

## Easter Island, Chile *New for 2019*

Discover the enigmatic Moai heads and rugged volcanic landscapes of Easter Island on this in-depth exploration on foot.



### Group departures

See overleaf for departure dates

### Holiday overview

Style	Walking
Accommodation	Hotels
Grade	Moderate
Duration	13 days from London to Santiago
Trekking / Walking days	Walks on: 6 days
Min/Max group size	4 / 12. Guaranteed to run for 4
Trip Leader	Local Leader Easter Island
Land only	Joining in Santiago, Chile

Private Departures & Tailor Made itineraries available



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## Departures

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### 2019 Dates:

Mon 15 Apr - Sat 27 Apr

Mon 14 Oct - Sat 26 Oct

### 2020 Dates:

Mon 13 Apr - Sat 25 Apr

### Will the trip run?

This trip is guaranteed to run for 4 people and for a maximum of 12. In the rare event that we cancel a holiday, we will refund you in full and give you at least 6 weeks warning. Many trips do fill up quickly - we advise you to book early if you want to secure a place(s) on the dates of your choice.

### Group prices and optional supplements

Please contact us on +44 (0)1453 844400 or visit our website for our land only and flight inclusive prices and single supplement options.

### No Surcharge Guarantee

The flight inclusive or land only price will be confirmed to you at the time you make your booking. There will be no surcharges after your booking has been confirmed.

### Insurance

We offer a travel insurance scheme - please contact us for details.

### Private Departures

We can also offer this trip as a private holiday. A Private Departure follows exactly the same itinerary as the group departure but at dates to suit you (subject to availability) - please contact us with your preferred dates.

### Tailor Made service

We pride ourselves on the level of quality and choice we provide for our clients who want a fully tailor made holiday. A holiday will be created especially for you by one of our well-travelled experts, who will have first-hand experience of the destination/s you want to visit. They will be able to advise on the accommodation best suited to your needs, the sights you should visit (and those to avoid!) and the best walks and activities matched to your ability. In short, we will work together with you to create your perfect holiday.

If you would like to explore the idea of a Tailor Made holiday with Mountain Kingdoms then please call us on +44 (0)1453 844400 or see the Tailor Made pages of our website for further inspiration.

## Your guide

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We use a number of knowledgeable English speaking local guides on Easter Island. Two of the guides who we use are:

Hugo Rosas - Hugo is originally from Chile and married the manager of the museum on Easter Island. He has climbed Aconcagua, the highest peak in the Andes, and has spent many years studying the history of Easter Island. He works now as a full time guide.

Christian - Christian is a Rapa Nui guide who appeared as an expert historian in the BBC 4 programme "Easter Island: Mysteries of a Lost World" presented by Jago Cooper, broadcast in January 2014. He is extremely knowledgeable on all aspects of the history and culture of Easter Island.

In Chile, we use expert, English-speaking local guides who have an intimate knowledge of the area and an infectious passion for nature. They are very hard-working, attentive and helpful.

## Your trip highlights

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- View the giant moai statues of Easter Island
- Walk to the top of the three main extinct volcanoes that comprise Easter Island
- Visit the quarries where the statues were made
- Stay in one of the best hotels on the island
- Enjoy some free time with optional activities including cycling, scuba diving or horseriding
- Take a tour of Chile's laid back capital of Santiago

## At a glance itinerary

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Days 1-2	Fly to Santiago. Afternoon city tour.
Day 3	Fly to Easter Island. Walking tour of Hanga Roa town including Ahu Tahai.
Day 4	Visit several key Moai sites and Anakena beach.
Day 5	Drive to Ana Kai Tangata Cave and walk to Rano Kau crater. Continue to Orongo village. Afternoon at leisure.
Day 6	Drive to Vaitea and trek up Terevaka volcano. Finish in Ahu Akivi.
Day 7	Visit Tongariki. Trek to Poike volcano.
Day 8	Walk from Ahu Tepeu to Costa Nort and on to Anakena Beach.
Days 9-10	Walk to visit caves. Free day at leisure or optional activities.
Day 11	Fly to Santiago. Afternoon at leisure.
Days 12-13	Overnight flight to London.

## Trip summary

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Easter Island must surely be one of the greatest mysteries of human civilization. How did the first people arrive there and where from? Why were the giant statues built? How were the 800 statues transported around the island? Did the original inhabitants come from South America, or did they come from Polynesia? Why are there traces of Inca stone work and plants from South America, but at the same time why are there Polynesian legends and why does the DNA of the local Rapa Nui people suggest a Polynesian ancestry?

There are so many theories and so much conflicting evidence that even today the debate still rages. The person most famous for bringing Easter Island to the world's attention was Thor Heyerdahl, the Norwegian explorer and archaeologist who postulated that the Inca sun worshipers of Peru saw their god sinking into the ocean every day and set off on their balsa wood rafts sailing out towards the setting sun. He theorised that the Incas accidentally made landfall on Easter Island. Today his theories are generally largely discounted, but who knows!!! Quite probably Easter Island was the last place on planet earth to be colonised by mankind - now there's a good theory if ever there was one!!

