Chile: Wine Country & the Coast

Tour-Only Itinerary

Let the breathtaking scenery of the Andean peaks and the exquisite taste of world-class wines invigorate your senses on a hiking tour of Chile that showcases the country's natural beauty, charming culture, and notable wineries. Stroll historic cobblestone streets on a walking tour of Santiago, Chile and keep an eye out for Humboldt penguins along the coast in the picturesque, French Riviera-style beach-town of Zapallar. Savor a lunch of authentic Chilean cuisine on a hillside near a roaring waterfall, surrounded by magnificent snow-capped peaks. Discover Valparaíso's brightly-colored, stacked houses and the quirky wonders of acclaimed poet Pablo Neruda's home on Isla Negra. In Chile's renowned wine country, you'll make lasting memories amidst the Andean foothills as you raise a glass selected by an expert sommelier.



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 Chile's famous wine culture as you tour wine estates, sample fine vintages, and even blend, cork, and label your own bottle.
Admire sweeping sea views as you feast on Chilean culinary specialties such as caldillo de congrio (eel soup) and guachinanguito (red snapper).



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

Meeting Point & Time: The Singular Santiago, 8:30 a.m.
Breakfast is included at your hotel.

Your guide(s) will meet you at 8:30 a.m. in the lobby of the Singular Santiago. Your guides will be wearing a Country Walkers shirt. Please be dressed for walking.

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

Transfer two hours to the picturesque beach town of Zapallar, known for its distinctly European feel. Founded a century ago by the son of an affluent local landowner, it was patterned after the towns of the French Riviera and now boasts many elegant estates. Arrive at the picturesque 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. Arriving to your hotel on foot, enjoy 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 enjoy local dishes like grilled corvina in black butter or baked crab stew.

Accommodation: Hotel Isla Seca, Zapallar

DAY 2

El Boldo 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, whose start is only steps away from your accommodation. Guests wishing for a longer (and more challenging) stroll may depart directly from the hotel. 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, due to 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 spread below you and the surrounding mountains above.

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

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, discovering a brightly painted hodge-podge of houses stacked on dramatic hillsides, 19th-century docks, steep funiculars, and beautiful views of the Andes along the way. Though once notoriously run down, "Valpo" (as it's affectionately known by locals) 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. Delight

in dishes like breaded hake, shrimp empanadas, eel fritters, and seafood soup. This afternoon continue the walking tour with your guides with 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 Higueras, Valparaíso

DAY 4

Valparaiso 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 for a walk that follows the contour line of the hills to enjoy spectacular views overlooking the city and colors of Valparaiso. Continue with a one-hour transfer to Isla Negra, passing through charming villages and savoring beautiful ocean views along the way. Your destination: 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 2 ½-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 historic 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

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. After, you transfer to Neyen, an organic vineyard located in the old terraces of the Tinguiririca River, a stunning area 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 earned it a number of international awards over the years –Harvard Business School 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 local countryside restaurant with offerings such as empanadas, quinoa salad, grilled fish, or pasta—all paired with local vintages.

Accommodation: Hotel Noi Blend, Santa Cruz

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 1 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 trees of oak and eucalyptus. 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 (1 ½ hours) to the celebrated Viña Santa Rita, where your final hotel is housed in the bodega's 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, which features an impressive display of Chilean artifacts and handcrafts.

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

Accommodation: Casa Real Hotel, Alto Jahuel

DAY 7

Rio Clarillo Reserve. Viña Santa Rita wine blending

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

Following breakfast, begin your day with a 1 ½ 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 with views of the meandering Clarillo River and the snow-capped 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 Hotel, Alto Jahuel

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) and tomato cheese basil, you will walk on a wide dirt path underneath a 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 snow-capped peaks of the Andes as we savor the local specialties, including ceviche with vegetables from the garden or corn cake with a Chilean salad, instead.

After 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	✓
Emergency travel assistance hotline available 24/7	✓