

CHILE & EASTER ISLAND

A Fully Escorted Tour 10 – 25 Feb 2012

Optional add-ons:

Luxury 4 Nights Tierra del Fuego Cruise to Ushuaia and/or 3 Nights San Pedro de Atacama

A ribbon of land between the Pacific Ocean and the Andes, 4,329 kms (2,690 miles) long and 180 kms (112 miles) wide, Chile is a country of geographic variety and spectacular beauty. Bounded in the north by the highest and driest desert on Earth, in the east by the mighty Andes mountain chain and in the south by the snow and glacier fields of Patagonia, the End of the World, together with charming coastal towns, the fertile vineyards of the central valley and the lake district, Chile has it all. Add to this, the mystical Easter Island, over 3,500 km (2,200 miles) from anywhere, with its mysterious moai sculptures and archaeological sights and you have one of the world's most fascinating destinations. Along the way, enjoy Chile's renowned cuisine, including its award-winning wines.

This tour has been planned by James & Louise Pannell, with their usual meticulous attention to detail and designed to include the highlights of the country, which will be introduced by local guides. Most meals are included, as are tips and gratuities for porters at hotels & airports, as well as for drivers & guides.

As the high altitude of the Atacama desert will not suit a number of our regular clients, this area is offered as an optional 3 or 4 night addition to the tour, as is the 4 night luxury cruise aboard the new MV STELLA AUSTRALIS from Punta Arenas to Ushuaia in Argentina.

Please note we have limited accommodation available for this tour (only 11 rooms) and bookings will be taken on a "first come first served" basis.



Day 1 Fri 10 Feb SANTIAGO

Dinner

Arrival in Santiago. You will be met on arrival and transferred to the HOTEL RUGENDAS

HOTEL RUGENDAS



Situated in a quiet tree lined street in the exclusive and sophisticated Las Condes area of Santiago de Chile, close to shopping and restaurants, this is a charming modern hotel. Comfortable rooms with high quality linen and amenities offer 81 cm (32 inch) LCD television screen, independently controlled air conditioning, large cupboards, in-room safe, work desk, broadband and Wifi Internet.

Decorated with art pieces displayed throughout common areas, the hotel pays homage to Juan Mauricio Rugendas, a German artist who has depicted Chile's folklore and people.

The El Moro Restaurant offers a touch of Chile, first class cuisine, harmoniously mixed with flavours from around the world. This non-smoking restaurant offers a relaxed setting for dining, conversation and discovering local flavors.

<http://www.rugendas.cl/en/main/index/>

Welcome dinner this evening at a local restaurant nestled in gardens above Cerro San Cristobal park, with the city lights twinkling at your feet. Here you will be able to get to know your fellow travellers while sampling the local cuisine.

Day 2 Sat 11 Feb SANTIAGO

Breakfast

Today we set off on a half day panoramic city tour. Founded in 1541, Santiago has been able to mix the old and the new. Many of the colonial buildings have survived. Our visit includes a walk through the Civic Centre and Plaza de la Constitucion, where you can find the headquarters of the national government La Moneda. Enjoy a panoramic view of the city and the great mountains that surround the Chilean capital before returning to the hotel through the modern district of Providencia.



Afternoon at leisure. Free for lunch and dinner today to try some of the local restaurants.
Overnight at the HOTEL RUGENDAS

Day 3 Sun 12 Feb SANTIAGO – EASTER ISLAND

Breakfast, Dinner

After breakfast, depart for the airport for the flight to Easter Island (Rapa Nui), the most isolated inhabited island in the world. This will be the start of our 5 day visit to this magical island with its famous statues called Moai, created by the early Tapanui people.

On arrival at Mataveri Airport, we will be met by our local guide and transferred to the HOTEL ALTIPLANICO, where we spend the next four nights.

HOTEL ALTIPLANICO, EASTER ISLAND



Set on a property of 1.5 ha the hotel has a panoramic view of the shoreline in one of the world's most unique destinations, Altiplanico Easter Island is designed in the style of the traditional Easter Island boathouse, with luxurious gardens, a beautiful swimming pool looking out to the sea and large open spaces to relax after encountering the seductive mysteries of the island. The deep blue of the Pacific Ocean will permeate your stay as well as the warmth of the Easter Island culture, with its music, art, history and architecture. Just a 10 minute walk from Hanga Roa town.

Rooms are independent units, linked by corridors of stone, sand and grass. Each has a private terrace and a view of the sea. Bathroom showers open to outside to give a feeling of being close to nature and to enjoy the unique energy of the island. Facilities include free internet, laundry service, safes, 24/7 front desk.

