

‘Travesías explora’ - Journeys into Bolivia, Argentina and Patagonia

Journey to the far-flung corners of South America with ‘travesías explora’ and discover regions of outstanding natural beauty in Chile, Bolivia, Argentina and Easter Island.

Launched in 2005, the five ‘travesías explora’ have been designed in keeping with explora’s ethos: creating unforgettable experiences, discovering the nature and cultures of South America’s remotest regions and challenging our perception of the world and ourselves.

explora is not so much a hotel group as a revolutionary travel experience. Founded in 1989, it is an enterprise whose principal aim is to encourage a new attitude towards travel for those who have a passion for discovering new places and new people, in remote and relatively unexplored regions of the southern tip of South America.

Year round, the journeys will take travellers into Bolivia, Argentina and Easter Island. Using the best infrastructure available in each destination, the ‘travesías explora’ will last between eight to ten days, allowing for acclimatisation and stays at either explora en Atacama, or Patagonia as required. The emphasis of ‘travesías explora’ is on the individual’s experience; immersing guests in the most dramatic landscapes Mother Nature has to offer.

Each ‘travesía’ will be accompanied by an explora guide, local guide, driver and chef. Accommodation will be set up along each route in the form of tents and lodges, all suitably equipped with bathrooms and relaxation areas. The guided explorations for which explora is renowned, will allow travellers to discover the ancient and mysterious local cultures originating in these spectacular regions.

- **Travesía explora to the Salar de Uyuni, Bolivia** – discover the high plains of Bolivia and Chile, one of the strangest yet most attractive places imaginable. Here, lies the Salar de Uyuni, the highest and one of the largest salt flats in the world.
- **Travesía explora to the Valles Calchaquies, northwest Argentina** – crosses the Andes between the Atacama desert and Salta in Argentina. An unforgettable journey which passes volcanoes, salt flats and lakes at an altitude of between 4,000 and 5,000 metres before arriving at traditional, colonial region of Argentina. The Calchaquies Valley was once the pass taken by the Viceroy of Peru. The region contains traces of Atacameñan culture and other pre-Colombian cultures and gives an idea of what the Spanish colonial period was like.

- **Travesía explora through the Argentine Patagonia** – crossing the Torres del Paine National Park to Chaltén. The journey takes travellers past the Argentino and Viedma lakes, and the La Leona River, reaching

the tiny village of Chaltén. Here, there are stunning trekking opportunities around the Fitz Roy and Torre peaks, alongside spectacular glaciers.

- **Travesía Potosi to San Pedro** – This newest Travesía journeys from Salar de Uyuni, to the slopes of Bolivia's Tunupa Volcano, with sites ranging from bizarre geological formations and archeological remains that stretch out across the Bolivian Alitplano, to the first Travesía campsite that stands 12,000 feet above sea level. Highlights include lunch on the shores of the beautiful Laguna Turquiri, an overnight stay at 14,100 feet at Cañapa, flamingo and vicuna viewing in the gloamin plus excursions across the wetlands and the notable Gap Colorado, a privileged site for flamingo viewing.

For more than ten years, explora has enhanced the travel experience within South America; firstly, at **explora en Patagonia** in the Torres del Paine National Park, followed by **explora en Atacama** in an oasis in the heart of the Atacama desert and **explora en Rapa Nui** on the mystical Easter Island. The '**travesías explora**' offer more awe-inspiring expeditions that are an indispensable complement to a journey to South America.

***For reservations, please call explora on 00 562 206 6060,
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or visit the website at www.explora.com***

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