



Flamingoes on Laguna Chaxa in the spectacular Atacama Desert, Chile

Dental Study Tour to Chile

19 – 31 January 2026

Extension to Easter Island

31 January – 5 February 2026



MAIN TOUR:

Level 3
MODERATE



EXTENSION:

Level 4
ACTIVE





Magnificent Torres del Paine, Patagonia, with the famous 'Horns' visible

Chile is a land of extraordinary beauty and contrast, snaking down from the driest desert in the world to vast frozen glaciers in the south, passing volcanoes, lakes and lush vineyards.

This tour shows you the best of the country, from the chic capital of Santiago and bohemian Valparaíso; to the lovely adobe town of San Pedro in the driest desert in the world; down to beautiful Puerto Varas in Chile's magnificent Lake District, where vivid blue lakes reflect snow-capped volcanoes; to end in the glacial wonderland of Torres del Paine.

THE MAIN TOUR IS CLASSED AS:

Level 3 | Moderate



Regular walking at destinations, extended standing and /or increased travel distances. Good fitness is required.

Along the way, make specialist professional visits and hear CPD accredited lectures from local practitioners and tour leader Kevin Esplin, enjoy fine food influenced by both immigration and local tradition, and of course Chile's top-quality wines. Stay in lovely hotels that reflect their environment, with views from the desert to lakes and mountains.

There is an optional post-tour extension to Easter Island. This tour has broad appeal and partners are very welcome.

THE EXTENSION IS CLASSED AS:

Level 4 | Active

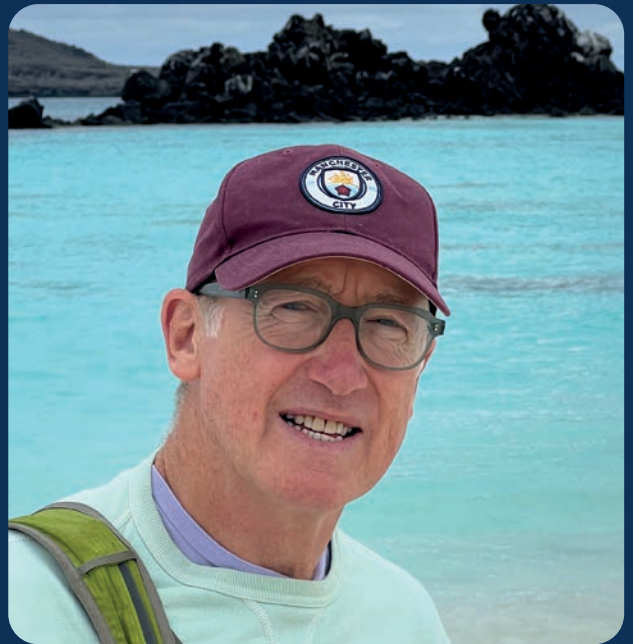


Longer and fuller days. Significant levels of walking, covering longer distances, requiring very good fitness and mobility.

Tour Leader

Kevin Esplin has been a specialist in prosthodontics for many years. He trained at King's College Hospital, London and then embarked on a two-year postgraduate program at the University of Connecticut, followed by a stint at the Eastman Dental Institute, London. For the past 35 years he has been in private practice in Cambridge, where he specialises in restorative dentistry and dental implants. His practice won the award of 'The Best Dental Practice in Britain' in 2015.

He has lectured in the USA and England and has been running dental education programs in his practice for the past 10 years. He is also an highly experienced and popular tour leader.



'Tour leader Kevin was very helpful – excellent. A tour leader par excellence!'

Suresh and Sulakesh Sharma, *Vietnam and Cambodia tour and cruise, Jan 2024*

Osorno Volcano behind Puerto Varas



Itinerary 19 – 31 January 2026

B = Breakfast **L** = Lunch **D** = Dinner

2 nights Santiago – 3 nights San Pedro de Atacama – 2 nights Puerto Varas – 3 nights Torres del Paine – 1 night Santiago



Day 1: Santiago (Mon, 19 Jan) **D**

- Am** Arrive Santiago and check in to Four Points by Sheraton.
- Pm** Mid-afternoon city walking tour.
- Eve** Local dinner.

Day 2: Santiago Tues (Tues, 20 Jan) **B D**

- Am** Professional visit to a dental hospital. Drive to the colourful World Heritage Site of Valparaíso. Enjoy the city's rich history, faded grandeur, bohemian charm and street art, followed by a visit to chic Viña del Mar, with its subtropical boulevards lined with palm trees and beautiful expansive parks. Return to Santiago.
- Eve** Welcome dinner.

Day 3: Santiago / San Pedro de Atacama (Wed, 21 Jan) **B D**

- Am** Fly to Calama.
- Pm** Transfer to the 5-star Cumbres Hotel in San Pedro de Atacama, an adobe town rich in ancient culture in the world's driest desert. Visit the Mountains of Salt

(Cordillera de la Sal) and the Valley of the Moon (Valle de la Luna), famous for its natural mineral sculptures eroded by the wind.

