Signature Chile

WITH
The Atacama, Valparaíso & Patagonia

NOVEMBER 1-12, 2018
TRIP OVERVIEW

Join an exciting journey through one of the continent’s most geographically diverse countries—Chile. Explore two of the country’s spectacular sites: the Atacama Desert and southern Patagonia. Along the way, visit the cosmopolitan capital of Santiago, the historic port city of Valparaíso, and the vineyards of the Casablanca Valley, including a special entry to a private family winery.

Throughout this 12-day expedition, enjoy the expertise and insights of inveterate, all-round naturalist, Jim Costa. Jim, a pleasure to travel with, is the author of many books and scientific papers and has been the study leader on several Harvard travel programs.

Our adventure begins with the extraordinary landscapes of the Atacama Desert featuring volcanoes, geysers, evaporated salt lakes, and hot springs. Against this extraordinary background look for a diversity of desert wildlife including vicuñas, viscachas, and Andean flamingos.

From the desert we head south to Patagonian to survey the Strait of Magellan from Punta Arenas. Then venture on to revel in the grandeur of Chile’s UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, Torres del Paine National Park, with its dramatic mountain formations of towering rock, azure lakes, windswept pampas, and translucent icebergs. Here condors ride on currents above the Andes and foxes, rheas, and guanacos give chase in the windswept pampas.

Accommodations are all five-star including the Ritz-Carlton in Santiago and Casa Higueras Hotel in Valparaíso. In the Atacama and Patagonia stay at two of Chile’s top luxury lodges: the Explora Atacama and the Remota lodge.

WHAT TO EXPECT

This program is designed for those who are interested in learning about the geology, astronomy, wildlife, culture, and superb natural areas of Chile including its coastal cities of Viña del Mar and Valparaíso. This is a moderately active program that is scheduled during the spring in the Southern Hemisphere. Typically, the weather is warm in Santiago and Valparaíso (mid 70’s at noon). In the Atacama Desert, days are sunny with temperatures in the low to mid 70’s during the day. Some excursions in Atacama will reach altitudes of approximately 9,000 feet. The excursion to the geysers of El Tatio, will briefly reach altitudes of 13,000 feet. The altitude in San Pedro de Atacama, where you spend three nights, is at a comfortable 8,000 feet. There are no altitude issues in Valparaíso or Patagonia, which are at or close to sea level. Sites in southern Patagonia (Punta Arenas, Puerto Natales, and Torres del Paine) are usually quite cold in the early morning and late evening, but can be sunny with variable temperatures during the day. Winds, which can be strong, are frequent in the southern Patagonia area and weather, as a general rule, is unpredictable. Some walks in the Torres del Paine area are approximately one-mile-long (sometimes over uneven terrain) with pauses to observe and discuss; walks can be longer at the participant’s discretion. Since some travel will be in remote areas, everyone must be flexible concerning time schedules, food, weather, and dust. In order to enjoy this trip, a spirit of adventure and anticipation, and the desire to explore spectacular natural areas are musts. Travel is by regularly scheduled jet aircraft, and motor coach.

FACULTY LEADER


Contact us today to reserve your space: 1-800-422-1636 or 1-617-496-0806, or email alumni_travel@hbs.edu
**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1 // USA / SANTIAGO**
Depart from Miami or Los Angeles for a flight to Santiago, the capital of Chile. Overnight flight. (MEALS ALOFT)

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2 // SANTIAGO**
After an early morning arrival in Santiago, transfer to your hotel, which will be available with an early check in for immediate occupancy. An afternoon city tour will introduce you to this city at the foot of the Andes. Included in the tour will be the excellent pre-Columbian museum that chronicles 4,500 years of pre-Columbian civilization in the Americas. This evening gather for an orientation and welcome dinner. HOTEL RITZ-CARLTON SANTIAGO (D)

