

Chile – Atacama and Easter Island

Mysteries of the Heavens and Earth with Bob McDonald

December 28, 2015 – January 9, 2016



Mark a special beginning to a new year with a trip you will always remember. On New Year's Eve, the Atacama Desert will provide you with one of our planet's best views of pristine night skies and gleaming stars. Follow that by exploring one of the world's great mysteries, the world famous huge Moai statues of Easter Island (Rapa Nui). The trip will be a first class experience for the mind, the soul and, this being Chile, for the body, with great wine and seafood.

Bob McDonald, as our Resource Person, will take us behind the scenes at the remarkable high altitude telescopes that are probing the deepest reaches of space. He will explain how they work and what they are searching for as only the host of CBC *Quirks & Quarks* and as *The National's* science correspondent can – making it fun and meaningful. He has won many awards, including the Sir Sandford Fleming Medal for his outstanding contributions to the public understanding of science.

We will also explore the unique ecosystem that is the world's highest and driest desert, the Atacama, seeing moonscapes, salt flats, geysers, lagoons with flamingos and pre-Inca ruins.

On New Year's Eve, after dinner, we will watch the stars in San Pedro de Atacama, a desert oasis town on the Altiplano of Chile. Then it's on to see the wonders of Easter Island. On this small, extremely isolated South Pacific island, we follow the creation, from the quarries to sites along the coast, of the remarkable Moai statues. Their meaning and how they were put in place are still fascinating mysteries.

The trip starts and ends in Chile's capital, Santiago, with its important museums, varied architecture and vibrant culture. We will also visit Valparaiso, a thriving seaport with a growing arts community and world famous Chilean vineyards.

The sites are spectacular, the company stimulating and the experience will be memorable!

Tour Itinerary and Highlights

Day 1 Santiago

Individual arrivals in Santiago. Welcome dinner.

Day 2 Santiago

City walking tour; museums; San Cristobal hill.

Day 3 Santiago-Atacama Desert

Flight to Calama and coach to the Atacama Desert. First views of dunes and rock formations.

Day 4 Atacama Desert

Explore Tatio Geysers. New Year's Eve dinner and star viewing.

Day 5 Atacama Desert

Explore Salt flats; Valley of the Moon; Reserva Nacional flamingo colony.

Day 6 Atacama Desert

ALMA Observatory "behind the scenes" trip.

Day 7 Atacama Desert-Santiago

Visit to pre-Inca ruins. Coach to Calama and flight to Santiago.

Day 8 Santiago-Easter Island

Flight to Easter Island.

Day 9 Easter Island

Anthropological Museum; Catholic church; Ahu Tahai; Hanga Kio'e site visits.

Day 10 Easter Island

Ahu Vaihu; quarry of Rano Raraku; National Park visit. Evening performance of traditional music and dance.

Day 11 Easter Island

Parque Nacional Rapa Nui to see Rano Kao Crater Lake and Orongo Ceremonial Village; Ana Kai Tangata cave paintings. Farewell Dinner.

Day 12 Easter Island-Santiago

Flight to Santiago.

Day 13 Santiago

Excursion to Valparaiso. Individual departures from Santiago.

Hotels

Santiago	Plaza San Francisco
Atacama Desert	Altiplanico
Santiago	Airport
Easter Island	Altiplanico
Santiago	Plaza San Francisco

Resource Person

Bob McDonald is Host of CBC's *Quirks and Quarks* and Science Correspondent for *The National*. He has won numerous science journalism awards.

ROMtravel Coordinator

Eric Morrison is a ROM volunteer. He has wide experience as a world traveller in his various roles as a journalist with CTV News and past president of The Canadian Press news agency. Eric led a ROMtravel trip to Argentina in 2014.

Travel Agency Escort

Lewie Gonsalves is President of Worldwide Quest International Inc., and has organized ROMtravel tours to India, Ecuador, Chile, Argentina, Brazil and Peru.

Tour Cost

Double Occupancy	\$9,890
Single Supplement	1,995

Tour begins and ends at Santiago Airport. International flight costs are NOT included. Regional flights within Chile are included but may be subject to a price increase.

You are encouraged to book a year early to avoid disappointment. Space over the New Year is at a premium and this trip is truly unique.

Photos

- Ahu Tongariki, Easter Island, courtesy of Wikipedia Rivi.
- At the Reserva Nacional Flamingo Colony, courtesy of Wikipedia and Christian Mehlführer.

Terms & Conditions

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Tour Cost

Double Occupancy: \$9,890 per person

Single Supplement: \$1,995

Tour cost does NOT include international flight costs to/from your home and Santiago, Chile. Worldwide Quest can assist with booking flights.

Tour Cost Includes

- Return flights: Santiago-Calama and Santiago-Easter Island, but may be subject to a price increase.
- Group coach transfer from airport to hotel in Santiago on Day 1 for those arriving before or at the arrival time of the ROMtravel Coordinator. Group coach transfer from hotel to airport in Santiago on Day 13 for those departing at or after the departure time of the ROMtravel Coordinator.
- Portage of one standard sized suitcase per person.
- Ground transportation in a deluxe, air-conditioned coach for transfers and excursions as per itinerary.
- Shared accommodation in double occupancy room with private facilities at hotels listed or similar.
- Meals: breakfast daily, 8 lunches, and 7 dinners, including choice of water, soft drinks, coffee & tea; and wine with dinners. Bottled water each day.
- All visits, entrance fees, speakers' fees and events as per itinerary.
- All taxes and tips for all goods and services, drivers, hotel, restaurant and guiding staff related to the basic tour; all hotel and local taxes.
- Services of a Resource Person, ROMtravel Coordinator and a Travel Agency Escort.
- Services of English-speaking local guides. Services of Worldwide Quest.
- Pre-trip orientations; post-trip reunion. A travel handbook.

