



Chile

Please note that your final itinerary may vary slightly from this one as we continuously research and develop each trip, customizing your experience to match your interests and tastes. Inclement weather—though we'd like to think there won't be any—may also necessitate minor alterations. ©2014 Butterfield & Robinson Inc.

Your Journey

Journey to South America as you span the diversity of Chile. Stretching 2,700 miles (4,300km) along the Pacific coast of South America, the distinctive ribbon of land that is Chile is only 109 miles (175km) wide on average. This unique shape gives Chile a widely varied climate and terrain, and contributes much to the diversity that makes the country so attractive. Ranging from the hot and dry Atacama Desert in the north all the way to the cold and windy Tierra del Fuego at the southern tip of the continent, Chile's lush landscape includes dense jungles, lonely mountain peaks, rolling wine lands, picturesque fjords and sunny beaches.



Your seven day journey will include relaxing bike rides through the heart of Chile's top wine regions, exploring the colorful, winding streets of Valparaiso, a UNESCO World Heritage site, and experiencing the majestic Andes Mountains while trekking to the foot of a glacier. You will experience the warmth of Chilean hospitality, delicious meals prepared with the freshest ingredients from one of South America's most productive agricultural regions and the Pacific Ocean.

Day 1

Journey to Chile's Wine Region

Arrive in Santiago – time to be confirmed but based on a morning arrival.

Welcome to Chile! On arrival in Santiago you will be welcomed by your Butterfield & Robinson guide and transferred directly to the wine region.

The journey begins with a two-hour drive into the heart of Chile's wine country to Vina Vik, your home for the next 3 nights. After freshening up and a light brunch, you will be set up with your bikes for a gentle afternoon pedal around the VIK estate trails and surrounding countryside, exploring the rural countryside of Chile's central region. Pedal non-technical mountain biking trails over dirt roads in the vicinity of Vina Vik (**approx. 9mi/15km**) - the vineyards at Vina Vik encompass almost 12,000 acres.

Note – today can be kept very flexible and for those who prefer not to ride, enjoy a day at your leisure at VIK.

Returning to VIK lodge there will be some time for massages in the Spa before your wine tasting with one of VIK's winemakers.



One of the most important wine projects in the world at this time VIK is adapting the best techniques to maximize the quality of the grape to attempt nothing short of making Chile's first 100-point wine. Your accommodations for the next three nights is the exclusive Vina Vik Hotel. Access to all hotel facilities such as the infinity pool, gym and games room is included. The holistic Vik vineyard is also well-known as one of Chile's most architecturally stunning wineries (a competition was held to commission a Chilean architects to design the winery).

Dinner this evening is at Vik with a traditional Patagonian lamb barbecue at your private lodge.

Rooms: Vina Vik Hotel.

Meals: Lunch & Dinner.



HOTEL | *Vina Vik, Millahue*

(3 nights)

Along with their properties in Uruguay, VIK has just opened a 22-room boutique hotel and a private 4 bedroom Lodge. Sitting atop a hill in the middle of the 11,000 acre property, it provides luxury accommodations and a 360-degree view only made better by the cozy common area with its fireplace and exquisite cuisine. Vik has brought a new level of luxury to Chile's central wine valley.

Day 2

Biking Colchagua Valley

This morning you will leave VIK for an amazing three hour bike ride through the marvelous agricultural heart of the Central Valley before arriving in the **Colchagua Valley**. In the late nineteenth century, during the era of immense mining wealth in Chile, important families introduced fine wine varieties of French origin – primarily Cabernet Sauvignon, Carménère, Merlot and Malbec. Since then, and especially during the mid-1990s during Chile's rebirth as a quality wine producer, this area has developed into one of the most important wine regions in South America.



Arrive in the Apalta region and enjoy lunch at the Clos Apalta winery restaurant, owned by the **French Grand Marnier Family**, which uses Lapostolle wine as the inspiration for the seasonal cuisine that highlights the natural flavors of Chile. A Relais Chateaux property, the restaurant uses products from its organic vegetable garden as well as fresh local produce markets in the area to create dishes that infuse French cooking styles with Chilean ingredients. In 2008, Clos Apalta wine was selected as their Wine of the Year by wine Spectator.



Following lunch, return to VIK by minivan which will take approximately 45 minutes. Dinner this evening is at VIK.

Biking distance: 60km/36mi.

Rooms: Vina Vik Hotel.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner.

