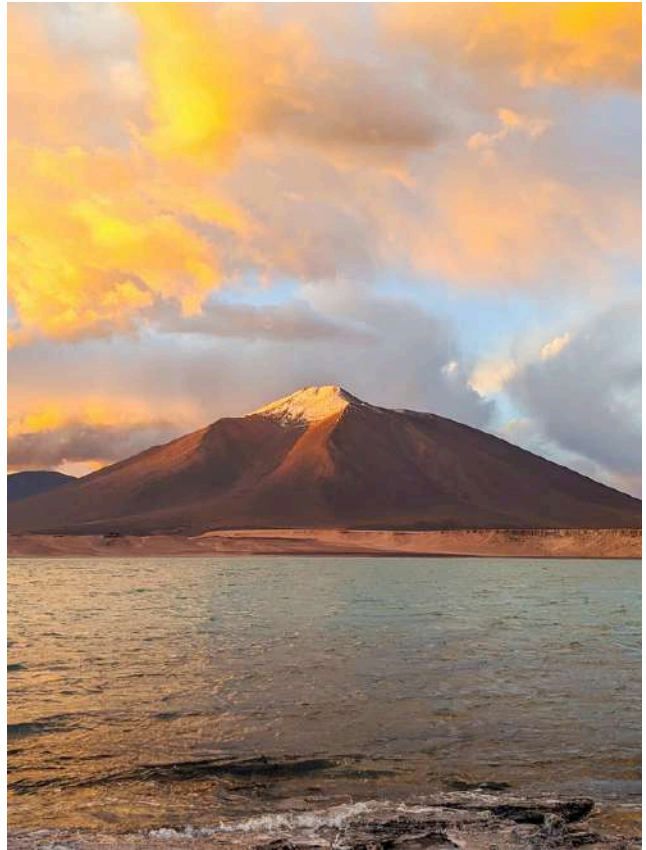




# Ojos del Salado Expedition.



## **Hello team!**

Epic Expeditions is back in South America, baby!

Remote valleys. Snow-capped volcanoes. Wild wilderness areas. Bustling big city culture. High altitude desert. This is the side of Chile we want to show you.

While remaining not as popular as neighboring Peru and Argentina, This part of Chile is an adventurer's dream destination - and the lack of crowds is exactly why we fell in love with this Andean nation.

Our Ojos Del Salado itinerary features a little bit of everything from world-class trekking and climbing to natural hot springs and even a little bit of fun in the sun by the Pacific Ocean.

This is the South America you want to get to know, and Epic Expeditions is here to take you there.

Buckle up and get ready for the adventure of your life.

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# Getting ready to experience Chile

A few months prior to the trip, we will be sending you a number of Google forms and documents to return in order to collect the necessary information from you.

***Please do your best to fill in and return these in a timely manner.***

## Visa arrangements - general information

For your upcoming expedition to Ojos del Salado in Chile, it's essential to understand the tourist visa requirements for participants. Here's a detailed breakdown:

### **United States - European Union - UK - Australia Citizens:**

- **Visa Requirement:** Citizens from the above countries do not need a visa for stays up to 90 days.
- **Tourist Card:** Upon arrival, you'll receive a Tourist Card ("Tarjeta de Turismo") valid for up to 90 days. Keep this document safe, as you'll need to return it upon departure. If lost, obtain a replacement from the International Police (PDI) before leaving Chile.
- **Passport Validity:** Your passport must be valid for the duration of your stay and in good condition. You should have at least 6 months of passport validity remaining before you travel to Chile.

**Extensions:** If you wish to extend your stay beyond 90 days, you can apply for an extension at the Chilean Immigration Office

### **DOCUMENTS TO SUBMIT TO EPIC ASAP**

- **Please submit a copy of your passport to us upon booking.**

## Flights to Chile

**Arrival Airport:** Santiago International Airport | Arturo Merino Benítez International Airport (SCL)

**Departure Airport:** Santiago International Airport | Arturo Merino Benítez International Airport (SCL)

Santiago is the capital city of Chile and the largest city in the country.

