

EASTER ISLAND



Easter Island (Rapa Nui) is on the must-see list of every world explorer – because of its unique history, remote, isolated location, and mysterious archaeological sites. The statues called moai attribute to the island’s 13th – 16th century inhabitants, but how and why they stand in such a remote geographic location is the stuff of legends. Even Easter Island’s location has a bit of mystery – Sitting 3000 miles from the South American mainland, Easter Island is part of Polynesia, yet a Chilean territory. Isolated from the rest of the world, the inhabitants developed their own culture, religion, and lifestyle to thrive in the volcanic terrain.

Easter Island is for history and nature lovers. You can hike, bike, walk, or explore the island in a 4x4 jeep. Allow a few days to really explore the incredible landscape of volcanic craters, lava formations, and pink sand beaches adjacent to brilliant blue water.

Easter Island is accessed by a 5-hour flight from Santiago, Chile – fly about 2-3 times a week. Visits are most commonly added to a trip to Chile and/or Argentina, though exploring Peru and Easter Island works well too. Accommodations on the island are comfortable but basic and limited – so early reservations are advised. The usual visit last 3-5 days; staying at one resort location and taking day excursions to the various points of interest. Lakani World Tours can create a travel itinerary best suited for you – depending on your time, interests, and budget.

Hanga Roa – the main town and focal point of Easter Island life with hotels, restaurants, bars, and clubs.

Rano Raraku - a spectacular stone quarry from which the moai were cut; nearly 300 giant carvings, abandoned in various stages of completion in the mid-17th century. You can get spectacular views of the interior crater and walk along the crater’s edge to the dazzling natural rock pools at One Makihi.

Rano Kau Crater - the largest volcanic crater on Easter Island. It offers panoramic views of the ocean and the interior of this once-active, massive volcano.

Orongo Ceremonial Site – at Rano Kau Crater, an ancient ceremonial site dedicated to the island’s mysterious Bird Man cult. There are 53 houses built with flat stones, and rocks with petroglyphs that symbolize fertility.

Ara O Te Moai – trek this trail once used to transport moai sculptures and view numerous overturned moai along the way.

Togariki Ahu - 15 standing moais at the largest excavated and restored monument in Polynesia.