

LONQUIMAY

THE VOLCANO, RIVER, AND MAPUCHE CULTURE



Located 900 meters above sea level, in the Andes Mountains, Lonquimay is a land of natural beauties, where centuries-old Araucarias predominate the landscape and snow capped mountains sit in the background. In winter, it is a backcountry ski and snowboarding paradise, whilst summer is warm enough for hikes and water sports.

During our 7-day-trip, we will not only be tourists in one of the most unexplored and beautiful places in Chile, but we will also be continually immersed in outdoor learning experiences.

Our base camp will be in Los Arenales, located near the town of Lonquimay. We will immerse ourselves in the Mapuche culture, which predominates in the area; learning their customs and language, and giving back to their community. We will also enjoy the outdoors with hikes to the Navidad crater, visit a lava valley, enjoy a kayak adventure on the Lonquimay river and visit the historic Ránquil area to hike up to its hidden lakes. This, and much more awaits us in beautiful southern Chile....

DAY 1 - SATURDAY

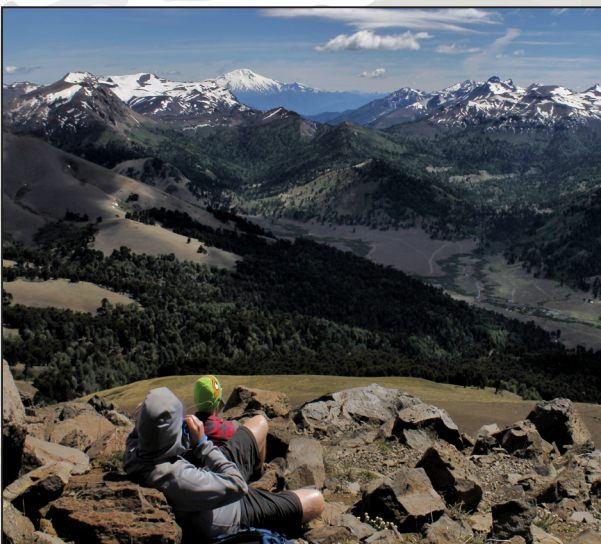


We will fly out of Santiago to Temuco. From the airport we will then drive east towards Lonquimay with a stop at Saldo del Indio and Cascada La Princesa in Malalcahuello where we'll eat lunch.

Upon arrival at our refugio in Los Arenales, we'll have time to settle down, meet our Mapuche hosts, cook dinner and rest to start our early morning adventures the next day!



DAY 2 - SUNDAY



We'll start the day with a basic outdoors crash course: how to pack for the outdoors, the 'leave no trace' concept, and wilderness first aid. We will hike up to Cota 9, the highest point around the area to enjoy the amazing 360° view of the nine volcanoes of the region.

The afternoon will be spent in an outdoors survival workshop led by the Lonquimay Army Special Forces unit. We'll learn how to navigate using a compass, filter water, make fire and other life-saving skills. We'll apply all this knowledge later in the week back in Arenales.

DAY 3 - MONDAY

We'll start our day with a visit to El Naranjo public school. After their morning assembly, we will spend some time teaching Kinder and third grade Mapuche and Chilean students some basic English, and they will in turn teach us basic words and phrases in Mapudungún. We will sit in at band practice, where we'll listen to Mapuche instruments and even get to try playing some of them!



After lunch in town we will visit a school for children with disabilities in Lolén, on the outskirts of Lonquimay. They'll show us their bakery, and how they maintain the school self-sufficient through hard work and much effort.

DAY 4 - TUESDAY



This morning we will begin our kayak adventure down the Lonquimay river. We'll be on the water for about two hours, having gone through a brief introductory kayaking class and safety course.



We'll walk to a "ruka" (Mapuche home) where we'll eat a hearty traditional Mapuche lunch of spit roast, mote, and more, all made by our hosts. We will learn to make bread baked in embers and listen to Mapuche wisdom and history in first-person narration from our Mapuche friends!

DAY 5 - WEDNESDAY

Day five starts with a morning volcano sighting trip in the Malalcahuello-Nalcas National Park. After a short drive through Cuesta Las Raices, we will arrive to the feet of the Lonquimay volcano, and walk towards the base of the Navidad Crater. We will hike to the top in order to see the actual place where the lava erupted from in 1988 to form the lava valley we see today. Depending on the weather, we will be walking on lava ash or on snow! See pictures on the right >>

Back in Lonquimay we will visit Hector Neira at his restaurant 'Rustiko', where we will eat some delicious home-made pizza and traditional desserts!



2016



2018

DAY 6 – THURSDAY



Hope you remember the survival skills you learned throughout the week! Today we'll divide into teams and have an outdoors survival challenge where you'll be able to apply everything you've learned this week.

Then we will go to Alaska waterfall for a pic-nic lunch to close the trip and say good-bye to Lonquimay.

In the afternoon we will start organizing a celebration to thank all those who were part of our journey. Our Mapuche friends have a farewell traditional ceremony organized for us after which we will start the festivities.



DAY 7 – FRIDAY

This is our last day in the South. After cleaning up and packing, our vans will then take us back to Temuco airport to catch our flights to Santiago. On our way to there, we will stop by Curacautín's local fair to get some souvenirs.

* Weather in the south Andean region can be very unpredictable. Trip organizers reserve the right to make changes to the activities based on weather restrictions. Equipment for all weather conditions is included in the trip.

** Nido guides will inform the group of predicted weather conditions in Lonquimay and how to adapt their packing closer to the date of the trip.

TRIP COST:

CLP \$750,000 (includes all meals/activities/land transportation)
+ flight (approx. CLP \$100,000).

YOU SHOULD PACK THE FOLLOWING:

- Warm, comfortable clothes
- Thermal base layers
- Sleeping bag
- Towel
- Hiking shoes and poles
- Extra pair of shoes
- Personal hygiene items
- Hat, gloves, scarf, warm accessories
- Sun glasses, sunscreen, hat/cap or similar
- Backpack for day trips
- Reusable water bottle
- Swimwear
- River shoes/crocs/sandals (not flip flops)
- Headlamp

OPTIONAL BUT RECOMMENDED:

- Camera or action cam
- Book
- Binoculars
- Running shoes/gear
- Marshmallows / snacks to share with the group