There are many connections to Santiago from neighboring countries and also bi-weekly direct flights from Miami, USA and Madrid, Spain.

*If you arrive in Santiago in the days before the trip starts, you will need to pay for your own accommodation. We can help make hotel suggestions for you if you'd like or we can book you into the same hotel as our guides.*

**Airlines :** Lantam - Avianca - Iberia - American Airlines

Notes for early arrival: We strongly advise all trip participants to arrive in Santiago 1-2 days before the start of the trip so you can shake off jet lag and get some rest before the start of this fast-paced itinerary. The majority of this trip takes place above 4,000 meters - and we want you to give yourself the best chance to feel good by arriving early and getting your body enough rest .

# When do you need to be there?

- To experience the full itinerary, you need to be in the hotel/meeting place and be rested by late morning on day 1 (at the absolute latest). We will confirm the exact time and meeting place just prior to the start of the trip.
- The tour ends on day 16 and with the exception of breakfast and airport transfers, no services are included on this day, so it makes sense to try and leave by the evening.
- Checkout from the hotel is around 11 am.

## Accommodation in Chile

For this trip, we stay in a mix of 3-star hotels, local bed and breakfast guesthouses, and tents. The tents we use are robust, 4-season tents built to battle the high-altitude elements. Prices are based on same gender room sharing (two people to a room and tent).

We carefully chose a hotel in Santiago that fits our vibe.

The hotel features all of the modern comforts including fast wifi, hot water, and a great breakfast on-site.

Note: prices are based on twin-sharing rooms and tents.

**Single supplement:** You can book a single tent (+\$150) and hotel room (+\$500) for the duration of the trip for an extra fee.

## Food in Chile

Food in Chile is a big part of this trip.

Along our trek, we do our very best to provide freshly cooked meals, prepared by our talented chef team.

In cities - Santiago, Copiapó, and, Bahía Inglesa - Lunch and dinner are paid on your own.

Here is what to expect for meals along the trek:

### DAILY MEALS - EXAMPLES

Breakfast: fried eggs, cereal, jam, sweets, bread, cheese, milk, tea, coffee, fruit

Trekking Lunch: we serve a proper packed lunch. Example:

Dinner: soup course, rice, meat, salad, local pastry dishes, pasta, chicken, etc

*Please let us know early on if you have any diet restrictions/preferences. If you are vegetarian/vegan/gluten-free we can accommodate you, no worries! There is an extra charge associated with diet preferences.*

*Cost: +\$200 USD.*

## PERSONAL SNACKS

If you have done some hiking or group travel before, then you know how important snacks are! While Epic does provide some snacks and hearty meals, it is always a great idea to bring some of your favorite trekking/travel snacks from your home country.

- It is possible to find snacks in Santiago that are similar to those one might find at home. We suggest bringing your favorite assortment of snacks and chow down during trail breaks. Gummies, nuts, jerky, energy gels, Cliff bars, granola bars, dark chocolate, superfood powder, bliss balls, etc.

# Expedition safety

## STAYING SAFE ON THIS EXPEDITION

- You may have guessed, this adventure tour carries a certain amount of risk since we are traveling and trekking DEEP into the mountains in a remote part of Chile. This is not your average holiday per se.
- Guest Safety is Epic's #1 priority and our experienced ground team does everything within their power to set our group up for a safe adventure.
- The name of the game is security and safety first and being mindful of injury prevention.
- In case of emergency, your Epic trip leader is equipped with a satellite communication device, which can contact outside emergency first responders from any place in Chile.

## ALTITUDE IN CHILE

During this trip, you are going to get high - and no - not from any famous South American powder.

Pretty much for this entire itinerary once we leave Santiago, we are at high altitudes. Altitude sickness is a common issue, so it's important to:

- Allow time for acclimatization
- Stay hydrated and avoid hiking too fast to the point where you are constantly out of breath.
- Consider medication for altitude sickness if you have a history of related problems.

