CHILE: A TRIP OF A LIFETIME THAT INCLUDES PATAGONIA AND EASTER ISLAND

Program summary
Journey to Chile: a land of contrasts. Explore one of the most diverse countries in South America. Discover Chile’s capital city, Santiago, and its many contrasts. Witness one of Chile’s UNESCO World Heritage sites: Valparaiso harbor city. By foot and by sea, embrace the natural beauty of North Patagonia landscapes. Discover the history and culture of early colonizers around the Lake District. Admire the mysterious culture of the most isolated place on earth, Easter Island, with its megalithic monuments and legends.

Program dates: November 1–17, 2015

Number of nights in Chile: 16
  Check in time at first hotel: 12:30pm
  Additional nights at the beginning or end of program upon request at extra cost.
  Most hotels have free amenities such as hair dryers, internet connection.

Activity level:
Participants must be able to handle their own luggage and be able to walk from one to three miles per day, climb a few flights and stand in a museum or spot for an hour or more. People able to walk on even and un even surfaces and who like exploring historic places or a nature trail.

Elevation Notes:
Most of the sites are close to sea level except for Santiago city which is located at an average altitude of 1800 feet.

Important information about your itinerary:
Please know that while we have done everything we can to finalize all aspects of your programs well in advance, there are logistics that occasionally must be altered. We will be updating and informing of any changes if any, and we are committed to providing you with final program details no later than eight weeks prior to the start of program.

Program Includes
• 16 nights of accommodations at centrally located hotels, except for the one in North Patagonia.
• 52 meals: 16 breakfasts, 17 lunches, 16 dinners
• Field trips and excursions(as described in the itinerary)
• Speakers
• In country coordinators & guides
• Hands-on experiences
• Performances
• Transportation for described activities in the program
• 5 Domestic Flights during the program
• 1 Sea catamaran excursion
• Tips

Program does not include:
• Alcoholic beverages
• Personal items or souvenirs
• Any luxurious things
• Laundry
Day by day Program Itinerary

Day 1 – Sunday 01
- Arrival in Chile, Santiago International Airport (SCL)
- Meet and Greet by Experiment Chile staff
- Transfer to Hotel
- Check in at 12:30 pm
- Lunch
- Time to rest
- Program Introduction and Orientation
- Introduction to Chile (lecture)
- Dinner

(Stay in Santiago City)

Day 2- Monday 02
- Breakfast at Hotel
- Departure for Pomaire pottery town with stopover at Winery from the Maipo Valley
- Sample cooking lesson of Chilean Empanadas in Pomaire, pottery making town
- Traditional Chilean lunch at a local restaurant in Pomaire
- Back to Santiago, exploration of San Cristobal Hill, Metropolitan Park
- Back to Hotel
- Dinner at hotel or restaurant

(Stay in Santiago City)

Day 3- Tuesday 03
- Breakfast at Hotel
- Departure for Santiago City Excursion, visit La Moneda Palace, Downtown Santiago.
- Visit National Museum of Natural History in Quinta Normal or alternative
- Check out from Hotel
- Lunch out
- Fly to Puerto Montt city (Lake district)
- Transfer to Puerto Varas city
- Introduction to site & Free time suggested activities.
- Dinner out

(Stay in Puerto Varas)
Day 4- Wednesday 04
- Breakfast at Hotel
- Coach transfer to Frutillar town
- Lunch in Frutillar
- Exploration of German colonizers museum in Frutillar town by lake Llanquihue
- Back to Puerto Varas
- Dinner
  (Stay in Puerto Varas)

Day 5- Thursday 05
- Breakfast at Hotel
- Hotel Check out
- Half day exploration of Lake Llanquihue, Osorno volcano and Petrohue falls
- Lunch
- Transfer to Airport
- Fly from Puerto Montt to Balmaceda airport
- Transfer from Balmaceda airport to Puerto Chacabuco with stopovers on the way crossing Puerto Aysen and Coyahique cities
- Check in at Hotel
- Welcome Drink
- Briefing of program and introduction to site
- Welcome Dinner
  (Stay in Chacabuco)

Day 6– Friday 06
- Coffee and cookies service
- Full Day Catamaran Sailing Excursion to Laguna San Rafael (Glacier located in the north Ice Field in Patagonia) Sailing across the Patagonian fiords and sea canals of southern Chile.
- All inclusive service onboard, including open bar. Zodiac excursions (subject to weather conditions to approach san Rafael glacier)
- Back to Hotel
- Dinner at Hotel
  (Stay in Chacabuco)
Day 7– Saturday 07
- Buffet Breakfast at hotel
- Full day excursion to Aiken Park, outdoor trekking (easy walk)
- Traditional Patagonian Lunch at Quincho
- Return to Hotel
- Dinner at Hotel  
  (Stay in Chacabuco)

