



# PUNA DE ATACAMA

## THE HIGH DESERTS OF ARGENTINA

**3-15 MARCH 2021**

Ignacio Palacios – Marsel van Oosten – Daniella Sibbing

## ATACAMA-ALTIPLANO- PUNA REGION

This place will take your breath away – and not just because of the elevation. The Puna de Atacama is a high desert plateau located in a remote corner of northern Argentina that contains some of the most incredible desert scenery in the world. Surreal rock formations, high deserts, massive sand dunes, endless salt pans, dramatic mountains, volcanoes, lava fields, cinder cones, and turquoise-colored pools.

The region corresponds to the Altiplano-Puna, extending from Peru, going through Bolivia and ending in the Northwest of Argentina.

# PUNA ARGENTINA

“La Puna Argentina” is a natural prolongation of the Bolivian highlands, with which it also differs because Bolivia has a high open plateau, while the Puna region of Argentina is fractured internally by mountain ranges and depressions.

The Andean compression at these latitudes, has produced a series of longitudinal blocks: the high ones have given rise to mountain ranges, while those who fell are now large areas of depressions. The lateral portions of the Andean volcanic arc cross the plateau from northeast to southeast, giving rise to closed areas, where the famous Andean salt lakes are found.

# PUNA DE ATACAMA

Joining this tour will give you the opportunity to discover some of the most remarkable landscapes in the Argentina. We will cover all the iconic locations for landscape photography at the right times of day with the best light, but we will also enjoy the culture of the region.

Ignacio Palacios has travelled this area countless times, and you will learn about its history and its customs. If your partner is not a keen photographer, we would invite you to bring her/him along as you will both enjoy the rich photo opportunities as well as an amazing cultural experience.

We work closely with our exceptional guides who have a great knowledge of the area and photograph in the most beautiful locations at the best times. Marsel and I will work closely with you to help you make the most of this adventure and to ensure that you improve both in the field and processing your images. Some of the topics we will go through in the field, and during some critique sessions at the hotels include creativity, light, composition, exposure, workflow and post-processing. We will do our best to ensure that you take your photography to the next level.

Argentina is also famous for its great food and wine, and we will enjoy the finest local meals such as its delicious empanadas and its most famous sweet (alfajores and dulces de leche).

*“This is an area that not many people know and few have visited so we will have it all to ourselves. It reminds me to the features found in the Atacama Desert, the Altiplano & Salar de Uyuni and the Death Valley. It is a photographer’s paradise.”*



Purmamarca, Hill of the Seven Colors

# ITINERARY

*“In this tour some of the most incredible desert scenery in the world. Surreal rock formations, high deserts, massive sand dunes, endless salt pans, dramatic mountains, volcanoes, lava fields, cinder cones, and turquoise-coloured pools.”*



## DAY 1 | 3 March: Arrival in Salta

We arrive in Salta and meet our fellow passengers. We check-in to the hotel and join our group for dinner and a tour briefing.

Night in Salta, Finca Valentina.

## DAY 2 | 4 March: Salta/Purmamarca – Hill of the Seven Colors and Salinas Grandes sunset/astro photography

Our small fleet of 4x4 vehicles depart from Salta in the morning. Drive to Purmamarca following Camino de Cornisa (Selva de montaña). Arrival to Purmamarca, hotel check-in. Purmamarca is a great town for street photography, with plenty of color, culture, and charm. We will give you some time to unwind from the trip, relax, shop, and do some photography around the town. Paseo de los Colorados, Cerro of the 7 colors.

In the afternoon, drive to the Salt Flats for a sunset shot. Salinas Grandes is a large salt desert where salt mining activities take place. Here you will find geometrically carved turquoise pools of turquoise water where salt has been mined, and picturesque salt pyramids. In order to have a chance to do some astro photography we will stay until it is dark and if the skies are clear we will capture the Milky Way and the Star Trails.

Night in Purmamarca, Hotel Marques de Tojo.

