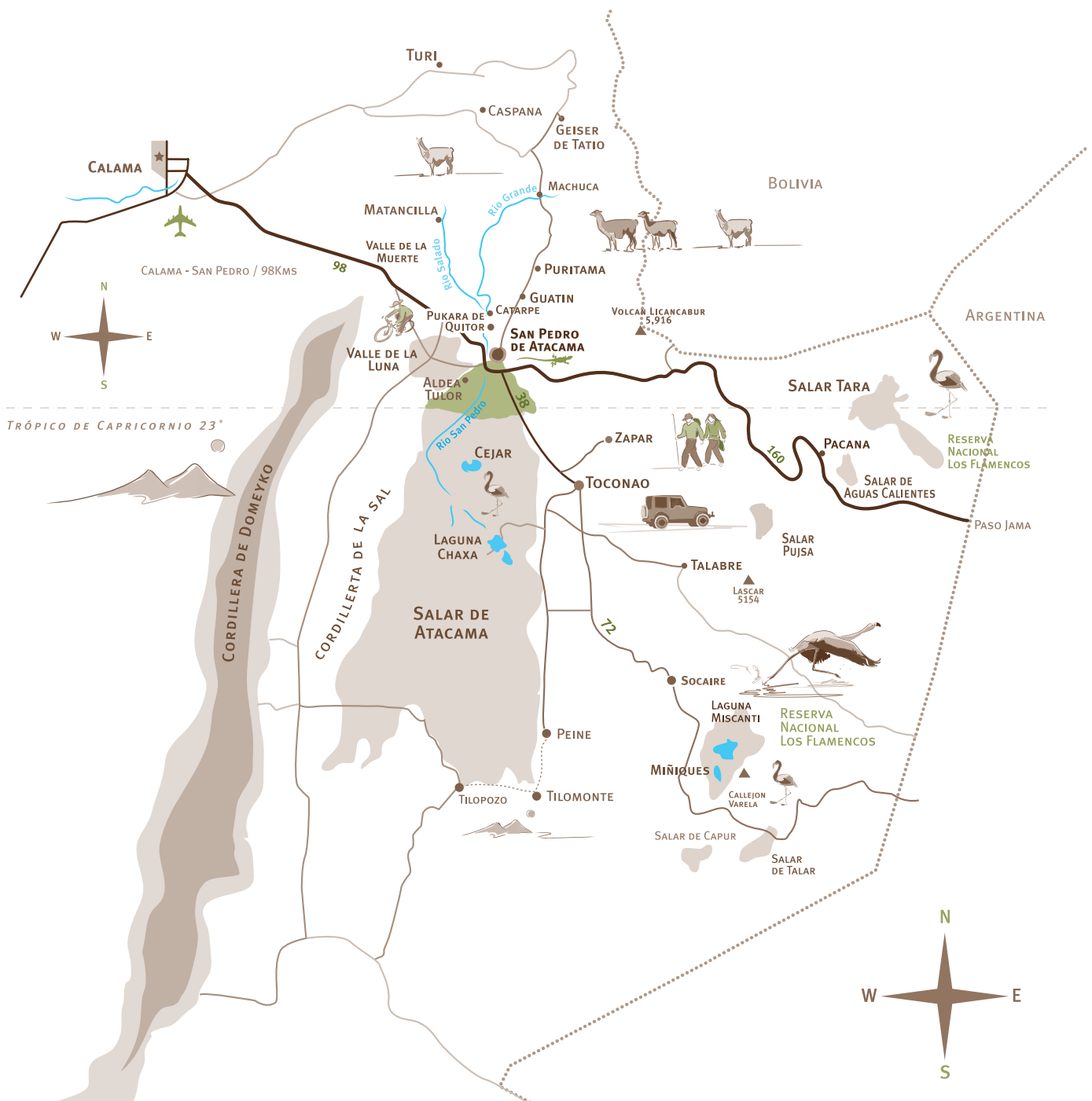


AWASI SUGGESTS A SERIES OF EXCURSIONS SO YOU CAN ENJOY THE MAGIC OF THE ATACAMA GEOGRAPHY, THE SILENCE OF ITS LANDSCAPE AND THE WARMTH OF ITS PEOPLE. EACH GROUP CAN PROGRAM THEIR OUTINGS ACCORDING TO THEIR OWN RHYTHM AND PARTICULAR INTERESTS, AND WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY A TRAVEL COMPANION WILLING TO SHARE HIS KNOWLEDGE OF THE PLACE AND HIS OWN EXPERIENCES. OUR WISH IS THAT EVERY IMAGE, EVERY ROAD, AND EVERY MEMORY WILL BECOME AN UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE.

KEEP IN MIND THAT THESE PROPOSALS ARE JUST SUGGESTIONS, AS ALL THE OUTINGS MAY BE FITTED TO YOUR TASTES AND PREFERENCES. SOME OF THE EXCURSIONS HAVE BEEN PLANNED FOR THE LAST DAYS OF YOUR STAY AT AWASI SO THAT PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT USED TO THE ALTITUDE MAY GRADUALLY ADAPT TO IT.



TOCONAO AND ATACAMA SALT LAKE (7.500 FT.)

DEPARTURE: Morning or afternoon.

VAN TRIP: 80 miles (round trip).

DURATION: 4 hours approx.

The car leaves Awasi heading south on the paved road to the Salt Lake.

After some 60 mi we reach the town of Toconao, famous for its buildings of liparite volcanic stone. There, we can visit its historic church and bell tower and tour the stalls of craftspeople who offer their goods in the square.

Next to Toconao is Jere creek, a canyon with the only running fresh water in these surroundings. This water has fed, since long ago, a true orchard of fruit trees and farmed vegetables. Then, we continue on to Chaxa pond, a National Reserve located at Atacama Salt Lake. This pond is surrounded by salt crusts that result from the evaporation of salty ground water. In this setting we may observe the flamingoes that inhabit the Salt Lake, as well as other native bird species. This is undoubtedly a place of captivating beauty from which you can see the Domeyko Range, the Salt Range and the Andes Range, a panorama that becomes particularly splendid at dusk.

