



CHILE: Magnificent Landscapes

January 28 – February 9, 2010



Osorno volcano

Of all the corners of the world we've been to, we think Chile might just hold the record for stunning scenery, especially if you give extra points for variety. From a desert where no rain has fallen, ever, to bounteous lakes and ice-capped volcanoes, the longest country in the world has it all.

This is a trip of incredible landscapes and people. After a look at bustling Santiago and funky Valparaiso, we fly north to the Atacama Desert, a landscape that resembles nothing so much as everyone's idea of the moon.

Then we head south to the Lake District, a fairy-tale land of dark green forests, white-capped volcanoes and rolling hills dotted with hundreds of lakes. Further south again takes us to the End of World in remote Patagonia, with its granite towers and colossal glaciers. In each of these landscapes we meet people who live in harmony with nature: the Atacameno and Mapuche Indians and *the Baqueanos*.

And to crown your trip to Chile's extremes, consider extending your stay on Easter Island.

TOUR LEADER:



Marguerite Low

Marguerite has travelled extensively in South America and has a passion for the archaeology, culture, natural history and

most of all the peoples of this sometimes overlooked continent. She speaks Spanish and loves to share her knowledge of mysterious Easter Island.

FACTS:

- 13 days
- Maximum 16 participants
- Start and finish in Santiago
- Optional extension to Easter Island

BRIEF ITINERARY:

- Day 1:** Arrive in Santiago
- Day 2:** Valparaiso
- Day 3:** Fly to Calama
- Day 4:** Atacama Desert
- Day 5:** Atacama Desert — Valley of the Moon
- Day 6:** Fly to Puerto Montt
- Day 7:** Puerto Varas and the Lake District
- Day 8:** Fly to Punta Arenas
- Day 9:** Patagonia — Torres del Paine
- Day 10:** Patagonia — Lake Grey
- Day 11:** Patagonia — Laguna Azul
- Day 12:** Fly to Santiago
- Day 13:** Depart Santiago
- Days 13-17:** Easter Island Extension

SIGNATURE MOMENTS:

- Hunting for art in the galleries of funky Valparaiso
- Walking on the moon in the Cordillera de la Sal
- Visiting Canada's telescopes in the Atacama Desert
- Marveling at the spectacular scenery of the Andes Lake District
- Hiking at the Osorno Volcano
- Staying in our Eco-camp in Torres del Paine National Park
- Boating amidst the glaciers of Lake Grey
- Exploring the mysteries of the remote Easter Islands



CHILE TOUR COST:

\$5,195 USD

LOCAL TAXES AND GRATUITIES:

\$295 USD

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT:

\$1,795 USD

EASTER ISLAND EXTENSION:

\$1,395 USD

LOCAL TAXES AND GRATUITIES:

\$95 USD

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT:

\$175 USD

Prices are per person, based on double occupancy.

Note: If you are a single traveller who is willing to share, we can try to match you up with an appropriate roommate. However, if we are unsuccessful, please be advised that the single supplement will apply.

AIRFARE:

International and domestic airfare is not included in the cost. Please contact our office for a quote on airfare from your home city.

TOUR COST INCLUDES:

- Accommodation on twin share basis in hotels listed or similar
- Meals as specified in the detailed itinerary
- Sightseeing with qualified English-speaking guides
- All transportation by deluxe coach
- Airport arrival and departure transfers for passengers arriving and departing as per the group itinerary
- All entrance fees
- Hosted by Marguerite Low

TOUR COST DOES NOT INCLUDES:

- International and domestic flights
- Airport and departure taxes
- Airport transfers if arriving and departing separately from group itinerary
- Travel insurance
- Items of a personal nature
- Visa fees (Chile approx. \$132 USD paid on arrival)
- Excess baggage charges
- Additional arrangements or medical treatment required due to any emergency situation

For further information about this trip and to book:

Kerry Tattrie

Worldwide Quest

416-633-5666 / 1-800-387-1483

kerry@worldwidequest.com

www.culturalexplorations.com → Keyword: Chile

For additional information about Worldwide Quest's terms and conditions, please refer to the current Cultural Explorations brochure or our website: www.worldwidequest.com/terms.php.
TICO Licence: # 2667946

TENTATIVE FLIGHT SCHEDULE:

Flight	Date	Flight Number	Depart	Time	Arrive	Time	
MAIN TRIP	January 27	LA 5330	Depart Toronto	15:50	Arrive Santiago	08:50 (January 28)	
	January 30	LA340	Departs Santiago	06:05	Arrive Calama	08:15	
	February 2	LA341	Depart Calama	08:45	Arrive Santiago	10:45	
		LA261	Depart Santiago	12:00	Arrive Puerto M.	13:40	
	February 4	LA281	Depart Puerto M.	08:20	Arrive P. Arenas	10:30	
	February 8	LA280	Depart P. Arenas	11:10	Arrive Santiago	14:30	
	February 9	LA532	Depart Santiago	22:45	Arrive Toronto	11:45	
	EASTER ISLAND EXTENSION	February 9	LA841	Depart Santiago	08:30	Arrive Easter Isl.	12:10
		February 13	LA842	Depart Easter Isl.	14:10	Arrive Santiago	20:50
February 14		LA532	Depart Santiago	22:45	Arrive Toronto	11:45	

