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MARCH 2009 £3.80

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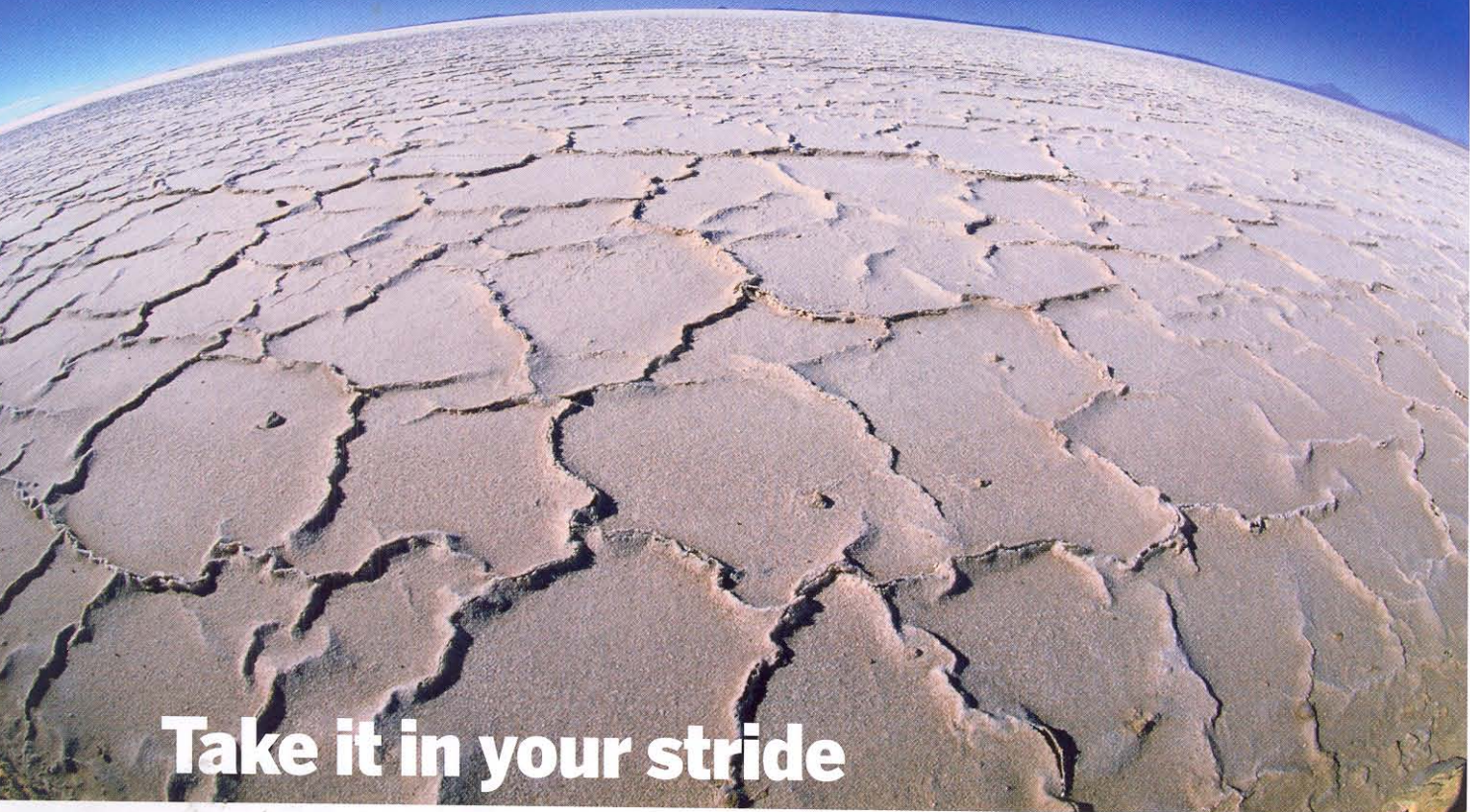
25 good reasons
to go right now!

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Restaurants
with views

Istanbul





Take it in your stride

SOUTH AMERICA Explore one of the world's most astounding landscapes on a walking tour to Chile and Bolivia



There are a great many companies offering luxury in the wild, but not many are doing it as magnificently as South American hotel pioneer Explora, which finds places not so much 'off the beaten track' as 'off unfindable tracks no one has ever considered beating', and works tirelessly to make them available to those who demand the best beds, guides and expertly mixed G&Ts. It's exciting, then, to learn that next month it launches a new 'Travesía' between **Potosi**, the world's highest town, in Bolivia, and **San Pedro de Atacama** in Chile. A *travesía* is a journey in every sense. You will, with much walking (eight days of it, in fact), experience volcanoes, llamas, salt flats, flamingos and breathtaking crystal air that lets you see for 300

miles; but you will also learn again what it is to travel: to climb windswept ridges with aching lungs and happy thoughts, and to plan the next day's challenges over a single malt with your fellow travellers. It might be hard work, especially with the altitude; but heavy luggage will be carried by truck and, if previous trips are anything to go by, the *travesía* will be exuberantly rewarding. Guests will have an end-of-journey sojourn at Explora's latest property, **Hotel de Larache**, in the middle of the Atacama Desert. As well as chic suites and open-air hot tubs, the hotel has a planetary observatory. As if this world wasn't enough... **EUAN FERGUSON**
Explora Travesías from US\$5,964 per person, all inclusive. For more details visit www.explora.com



Main picture, the salt flats of Salar de Uyuni in Bolivia. Above, from left: the Bolivian town of Potosi; llamas; Hotel de Larache in the Atacama Desert