



TIME AND TRAVEL podcast 2

- Sam:** Good morning! I'm Sam. Do you mind if I sit with you?
- Chris:** Not at all. Nice to meet you Sam. I'm Chris. It looks like you just got in from a trip.
- Sam:** I sure did. I was up north in San Pedro de Atacama.
- Chris:** I haven't been there yet. What's it like?
- Sam:** Oh, it's a beautiful place, but quite hot and dry.
- Chris:** Yeah, well there are so many beautiful places in Chile that it's impossible to visit them all.
- Sam:** Ah, but San Pedro de Atacama is a must-see destination. It is absolutely magical.
- Chris:** Really? What makes it so special?
- Sam:** Well, the Atacama Desert is one of the driest places on earth, which leads to some interesting formations. The town itself is fairly small, but the reason you go there is for the amazing landscape around it.
- Chris:** Such as?
- Sam:** For starters, there's the Tular ruins: an ancient village that belonged to the natives and is characterized by its circular walls.
- Chris:** Well, that does sound interesting, but there are other places where I can see ruins.
- Sam:** Oh, that's just one of the many beautiful things you can see in the area. There's the Tatio geysers at 4200 meters above sea level; the Salar de Atacama, which is the largest salt flat in Chile and has a salt permeated lagoon where you can float just like in the Dead Sea; the Puritama volcanic hot springs; and the ruins of the Quito fortress.
- Chris:** That does sound like a pretty interesting place.
- Sam:** And I haven't even told you about the star attraction: the Valley of the Moon in the Cordillera de la Sal or Salt Mountain Range. It has many odd sculptural shapes that were created by centuries of floods and wind and has an impressive range of colors and textures that make it resemble a lunar landscape. You should also try to visit the valley at night, where the moonlight makes it look almost like you were on another planet.
- Chris:** Wow! That sounds fantastic. You've definitely convinced me to go have a look for myself. Thanks, Sam.