CHILE: Magnificent Landscapes January 28 – February 9, 2010

ITINERARY IN DETAIL:

Jan 28, 2010 (Thu): ARRIVE IN SANTIAGO

Santiago is a city of contrasts, with traditional and modern districts set against the scenic backdrop of the Andes. We'll spend the afternoon getting to know the city. We'll start at the church of San Francisco, built between 1572 and 1618. We continue to the west, passing Club Hipico, one of the most beautiful race tracks in South America due to its turn-of-the-century architecture, and continue to the city-centre, passing the palace of Cousino Macul. Our drive takes us through the pretty traditional residential neighbourhoods dating from the 1900s and past La Moneda, the seat of the government and the Presidential palace. Then we visit the historical centre of Santiago, including Plaza de Armas with the Cathedral, the Central post office and the National History Museum. Later we reach Cerro Santa Lucía where Pedro Valdivia founded Santiago in 1541. Crossing Rio Mapocho, we pass through the bohemian quarter of Bellavista before ascending Cerro San Cristobal. From here we have a beautiful view of the city and the Andes.

Overnight: Hotel Santiago Park Plaza, Santiago or similar

Meals: Dinner

Jan 29, 2010 (Fri): VALPARAISO

Today we'll get out of the city and travel to the coast to visit the city of Valparaiso. Still a major deep water commercial port, the city is now the hub of a growing arts community with many galleries and cultural centres. Our driving route takes us through the valleys of Curacavi and Casablanca, a landscape with mountain ranges and fertile farmlands famous for their orchards, citrus groves and grape plantations. Valparaiso is built on 42 hills with old-fashioned funiculars used to access the highest points. We'll take one of these cog rails up to the heights of the city and enjoy a walk through these winding streets lined with small, colourful houses. There are spectacular views of the bay and the adjoining hills. We'll have lunch here overlooking the bay. Later this afternoon, we'll have a walk on the peninsula of Roca Oceanica, a spectacularly rocky landscape where the sea, on windy days and at high tide, crashes fiercely against the coast. We'll return to Santiago in time for dinner at the hotel.

Overnight: Hotel Santiago Park Plaza, Santiago or similar

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Jan 30, 2010 (Sat): FLY TO CALAMA

A short flight this morning takes us to Calama in the far north of the country. This is the gateway to the Atacama Desert, our planet's driest location. There are areas of this desert where not a single drop of rain has been recorded by humans, and some scientists think have been dry for nearly 40 million years. But this land is remarkably active. People here live in coastal cities, mining compounds and oasis towns.





International astronomers probe the cosmos through perfectly clear skies. Determined farmers grow olives, tomatoes and cucumbers with water culled from the aquifer. In the altiplano, the descendants of the region's pre-Columbian natives herd llamas and alpacas and grow crops with water from snowmelt streams.

We'll freshen up at the airport, and then drive onward to our base in the oasis town of San Pedro de Atacama. After lunch we'll get out and take in our first views of the amazing rock formations at Cordillera de la Sal. The salt mountain range creates magnificent geological formations of diverse shapes and colors. Giant dunes and beautiful salt crystal on the

ground create a seemingly lunar landscape. We'll admire the sunset over dinner in middle of the desert.

Overnight: Terrantai Lodge, San Pedro de Atacama or similar

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner



Jan 31, 2010 (Sun): ATACAMA DESERT

This morning we set out to visit the Miscanti and Menique Lagoons. Located at 4500 metres altitude, these lagoons are surrounded by impressive volcanoes created with the birth of the Andes in ancient geological times. Our day continues with a visit of Toconao, the liparita stone craftsmen's village and a hike in the Jeri valley. Our next stop is the Chaxa lagoon in the middle of the salt flat where pink flamingos nest.

Overnight: Terrantai Lodge, San Pedro de Atacama or similar

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner



Feb 1, 2010 (Mon): ATACAMA DESERT

Enjoy an easy trek today in the spectacular Valle de Marte. We'll walk along the Corniza trail over a ridge of sandstone mountains. Then we descend to San Pedro Valley and walk to the remarkable 12-century fortress of Quito, built by the Atacameno Indians. This evening we plan to visit the Atacama Large Millimetre Array (ALMA), one of astronomy's most powerful telescopes, providing unprecedented imaging capabilities and sensitivity many orders of magnitude greater than anything of its kind today. The National Research Council of Canada is participating in

this Observatory project which holds the key to understanding such processes as planet and star formation, the formation of early galaxies and galaxy clusters, and the formation of organic and other molecules in space.