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY: Easy.

WHAT TO BRING ALONG: Sunscreen, sun glasses; if the outing is in the afternoon: Windbreaker, full shoes (for all).

MOON VALLEY (8.200 FT)

DEPARTURE: In the afternoon.

VAN TRIP: 25 miles (round trip).

DURATION: 3,5 hours approx.

We leave Awasi and head to the Natural Reserve, which is located some 15 minutes away in the middle of the Salt Range. Its name speaks to us of the magic of the landscape. As the tour progresses, we find lookouts from which to observe the unusual geological shapes which, together with the action of wind and water, have originated a land relief reminiscent of the inhospitable beauty of the lunar surface. The final moments of the sunset when, in a matter of seconds, luminous streaks bring out subtle coloring differences in the mountains, is simply indescribable.

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY: Easy.

WHAT TO BRING ALONG: Sunscreen, sun glasses, hiking shoes.

CEJAR POND (7.500 FT)

DEPARTURE: 9:30 / 15:3

VAN TRIP: 23 miles (round trip).

DURATION: 3 hours approx.

We leave Awasi by car and head to the northern part of the Atacama Salt Lake, crossing part of the Ayllu that are farthest from San Pedro, and then turn into a dirt road surrounded by sparse vegetation and remarkable dryness. After some 11 miles we reach Cejar, a set of three ponds located in the middle of the Salt Lake in one of which we can bathe. Given its high degree of saltiness, you can not only float on the water but in fact cannot sink, a phenomenon similar to what you find in the Dead Sea (Israel). In this place we can watch birds that live in the Salt Lake zone, such as flamingoes and Andean gulls, and enjoy a privileged view of the surrounding ranges whose color contrasts with the deep blue of its waters.

