



## Chile Eclipse 2019

Go Beyond Immerse Yourself Tour | 8 Days | Physical Level 2  
Santiago – La Serena

On this shorter version of our eclipse tour you will experience the same once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see the solar eclipse in La Serena, one of the best places to watch this phenomenon, in addition to visiting the vibrant cities of Santiago and Valparaiso.

- Watch the incredible solar eclipse
- Soak up the atmosphere in buzzing Santiago
- Take the option of a wonderful wine tour
- Ride the funicular in colourful Valparaiso



### Chile Eclipse 2019 inclusions:

- Return international economy flights, taxes and current fuel surcharges (unless a land only option is selected)
- All accommodation
- Meals as stated
- Touring with guides and entrance fees
- All transportation and transfers
- English speaking Local Guides

*The only thing you may have to pay for are personal expenditure e.g. meals, drinks, optional excursions or shows, insurance of any kind, customary tipping, early check in or late checkout and other items not specified on the itinerary.*

### South America Go Beyond Immerse Yourself Tours:

With our selection of Worldwide tours, you can expect exactly the same Wendy Wu Tours experience. You'll get to see the iconic sites and magnificent treasures of South America on an excellent value group tour, whilst enjoying the company of like-minded people. This tour includes all meals, so you'll get to taste a range of delicious local foods at handpicked local restaurants or at your hotel. You will be accompanied by our dedicated and professional Local Guides throughout, whose unparalleled knowledge will turn your holiday into an unforgettable experience.

Active tours combine the key sights with more energetic pursuits such as hiking and cycling. This allows us to explore more and discover the destination in greater depth. These tours are designed to provide a wide range of activities to ensure a varied and culturally immersive experience. These tours include:

- Cycling or walking through classic sites
- Unique cultural experiences and encounters
- Off the beaten track destinations
- More evenings at leisure for independent exploration

### Physical Level 2:

All our tours feature a physical rating to help you select the right holiday for you. To travel on any of our tours requires unaided mobility and the ability to stroll around the sights. 'Chile Eclipse 2019' is rated 2 on the physical level scale. A moderate level of fitness is required as you need to be comfortable walking for 2-3 hours and covering longer distances.

- There will be several days of sightseeing on foot for a period of time and in some cases for an extended period of time.

Of course, our Local Guides will always endeavour to provide the highest level of service and assistance; however, they cannot be expected to cater for customers who are unfit to complete the itinerary.

### Joining Your Tour

The tour is 8 days in duration including international flights. Travellers booked on 'Land Only, the price includes your arrival/departure airport transfers if arriving/departing on the start and conclusion date of your tour. Please advise your international flight times to reservations. Join the tour on Day 1 in Valparaiso and end the tour on Day 6 in Santiago. Please refer to your final itinerary for more specific meeting instructions pertaining to your departure.

## Itinerary – Chile Eclipse 2019

### Days 1: Fly to Santiago transfer to Valparaiso

Fly to Chile's sophisticated capital Santiago, arriving the same day due to crossing the International Date Line. You will be met at the airport and transferred approximately 3 hours to your hotel in Valparaiso. Enjoy the evening at leisure.



#### Destination Information

**Valparaíso** – Overlooked by an imperious hillside and set on a wide bay, Valparaiso is considered to be the most captivating and unique city in Chile. Designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2003, the colourful houses are dotted across the hillside in a haphazard, disorganised fashion and the main method of getting up and down through the city is on the city's old funicular lifts.

### Day 2: Valparaiso

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Valparaíso is designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site, a unique and delightful tangle, draped over a series of hills. Funiculars connect the industrial seafront with the cerros (hill) neighbourhoods, each a maze of colourful, artfully-dilapidated mansions and enchanting street art. Ride the funicular up into the hills to explore, stopping for a visit to Chilean poet Pablo Neruda's house.

### Day 3: Santiago

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

After breakfast, leave Valparaiso and head back to the city of Santiago. This afternoon, experience a fascinating and educational vineyard tour, tasting a variety of locally produced wines.



### Day 4: Eclipse at La Serena

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Take a 1 hour flight north by private charter to the seaside city of La Serena, one of the best place to witness the solar eclipse. From the airport you'll be transferred up to a prime vantage point, where you can settle yourself comfortably to enjoy the show. Return to the airport and fly back to Santiago. Your evening will be at leisure.

### Day 5: Santiago

Meals included: Breakfast

This morning, embark on a city tour will allow you to experience its eclectic contrasts. Stroll around the Plaza de Armas and the Cathedral to admire the colonial facades, before walking down Ahumada Boulevard, the city's main commercial street. Explore the bohemian Bellavista by road, and drive up San Cristobal Hill for views over the city and the towering Andes Mountains. Finish the tour in the modern area of Santiago to wander the chic neighbourhoods. Your afternoon is at leisure.



#### **Destination Information**

**Santiago** - Santiago is a vibrant and cultural city set on the plains of the Andes and home to 40% of Chile's population. Split into 32 boroughs (comunas), each area has its own distinct character, yet all the streets are alive with the energy of the city.

### Days 6-8: Depart Santiago

Meals included: Breakfast

Transfer to the airport according to your international flight time and fly to Australia, arriving home two days later due to crossing the international date line.