Overnight: Terrantai Lodge, San Pedro de Atacama or similar

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner



Feb 2, 2010 (Tue): FLY TO PUERTO MONTT

From desert to lakes in one day...It's all part of the marvelous variety of Chilean landscapes. We'll fly back to Santiago and onward to Puerto Montt in the heart of the Lake District. This is the southern end of the Pan American highway and the beginning of the fabled land of fjords and snow capped volcanoes. Germans were among the first settlers in the area that still retains an alpine feel. Our hotel for the next two nights is located in Puerto Varas.

Overnight: Hotel Puelche, Puerto Varas or similar

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Feb 3, 2010 (Wed): LAKE DISTRICT

Our excursion today takes us to one of the most beautiful and oldest parks of Chile, Perez Rosales NP, which has splendid natural places to hike and observe fauna and flora. Inside the Park, we'll head towards the mighty Osorno Volcano, a cone shaped volcano that escorts the surrounding lakes. We will drive up steep hills reaching a sight point where we will have a great view of the wild areas near the volcano.

Overnight: *Hotel Puelche, Puerto Varas or similar*

Meals: *Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner*



Feb 4, 2010 (Thu): FLY TO PUNTA ARENAS

Ever southward to the extreme end of Chile! We'll fly to Punta Arenas and drive to our base in the Torres del Paine National Park. As we drive in we'll have plenty of light to admire the Patagonian steppe with its snow-peaked mountain horizon. Before arriving though, there are a couple of stops. One is at Puerto Natales, a small but lively town on the shores of Seno Última Esperanza, "Last Hope Sound." The other stop is at Cueva de Milodon, a massive prehistoric cave where the remains of a giant ground sloth were discovered in the 1890s. The surrounding area is very scenic with plenty of wild birds to be seen.

The end of the day brings us to our very special accommodations. We'll stay right in the centre of the park in an Eco-camp built to minimize the environmental impact in a dramatically remote setting. Our suite domes in the Eco-camp are comfortable tented igloo-type double domes built the same way as the ancient native Kaweskars' dwellings. Each dome has a private bathroom, comfortable double or twin beds, and is heated by a modern low-emission wood stove. This will be a unique experience, at one with nature.

Overnight: *Eco-camp, Dome Suites, Patagonia or similar*

Meals: *Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner*



Feb 5, 2010 (Fri): PATAGONIA — TORRES DEL PAINE

We start our adventure in the park with a pleasant walk through the curly Cuernos trail located beside beautiful Lake Nordenskjold. During this "appetizer walk" we take in the park's charming flora and fauna, its strong wind and the curious four-seasons weather. As we advance through the trail we enjoy magnificent views of the park's central lakes and the Horns of Paine, which are majestic black horn-like peaks of slate atop gray granite crowning the center of the Massif. We will of course stop to get some great first shots of the park and also enjoy a delicious boxed lunch to energize us for the rest of the walk. The trek ends at Refugio Los Cuernos, a small and cozy mountain refuge located by the shores of Lake Nordenskjold.

Overnight: *Eco-camp, Dome Suites, Patagonia or similar*

Meals: *Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner*





Feb 6, 2010 (Sat): PATAGONIA — LAKE GREY

Today we'll hike along the shores of mountain-lined Lake Pehoe to the northern end of glacial Lake Grey. We'll enjoy a picnic lunch before boarding the boat that sails to the blue face of Glacier Grey. You'll have lots of time to marvel at this calving glacier before the boat ride across Lake Grey with its floating pieces of ice.

Overnight: Eco-camp, Dome Suites, Patagonia or similar

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner



Feb 7, 2010 (Sun): PATAGONIA — LAGUNA AZUL

Today's hike to the Laguna Azul lookout affords gorgeous views of both the lagoon and granite towers. We continue along the eastern side of Lago Sarmiento to the calcium formations on the lake shore where guanacos are often seen. Later we trek to Paso Las Corneas with spectacular views of Rio Paine, Lake Pehoe and the massif of Paine. Depending on the group, we can also hike to the Toro lookout point, which offers views of Lago Toro and the pampa.

Upon returning to the Eco-camp, a farewell dinner is celebrated with a regional favourite, Patagonian lamb barbecue.

Overnight: Eco-camp, Dome Suites, Patagonia or similar

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner



Feb 8, 2010 (Mon): FLY TO SANTIAGO

Our stay in Patagonia comes to an end today and we begin our return journey northward. We drive back to Punta Arenas and fly to Santiago. The afternoon is yours to stroll in the city centre before dinner in one of our favourite local restaurants.