This outing is also optional on bicycle, a ride that takes approximately 1 hour and a half, returning to the Hotel by car.

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY: Easy.

WHAT TO BRING ALONG: Sunscreen, sun glasses, bathing suit, sandals.



HIGHLAND SALT LAKES (13.800 FT)**DEPARTURE:** 9:00 / 15:30 **Return:** 17:30**VAN TRIP:** 200 miles (round trip).**DURATION:** All day.

Highly recommendable, as there are few places in the highlands which offer such a variety. We leave Awasi heading south and visit the towns of Toconao and Socaire (10.600 ft). Along the way we will find different types of landscapes, which run from the driest dessert to small oases and mountain views. We will be able to see vicunas, among other wild species. We will be surprised by the immensity and inhospitable beauty of the Tuyajtu and Aguas Calientes salt lakes, with their turquoise colored ponds inhabited by ducks and flamingoes.

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY: Easy, but requires prior adaptation to the altitude.**WHAT TO BRING ALONG:** Sunscreen, sun glasses, warm clothing (jacket, long pants, full shoes, hat).**TARA** (14.100 FT)**DEPARTURE:** 9:00 / **Return:** 17:30**VAN TRIP:** 188 miles (round trip).**DURATION:** All day.

Leaving San Pedro we take the road up to Jama Pass (13.800 ft), which leads to Argentina, with the splendid setting of Licancabur Volcano (19.400 ft) and Juriques Volcano (18.800 ft), the unrivaled guardians of the Range. Then, we continue along the highland, crossing swamps and ponds inhabited by wildlife, until we reach the incredible Pakana Monks rocky formations (15.100 ft), true marvels of nature. From here on we follow a track that takes us to the huge rock cliffs that surround Tara Salt Lake, where we will enjoy a delicious gourmet lunch. Putting into words what the majesty of the landscape and the diversity of the wildlife of the place awaken in us is too arduous a task: it is better just to live it.

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY: Easy, but requires prior adaptation to the altitude.**WHAT TO BRING ALONG:** Sunscreen, sun glasses, warm clothing (jacket, long pants, full shoes, hat).**MISCANTI MIÑIQUES** (13.800 FT)**DEPARTURE:** 9:00 / **Return:** 17:30**VAN TRIP:** 188 miles (round trip).**DURATION:** All day.

A true meeting with the highland landscape. We leave Awasi taking the road south and visit the towns of Toconao and Socaire (10.600 ft). Then, we follow the road to Sico Pass up to the detour to Miscanti and Miñique Ponds which are part of Los Flamencos National Reserve (14.100 ft). The main features of the place are its ponds and native birds such as the tagua and the blanquillo. This outing includes lunch and, possibly, an optional visit to Chaxas pond on the way back.

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY: Easy, but requires prior adaptation to the altitude.**WHAT TO BRING ALONG:** Sunscreen, sun glasses, warm clothing (jacket, long pants, full shoes, hat).**TATIO PURITAMA** (13.800 FT)**DEPARTURE:** 6:00 / **Return:** 12:00**VAN TRIP:** 157 miles (round trip).**DURATION:** All day.

We head north and gradually gain altitude as we cross the highland and observe the very rich flora & fauna of the place. After two hours on the road we reach the Tatio Geysers, intermittent springs that gush out as imposing steam and hot water columns. After visiting the place we will have breakfast, enjoying the place and the peculiarity of its fumaroles. Before returning to Awasi, we stop at the Puritama warm springs, where we can bathe and enjoy an appetizer (see Puritama).

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY: Easy, but requires prior adaptation to the altitude.**WHAT TO BRING ALONG:** Sunscreen, sun glasses, lots of warm clothing (jacket, long pants, full shoes, hat).

PURITAMA (11.100 FT)

DEPARTURE: In the morning.

