

Chile Annular Eclipse

February 22–March 4, 2017

with optional Easter Island extension to March 7, 2017!



Dear Travelers:

We invite you to join our adventure to the **Chile Annular Eclipse, February 22–March 4, 2017** including the **Annular Solar Eclipse** just south of Puerto Aguirre **February 26, 2017!**

Join us and 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 an optional extension 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.

We will then 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 then board M/V Skorpions II to explore **Chilean Patagonia** as we sail south through protected coastal waters just south of **Puerto Aguirre** to see the **Annular Solar Eclipse** and the **San Rafael Glacier**, a massive tide-water glacier, declared a UNESCO World Biosphere reserve in 1978.

We will return to Santiago for flights home or 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. We will also become acquainted with the Easter Island culture.

Leading the expedition will be **Dr. Tom Love**, who has led trips in the Andes and South America for many years. Joining him will be noted



astromer **Dr. Alex Filippenko** with our UC-Berkeley Cal Discoveries group.

Please join us on this unique adventure!
Best regards,

Margaret
Margaret M. Betchart
President, Betchart Expeditions Inc.

ITINERARY

Day 1 USA to Santiago, Chile

Depart Los Angeles or 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 over-night 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

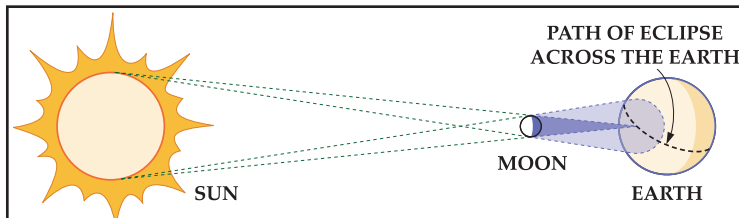
Today we will board the vessel, *M/V Skorprios II*, on which we will explore Chilean Patagonia. We will sail south from Puerto Montt, to the San Rafael Glacier,

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 Quintralco Fjord with its thermal baths. We will discover the 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. The many islands dotting the inland sea have been rounded by glaciers and are now covered by evergreen forests. In late afternoon, we will have a special lecture on the Annular Solar Eclipse.

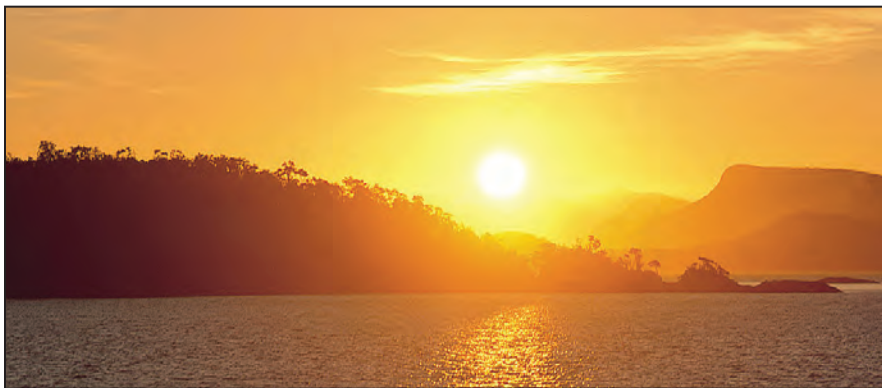
Day 5 Puerto Aguirre & Annular Solar Eclipse

Today, we will navigate through the Moraleda and Ferronave channels as we travel to Puerto Aguirre. This morning, we will head just past Puerto Aguirre to see the Annular Solar Eclipse! The Eclipse path will extend from Chile, across the Andes and the windswept plains of Patagonia before crossing the Atlantic to Africa, north of Namibia. We will arrive in time to prepare for photographs. Everyone will be given Eclipse viewing glasses.



Annular Solar Eclipse

An Annular Solar Eclipse occurs when the Moon covers the Sun's center, leaving the Sun's outer edge as a "ring of fire" or annulus of sunlight. An Annular Solar Eclipse only occurs when the Moon is in the new Moon phase. The Moon, Earth, and Sun are perfectly aligned, called syzygy, and the Moon is at apogee. The Moon revolves around the Earth up to 5 degrees from the centerline, so only when the Moon crosses the Earth's plane can an eclipse occur. At the instant of the beginning of angularity look at the trailing edge for lunar valleys and craters and a miniaturized display of Baily's Beads. The maximum eclipse occurs for over a minute on February 26, 2017 in southern Chile.





