



Silent Sentinels of Easter Island

4-night adventure to South America's spectacular archaeological site – Post-cruise itinerary for Voyage 9229



Ahu Tongariki, Eastern Island



Moai at the quarry, Rapa Nui

When Dutch explorer Jacob Roggeveen came across an island in the southeastern Pacific on Easter Sunday, 1722, he named it, appropriately, Easter Island. Today, this 64-square-mile spot of land is less known for its story of discovery than for its mysterious moai, the numerous statues carved from volcanic stone that populate the island. Some stand proudly while others lie crumbled and broken on the ground where they fell, or more accurately, were pushed from their enormous stone platforms. This is an adventure revealing ancient tribal rivalries, tidal disasters and a starkly beautiful volcanic landscape. It is a four-night experience you will not soon forget.

Friday, January 8, 2010: Valparaiso/Santiago

Welcome to Chile! En route from the pier to Santiago, enjoy a survey of Valparaiso. Discover Sotomayor Square, which boasts a grand neoclassical palace and one of Chile's most important civic landmarks, the Monument of the Martyrs of the Battle of Iquique. You will also admire impressive views from the pedestrian walkway of Paseo 21 de Mayo.

Continuing your scenic travel to Santiago, pause for lunch at a restaurant in the Casablanca valley.

Later, arrive at your hotel, where you will enjoy the rest of the day and evening at leisure.

Hotel Accommodations: **Ritz Carlton**

Meals: **Lunch**

Saturday, January 9, 2010: Santiago/Easter Island

Following breakfast, transfer to the airport for your flight to Easter Island, where you will check into your hotel before embarking on a half-day discovery of this relatively small yet hugely fascinating island. Venture to Rano Kao, one of Easter Island's three extinct volcanoes. Approximately forty percent of the island, including the area around the volcano, is a national park, which was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1995.

On the rim of Rano Kao sits Orongo, the village famous for the ceremonies of the birdman cult. Beginning in the late 17th century, the island's leader was selected annually through a grueling test of skill and endurance. After hiking down the slopes of the volcano, swimming through shark-infested waters, reaching one of three small islands off Easter Island's shores and retrieving the egg of a bird called the sooty tern, a man was appointed leader and would enjoy special privileges for the ensuing year. Exploring the village, view some of the flagstone houses and perhaps encounter one of the many rocks carved with images of the birdman.

You will also visit the intriguing temple of Vinapu. In ruins today, the ahu, or stone platforms, of Vinapu reveal careful craftsmanship, with tightly fitted stones creating impressive walls. The moai statues that once stood upon the platforms lie scattered on the ground, most face down, after having been toppled by rival clans.

Concluding your sightseeing today is an investigation of Ana Kai Tangata. There are many ana, or caves, here on Easter Island, with Ana Kai Tangata being one of the most idyllically situated. Located at the end of a pretty little bay, the cave is reached via a rocky trail. Rivaling the views outside are the pictographs inside: On the cave's ceilings are the remains of an elaborate array of paintings related to the aforementioned birdman cult.

Emerging from the cave, transfer to your hotel for dinner and your comfortable night's stay.

Hotel Accommodations: **Hotel Iorana**

Meals: **Breakfast, Lunch on flight & Dinner**

Sunday, January 10, 2010: Easter Island

A hearty breakfast fuels your full-day exploration of the island. One of the many sights you will encounter is Ahu Vaihu, a moai platform located in the beautiful bay of Hanga Te'e. Unlike some of the ahu on the island, this ahu has not been restored. Thus, like the Vinapu site you saw yesterday, Ahu Vaihu tells the story of tribal rivalry that destroyed both the moai and a once-thriving culture.

Ponder the remains of the site and its moai lying prone on the ground before continuing to Akahanga, where the chiefs of the highest rank once resided. Here, like elsewhere on the island, you will see the remains of stone walls and platforms and many fallen moai. Also on this site are the remains of large fire pits, or umu pae.

At Rano Raraku, another of Easter Island's volcanoes, you will admire the serene beauty of the volcanic crater, which contains a freshwater lake. Making the site all the more interesting is its history as a quarry where the moai were carved. Almost 400 statues in different stages of completion line the crater, with some carved in the round and others remaining in partial relief in the crater wall, as if work on the statue was interrupted mid-chisel. Still other moai are almost completely buried by layers of earth, a result of centuries of erosion. With its stunning array of moai, Rano Raraku is a standing – and sometimes prone – testament to the techniques of moai carving.

Next, proceed to Ahu Tongariki, the largest stone platform on the island. It boasts fifteen moai, recently re-erected during a five-year restoration effort. In 1960, an immense tidal wave swept the giant moai from their ahu, dispersing them across the land. Now they are gathered here to greet curious visitors like you.