## DAY 3 | 5 March: Purmamarca – Humahuaca, Hornocal lookout

We will visit the archaeological site of Pucara de Tilcara, Uquia (old church and y Señoritas rock formations). Drive to Humahuaca stopping along the way for photographs on a couple of interesting places. Sunset at Hornocal lookout (4350m).

Night in Purmamarca, Hotel Marques de Tojo.



Cono de Arita



**DAY 4 | 6 March: Purmamarca, Salinas Grandes sunrise, San Antonio de los Cobres, Labyrinth Desert and Tolar Grande**

Sunrise shot at Salinas grandes, driving the Lipan pass to reach an altitude of 4200m. We will continue to San Antonio de los Cobres through Ex Road 40 or Road 38 (depending on conditions). San Antonio de los Cobres is the capital of the Argentine Puna, a poor but colorful village. It is the last contact with civilization before jumping to the deserts of the remote Puna. On the way we will drive through a few oases filled with llamas and vicuñas.

The Labyrinth is a Desert of Fossil Dunes of 10 million years old consisting of thousands of small peaks of clay and gypsum, the only evidence of sea in an area where most mountains are volcanic. The Red Labyrinth Desert is a very photogenic location and another highlight of the trip.

Tolar Grande is situated at the border of a giant plain (Arizaro Salt Flats) and one of the biggest Salt Flats in the World. Great views of Volcanos that rise more than 6000 meters.

Sunset shot at the Labyrinth Desert.

Night at Casa Andina.

**DAY 5 | 7 March: Labyrinth Desert**

Another day exploring the Labyrinth Desert and its beautiful red hills. A great opportunity to use your drone. Sunrise and Sunset shot at the Labyrinth Desert. Night at Casa Andina.

**DAY 6 | 8 March: Tolar Grande – Desierto del Laberinto – Ojos de Mar – Laguna Santa Maria – Tolar Grande**

Sunrise at Labyrinth Desert. Ojos de Mar are blue/green water holes where the shapes of the volcanoes are reflected in the morning. Tolar Grande is a semi-abandoned village located at the edge of one of the world's largest salt flats, the Arizaro and from the heart of the Andean Ranges, it offers an incredible view of the surrounding volcanoes of over 6000 meters high.

Sunset shot at Cono de Arita/Salar de Arizaro.

Night at Casa Andina.

## ITINERARY CONTINUED

*“Llamas are considered one of the most enjoyable large animals that one can own. They are extremely intelligent, very beautiful and graceful. We will have many chances to see them during the tour.”*



**DAY 7 | 9 March: Tolar Grande – Salar de Arizaro – Cono de Arita – Antofallita – Antofalla – Calalaste – Antofagasta de la Sierra – El Peñon**  
Sunrise shot, Los Ojos de Mar.

To cross the Arizaro Salt Flat means to imitate the old passage that the shepherds who led the caravans of animals to Chile did in the eighteenth century. Arizaro means Vultures Cemetery as many cows and horses died during the crossing and finally became food for the vultures. Antofalla is a spectacular example of an Oasis of the Puna where a small community of 60 people live.

Calalaste Valley is one of the most populated places of Vicuñas (Andean camelids). Antofagasta de la Sierra is the largest Oasis in this area of the Andes connecting to San Pedro de Atacama in Chile. Antofagasta means “the place where the sun shines” and it is surrounded by hundreds of volcanic peaks.

Sunset shot Option1: Quebrada del Diablo; option: 2: Volcano Carachipampa, Quebrada de Calalaste.

Night at Hosteria El Peñon.

**DAY 8 | 10 March: El Peñon – White Sand Dunes – Pumice Stone Field – Carachi Pampa Volcano – El Peñon**

Sunrise shot at the White Sand Dunes. We will visit some giant white sand dunes that were originated by erosion of the pumice stones nearby. We will also explore and photograph Carachi Pampa volcano and lagoon.

Sunset shot at the Pumice Stone Field. The Pumice Stone Field is one of the highlights of our trip. It is a strange and stunning landscape carved into the rock that gives rise to its name. It is located in a beautiful valley that requires some challenging driving. The field is about 55000 square miles and lies at the heart of the Puna. It is the largest Pumice stone concentration in the world, with some stones reaching 60 feet tall and surrounded by black sand.