Certainly Heyerdahl's film Kon Tiki which documented him and his friends adventure in sailing across the Pacific on their balsa wood raft was awe inspiring. In the days before GPS satellite navigation and satellite phone communication it was an amazingly brave thing to have done. Incredibly they hit land as their trusty balsa wood raft sank beneath them.

# Your trip itinerary

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## Day 1: Fly London to Santiago

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Fly overnight from London to Santiago in Chile.

**Overnight: In flight**

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## Day 2: Arrive Santiago. Group transfer to hotel. Afternoon city tour.

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Today you arrive in Santiago, 520m/1,706ft, where you will be met and transferred to your hotel for a rest and freshen up. You will then have a briefing from your guide. In the afternoon there will be a city tour which begins with you being picked-up from the hotel and taken downtown to Mercado Central. This well-renowned market, popular with locals and tourists alike, supplies many Santiago homes and businesses with fresh fish all year round. Next to the market is Plaza de Armas, Santiago's main square and kilometre zero, the point from which all distances in the country are measured. Famous architecture in the square includes the Metropolitan cathedral and the central post office, originally built as a house for Spanish conqueror Pedro de Valdivia. Close by stands the Justice Tribunal, in a neo-classical building housing the Supreme Court and ex-Congress.

From here you walk towards the Alameda, the main street of the city centre, via the busy pedestrian walkway Paseo Ahumada. This walkway is famous for its crowds, shops, and diversity of people. Once you reach the Alameda you walk a couple of blocks west to the Presidential palace, La Moneda. The palace, a model of 18th century colonial architecture, is one of Santiago's most recognisable landmarks and a symbol of Chile's political past and its famously turbulent history.

Next you climb Cerro Santa Lucía, where Santiago was founded in 1541 by Pedro Valdivia. From the top of the hill there is a great 360° panoramic view of Santiago. Your tour finishes by visiting the bohemian Lastarria neighbourhood, lined with cafés, restaurants, small theatres, bookstores and boutique shops. Afterwards you will be driven to your hotel.

**Overnight: Hotel Torre Mayor, Santiago**

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## Day 3: Fly to Easter Island. Museum visit and guided walking tour of Hanga Roa town including Ahu Tahai.

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A short transfer to Santiago airport for the 5 hour 10 minute flight to Easter Island. Taking off there are good views of the Andes and their foothills stretching out to the coast. Excitement builds as you approach the island which you overfly and then turn back to drop slowly on one of the longest runways in the world. It was built and the length increased by the Americans to act as an emergency landing site for the space shuttle. Already you will notice a relaxed laid back atmosphere as you walk through the large low airport building. Drive the short distance to hotel O'Tai for your first briefing and welcome lunch.

In the afternoon you will drive to the museum for a guided tour followed by a walking tour of the town including the cemetery, church, the ceremonial complex of Ahu Tahai and other places of interest. The town of Hanga Roa really feels like a south sea island. It is very green with lots of tropical plants, flowers, palm trees and wide roads with low buildings. There are shops, cafes, restaurants, the harbour where you will find the dive centres, and the catholic church which sits at the top of the town. Anchored off the harbour are usually a few yachts whose owners must have sailed across the Pacific to get there! The town contains many fine wooden carvings and it is interesting to note that the bird man symbol is incorporated into many of the figures (you will hear more about the bird man culture on your 3rd day on Easter Island).

**Overnight: Hotel O'Tai, Easter Island (Meals: B L)**

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## Day 4: A full day tour to include Tahai Ahu, Vaihu, Rano Raraku quarry, Pito Kura and Anakena beach.

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After your first of many great breakfasts at the hotel your minibus will pick you up and drive the short distance to Aku Tahai where you will see your first proper Moai and begin to hear something of their history and some of the theories. Firstly, it is thought that they were erected in a form of ancestor worship and having been brought from the quarries all the way over to their final resting place they were then erected on the stone platforms called ahus. The main construction probably started around 1,100 or 1,200 AD and building probably continued into the 1600's when it is thought that warfare broke out between the various tribes. Probably the various tribes knocked each others statues over. It is thought that the statues were built on their ahus facing inland and facing the villages that they were supposed to protect. The Rapa Nui people felt that the power of their ancestors resided in these statues and therefore protected their individual villages.

In any event at Aku Tahai the fallen statues have been re-erected, by the American archaeologist William Mulloy between 1968 and 1970, and you will see that one has been given eyes. Apparently many of the statues did indeed have eyes and this was not known for a long time. 18 sets of eyes were found and others have been identified in museums around the world. The eyes were designed just to sit in the eye sockets. They were made of coral and the centre made of the same red stone as the statues hats. You now drive on to Vaihu which is about 10km from Hangaroa and is a classic example of an ahu where all the statues have been knocked over and have been left as they were. Here you can see some of the hats that have rolled off the fallen statues and lie scattered around. Here you can see that the hats are made from a completely different stone, reddish in colour, and much lighter than the statues themselves. It was therefore easier for them to put the hats on top of the erected statues, although quite how they did this is still debated.