VAN TRIP: 38 miles (round trip).

DURATION: 3,5 hours approx. With an appetizer (lunch when we get back).

The road to the hot springs provides a magnificent view of the Andean Range, with its marked changes of color in the formations and the vegetation, characterized by the appearance of the first high altitude cactaceae and bushes. Upon arriving at the hot springs, we go down the creek to the pools, which are surrounded by a native vegetation that also acts as a shelter for birds.

There are 7 different pools to choose from, ranging in temperature from 86oF to 92oF, which makes them ideal for relaxation. The quality of the waters, the natural setting, and the gourmet appetizer we enjoy here, make this a moment of unforgettable communion with nature.

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY: Easy.

WHAT TO BRING ALONG: Sunscreen, sun glasses, bathing suit, sandals.

CASPANA-AIRPORT (14.100 FT)

DEPARTURE: 9:00

VAN TRIP: 125 miles (round trip).

DURATION: 8 hours approx.

After breakfast in Awasi, we head northwards and gradually gain in altitude, crossing the highland with its ponds and its characteristic flora & fauna. After an almost two-hour trip we come to a detour that takes us to the town of Caspana, whose inhabitants still farm on terraces as in the past, and to an ancient sector with Inca-style rock buildings. In this framework full of history and greenness we stop for lunch. Continuing on our tour we pass the town of Chiu-Chiu, with its charming XVI century Church, consecrated to Saint Francis and famed to be the oldest in Chile. Finally, we reach the Airport and thus conclude this stage of the trip. Optional: the Tatio Geysers, if not visited before in the Tatio-Puritama outing.

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY: Easy, but requires prior adaptation to the altitude.

WHAT TO BRING ALONG: Sunscreen, sun glasses, hiking shoes, warm clothing (jacket, long pants, full shoes, hat).

RIO GRANDE (9.800 FT)

DEPARTURE: 9:00/15:00

VAN TRIP: 125 miles (round trip).

DURATION: 3,5 hours approx.

This is not one of the most frequent tour visits, but it is specially attractive. Upon reaching a place called Yerbas Buenas, we find ancient petroglyphs carved on huge rock walls. The meaning of these carvings is still hidden and indecipherable. After travelling over a steep road we come to the town of Santiago del Rio Grande. From there, we enjoy a spectacular view of the valley, its farming terraces and animal corrals, and the cacti that grow on the creek hillside. We can also take a walk around the town and to the farming sectors, as well as to visit the church and the craftsmen who work clay with ancestral techniques.

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY: Easy.

WHAT TO BRING ALONG: Sunscreen, Sun glasses.

MATANCILLA (9.800 FT)

DEPARTURE: 9:00

VAN TRIP: 112 miles (round trip).

DURATION: All day.

We head towards the town of Rio Grande. Along the road we stop for a close look at the marvelous Yerbas Buenas petroglyphs. We then take the road to the town of Matancilla, a zone of valleys surrounded by multicolored hills: gray, green, red and orange shades populate the hillsides. Touring these valleys by car or on foot, you may see a landscape that is completely different from what you see near San Pedro. An optional visit to Rio Grande takes one hour longer.

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY: Easy.

WHAT TO BRING ALONG: Sunscreen, sun glasses, windbreaker.

CATARPE (8.200 FT)**DEPARTURE:** 9:00 / 15:00**VAN TRIP:** 16 miles**DURATION:** 2,5 to 3,5 hours approx.

An orchard of contrasts and history, Catarpe is unique place. We leave Awasi heading north, pass de Quito Ayllu -famous for its pukara fortress (see Quito)- and cross the San Pedro river. There we find ourselves in the Tambillo and Devil's Creek sector, where may take a walk. Then we continue on to the Ayllu at Catarpe, where we have lunch in an old adobe house. This property has a delicious garden orchard with aged trees that invite us to rest. This place affords us two almost magic surprises: on the one hand, the contrast between its greenness and the unforgiving desert around it; and, on the other, the possibility of playing archaeologists for a while, as we will be able to observe remains of immemorial utensils that speak to us of those who left their mark in this place. Then we continue on to an old Inca tambo -a highway resting place- and the San Isidro church, faithfully cared for by descendants of the family that built it. After seeing all the valley, we visit an old Salt Range tunnel from where we have an imposing view of the valley below.