Night at Hosteria El Peñon.



Pumice Stone Field







**DAY 9 | 11 March: El Peñon – Pumice Stone Field – Cuesta de Randolpho – Santa Maria – Cafayate**  
Sunrise at the Pumice Stone Field. Drive to Cafayate and sunset shot at “La Yesera” (Quebrada de las Conchas).

Night in Cafayate: Viñas de Cafayate Wine Resort.

**DAY 10 | 12 March: Cafayate - Quebrada de las Conchas – La Yesera – Cafayate**

Argentina’s second center for quality wine production, Cafayate is a popular tourist destination but still has a tranquil small-town feel. It’s spectacularly scenic, with the green of the vines backed by soaring mountains beyond. At sunrise we will drive north of the town through the Calchaquies Valleys with its dramatic rock formations eroded into wild shapes such as the Quebrada de las Conchas.

Sunset shot at La Yesera/Quebrada de las Conchas. For dinner, wine lovers can try a glass of Torrontes (typical white wine from the area).

Night in Cafayate: Viñas de Cafayate Wine Resort.

**DAY 11 | 13 March: Cafayate – Quebrada de las Flechas – Colome – Molinos – Seclantas – Cachi**

Sunrise shot Quebrada de las Flechas. Drive to Cachi.

Night in Finca la Paya (Cachi).

**DAY 12 | 14 March: Cachi – Parque Nacional los Cardones – Cuesta del Obispo – Salta**

Sunrise shot around Cardones National Park with hills and ravines at the height levels between 2,700m and 5,000m. It gets its name from the prevalence of bush formations of cardon grande cactus. It features fossil remains of extinct animals, as well as dinosaur tracks.

Drive to Salta and Night at Finca Valentina.

Critique session at hour hotel in the afternoon. Drinks and Dinner.

**DAY 13 | 15 March: End of Tour**

Breakfast at hotel and transfers to Salta Airport/ Buenos Aires/Home.

# PHOTOGRAPHY EXPERIENCE

Central to this unforgettable tour is YOU. Through Ignacio's guidance, you'll not only learn the secrets of the masters, but you'll take your photography skills to the next level and leave your South American adventure with a collection of powerful, moving photographs you'll share with pride:

Some of the photography skills you'll learn throughout the tour include:

- The art of composition
- Post-processing techniques tips and tricks
- How to work with light
- Optimising your equipment and filters
- Pre-visualisation and the creative process
- The unique techniques of landscape photography, wildlife photography, portrait photography, while also touching on aerial, black and white, and night photography
- Ignacio will also be there to offer one-on-one guidance on other specific skills you'd personally like to master.

## Photography and Camera Skills

All skill levels are welcome. Whether you're a beginner or expert, the tour is designed to cover all aspects of image capture and processing as it applies to where you are on your photography journey. As for equipment, we can help you optimise any equipment you chose to use; from mobile phone to tablets, compact camera to digital SLR cameras. The best way to learn the art of photography is by taking photos. So, Ignacio will be by your side in the field sharing his unique insight, expertise, and guidance as you shoot. Ensuring you don't just leave the tour with incredible photographs, but with skills that will transform the way you pursue your photography passion.

## The Creative Process

Throughout the tour, you'll also have the opportunity to process and enhance your images using Lightroom, Photoshop, Capture One, and other editing software. Learning first-hand how to create photographs that tell a story, evoke emotion and ultimately help you find your unique style and personality as an artist.

## Critique Session

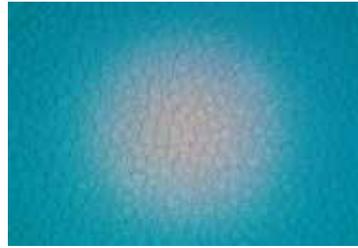
Should you dream of entering competitions, or simply wish to push yourself as a photographer, critique sessions are an invaluable part of the learning process. Ignacio will offer one-on-one critique sessions during the tour. Providing constructive evaluation and feedback supported by recommendations and tips through the eyes of a professional. While having your work critiqued can feel overwhelming at first, this is one of the most powerful ways to improve your skills as a photographer.

