



CHILE

The Wonders of Chile: from Atacama to Rapa Nui

with Duquesne Alumni and Friends FEBRUARY 5 – 17, 2024



Explore spectacular natural beauty and rich cultural heritage on this exciting adventure to some of Chile's most iconic locations. Join Duquesne Alumni and Friends on an unforgettable 13-day journey that begins in Santiago, Chile's colorful, historic capital and cultural center, and its surrounding wine regions. From there, continue to the vibrant artistic scene of coastal Valparaíso, the dramatic stone and sand formations of Chile's Atacama Desert, and the beautiful island of Rapa Nui, known for its mysterious and imposing Moai statues. Marvel at the dramatic contrasts of this sprawling country and learn about the history behind Chile's rich culture at every one of these striking sites.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Marvel at some of the most breathtaking scenery in the world as we visit the driest desert in the world, the Atacama. The moon-like landscape features turquoise lagoons, geysers, and clear night skies for stargazing at night. Additionally, visit Rapa Nui (Easter Island), which is well-known for its Polynesian culture and archaeological marvels, including the enormous and mysterious Moai statues. There are also volcanic craters, beaches, and sweeping views of the Pacific Ocean.
- Enjoy the most exquisite accommodations on this trip, which include the Tierra Atacama and the Explora Rapa Nui. Both are 5-star boutique properties with an emphasis on capturing and enhancing the beauty of their natural surroundings with eco-friendly architectural design. Their outstanding concierge services allow you to customize your activities in these locations, so everyone can have a unique experience based on interests and activity level.
- Experience one of the most exciting parts of this adventure: the Tapati Rapa Nui, which is the premiere cultural festival on the island of Rapa Nui. This celebration happens every February and showcases the music, dance, colors, costumes, and traditions of the island inhabitants. During the day, there are sporting competitions throughout the island, and during the evenings, everything comes alive with exuberant celebrations.
- Take in the sights and sounds of Chile's vibrant capital of Santiago, visit the coastal city of Valparaíso, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and learn about its history and community from a local artist, and sample Chilean wine at two of most important wine-producing regions of Chile, the Maipo and Aconcagua Valleys.

holbrook.travel/duquesne-ch24

ITINERARY

B,L,D = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

DAY 1 | MON | FEBRUARY 5 | IN FLIGHT

Depart the U.S. on an overnight flight to Santiago.

DAY 2 | TUE | FEBRUARY 6 | SANTIAGO

Upon arrival this morning at Santiago International Airport, meet your guide and travel to the hotel, with an early check-in for time to rest. Later this afternoon, meet for a welcome briefing before heading out to get a view of the cityscape, followed by an informal talk on Chile's past and present and dinner at La Bodeguita de Miguel Torres restaurant. *Overnight at Hotel W Santiago. (D)*

DAY 3 | WED | FEBRUARY 7 | SANTIAGO

Today, explore the Pacific coastal city of Valparaíso. Located about one hour and a half away from Santiago, Valparaíso is a UNESCO World Heritage Site known for its cobblestone streets, historic buildings, and funiculars along sloping hills. This city boasts a vibrant arts scene, and we will have the opportunity to visit the home or studio of various artists who are available to talk about their work and the life of an artist in the city. Afterward, enjoy lunch in a lovely local restaurant on the bay and return to Santiago later in the afternoon. Dinner tonight is on your own. *Overnight at Hotel W Santiago. (BL)*



DAY 4 | THU | FEBRUARY 8 | ATACAMA

This morning after breakfast, travel to the airport for the flight to Calama, and then travel to San Pedro de Atacama. Please note, lunch is on your own today as this is a travel day. Check in at the hotel and have time to relax. All rooms have views of the Atacama Desert and Licancabur Volcano. This evening, have dinner and learn about the at-your-service options for exploring Atacama at your own, individual pace. The staff will explain the many options at your disposal, both full- and half-day adventures exploring Atacama's five zones, each with its own set of unique geographic, cultural, and biospheric characteristics. *Overnight at Tierra Atacama. (BD)*