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3 // SANTIAGO/ SAN PEDRO DE ATACAMA**
This morning fly north to Calama and transfer to San Pedro de Atacama for a three-night stay. On the way, stop at Cordillera de la Sal, the Salt Mountains. Shaped over time by the rain, wind, and sun of the Atacama Desert, its final form as we know it today is full of natural sculptures, different types of stratifications, and various colors due to its mineral diversity. In the evening, visit the Moon Valley with its extraordinary landscape caused by the erosion of the Salt Mountains. EXPLORA ATACAMA (B,L,D)

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4 // SAN PEDRO DE ATACAMA**
Early this morning depart on an excursion to El Tatio, the world’s highest major geyser field, to see the great outflow of geysers at sunrise. Afterward, relax in the warm mineral waters of the Termas de Puritana hot springs. The remainder of the day is at leisure until dinner. Enjoy the amenities of the hotel or walk or bike to the nearby town of San Pedro. EXPLORA ATACAMA (B,L,D)

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 5 // SAN PEDRO DE ATACAMA**
Explore the immense Salar de Atacama with its various species of flamingos. Then visit the high plateau lagoons of Miscanti-Miñiques and the Salar de Talar, an evaporated salt lake. Here see lagoons of beautiful colors and many volcanoes. Look for vicuñas, viscachas, and other wildlife of the area. EXPLORA ATACAMA (B,L,D)

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6 // SAN PEDRO DE ATACAMA / SANTIAGO/ VALPARAÍSO**
Fly to Santiago and drive through the Casablanca Valley, one of Chile’s most important wine-producing areas. Its location between the Andes and the Coastal Mountain ranges creates the perfect terroir for some of South America’s finest white wines. Stop for lunch at the Kingston Family Vineyards for a private visit. Learn how this vineyard, founded and managed by an American family, including a Harvard graduate, has evolved into one of Chile’s hottest, award-winning boutique wineries. Continue to the port city of Valparaíso, a UNESCO World Heritage site. CASA HIGUERA HOTEL (B, L)
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Day by Day Itinerary

Wednesday, November 7 // Valparaíso and Viña del Mar

Enjoy a city tour of Chile’s most important coastal cities: Valparaíso and Viña del Mar. Explore the colorful port city of Valparaíso, a UNESCO World Heritage city, famous for its stacked hills, winding stairs with incredible street art, funiculars, and amazing views of the bay. See the famous Turri Clock and the Naval Academy. A highlight of the tour is the visit to the home of Pablo Neruda, Chile’s poet and Nobel Prize Laureate. Then visit Viña del Mar before returning to Santiago.

Ritz-Carlton (B, L, D)

Thursday, November 8 // Santiago / Puerto Natales—Patagonia

This morning fly to Punta Arenas. Drive to your elegant lodge, which will be your base for exploring Torres del Paine National Park and the surrounding area of Patagonia. REMOTA (B, D)

Friday-Saturday, November 9–10 // Torres del Paine National Park & Surrounding Area

By far, the most impressive sight in southern Chile is Torres del Paine National Park, known as the crown jewel of Patagonia. It was declared a Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO in 1978. The dramatic mountain formations of towering rock, windswept pampas, ice fields, and glaciers make it an impressive and unforgettable sight. Look out for guanacos, rheas, flamingos, condors, foxes, geese, and black-necked swans. Lakes and lagoons in hues of blue, green, gray, and ochers abound. The park is surrounded by impressive mountains including the famous Cuernos del Paine (Horns of Granite), twisted snow-dusted pillars of gray granite that rise from the flat Patagonian plain. Choose from a variety of included guide led excursions such as navigating a lake, hiking, horseback riding, or mountain biking or simply relaxing in the park or its surrounding wilderness. REMOTA (2B, 2L, 2D)

Sunday, November 11 // Puerto Natales / Punta Arenas / Santiago / U.S.

Depart this morning for Punta Arenas and travel through Chile’s expansive Patagonian pampas, home to rheas, condors, and eagles. Transfer to the airport for a flight to Santiago and connect to overnight flights back to the U.S. Weather permitting, your return flight to Santiago should offer magnificent views of the Andes Mountains, its snow-capped peaks, glaciers, and ice fields as they stream downward, feeding the lakes below. (B, Box Lunch, Meals Aboard)

Monday, November 12 // Return to U.S.