## Physical considerations

While you'll be experiencing South America in style there will be times when the group needs to embark on a walk/hike to visit and photograph the best locations. As part of the pre-tour planning, we ask you to share any existing health conditions with us so we may plan for your comfort and safety.

## Accommodation

Although we will be bumping along the way on rocky dirt roads for much of the tour, the incredible scenery and sights are worth the effort – and despite the remote location, our lodging every night is clean, spacious, and comfortable (and at times, surprisingly luxurious).



*"I hope that through my images and my tours, I can open people's eyes to the incredible world we live in."*





**IGNACIO PALACIOS**

When it comes to photography and travel, few can rival Ignacio Palacios' experience, skill, and passion. A third-generation photographer, Ignacio has been honoured with over 100 prestigious photography prizes and awards from around the world and has travelled to over 90 countries in his 20 years career. It's little wonder he's developed a reputation as a leading photographer in the fields of travel, landscape, and nature photography.

Born in Spain, Ignacio now calls Sydney Australia home – through his unmistakable Spanish spirit continues to influence his work and define his signature style.

Combining his love of travel and photography has proved a powerful combination, and today Ignacio leads some of the world's best photography tours to incredible destinations around the world. As an AIPP double Master of Photography, Ignacio shares his insight, experience, and technique with his clients to help them find their own success and joy on their photographic journey.

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"I hope that through my images and my tours, I can open people's eyes to the incredible world we live in. I want to give my guests both travel and photographic experience. We are privileged to have such a beautiful planet and it's our responsibility to respect, cherish and protect it."

Ignacio's distinct, award-winning style can be defined by his mastery of composition, colour, and light. With his minimalistic style and unique ability to connect with his audience through storytelling. Through his images, Ignacio invites his audience to experience the subject not as how he captured, but how he experienced it, evoking an emotional connection between the viewer, subject and artist.

Photography and travel will always be Ignacio's passion, and he is dedicated to helping others ignite their passion too.

[www.iptravelphotography.com.au](http://www.iptravelphotography.com.au)



**MARSEL VAN OOSTEN**

Marsel van Oosten is a professional nature photographer from The Netherlands, with a background in advertising and graphic design.

Marsel's images are famed for his mastery of composition, lighting, color and perspective. In his work he tries to simplify, to get rid of the extraneous: *Simplicity is the ultimate sophistication.*

In addition to winning the overall titles *Wildlife Photographer of the Year*, *Travel Photographer of the Year*, and *International Nature Photographer of the Year (2x)*, his awards include First Prize in the European Wildlife Photographer of the Year, First Prize in Nature's Best International Photography Awards, two First Prizes in the Travel Photographer of the Year, and several awards in the Wildlife Photographer of the Year.

His images are featured in galleries and museums, are used worldwide in advertising and design, and he is a regular contributor to National Geographic.

Marsel lives in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, with producer and videographer Daniella Sibbing. Together they run specialized nature photography tours for all experience levels to exciting destinations worldwide.

[www.squiver.com](http://www.squiver.com)



**DANIELLA SIBBING**

After graduating from the school of Marketing & Economics, Dutch-born Daniella Sibbing started her career in advertising. Specializing in project management and account

management, she founded her own company in 2000 and has been working freelance in advertising until 2011, when she switched full time to Squiver. She has worked for various renowned (international) agencies. Her experience as an account director on multinationals underlines both her commercial skills and her talent for handling large projects.

During her many travels, Daniella took up video to shoot travel documentaries, capturing the nature, wildlife and different cultures from countries all over the world. She has a keen eye for detail and does her own editing. She is now producer and videographer for Squiver.

Daniella is also co-host on Squiver Photo Tours, taking care of all organizational aspects of the trips. She has an impeccable talent for detail and makes sure all trips run smoothly.

Her video footage is also used by stock agencies and was featured in tv commercials for General Electric (first aired in the USA during the opening games of the winter Olympics!), and Dos Equis beer.