The restaurant offers gourmet cuisine – a mixture of Peruvian, Chilean and Rapanui flavours, including an excellent variety of local fish and typical fruits and vegetables.

<http://www.altiplanico.cl/En/Easter/easter.html>

Afternoon visit to the extinct Rano Kau volcano, The crater is over a kilometre (almost a mile) in diameter and is 324 metres (1,062 feet) high. Continue to the ceremonial village of Orongo where the historical birdman competition took place and where we find the largest concentration of Petroglyphs, with images of Tangata Manu (the birdman), gods Make Make and Komari (fertility symbols) and Vinapu with its precision stonemasonry.

Dinner at the hotel tonight



Rano Kau Volcano



Ahu Vinapu stonemasonry



Birdman Petroglyph

Day 4 Mon 13 Feb EASTER ISLAND

Breakfast, Lunch

Full day excursion visiting the archaeological centre of Akahanga, At the Rano Raraku quarry where all the existing moais were sculpted, see over 300 Moais in different stages of completion. The more than 300 incomplete statues in the quarry are remarkable both for their number, for the inaccessibility of some that were high on the outside crater wall and for the size of the largest; at 21.6 mt (71 ft) in height, almost twice that of any moai ever completed and weighing an estimated 270 tonnes, many times the weight of any transported. Some of the incomplete moai seem to have been abandoned after the carvers encountered inclusions of very hard rock in the material.

Visit Ahu Tongariki, with its 15 restored Moais, the most recent and largest restoration on the island. Drive to the east coast to Ahu Te Pito Kura, the "Navel of the World".

At Ahu Ngau Ngau, with its crystal-clear emerald-green waters, we enjoy a picnic lunch on Anakena Beach. This is also the place where Thor Heyerdahl restored the first of the Moai.

Free for dinner this evening to dine either at the hotel or at one of the restaurants in the nearby town.



Ahu Tongariki



Anakena Beach



Rano Raraku Quarry

Day 5 Tue 14 Feb EASTER ISLAND

Breakfast, Dinner

Half day excursion to Akivi, site of the seven Moais overlooking the sea. Legend tells that these statues represent the 7 explorers who were sent to Rapa Nui by King Hotu Matua. Visit the Caves of Ana Te Pahu, used by the Rapa Nui natives as living quarters and the Puna Pau quarries, the sole source of the red scoria stone that was put on the heads of the moai statues.

Afternoon at leisure.

Dinner at the hotel tonight.

Day 6 Wed 15 Feb EASTER ISLAND

Breakfast, Dinner

A full day at leisure to relax or to explore the nearby town of Hanga Roa, the only town on the island, with a population of just over 3,000 inhabitants. The port of Hanga Roa is an interesting place where photographers come to immortalize fishermen's boats and the coloured houses along the coast.

Excursions for scuba diving or horseriding can be arranged (not included in tour price).

This evening's treat will be a dinner/show to see the folkloric traditional ballet, Kari Kari, the pride of Easter Island. This spectacular dance is guaranteed to bring out the Polynesian in you, as the dancers twirl and stomp in their grass skirts to the sound of traditional instruments.

Day 7 Thu 16 Feb EASTER ISLAND - SANTIAGO

Breakfast

There will be time for a leisurely breakfast before transferring to Mataverí Airport to board the flight back to Santiago.

On arrival at Santiago Airport, transfer to the HOTEL RUGENDAS for overnight.

Day 8 Fri 17 Feb SANTIAGO – VALPARAISO

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Set off after breakfast to visit the Casablanca Valley, home to the famous vineyards of Chile. Here we visit the Veramonte Winery, a celebration of generations of winemaking traditions, to take a walk through the vineyards. After a visit to the cellars, we enjoy a tasting of two reserva wines and the estate's award winning Primus wine, accompanied by a cheese.

Continue to Valparaíso, Chile's most important port, constructed on hills above the bay, surrounded by distant snow-capped peaks and recently declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

This picturesque town of winding alleys and colourful buildings clinging to the steep hillsides will be our lunch stop.

Check in at the HOTEL CASA HIGUERAS for the next two nights.

Dinner at the hotel tonight.

HOTEL CASA HIGUERAS



Situated in the heart of Cerro Alegre, with impressive views of the bay of Valparaiso, the Hotel Casa Higuera is the first boutique hotel to open in this port town. The hotel is located in a city zone declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site, just steps away from the Yugoslavo Walkway and the century old El Peral funicular.

