


Four Reasons Why Chile Needs to be Your Next Vacation Destination



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As home to Patagonia, a world-famous and iconic tourist attraction, Chile may seem like a well-established travel destination. In fact, that's far from the case, according to Jenny Mikkelson, a Chile specialist at Travel Beyond, a luxury tour operator in Wayzata, Minn.

“Traditionally, travelers have to come to Chile to see Patagonia, but they miss the rest of the country,” she said.

In the past, they had good reason to: the tourism infrastructure in many parts of Chile, especially one that met the standards of luxury travelers, was weak at best. That's fast-changing today with notable high-end properties opening from north to south that give tourists plenty of incentive to plan a visit.

Below, four regions in Chile poised to be South America's next “it” hotspots.

The Wine Country:



The property at Puro Vik nestled into the mountainside. (COURTESY OF VIK RETREATS)

The area a few hours drive south Santiago is dotted with wineries, making it a good stop for any oenophile. “Chile has always had a lot of great wineries producing fantastic wines, but few had any real places to stay,” Mikkelson said.

Similar to the Lakes District, that’s changing. [Vik Retreats](#) which already had the posh art and designed-centric [Vik Chile](#), recently opened Puro Vik, situated on the same 11,000 acres of vineyards. The property consists of 19 houses constructed of glass, which give guests jaw dropping views of the landscape. Each home has balconies with tubs overlooking the panoramas and its own décor theme from Japanese art and 18th century France to the glass of Dale Chihuly Of course wine tasting is a highlight activity, but guests

can also partake in cooking classes, horseback riding, archery, yoga, vineyard walks and more. And, unlike most wineries, kids are welcome and can enjoy swimming, cooking classes tailored to their palate and the entertainment lounge with movies, game consoles and other diversions.

Starting Rates (prices are for two people and inclusive of accommodations, food and drinks and activities): \$1,100 per night