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY: Easy. A small 5-minute walk up a trail to visit the Inca tambo.**WHAT TO BRING ALONG:** Sunscreen, sun glasses.**ZAPAR** (8.100 FT)**DEPARTURE:** Morning or afternoon (recommended for a view of the sunset).**VAN TRIP:** 18 miles**DURATION:** 2 hours approx.

The visit to Zapar will always remain in the memory of all those who love and are interested in the life and history of the local communities. We will tour an incredibly green canyon that suddenly crops up in the middle of a dune and cuts it in half. Down this canyon runs water that comes from the Andes Range. We can walk from Tambillo, surrounded by its amazing vegetation of Tamarugo trees, and reach Zapar crossing pasture zones that are archaeologically very important, as in pre-Columbian times Zapar was an important enclave linked to the Quito pukara. Finally, we will stop for lunch at one of the local homes who will host us. The view of Atacama Salt Lake from here is one of the best there is.

Another option: To visit the town on the way back from another outing (for instance: Highland lakes, Talabre, Chaxas), and enjoy an appetizer while we wait for the sunset.

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY: Easy.**WHAT TO BRING ALONG:** Sunscreen, sun glasses, long pants, hat, adequate shoes, backpack.**TALABRE** (11.500 FT)**DEPARTURE:** Morning or afternoon (recommended for a view of the sunset).**VAN TRIP:** 45 min.**ON FOOT:** 4 hours approx.**DURATION:** 8 hours approx.

Talabre is a farming-pastoral community with a population of some 100 inhabitants who keep their traditions and customs alive. Walking its streets, we can admire the style of its buildings, its church, its history. We can continue on the van and then walk down some 600 ft to admire petroglyphs, ancient Atacama vestiges. Back to the town we will have lunch at the home of a local family. Then we will have two options: one is to return to San Pedro; the second, to continue either to Chaxas lake or to Zapar, end see these places at sunset. We might also visit Old Talabre, the original setting of the current hamlet, with its ruins, its ancient graveyard, and its splendid view of Lascar volcano.

If we make this a full-day trip, we can start at Talabre, walk 4 miles and a half, and then continue on an old shepherd path to Los Patos creek where we can have a picnic. At this place we can appreciate rupestrian art and old constructions. Another option: Visit the town on our way back from an excursion (i.e. Highland lakes, Talabre, Chaxas) and wait there for the sunset while we enjoy an appetizer. A unique experience.

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY: Easy if done fully by car. If we opt for the hike, it is Intermediate to Difficult. The visit to Los Patos creek is not advisable for people prone to giddiness.**WHAT TO BRING ALONG:** Sunscreen, sun glasses, long pants, hat, adequate shoes, backpack, windbreaker.

KARI HIKE (8.500 FT)**DEPARTURE:** 9:30/15:30**VAN TRIP:** 16 miles (round trip).**DURATION:** 2 hours approx.