Daniella lives in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, with nature photographer Marsel van Oosten. Together they run specialized nature photography tours for all experience levels to exciting destinations worldwide.

[www.squiver.com](http://www.squiver.com)



Hornocal Lookout

# TERMS AND CONDITIONS



## WORKSHOP DATES AND PRICES

Tour dates: **3–15 March 2021**

The tour commences and ends in Salta, Argentina

Cost is **US\$11,990** per person, twin share

Optional single supplement **US\$1,490** (limited places)

Maximum 12 participants

A deposit of **US\$2,000** is required when you book the workshop

### Terms of payment

- A deposit of US\$2,000 must be paid to secure your place. The deposit is non-refundable unless you can sell your place to someone else
- The Registration Form must be filled in and signed by each participant at the time of paying the first deposit. Participation will be declined otherwise.
- The remaining balance must be paid on or before **1 October 2020**
- Bookings will be accepted strictly in the order they are received
- **Important:** the workshop requires a minimum of 8 participants to run so please don't book your flights until this has been confirmed.

### What's included

- 13 days (12 nights) in Argentina with all land content
- Transfers from/to airport
- Transportation (4WD) and accommodation in Argentina during the official period of the workshop
- All meals (breakfast, lunch and dinners)
- All photographic tuition and workshop materials for the duration of the tour
- Photography sessions at exclusive locations with photography advice in the field and back at the hotel, where we will do critique sessions and post-processing lessons.

### What's not included

- Airfares
- Travel insurance (travel insurance with emergency evacuation is mandatory as a condition of booking)
- Optional personal activities
- Camera/Equipment Insurance
- Other meals and drinks
- Tips to the local guides along the way
- Any other personal expenses.

### Cancellation Policy

A written notice of any cancellation must be received by you at which time the following cancellation fees will apply:

- If cancelled before 1 October 2019, 50% of the workshop cost will be refunded
- If cancelled between 1 October 2019 and before date of commencement, the cost of the workshop will not be refunded
- Failure to pay by the due dates will be considered a cancellation of the booking and fees paid will be non-refundable
- Bookings made after 31 July 2018 must be paid in full
- No refunds will be made for unused portions of the workshop. The photography workshop is sold as a package
- Cancellation fees are not transferable.

### Camera gear

There is really no limit to what camera gear you take but we always recommend to travel light! Check with your airline about weight restrictions. Whatever level of camera equipment you have, we will help to ensure you get the most out of it.

In terms of camera kit you'll need a tripod, the longest lens you have (300mm or 500mm + converters are recommended) and then some supplementary lenses for other opportunities such as a 24-70mm (or wider) for landscapes and an intermediate zoom (70-200 or 100-400) so that you don't miss any opportunities.

### Fitness and health considerations

Sometimes participants will be required to walk on uneven terrain or tracks and hiking. A basic level of walking fitness will help, but this tour is not a hiking tour or a trekking tour so nothing extreme will be required. If you have concerns about your own capabilities or health please check with your doctor before booking a place.

By signing the Registration Form, you guarantee that to the best of your knowledge, you do not have any physical or other disability that could create a risk for you or other tour participants. Once a booking has been accepted by IP Travel Photography, medical circumstances will not be accepted as an exemption to the Cancellation Policy above.

Within the Registration Form, please indicate any health issues, allergies or dietary requirements. IP Travel Photography does not assume any responsibility or liability for medical care or special dietary requirements.

If a participant become ill during the workshop, IP Travel Photography reserves the right to continue the tour for the benefit of the rest of the participants. IP Travel Photography will make every effort to assist you whilst trying to minimize disruption of the workshop for other participants.

### Visas

Please check with your consulate/embassy regarding VISAS. Please make sure that your passport/visa does not expire during the tour period.

### Rights

IP Travel Photography reserves the right to:

- Substitute hotels/accommodation
- Make changes in the itinerary or transport if required due to changes in airline schedules, or when necessary
- Cancel the workshop prior to departure, in which case a full refund of all payments received will be given. If such event occurred, IP Travel Photography will not be responsible for any other expenses such as non-refundable air fares, visa fees and other related expenses. The responsibility for such bookings lies with the participant. As such, IP Travel Photography recommends

participants to purchase a travel protection insurance prior to paying the first deposit.

