

The Andes: Ski + Altiplano





The Andes: Ski + Altiplano Party of 4 friends

The Andes

La Cordillera de los Andes is the world's longest continental mountain range extending over seven countries from Venezuela all the way south to Chile and Argentina. It was home to many legendary and colorful Pre - Colombian civilizations. The Andes are also the second highest mountain range in the world, with its highest peak, Aconcagua Mount, at 6.962m (22.481ft) and an average height of about 4.000m (13.000ft).

Guys, following is the Itinerary I crafted for you. You are ski lovers yet you mention you'd like to get the South America feel. The idea in this Itinerary is for you to experience these lands' contrasts. In the landscapes, in its people and traditions, in its colors and textures and even in the food, your senses will experience a world apart within a few hours flight. Skiing in Chile and visiting the colorful Altiplano and its people, descendants of ancient civilizations during the "Pachamama's" celebrations, it's possible all within the Andes. It is important to stay hydrated throughout the whole trip as you'll reach 13.000ft a few times during your trip.

About Skiing in South America

Having taught skiing and snowboarding for over 8 years in Aspen, Colorado and in Patagonia, I can tell the differences between skiing north and south of the Equator. I believe it is adventurous and picturesque skiing South America, ski resorts are smaller, infrastructure less impressive and the snow conditions vary along the range according to height and humidity, out of bounce skiing for experienced skiers is wild. Taking into consideration these factors and your ski level,

I recommend Skiing Valle Nevado and Portillo in Chile, and Las Leñas in Argentina.



Day 1 - July 20th - Chile

6.05am - Arrival in Santiago de Chile, transfer to Valle Nevado

Arrive in Santiago de Chile early in the morning. Your private ski instructor will be expecting you at Santiago's International Airport. A private land transfer to [Valle Nevado Ski Resort](#) is arranged. You'll arrive in Valle Nevado in about two hours and your accommodation is at the [Hotel Valle Nevado](#), the best hotel in the resort. After settling into your mountain-view suites, enjoy a delicious breakfast and get ready to hit the slopes! The hotel has ski in out access and luxurious amenities.

Prices include:

- 4 days unlimited access to ski lifts in Valle Nevado.
- 5 nights lodging
- Four meals per day (breakfast, lunch, tea, and dinner).
- Complimentary use of pool, Jacuzzi, fitness center, gymnasium, aerobics and yoga classes, cinema, game room, children's activities, disco, piano bar, ski check.

Days 2 and 3 – July 21st and 22nd

Ski Valle Nevado, El Colorado and La Parva

You'll count with your private mountain guide (Professional ski instructor) throughout your entire stay to fulfill any requirement you might have on and off the hill. Connected to Valle Nevado, there are two other great resorts you can access skiing, El Colorado and La Parva, there is an extensive terrain to cover. Enjoy the great skiing conditions this valley has to offer.

Day 4 – July 23th

Heli Skiing

Valle Nevado's surroundings are endless peaks of fresh powder expecting you to draw brand new tracks on them. A [Heli Skiing](#) expedition is arranged for you on this day. Experience the Andes' wilderness by skiing on untamed runs of up to 2.000 (6.000ft) meters of vertical drop!

Later relax at the hotel's warm pool and hot tub while sipping on a tangy pisco sour, the local's preferred cocktail.



Day 5 – July 24th

Ski Portillo

[Portillo Ski Resort](#) is an outstanding small resort sitting by beautiful Laguna del Inca. Epic out of bounce runs end up on this frozen lake. A 30 minute helicopter ride will put you on the Portillo slopes for a great skiing experience and will return you back to Valle Nevado's hotel by the end of the day.

Day 6 – July 25th - Argentina

Valle Nevado - Santiago de Chile - Las Leñas

After an early breakfast, around 8.30am you'll be privately transferred from Valle Nevado to Santiago de Chile's airport. You'll fly over the Andes into Argentinean territory.

The 12.15pm flight from Santiago to Mendoza City in Argentina is a short 55 minutes one. A half an hour chartered flight will land you into Malargue's Airport. Upon arrival you'll be transferred on a 40 minutes private transfer to Las Lenas ski Resort. You'll be settling in your hotel's suites around 5pm.

Your accommodation for 5 nights is at the 5 stars [Piscis Hotel](#) in 2 mountain-view suites.

The Hotel Includes, 5 nights accommodation, breakfasts and dinners without beverages, 4-day ski passes. On the hill lunches are not included.

For the following 4 days enjoy Las Leñas! It is a small town nestled in a massive valley where the Andes become colossal. Mendoza is home to the Andes' highest peak, the Aconcagua mount. Out of bounce skiing terrain is insane and your [Extreme Expedition](#) instructor will guide you through the off piste runs. Chill out at the hotel's heated swimming pool, hydrotherapy and sauna while sipping on a world famous local Malbec wine, Mendoza is the Malbec land par excellence. Las Leñas lights up at night with great restaurants and an exciting, sleepless nightlife.



Day 10 - July 30th

From the skiing slopes to the Altiplano

You'll be privately transferred to the local Malargue Airport to catch a chartered flight to Mendoza city from where you'll fly out to Salta City. Your skiing gear will be sent to Buenos Aires to avoid carrying it around. You'll arrive in Salta City around 3pm, your personal guide will expect for you at the airport and drive you to your hotel. Check in into your hotel [Legado Mitico](#). Your guide will show you around Salta City and you'll also visit the MAAM museum, to see the mummies of "Los niños de Llullaillaco". In 1999 three Inca children were found in perfect state of preservation at the top of the Llullaillaco volcano.