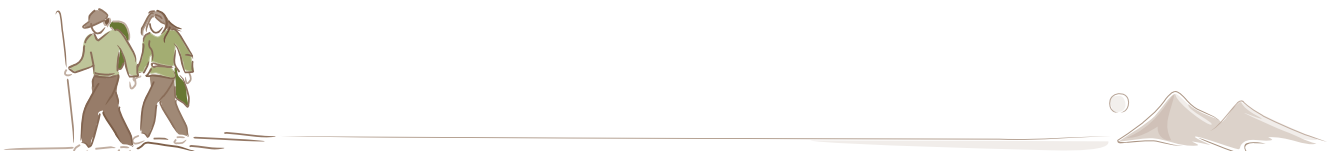
This hike is one of those experiences that broaden the soul and the outlook. After a 15 minute drive from Awasi, we reach a lookout from which we can admire the geological majesty of the Salt Range. The hike starts here and then continues on a narrow path with a ravine on one side. After going down a small dune we run into an open field and then Kari canyon, a dry ancient riverbed with some rock descents, grottoes and caves. This excursion has different entry and exit points. Each time of the year and each moment of the day, have different attractions that surprise us, particularly in winter evenings, when the salt crusts crack and produce very suggestive sounds.

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY: Intermediate.**WHAT TO BRING ALONG:** Sunscreen, sun glasses, hiking shoes.**GUATIN HIKE (10.200 FT)****DEPARTURE:** 9:00/15:00**VAN TRIP:** 37 miles (round trip).**FOOT HIKE:** 2.8 miles (round trip).**DURATION:** 2,5 hours approx.

Diversity is the word that best describes this hike. Leaving Awasi by car, we take the road north to San Pedro and reach a valley called Guatin. We start the hike inside a creek, along a bank of the Bizama River. This is where the surprise begins: a profusion of cacti, different geological formations, small waterfalls, brooks, rocks ... all this gives the place a special attraction. After hiking for two hours we reach an abandoned shepherd ranch from which we start back.

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY: Intermediate, difficult.**WHAT TO BRING ALONG:** Sunscreen, sun glasses, hiking shoes.**BARRANCAS HIKE (8.900 FT)****DEPARTURE:** 9:30/15:30**VAN TRIP:** 16 miles (round trip).**FOOT HIKE:** 3 miles**DURATION:** 1,5 hours approx.

Leaving San Pedro by van we cross the Ayllu of Quitar. We then take a detour to the Salt Range over an old road that takes us to a tunnel that crosses the range. From here we start our hike, first crossing this tunnel and then climbing the range. Once we reach the top, the splendid view of the oases, the irregular formations, and the sight of the Andes and Domeyko ranges, make the effort we have made worthwhile. The descent, crossing a huge dune down to Death Valley, is a perfect corollary to this hike.

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY: Easy.**WHAT TO BRING ALONG:** Sunscreen, sun glasses, hiking shoes.

VILAMA HIKE (8.200 FT)**DEPARTURE:** 9:30/15:30**VAN TRIP:** 14 miles (round trip).**FOOT HIKE:** 4 miles**DURATION:** 2 hours on foot approx.

After a 20-minute van ride from Awasi we reach the small Vilama valley in the Salt Range, where we start our walk over a path that climbs up a slope for 10 minutes until we get to a flat zone where we have a panoramic view of the Andes. Here, we find an ancient abode with petroglyphs that speak to us of the history of our ancestors. We walk along this dry plain until we arrive at a downhill trail that takes us to the winding Devil's Creek that connects with the fertile Catarpe valley.

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY: Intermediate.**WHAT TO BRING ALONG:** Sunscreen, sun glasses, hiking shoes.**ATACAMA HISTORY (8.000 FT)****DEPARTURE:** Morning or afternoon.**VAN TRIP:** 16 miles (round trip).**FOOT HIKE:** 3 miles**DURATION:** 2,5 hours approx.

This excursion is a fascinating trip through time. We leave Awasi by van to the Quitar Pukara, an Atacama fortress dating back to 1.000 AD and located in the Ayllu of Quitar, some 2 miles from San Pedro. From its height we enjoy a privileged view of the valley. Then we continue on to the town of Tular, located some 6 mi from San Pedro and one of the first and most important Atacama settlements, going back to 800 BC. Here we will visit the digging of ruins and the reconstruction of original homes according to the criterion of archaeologists. For those who wish to immerse themselves in our history and in the Lickanantai culture, and understand why San Pedro is Chile's archaeological capital, this is an absolute must.

