



ATACAMA CROSSING (CHILE) 2024

TRAVEL INFORMATION

KEY DATES

- ☐ You need to arrive in San Pedro de Atacama by **Friday, 20 September** at any time.
- ☐ You are ready to leave San Pedro de Atacama on **Sunday, 29 September** at any time

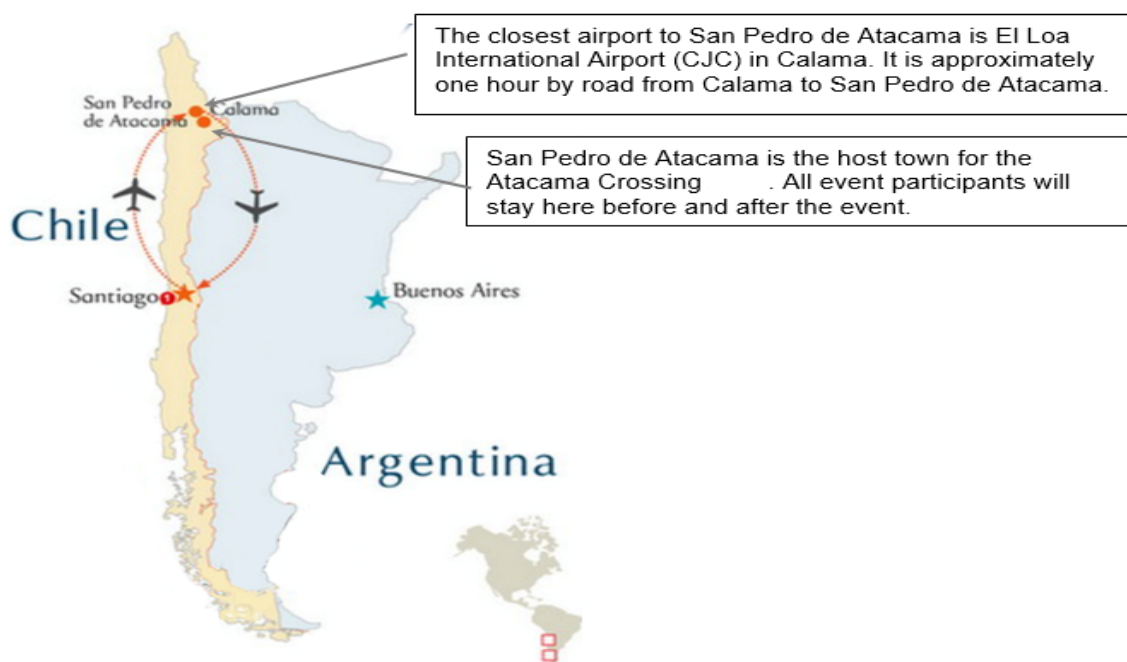
The race activities start on Saturday, 21 September and the race finishes on Saturday, 28 September, but we provide hotel accommodation on Friday, 20 September and Saturday, 28 September based on two racers sharing a room. If you want a single room you can [pay the single room supplement](#) for just one or both nights.

See the [itinerary page](#) on the website for full details of the pre- and post-race schedule.

TRAVEL ROUTE

The host town for the Atacama Crossing 2024 is the desert oasis of San Pedro de Atacama. The most common way to get to the host town of San Pedro de Atacama is:

1. Fly into Santiago - the capital city of Chile.
2. Take a 2-hour domestic flight from Santiago to Calama in north Chile.
3. Take a 90-minute road transfer from Calama to San Pedro. This only needs to be booked about one month before you travel.





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INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS

There are many airlines that fly into Santiago and many different routes that participants can take. To give you an idea of options, here are some routes that are commonly used by Atacama Crossing participants. Note that these are not the only options:

- ☐ **From Europe:** Direct flights to Santiago go from London, Madrid and Paris.
- ☐ **From North America:** There are direct flights to Santiago from many cities in the United States including Miami, Houston, Atlanta, New York and Dallas. There is also a direct flight from Toronto in Canada.
- ☐ **From Asia:** There are flights through Sydney, Australia and Auckland, New Zealand on Qantas and LATAM. It is also possible to go through the Middle East, United States, Europe or Canada.
- ☐ **From Australia and New Zealand:** LATAM operate direct flights to Santiago from Sydney and Auckland.

NORTH AMERICA	EUROPE
☐ Miami - Delta / Latam ☐ Atlanta - Delta / Latam ☐ New York - Delta / Latam ☐ Los Angeles - Delta / Latam ☐ Dallas - American Airlines ☐ Houston - United / ANA ☐ Toronto - Air Canada	☐ London - British Airways ☐ Madrid - Iberia / Latam ☐ Paris - Air France / KLM
SOUTH AMERICA	AUSTRALIA / NEW ZEALAND
☐ Mexico City ☐ Buenos Aires ☐ Rio de Janeiro ☐ Sao Paulo ☐ Lima - Latam / Delta ☐ Panama City ☐ Bogota - Latam / Delta * This is most useful to know in case of any stopovers, especially from the USA.	☐ Auckland – Qantas / Latam ☐ Sydney - Qantas / Latam * There are no direct flights from Asia or the Middle East to Santiago but flying through New Zealand and Australia is a good option, although you may find cheaper flights through the USA.

Travel websites such as www.cheapoair.com, www.skyscanner.net, www.kayak.com, etc. can be helpful to find the best route for you showing the routes which are shortest, cheapest and on different dates.

Currently (as at October 2023) you can get flights from most places in Europe, the United States, Australia and New Zealand to Santiago in economy class for under US\$1,500 and under US\$2,000 from Asia.



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Domestic Flights

There are two main airlines which fly between Santiago to Calama: [LATAM Chile](#) and [Sky Airlines](#). [JetSmart](#) also flies this route.