- Substitute the tour leader and guest photographer as originally specified, in which case this substitution will not entitle the participant to a refund
- Accept or refuse any person as a participant in the workshop
- Change the price of the workshop due to adverse currency exchange fluctuations, airline schedule changes, fuel and tax price charges.

### Liability

The operation of the workshop is at the sole discretion of Ignacio Palacios and Marsel van Oosten, having in mind the wellbeing and interests of all participants and the safe and sensible operation of the program as specified within this itinerary

IP Travel Photography and Marsel van Oosten do not accept any liability for the acts, omissions or default, whether negligent or otherwise of third party providers

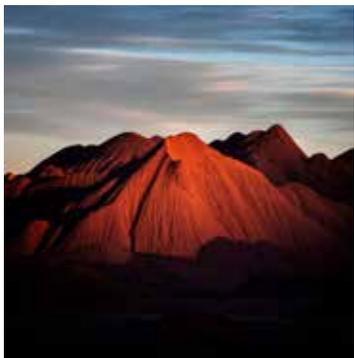
IP Travel Photography and disclaim liability for any injury, damage, loss, delay, additional expense or trouble caused by force majeure or any other event which is not preventable by reasonable diligence on IP Travel Photography's and Marsel van Oosten's part.

### IP Travel Photography

IP Travel Photography is an ASIC business name with Australian Business Number 16578586693 and registered in Australia under the Business Names Registration Act 2011. IP Travel Photography (Ignacio Palacios) will guide and provide photography tuition to all participants during the tour. IP Travel Photography is not a travel agent or travel service provider.

## CHECKLIST

*“The Pumice Stone fields are of igneous origin are produced from a massive explosion of the volcanic stratum. The cloud of this explosion spread the ashes and debris that crystallized by the effects of the temperature and gave life to these wonderful rocks. During the chilling stage the escape of the gases made the rock very easy to carve by the strong winds of the Puna region.”*



### Camera equipment

- DSLR or Medium Format (check your baggage allowance with your airline/travel agent)
- Tripod with quick release plate
- Standard zoom, wide angle and telephoto lenses
- Battery and chargers
- Shutter cable release
- Polarising filter and ND filters
- Laptop computer with Photoshop and Lightroom and/or Capture One
- External backup drives and memory cards for storage.

We recommend to shrink-wrap your baggage at your departure airport. Ensure your telephoto lenses are packed in protective packs designed for such lenses. We also recommend that you pack your camera equipment as your hand luggage as much as possible so that if the checked-in baggage is lost or delayed at least you can start photographing as soon as you arrive.

Note: Please contact me if you want to discuss equipment for this trip.

### What to bring, clothing and other

- Water bottle (1lt) to avoid the use of plastic bottles for mineral water. Our guide will make sure to refill your bottle whenever necessary.
- Sun block and sun glasses (protection against UV)
- Hat
- Gloves (made of wool or similar material)
- Winter clothes (in autumn/ winter (May to August), clothes must be reinforced: winter jacket, sweatshirts, polar long-sleeve shirt, scarf, etc.)
- Windproof Jacket (it's important because the area is windy)
- Warm socks (made of wool or cotton)
- Trekking shoes (comfortable)
- Moisturizing cream.

*IP Travel Photography reserves the right to cancel this workshop. In the event of this happening, all payments received will be refunded but participants shall have no further claim against IP Travel Photography arising from such cancellation. Any such refund will not include payments for any bookings for other services made in addition to the itinerary outlined above. The responsibility for such bookings lies with the participant. As such, IP Travel Photography recommends participants to purchase a travel protection insurance prior to paying the first deposit.*

**To reserve your place for 2021 or to make an enquiry, please email [ignacio@iptravelphotography.com.au](mailto:ignacio@iptravelphotography.com.au)**