- Eve** Watch the sun set from atop the cordillera. Return to the hotel.

Day 4: San Pedro de Atacama (Thurs, 22 Jan) **B**

- Am** Visit a local dental health clinic and the Padre Le Paige Archaeological Museum. Head to Toconao village, which dates back 12,000 years, with its interesting handicrafts made of cactus or volcanic stone. Explore the beautiful oasis valley and see ancient petroglyphs.
- Pm** Continue to Atacama Salt Flat, the world's largest salt flat, and continue to Chaxa Lagoon, inhabited by three endemic species of flamingos. Watch the sunset.
- Eve** Option to observe the stars through a modern telescope while learning of ancient Andean astronomy.

Day 5: San Pedro de Atacama (Fri, 23 Jan) **B D**

- Am** Drive high into the Altiplano to visit the dramatic Tatio Geysers; one of the most important geothermal fields in the world. Take a dip in a natural hot pool. Drive into the richly colourful wetlands of Putana to see vicunas, flamingos and birds against the backdrop of the Colorado Volcano. Return to hotel via the tiny, historic adobe village of Machuca.

Day 6: San Pedro de Atacama / Puerto Varas (Sat, 24 Jan) **B**

- Am** Talk: 'The bohemian George Cunningham, a founder of modern preventative dentistry' - Kevin Esplin. Transfer to Calama and fly to Puerto Montt.
- Eve** Transfer to the rose-filled charm of Puerto Varas. Check in to the lakeside 5-star Hotel Dreams de los Volcanes.

Day 7: Puerto Varas (Sun, 25 Jan)

B L

Am The Chilean Lake District is a spectacular region of clear lakes overlooked by snow-capped volcanoes. Explore the towns of Puerto Varas and Frutillar, which hug the blue expanse of Lake Llanquihue. Return to the hotel.

Eve Talk: 'AI and the Future of Dentistry' – Kevin Esplin.

Day 8: Puerto Varas (Mon, 26 Jan)

B L

Am Board a boat to Chiloé Island, known for its myths and legends and one of the few truly Indigenous places left in Chile. Discover the richness of its living culture amidst its famous colourful stilt buildings and beautiful landscapes. Return to the mainland and your hotel.

Day 9: Puerto Varas / Torres del Paine (Tues, 27 Jan)

B D

Am Visit a local dental health centre.

Pm Fly to Punta Arenas. Drive to Torres del Paine National Park.

Eve Check in to the waterfront Hotel Costa Australis in Puerto Natales.

Day 10: Torres del Paine (Wed, 28 Jan)

B

Am Full day visit to Torres del Paine National Park, one of the most spectacular national parks on the continent with its snow-capped mountain peaks, cascading rivers and waterfalls, glaciers and mirrored lakes. Visit ancient Milodon's Cave.

Pm Walk to the Salto Grande on the Paine River. Continue to Lake Grey and enjoy the view across the lake to see the 'Horns.' Return to Puerto Natales.

Day 11: Torres del Paine (Thurs, 29 Jan)

B

Am Walk along the lake through an old lenga forest and along Grey Beach to board a catamaran for a three-hour voyage past floating icebergs. Approach different sides of the Grey Glacier to observe the beauty of the ice giant.

Day 12: Torres del Paine / Santiago (Fri, 30 Jan)

B D

Am Drive to Punta Arenas. Visit the Penguin Sanctuary.

Pm Fly to Santiago.

Eve Farewell dinner.

Day 13: Santiago (Sat, 31 Jan)

B

Am Depart or take Easter Island extension.

Bohemian Valparaíso



Extension:

31 Jan – 5 Feb 2026

Deep in the Pacific Ocean, well over a thousand miles from the nearest inhabited land, Easter Island - or Rapa Nui - is shrouded in myth and legend, made more intriguing by the colossal moai statues that are scattered across the island. Explore the most fascinating locations on the island, with time to relax.

Day 13: Santiago / Easter Island (Sat, 31 Jan)

B

- Am** Fly to Easter Island and transfer to Hotel Taha Tai.
- Pm** Learn of the history of Rapa Nui on a tour into the interior of the island to the Puna Pau quarry, where the heads of the most famous moai were carved. Continue the Ahu Akivi platform. Visit the Tahai ceremonial centre and see three restored platforms.

Day 14: Easter Island (Sun, 1 Feb)

B

- Am** Take a leisurely hike to the highest point on Rapa Nui, the summit of Terevaka Volcano, for panoramic views. Descend the volcano to the Akivi sector. Return to hotel and at leisure.

Day 15: Easter Island (Mon, 2 Feb)

B

- Am** Visit the VINAPU archaeological site, whose stone constructions reflect the techniques used by the indigenous people. Continue to the ceremonial village of Orongo. End at the Rano Kau Volcano viewpoint, which hides a natural sanctuary in its hidden crater.
- Pm** At leisure.