Next you are going to move on to one of the highlights of the Island, the main quarry where the statues were carved. This is called Rano Raraku. When conflict finally broke out on the island the carving of the statues was abandoned and the quarry at Rano Raraku is an extraordinary place. Here there are dozens of finished statues already on their way towards their resting places but left abandoned. There are also dozens and dozens of statues in various stages of carving in the rock face itself. The quarry is located in the south east end of the island and it is from here that there are a whole series of “roads” that criss cross the island, and which must have been used to transport the statues to their ahus. There are something like 400 moai in various stages of development. It is all a very strange sight, particularly because most of the statues that had started their journeys have sunk deep into the ground so that only the heads are left visible. You might wonder how the statues were carved when there was no metal on the island and the answer to this apparently is that chisels and hammers were made from a much harder obsidian rock found elsewhere on the island. The much softer volcanic tuff rock that the statues are made of were therefore carved with the flints made from shards of obsidian. Some of the largest statues on the island are here at Rano Raraku there is in fact the largest moai on the island at the highest part of the walking route around the quarry. It is 21m long and the head alone is 7m. It is estimated to weigh more than 200 tons.

There will be plenty of time to hear lots of the amazing stories from the guide and wander around the site and look at the ranger station at the foot of the quarry. From Rano Raraku you now move on to Pito Kura. This site has the largest Moai ever transported from Rana Raraku and erected on a platform. The Moai is almost 10m tall and now lies face down with its top knot next to it. On this site there is another mystery. There is a very large round stone almost like an egg which is magnetised. Place a compass near it and the needle goes crazy. The legend is that the first king of the island Hotu Matua brought it with him from Polynesia. Apparently there are other magnetised stones in other parts of the island.



Lastly, you proceed to Anakena beach which is some 18km from Hanga Roa. This is Easter Island’s main beach and is an absolutely idyllic place fringed with palm trees and a very nice place to hang out at the end of a fascinating day. Snack lunch.

**Overnight: Hotel O’Tai, Easter Island (Meals: B L)**

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**Day 5: Trek to Rano Kau crater, 384m/1,260ft, and continue to Orongo village. Afternoon free.**

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It is a short drive to Ana Kaitangata. This literally means “man eating cave” and certainly there are legends about cannibalism on the island. Unfortunately the cave is closed due to a collapse but your guide will tell you some local stories before you set off on your walk. You will now start the walk up to the crater of Rano Kau and following that the village of Orongo. The path you are following is called Arao Te Ao (the path of power). This starts at the top of the cliff above the cave and leads you through eucalyptus trees and past the National Park office (CONAF). Here they are doing lots of useful work on re-forestation. After about 45minutes you come to the end of the eucalyptus trees and looking back can see the runway. You now walk up slowly through lush vegetation to the view point of Mirador Rano Kao. It takes between an hour and an hour and a half to reach the view point. Looking down into the crater it is almost circular and the circumference of the crater is some 1,650m. At the bottom of the crater is a lake/swamp where rainwater collects and vegetation grows and floats on the water. The original settlers apparently planted oranges, apples, taro, yam, sweet potato, and wild grapes on the banks of the crater. In fact the grapes may have come with the first Catholic priests. There are also medicinal plants grown at the bottom. The height at the top of the rim is some 384m/1,260ft above sea level.

Having admired the incredible view you then walk along the rim of the crater to visit Orongo village. This occupies a precarious position on the top of the crater rim with 300m cliffs plunging down into the Pacific on one side and the steep slope dropping into the crater on the other. It is thought that Orongo was never occupied as a permanent place of residence but rather was used only for ceremonies. Eventually a cult emerged here in the late 17th century called Tangata Manu (bird man) which worshiped the Make-Make God. This new religion, which superseded the old ancestor worship, was based on the bird man competition. Each year the chiefs of the island either took part themselves or sent their best warriors to take part in the bird man competition. If you now look out to sea you will see the 3 islands of Motu Kao-Kao, Motu Iti and Motu Nui. The latter is the largest island and it was here that the Easter Island seagull appeared every year to lay its eggs. The object of the competition was to descend the dangerous cliffs and swim to the island and wait there until the first eggs had been laid. An egg then had to be carried while the contestant swam back, climbed the cliff and delivered the first unbroken egg to the king, who was waiting at the village of Orongo.

There are 53 houses which were largely reconstructed in 1974 by the archaeologist William Malloy and a group of islanders. Because of its location there were no Moai here. However it was from here that in 1868 the crew of the English ship Topaze took the famous Moai called Hoa Hakananai'a which is currently on display in the British Museum in London. It is in fact 2.5m high and unlike most of the Moai was carved out of basalt. On its back are carved figures representing the bird man and its rituals. In fact in many places on the island there are bird man figures carved onto the rocks. Your guide may well show you some of these as you explore Easter Island. Look out for the birthing stone which is very interesting in the village.