LATAM	Sky Airlines	JetSmart
12 direct flights per day	3 direct flights per day	2 direct flights per day

NOTE – the cost of these domestic flights increases a lot as you get closer to the travel date, so we recommend that you book early. If you are booking this flight separately be sure to check the luggage allowance included in the fare.

Airport Transfer from Calama to San Pedro de Atacama

Participants should arrange for their own transport from Calama Airport to the host town of San Pedro de Atacama. This is 100km / 62 miles on a good road and takes a little over one hour.

There are several companies offering direct bus transfer services from the airport to San Pedro de Atacama where they will drop each passenger at their specific hotel. One option is:

Transfer Company: [Transfer Pampa](#)

- You can book online or email them on contacto@transferpampa.cl.
- Book it within the month you are travelling.
- You may find [Google Translate](#) useful when communicating with them.

Transfers cost CLP15,000 (US\$20) one way or CLP26,000 (US\$33) return.

Alternatively, a private tax will cost approximately US\$150.



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TIPS & ADVICE ON TRAVEL PLANNING

1. Arrive a few days early if you can.

We recommend that you arrive 1 or 2 (or more) days early if you are able to. This reduces unnecessary stress in case of any changes to your flights or lost luggage which is not uncommon (this does usually show up, but can take a couple of days to catch up with you). It also allows time to recover from a long flight and acclimatise to the new environment and altitude.

You can leave on Sunday, 29 September at any time but you may want to choose an option that leaves in the afternoon on Sunday or on Monday to give you a bit more post-race recovery time.

2. Adding a stop can make the flights cheaper

For example, the direct flight from London to Santiago is more expensive than having a short layover in Madrid.

3. Consider booking separate flights to Santiago and between Santiago and Calama

It can be cheaper to do it this way, but make sure you have enough time between flights and that the domestic portion includes a luggage allowance if you need it (many domestic flights only include carry-on luggage as standard).

4. Check Your Insurance

It is worth considering a flexible ticket and getting insurance to cover for flight changes or cancellations as well as lost luggage in case of any changes you need to make or made by your airline. We also recommend that your insurance covers for cancellation.

5. Carry as much race equipment as possible

While you don't need to consider this when planning your travel, I can't stress enough how important this is to avoid any issues in case check-in bags are delayed or lost by airlines.

VISA & ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

While most countries do not require a visa to enter Chile, some countries do including Australia, some Asian countries and most of Africa. It is important to check early so you are aware of anything you need to do. If you need a letter or other information from RacingThePlanet or our local partner, let me know.

> Do also check the visa requirements of any countries that you plan to transit through.

As of now, if you are vaccinated against COVID-19 and are not travelling from China you simply need to have your vaccination certificate in order to enter Chile. If you are not vaccinated then you will need to show a negative PCR test taken within 48 hours of arriving.



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ADDITIONAL TRAVEL BEFORE OR AFTER THE RACE

If you are planning to spend extra time exploring Chile before or after the race, there are lots of options in and around San Pedro as well as across this diverse country.

In San Pedro

- ☐ Day trip to El Tatio Geysers. At 4,320 metres / 14,170 feet this is also a great chance to experience a higher altitude.
- ☐ Stargazing evening in one of the best places in the world to see stars.
- ☐ Sand boarding in the desert.
- ☐ Hire a bicycle and cycle to Laguna Cejar (salt lake Cejar) – about 20km / 12.5 miles each way which takes about 2 hours for the return trip.
- ☐ Salt flats of Uyuni in Bolivia. This is a 3-4 day round trip but is well worth it. You can also do day trips to Bolivia to see the flamingos, hot springs and bright blue lakes.
- ☐ Climbing volcanoes - you can even do some climbing including Volcan Licancabur which is visible from most of the course.
- ☐ Valley of the Moon - you will pass through this area on The Long March of the Atacama Crossing but if you want to explore it further you can spend a half- or full-day trip to the area.

Across Chile

- ☐ Easter Island (Rapa Nui) - remote volcanic island in Polynesia which is famed for archaeological sites, including nearly 900 monumental statues called *moai* created by inhabitants during the 13th–16th centuries.
- ☐ Beaches of Vina del Mar and Valparaíso near Santiago (where there are also some great vineyards) or Iquique in the north of the country where the desert dunes meet the beach.
- ☐ Chilean Patagonia - for some great treks (including the famous W Trek and Torres del Paine) in this ski-area.
- ☐ The Atacama Desert is about 700km / 500 miles long, stretching from the border of Peru in the north to halfway down Chile. If you still want to see more desert you can head north to the town of Iquique and the village of Pica.



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FRIENDS & FAMILY OPTIONS

If your friends and family want to join you on the trip they may be interested in the above options in Chile or they can get more involved in the race with one of the following options:

- ☐ [Volunteer at the Race](#) - volunteers are a key part of the race. They work hard but see the area in a unique way and will be there to share your full experience. Roles include manning checkpoints, sweeping (optional), roving parts of the course in a vehicle (with a local driver), helping keep camp clean and tidy, and more. There is no cost to volunteer but they do need to pay their flights to get to San Pedro de Atacama.
- ☐ [Join the Friends & Family Experience](#) - this enables friends and family to come to Camp 6 on the Rest Day, spend one night at Camp, eat Expedition Food meals and either run / walk the final stage, or meet you at the final finish line. Two nights' hotel accommodation, transfers to the course and the Awards Banquet ticket is all part of this experience.
- ☐ Meet you at the Finish Line of the race - we can provide details of where to be and when to see you cross the finish line and give you your medal. They are also welcome at the Awards Banquet but will need to [purchase a ticket](#).