Day 16: Easter Island (Tues, 3 Feb)

B (box lunch)

- Am** This full day archaeological tour visits some of the most outstanding sites related to the island's mysterious moai, finishing with a visit to Anakena Beach, with the best-preserved moai on the entire island, as well as palm trees, white sand and turquoise water.

Day 17: Easter Island / Santiago (Wed, 4 Feb)

B

- Am** At leisure.
- Pm** Fly to Santiago and overnight at the Holiday Inn Santiago Airport.

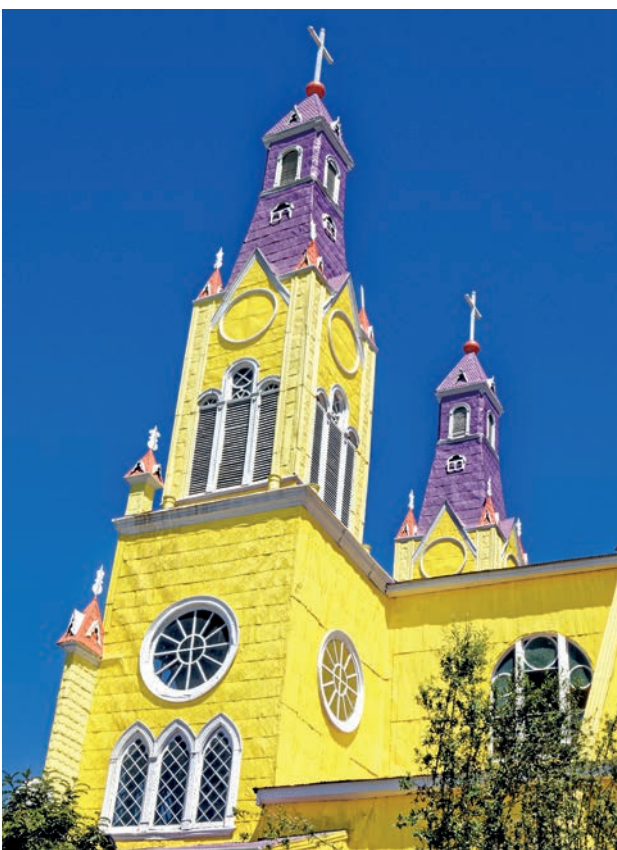
Day 18: Santiago (Thurs, 5 Feb)

- Am** Check out of hotel.

NB: All itineraries are subject to change according to local conditions.

Moais on Rapa Nui (Easter Island)





Valle de la Luna – the extraordinary Valley of the Moon, Atacama b(top); San Francisco Church, Castro, Chiloe Island; Mapuche women (above)

**The cost of the tour sharing is
AUD \$9,828 per person**

**The cost of the tour with a room
to yourself is AUD \$11,445**

The cost includes:

- Tour Leader throughout (Kevin Esplin)
- 12 nights' hotel accommodation in first class and medium grade hotels
- Meals as specified (excluding beverages).
- All internal flights and transport
- A full programme of cultural visits, excursions and activities as detailed in the itinerary above
- Professional visits and talks
- All admission fees and tips
- The services of registered local English-speaking guides throughout

The cost excludes:

- Arrival and departure flights and transfers
- All visas where applicable
- Travel insurance
- Items of a personal nature such as portage, laundry, inoculation fees
- All optional excursions, tours and visits
- Meals unless specified and drinks

Extension to Easter Island

**The cost of the extension
sharing is AUD \$4,704 per
person**

**The cost of the tour with
a room to yourself is AUD
\$5,292**

The cost includes:

- Five nights' hotel accommodation in medium grade hotels
- Meals as specified (excluding beverages).
- Flights to and from Easter Island and all transport
- A full programme of cultural visits, excursions and activities as detailed in the itinerary above
- All admission fees and tips
- The services of registered local English-speaking guides throughout

The cost excludes: as per main tour

About Us

To travel with us is to dig below the surface, revealing the deeper destination. Of course, you will visit the great historical sites; marvel at the wonders of architecture and engineering; be moved by the riches of culture and art; and experience the most spectacular landscapes in the world. What we also do is make sure that you see the country as it is today, giving you privileged access that independent travel and other tour companies rarely get close to. We give you a variety of experiences, from the sublime to the humble, in the company of intelligent, curious, like-minded people. And while we can be worthy, we also make sure that you have a lot of fun.

Total payment protection policy cover (TOPP)

We have arranged a TOPP insurance policy to protect customers' prepayments in the unlikely event of our financial failure. A copy of the policy is available on request. This policy is provided by Travel & General Insurance Services Limited (t&g), registered number 02527363 and underwritten by Hiscox Insurance Company Limited (Hiscox), registered number 00070234.

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The huge Tatio geysers in Atacama Desert (top); Petrohue River with; Osorno Volcano behind; Brightly painted palafitos on Chiloe Island; A glacier in the Grey Lake (above)



**JON BAINES
TOURS**