Not Included

- International flight costs to/from your home and Santiago, Chile.
- Items of a personal nature, e.g., laundry, telephone calls, internet.
- Airline baggage fees where applicable.
- Meals, snacks, beverages, and other services unless specified.
- Trip cancellation and hospital/medical insurance.
- Fuel surcharges if any. Camera and video fees where applicable.
- Chile Reciprocity Fee. Other visa fees if applicable.
- Additional meals and accommodations due to delays.
- Emergency evacuation costs.

Costs

All prices quoted herein are based on rates, fees and taxes as of March 7, 2014. Costs are subject to change without notice. Should tour costs increase, Worldwide Quest (as per TICO regulations) reserves the right to increase the price accordingly up to a maximum of 7%. Note that the itinerary may be subject to change without notice.

ROM Membership Requirement

Participants must be members of the Royal Ontario Museum. Individual annual membership is \$97; family annual membership is \$149 (if both partners join the tour, only one needs to be a member). Non-resident family annual membership (outside L/M postal zones) is \$102. Prices are subject to change without notice.

Deposits and Final Payment

An initial non-refundable deposit of \$800.00 per person is required at the time of booking. Optional trip cancellation and hospital/medical insurance will not be payable until rates are known in late 2014/early 2015. **A second payment of \$1,500.00 is due on December 15, 2014. The balance of payment, \$7,590.00, and single supplement of \$1,995.00, if applicable, is due on September 21, 2015.**

Reservations

As the number of participants is limited, reservations should be made as soon as possible. In the event of over-subscription, a waiting list will be maintained.

Physical Limitations or Disabilities

Any physical limitation or disability requiring special attention or treatment must be reported when reservation is made. Worldwide Quest and/or its agents reserve the right to decline to accept or retain anyone who may in their sole judgment require care and attention beyond that which can be provided.

Cancellations

Should a confirmed participant cancel, notification must be received in writing by Worldwide Quest. **All payments are non-refundable.** No refund will be issued for unused services. No claim or refund will be considered unless submitted in writing and received by Worldwide Quest within 30 days of the termination of the tour.

Documents

A passport valid for six (6) months after the return is required. Neither Worldwide Quest nor ROMtravel is responsible for missing or incorrect travel documents.

ROMtravel values your Privacy

Your contact information will be published in the Trip Handbook unless you advise NOT to do so. It is for the sole use of trip participants, ROMtravel and the Travel Agency, and will not be shared with anyone else.

Insurance

Comprehensive insurance to afford protection against penalties caused by cancellation of trip due to injury, illness or death of tour participant or member of participant's family is recommended. Medical insurance including emergency evacuation is mandatory. It is underwritten by Manulife Financial. The insurance premium is non-refundable and will be payable once rates are known in late 2014/early 2015. A waiver will be necessary if insurance is not taken. Insurance is taxable in Ontario. Please contact Worldwide Quest for rates.

Royal Ontario Museum Responsibility

Neither the Royal Ontario Museum nor the Department of Museum Volunteers of the Royal Ontario Museum, or any member thereof, assumes any responsibility for the financing, arranging or the conducting of the tour, nor shall be liable for damages or loss to person or property that might occur in connection with this tour however arising, whether by negligence or otherwise, and whether or not a member of the Royal Ontario Museum staff or the Department of Museum Volunteers accompanies the tour. The applicant by applying to join the tour hereby agrees to this limitation of liability on the part of the Royal Ontario Museum, the Department of Museum Volunteers or any member thereof.

Responsibility and Jurisdiction

Worldwide Quest and their agents act only as agents for the passengers with respect to services supplied to passengers by others, including but not limited to transportation, hotel and restaurant services, on the express condition that they are not liable for any failure in such services, or injury, loss or damage, delay or inconvenience arising out of or in connection with any defect in any vehicle or any act, omission, accident or error in providing such transportation, hotel, restaurant or other services. There is no refund for unused portions of the tour. In case of an accident occurring during the land portion of any tour, the passenger must submit any claim therefore only to the competent judicial authorities of the jurisdiction where such accident occurred, to be determined exclusively in accordance with the laws of such jurisdiction. By accepting the coupons and tickets and utilizing the services, the passenger agrees that neither the Royal Ontario Museum nor any affiliated or Worldwide Quest subsidiary companies or representatives shall be liable for any loss, injury or damage to the passenger or belongings or otherwise in connection with any accommodations, transportation or other services or resulting directly from any occurrences beyond its control including breakdown in equipment, strikes, theft, delay or cancellation or changes in itinerary or schedules, etc. Worldwide Quest and its agents reserve the right to refuse to accept or retain any person as a member of this tour. The right is reserved to withdraw any or all of the tour or portions thereof. All tour services including, but not limited to hotel accommodations, restaurants, guide services and transportation are furnished by independent contractors.

Worldwide Quest International Inc.
TICO Registration #s 2667946 & 1667953

Organized by ROMtravel for
The Department of Museum Volunteers
Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, Canada

The Department of Museum Volunteers' ROMtravel Program was established to provide superior quality tour opportunities for members and to generate income for the Royal Ontario Museum.

For further information, contact:

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