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY: Easy.**WHAT TO BRING ALONG:** Sunscreen, sun glasses.**WALK AROUND TOWN (8.000 FT)****DEPARTURE:** Morning or afternoon.**TOUR ON FOOT:** 1,3 miles.**DURATION:** 2 hours approx.

This is a walk to get to know San Pedro and see beyond its restaurants and shops. We leave Awasi and head to the old downtown, with a guided tour of the Father LePaige Museum, the town square, the town church, the house of Pedro de Valdivia, the craft market and the main street.

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY: Easy.**WHAT TO BRING ALONG:** Sunscreen, sun glasses.**BICYCLING THE AYLLUS (8.000 FT)****DEPARTURE:** 9:00/15:00**BIKE TOUR:** 5 miles**DURATION:** 1,5 hours approx.

From Awasi we will tour some of the following San Pedro Ayllu (farming communities): Solor, Solcor, Sequitor, Larache, Quitar and Catarpe.

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY: Easy.**WHAT TO BRING ALONG:** Sunscreen, sun glasses, comfortable clothing and shoes, hat.

BICYCLING DEATH VALLEY (8.200 FT)

DEPARTURE: Morning or afternoon.

VAN TRIP: 11 miles

DURATION: 2,5 hours approx.

We take off on bike from Awasi towards the road to Calama. We pedal on slight climb up to the Death Valley entrance in the Salt Range, which we enter until the road once again becomes uphill. At this point and for a few minutes, we walk our bicycles over very sandy terrain. After we reach the highest point in the valley, where we can appreciate impressive views; after a sharp descent we again meet the paved road on which we pedal back to Awasi. See Death Valley.

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY: Intermediate.

WHAT TO BRING ALONG: Sunscreen, sun glasses, comfortable clothing and shoes, hat.

**BICYCLING COCA ROCK (8.500 FT)**

DEPARTURE: Morning or afternoon.

VAN TRIP: 28 miles

DURATION: 4 hours approx.

Ideal for those who love adventure and enjoy physical exertion. We start out on bike from Awasi and head north until we reach an old cattle driving road that climbs steeply up to a tunnel. After the tunnel we go down to Patience Plain, a flat zone that connects to the paved road and then to Moon Valley. Crossing the Park we reach San Pedro again.

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY: Difficult.

WHAT TO BRING ALONG: Sunscreen, sun glasses, comfortable clothing and shoes, hat.

AYLLU HORSE RIDE (7.500 FT)

DEPARTURE: Morning or afternoon.

VAN TRIP: 6 miles

DURATION: 2 hours approx.

A horse ride at a placid gait around town, visiting some Ayllu near Awasi and traversing narrow alleys with houses typical of this zone. We can also go a bit further to visit other more distant Ayllu such as Solor, towards the south. Ideal for those who enjoy the communion with animals and with the landscape.

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY: Easy.

WHAT TO BRING ALONG: Sunscreen, sun glasses, long pants, hat.

LAS BARRANCAS HORSE RIDE (8.800 FT)

DEPARTURE: Morning or afternoon.

VAN TRIP: 12 miles

DURATION: 4 hours approx.

Here you will live the true flavor of adventure. We take the car road from Awasi to Quito Pukara. Crossing the San Pedro River several times we continue on to the Catarpe Ayllu, where we may trot and gallop. In this sector we take an old road up to the Salt Range until we reach an old tunnel. Shortly after, we will reach the highest part of this range and then continue trotting or galloping along the cliff cornices, enjoying panoramic views of all the San Pedro valley. The way back starts with a descent down large dunes until we connect with Death Valley, along which we continue until we return to the town at a gait.

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY: Intermediate, difficult. You require riding experience and mastery.

WHAT TO BRING ALONG: Sunscreen, sun glasses, long pants, hat.