Arrive in the U.S. this morning and connect with a flight home.
OPTIONAL PRE-TRIP EXTENSION TO EASTER ISLAND
OCTOBER 28–NOVEMBER 2, 2018

Upon arrival and assistance at the airport in Santiago, rest at the Holiday Inn Santiago Airport until your afternoon flight to Easter Island (Rapa Nui). Located 2,600 miles west of Santiago in the South Pacific Ocean, this mysterious island has a visual impact few places in the world can equal. The island’s history is as intriguing as its natural beauty; for here is a remarkable barely-understood outdoor museum that has gripped the world’s imagination for centuries. Hundreds of **moais**, tight-lipped basalt statues unique in the whole of Oceania, are scattered throughout the island. Accommodations on Easter Island are at Explora Rapa Nui which offers the only truly high-end accommodation. Built in local volcanic stone and imported wood, the hotel curves discretely along a hillside overlooking the island’s south coast, with all rooms and dining room offering a panoramic sea view. The extension includes one night at the Holiday Inn Santiago Airport and three nights at Explora Rapa Nui on Easter Island in Varua rooms, all excursions, and all meals and open bar at the Explora, transfers, guides, and gratuities to Explora staff at Easter Island. Cost $3,295 per person, double occupancy, $3,890 per person, single occupancy. Rates are based on a minimum of eight guests. Airfare to Easter Island is not included. **EXPLORA RAPA NUI**
Signature Chile
NOVEMBER 1-12, 2018

LODGING & PROGRAM COSTS

EXPLORA ATACAMA: SAN PEDRO DE ATACAMA, CHILE

Located in the oasis of San Pedro de Atacama, Explora Atacama, was designed as the perfect base to explore the desert, the Andes highlands, and its surroundings natural areas. Huge sand dunes, salt pans, impressive volcanoes and cloudless skies inspired the design of the hotel and the explorations offered. It features interconnected pools, open-air Jacuzzis, modern rooms, an open bar, wine with meals, massage room, and an observatory to view some of the world’s clearest skies. Biking and horseback riding are additional options.

REMOTA LODGE: PUERTO NATALES, CHILE

Stay at an all-inclusive lodge in Puerto Natales, the door to Torres del Paine National Park. The lodge serves as a place of contemplative refuge and restful return after each journey into the awe-inspiring beauty of Patagonia. Experience exquisite vistas, ultramodern rooms, fine dining, an open bar serving cocktails, wine with meals, expert guides, open-air Jacuzzis, heated indoor infinity pool, and all the service, comforts, and amenities of a five-star hotel. Guests may choose from among various excursions that are offered each day.

EXPLORA RAPA NUI: EASTER ISLAND, CHILE

(PRE-TRIP EXTENSION GUESTS ONLY)

Explora Rapa Nui is located on a privileged location from which to explore Easter Island, the world’s most isolated island. Its award-winning environmental designed architecture blends the island’s unique geography and heritage with its vibrant present. The hotel offers a variety of guided explorations from easy to expert. The 30 rooms of explora Rapa Nui are designed to take full advantage of the silence, privacy, and spaciousness of the surrounding landscape, ensuring deep rest after a day of exploration. Meals are accompanied by superb Chilean wine.

PROGRAM COST

Per person, double occupancy ........................................ $8,995
Single Supplement ....................................................... $1,095

SAMPLE COACH AIRFARE

Boston/Santiago/Boston ................................................ $1,006
(As of January 2018 and subject to change)

EASTER ISLAND OPTIONAL PRE-TRIP EXTENSION

October 28–November 2, 2018

Per person, double occupancy ........................................ $3,295
Single occupancy ........................................................ $3,890

SAMPLE COACH AIRFARE

Santiago/Easter Island/Santiago ....................................... $650
(As of January 2018 and subject to change.)
TOUR COST INCLUDES Study leader’s lectures and discussions • Accommodations and meals as specified in the itinerary • All land transportation • Four in-tour flights from: Santiago to Calama, Calama to Santiago, Santiago to Punta Arenas, Punta Arenas to Santiago, provided increases in the in-tour airfare after the initial pricing of this program are not included—see below • Professional guides and tour manager throughout • Airport transfers for group flights • Domestic airport departure taxes • Entrance fees • Baggage handling • Gratuities to Tour Director, guides and drivers • Pre-departure information • $200,000 emergency medical evacuation insurance.