DAY 5 | FRI | FEBRUARY 9 | ATACAMA

Spend the day exploring Atacama and its surrounding area, one of Chile's most enigmatic territories. The diversity of the

landscape is one of the most popular attractions. A few of the experiences to choose from include riding horses through the red land plains and huge sand dunes, characteristic of one of the driest deserts in the world, visiting turquoise lagoons that are located more than 13,123 feet in the highlands (altiplano), walking through geysers, and following green riverbeds in an area where water is a limited resource. There are rides and hikes with different lengths and difficulty levels available. *Overnight at Tierra Atacama. (BLD)*



DAY 6 | SAT | FEBRUARY 10 | ATACAMA

Today, spend the final day of at-your-service adventures exploring Atacama. In the evening, experience why Chile is considered one of the foremost places on earth to observe space; the dryness and the remoteness of the Atacama Desert are unique in the world. Chile and, specifically, Atacama have some of the largest and most sophisticated observatories in the world. After dinner this evening, enjoy the opportunity to star gaze with some telescopes while hearing about the science behind it all, as well as the cosmovision of Atacama's indigenous people. *Overnight at Tierra Atacama. (BLD)*

DAY 7 | SUN | FEBRUARY 11 | MAIPO VALLEY

This morning, depart for the airport in Calama and board the flight to Santiago. Upon arrival in Santiago, detour from the city and head on a short drive south to the Maipo Valley, one of the most important wine-producing regions of Chile. Here, we will stay at the Hotel Casa Real, located on the Santa Rita Estate, formerly the summerhouse of the winery's founder. Enjoy a light lunch and a tour of the winery to learn about the property, its history, and its wine. The estate boasts beautiful gardens and is a short walk from the Museo Andino, a museum that has an extensive collection of pre-Columbian artifacts. Later, attend a talk with a local expert followed by dinner in the estate's dining room. *Overnight at Hotel Casa Real. (BLD)*

DAY 8 | MON | FEBRUARY 12 | RAPA NUI

This morning, we transfer to the airport for the afternoon morning flight to Rapa Nui. Also known as Easter Island, Rapa Nui is a UNESCO World Heritage Site known for the archaeological treasure of more than 1,000 Moai stone statues that were created roughly between the years 800 and 1200 by the Rapa Nui people. Rapa Nui is also one of the most remote islands on earth, located approximately 2,000 miles from the

mainland. A fire swept through Rapa Nui in early October of 2022, damaging some of the Moai statues; however, many archaeological treasures were fortunately preserved. Our program dates were chosen specifically to coincide with the Tapati Festival, the most important cultural event of the year on the island. The festival celebrates the unique culture and traditions of Rapa Nui with daily activities throughout the two week festival including live music, dancing, as well as rowing, traditional foods and more. In Rapa Nui, enjoy the hospitality and extraordinary beauty of Explora Lodge. Located in a quiet and peaceful area of the island, close to the main town of Hanga Roa, Explora Lodge has privileged views of the ocean and surrounding countryside. *Overnight at Explora Lodge. (BLD)*

DAY 9 | TUE | FEBRUARY 13 | RAPA NUI

Today, begin the exploration of Rapa Nui. Choose between a full-day tour with lunch outdoors, and the half-day options with lunch back at the lodge between experiences. Some of the highlights of this adventure include the archaeological sites of Ahu Vinapu, Orongo, the stone village and ceremonial center, and Rano Kau Volcano. These are all within a short drive from the main harbor town of Hanga Roa. Ahu Vinapu is made up of two ruined Ahus. Ahu, which means "sacred place," refers to the rectangular stone platform on which the famous Moai (enormous, 100-ton basalt statues) were often erected. Further along the coastal road towards the Rano Kau Volcano, adjacent to its crater, is the ancient ceremonial site of Orongo, where there are many petroglyphs. Another key archaeological site is Ahu Akivi, a particularly sacred place on the island and one of the most iconic; here, one can see the massive seven stone Moai (or large heads) overlooking the Pacific Ocean. Depending upon the Tapati Festival program, your visits to the archaeological treasures of the Island will be combined with the best activities and events of the Festival to maximize your time in Rapa Nui. *Overnight at Explora Lodge. (BLD)*



