
DESERT *star*

IN CHILE’S ATACAMA DESERT, REMOTE FIVE-STAR RESORT
ALTO ATACAMA PROMISES ECO-FRIENDLY ADVENTURES
IN A STUNNING NATURAL PLAYGROUND

Perched on the edge of the driest desert in the world, Alto Atacama is a five-star desert lodge and spa. Recently declared Chile’s number one hotel in *National Geographic* magazine, its dramatic and isolated location makes it an ideal base for hikers, adventurers, astronomers or those simply looking to indulge in an incomparable spa experience.

BREATHTAKING LANDSCAPE: Built in the shadow of a salt mountain, Alto Atacama has breathtaking views of the fertile Catarpe Valley. ‘The contrast of the red cliffs against the green river valley is stunning, with views as far as the eye can see,’ says the hotel’s Head of Media Relations, Kristina Schreck. ‘The Atacama’s otherworldly landscapes and remarkable land formations make travellers feel a little as if they are on the moon.’

The hotel itself is low-level, built with red clay that blends seamlessly with the mountainous backdrop. Local craftsmen employed traditional techniques when constructing the hotel, which is luxurious and comfortable while retaining a distinctly Chilean feel. Guests can browse the books in the hotel library before settling down in the cosy living room, or enjoy an evening drink around the fire pits in the outdoor lounge. The 32 elegant, understated guest rooms each come with a private terrace from which to enjoy the astonishing views.

Excursions are the best way to experience this lunar-esque landscape. Trekking and mountain bike tours are both on offer at Alto Atacama, led by indigenous guides who draw on their

boundless reserves of local knowledge. In keeping with Alto Atacama’s conservationist ethos, all excursions follow a ‘leave no trace’ principle, ensuring travellers make little impact on the local environment throughout their journey.



SUSTAINABILITY: Respecting the region’s delicate ecology is paramount at Alto Atacama, which boasts an inspiring set of eco principles as it works towards creating a totally sustainable resort. It is the only hotel in the area with an efficient water treatment plant, and all water is recycled into the hotel’s irrigation system. Eco-friendly cleaning products and a commitment to recycling add to the hotel’s green credentials. The sustainable

approach is echoed in the hotel’s restaurant, which fuses Mediterranean cuisine with local organic ingredients to produce exceptional dishes while directly boosting the local economy.

Alto Atacama’s immediate surroundings also complement the rugged yet fertile landscape of the valley and local natural environment. Botanist Verónica Poblete designed the gardens as an ‘Andescape’, incorporating local flora that thrives amid the arid conditions. Along with the botanical park, the irrigation system installed by Verónica has allowed for the development of an orchard and alfalfa corral where alpacas and llamas can graze.

TRANQUILLITY: Its high altitude and a lack of light pollution make the Chilean desert one of the world’s greatest destinations for stargazing. The hotel has an observation point, where guides provide illuminating commentary while guests explore the skies with the help of a large telescope.

Back at the hotel, the Puri Spa offers tranquillity for the body and mind. As well as boasting six beautiful pools, the spa offers several signature treatments, including moonlit massages, an Altiplanic mud wrap using local clay and honey, and a quinoa facial.

An exquisite haven, both inside and out, Alto Atacama’s combination of luxury, adventure and ecological responsibility makes it one of the best places in the world to experience the desert at its most magnificent.

www.altoatacama.com

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