Pass La Perouse Bay en route to Te Pito Kura, the largest moai ever erected on an ahu. Like so many of the island's moai, this magnificent carving lies face down in the dirt next to its platform. Yet it is still easy to be impressed by its size. The moai once stood 32 feet tall and weighed 85 tons. Nearby is a circle of rocks thought to have healing powers.

Lunch today will be served at Anakena Beach, one of only two natural beaches on the island. Palm-fringed and caressed by breezes, the beach provides the perfect setting for your boxed meal.

Returning to your hotel, take in more sights of the island. This evening, enjoy dinner and your overnight stay.

Hotel Accommodations: **Hotel Iorana**

Meals: **Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**

Monday, January 11, 2010: Easter Island/Santiago

After breakfast and a morning at leisure, travel to the airport for your flight to Santiago. On arrival, transfer to your hotel, the Ritz Carlton, and indulge in the luxuries for which the hotel is renowned.

Hotel Accommodations: **Ritz Carlton**

Meals: **Breakfast, Lunch**

Tuesday, January 12, 2010: Santiago

Your Easter Island experience may be behind you, but there is still much to look forward to with your panoramic introduction to the vibrant city of Santiago. Highlights include the Cathedral, the Main Square, the newer residential area and of course, a stop at the summit of San Cristobal Hill. Named for Saint Christopher, a martyr killed in the third century, the hill rises to an elevation of 2,885 feet, making it the second highest point in the city. The hill is crowned by a 72-foot statue of the Immaculate Conception and affords sweeping views.

Return to your hotel for a chance to relax before transferring to the international airport for your onward flight.

Meals: **Breakfast**

\$4399.00 per person double occupancy ♦

\$5299.00 per person single occupancy ♦

Important Air Information for Cruise-Only Guests:

This post-cruise program ends in **Santiago Chile**. Cruise-only guests should schedule flights departing Santiago 's **Arturo Benitez Airport (SCL)** on **January 12, 2010**. Guests should schedule flights departing by **6:00 pm**.

Please fax your flight information to Crystal Cruises Land Programs Department fax 310 286 2412 at least 30 days prior to departure.

Important Visa/Vaccination Information

Guests holding United States passports do not require to obtain a visa to visit Chile. Please note, your passport must be valid for at least six (6) months from date of entry. Citizens of other countries, for whom requirements may vary, should contact their nearest embassy or visa service.

There is nevertheless a reciprocity fee that at present corresponds to 131.00 USD per person that must be paid upon arrival or entrance to Chile (subject to change without previous notice). Payment can be made in USD or credit card. Citizens of other nationalities should contact the Chilean Consulates or visa service.

Luggage Restrictions

Luggage for domestic flights is limited to **one piece** per person, not to exceed 20kg (44 pounds). Additional luggage will be secured at your hotel.

Note: This excursion involves strenuous walking over uneven and unpaved surfaces, and is not recommended for guests with physical and/or walking difficulties. Guests must be in good physical condition in order to participate. This excursion is not wheelchair accessible. The program of sights visited will be flexible due to many circumstances; it is not possible to schedule an exact itinerary. Hotels, dining venues and some sights may change; however, alternative properties will be of an equal or better standard. Price includes all accommodations, sightseeing, transportation, meals as indicated, portage, and tips. Inbound international airfare, optional excursions, excess baggage charges, personal and incidental expenses (room service, telephone, fax, etc.) and visa and inoculation charges, laundry, telephone calls and beverages are not included. Based on the number of participants on the program, smaller vehicles (sedans, minivans, etc.) may be used in place of motor coaches. Although we have arranged for the best possible transportation in Easter Island, please be aware that vehicles may **not** be air-conditioned. Guests will be accompanied throughout the program by a local guide or guides. Crystal Cruises may also, at its discretion, send a Crystal escort to accompany the group. A minimum number of guests is required for this program to operate and Crystal Cruises reserves the right to cancel the program at any time if the minimum is not met. Air/Sea guests will have their flight arrangements adjusted by the Crystal Cruises air department. Cruise-only guests will be responsible for making their own flight changes and Crystal Cruises will not assume any responsibility for change fees or differences in fares. If the minimum is not met, guests may have the option to participate in the program on a private basis, subject to additional charges. Please refer to the 2009 Crystal Cruises Atlas for a complete listing of terms and conditions.

Want to Learn More?

