

Chile & Easter Island

January 25–February 7, 2012

**Explore Southern Chile on board M/V Skorprios II
and Discover the Heritage of Easter Island!**

Dear Travelers:

In 2011 we invite you to join our adventure to **Chile & Easter Island, January 25–February 7, 2012!**

Enjoy the Southern Hemisphere in summer as we explore Chile from its heartland in **Santiago** to the spectacular islands, fjords and mountains of **Patagonian Chile**. Our journey will culminate in a visit to fabled **Easter Island!**

Our journey will begin in the historic capital city, **Santiago**—Chile's largest city and one of the most beautiful cities in South America. Santiago lies in the fertile Central Valley with the Andes prominently to the east and the Pacific Ocean to the west. During our visit, we will explore colonial Santiago, from the flower-filled Plaza de la Constitución to Plaza de Armas and the Cathedral. We will also explore the **Pre-Columbian Art Museum** for an introduction to the early cultures in Chile. We will next fly to **Puerto Montt**, a city located 1000 km south of Santiago, and picturesque **Puerto Varas** on the shores of Lake Llanquihue with a spectacular vista of **Osorno Volcano**.

We will then board M/V Skorprios II to explore **Chilean Patagonia** as we sail south through protected coastal waters to the **San Rafael Glacier**, a massive tidewater glacier.

For six days and five nights, we will cruise through channels and archipelagos in Patagonian Chile, exploring San Rafael National Park and Glacier, established in 1967, and declared a UNESCO World Biosphere reserve in 1978. We will also visit isolated, picturesque fishing villages and settlements, including **Puerto Aguirre**, the city of **Castro**, and **Quitralco Fjord** with its thermal baths.

We will return to Santiago and then fly west 2,350 miles to **Easter Island**, the eastern corner of the Polynesian Triangle.

About one thousand 10- to 30-ft tall moais are found on Easter Island, carved out of the volcanic rock. Many moais can be seen in different stages of production and others have been uprighted and replaced on platforms facing out to sea. We'll also become acquainted with the Easter Island culture.



Leading the expedition will be **Dr. Peggy Stern**, who has led trips in the Andes and South America for many years. Joining her on Easter Island will be a staff assistant of Easter Island's renowned scientist, **Dr. Jo Anne Van Tilburg**, who will introduce us to their research site on Easter Island.

We hope you will join us on this unique adventure to explore the scenic and cultural wonders of Santiago, Patagonian Chile, and legendary Easter Island!

Best regards,


Margaret M. Betchart
President, Betchart Expeditions Inc.
for AAAS, Sigma Xi & ACS

ITINERARY

Day 1 Miami to Santiago, Chile

Depart Miami International Airport on a flight to Santiago, Chile.

Day 2 Santiago

Arrive Santiago and transfer to our hotel. Our introduction to Chile will begin with a visit to this vibrant South American capital city. Historic buildings in downtown Santiago will catch our eye, including "La Moneda" government palace and the "Cousino Palace," as will statues of national heroes of the early independence years. Also of interest will be the Plaza de Armas and Cathedral. From San Cristobal Hill we will have a fine view of the city, with the snow capped Andes in the background. Welcome dinner. (B,D)

Day 3 Santiago to Puerto Montt & Puerto Varas

Following breakfast, we will fly 1000 km south to Puerto Montt and the town of Puerto Varas for overnight that offers spectacular views of the snow-capped Osorno Volcano and blue Lake Llanquihue. (B,L)

Day 4 Puerto Montt to Llanquihue Archipelago & Corcovado Gulf

This morning, we will board the vessel, *M/V Skorpios II*, on which we will explore Chilean Patagonia. To explore Patagonian Chile we will sail south from Puerto Montt, to the San Rafael Glacier, a majestic tidewater glacier. For six days and five nights, we will cruise through channels and archipelagos in southern Chile, visiting isolated and picturesque

fishing villages and settlements, including Puerto Aguirre, the city of Castro, and Quitraco Fjord with its thermal baths. The highlight of our journey will be San Rafael National Park, which was declared a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve in 1978.