After this you visit the very interesting Orongo visitor centre and have a picnic lunch on the edge of the crater. You will then return by car from the visitor centre to the hotel. Afternoon free to "do your own thing" and perhaps explore a bit more of the town of Hanga Roa.

**Overnight: Hotel O'Tai, Easter Island (Meals: B L)**

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**Day 6: Drive to Vaitea to start trek up to Terevaka, 511m/1,676ft. Finish trek at Ahu Akivi and return to town.**

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Today you will drive to Vaitea, formerly a settlement of the English who lived on the island. You will start your walk up to the summit of the extinct volcano of Terevaka from here. You first walk through some lovely forest until you come out into the wide open slopes leading to a false summit and then further on to a cairn on the true top. You are now standing on the highest point of the island at 511m/1,676ft, and from here you have a full 360° view of the island. It is very interesting to be able to see the other 2 main volcanoes situated on the other points of the island's triangle and then to see the other 75 volcanic cones that cover the island. The walk down can be made more interesting by descending a short way to a minor top and then descending to the eucalyptus tree forest. Thereafter you will see the actual crater of the volcano from where you can continue down to the Hibiscus cave and tunnel. This is an interesting diversion. And after that it is an easy walk down to Aku Akivi.

The Ahu of Akivi is unusual because it is one of the few that was built inland. Again the statues were restored by American archaeologist William Molloy and the Chilean Gonzalo Figueroa between 1960 and 1961. The statues are of a very similar style and it is thought that they may have been made and constructed around the same time. Your guide may well tell you the amazing story of the "seven heroes". It is believed by the Rapa Nui people that in the distant past there was a large continent in the Pacific and that a man there one day had a dream that there was going to be a cataclysm, and that the land was going to sink into the sea. He therefore left his body and astral travelled across the ocean until he found Easter Island. Returning to his body he went and told the king who fully believed him. The king then sent seven explorers in a boat laden with provisions to find Easter Island and prepare it for him and his people. Having found the island they planted crops, trees and made preparations and then returned and fetched the tribe. The king and his people then set out in a fleet of boats but there was a huge storm and only two ships survived, that of the king and another captained by his sister. This king was called Ariki Hotu A Matua, and his sister was called Avareipua.

Therefore, the Rapa Nui people believe they are descended from the first king and his people. Perhaps the seven statues are in honour of the seven heroes.

Returning to town lunch will be provided in a local restaurant. The afternoon is free time.

**Overnight: Hotel O'Tai, Easter Island (Meals: B L)**

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## Day 7: Visit Tongariki. Trek to Poike.

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Fewer people visit this end of the island but the walk is very interesting. There are some fascinating sites and even more amazing legends.

First though you take the bus to visit Tongariki. This is the largest and most impressive Ahu on the island with 15 standing statues. Each Moai is very different and it is thought that they represented specific individual ancestors. The restoration work carried out between 1993 and 1996 was based on drawings made by the famous British archaeologist, Katherine Routledge who spent 17 months on the island in 1914. She and her husband commissioned the building of a special sailing boat and then sailed all the way to Easter Island from the UK. Incidentally it is well worth reading of her adventures in her book "The Mystery of Easter Island".



It is a short drive from Tongariki turning right onto a rough road to reach a single house from where you start the trek. It is quite hard work walking to the top of the volcano through long grasses and takes about an hour and a half to reach the summit at a height of 410m/1,345ft. Here there is a crater choked with trees and on the rim an aerial and a solar panel. From the summit you now descend to 2 further volcanic cones Maungu Teatea, and Maungu Parehe. Just below the summit of Poike is a Moai which is said to be one of the oldest on the island, thought perhaps to date from 800 AD. There are carvings on the rocks of the first volcanic cone, including a large head whose open mouth was used to collect rainwater. Just below the 3rd volcanic cone is the edge of some very precipitous cliffs. Thor Hyerdahl explored some of the caves in the cliffs by abseiling down. Here there is another very old head next to a substantial Ahu. These smaller volcanic cones are made from a white coloured rock which was used to make the only female Moai. There are thoughts that there may have been 10 female Moai as there were 10 queens in the early part of their history. One is in the museum, one is buried (for protection against the elements) and one is at Vinapu.

You will now cross a pass between the two smaller volcanic cones and return to the bus, walking along an old 4 x 4 track.

Poike was the territory of the Long Ear people and legend has it that this was where they were all killed in a battle with the Short Ears. Apparently they had built a ditch across the "neck" of the island, filled it with wood and set fire to it. However, the Short Ears crossed at the other end unseen by the Long Ears, climbed Poike and fell upon the warriors below who they then threw into the burning ditch, all except one man who was allowed to live.

Poike is the oldest volcano on the island at 10 million years old.

**Overnight: Hotel O'Tai, Easter Island (Meals: B L)**

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## Day 8: Trek the northern coast line.

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All the day walks that you have done to this point will have been good preparation for the long hike along the northern coastline. This can be 6 -7 hours or 7 - 8 hours depending on how many things you stop to look at! Don't forget to take plenty of drinking water as it can be a long hot day and there is no water to be had on the way.