Suggested Reading

Lonely Planet – Chile & Easter Island by Carolyn Hubbard, Brigitte Barta, Jeff Davis (Editor)

8 Men and a Duck: An Improbable Voyage by Reed Boat to Easter Island by Nick Thorpe

Ritual of Stone by Jeff Barbour

Easter Island: Giant Stone Statues Tell of a Rich and Tragic Past by Caroline Arnold

Rediscovering Easter Island by Kathy Pelta

The Enigmas of Easter Island: Island on the Edge by John Flenley, Paul G. Bahn

Video/DVD

Rapa Nui (1994) Kevin Reynolds - Director

Internet Resource

<http://www.lonelyplanet.com> World Guide to Chile

www.netaxs.com/trance/rapanui.html Easter Island Home Page

www.ritzcarlton.com/en/Properties/Santiago/Default.htm Ritz Carlton Hotel Santiago, Chile

www.ioranahotel.cl/ Hotel Iorana – Easter Island

Program Details



Ritz Carlton



Ritz Carlton



Hotel Iorana

Ritz Carlton Santiago

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Hotel Iorana

Iorana
Easter Island, Chile
Iorana, Easter Island
Chile

Hotel Accommodations

Every effort is made to obtain accommodations at the best available hotel properties existing at each destination. Room category upgrades are not available for purchase with this program. Accommodations in Easter Island are very basic, but to the best standard available in the island. The following room categories are provided:

Ritz Carlton Santiago:	Standard Room with king or two twin beds
Hotel Iorana, Easter Island:	Standard

Accessibility

Wheelchair-accessible rooms may be available at the hotel properties and must be requested in advance to ensure availability. To fully appreciate the magnificent sights on this program, substantial walking, mainly over uneven and steep surfaces, is unavoidable. This program is not recommended for guests with walking difficulties. Many of the program sights are not wheelchair accessible.

Flight Arrangements

The program price includes economy class seating from Santiago to Easter Island and Easter Island to Santiago; upgraded seating is not available on domestic flights within Chile. Business class seating may be available for an additional charge. (Flight numbers and times provided for reference and are subject to change)

Date	Carrier/Flight	From/To	Flight time	Departure	Arrival
09-JAN-10	LA-841	SCL/IPC	5 hr 40 min	9:30am	12:50pm
11-JAN-10	LA-834	IPC/SCL	4 hr 40 min	12:40pm	19:30pm

SCL – Arturo Benitez Airport (Santiago) **IPC** – Mataveri International Airport (Rapa Nui, Easter Island)

Packing Information

It is recommended that comfortable, light clothes are packed as it tends to be hot and humid.

Clothing	Lightweight, waterproof windbreaker Lightweight, loose-fitting trousers and t-shirts Light, informal clothing for evening Swimming suit
Footwear	Lightweight sneakers/tennis shoes Sturdy walking shoes or hiking boots Sandals or flip-flops
Other Items	Sun hat, sunglasses and sunscreen Insect repellent Binoculars, camera

Weather

Seasons in South America are exactly opposite of those in North America. Rain can fall at any time of the year.

SANTIAGO, Chile				
Climate: Mediterranean type				
Average Temperatures				
MONTH	CELSIUS		FAHRENHEIT	
	Low	High	Low	High
JANUARY	12.2	29.4	54.0	85.0

EASTER ISLAND (RAPA NUI), Chile				
Climate: Sub-Tropical				
Average Temperatures				
MONTH	CELSIUS		FAHRENHEIT	
	Low	High	Low	High
JANUARY	20.0	27.0	67.6	80.6

Money Matters

- Currency:** The currency in Chile is **Chilean Peso (CLP)**
Bills of 20,000, 10,000, 5,000, 2,000, 1,000; Coins of 1 to 500 Chilean Pesos
- Exchange:** Foreign currency exchange is available at hotels, airport and banks. US Dollars are widely accepted in Chile and can be changed in virtually any town throughout the country.
- Credit Cards:** Visa, MasterCard and Diners Club cards are widely accepted in most city retail establishments.
- ATMs:** ATM machines can be found throughout Chile, and operate similarly to those found in the United States and Europe. All ATM machines dispense Chilean Pesos. They are not available on Easter Island.

Tipping

Tips for hotels, restaurants, and airport porters are included in your program price. Tips for your local guides and drivers are not included in your program price and are at your discretion.

- Restaurants:** Generally, good service should be recognized with a 10% gratuity. In most restaurants this will be included in the bill as a part of an 19% VAT tax. Additional gratuities are not expected. For all meals included in this program, gratuities will be included.
- Guide(s)/Driver(s):** It is customary to recognize good service with a nominal gratuity. We suggest \$10 per person per day for your primary guide and \$5 per person per day for your primary driver. Assistant guides and escorts may also be recognized at your discretion.

Communication

- Telephone:** Chile has a modern telephone service that has been upgraded to present technologies. International direct-dial phones are available in each hotel room. Pay phones work with cards purchased from newsstands, gas stations, supermarkets and kiosks.
- Mobile Network:** GSM phones may work in Chile. Mobile phones can be used in the main cities around the country. Cellular phones are available for rent through private agencies in Chile.
- Internet Access:** Broadband internet access is available in the guest rooms at the Ritz Carlton Hotel in Santiago and some internet cafes can be found in the main town of Rapa Nui.

Electricity

- Current:** The electrical current Chile is 220 volts and 50 Hz.
- Adapters** Outlets usually take Continental-type plugs, with two round prongs.
- Transformers:** Required to convert 220 volts to 110 volts (United States standard.) Not required for dual-voltage appliance.