

Singles in Paradise

SOUTH AMERICA ITINERARY

May 12th – 21st

May 12th, 1:30 p.m.

Our flight departs from LAX arriving non-stop into Santiago, Chile at 5:30 a.m. the next morning. After some rest, we'll start our first tour in the afternoon. Other gateways are available.

DAY ONE SANTIAGO CITY TOUR

May 13th



Our City Tour begins in the heart of Santiago, the Plaza de Armas where we will spend approximately 20 minutes walking and talking about the historic significance of the location and the importance of the surrounding buildings. We then continue our tour, passing the ex-National Congress to arrive at the Plaza de la Constitucion and the infamous Palacio La Moneda. Chile's presidential palace and the site of the coup d'etat of 1973. We will walk through La Moneda.

We then continue through the cobble-stoned streets of Barrio Paris-Londres and arrive at Iglesia San Francisco, the oldest church in Santiago, dating back to the early 1600s. We will wander through the interior of the church and learn about its history. Driving down the Alameda we will observe many additional historic sights in Santiago on our way to the artistic and colorful barrio of Bellavista. Here we will ride the funicular to the top of Cerro San Cristobal for a scenic vista of Santiago. Leaving the top, we will drive down through Parque Metropolitana, Santiago's largest and most interesting park. **This tour is included in your trip cost.**

Bali Hai Folk Show Dinner

Experience Santiago by night at Bali Folk Show and discover their different foods, wines, live music, and different types of folkloric dances of the Chilean regions. Discover a totally different Santiago by night. Touring around the streets full of lights and the magic of the night, it is possible to appreciate the architectural appeal of the capital.

Arrival to the Bali Hai Restaurant decorated in Polynesian style with replicas of moai statues on the exterior. Here it is possible to find the charm of the wines and the taste of the foods while observing a show with colorful suits, live music and different types of folkloric dances of the Chilean regions.

Cost: \$60

<http://www.city-discovery.com/santiago/tour.php?id=5799>

DAY TWO – FULL DAY TOUR

May 14th,. 8:30 p.m.

VALley of Colchagua, 2.5 hrs from Santiago. That option is great, a beautiful place, and wineries: Montes, Casa Lapostolle, Viña Viu Manent, Laura Hartwig etc there is a museum there also to see, lunch 14000 aprox per person but a full menu at the Santa Cruz hotel.

Cuisine Chilean

Hours Mon-Sat noon-4pm and 7-11pm; Sun noon-4pm

Location Road to Lolol, Km 27, Around Town

Reservations Reservations recommended on weekends

Phone 72/941308

E-mail haciendalolol@yahoo.es

Prices Main courses \$8 (£5.30)

Credit Cards Not accepted

Read more:

<http://www.frommers.com/destinations/colchaguavalley/D64633.html#ixzz1LP1QQouO>

Cuisine Chilean

Hours Tues-Sat 1-4pm and 8-11pm; Sun 1-4pm

Location Road to Santa Cruz from San Fernando, Km 31, near Cunaco, Around Town

Reservations Reservations recommended on weekends

Phone 72/84835

Web site www.panpanvinovino.cl

Prices Main courses \$8-\$10 (£5.30-£6.70)

Credit Cards AE, DC, MC, V

Read more:

<http://www.frommers.com/destinations/colchaguavalley/D64634.html#ixzz1LP1nuSnQ>

Coastal Tour to Zapallar and Cachagua

This tour combines some of the best natural scenery of the central region. First, we will visit the La Campana National Park and walk through a native Chilean Palm Forest near the quaint, rural town of Ocoa. Continuing to the coast, the beach and local seafood market in Maitencillo are our



first stop before continuing to the neighboring town of Cachagua for a visit to a national penguin reserve.

Finally, the breathtaking, rocky coast and crystal clear waters of the Pacific Ocean make for a great invitation to the coastal town of Zapallar. After a stroll on the walkway nestled between the crashing waves and the seaside landscape, we will have a delicious Chilean seafood lunch at a local restaurant on a picturesque bay. After lunch we will have some time to relax on the beach or stroll the lushly landscaped streets of Zapallar.

COST: \$50 (as long as we can get 20 people for this – reg - \$113.