The Altiplano: Salta and Jujuy

Salta and Jujuy Provinces are located in Argentina's northwest, limiting with Bolivia and Chile. Salta is also known, like Mendoza, for its wine country, among other vines, they grow the emblematic local white called Torrontes. The Argentinean northwest has a rich cultural legacy, where ancient civilizations meet the Gauchos in red ponchos tradition, and landscapes go from bright green rainforest to arid red mountains with cacti, at the turn of a corner. Calchaquies, Pucaras, Wichis and Kollas are gentle hill people, many still living deep in the Andes in adobe and cacti wood homes. They have cattle, mainly goats. They produce crafts out of adobe, wood and wool as well as typical Andean foods with local goods. Women are great weavers creating incredibly colorful pieces. All of what you can access to in the local markets.

Day 11 – July 31st

Valles Calchaquies

Enjoy your homemade breakfast before departing on your private van towards Cafayate, the land of Torrontes wine. Spoil yourselves with a gourmet lunch at Patios de Cafayate Hotel and a wine tasting from their own winery El Esteco. After Lunch you'll drive on the stunning Valles Calchaquies through La quebrada de las flechas, and passing by little towns lost in time. Delicious granny like tea and pastries expects for you at Hacienda de Molinos. An old construction around a patio crowned with an ancient carob tree, in the heart of this tiny Colonial town. It is worth getting lost in Molino's crooked streets while slowly being invaded by a pace of life stolen from a couple centuries ago. Overnight at Hacienda de Molinos.



Day 12 – August 1st

Cachi – Seclantás - Fiesta de la Pachamama

After breakfast, enjoy the beautiful drive still through the colorful valleys from Molinos to Cachi a stunning town in Salta Province. Check in at El Cortijo, after a quick fresh up you'll depart to visit Seclantás a little town minutes away from Cachi, Cachi Adentro, to witness the Pachamama Celebration. Locals worship the land and ask for forgiveness for any hurts towards it. They do the "Sahumerio" by burning all garbage together with "chacha" and "pupusa", local plants, this smoke cleans their town, homes and people. The ritual consists in summing up to this "sahumerio" typical foods, strong beverages, they deposit this into a hole previously dugged into the land, later they cover it with a huge stone to recognize the place for the next year. There is a lot of music, dances, local food and beverages involved throughout the celebration.

Over night at El Cortijo.

Day 13 – August 2nd

Cachi – Cuesta del Obispo- Tilcara

Breakfast at El Cortijo is delighting, later you'll leave driving through La Cuesta del Obispo road, a windy road that crosses a steep and stunning landscape. We'll drive towards Jujuy Province all the way to Tilcara.

You'll reach the town of Tilcara in the afternoon, you'll check in at the [Posada de luz](#).

Tilcara is a picturesque town located in the Quebrada de Humawaca. You can enjoy the rest of day at your own leisure wandering the narrow and steep streets of this stunning little town lined with adobe houses. Relax at the Posada's swimming pool. Later walk into town to find, across from the Plaza, traditional empanadas, and some other typical local dishes like locro and tamales, and great local red wine for a casual dinner.



Day 14 - August 3rd

Tilcara – Humawaca – Purmamarca

After breakfast shop the great markets of Humawaca and Tilcara for great local crafts. After a casual lunch, you'll depart on your [Caravana de Llamas](#) hike. For over 5000 years the Andean people have used their Llamas as pack animals on their hills voyages. The 5 hours hike to the ancient settlement in ruins of Juella, will take you through landscapes of dry riverbeds, yellow and orange colored mountains, Cardon's (cacti) forests, in the way to the Archeological Site. This hike with Llamas is the greatest way of connecting to this lands and its ancient native people. Back at the Posada take a relaxing swim before a gourmet dinner in town.

Day 15 – August 4th

Tilcara – Purmamarca – Salinas Grandes

After breakfast leave Tilcara for a short drive to Purmamarca, a delighting small town sitting at the foot of the Cerro de los Siete Colores (Seven Colors Mount). This is a Unesco World Heritage Site. Check in at [El Manantial del Silencio](#). Walk to Purmamarca's market, the best one in my opinion, for great finds, and take an easy and short to the top of the Seven Colors Mount. Enjoy a great gourmet lunch back at the Hotel. In the afternoon, your guide will drive you along road 52 towards the Chilean border to Salinas Grandes the massive and spectacular white flat-flats, where a regional picnic with great Torrontes white wine will be awaiting for you. Back at the hotel, relax at the spa, before heading into town for dinner at Los Amigos, where while having traditional food listen to the live two people band "La Sencillita" playing delighting folk music until past midnight.

Day 16 – August 5th

San Salvador de Jujuy – Buenos Aires - Home

After a delicious and fresh breakfast, you'll check out and begin your return back home journey. You'll be driven to San Salvador de Jujuy's City to catch a 12pm flight to Buenos Aires. In BuA a private driver will be expecting for you upon arrival, and will drive you from the city's airport to Ezeiza International Airport to catch your 9pm flight back home.



Last but not Least

I will be available on call 24/7 for you as your private concierge, making sure your trip goes without a hitch, as you have chosen to travel on your own. Private guides will guide you throughout your trip. Transfers are all private.

Please find attach three sheets with useful information on:

- Your Ski and Altiplano Packing list
- Travel Info (immigration requirements, health, exchange + currency, and other useful info for your trip)
- Chile's and Argentina's Etiquette

Your THT Travel Kit

Upon arrival you will get your own THT Travel Kit including the following items

- Your Printed Itinerary
- THT Little Booklet, Loli's tips and recommendations
- Maps and directions to useful places close to your hotels
- A Local cell phone

I hope that you'll enjoy every minute of this trip and that you'll remember The Andes experience for the rest of your lives.

Saludos, Loli Delger.