

Chile: Wine Country & the Coast

Tour-Only Itinerary

Gulls cry, surf crashes, and penguins waddle down to the edge of their rocky islet. On this sinuous, cobbled seaside path, it's just you, a few friends, and the wild Pacific. Inland towards the Andes, the rolling wine country of the Colchagua and Maipo valleys awaits. Soon you'll be threading your way through grapevines on a tour of vineyards tucked between forested Andes foothills. Arriving for lunch at a 16th-century estancia on trails shaded by eucalyptuses and oaks. Exploring the colorful, art-filled streets of Valparaíso with a guide who knows every alley. You'll spend nights on this Chile hiking tour at a converted 19th-century bodega and a refined Pompeian-style villa, each with grounds perfect for picnicking and exploring on foot between sips of Carménère and Cabernet.



Highlights

Explore central Chile's diverse landscapes on foot, trekking through vineyards and river valleys, along sandy beaches and rugged coastlines, to the Andean foothills.

Discover the area's famous wine culture as you tour estates, sample fine vintages, and even blend, cork, and label your own bottle of Chilean wine.

Admire sweeping sea views as you feast on Chilean culinary specialties such as *caldillo de congrio* (eel soup) and *guachinanguito* (red snapper).

On all Guided Adventures you can count on ...



Expert local guides to introduce you to the best of your destination.



Gracious accommodations that are a clean, comfortable home away from home.



Off-the-beaten-path places you'd never find on your own.



Experts to handle all the details.



A maximum of 18 fun-loving fellow travelers to share the journey.



Flight + Tour Combos include plane tickets, airport car service, and pre- and post-tour accommodations.



Delicious, authentic multi-course meals—virtually all are included.

Activity Level

This tour is one of our Guided - Full Walking Adventures, rated easy to moderate, with an average of 3 to 5 miles per day, with shorter and longer options on some days. There are daily ascents and descents, with an average elevation gain of up to 500 feet. Most of the hills are gradual, as opposed to short and steep. The terrain includes cobblestone streets, narrow gravel roads, springy turf, packed dirt trails, and a few stretches of loose gravel. The days on this tour are quite full to allow for the inclusion of diverse regions of cultural and historical importance.

DAY 1

Join your *Chile: Wine Country & the Coast* tour. Santiago city tour. Transfer to Zapallar. Cachagua beach walk

4 miles, easy

Your guide(s) will meet you at The Singular Santiago at 8:30 a.m. in the lobby. Your guide(s) will be wearing a Country Walkers shirt. Please be dressed for walking. After a brief introduction to the group, your adventure begins.

After meeting your guide(s), join them for a guided walking tour of Santiago, Chile. Leave your luggage at The Singular and enjoy an easy walk through some of the historical neighborhoods of Santiago, culminating at San Cristobal Hill, where you will experience magnificent views of the entire city. This walking tour will give you a new perspective into the culture and history of Chile and its capital.

Transfer two hours to the picturesque beach town of Zapallar, which is known for its distinctly European feel. Founded a century ago by the son of an affluent local landowner, it was patterned after the villages of the French Riviera and now boasts many elegant estates. Arrive at scenic Cachagua Beach, where you enjoy lunch at a seaside restaurant offering traditional Chilean dishes. Take time to stroll along the sand—or even dip your toes in the ocean—before a leisurely walk brings you along the coast to your hotel. As you walk, keep an eye out for Humboldt penguins, which flock to a nearby island sanctuary. Once you've arrived at your hotel, gaze out at the ocean views from this European-style accommodation.

Stroll along Zapallar's waterfront to reach the restaurant where we will dine together this evening. Fresh-caught fish is the specialty of the house. Watch fishing boats chug by as you try local dishes like grilled corvina in black butter or baked crab stew.

Accommodation: Hotel Isla Seca, Zapallar

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 2

El Bolder Park

2 miles, easy to moderate or 4 miles, moderate; 1,400-ft. elevation gain and loss. Free afternoon or optional coastal walk of 2 miles, easy

Begin your day with a hearty breakfast at the hotel before embarking on the day's walk, that starts only steps away from your accommodation. El Boldo Park is a private initiative created in 2010, protecting 173 acres of flora in a variety of biomes. This region of Zapallar is considered a hotspot of diversity because of the way the Pacific Ocean's mists and winds create a variety of microclimates on the adjacent hills. As you ascend the Sendero al Cristo Trail – leading up to a giant Christ statue—keep an eye out for the beautiful *belloto del norte*, an exceptionally rare species of tree recently declared a Chilean Natural Monument. You also have a chance to spot giant hummingbirds and Chilean orchids along the way. It is possible to lengthen the walk and continue to the hill's summit, to soak up spectacular 360-degree views of the coast and the mountains spread out before you.