During the hour before maximum Eclipse, we will be thrilled by the slow passage of the Moon across the face of the Sun, which can yield incredibly beautiful time lapse photographs! With an Annular Eclipse, the Moon is further away from the Earth so there will be a ring of sunlight or a beautiful Annulus around the Moon at maximum Eclipse, which lasts about one minute.

The Sun will then slowly escape the shadowing of the Moon, and we will continue south on our voyage to the San Rafael Glacier.

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 one of the highlights of the journey—San Rafael Glacier, in San Rafael National Park. This spectacular tidewater 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. 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. In the evening, we will depart for Quitalco Fjord. (B,L,D)

Day 7 Quitalco Fjord & Thermal Pools

Today, we will 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. 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. All of 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 Yal Channel and the Castro Estuary to the Castro dock in the early evening light. Continue to the Skorpions Terminal in Puerto Montt. (B,L,D)

Day 9 Puerto Montt to Santiago

After breakfast, we will say farewell to the crew and staff on board *M/V Skorpions II* 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. (B)

Day 10 Santiago to Home or Optional Easter Island Extension

Passengers opting to fly home this evening will have a day at leisure in Santiago and airport transfer this evening. Passengers on the Easter Island Extension will transfer to the Santiago airport for our flight to Easter Island. Arrive on Easter Island and transfer to our *Hotel (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

This morning we will 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.

We will enjoy a picnic lunch at Rano Raraku in the famous setting. Then visit Ahu Tongariki nearby (with 15 restored moais), most recently reconstructed after being destroyed by a tidal wave in 1960, and the most impressive restoration on the island. After a day full of new experiences and impressions drive back to your hotel. (B,L)

Day 12 Orongo & Anakena

In the morning walk up the street to enjoy the wonderful singing at early mass. We will then drive up the extinct volcano Rano Kau. Appreciate on the way a view over the whole island and see its distinct volcanic features. We will proceed to a breathtaking outlook at the crater lake of Rano Kau.

Afterwards drive to the ceremonial village of Orongo, where the birdman competition took place and here you can see the spectacular petroglyphs related to this tradition. Drive down to Ahu Vinapu (not restored) reminding us of pre-Inca architecture

**AAAS Travels
ACS & Sigma Xi Expeditions
The Planetary Society**

BETCHART EXPEDITIONS Inc.
17050 Montebello Road, Cupertino, CA 95014-5435



FIRST CLASS

Chile Annular Eclipse!
February 22–March 4, 2017
*with optional Easter Island
extension to March 7, 2017*

COSTS & CONDITIONS

Trip Fee: From \$5,855 per person twin share + air fare from Los Angeles \$1,795, or Miami \$1,595, to Santiago and Puerto Montt, RT. *Optional Easter Island Extension:* \$1,595 per person twin share + air fare approx. \$895 Santiago/Easter Island, RT.

Questions: Please call **Betchart Expeditions Inc.**,

Marisa Eide direct line **(800) 467-9376**

Telephone: **(800) 252-4910** (Int'l.)/(408) 252-4910 (USA)

Fax: (408) 252-1444

Email: BetchartExMarisa@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 including flights Santiago to Puerto Montt, RT (quoted separately); some meals; 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 seeing the Annular Solar Eclipse February 26, 2017 and exploring Patagonian Chile with optional extension to Easter Island, 2,350 miles to the west. Leading the expedition will be an excellent Betchart naturalist and a noted astronomer from UC-Berkeley with our Cal Discoveries group.

The group will fly 1,000 km south of Santiago to Puerto Montt and Puerto Varas to board the comfortable expedition ship, *M/V Skorprios II*, to explore Patagonian Chile, including the San Rafael Glacier. There will also be sightseeing in Santiago 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. *There are good prospects for seeing the Annular Eclipse (February is the driest month for Puerto*

Aguirre). However, there could be rain or clouds which obscure the eclipse. 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 group fares with Lan Chile from Los Angeles or Miami. All air bookings will be handled by Betchart Expeditions Inc. AIR FARES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Hotel Accommodations: In Santiago, Puerto Varas, 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 106 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. Singles are available on Athens Deck only.

Reservations, Deposits & Payments:

Please mail a deposit check of \$1,000 per person with the completed reservation form to:

**Chile & Easter Island Eclipse 2017
Betchart Expeditions Inc.
17050 Montebello Road,
Cupertino, CA 95014-5435.**

The balance is due 150 days before departure.

Cancellations & Refunds: The initial deposit is refundable up to 150 days before departure less a handling fee of \$250 per person. There is no refund after the 150-day period unless your place is resold, then only the \$250 per person handling fee is withheld. There are no refunds for unused meals or other expedition features.