Day 3

Cachapoal Valley

Depart this morning from Vik pedaling 55km from VIK to the town of San Vicente de Tagua Tagua enjoying the scenic tranquility of this agricultural heart of Chile. Returning to VIK, a picnic lunch will be prepared for you to enjoy within the vineyard. Enjoy a relaxing afternoon before this evening's dinner.

You have the rest of the afternoon at your leisure to enjoy the Vik spa, bike through the vineyards, or just relax.



Total pedaling 55km/34mi (around 4-5 hours).



Rooms: Vina Vik Hotel.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner.

Day 4

San Antonio Valley & Valparaiso

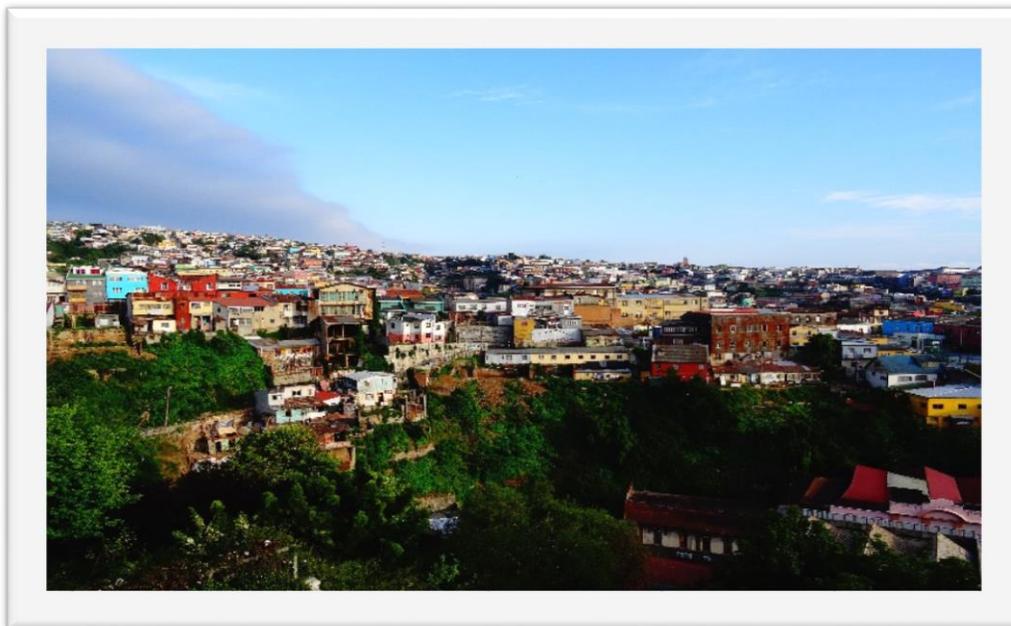
Leaving Vik, you will be driven approximately 2 hours to Matetic winery. Entering the private farmlands of the Rosario Valley, you arrive to the state-of-the-art modern facilities to enjoy a wine tasting. Stretch your legs and make a ride from the winery to the hacienda where you will enjoy a private lunch in the garden. After lunch, take a walk to the horse arena where a special demonstration of Chilean horsemanship will be arranged.



One hour's drive from Matetic is Valparaiso where you will check into Casa Higueras and have a chance to freshen up before a guided walking tour. One of the first Chilean cities founded by the Spanish and declared a UNESCO World Heritage site in 2003 for its architectural and cultural significance, the city is also one of Chile's most interesting. Century-old hillside funicular ascensores (elevators) will transport you up into the city's steep hills, where a labyrinthine maze of streets reveals brightly colored buildings, bohemian cafes and elegant

restaurants – many with spectacular views of the harbor below. Your guide will lead you on foot through two of the most famous and eclectic neighborhoods, Cerro Concepción and Cerro Alegre.

Dinner this evening will be at one of Valparaiso's top restaurants, overlooking the historic port and rolling hillsides homes.



Rooms: Casa Higueras Boutique Hotel.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner.



HOTEL | *Casa Higueras, Valparaiso*

(1 night)

From its perch upon the bohemian Cerro Alegre hill, Casa Higueras is one of Valparaiso's most charming and upscale boutique hotels. Higueras was formerly a private home, built around 1930, but was later restored to preserve the traditional and intimate characteristics of the original structure. The property enjoys breathtaking views of the harbor and historic Valparaiso that you can experience from the outdoor infinity pool and patio. Restaurant Montealegre offers a chic menu that mixes Mediterranean flavors and Latin ingredients.