The minibus will take you out to Ahu Tepeeu. It is located 8km from Hangaroa and was at some point a large village. There has been no restoration and very few visitors make the effort to go but it is a good place to learn something of the agricultural way of life of the original inhabitants. For instance there are several manavais - stone circles in which crops were grown to protect them from the elements. You will also see the remains of some elliptical houseboat dwellings. Original village houses were built in the shape of upturned boats, and in many of the places you visit along the coast you will see the clear stone foundations of these houses. The foundation stones are set in the ground with drilled holes. Branches were then inserted into the holes, bent over, and laced together and thatched. Your trek starts from Ahu Tepeu and after 20 minutes you come to an unnamed Ahu where there is a burial chamber and more circular agricultural enclosures. Occasionally you will see lying on the ground shards of obsidian that they used as cutting tools. Look out for hollowed stones - used for collecting water. Ten minutes beyond here there is a conical border marker called a Pipi Horeko. Often it was forbidden to cross such a border and the ancestors spirits (or Aku Aku) might kill somebody for such a transgression. Beyond here there is another Ahu which shows a burial tomb inside. After about an hour from the

start of the trek you come to some large rocks and small caves, from here you can see the main town in the distance. Your guide may show you the round stone towers that people built to watch the stars. There is a small tunnel hole at the bottom of the towers that you could crawl through and then lie on your back to watch the stars through the top of the tower.

You will see in parts of the walk areas where there are many caves and throughout the day you will come across ancient Ahu all with fallen Moai. Some of them are built right on the edge of cliffs and the foundation stones are very reminiscent indeed of Inca workmanship. In some places you will walk up what must have been the roads that brought the Moai to the villages. Today you will see lots of 'wild horses'. They are owned by locals but roam free. There are lots of hawks on the island and other interesting bird life.

After about 2 hours you come to a boat house next to an Ahu, next to a cave, next to a stream (dry). 10 minutes later you arrive at a cairn on a big pile of rocks where the path is well defined. After 3 hours from the start you come to a solitary eucalyptus tree by the path. Descend from here a steep long slope to a flattish area with some fantastic boat houses (4 or 5 of them), an Ahu with fallen statues, a chicken house in the shape of a big boat and a huge burial chamber that is perfectly built with a separate entrance.

Half an hour on from here there is a cave with petroglyphs, Hanga Omohi. By now you are turning the corner of the coastline and after another 15 minutes you come to 3 or 4 Ahu like burial tombs and another Tupa tower for looking at stars. After about 6 - 7 hours you come to a lone palm tree and soon after that there is a track to follow with views of Anakena beach in the distance. Tired but after an exciting day you reach the beautiful beach of Anakena.

**Overnight: Hotel O'Tai, Easter Island (Meals: B L)**

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#### **Day 9: Half day walk to visit caves.**

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Located below Akipi Ahu are a number of interesting caves. Many of them are absolutely huge. They can be some 1500m in length and were formed originally as lava flow tunnels. Don't forget to take your flashlight! The entrances are often difficult to find which made them ideal hiding places for the Rapa Nui people when Peruvians came to the island with their slave ships. Some have partially collapsed ceilings thus allowing the sunlight in and can be used as gardens for growing bananas, avocado, yam, sugar cane, wild grapes, tobacco, taro and sweet potatoes.

Next is the cave of Ana Terongo. This is a very interesting fisherman's cave on 2 levels, with great views of the sea. After this you will visit Ana Te Pora. This was a special cave used to bleach the skins of children. Children were often kept in these caves away from the sunlight and they spent much of their time living and playing in the caves. Next is the cave of Ana Kakenga. This has two windows looking out to sea with a 40m drop to the rocks below.

After looking at the cave sites it is a good 1 hour walk back to the road for the vehicle pick up. Return to Hanga Roa for a free afternoon.

**Overnight: Hotel O'Tai, Easter Island (Meals: B)**

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#### **Day 10: Free day. Optional activities.**

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We felt that after your intense time of tours and treks on Easter Island that you would appreciate a full day to relax, take in what you have seen, do some souvenir hunting, have your passport stamped at the Post office, send those iconic postcards to friends and family, or perhaps try out one of the other activities that are available on Easter Island. We are able to book any of the following in advance.

- One day car hire
- One day bike hire
- Half day horse riding (1 person)
- Half day horse riding (2 - 10 people)
- Half day boat hire
- Scuba diving.

Prices are available on request and will depend on the number of people wishing to pre-book these optional activities.

**Overnight: Hotel O'Tai, Easter Island (Meals: B)**

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**Day 11: Fly to Santiago. Time at leisure.**

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With great sadness and with perhaps the forlorn hope that you might return one day it is time to leave the island. With so much information and so many theories that you have absorbed you will undoubtedly want to read more on the subject in years to come. You now transfer for the five hour flight back to Santiago. Rest of the day free to do as you please.