## Chile Eclipse 2019 Travel Information

### Visas

Australian passport holders currently do not require a visa to enter Chile. Your passport needs to be valid for at least six months beyond your intended return date to Australia. Wendy Wu Tours does not provide a visa service for Worldwide tours before you depart Australia. To stay up to date with the latest visa requirements, visit [www.smartraveller.gov.au](http://www.smartraveller.gov.au)

### Insurance

It is a condition of booking with us that you take out suitable travel insurance. You must provide us with the name of your insurer, policy number and their 24-hour emergency contact number when you book with us or as soon as possible thereafter. These details will be available to your local guides should they be required. Wendy Wu Tours will not be liable for any costs incurred by you due to your failure to take out suitable travel insurance from the date of booking.

### Eating in Chile

The diversity of the landscape, provides Chile a tremendous amount of produce, meat and seafood, essentially unparalleled in the rest of the world. The unique environments are well represented in Chilean cuisine, being equally as varied. Typical dishes are hearty and filling, containing a combination of meat or seafood and vegetables, often put into a crust. A great example of Chilean cuisine are empanadas, which are fried beef, onion and olive dumplings, served all throughout the country. Others include a thick stew called cazuela de ave and an indigenous recipe of corn, onions cooked in cornhusks called humitas. Because of its long coast, seafood is a staple in many dishes, especially across the centre and south. Chile's supply is funnelled into Spanish-influenced dishes such as marinated shrimp and paella. Meals in Chile are culturally considered as a time for families to gather at home, especially around lunchtime, which is the primary meal of the day.

Whilst we strongly recommend trying as many local dishes as possible, Chile also has a wide range of international foods available.

### Accommodation

Your accommodation is selected for convenience of location, comfort or character, and can range from business hotels to rainforest lodges. Hotels are generally rated as local three to four-star standard, but please note that there is no international classification system for hotels and differences in facilities and quality may exist between Australia and South America. All group tour hotels have private bathroom facilities and air conditioning where needed. If you experience any difficulty, please speak to your Local Guide. Rest assured that all hotels used by Wendy Wu Tours are regularly inspected by our staff and our partners to ensure that standards meet your needs.

### Clothing

On this tour, you will be travelling through various regions of Chile with quite diverse climates especially in the Atacama Desert and in the Torres del Paine National Park where all four seasons can be experienced in one trip. It is recommended to bring lots of layers including the following: T Shirts made of breathable materials, hiking

pants, with the option to turn into a short pant (rain pants optional), a fleece jacket for colder parts and the evenings and a waterproof Jacket as shell layer or a light rain jacket, a scarf and hat, warm socks. Sensible walking shoes and small back pack that fits into your main hand luggage to carry your daily essentials.

## Transport

**Coaches:** Coaches with air conditioning are used on our group tours for city short excursions to the countryside and longer transfers between destinations. Roads in Chile have generally been improved over recent years, but please be aware traffic and/or weather conditions may extend driving times. There may be sections of road where the surface may be comparatively bumpy but our drivers will do their utmost to lessen the impact.

**Planes:** Internal flights are based on economy class, with reputable airlines.

## Souvenirs

There are plenty of interesting bits and pieces to buy as souvenirs in Chile, such as indigenous textiles, handicrafts and artworks. The most popular items to pick up are lapis lazuli (blue stone) and copper handicrafts. There will be some opportunities during your tour to pick up souvenirs.

## Group Size

Most of our groups consist of 10 travellers or more and will be accompanied by Local Guides. There will usually be no more than 28 travellers in each group.

All our departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 8 travellers booked (unless cancelled due to factors beyond our control). However, at our discretion we may operate departures with a smaller group size as we try to operate advertised departures wherever it is viable to do so.

## Tipping Policy

Local tipping is customary in South & Central America. However, this can often lead to awkwardness in knowing when it is appropriate to tip and how much. For your convenience, with years of experience in providing the best customer service, Wendy Wu Tours operates a kitty system on your Group Tour so your Local Guide will look after this aspect of the trip for you. This ensures the amounts paid are reasonable for you and still fair to the local people. The suggested total amount is specified for each Group Tour and will be advised again on your final documentation. Tipping is paid in USD or other local currencies if specified. Any additional tipping you feel is appropriate is welcomed at your discretion

## After your booking

Once you have booked with Wendy Wu Tours, you will receive an email with your confirmation invoice, along with a link to our website where you can find your visa information (if applicable) and other important information. Your final documentation pack will be sent to you approximately 2-3 weeks prior to departure

## Itinerary changes

It is our intention is to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however, the order of events or sightseeing may change as we look to improve our tours or as local conditions dictate; in these circumstances we will make the best possible arrangements whilst maintaining the integrity of your trip.

## Before You Leave

We recommend that you contact either your GP or Travelvax (1300 360 164) for advice on vaccinations and travel health. Travelvax has a comprehensive website that you may also find useful [www.travelvax.com.au](http://www.travelvax.com.au).

We strongly recommend registering your travel plans with [www.smartraveller.gov.au](http://www.smartraveller.gov.au) as in the event of an emergency, Australian Consular assistance will be more readily available. You can also access the Australian Government's travel advisory service for up to date information about your destination on the same website.

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