Today we will sail through the picturesque Llanquihue Archipelago, the Gulf of Ancud and the Chiloé Archipelago. Chiloé is a large forested island of southern beech, Alerce, and spruce trees edging the Pacific Ocean. The many islands dotting the inland sea have been rounded by glaciers and are now covered by evergreen forests. At midnight, we will cross the Corcovado Gulf. (B,L,D)

Day 5 Puerto Aguirre to Punta Leopardos

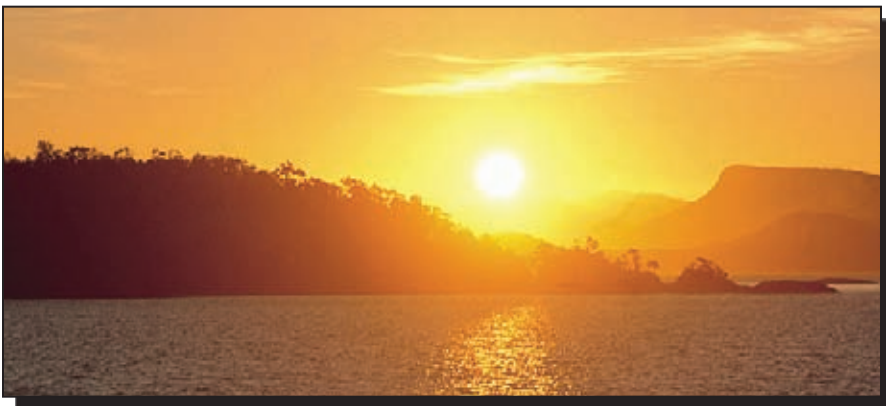
Today, we will navigate through the Moraleda and Ferronave channels as we travel to Puerto Aguirre and Punta Leopardos. As we travel these protected waters, be on the look out for floating salmon farms. Chile is the world's second largest producer of farm-raised salmon after Norway. We will enjoy the warmth of the people of these Southern Chilean lands and the wonderful peace and harmony of the landscapes.

We will arrive at Puerto Aguirre, a remote fishing village, before lunchtime. We will have time to explore this village on foot and glimpse its fishing culture. We will depart from Puerto Aguirre in early afternoon and sail through the narrow Ferronave, Pilcomayo and Costa Channels.

Alerce Trees

Chile contains the world's second largest temperate rain forest with half the species found nowhere else in the world. Conservation International considers this region one of the world's "hotspots" for biodiversity. Soaring above the forest are the famous Alerce trees, *Fitzroya cypressoides*, named by Charles Darwin for Captain Fitzroy of the Beagle.

Alerce trees have the second longest life span, with some trees living more than 3,600 years. The 200-foot-tall trees have wood which is prized for its light weight, straight grain, and resistance to decay. These forests also contain the most southerly palms, circumpolar *Nothofagus* trees, and prehistoric *Araucaria* pines that can live for 1,500 years. Fossils of *Araucaria* and Alerce trees can be found in Australia, showing the ancient connection between these continents.





In the evening, the vessel anchors in Punta Leopardos, 20 miles from the face of San Rafael Glacier. You will be nearly 47 degrees south latitude and with clear skies the famous constellation “Southern Cross” will be visible overhead. (B,L,D)

Day 6 San Rafael National Park & Glacier

Today, we will see the highlight of the journey—San Rafael Glacier, in San Rafael National Park. Snow and ice accumulate on Mt. San Valentin (4,058 m), and the glacial ice descends to the sea. This spectacular tide-water glacier is more than 2,000 meters wide, and rises to a height of more than 70 meters above the sea. Here, we will enjoy excursions in motorboats between icebergs with unexpected shapes and many shades of blue. Thrilled by their varied forms and many colors, we will toast with cups of 12-year-old whiskey and 30,000-year-old ice! San Rafael lagoon is also a nature sanctuary that shelters a variety of marine animals and a large number birds. If the weather permits, in the afternoon, *M/V Skorpions II* will move closer to the glacier. In the evening, we will depart for Quitalco Fjord. (B,L,D)

Day 7 Quitalco Fjord & Thermal Pools

Today, we’ll explore Quitalco Fjord and enjoy the multiple thermal pools. Quitalco Fjord was carved by an equally old glacier which means “waters of fire” in the native Mapuche language. It is edged by high snow-covered mountains and impenetrable vegetation, wild and colorful with ferns, in a temperate microclimate adjacent to the sea. Here we will enjoy indoor and outdoor thermal bathing pools, with a fine country style grilled lunch. We will also enjoy excursions on the fjord’s quiet, transparent waters in motorboats, where we will look for the rich marine fauna, cormorants, pelicans, and a myriad of gulls. In the evening, we will depart to Chiloé sailing through the Moraleda and Pérez Norte Channels. This is a good opportunity to look for albatross, petrels, dolphins, and Magellenic penguins. (B,L,D)

