crust pizza. With time, return to Puerto Montt via the Navimag ferry.

With an extra week, an alternative route would be to skip Chile Chico and follow the Carretera Austral to its southern terminus. Spend a few days hiking in **Parque Nacional Patagonia**, a new world-class park, refuge to scores of guanaco, puma and condors. Reach **Villa O'Higgins** and the end of the road to fish, hike and ferry to the O'Higgins glacier on the southern ice field. From here, a rugged boating and hiking combination can get you across the border to El Chaltén.



DANTE BUSQUETS/SHUTTERSTOCK ©



Top: Valle de la Luna  
(p159)

Bottom: Putre (p186)

BAS VAN DEN HEUVEL/SHUTTERSTOCK ©





## Desert Solitaire

How about a few days sleeping under star-crazy skies and following condor shadows along desert mountaintops? You'll need a 4WD and plenty of food, water and extra gas.

Start with a surfboard in **Iquique** to sample the swells of Playa Cavancha and Playa Huaiquique, then jump off a cliff on a tandem paragliding jaunt. With the adrenaline rush in place, slow things down with a contemplative wander around nitrate ghost towns **Santa Laura** and **Humberstone**, where you can poke around the creepy abandoned buildings of these once-flourishing spots and explore their crumbling grandeur.

Head north, with an optional stop in the isolated coastal town of **Pisagua**, once a bustling nitrate-era port, then a penal colony and today a nearly abandoned and strangely lyrical place where algae gatherers work alongside the ruins of busted mansions; don't miss the windswept old cemetery sloping forlorn on a nearby hill.

Cheer up in sunny **Arica**, where plenty of surf awaits below the dramatic headland of El Morro and remarkably preserved Chinchorro mummies lie in situ at the small museum just below the hill. From the coast, head inland via Hwy 11, passing geoglyphs, colonial chapels and misty mountain hamlets, to the pretty Andean village of **Putre**. Take a day or two here to catch your breath, literally, as Putre sits at a dizzying altitude of 3530m.

Once you've adjusted to the height, head to nearby **Parque Nacional Lauca**, where you can take in the perfect cone of Volcán Parinacota, wander through the tiny Aymara village with the same name and walk around the lovely Lago Chungará, all paired with awesome wildlife sightings in this Unesco Biosphere Reserve.

Further south, the remote **Reserva Nacional Las Vicuñas** shelters thousands of these flighty creatures and few interlopers to spook them, so go easy. Heading south on tough terrain past dazzling landscapes and through the isolated salt flat of **Monumento Natural Salar de Surire** with its three flamingo species (best seen between December and April), your reward for an adventurous ride is reaching the ultra-removed **Parque Nacional Volcán Isluga**, before looping back to Iquique.

# Behind the Scenes

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## SEND US YOUR FEEDBACK

We love to hear from travelers – your comments keep us on our toes and help make our books better. Our well-traveled team reads every word on what you loved or loathed about this book. Although we cannot reply individually to your submissions, we always guarantee that your feedback goes straight to the appropriate authors, in time for the next edition. Each person who sends us information is thanked in the next edition – the most useful submissions are rewarded with a selection of digital PDF chapters.

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## OUR READERS

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## THIS BOOK

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# Map Legend

## Sights

- Beach
- Bird Sanctuary
- Buddhist
- Castle/Palace
- Christian
- Confucian
- Hindu
- Islamic
- Jain
- Jewish
- Monument
- Museum/Gallery/Historic Building
- Ruin
- Shinto
- Sikh
- Taoist
- Winery/Vineyard
- Zoo/Wildlife Sanctuary
- Other Sight

## Activities, Courses & Tours

- Body surfing
- Diving
- Canoeing/Kayaking
- Course/Tour
- Sento Hot Baths/Onsen
- Skiing
- Snorkeling
- Surfing
- Swimming/Pool
- Walking
- Windsurfing
- Other Activity

## Sleeping

- Sleeping
- Camping
- Hut/Shelter

## Eating

- Eating

## Drinking & Nightlife

- Drinking & Nightlife
- Cafe

## Entertainment

- Entertainment

## Shopping

- Shopping

## Information

- Bank
- Embassy/Consulate
- Hospital/Medical
- Internet
- Police
- Post Office
- Telephone
- Toilet
- Tourist Information
- Other Information

## Geographic

- Beach
- Gate
- Hut/Shelter
- Lighthouse
- Lookout
- Mountain/Volcano
- Oasis
- Park
- Pass
- Picnic Area
- Waterfall

## Population

- Capital (National)
- Capital (State/Province)
- City/Large Town
- Town/Village

## Transport

- Airport
- Border crossing
- Bus
- Cable car/Funicular
- Cycling
- Ferry
- Metro station
- Monorail
- Parking
- Petrol station
- Subway/Subte station
- Taxi
- Train station/Railway
- Tram
- Underground station
- Other Transport

## Routes

- Tollway
- Freeway
- Primary
- Secondary
- Tertiary
- Lane
- Unsealed road
- Road under construction
- Plaza/Mall
- Steps
- Tunnel
- Pedestrian overpass
- Walking Tour
- Walking Tour detour
- Path/Walking Trail

## Boundaries

- International
- State/Province
- Disputed
- Regional/Suburb
- Marine Park
- Cliff
- Wall

## Hydrography

- River, Creek
- Intermittent River
- Canal
- Water
- Dry/Salt/Intermittent Lake
- Reef

## Areas

- Airport/Runway
- Beach/Desert
- Cemetery (Christian)
- Cemetery (Other)
- Glacier
- Mudflat
- Park/Forest
- Sight (Building)
- Sportsground
- Swamp/Mangrove

Note: Not all symbols displayed above appear on the maps in this book



**Regis St Louis**

**Norte Grande, Norte Chico** Regis grew up in a small town in the American Midwest – the kind of place that fuels big dreams of travel – and he developed an early fascination with foreign dialects and world cultures. He spent his formative years learning Russian and a handful of Romance languages, which served him well on journeys across much of the globe. Regis has contributed to more than 50 Lonely Planet titles, covering destinations across six continents. His travels

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## OUR STORY

A beat-up old car, a few dollars in the pocket and a sense of adventure. In 1972 that's all Tony and Maureen Wheeler needed for the trip of a lifetime – across Europe and Asia overland to Australia. It took several months, and at the end – broke but inspired – they sat at their kitchen table writing and stapling together their first travel guide, *Across Asia on the Cheap*. Within a week they'd sold 1500 copies. Lonely Planet was born.

Today, Lonely Planet has offices in Franklin, London, Melbourne, Oakland, Dublin, Beijing and Delhi, with more than 600 staff and writers. We share Tony's belief that 'a great guidebook should do three things: inform, educate and amuse'.

## OUR WRITERS



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**Northern Patagonia, Southern Patagonia, Tierra del Fuego** Carolyn specializes in travel, culture and adventure in the Americas. She has written for *National Geographic*, *Outside*, *BBC Magazine*, *Sierra Magazine*, the *Boston Globe* and other publications. A former Fulbright fellow and Banff Mountain Grant recipient, she has documented life in the most remote corners of Latin America. Carolyn has contributed to 40 guidebooks and anthologies for Lonely Planet, including *Colorado, USA*, *Argentina, Chile*, *Trekking in the Patagonian Andes*, *Panama, Peru* and *USA's National Parks*. Visit [www.carolynmccarthy.org](http://www.carolynmccarthy.org) or follow her Instagram travels @mccarthyoffmap. Carolyn also wrote the Plan, Understand Chile and Survival Guide sections of this book.



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OVER MORE  
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