The amazing Atacama Desert

When you think of a desert, **(0)** ..... first comes to mind? Is it a hot, dry and empty landscape? For the Atacama Desert in Chile, that image is only partly true. It is actually pretty cold, with daily temperatures ranging **(9)** ..... 0 to 25 degrees centigrade. But **(10)** ..... is certainly no doubt that the Atacama Desert is dry. Despite **(11)** ..... located right next to the Pacific Ocean, it's actually the world's driest desert, some parts of which have not had any rainfall for over 400 years. So it may come **(12)** ..... a surprise to learn that it does actually rain in this desert. Every five to seven years **(13)** ..... average, heavy rainfall soaks the landscape and then, all **(14)** ..... a sudden, something magical happens: the desert is transformed into a carpet of colourful flowers. This incredible sight lasts for just a **(15)** ..... short weeks and attracts thousands of visitors, eager **(16)** ..... enjoy such a rare occurrence.

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