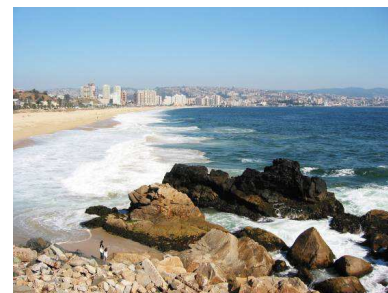
Most of the 20 spacious guestrooms have terraces with views of Valparaiso Bay, the Cordellera and Concepcion Hills. All rooms have telephone with direct dial and voicemail, cable TV with LCD screen, DVD player, safe, hairdryer, minibar and room service. Wi-Fi throughout the hotel. The pool and spa are situated in the garden with its tiered terraces and trees.

The Montealegre Restaurant with its open-air terrace creates the perfect atmosphere to enjoy outstanding cuisine and views of the port. Buffet breakfast served in the restaurant or on the terrace. Lunch and dinner a la carte.

<http://www.hotelcasahiguera.cl/en/los-cerros-portenos/>

Day 9 Sat 18 Feb VALPARAISO

Breakfast, Lunch



Full day excursion to Viña del Mar, the most visited town in Chile. Like many other Chilean coastal towns and cities, Viña del Mar consists of two areas: one of winding streets and houses clinging precariously to the hills, while the other, lying between the hills and the sea, is built in typical formal colonial era style.

Some of the sights will include the scenic Costanera ocean drive, Cerro Castillo (Castle Hill) the home of the Presidential summer residence since 1931, the busy and attractive Avenida Peru and a walk in the beautiful National Botanical Gardens

Lunch today will be at a beach side restaurant.

We return to Valparaiso for overnight. Free for dinner this evening.

Day 10 Sun 19 Feb

VALPARAISO – PUERTO MONTT - PUERTO VARAS

Breakfast, Dinner

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for the flight to the Patagonian port city of Puerto Montt, founded by German immigrants in 1853. We visit the Main Square with its Cathedral, the monument to the German settlers and the church of the Jesuit with its famous bell tower, a national monument. A short drive out of the city takes us through beautiful scenery to picturesque yacht marinas. We return via the colourful fish and craft market of Angemo.



Continue through the wild beauty of Chile's lake district, to Puerto Varas, the "City of Roses", on Llanquihue Lake, South America's third largest lake. We explore the interesting sights of this city where the influence of the German settlers can be seen in both architecture and beautiful gardens, before checking in at the CABAÑA DEL LAGO HOTEL. Spend three nights here.

CABAÑA DEL LAGO HOTEL



Located on the shores of Lake Llanquihue, the Cabaña del Lago Hotel boasts panoramic views of Puerto Varas and the volcanoes of the region. You will be warmly welcomed in this family-owned hotel, established in 1980.

The 130 fully equipped rooms are spacious and modern with heating, CTV, Wi-Fi, electronic safe box, hairdryer, IDD and optional mini-bar. There is also a swimming pool and sauna.

The hotel's restaurant, the Mirador del Lago, with its superb views, serves delicious international cuisine.
<http://www.cabanasdellago.cl/en/>

Day 11 Mon 20 Feb PUERTO VARAS

Breakfast, Lunch

Depart after breakfast for a visit to the Vicente Perez Rosales National Park. Our drive takes us along the shores of Lake Llanquihue with beautiful views of the surrounding volcanoes and through the village of Ensenada. Enjoy a short walk around the Laguna Verde, known as the Emerald Lake because of its green colour, surrounded by an ancient forest. A stop will be made to walk along the Petrohue River and view the falls cascading over the hard volcanic rocks with superb views of the volcanoes and great photo opportunities.

Lunch at the Hotel Petrohue.

In the afternoon, return to Puerto Varas with a stop at a local handicraft market.

Free for dinner this evening. At night, Puerto Varas becomes unforgettable. Walking down the waterfront in the moonlight under the stars is a unique experience. Dozens of excellent restaurants and pubs serve international and regional cuisine. The local casino, one of the most beautiful in Chile, invites visitors to try their luck and enjoy the shows performed there every night.



Day 12 Tue 21 Feb PUERTO VARAS

Breakfast, Dinner

A full day at leisure to enjoy one of Chile's most charming villages.

Dinner at the hotel this evening.