Day 8 Leucayec Channel to Chiloé Island

Chiloé Island, “the land of seagulls,” is forested with many picturesque fishing villages. Many of the seaside wooden houses are built with one end on stilts over the water with the front door on land. Many of the other homes are shingled and painted in bright colors. In summer Chiloé’s hillsides are a patchwork of wheat fields and dark green plots of potatoes, tomatoes, beans

and peppers. All the villages have colorful markets with fresh produce, fish and handmade wooden souvenirs. The weather is changeable, and another layer of wool is a frequent purchase. We will sail through the Leucayec Channel, the Chonos Archipelago, and across the Corcovado Gulf looking for Peale’s and Bottlenose dolphins and seabirds. We will sail through the Yal Channel and the Castro Estuary to the Castro dock in the early evening light. Castro’s cathedral is just up the hill and is famous for its vaulted wooden ceiling. Continue to the Skorpions Terminal in Puerto Montt. (B,L,D)

Accommodations

Suite Master / Olimpo

Suite Junior / Olimpo

Doble Matrimonial / Olimpo

La M/V Skorpions II tiene capacidad para 130 pasajeros, cuenta con cabinas totalmente equipadas y decoradas, salas con barra privada, música ambiental, cableway TV, Ademas posee el taller Quitalco (fundaciones) de la San Rafael (que fundaciones) y un comedor principal.

The M/V Skorpions II has capacity for 130 passengers, its cabins are fully equipped and decorated, all have private bathrooms, background music, instrumental and television. It also has the Quitalco salmon restaurant, the San Rafael bar (restaurants) and a main dining room.

CUBIERTA ATHOS / ATHOS DECK

CUBIERTA OLYMPO / OLYMPUS DECK

CUBIERTA PARTHENON / PARTHENON DECK

CUBIERTA ACROPOLIS / ACROPOLIS DECK

CUBIERTA ATENAS / ATHENS DECK

Doble / Atenas

Doble / Acrópolis / Partenon

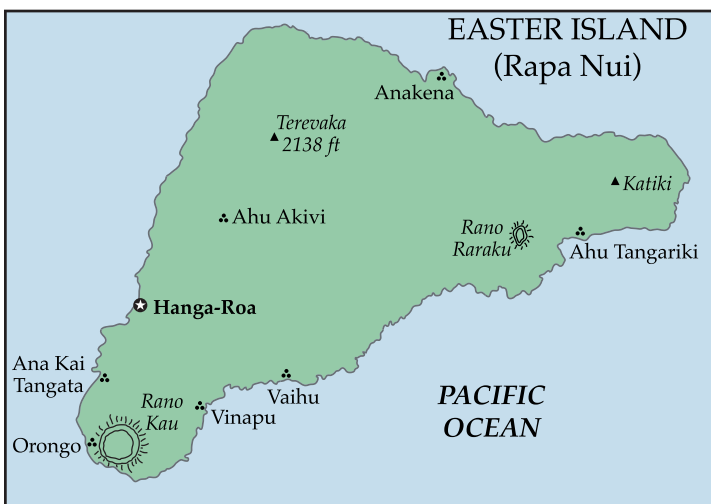
Triple / Acrópolis / Partenon

Day 9 Puerto Montt to Santiago

After breakfast, we will say farewell to the crew and staff on board *M/V Skorprios* and transfer to the airport for our flight to Santiago. Arrive Santiago and transfer to hotel. Afternoon visit to the Pre-Columbian Art Museum, which includes an excellent collection of ceramics, ancient textiles, and relics of the early cultures in Chile and see Santiago's handicraft market. (B)

Day 10 Santiago to Easter Island & Akivi

Early breakfast and transfer to the Santiago airport for our flight to Easter Island. Arrive on Easter Island and transfer to *Hotel Otai (3 nights)*, an excellent small hotel within walking distance to all in Hanga Roa, the capital and population center. Our Easter Island guide will give us a short introduction as we begin our exploration of



Easter Island. We will depart for the interior of the island, and gain our first impressions of Easter Island culture as we visit restored Ahu Akivi with 7 Moais. Per the oral traditions these statues represent the 7 messengers of King Hotu Matua who came to explore this far away island for their king and people. We will then proceed to the Ana Te Pahu Cave, one of the biggest lava tubes of the island. We will continue along the west coast to Ahu Tepeu (not restored) and see remains of a village with "Hare Paenga," remains of house constructions. Afterwards drive to the topknot-quarry Puna Pau. (B,L)

