

## Alto Andino Nature Tours

Wildflower trips, Botanical tours, flora & native plants  
Parque Nacional Lauca & extreme northern Chile

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June to August is not the high season for native wildflowers here in the north of Chile, but even in winter some of the woody plants keep flowering. This is *Mutisia acuminata* Ruiz et Pav. var. *hirsuta*, photo taken by B. Knapton on the 4th of July near Putre. Giant Hummingbirds, *Patagona gigas*, are attracted to this bush; a good way to find a giant hummer is to pick out a hillside of blooming *Mutisia*, sit quietly and wait for your reward.

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Suggested 3-5 day wildflower itinerary:

Day 1: Start in Arica. Native vegetation of the transverse lowland valleys, Atacama Desert arroyos, cactus scrub, precordillera pre-puna gorges and pampas. OV Putre

Day 2: Parque Nacional Lauca altiplano cushion bogs, tola grassland, altiplano tundra, riparian. Lago Chungara, Chucullo bog. OV Putre

Day 3: Parque Nacional Lauca "extreme" tropical alpines, then OV Putre, or take 5 pm bus or tour van back to Arica or take an international bus to Bolivia the next day.

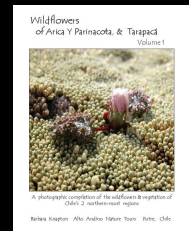
As usual we suggest an additional day for altitude acclimatization, a "free day" in the pueblo of Putre which would then be day 2 of a 4 day tour.

At certain times of the year we extend the tour to Parque Nacional Volcán Isluga to see the many species of cacti there, including *Echinopsis*, *Cumulopuntia*, "*Lobivia*", etc. Another extension would be a 5th day touring the mid-level desert areas close to the coastal range, *Prosopis tamarugo*, desert oases, etc. In other words, we're flexible.

## Resources for studying Andean plants

There are no comprehensive publications for wildflowers that cover the extreme north of Chile, so we have compiled a photographic catalog of the vegetation of the first 2 regions, a long-term project begun in 1996. The catalog will be available on tours.

We have a very good collection of native-plant oriented books in Putre, available for use by clients. These and other helpful resources are listed [here](#).



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Please [inquire](#) about tours or choose daily guide service in your own rental car.

Agencies: add a wildflower or birding component to your scheduled Lauca Tours, [please inquire](#) for naturalist guide service from Arica or Putre to Parque Nacional Lauca.

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Putre, Chile

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