# Travel insurance for Chile

- We recommend that you use [World Nomads](#) or [Safety Wing](#) or [Global Rescue](#)
- Make sure the insurance company chosen provides coverage for activities like trekking up to 7,000 meters.

Optional helicopter insurance: Though not mandatory, you might want to seriously consider taking out emergency [helicopter evacuation insurance from Global Rescue](#).

## MEDICAL CONSIDERATION

[General Information on health considerations](#) while traveling in Chile

# Money In Chile

The official currency of Chile is the *Chileno*

ATMs are common in larger urban areas, like Santiago and Copiapó. We also recommend that you bring some foreign cash (for tips). USD, Euro, and British Pounds are all fine. Cards seem to work everywhere in Chile as well.

As to how much money you should bring, here are some costs for you to take into account...

- meals in cities: expect to spend roughly \$200 of food and drinks for meals paid on your own.
- Soft drinks and water are about \$1-2.
- A meal will set you back between \$10-15
- **Money Recommendation for this trip:** If you take out the equivalent of \$300-400 USD in Chilean Peso, you should have more than enough to get meals on your own, get souvenirs, buy beer, pick up snacks, and extra drinks and meals in cities.

When we return to Santiago at the end of the trip, you will have a chance to get out more cash should you need it (for shopping, tipping staff, last-minute purchases, etc).

## TIPPING STAFF

Epic staff including our ground team in Chile go above and beyond for guests before, during, and after the trip to make sure that everyone has the best possible trekking experience imaginable. So how do you show your guides some love? Well, besides bringing coffee, tipping is the next best option.

*Note: Tipping is 100% optional and should reflect your overall experience with our staff. No guest is required to tip, however we have received many questions regarding tipping in the past which is why we include this info in this information pack. Below we have included the industry standard recommendation to offer our staff some additional compensation based on your overall experience and keeping in mind the length of the trip. Show your staff some love!*

## Tipping recommendations (in USD)

**For all staff and trip leaders: \$500 USD is recommended.**

# SIM cards & internet access in Chile

There are many mobile networks in Chile: The cheapest: Claro or WOM · The best network quality: Entel · Best value for money: VTR/Movistar.

Getting an Esim online is also a fine option and is something you can get before arriving in Chile. Check your phone is Esim compatible before buying one, obviously.

You can purchase a local SIM card at various shopping points in Santiago or at the airport at the start of the trip if you would like to have local data on your phone for the trip duration.

Note that in the mountain areas, there is no cell signal except when you happen to be on top of one of the peaks.

In case of emergencies, your guide also carries a satellite communication device so that we are never out of contact.

## Meeting the people & being culturally sensitive

Chile is a country with a rich cultural heritage, shaped by a blend of Indigenous traditions, Spanish colonial history, and modern influences. While major cities like Santiago are cosmopolitan and fast-paced, remote mountain regions—such as those near Ojos del Salado—are home to small communities with deep cultural ties to the land.

### The People of Chile & Andean Culture

**Warm & Hospitable:** Chileans are known for their friendliness and hospitality toward visitors. A polite greeting and a friendly attitude go a long way in creating positive interactions.

**Indigenous Influence:** Though not heavily populated, parts of the Atacama Desert and the Andes have been historically inhabited by Indigenous Atacameño, Diaguita, and Quechua communities, who have preserved traditions linked to mountain worship, astronomy, and local wildlife.

**Rural vs. Urban Lifestyles:** In cities like Santiago, Chileans live a modern, urban lifestyle, whereas in remote areas, people may live more traditionally, relying on small-scale farming, mining, and tourism.

### ABOUT THE GUIDES

Each trip group is accompanied by two Epic trip leaders (one IFMGA guide), as well as a team of Chilean ground staff. For the days when we attempt mountain peaks, we have a ratio client - mountain guide ratio of 2:1.

For more information on our guides and trip leaders, check out our [meet the team](#) page.

