



MEJDI TOURS

MEJDI Tours Group Departure

- Tour:** Chilean Explorer: Santiago, Valparaiso, & Patagonia
- Included:** 9 nights' accommodation at the following hotels or similar (double occupancy): Hotel Boutique Le Reve (Santiago), Hotel Vendaval (Puerto Natales), Kau lodge, Rio Serrano (Torres del Paine)
1 local guide for 9 days
10 days of private bus transportation including group departure airport transfer
Internal flight (Santiago-Puerto Natales-Santiago)
Meals listed in the itinerary: 9 breakfasts, 7 lunches, 4 dinners
Entrances, sites, and honorariums for speakers¹
Refillable water upon arrival + mineral water throughout the tour
US-based customer service representatives
- Not included:** International airfare
Arrival airport transfers
Travel insurance-**HIGHLY RECOMMENDED**
Single Supplement
Meals not mentioned in the itinerary
Gratuities
Anything not explicitly mentioned in the included section

¹ Subject to confirmation based on availability

Overview:

Immerse yourself in the culture and rich history of the Chilean people on this incredible immersion to Chile. Meet with a local historian and discuss how Chile's past has shaped its present. Trace the history of the human rights movement in Santiago through multiple narratives. Learn to cook traditional Chilean fare from a local. Learn about some of Chile's longest surviving crafts and trades, many of which still support the people today, on a visit to Santiago's Barrio Franklin. Spend the day at an authentic Patagonian ranch on a secluded peninsula, accessible only by boat, and try your hand at traditional gaucho farming techniques. Take a cruise on Lago Grey to see Grey Glacier, part of the Southern Ice Fields and the largest glacier in Torres del Paine. Meet with the Pueblo Kawésqar project, a community tourism and empowerment project training locals in tourism, language, entrepreneurship, and storytelling with the end goal of developing responsible tourism. Experience the unique wonder of Patagonia's Torres del Paine National Park with local Kawesqar, learn how to find medicinal plants used by the Kawesqar, and learn about their importance in the Kawesqar community. Learn about the reforestation of Torres del Paine and meet with experts from the Torres del Paine Legacy Fund contributing to sustainability and reforestation efforts throughout the park.

Itinerary:

Day 1: Arrival - Santiago, Chile

Arrive in Santiago and transfer to your hotel (on own). This evening, enjoy a group **welcome dinner with a local historian and discuss how Chile's past has shaped its present.**

Hotel: Hotel Boutique Le Reve, Santiago (D)

Day 2: Santiago

This morning, dive deeper into the history and culture of the Chilean people with a **visit to Santiago's Barrio Franklin**, or "Franklin neighborhood." **Visit the local market** and learn about some of Chile's longest surviving crafts and trades, many of which still support the people today. This afternoon, explore the human rights legacy in Chile through a **visit to the Human Rights Museum** (often called the "Museum of Memory"), which features extensive exhibits of what occurred in Chile under the Military Dictatorship, during Pinochet's rule (1974 - 1990). Enjoy an evening at leisure.

Hotel: Hotel Boutique Le Reve, Santiago (B, L)

Day 3: Santiago

Continue yesterday's narrative with a **visit to La Moneda, where the military coup took place** and where the strafing from the coup can still be seen on the buildings in the Plaza de Armas. This is also said to be where the first human rights movements emerged in Santiago. **Visit Villa Grimaldi, a former torture site which is now the Parque por la Paz**, and the **National Cemetery** where Salvador Allende is buried. Explore the dual narratives of the dictatorship in a visit to the Pinochet Foundation and hear the arguments that Pinochet's supporters make about his achievements and the merits of his harsh reign. For lunch, **learn to make a traditional Chilean dish at a local cooking class.**

Hotel: Hotel Boutique Le Reve, Santiago (B, L)

Day 4: Valparaiso

Spend the day exploring the eclectic city of Valparaiso (~1.5 hour drive), best known for its stunning views and eclectic Bohemian vibe, passed down through years of varietal European influence. **Stroll through the Plaza Sotomayor**, surrounded by colorful architecture, and **visit La Sebastiana, the former residence of Chilean poet Pablo Neruda**, now converted to an art museum that displays some of the city's best views. Enjoy dinner on your own and some **time at leisure** before returning to Santiago this evening.

Hotel: Hotel Boutique Le Reve, Santiago (B, L)

Day 5: Puerto Natales

Transfer to the airport this morning and fly to **Puerto Natales, gateway to Torres del Paine National Park and the Patagonian fjords**. Check into your hotel before **meeting with the Pueblo Kawésqar project**. Learn about this community tourism and empowerment project, where community members are receiving capacity-building workshops in tourism, language, entrepreneurship, and storytelling with the end goal of developing tourism products that can be shared with visitors to the region. Enjoy dinner on your own and an evening at leisure.

Hotel: Hotel Vendaval, Puerto Natales (B)

Day 6: Estancia La Peninsula

Take a **private boat ride through Last Hope Fjord to reach Estancia la Peninsula**. **Spend the day at an authentic Patagonian ranch** and choose from a variety of activities, including hiking, horseback riding, or driving. Refuel with a delectable Patagonian barbecue lunch paired with Chilean wine. After lunch, **take part in traditional ranch activities, such as herding and shearing sheep**. Return to Puerto Natales this evening for dinner on your own.

Hotel: Hotel Vendaval, Puerto Natales (B, L)

Day 7: Grey Glacier - Torres del Paine National Park

This morning, **transfer to Torres del Paine National Park** (~1 hour drive). Take a **cruise on Lago Grey to see Grey Glacier**, part of the Southern Ice Fields and the largest glacier in Torres del Paine. Transfer to your lodge and get settled in, enjoying breathtaking views of the surrounding mountains.

Hotel: Kau Lodge Rio Serrano, Torres del Paine (B, L, D)

Day 8: Torres del Paine National Park

Explore the wonders of **Torres del Paine National Park** today. **Trek through some of the park's most iconic scenery** - glaciers and golden pampas (grasslands) that shelter rare wildlife such as Chilean guanacos - all against a stunning backdrop of the horn-shaped Cuernos del Paine. **Explore some sites that can't be seen from the original "W trail"** including Condor Lookout and Salto Grande Waterfall. **Learn how to find bush tucker, medicinal plants used by the Kawesqar elders, and learn about their importance in the Kawesqar community**. **Learn about the reforestation of Torres del Paine and meet with experts contributing to reforestation efforts throughout the park**.

Hotel: Kau Lodge Rio Serrano, Torres del Paine (B, L, D)

Day 9: Torres del Paine - Puerto Natales

Enjoy the morning at leisure to relax or further explore Torres del Paine on your own. Transfer back to Puerto Natales, stopping en route to explore **Milodon Cave National Monument**, where the remains of a giant prehistoric ground sloth, known as the milodon were discovered in 1896. Upon arrival in Puerto Natales, meet the group for a final **farewell dinner** at a local restaurant.

Hotel: Hotel Vendaval, Puerto Natales (B, L, D)

Day 10 - Departure

Enjoy a morning at leisure. This afternoon, transfer to the airport in Puerto Natales and depart for home today, via Santiago. *(B)*