Day 11 Ahus Vaihu - Rano Raraku & Ahu Tangariki

In the morning walk up the street to enjoy the wonderful singing at early mass. After mass we will meet at the hotel and drive to the south coast and visit representative examples of unrestored platforms, Ahus Vaihu and Akahanga. Proceed to Rano Raraku, the quarry with almost 900 stone statues, 397 of them still lying or standing at the slopes of the extinct volcano in different stages of completion. Here we will spend time leisurely walking around and trying to comprehend what happened some hundreds of years ago at this spectacular site. **Dr. Jo Anne Van Tilberg**, UCLA, has had a research project here since 1982 and we will have a special lecture by one of her

Patagonia: Land of the Giants

Patagonia is the southern-most portion of Argentina and Chile from about 42 degrees south. Patagonia is a mixture of the Andes with high peaks, ice fields, glaciers, and temperate evergreen forests, as well as pampas and hundreds of islands. Conservation International considers the Chilean Valdivian Forests to be one of the world's five most important "Hotspots" for endemic species and diversity. In 1520, when Ferdinand Magellan met some of the native inhabitants who were very large, he called them "Patagones (big feet)" and the region is now known as Patagonia. Sir Frances Drake, confirmed the large size of the inhabitants and the "region of the giants" was added to many of the early maps of southern South America.





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TIME VALUE



Discover Southern Chile on board M/V Skorprios II and Easter Island!

January 25–February 7, 2012

COSTS & CONDITIONS

Trip Fee: From \$4,710 per person based on twin share + air fare of \$1,950 + tax + fuel surcharge from Miami to Santiago, Chile, Puerto Montt & Easter Island, round trip.

Questions:

Please call Taunya De Young, **Betchart Expeditions Inc.**

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or **(408) 252 4910**

Fax: (408) 252 1444

Email: BetchartExTaunya@earthlink.net

On the web: www.betchartexpeditions.com

Expedition Fee Includes: Land transport; group airport transfers; accommodations twin share; most meals; tips to drivers and local guides; entrance fees; baggage handling; leadership, administration.

Expedition Fee Does Not Include: International air fare (quoted separately); 3 lunches and 4 dinners; gratuities to ship's crew or expedition leader; personal items such as laundry, phone calls, beverages at meals, alcoholic beverages, sodas, snacks, personal insurance; or foreign airport departure taxes.

What to Expect: This expedition is planned for travelers who would enjoy exploring the cultural heritage and scenic wonders of central and southern Chile, including Patagonian Chile, and Easter Island, 2,350 miles to the west. Leading the expedition will be an excellent naturalist/leader.

The group will fly 1,000 km south of Santiago to Puerto Montt and Puerto Varas to board the excellent expedition ship, *M/V Skorprios II*, to explore Patagonian Chile, including the San Rafael Glacier. There will also be sightseeing in Santiago and Easter Island by motorcoach, museum visits, and opportunities to explore Puerto Varas and see Osorno Volcano. There will be a lecture program on board ship.

Weather is pleasant and summery, with midday temperatures in the 60's to 80's, and some chance of rain. This expedition will be a tremendous experience for travelers with an appetite for adventure who would enjoy a chance to explore Patagonian Chile and Easter Island, with excellent leadership. (No smoking in vehicles, during lectures, or meals, please. Smoking only allowed in designated areas on board ship.)

Air Fare & Airline Ticketing: Air fare quoted is based on a group fare with Lan Chile from Miami to Santiago, round trip, including in-tour flights to Puerto Montt & Easter Island, round trip. All air bookings will be handled by Betchart Expeditions Inc. AIR FARES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Hotel Accommodations: In Santiago and Easter Island are in first class hotels, twin share with private bath. The hotels are in the heart of things, well situated for visiting museums, restaurants, and other sights.

M/V Skorprios II: Has a capacity for 110 passengers in cabins with private bath, background music, intercoms, and television. There are two bars, and a large dining room. Service is friendly, with excellent hospitality, and meals, alternating international cuisine with the best traditions of southern Chile.

Reservations, Deposits, & Payments: Please mail a deposit of \$1,000 per person with the completed reservation form to: **Chile & Easter Island, Betchart Expeditions Inc., 17050 Montebello Road, Cupertino, CA 95014-5435.** The balance is due 90 days before departure.

Cancellations & Refunds: The initial deposit is refundable up to 90 days before departure less a handling fee of \$100 per person. There is no refund after the 90-day period unless your place is resold, then only the \$100 per person handling fee is withheld. There are no refunds for unused meals or other expedition features.