Day 5

Casablanca Valley & Helicopter to the Cordillera de los Andes

Start the day with a 45-minute transfer to the Casablanca valley. From there you will pedal around 15km / 9 miles to **Kingston Family Vineyards**, passing through eucalyptus groves on your way. Since its first vintage in 2003, Kingston has been turning heads with its small production Pinot Noir, Syrah, and Sauvignon Blanc. While coastal Casablanca is known for its white wines, Kingston is pioneering the production of cool-climate, artisan-style reds. Wines from the 300 acre family ranch are handcrafted and bottled on site. Enjoy a tour and tasting before riding a further 20km / 12 miles to **Loma Larga** for a picnic lunch. Total pedaling 35 km/21mi.



Your helicopter will depart directly from Loma Larga into the Andes Mountains. Along the way, we will make a scenic flight over Chile's capital city **Santiago** before entering the **Maipo Canyon**. Winding through the canyon until arriving in the town of **El Ingenio** and the private landing pad at Lodge Andino where you stay for the next two nights. Flight time approximately 1 hour. You can pass the remainder of this afternoon enjoying the luscious gardens, strolling through the walnut groves, relaxing by the pool or soaking in the hot tub. Whatever your pursuit you'll find yourself entranced by the peacefulness, slowly unwinding and settling in as if in your own home. Dinner this evening is at Lodge Andino.

Rooms: Lodge Andino.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner.



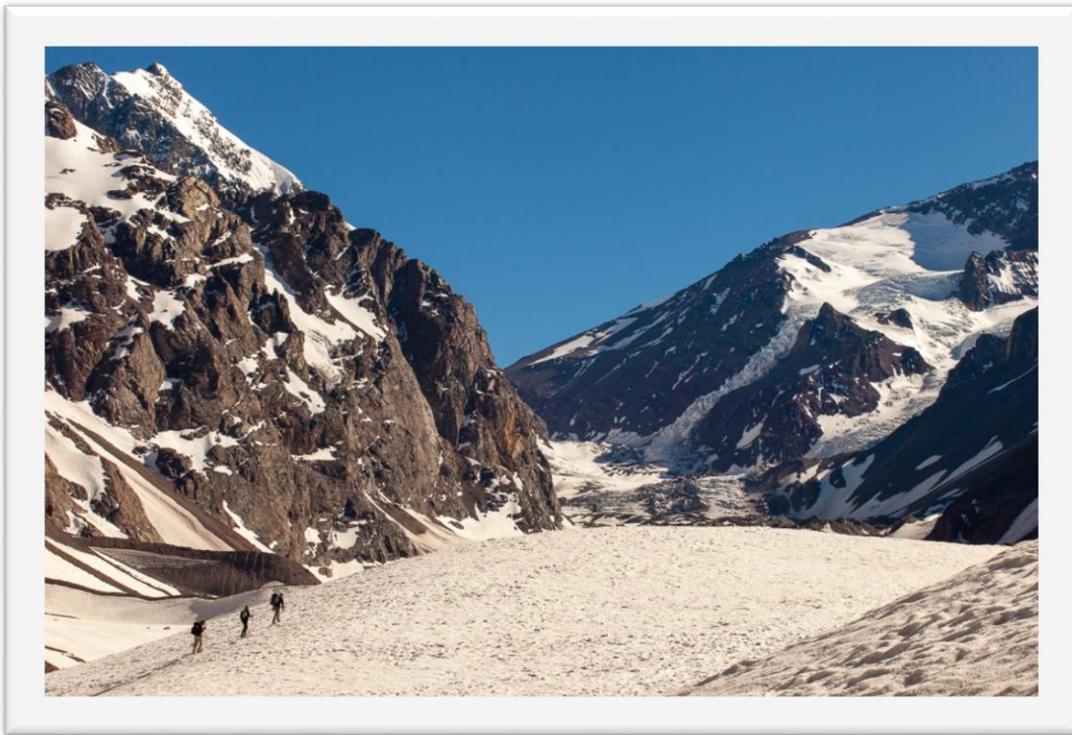
HOTEL | *Lodge Andino El Ingenio, Maipo Canyon*

Relax in the simple charms of this country farm located in the Andean foothills. Lodge Andino offers guests an unforgettable experience with a cozy atmosphere and delicious homemade meals in one of the most intimate settings in Chile. Located in the foothills of the Andean mountains in the Maipo Canyon, Lodge Andino makes an excellent base for exploring the Andes.