TOUR COST EXCLUDES US domestic and international airfare • Passport Fees • Meals not specified in the itinerary • Personal items such as laundry, fax or telephone calls • Liquor • Room service • Excess baggage charges • Private transfers • Medical expenses • Travel insurance • deviations from the scheduled tour • Any increases in the in-tour airfare (included as part of the main program cost), security, or fuel surcharges imposed after the initial pricing of this program are not included.

RESERVATIONS, DEPOSITS & FINAL PAYMENT: To reserve your space on this program, a $1,000 deposit is required per person. Please call Harvard Alumni Travels at 800-422-1636 or 617-496-0806, or fill out and mail or fax the registration form. Deposits may be charged to a credit card. Reservations are acknowledged in order of receipt. Final payment is due July 4, 2018, 120 days prior to departure and must be paid by check. Royal Adventures handles all invoicing, CST #2009579-40

CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS: Cancellations must be received in writing by Harvard Alumni Travels from the participant. Cancellations within 14 days of booking: full refund; cancellations received up to 120 days prior to departure will be assessed a cancellation fee of $1,000 per person. Cancellations received within 120 days prior to departure are subject to 100% penalty of all deposits and payments, regardless of booking date. There are no refunds for unused meals, accommodations or other trip features.

CHANGES IN ITINERARY: The itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of Harvard Alumni Travels and the tour operator. We reserve the right to change a program’s dates, staff (including study leader), itineraries, and/or accommodations as conditions warrant. Deviations from the scheduled itinerary are at the expense of the individual.

RATES: Tour costs are based upon current airfares, tariffs, and currency values. While we do everything possible to maintain the listed prices, they are subject to change.

INSURANCE: We highly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance. An application for insurance will be provided by Harvard Alumni Travels upon confirmation. Neither Harvard Alumni Travels nor Royal Adventures accepts liability for any airline cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a non-refundable airline ticket or other expenses incurred by tour participants in preparing for the tour.

RESPONSIBILITY: Certain other provisions apply regarding limitations of liability and rights of Harvard Alumni Travels and the tour operator. The statement of responsibility is available in the Terms & Conditions document at http://alumni.harvard.edu/travel/trips/chile-2018. If you are not able to access the internet, please call Harvard Alumni Travels at 800-422-1636 or 617-496-0806. As part of the consideration and right to participate in this tour, each participant will be asked to sign a liability release.

DISCLAIMER: Every reasonable effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of information presented in this publication. Neither Harvard Alumni Travels nor the tour operator is responsible for errors in or damages resulting from use of the information contained herein. Information contained in this brochure is subject to change.

QUESTIONS: Please call Harvard Alumni Travels at 800-422-1636 or 617-496-0806, email: haatravels@harvard.edu.
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With
The Atacama, Valparaíso & Patagonia

November 1-12, 2018

With James Costa, Research Associate in the Museum of Comparative Zoology

HIGHLIGHTS

• Enhance your experience with lectures and discussions with Harvard study leader James Costa

• Visit the capital city of Santiago and the historic port city of Valparaíso

• Journey to a private family winery in the heart of Chile's Wine District

• See volcanoes, geysers, evaporated salt lakes, and hot springs in the Atacama Desert

• Explore Torres del Paine National Park hidden at the southernmost end of the Andes and walk near monolithic granite spires, glacial lakes, and waterfalls.

• Observe unique wildlife in the Atacama Desert and in Patagonia, including flamingos, vicuñas, viscachas, guanacos, rheas, and magnificent Andean condors