

## Itinerary for Extension to Easter Island: March 9 - 14, 2017

### Rapa Nui: The East of the Polynesian Triangle

The island marks the eastern tip of the so-called Polynesian Triangle, formed by New Zealand in the western corner, with Hawaii as the apex. The approximate length of each of the edges of this almost equilateral triangle is comparable to the distance between New York (USA) and Moscow (Russia).

Rapa Nui is located on the tectonic micro plate of Easter Island, right at the intersection of the Nazca and South American plates. The subduction occurring between these plates causes the island to move in the direction of the Chilean coast at a rate of 9 cm per year.

In any case, a few million years will have to pass before the Polynesian Triangle ends up losing its current shape.

### March 9: OVERNIGHT IN SANTIAGO, CHILE

Today is the last day of Adventures in Patagonia. If you are planning on joining us on the extension, you will be flying from Punta Arenas to Santiago. You will transfer from the airport to the hotel in Santiago and you will have the rest of the afternoon and evening to spend as you choose.



### March 10: HALF DAY HIKING VOLCANO TEREVAKA

Our day starts early with a 5.5 hour flight from Santiago to Rapa Nui (depending on 2018 flight schedules). After dropping off our luggage at our hotel, we'll spend the afternoon with our first hike, Volcano Terevaka. Leaving the village of Hanga Roa by car, we drive until we arrive at the remains of the old sheep farm at Vai Tea. We climb steadily uphill until we arrive at the top of the youngest volcano on Easter Island, Maunga Terevaka. Our efforts are rewarded with a beautiful 360° view around the coast of the island, seeing the ocean wherever we look. Now we know what it really feels like to be on the most remote island in the world. After a rest we hike down where we are transferred back to the hotel, where we can relax by the pool. We will also have a Welcome drink with a traditional flower ceremony. Overnight Hotel Otai. Duration: 2 hrs, hiking, about 3 miles

### March 11: FULL DAY HIKING ANAKENA BEACH.

We'll spend the entire day hiking the North Loop, one of the most untouched parts of the island. We start by car and drive along the west coast until we reach the area of Ahu Tepeu. From there we walk along the untouched north/east coast, on the way visiting Ahus that have not been restored and seeing petroglyphs, until we arrive at the beach of Anakena. This beach is a delightful place to take a break and enjoy a swim until we are picked up by vehicle and driven back to the village. Duration: 6 hrs, hiking, about 9 miles



### March 12: FULL DAY SOUTH COAST AND HIKE POIKE PENINSULA.

Today is a full day of exploring the south coast. We'll drive to the south coast and visit representative examples of unrestored platforms, Ahus Vaihu in the bay of Hanga Te'e, and Akahanga, where supposedly the famous king Hotu Matua is buried. Then we proceed to Peninsula Poike, the first active volcano which was responsible for the formation of the island of Rapa Nui. We leave our vehicle and hike up until we arrive at Vai a Heva, a huge human face carved into the rock with an open mouth to collect rainwater. We'll walk around this second highest volcano, then

hike down again and drive back to Hanga Roa. Duration: 5 hrs, hiking about 5 miles, 1000 ft elevation gain

### March 13: FULL DAY TEREVAKA HIKING



This is the truly unique route up to the island's highest point, and includes much more archaeology than the regular hike up and back from **Ahu Akivi**. Beginning at **Maunga Pu'i**, the walk follows one of the few streambeds on Easter Island (running water and waterfalls after heavy rains) and passes by **Ava Ranga Uka**, site of the island's most recent archaeological dig, where water was seemingly collected in man-made reservoirs. You then arrive at **Rano Aroi**, the island's third crater containing freshwater, before finishing at the peak of **Terevaka**, 507m above sea level. From the top you can see the whole island, giving an amazing sense of just

how isolated it is here. The descent is a gentle walk back down, finishing at **Ahu Akivi**, the restored site of the 7 moai, and the island's largest inland platform. Duration: 4 hrs, hiking about 7 miles, 1300 ft elevation gain