Day 13 Wed 22 Feb PUERTO VARAS/PUERTO MUNT – PUNTA ARENAS –TORRES DEL PAINE

Breakfast, Dinner

Today is the start of a new adventure. Return to Puerto Montt where we take a flight to Punta Arenas. Patagonia is said to be one of the most beautiful areas on earth and we will have four days to experience this wonderland from the comfort of PATAGONIA CAMP.

Torres del Paine National Park with its spectacular fjords and glaciers, a World Biosphere Reserve, is just 15 minutes away. Take a kayak out on the water, stroll to the nearby waterfall, or just wander along wooden walkways through lenga forest to the Salon lounge and dining room.

The 3 night programme is designed so that guests can enjoy all of the amenities and services together with the natural wonders of Patagonia. Activities are suitable for persons of any age who are in reasonable physical shape. Each evening the local guides will offer guests two different options, considering weather conditions, of excursions for the following day. Half or full day excursions can be selected. These excursions will give guests the opportunity of experiencing one of the most pristine landscapes in the world.

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PATAGONIA CAMP



Patagonia Camp was the first luxury camp in South America, an original and distinctive concept where every detail has been carefully thought of so that guests may totally immerse themselves in the extraordinary natural landscapes of Patagonia without foregoing luxury and comfort.

Each of the 18 beautifully designed rooms (yurts) is privately nestled amongst beach trees and has a private terrace. Inside, the floors are wooden and beds are either king size or two singles. All yurts have a view of Lake

Toro and the Paine Massif. One building serves as a restaurant, bar and lounge. The camp also has a massage room only steps away from the main building. Wi-Fi available in main building.

Patagonia Camp has been designed to have minimum impact on the environment and to be visually and structurally harmonious with the landscape of the area. The entire complex is built on wooden stilts and platforms, including the yurts, communal areas, and walkways that connect the complex, so that we protect the plants, bushes and trees that have grown in the area for hundreds of years, and the dozens of species of birds who watch with curiosity the arrival of our guests

All meals and activities are included at Patagonia Camp. http://www.patagoniacamp.com/index_eng.html

Guests will be delighted with the cuisine at Patagonia Camp. Chilean chef Francisco Venegas creates imaginative gourmet delights from local ingredients, such as king crab empanadas and southern hake with fresh, locally produced fruits and vegetables. You will not want to miss dining in the “quincho”, where you can partake of the famous Patagonia barbecue of slow-roasted Magallanic lamb. He's even found a way to make calafate (it's a local berry) pisco sours to match the lagoon. A selection of fine Chilean wines is available.



Days 14 & 15 Thu 23 to Fri 24 Feb TORRES DEL PAINE

All Meals

Patagonia Camp programme.

Day 16 Sat 25 Feb TORRES DEL PAINE – PUNTA ARENAS

Breakfast

Transfer to Punta Arenas Airport for your departure flight.

This is the end of our tour.

OR

Transfer to the MV STELLA AUSTRALIS for optional 4 Night cruise to Ushuaia.

TOUR PRICE. USD 6,450.00 per person sharing USD 3,270.00 Single Supplement

Price based on 20 passengers. A supplement will be payable for lower numbers.

Plus cost of flights included in itinerary

Santiago/Easter Island/Santiago USD 775.00 per person

Santiago/Puerto Montt USD 516.00 per person

TOTAL COST OF FLIGHTS USD 1,291.00 per person

Cost of flights subject to change without notice

Included in Price

Individual airport/hotel arrival transfers on Day 1

15 Nights accommodation in selected hotels/lodges

Breakfast daily

10 Dinners and 6 Lunches

Private touring services with English speaking guide

All tours and sightseeing as per itinerary

All entrances

Services of tour leaders James & Louise Pannell throughout the tour

Tips and Gratuities for guides, drivers, porters at hotels and airports

Not Included

International flights

International departure tax of USD18 (this is usually included in your air ticket. Check with travel agent)

Meals not mentioned in itinerary

Insurance

Visa costs (at this stage no visa required for entering Chile, but check with your travel agent)

All items of a personal nature such as telephone calls, laundry, drinks

Reciprocity Tax

As the name implies, Chile charges citizens of countries that charge Chileans for visa processing.

This is a once-off payment for the life of the passport and is payable after passing through Immigration either by cash or by credit card.

The amount of the Reciprocity Fee depends on the nationality of the passport:

Australia	USD 61
Canada	USD 132
United States	USD 140

Citizens of other countries (other than Mexico and Albania) do not pay the reciprocity fee.

Bear in mind that these prices fluctuate with changes in rates of exchange, so you may end up paying a little more or a little less.