Day 6

Andes Hiking

After breakfast, you will be driven for approximately one hour to the far side of the El Morado National Reserve before arriving in Valle Arena in the heart of the Andes Mountains. Only 50 kilometers away (31 miles) to the north you should be able to see **Aconcagua** Mountain, the highest peak outside the Himalayas. Here you have the opportunity to embark on a two hour hike to a hanging glacier cascading into a small lake where a picnic lunch will be prepared.



Following lunch you may continue hiking in the spectacular surroundings or head back to Lodge Andino to enjoy the relaxing hot tub. The return trip involves a one hour forty-five minute hike back to the vehicle and one hour drive to Lodge Andino.

Tonight a special farewell dinner will be prepared.

Rooms: Lodge Andino.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner.

Day 7

Santiago & Farewell to Chile

After breakfast, you will be driven 1.5 hours back to Santiago where you spend the day exploring the city.

Santiago is a dynamic and cosmopolitan city located in the heart of Chile's fertile central valley. Chile's capital is a vibrant city full of character, with a thriving arts culture, trendy restaurant scene and lively nightlife. Embraced on all sides by mountains – the mighty Andes to the east and the smaller coastal range to the west – on a clear day Santiago boasts one of the most incredible city scenes in the world. Old-world colonial mansions and eclectic neighborhoods transition seamlessly to the skyscrapers of “Sanhattan” in a captivating fusion of tradition and modernity.

Tour Santiago's most important historical sites, including the downtown area surrounding the **Plaza de Armas** and the **La Moneda Presidential Palace**. Pass by the **Mercado Central**, one of Chile's largest fresh seafood markets and stroll by the many bustling stalls to see the tremendous variety available from Chile's bountiful sea. Visit some of the lesser-known barrios of Santiago including **Republica** and **Concha y Toro**, which were historically privileged neighborhoods and home to Santiago's high society. There will be time to walk around and take photos of the varied styles of architecture dating back to the 19th and early 20th century.

Lunch will be at the relaxed **Casa Lastarrias** in the cobblestoned **Lastarria** neighborhood. Following lunch, walk through the **Parque Forestal** and pass by the **Bellas Artes Museum**. For a panoramic vista of the city, take the funicular railway to the top of **Cerro San Cristobal Hill**, 984 feet above the city.

Your final dinner will be at **Borago** which nurtures an innovative culinary concept combining 100% local ingredients, European cooking techniques and a dedicated philosophy focused on provoking and awakening the senses. Chef Rodolfo Guzman prepares an eleven-course menu of food and wine pairings which feature native ingredients and traditions of cooking on hot stones and smoking with native woods. An experience at Borago is absolutely unique and sure to be unforgettable.

After dinner, it is a short 20 minute drive to the airport in time for your departure home.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner.



The Details

Start: Santiago, Chile
Finish: Santiago, Chile

LEVEL OF ACTIVITY

This trip is rated Easy to Moderate (with options for easier and more challenging activities).

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- All hotel accommodation as described
- Meals as indicated with beverages and wine
- Bottled mineral water throughout
- Butterfield & Robinson host-guide throughout
- Local English speaking Chilean specialist guides
- Local Chilean drivers
- Bikes & Helmets – Trek Hybrid flatbar or Spartan road bike drop bar
- 5 winery visits (Casa Silva, VIK, Matetic, Lapostolle & Kingston)
- Snacks and water during each day of travel in Santiago region
- Special events and private tours as indicated
- Specialist equipment for all excursions when required
- Arrival and departure airport transportation in a private air-conditioned vehicle
- Support vehicle for bicycle transportation
- Helicopter transfer from Loma Larga to Lodge Andino
- Entrances to parks and attractions in the itinerary

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- International & Domestic flights
- International airport departure taxes
- Visas
- Reciprocity fee for Canadians. N.B. US passport holders do not pay reciprocity.
- Early Check-in / late check-out, unless noted as included
- Beverages unless noted as included
- Cancellation insurance
- Items of a personal nature
- Gratuities

Next Steps

READY TO BOOK? Call or email us with any remaining questions and to arrange final payment (1-800-387-1147). Once you are booked, you will receive a confirmation package by email containing detailed information to help you prepare for your trip.