Arrive early (8:45 am) at the ALMA bus meeting point: Tumisa Street, close to the corner of Pedro de Valdivia Ave. (see the red spot on the map). This is close to the entrance to the artisan fair called “Pueblo de los Artesanos” and near the San Pedro de Atacama bus terminal. Only those who are registered, either confirmed or on the waiting list, will be allowed to board the bus.

The trip from San Pedro de Atacama to the ALMA Operations Support Facility (OSF), at 2,900 meters above sea level, takes about 40 minutes. This is the location of the camp where employees live, the technical building where they work—which contains laboratories and the antenna control room, among others—and you will usually see antennas undergoing maintenance and an antenna transporter.

The weather is often warm so we recommend that you bring sunblock and sunglasses.

People with special needs and/or disabilities can use their own vehicle to travel to ALMA, but prior to their trip should send the license plate and driver details to visit@alma.cl. Additional vehicles will enter the observatory in caravan behind the ALMA bus.

Because of the altitude, some people may experience the symptoms of altitude sickness: headache, dizziness, nausea, fast heartbeat, etc. If you experience any of these, please notify the Visitor Coordinator immediately to be taken to a paramedic. To prevent these symptoms, we recommend that you eat a light breakfast, avoid stimulants such as coffee, tea, or Coca-Cola and drink sufficient water.

Because this is a workplace, visitors will be required to adhere to rules of conduct during the visit, speak at a moderate volume, refrain from touching computers or other work instruments and remain with the visitor group at all times. Visitors accompanied by minors will be responsible for them. ALMA reserves the right to remove anyone from the premises who does not comply with these requirements.

In case of emergency (earthquake, fire, accident, etc.) you must follow the instructions of the visitor coordinator.

Photography and filming are permitted during the tour of the installations.