**Overnight: Hotel Torre Mayor, Santiago (Meals: B)**

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**Day 12: Group transfer to airport. Depart for London.**

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Today you will be transferred to the airport to depart on your overnight flight to London.

**Overnight: In flight (Meals: B)**

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**Day 13: Arrive UK.**

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## Our grading system

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Easter Island is graded as a Moderate walking holiday, as described below.

**Moderate**

Holidays in this grade typically involve 5 to 10 days of walking or trekking. They will often venture into more remote country and can cross mountain passes. Altitudes though are still relatively low, going no higher than around 4,300m/14,000ft. Accommodation can include simple hotels, tea houses, lodges and camping.

## The nature of adventure travel

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Every effort will be made to keep to this itinerary but we cannot guarantee that things may not change, either before you travel or while you are away. By its very nature, adventure travel involves an element of the unexpected, particularly in more remote areas. A variety of factors such as adverse weather conditions, changes to local schedules and difficulties with transportation can all contribute to the need to make changes to the itinerary, often at the very last minute. Our Operations Manager and your Trip Leader will make every effort to maintain the integrity of the original itinerary and minimise the impact of any changes, but an easy-going and flexible nature is a real asset! Please note that all timings and distances given are approximate.

## What the price includes

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**Mountain Kingdoms** aims to offer the best value for money. We do not charge extra for meal packages or apply local charges and try to ensure that all the key elements of your holiday are included.

### What's included:

- ✓ Knowledgeable, local English-speaking guide.
- ✓ Good standard accommodation in Santiago and Easter Island on a twin share basis
- ✓ 10 breakfasts, 6 lunches
- ✓ Sightseeing as specified
- ✓ Entry fees to national parks where applicable
- ✓ All road transport by private vehicles
- ✓ Economy class return airfares from the UK (flight inclusive option)
- ✓ Single timed group airport transfer for international flights on arrival and departure
- ✓ Flights between Santiago and Easter Island plus domestic transfers
- ✓ The option of joining one of our four pre-trip meets in the Cotswolds
- ✓ A free Mountain Kingdoms Water-to-Go bottle (see below) or a free Mountain Kingdoms fleece
- ✓ Option to join one of our pre trip meets in the Cotswolds

### Airport transfers

The cost of a transfer to/from the airport is included in the price of your holiday. This is a single group transfer which is arranged to coincide with the timings of the group flights. If you book your own flights which arrive/depart at different times to this, or we book flights at your request that have different timings, we will be happy to provide a quote for a separate transfer. Please contact us should you require any further information.

### What's not included:

- ✗ Travel insurance
- ✗ Visa fees
- ✗ Some meals (please see meal plan within the itinerary text)
- ✗ Optional trips
- ✗ Tips

### Water-to-Go Reusable Bottle Campaign

We have joined the campaign to help cut down on the use of plastics and, in particular, single-use water bottles. To do this we have teamed up with the revolutionary company, Water-to-Go who have developed a multi-use drinking bottle with a reusable filter that eliminates over 99.9% of all microbiological contaminants. This makes water from virtually any source safe to drink and significantly reduces the need for travellers to buy bottles of water wherever they are in the world.

For our clients who are not given a free Mountain Kingdoms kit bag (these are required for certain treks), there is the choice of receiving either a free Water-to-Go bottle or a free Mountain Kingdoms fleece. If you are not eligible for a free bottle, you will still be able to buy a special Mountain Kingdoms Water-to-Go bottle from us at a discounted rate.

For further information about our campaign visit [For further information about our campaign visit <https://www.mountainkingdoms.com/water-to-go-reusable-bottle-campaign>](https://www.mountainkingdoms.com/water-to-go-reusable-bottle-campaign).

## Your accommodation

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### Hotel Torre Mayor, Santiago

This is a 4\* modern hotel with a small roof top swimming pool, a restaurant, bar, and coffee shop. The building is 20 years old with tasteful décor and is well located in a tree lined boulevard.



### Hotel O'Tai, Easter Island

Our Managing Director Steve Berry, who did the reconnaissance for this trip, says that this was his favourite hotel on the island. The 3\* O'Tai, has a beautiful tropical garden with a very nice swimming pool. The breakfasts are superb and all bedrooms have air-conditioning, a safe, mini-bar, bath tubs and telephone.

## Meal arrangements

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10 breakfasts and 6 lunches.

On Easter Island all breakfasts and picnic lunches are included.

## Flight arrangements

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### Flight inclusive from price

Our 'Flight inclusive from' price is based on the best fare available at the time of printing. As airfares change on a constant basis, this should be used only as a guide price. Rest assured that, at the time of booking, we will endeavour to get the best possible price for the flights you need. Remember, the earlier you book the greater your chances of securing the best fare.

Flight inclusive packages booked through Mountain Kingdoms are protected through our ATOL bonding scheme.