Day 8–Sunday 08
- Buffet Breakfast at hotel
- Hotel Check out at 12:00 hrs.
- Transfer to Balmaceda airport
- Fly to Santiago
- Dinner in Santiago  
  (Stay in Santiago)

Day 9- Monday 09
- Breakfast at Hotel
- Hotel check out
- Full day excursion to Valparaíso city including boat ride around the harbor area, visit to Chile's National Congress, exploration of Valparaiso Hills and funiculars.
- Lunch at fishing village
- Free afternoon
- Dinner out at traditional restaurant in Valparaiso  
  (Stay in Valparaiso or Viña del Mar)

Day 10 – Tuesday 10
- Breakfast at Hotel
- Exploration of Valparaiso and Viña del Mar cities by the coast up to the exit of Aconcagua River
- Lunch out
- Visit to Fonck Museum in Viña del Mar for an introduction to Easter Island
- Back to Hotel
- Dinner  
  (Stay in Valparaiso or Viña del Mar)
Day 11 – Wednesday 11
- Breakfast at Hotel
- Introduction to Pablo Neruda, Chile’s 2nd Nobel prize in Literature
- Hotel Check out
- Return to Santiago crossing the Casablanca wine valley followed by the poet’s route by the ocean
- Stop over at Neruda’s home in Isla Negra
- Resume of trip
- Hotel Check in
- Dinner

Day 12 – Thursday 12
- Breakfast at hotel
- Transfer to airport
- Fly from Santiago to Easter Island
- Light snack upon arrival
- Time to rest
- Orientation and walking around town (Hanga Roa Village)
- Introduction to Easter island at Museum Father Sebastian Englert
- Dinner at hotel

Day 13 – Friday 13
- Breakfast at hotel
- Field trip to Ahu Tahai (Archaeological Complex, ceremonial center with 3 Ahu, Ahu Vai Uri with 5 moais, Ahu Tahai with 1 moai, and Ahu Ko Te Riku with 1 moai) and Ahu Vinapu for an introduction to the Moais and platforms theories
- Lunch at hotel
- Afternoon excursion to Ahu Akivi (platform with 7 moais characterized for being one of the few ones facing the ocean and placed in the center of the island), Puna Pau Pukao (top nots) quarry, Ana Te Pahu cave.
- Dinner at restaurant
- Cultural Folk Ensemble with Rapa Nui Music & dances

Day 14 – Saturday 14
- Breakfast at Hotel
- Full Day excursion to Ahu Vaihu, Rano Raraku Volcano (nursery of the moais)
- Picnic Lunch
- Excursion continues to Ahu Tongariki (biggest platform holding 15 moais), Te Pito Kura Ahu (the highest statue of the island placed on an Ahu is found here, the moai Paro (10 meters height and 85 tons with a Pukao of 11,5 tons). Close to this spot there is a spherical stone that is identified as the center of the world (Te Pito o te henua), as described in the legends.
- Later we will get to Anakena beach, beautiful spot with palm trees and transparent waters.
- Next to it, we found Ahu Nau Nau (temple of a complex construction due to its different levels where we will find 5 Moais with Pukao and also some petro glyphs in the back of the statues)
- Dinner at Hotel
Day 15 – Sunday 15
- Breakfast at hotel
- Free Morning (optional Church service) very interesting catholic church with locals singing in Rapa Nui language
- Lunch at Hotel
- Field Trip to Rano Kau Volcano, Orongo Ceremonial village (an ancient ceremonial village located in the west summit of the volcano Rano Kau. It is composed by approximately 53 houses of elliptical shape with flagstone walls and a small square access looking at the sea. The most important ceremony of the second period of the island was done, the Tangata Manu Cult (“the bird man”). Return to hotel with stop over at Ana Kai Tangata area.
- Back to the Hotel
- Traditional Rapa Nui dinner cooked in earth oven ‘UMU’

Day 16 – Monday 16
- Breakfast at Hotel
- Hotel check out
- Lunch on plane
- Fly back to Santiago for an overnight stay
- Transfer to Hotel
- Hotel check in
- Dinner

Day 17 – Tuesday 17
- Breakfast at hotel
- Free time to enjoy city (suggested activities)
- Hotel check out
- Lunch
- Transfer to airport to return to the US. With stopover at local craft market on the way to the airport
- Fly back home.
Chile of a lifetime