DAY 10 | WED | FEBRUARY 14 | RAPA NUI

Today, enjoy another full day exploring Rapa Nui and enjoying Explora Lodge's facilities and hospitality as well as the Festival. Other highlights that could be on the program for today include Ahu Vaihu, Ahu Akahanga, Rano Raraku, Ahu Tongariki, Ahu Te Pito Kura, Anakena Beach, Ahu Nau Nau, and Ahu Ature Huki. Seventy standing sentinels, embedded up to their shoulders in grass on the south slope of the volcanic crater Rano

Raraku, lead the way to the quarry or "nursery" inside of the impressive crater rim. This is where the Moai were cut from volcanic tuff, and around 150 figures remain here in all stages of completion. Here, explore the Ahu of some of the nearby Moai, and check out the holes in the crater rim that were used to maneuver the statues. A short distance away, is Anakena Beach, the legendary landing place of the island's founder Hotu Matu'a, which is excellent for swimming and relaxing. *Overnight at Explora Lodge. (BLD)*



DAY 11 | THU | FEBRUARY 15 | SANTIAGO

This morning, spend time at leisure to enjoy the Explora Lodge or venture into town for more Festival events before heading to the airport for the flight back to Santiago. Upon arrival, travel to the hotel. Tonight, have dinner on your own. *Overnight at Hotel W Santiago. (BL)*

DAY 12 | FRI | FEBRUARY 16 | DEPART

For the final day in Chile, journey outside of Santiago to the heart of the Aconcagua Valley. Here, visit Quintessence, one of the largest Alpaca breeding farms in the world, and witness every step in the operation of wool production. From the alpacas grazing to the fabrication of the wool, everything is done with sustainability in mind. Afterward, continue to El Escorial winery, a long-established boutique family winery, for a farewell lunch. Travel back to the hotel in Santiago, with time to rest and freshen up before heading to the airport for the flight back home. *Overnight at Hotel W Santiago. (BL)*

DAY 13 | SAT | FEBRUARY 17 | IN FLIGHT

Arrive home.





ACTIVITY LEVEL: MODERATE-STRENUOUS

This program includes visits to the Atacama Desert, with some activities in spots that reach 13,000 feet above sea level or more, so they can be challenging for some travelers. In both Atacama and Rapa Nui, participants will be able to tailor their program to accommodate their physical comfort level, as they can choose from a host of activities each day or simply enjoy the amenities of the lodge.

Participants should be able to ascend or descend 80 stairs consecutively, plus walk for at least 3- 4 hours over some steep slopes, uneven, and potentially slippery surfaces without difficulty. Physical activities typically last for 3-4 or more hours at a time.



PHOTOS BY EXPLORA

LAND PRICING

\$13,915

Price includes accommodations, meals, activities, and entrance fees as described in the itinerary, non-alcoholic beverages with included meals, internal flights (Santiago-Calama-Santiago, Santiago-Rapa Nui-Santiago), in-country private vehicle transportation, full-time local guides for duration of the program, carbon offset, and all gratuities.

Does not include international airfare, travel insurance, alcoholic beverages, or items of a personal nature.

Holbrook can assist with your flight arrangements upon request.

THE FINE PRINT

Cost is based on a minimum of 8 participants in double occupancy.

A \$1,000 per person deposit and enrollment form is due to hold your space on this trip. This deposit is refundable 125 days prior to departure excluding a \$300 cancellation fee. Cancellations after this date are non refundable.

Please note: Your participation as a traveler indicates acceptance of Holbrook Travel's Covid-19 protocols in place at time of travel.

Holbrook Travel strongly recommends the purchase of travel insurance for medical emergencies while traveling and to protect your investment. Please note the purchase of Cancel for Any Reason Coverage or to exclude pre-existing conditions with Trip Cancellation coverage may require policy purchase within 10-14 days of your initial deposit, depending upon the provider.

Single room supplement: **\$6,200**

Final payment due date: **October 3, 2023**

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact Dr. Jean Anne Hattler, Director of Alumni and Friends Travel Program at (412) 396-1431 or hattlerj@duq.edu

holbrook.travel/duquesne-ch24