We will have a professional guide with us and if there is more than enough money I will use it to pay for some of the wine tastings. Everyone who sent in their tour choices had picked both of our bus tours.

<http://www.santiagoadventures.com/tours/zapallar.htm>

DAY THREE – MAY 15TH

TREKKING

El Morado Trekking Tour & Baños Colinas Hot Springs (from 7:30am to 7pm)

We will depart from the hotel at 7:30 a.m. for the dramatic peaks of **El Morado National Park** which are less than 2 hours from Santiago at the end of the **Cajón del Maipo**(one of best places to hike, explore and get close up to the glaciers of the Andes). We begin our hike at Baños Morales, heading toward Laguna El Morado, a small lake at 7,874 feet (2,400 meters). After a picnic lunch here, we then continue up the trail until we arrive at the San Francisco Glacier, one of Chile's 29 glaciers that have a considerable impact on its landscape and water

supply. Following the same trail, we then head back to Baños Colina where we will enjoy a bath in the hot springs. This tour involves 6 hours of moderate hiking + hot springs. **COST: \$79** - **Meals:** Delicious Picnic Lunch



DAY FOUR - MAY 16TH

Tour of Casablanca Vineyards and Valparaíso - Wineries and the Jewel of the Pacific

The Valley of Casablanca is home to more than 25 distinct vineyards and wineries and is particularly famous for its exquisite white wine varieties. Check out the map here. **All of the pushpins are wineries!** Here we'll witness the process of colonial wine making along with a fine demonstration of Chilean folkloric traditions. The city of Valparaíso, declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is one of Chile's most important harbors and an increasingly vital cultural center in Latin America. It



holds a vibrant, almost incoherent, architectural background overlooking the Pacific Ocean with an entertaining history you'd be interested to know about.

Our first stop is the Valley of Casablanca, where we'll visit a premium winery and hop on a horse carriage and wander through its extensive vineyards and its gorgeous winery facilities, we'll go back in time when we enter the wine museum where you'll appreciate the artisan wine making process and antique machinery before a tasting of their delicate and various blends of wine and cheese. Here we'll also meet the Chilean Huaso and witness an entertaining folkloric show at the semicircular corral known as the Medialuna, which means half moon, because of its shape. Skilled countrymen will amuse us with their agile maneuvering on horseback in true Chilean rodeo fashion while a folkloric dance group dressed in colorful garments exhibits a fine demonstration of the Cueca, Chile's national

dance.

Valparaíso, the Jewel of the Pacific, is our next destination. We'll drive for about



half an hour until we reach the top of the coastal range, where you'll get a bird's eye view of the Valparaíso

Bay together with Viña del Mar, its sister city, known also as the Garden City. We'll descend its steep hills and drive around the coast line of the bay to the main port. We'll stroll around Plaza Sotomayor, Valparaíso's civic center and the Prat Pier, where we'll get an overview at sea level of the rugged urban layout above the port clinging to the steep hills.

Then we're ready to head on to the steep residential hills and discover the enriching history and wild architecture of Valparaíso. We'll take easy strolls around labyrinth cobblestone streets which hold surprises in every corner. The unique architectural imprint of European immigrants is strongly present, as you will see when we pass through old mansions, colorful residential homes and distinctive churches built in the early 20th century. You'll be able to shoot beautiful photographs of the bay from the various terrace-promenades and lookouts that crown the cliffs. We'll meet local artisans and hear their anecdotes as they give life to their handmade craftsmanship. We'll wander through the Outdoor Museum, a colorful display of homes and facades adorned with painted murals. We'll visit the peculiar La Sebastiana and discover the legacy of Pablo Neruda, a Nobel Prize awardee in literature and considered one of the most influential poets of the 20th century.

By early evening, we'll be back at your hotel having witnessed the beautiful and fertile Casablanca Valley and experienced a delightful encounter and understanding of Valparaíso's authentic treasures. This will be a private tour.

COST: \$50 (as long as we can get 20 people for this – reg. \$142).

We will have a professional guide with us and if there is more than enough money I will use it to pay for some of the wine tastings.

You can read more about these areas here:

<http://www.santiagoadventures.com/tours/valparaiso.htm>