### Flight upgrades and regional Airports

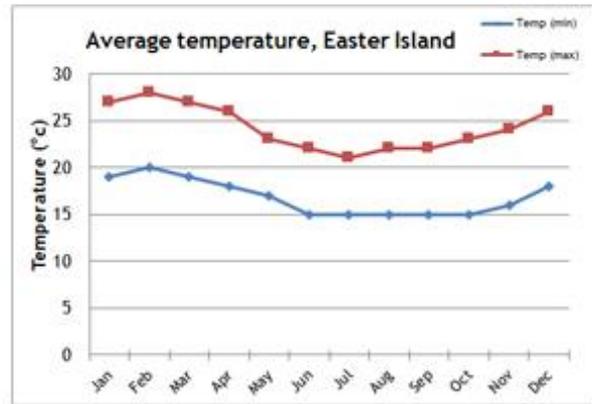
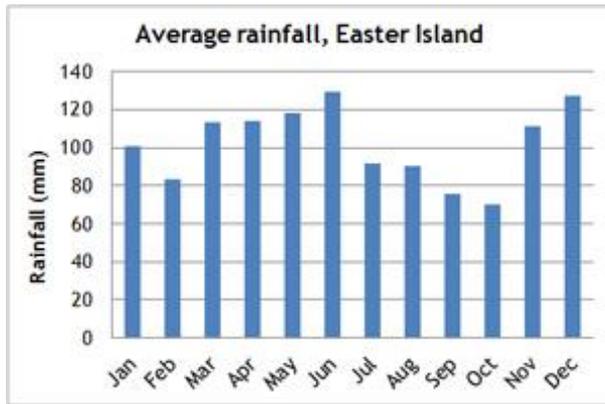
Please call us on +44 (0)1453 844400 for flight options from regional UK airports, Business Class upgrades, alternative airlines and stopovers. Please also check our website for the most up to date flight inclusive 'from' prices.

## Further information

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When we receive your booking, we send you a full Trip Dossier which contains details of any visas and vaccinations required, a suggested gear and clothing list and lots of useful information. If you do have queries at this initial stage do call us on 01453 844400 and we will be pleased to offer advice.

# Climate information



## Extensions

### Extending your holiday

If you would like additional inspiration on how or where to extend your holiday please call us on 01453 844400. Alternatively, you can download a range of extension information sheets on our website, at [www.mountainkingdoms.com](http://www.mountainkingdoms.com).



#### Valparaiso and wineries

Visit the UNESCO World Heritage city of Valparaiso and take a guided tour of the historic old quarter. Then travel to the nearby wine producing region to visit several wineries and enjoy a taste of the renowned local vino.



#### Torres del Paine & Punta Arenas Extension, Patagonia

Extend your time in Chile with a six day extension to walk amidst the stunning landscapes of Torres del Paine National Park. Flying south from Santiago to Punta Arenas in Patagonia you stay in the attractive Eco Camp accommodation with a choice of walks to take in some of the most iconic views of the park. The extension also includes a guided tour of the sights and museum at Punta Arenas.



#### Chilean Lake District and Chiloe Island

On this week-long extension you enjoy several walks amidst the glorious scenery of the Chilean Lake District including Vicente Perez Rosales NP and Alerce Andino NP. You also take a ferry to Chiloe Grand Island to get up close to a penguin colony and visit some of the cultural sights of the region before returning to Santiago.

## Why book this holiday with Mountain Kingdoms?

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- No other British company offers such a comprehensive walking holiday of Easter Island.
- Our unique itinerary includes five good length walking days with excellent objectives including the three highest volcanoes on the island. Plus two days of more gentle walking and visits to some of the more famous statues on the island as well as the local museum, a walking tour of the town, a visit to the Catholic Church and time relaxing on Anakena beach.
- We combine walks with leisure time and a day to enjoy some optional activities.
- We use one of the nicest hotels on Easter Island Hotel O'Tai with air-conditioning, beautiful gardens and large swimming pool.
- We are able to provide some of the best guides on the island
- In Santiago we use one of the best 4\* hotels.
- We offer a flexible service and can extend your holiday with extra hotel nights, upgrades or stays in Patagonia, the Atacama, Valparaiso or the Chilean Lake District.
- We are an IATA accredited agent and work directly with some of the world's major airlines. If you wish to fly with a specific airline, from a regional UK airport or on alternative dates to the main group we would be happy to arrange this for you. Please contact our Flights Manager, April, for flight options, quotes and further information.

If we've tempted you to take your next holiday with us, we advise you to check availability and you can do this via our website: [www.mountainkingdoms.com](http://www.mountainkingdoms.com) or by calling the team on +44 (0)1453 844400. Bookings can be made online, by phone or by completing a booking form and returning it to us. We can also provisionally hold places if you need time to consider your options.

## What our clients say

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*I remember reading Thor Hyerdahls book Aku Aku when I was about 14 years old. I thought it was the best book I'd ever read and it left an indelible impression on me. Later I saw a re-run of Thor Hyerdahls Kon Tiki film and I promised myself that one day I would visit Easter Island. It did not disappoint, it is a stunningly beautiful island and the mystery still remains"*

*- Mountain Kingdoms' MD, Steve Berry*

# Mountain Kingdoms - distinctly different

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## **Truly independent**

In an age where many so-called 'independent' travel companies have in fact been bought out by multi-national giants, we remain fiercely independent with all the benefits this offers our clients.