## Weather conditions in Chile

The Ojos del Salado Expedition takes place during the Chilean summer (January–February), offering the best weather window for high-altitude climbs. However, conditions can still be extreme, with hot desert days, freezing mountain nights, and strong winds. Below is a breakdown of what to expect along the journey.

### Santiago (Day 1, 5, 15-16) – Urban Summer Climate

Max: 30–35°C (86–95°F) | Min: 12–18°C (54–64°F)

Conditions: Warm to hot and dry, with little to no rainfall. Evenings are comfortable.

Andes (Day 2-4) – Piedra Numerada, Federación Base Camp, and Cerro El Plomo

Max: 10–18°C (50–64°F) | Min: -5 to -10°C (14–23°F)

Conditions: Mild days and freezing nights at high elevations. Strong winds and potential snow patches above 5,000m.

### Atacama Desert & Laguna Verde (Day 7-12) – High-Altitude Desert Climate

Max: 15–22°C (59–72°F) | Min: -5 to -10°C (14–23°F)

Conditions: Dry, sunny, and windy with high UV exposure. Nighttime temperatures drop significantly, especially at Laguna Verde (4,300m / 14,100 ft).

## High-Altitude Climbs (Nevado San Francisco, Incahuasi, Ojos del Salado)

Max: 0–5°C (32–41°F) Min: -15 to -25°C (5 to -13°F)

Conditions: Extreme cold and strong winds (50–80 km/h or 30–50 mph). Snow and ice may be present, and windchill can make it feel even colder. Summit days can be unpredictable, requiring full winter gear.

## Bahía Inglesa (Day 14-15) – Coastal Desert Climate

Max: 25–30°C (77–86°F) | Min: 15–18°C (59–64°F)

Conditions: Warm and sunny with ocean breezes—ideal for relaxing after the climb.

# What to pack for Ojos del Salado

It's extremely important that you bring the right gear for the trip. In case you forget something, there are outdoor shops in Santiago, though prices for outdoor gear in Santiago are no less than those in Europe or the USA.

The weather will be cold at times and, especially when we are camped above 4,000 meters - it will be below freezing at night. You will want to be comfortable so it's worth spending money on decent-quality warm gear. It is always best to be prepared for a variety of climates and temperature fluctuations.

We also have the following gear available for rent:

	USD per expedition
<b>Double boot</b>	150
<b>Triple boot</b>	400
<b>Sleeping bag</b>	100
<b>Down jacket</b>	80
<b>Down pants</b>	70
<b>Rain jacket</b>	80
<b>Rain pants</b>	80
<b>Mittens</b>	50
<b>Gloves</b>	50

<b>Ice axe</b>	50
<b>Crampons</b>	60
<b>Helmet</b>	50
<b>Harness</b>	50
<b>Googles</b>	50
<b>Trekking poles</b>	30
<b>Gaiters</b>	40
<b>40 L backpack</b>	50
<b>85 L backpack</b>	100
<b>Headlamp</b>	25

TEST ALL OF YOUR PERSONAL GEAR BEFORE COMING TO CHILE . Please take the time to go out on an overnight backpacking/camping trip at least once before coming on this trip so that you know how your gear performs in the mountains.





## PACKS & BAGGAGE

- Expedition Duffel Bag 140L
- Day Trekking Backpack 35-40L with rain cover

## BOOTS & FOOTWEAR

- Trekking Boots / Hoka's
- 6000 Meter Double Mountaineering Boots \*
- Down Booties
- Sandals

## ESSENTIAL PERSONAL GEAR

- 4F \ -20C Sleeping Bag \*
- Inflating Sleeping Pad
- Inflatable Camp Pillow \*\*
- Foam Mattress

## OTHER PERSONAL GEAR

- Dry Bags
- Polarized Sunglasses
- Personal First Aid Kit
- Power Bank
- Chargers/Phone Cable
- Personal snacks