After a picnic lunch, you may join the guides on an optional short walk along the coast, relax on the beach, or walk into Zapallar on your own, perhaps visiting the gallery of a well-known artist.

This evening, join your travel companions for dinner on the hotel's terrace (weather permitting).

Accommodation: Hotel Isla Seca, Zapallar

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 3

Transfer to Valparaíso. Valparaíso city tour

2-3 miles, easy

Today you depart Zapallar and transfer two hours south to Valparaíso, a colorful and chaotic port city whose historic quarter became a UNESCO World Heritage site in 2003. Here, you enjoy a guided walking tour of its maze-like cobblestone streets. You'll discover a brightly painted hodge-podge of houses stacked on dramatic hillsides, the town's 19th-century docks and steep funiculars, and see beautiful views of the Andes along the way. Though once notoriously run down, "Valpo" (as locals affectionately know it) has undergone a dazzling renaissance in the last 15 years, with exceptional new restaurants, museums, and street art—witnessing its revival is an essential highlight of any trip to Chile.

Afterward, a local restaurant offers a delicious opportunity to sample classic Chilean coastal fare. You'll delight in dishes like breaded hake, shrimp empanadas, eel fritters, or seafood soup. This afternoon

continue your guided walking tour, which includes some free time to explore the city at your own pace, perhaps strolling along the Yugoslav Promenade. Enjoy dinner on your own in Valparaíso, experiencing one of its acclaimed new restaurants or enjoy the vistas from the hotel's restaurant terrace.

Accommodation: Hotel Casa Higuera, Valparaíso

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 4

Valparaíso Hills. Visit to Pablo Neruda's house. Transfer to Colchagua Valley

3 miles, easy, 300-ft. elevation gain and loss

After breakfast, depart your hotel on foot along a trail that follows the contour line of the hills to enjoy views overlooking the city and colors of Valparaíso. Continue with a one-hour transfer to Isla Negra, passing through charming villages with beautiful ocean views along the way. Your destination is the spectacular beachside estate of Pablo Neruda, one of the most acclaimed Spanish-language poets of the 20th century. Here, the poet and political activist lived with his wife until his death in 1973. The quirky residence is filled with his unique collections (including ship figureheads, bottles, masks, and much more) and surrounded by beautiful gardens—all directly facing the pounding surf of a secluded beach.

After exploring Neruda's home, enjoy lunch at the neighboring El Rincon del Poeta, famous for its *caldillo de congrio* (eel soup) and *guachinanguito* (red snapper). From Isla Negra, you continue south on a two and a half-hour drive towards the valley of Colchagua. Stretching from the Pacific Ocean to the foothills of the Andes, this patchwork of vineyards, forest, and sophisticated towns looks like it was transplanted straight from Tuscany. Crowned as the "Wine Region of the Year" by *Wine Spectator* magazine in 2015, it produces some of the most highly regarded red wine varietals in the world.

Your hotel is housed in a historical bodega from 1875, idyllically located among the grape arbors of surrounding vineyards. Here, you may take time to stroll the manicured grounds, swim in the outdoor pool, or relax on the large outdoor terrace. A sumptuous dinner in the hotel's dining room features some of the region's celebrated vintages and specialties like Chilean sea bass, ravioli with beets, and fresh-baked breads.

Accommodation: Hotel Noi Blend, Santa Cruz
Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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Accommodation: Hotel Noi Blend, Santa Cruz

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 5

School Visit. Neyen Winery walk

3-5 miles, easy to moderate; 850-ft. elevation gain and loss

Today, you begin with an elaborate breakfast and a cup of café con leche before visiting a local school. Here, you have the opportunity to spend time with students, ages 6 to 12, taking time to exchange stories and learn about their daily lives. Afterward, you transfer to Neyen, an organic vineyard located in the old terraces of the Tinguiririca River. This stunning area is nestled between the Andes Mountains and the Coastal Range. Home to the oldest bodega in the region—its adobe walls dating back to 1890—the estate also boasts a state-of-the-art winemaking facility. A guided tour brings you to the original 19th-century vines where you learn the basics of viticulture, including how to differentiate a Carménère from a Cabernet Sauvignon leaf, as you stroll through the vineyard and surrounding hills. Arrive in time for a well-earned lunch paired with one of the estate's wines.