## **Value for money prices with an emphasis on quality**

We are not in the business of cutting our itineraries and services to the bone to offer eye-catching cheap prices. We use some of the best airlines, and typically 3 or 4 star hotels in cities. We include the majority of meals and private transport for road travel. We use excellent equipment and appoint well-trained staff and leaders. Last year, over 98% of our clients rated their Mountain Kingdoms holiday as 'excellent' or 'good'. We are members of AITO and bound by their quality charter.

## **Complete financial security**

You can book with us confident that your holiday has full financial protection. Flight inclusive holidays are financially protected by the Civil Aviation Authority under ATOL licence number 2973 and 'Land Only' holidays are covered by a bond secured with ABTOT.

## **No Surcharge Guarantee**

Your peace of mind is important to us so we have a No Surcharge Guarantee on all Land Only and Flight Inclusive bookings. This means that there will be no change to the price of your holiday once we have confirmed your booking, regardless of fluctuations in exchange rates or fuel prices.

## **Award winning Responsible Tourism**

We feel strongly that all our holidays should benefit local communities, protect the environment and respect local traditions, religion and heritage. You can read more about the charities we support and our Responsible Tourism commitments and initiatives on the following page or at [www.mountainkingdoms.com](http://www.mountainkingdoms.com).

## **Genuine small group travel**

Almost all of our holidays have a maximum group size of just 12, plus leader. This provides more contact with your leader, readier access to off-the-beaten-path areas, greater interaction with local communities and a reduced environmental impact.

## **Loyalty Discount**

If you have previously travelled with us we recognise your loyalty with a discount on future trips.

## **Booking your holiday - it couldn't be easier**

Once you've chosen your Mountain Kingdoms holiday you can book online, call the office or complete and post a booking form which can be found in our brochure or downloaded from our website. If you would like to hold a place on one of our trips, whilst you make up your mind, please give us a call to make a provisional booking. This is a no-obligation, no-cost booking and we will hold your place until space comes under pressure or we need your decision.

## **Comprehensive information**

When we receive your booking we send you a full trip dossier which contains details of visas and vaccinations required, a suggested gear and clothing list and lots of useful information. In fact, everything you need to know to give you peace of mind and allow you to prepare for your trip of a lifetime.

# Mountain Kingdoms & Responsible Tourism

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## Our commitment

Mountain Kingdoms is committed to responsible tourism, through policies and practices which permeate all aspects of its business. Our policies aim to ensure that we and our clients act in a way which is socially, environmentally and culturally sound. We feel strongly that all Mountain Kingdoms holidays should benefit local communities, protect the environment by minimising pollution, and respect local traditions, religion and heritage. We tread lightly - low volume, low impact trekking/touring is the best way of preserving the beautiful and fragile places we visit.

We work with organisations such as Tourism Concern, International Porter Protection Group (IPPG), Ecoan, AITO and various charities, to help achieve our responsible tourism goals.

## Our initiatives

We support a range of projects around the world both on an ongoing basis and in response to disasters and emergencies.

Examples of our recent ongoing work are the Kerala Partnership helping flood victims in southern India, the Simien Mountains Mobile Medical Service in Ethiopia, the Ginette Harrison School in Nepal, a tree planting project in Peru, the Village Education Project in Kilimanjaro and Kidasha charity supporting children in crisis in Nepal, and many more.



If you know of a registered charity that does good 'hands on' work in a country that we operate in please send us details and we will consider adding it to the list of charities we support.

Further details of all our Responsible Tourism initiatives can be found at [www.mountainkingdoms.com/about/responsible-travel](http://www.mountainkingdoms.com/about/responsible-travel)

## Water-to-Go Reusable Bottle Campaign

We have joined the campaign to help cut down on the use of plastics and, in particular, single-use water bottles. To do this we have teamed up with the revolutionary company, Water-to-Go who have developed a multi-use drinking bottle with a reusable filter that eliminates over 99.9% of all microbiological contaminants. This makes water from virtually any source safe to drink and significantly reduces the need for travellers to buy bottles of water wherever they are in the world.

Depending on the holiday booked, clients travelling with us may be eligible for a free Mountain Kingdoms Water-to-Go bottle (please see the What the Price Includes section of this itinerary), or to purchase a bottle from us at a discounted rate. For further information about our campaign visit <https://www.mountainkingdoms.com/water-to-go-reusable-bottle-campaign>.

## Porter Protection

In the countries where we use porters we feel that the issue of porter protection is immensely important. We support the work and the aims of the IPPG (International Porter Protection Group) and as such we have a set of guidelines to adhere to and which we apply worldwide.



## Carbon off-setting

Working with Ecoan tree-planting project in Southern Peru we offset the carbon emissions for every Mountain Kingdoms holiday that includes an international flight.