Overnight: Hotel Santiago Park Plaza, Santiago or similar

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner



Feb 9, 2010 (Tue): DEPART SANTIAGO OR START EASTER ISLAND EXTENSION

You will be transferred to the airport for your return flights or continue on with Marguerite to Easter Island, the fourth stop on our exploration of Chile.

Meals: Breakfast



ECO-CAMP PATAGONIA:

Camp in comfort in Chile's most famous beauty zone, located in Patagonia — at the end of the world!

This eco-camp offers the perfect compromise between hotel accommodation and camping. Located in Torres del Paine National Park, the camp has large dome-shaped tents where you can stand up straight and lie down on a real bed, and eat good food in the dining tent. You avoid the ardours and discomfort of traditional camping while remaining in closer contact with the environment and in harmony with the nature.

EASTER ISLAND EXTENSION

Easter Island is the most isolated place on the planet, at a distance of 3,000 kilometres from the nearest populated point, and one of the most fascinating archaeological riddles of all time. The inhabitants of Easter Island, whose origin is still an enigma, developed the only script known to people of America and Polynesia at that time, carved enormous 100 tons basalt statues (called Moai) from a quarry in the side of a volcano, transported them many kilometers to the coast and erected them on giant stone altars. Easter Island combines the enchantment of warm beaches, agreeable climate, transparent oceans and remarkable volcanic remains.

Dotted around the island are several extinct craters, two of which now contain freshwater lakes, and hundreds of caves, once used as refuges or secret burial places. This is a remarkable opportunity to visit one of the world's most remote and magnificent places.



Feb 9, 2010 (Tue): FLY TO EASTER ISLAND

Our flight over the Pacific Ocean takes us to Mataverí Airport where we are greeted by our local guide. It's a short drive to Hanga Roa, a small township where Easter Island's 2,500 people all live. This will be our base for our stay here.

Overnight: Manutara Hotel, Easter Island or similar

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner



Feb 10, 2010 (Wed): EASTER ISLAND

Early in the morning we'll start our exploration of the island, taking us through hundreds of years of history. Our first sight today is the volcanic crater of Rano Raraku. This might be the most impressive site on the island: 70 standing sentinels, embedded up to their shoulders in grass on the south slope of the volcanic crater Rano Raraku, leading the way to the quarry or "nursery" inside of the impressive crater rim. Here the Moai (enormous, 100-ton basalt statues) were cut from volcanic tuff and some 150 figures, in various stages of completion, are mute witnesses to the mystery that suddenly stopped all work. Our tour continues to Ahu Tongariki which was recently restored after a tidal wave in 1960 washed the statues dozens of meters away from their original setting.

Overnight: Manutara Hotel, Easter Island or similar

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner



Feb 11, 2010 (Thu): EASTER ISLAND

Today our first stop is Rano Kau volcano, the biggest on the island, whose enormous crater is now a freshwater lake with floating green fields of totora reeds. This site offers an exceptional view of the three tiny and craggy islands Nui, Motu and Kao-Kao where the bizarre "bird man" ritual took place. Here you also find the ruined village of Orongo, perched in this sublime location, which shows 48 oval buildings built out of overlapping stone slabs. Over the cliffs you see an amazing string of "bird man" petroglyphs. The tour continues to Vinapu, passing through Vai A Tare. At Vinapu we find Ahu Tahira (Ahu = sacred place. This word describes the rectangular stone platform on which the Moai statues





were erected). Ahu Tahira is a key element in Thor Heyerdahl's theory that the islanders came sailing from South America, since it contains a wall of perfectly carved and fitted stone blocks that is strikingly similar to the work of the Tihuanaco culture (Bolivia) and the Inca walls in Cuzco (Peru). Later we drive to Tahai and the Cave of the Petroglyphs.

Overnight: *Manutara Hotel, Easter Island or similar*

Meals: *Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner*

Feb 12, 2010 (Fri):

EASTER ISLAND

Today we'll drive along the coastal road to see the largest Moai ever transported. It is named Ahu Te Pito Te Kura (Navel of Light) and is an incredible 9.8 metres in length. We continue on to Ovahe Beach, a small bay nestled beneath a cliff of volcanic rock with pure, golden sands and magnificent clear water — a true South Pacific paradise. Spend some time there swimming and relaxing. On our way back to our hotel, we'll visit Anakena Beach, the legendary landing place of Hota Matua, the founder of the island.

Overnight: *Manutara Hotel, Easter Island or similar*

Meals: *Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner*

Feb 13, 2010 (Sat): FLY TO SANTIAGO

Today we board our return flight to Santiago and onward connection home.

Meals: *Breakfast*

Itinerary and accommodation subject to change.



All participants on tours operated by Worldwide Quest are covered by the terms of the Ontario Travel Industry Act (Worldwide Quest International, Ontario – License # 2667946).