CHILE & THE SKIES OF THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE
FEATURING THE
TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE
JUNE 25–JULY 6, 2019

On July 2, 2019, witness a total solar eclipse at a unique location in northern Chile, home to world-class astronomical observatories. Enjoy special access to state-of-the-art observatories in the desert including: the Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array, or ALMA, the world’s most powerful radio telescope, Paranal, home to the Very Large Telescope, and Las Campanas, home to the Magellan Telescopes and the Giant Magellan Telescope. Your journey also includes an exploration of the Atacama Desert and some of the most extraordinary landscapes of our planet—volcanoes, evaporated salt lakes, lagoons and hot springs as well as a host of animal life. Top this off with stargazing in the Southern Hemisphere. Visit the Elqui Valley, and a pisco distillery. Conclude your adventure with lunch and a tasting of select vintages in Chile beautiful Casablanca Valley at the Kingston Family Vineyards.

- Enjoy special entry to the Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array (ALMA), Paranal Observatory and Las Campanas Observatory.
- Relax in thermal springs in the Atacama Desert.
- Observe the dazzling evening skies of the Southern Hemisphere with large amateur telescopes.
- Visit the Elqui Valley and a Pisco distillery.
- Spend a day in Chile’s wine country at a winery founded by a Harvard alumnus.
- Tour Santiago and its Pre-Columbian Museum.

GROUP SIZE: 20–36 guests

PRICING: $11,295 per person, double occupancy / $2,295 single supplement

STUDY LEADER: MARK VAN BAALEN, is an associate in the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences at Harvard University, where he has served in a variety of roles since 1962. He received his AB in astronomy in 1966. While an undergraduate he worked on the NASA-funded OSO-D satellite that flew in 1967 and obtained the first successful ultraviolet images of the Sun from orbit. Later, he turned his attention to the Earth sciences, receiving his AM and PhD in Geology. During his career at Harvard, Mark has taught popular courses in physical and environmental geology and has acted as mentor to many undergraduate students. Trained as an astronomer as well as a geologist, Mark is a veteran of 12 solar eclipses, and looks forward to his 13th. Mark and his wife Louisa, recently retired from the Kennedy School of Government, have been privileged to lead numerous Harvard excursions to distant lands, including to Chile. On these trips, Mark lectures on the natural history of the regions being visited, as well as painting a broader picture of human interaction with its environment, now and in the past.
TUESDAY, JUNE 25
DEPART U.S.
Depart from your home city for Santiago, Chile.
Overnight flight (meals aloft)

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26
SANTIAGO
Arrive this morning in Santiago and transfer to your five-star hotel located in one of the most exclusive quarters of Santiago.
An afternoon city tour, including a visit to a Pre-Columbian museum, will introduce you to this city at the foot of the Andes.
This evening gather for an orientation and welcome dinner.
Overnight: Ritz Carlton (D)

THURSDAY, JUNE 27
SANTIAGO / CALAMA / 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.
Tonight you will have your first introduction of the southern skies.
Overnight: Hotel Explora San Pedro de Atacama (B, L, D)

FRIDAY, JUNE 28
SAN PEDRO DE ATACAMA / ALMA
In the morning visit the largest astronomical radio telescope project in existence, the Atacama Large Millimeter/Submillimeter Array, or ALMA as it is commonly referred to.
In the afternoon explore the immense Salar de Atacama with its various species of flamingos.
Tonight continue your astronomical observation of the southern skies.
Overnight: Hotel Explora San Pedro de Atacama (B, L, D)

SATURDAY, JUNE 29
SAN PEDRO DE ATACAMA
In the morning visit the high plateau lagoons of Miscanti-Miñiques. Here you will see lagoons of beautiful colors and many volcanoes. Look for vicuñas, viscachas, and other wildlife of the area.
Overnight: Hotel Explora San Pedro de Atacama (B, L, D)

SUNDAY, JUNE 30
SAN PEDRO DE ATACAMA / ANTOFAGASTA
In the morning, relax in the warm mineral waters of the Termas Baños de Puritama hot springs before transferring by coach to Antofagasta.
Overnight: Hotel Terrado Antofagasta (B, D)

MONDAY, JULY 1
ANTOFAGASTA / PARANAL / LA SERENA
In the morning drive to the Paranal Observatory, home of the VLT (Very Large Telescope), often described as the world’s largest. Located on top of Cerro Paranal in the Atacama Desert, it has 4 telescopes of 8.2 meters in diameter. The Paranal Mountain was chosen because of its excellent atmospheric conditions and its remote location.
After a short city tour of Antofagasta, transfer to the airport for your flight to La Serena.

In the evening have an orientation for the eclipse the next day.

Overnight: Costa Real Hotel (B, D)

TUESDAY, JULY 2
LA SERENA / VICUÑA / ECLIPSE

In the morning travel to Vicuña. Enjoy a city tour and lunch before transferring to the eclipse viewing site.

The eclipse commences approximately at 4:38 p.m.

After the eclipse, transfer back to the hotel for a debriefing of the observations followed by dinner.

Overnight: Costa Real Hotel (B, L, D)

WEDNESDAY, JULY 3
LA SERENA / LAS CAMPANAS / THE MAGELLAN PROJECT

Today drive north of La Serena to Las Campanas Observatory in the Chilean Andes for a day-long tour of the Magellan Project site and the two 6.5 meter optical telescopes that are housed there.

Upon arrival to the observatory, have a special picnic lunch before venturing up for an exclusive tour of the inside of the installations.

Return to the hotel in time for dinner.

Overnight: Costa Real Hotel (B, L, D)

THURSDAY, JULY 4
LA SERENA / SANTIAGO

Enjoy an excursion to the fertile Elqui Valley, including a Pisco tasting at a local distillery.

In the evening transfer to the airport for a flight to Santiago.

Overnight: Ritz Carlton (B, L)

FRIDAY, JULY 5
SANTIAGO / WINERY VISIT / RETURN FLIGHTS

Today explore the beautiful Casablanca Valley where renowned Chilean wines are produced. Have a private visit to the Kingston Family Vineyards and learn how the vineyard was founded and managed to eventually become one of Chile’s hottest, award-winning boutique wineries.

Enjoy a farewell lunch and wine tasting at the winery.

Then return to your hotel for the remainder of the afternoon at your leisure.

In the evening transfer back to the airport for overnight flights home.

Overnight Flight (B, L)

SATURDAY, JULY 6
ARRIVE U.S

Arrive U.S and connect with flights home.