This afternoon you visit the MontGras Winery, which combines traditional Colonial architecture with one of the most modern wine-making facilities in the world. Using ultramodern technology in all its processes has earned this winery a number of international awards over the years, and Harvard Business School even studied MontGras as the ideal example of a successful Chilean bodega. Here you tour the grounds and participate in a wine tasting with an expert sommelier.

Dinner tonight is at a countryside restaurant with offerings such as empanadas, quinoa salad, grilled fish, or pasta—all paired with local vintages.

Accommodation: Hotel Noi Blend, Santa Cruz
Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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Dinner tonight is at a countryside restaurant with offerings such as empanadas, quinoa salad, grilled fish, or pasta—all paired with local vintages.

Accommodation: Hotel Noi Blend, Santa Cruz
Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 6

Ruta del Carbon. Transfer to Santa Rita

3.5 miles, easy to moderate; 850-ft. elevation gain and loss

Bid farewell to the Colchagua Valley (after one more sumptuous breakfast) and transfer approximately one hour east toward the town of San Fernando. Here, you trace the Ruta del Carbon trail—named for the adobe kilns passed along the way, many still used by locals for making charcoal. Walking a path lined with acacia trees, appreciate postcard views of the valley: a landscape of vineyards and giant cacti. Eventually, you arrive on foot to Hacienda Los Lingues, a beautifully preserved 16th-century estate set amidst towering oak and eucalyptus trees. Here, you enjoy lunch in the courtyard, perhaps sampling some of the produce from their organic garden and their bread, prepared daily in the house.

Sated from lunch, you continue north (one and a half hours) to the celebrated Viña Santa Rita, to your final hotel, housed in the historic manor house. This building, which retains its original neoclassical style, spectacular gardens, and wine vaults, has been declared a national historic site. Before settling into your elegantly appointed room, take time to visit the on-site Andean Museum, featuring an impressive display of Chilean artifacts and handicrafts.

Tonight, the estate's chef will prepare a Chilean barbecue where you savor grilled specialties—all paired with Chilean wines, of course.

Accommodation: Casa Real Hotel, Alto Jahuel

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 7

Rio Clarillo Reserve. Viña Santa Rita wine blending

2.5 miles, moderate; 700-ft. elevation gain and loss

Enjoy a delicious breakfast then begin your day with a one and a half-hour transfer to nearby Rio Clarillo Reserve, a 29,000-acre habitat for abundant bird species, foxes, and the endangered Chilean iguana located in the pre-Andean mountain range of the central valley. Here, after crossing the river via a well-maintained suspension bridge, you head uphill on a trail passing through scrubland and Andean forest. Along the way, gaze out at the views of the meandering Clarillo River and the snowcapped Andes Mountains in the distance.

Upon returning to your accommodations, partake in a true picnic (complete with baskets) laid out in the estate's gardens, savored while lounging in the shade, a glass of Santa Rita's Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Syrah, or Carménère in hand. Enjoy the afternoon at leisure, perhaps relaxing poolside or strolling the gardens before participating in a fun activity—blending, corking, and labeling your own bottle of wine! Then, head to the hotel's lavish dining room for a celebratory candlelit dinner, where you and your travel companions toast the week's adventures on your Chile hiking tour.

Accommodation: Casa Real, Alto Jahuel

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 8

Your Chile: Wine Country & the Coast tour concludes

San Jorge Hill Viewpoint: 1.5 miles, easy to moderate. Transfer to Santiago

Following breakfast, begin your day with a visit to an organic farm owned by a local friend, Mateo. After a refreshing welcome beverage and snack of crostini with *pebre* (a typical spicy sauce of Chile), you will walk on a wide dirt path underneath a shade tree canopy until you reach the perfect spot for a break and take in a panoramic view of Pirque. Here, you have time to relax for a moment before returning down the same path to Mateo's home, all the while taking in the beautiful vistas from a new perspective.

Lunch today is a special picnic meal prepared with local organic produce that you and your traveling companions harvest from Mateo's garden. After the harvest you are invited to help with the meal preparation, but feel free to relax and enjoy stunning views of the snowcapped peaks of the Andes as we savor the meal, which may include ceviche with vegetables from the garden or corn cakes with a Chilean salad.

Once you finish lunch, transfer to Santiago's Arturo Merino Benítez International Airport, where you bid farewell to your fellow companions before continuing with your homebound or onward travels.

What's Included

Tour Only

Exceptional boutique accommodations	✓
All on-tour meals except 1 dinner	✓
Local guides with you throughout tour	✓
Local wine and/or beer with dinner	✓
Entrance fees and special events as noted in the itinerary	✓
Travel assistance available 24/7 provided by Allianz	✓