## SPECIALTY EQUIPMENT

- Trekking Poles
- Headlamp \*
- Gaiters \* & \*\*
- Summit Socks
- Expedition Mittens \*
- Light Weight Gloves \*
- Heavy Weight Gortex Gloves with fingers
- 1 sling 120cm/safety cord
- 3 Locking Carabiners
- Belay Device (ATC climbing device)
- Helmet \*
- Crampons \*
- Harness \*
- General Mountaineering Ice Ax
- Grayl Filter Bottle
- Nalgene Water Bottle
- Thermos \*
- Pee Bottle (clearly labeled) \*
- Water Bottle Parkas (fully insulated with zip opening)
- Glacier Glasses
- Ski Goggles \*

\* Items can be rented  
\*\* Optional

## TOILETRIES

- Toothbrush, Toothpaste
- Sun Cream (50 spf+)
- Spf Lip Balm
- Deodorant
- Wet wipes
- Travel Towel

## CLOTHING LAYER SYSTEMS

- Rain Shell Pants \*\*
- Down Pants \* & \*\*
- Hard Shell/Rain Jacket
- Fleece
- Base Layer Top
- Base Layer Bottoms
- Sun Hat and Beanie
- Buff and Bandana
- Underwear and Bras 5x
- Trekking Shirts 3x
- Trekking Pants 1-2x
- Synthetic Multisport Pants
- Merino Trekking Socks 5x
- Swim wear
- Mid weight Down Jacket
- Summit Parka / Heavy Down Jacket

# Extra activities in Chile

Our Chile itinerary is action-packed with great stuff, but if you have extra time, there is no shortage of things to do here in case you have extra time to spend here.

- **Easter Island (Rapa Nui) Exploration:** Visit the remote island of Rapa Nui, famous for its colossal stone statues called moai.
- **Whitewater Rafting in the Futaleufú River:** Experience exhilarating whitewater rafting in the Futaleufú River, known for its thrilling rapids and stunning Patagonian scenery.
- **Hiking the W Trek in Torres del Paine:** Join the iconic W Trek in Torres del Paine National Park in Patagonia
- **Canyoning in the Cajón del Maipo:** Embark on a canyoning adventure in the Cajón del Maipo, a stunning gorge near Santiago.

## Early client departure protocol

In the event that a trip participant needs to leave the planned trip itinerary early due to illness, injury, family emergency, personal reasons, or simply because they want to, etc then there are a few things to note:

Should a trip participant choose to leave the planned itinerary early for any reason, from the moment they leave the tour, all expenses from that point onwards are the responsibility of the trip participant. This includes, but is not limited to, hotels/accommodation, transportation, emergency helicopter evacuation, internal flights (even if we have purchased you a flight for the trip you are attending), meals, airport transfer, guide services - everything that is normally covered by Epic Expeditions during your tour is no longer covered once a trip participant decides to leave.

Once the decision has been made to leave the tour, the trip participant must sign an "Early Departure Waiver Form" - formally releasing Epic Expeditions of any further obligations to fulfill our tour/guide/transport/logistics services.

That said, in an emergency situation or in case of severe illness, Epic Expeditions staff will do everything within our means to aid the trip participant until they are in a safe/stable condition. When possible, Epic staff can also help you book new accommodation, flights, transport, etc when possible - but all of these expenses are for the trip participant to pay.

Point being, our staff will always be available to the best of our ability to facilitate the logistics of your departure, should you choose to leave the trip early.

## Liability waiver

All tour participants will be required to sign an industry-standard waiver releasing Epic Expeditions from liability related to certain aspects of this trip. Waivers are usually issued on day 1 of the tour at our first team briefing. If you would like to request a copy of the waiver in advance, please email us.

## Paying the balance

Final balance payments will be due approximately 3-4 months before the tour begins. If you have a balance owing we will advise you of how and when to pay this. Please remember that deposits are non-refundable.

If you would like to pay the balance sooner, please email us!

Any questions? Email us at [contact@epicexpeditions.com](mailto:contact@epicexpeditions.com)

Again, we are very excited to get to meet you in person in Chile soon!

