

IFORS 2023: OFFICIAL CONFERENCE TOURS

July 12th has been set aside for those attending IFORS 2023 to enjoy a full day tour outside Santiago. Participants can select from a menu of experiences designed to create a lasting memory of their visit to Chile.

Valparaiso, Viña del Mar, and The Coast

Built on forty-three hills, chaotic, and colourful, Valparaíso is Chile's most captivating city. It was also the wealthiest until its fortunes changed in 1914 with the opening of the Panama Canal. Valparaíso sunk into years of decline, but the hills of Cerro Concepción and Cerro Alegre in particular have kickstarted a renaissance. The tour will start north of Valparaiso with a drive through the coastal towns of **Concon** and **Reñaca**. Once a tiny fishing village, Concon today is a developed holiday destination and location for the second home of many Santiaguinos, while Reñaca draws a younger crowd thanks to its beaches and nightlife. The city of **Viña del Mar** has all of the services and infrastructure one would expect of any modern city. Travelers from Chile and other countries in South America flock to the city during the summer months to enjoy its nightlife and nearby beaches. It is also known as Chile's 'Garden City', and rightly so. Its manicured gardens and parks add a natural touch to its smart avenues. Once in **Valparaiso**, the first stop will be **Cerro Concepción**. Its narrow streets are packed with cafés, bars, and street art. Next up is **Cerro Alegre**, originally home to the city's wealthiest inhabitants, still retaining a lot of its elegance from that period. With boutique hotels, unique architecture, private art galleries, and artisans of all kinds, this is a hugely popular area. You will then take a 'must-see' **funicular railway** down the hill to the Plaza Sotomayor before the drive back to Santiago.

Valparaiso Art Tour

Chile's street art scene began in Valparaiso in the mid-80s, long before Santiago. Three hills in Valparaiso, in particular, offer a series of impressive murals, and each one tells a different story. **Cerro Bellavista** was the first hill to have "formal" street art, in the shape of the 'Open-Air Museum', a series of murals by established artists that have since been defaced by those opposed to the 'establishment'. This in itself offers a fascinating insight into the codes of today's street artists and their rejection of the privileged and exclusive art world of the 80s and 90s. **Cerro Concepción** is jam-packed with murals, much of it politically motivated, but also highly decorative and of true artistic value. Art is omnipresent along its narrow streets and alleys, and we will make a stop at **Judas Galería** to see a fine collection of works by local artists. **Cerro Alegre**, meanwhile, showcases art and street art in a more formal context. It has a touch more elegance and has been the cornerstone of Valpo's street art movement for the past decade. We shall visit **Espacio Rojo**, a wonderful gallery that houses the works of some of Chile's most famous contemporary artists such as Mono Gonzalez, Sekis, Daniel Marcelis, and Anis. Owner Cristian Rojo will walk you through the collection as well as explaining the architectural features of this typical 'hanging house'. Also included in the tour is a presentation by local street artists who will explain the techniques and motivation behind their work. This is the perfect tour for art lovers, providing a fascinating insight into one of the key components of this fascinating city.

Wineries of the Casablanca Valley

Casablanca is considered one of the world's finest cold-valley wine areas, producing excellent white and red wines that have earned international prestige. This is home to Chile's best Sauvignon Blanc, Chardonnay, and other white varieties, but also stunning Pinot Noir and Syrah. This tour includes visits to two stellar wineries, with premium tastings. The first winery is **Casas del Bosque**. The visit will include a walk through the sprawling vineyard, a tour of the cellar and barrel room and, most importantly, a tasting of four wines. Next up is **Matetic Vineyards**. Their first harvest was in 2001, and just one year later the winery opted for a decidedly organic approach to winemaking. This shift in philosophy worked. Since then, Matetic has become one of Chile's most famous wineries, producing award-winning wines of the highest calibre, thanks in large part to its proximity to the coast and the unique qualities its location gives to its wine. The visit will include a tour of the cellars and a tasting of two wines from its EQ range and two from its Corralillo range, served with a cheese board. This tour is ideal for lovers of white wines and lighter reds.

Wineries of the Maipo Valley

The focus of the first part of this full-day winery tour will be on the fine red wines of the Maipo Valley. Maipo is considered the true birthplace of quality Chilean red wines and has maintained its quality to this day. This tour includes visits to two of Maipo's best wineries. First up is **Undurraga**. Dating back to 1885, Undurraga is one of the oldest wineries in Chile. This is a place of true winemaking tradition, and a celebration of the qualities of the Maipo terroir. Happily, Undurraga is not a winery that rests on its laurels, and winemaker Rafael Urrejola has spearheaded something of a revolution. While Cabernet Sauvignon dominates, he has introduced new lines of wine and new varietals that have truly put Undurraga back on the map. The guided tour of approximately

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one hour will include the gardens and vines, the century-old cellars, and then finish with a tasting of four reserve wines. Next up is **Santa Rita**. This is Chile's oldest winery, and perhaps the most beautiful. While the tasting is superb, the tour includes a visit to the Centenario Park (part English, part Italian), the Neo-Gothic Chapel, Roman baths, and the "Cellar of the 120 Patriots". The tasting includes four premium wines paired with cheeses, crackers, and nuts. If you love red wine, this is the tour for you.

Sewell and the El Teniente Copper Mine

A tour with a distinctly industrial focus, El Teniente ("The Lieutenant") is an underground copper mine located some eighty kilometres south of Santiago. Mining at El Teniente is reported to have started as early as 1819. The Kennecott Copper Corporation ran the mine through a subsidiary company up until the Chilean nationalization of copper and the formation of the state-owned copper mining company Codelco, who currently operates the mine. With over 3,000 kilometres (1,900 miles) of underground drifts, it is considered the world's biggest underground copper mine, and is the largest of Codelco's operations. Work is currently ongoing with a structural project called New Mine Level (NML), consisting of expanding the mine deeper into the hill at 1,880 meters above sea level. Camp **Sewell**, known as 'The City of Stairs' was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2006. The arrival to Sewell impresses with its majestic natural Andean backdrop. Equally impressive is the urban infrastructure and characteristic architecture. During the visit, participants will see the most representative buildings, where Chileans and American workers worked and played, such as the Teniente Club, the old hospital, the Social Club, theatre, church, and museum. Upon arrival to the Sewell offices in Rancagua, there will be an introductory video and safety briefing. From here, continue to the Teniente Club Building, the starting point for a guided tour of the first stage of Sewell. After lunch, continue with a tour of the second stage and museum before a late afternoon return to Santiago.

Andes Experience at Farellones

No visit to Chile is complete without setting foot in the Andes. And what better time to do it than winter? Located in the commune of Lo Barnechea, 36 km from Santiago at an altitude of 2,340 meters above sea level (7,874 feet), skiers began visiting the Farellones area in the 1930s. The village grew up around the new sport and in 1937, work began on infrastructure for this new activity. Today, Farellones is a true winter playground. This experience will take you from Santiago to the imposing Andes Mountains, where you will visit Parque Farellones Park, where you can enjoy a fun-filled day surrounded by incredible panoramic views of the mountains. Among the activities included is tubing on 250-meter snow slopes, sledge rides, and much more. For an additional fee, skiers can hire equipment on-site to hit the slopes.