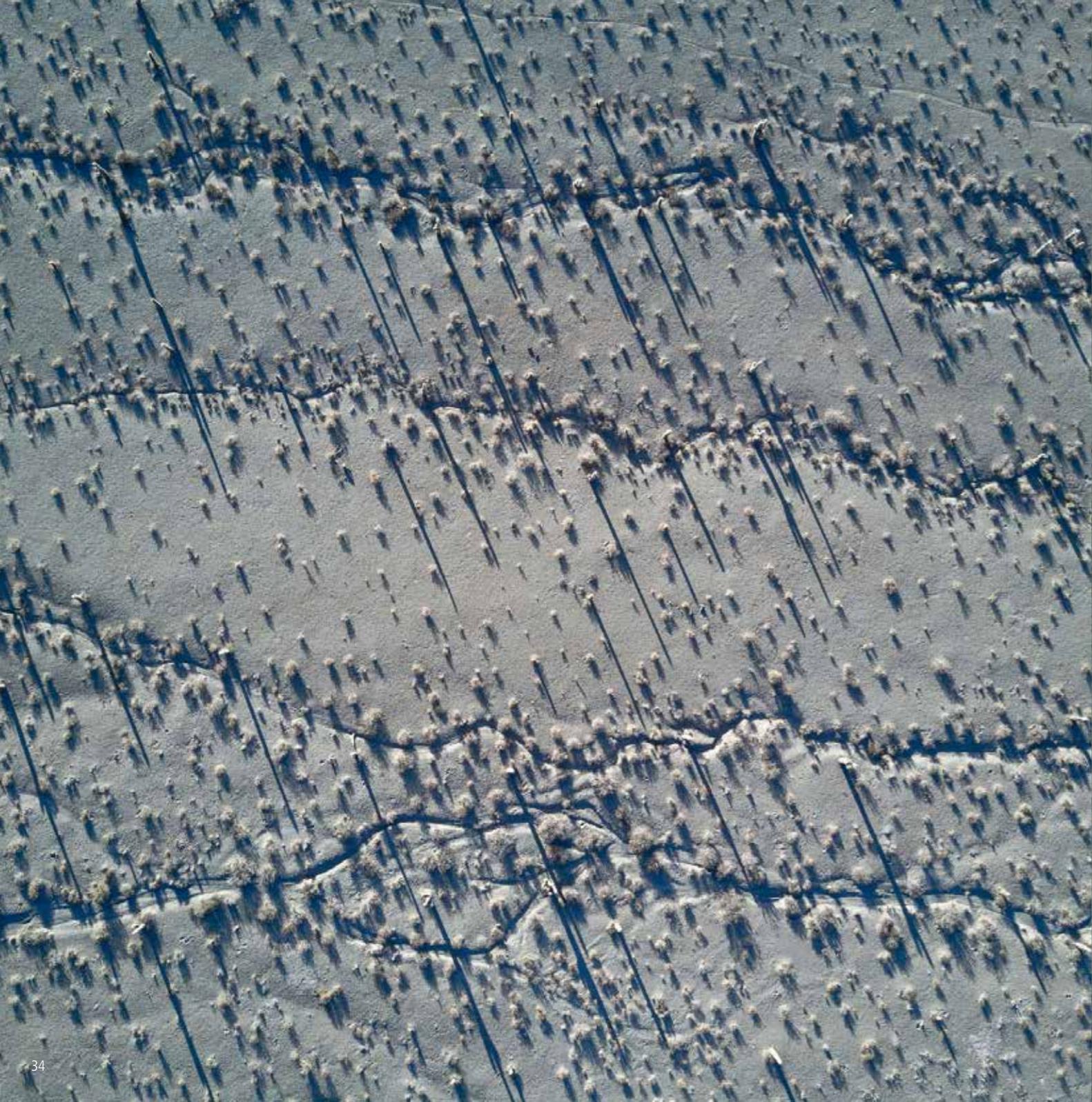


Cono de Arita







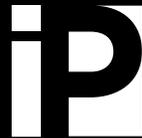








TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE FOR 2021  
OR TO MAKE AN ENQUIRY, PLEASE EMAIL  
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