TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE

Chile and the Skies of the Southern Hemisphere

December 5–16, 2020

WITH David Alexander
Director of the Rice Space Institute
Professor of Physics and Astronomy
Dear Rice Alumni and Friends,

On December 14, 2020, join Rice Traveling Owls to witness a total solar eclipse during the Southern Hemisphere’s summer. This unique tour features two of Chile’s renowned natural regions: the Atacama Desert and the Lake District.

In the company of David Alexander, director of the Rice Space Institute and Professor of Physics and Astronomy, you will first go behind the scenes to enjoy special access to world-class observatories, including ALMA, the Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array, the world’s most powerful radio telescope, and Paranal, home to the VLT, the Very Large Telescope.

Together we’ll explore the fascinating Atacama Desert, which features some of the most extraordinary landscapes on the planet—with astonishing evaporated salt lakes, lagoons, hot springs, and amazing animal life including Andean flamingos. Top this off with stargazing through telescopes in the Atacama Desert. To view the eclipse, you will journey south to Pucón, in the Lake District. Here we’ll explore the area’s national parks famed for their clear lakes, lush forests, flowing rivers and sensational views of the snow-capped Villarrica volcano. On the day of the eclipse, we’ll travel to a specially selected eclipse viewing-site to witness one of the earth’s most remarkable astronomical events. After the eclipse, we’ll celebrate at a hot spring. Conclude your adventure with lunch and a tasting of select vintages in Chile’s Casablanca Valley.

Space for this program has already filled quickly, so please call today to secure your place on space to witness a spectacular total solar eclipse as well as the remarkable observatories and natural wonders of Chile.

Sincerely,

The Rice Alumni Traveling Owls
Office of Alumni Relations
Rice University

For further information, please call the Rice Traveling Owls at 713-34-TRIPS (87477) or Email travelingowls@rice.edu
DAVID ALEXANDER is the director of the Rice Space Institute and a professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy, where his primary areas of research are solar physics, exoplanetary physics, and earth remote sensing. As Director, Professor Alexander is responsible for managing all aspects of the growth and development of the institute. This includes providing vision, direction, and leadership, managing the various institute programs, identifying and fostering research opportunities for our faculty, and interacting with government and the space industry.

Professor Alexander was recently named an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (OBE) by Her Majesty the Queen in the Birthday Honors List of June 2018 for services to US/UK connections in the space industry and higher education.
ITINERARY

DAY 1 SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5
U.S. ✈ Santiago
Depart from your home city for an overnight flight for Santiago, the capital of Chile. OVERNIGHT FLIGHT

DAY 2 SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6
Santiago
Arrive this morning in Santiago and transfer to your hotel. An afternoon city tour including a tour of the Pre-Columbian Museum will introduce us to this city at the foot of the Andes. This evening gather for an orientation and welcome dinner. HOTEL PLAZA EL BOSQUE PARK & SUITES EBRO (D)

DAY 3 MONDAY, DECEMBER 7
Santiago ✈ Calama Alma ✈ San Pedro de Atacama
This morning fly north to Calama and transfer to San Pedro de Atacama for a three-night stay. On the way, we will stop at Cordillera de la Sal, the Salt Mountains. Shaped over time by the rain, wind, and sun of the Atacama Desert, its final form as we know it today is full of natural sculptures, different types of stratifications, and vary colors due to its mineral diversity. In the afternoon, we visit the Moon Valley with its extraordinary landscape caused by the erosion of the Salt Mountains. This evening we'll travel a short distance from town to the San Pedro de Atacama Celestial Explorations (SPACE), a privately-owned complex of telescopes designed to thrill you with views of the southern sky under the expert guidance of astronomer-owner Alain Maury or another staff astronomer. HOTEL NOI SAN PEDRO DE ATACAMA (B, L, D)

DAY 4 TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8
San Pedro de Atacama
This morning the high plateau lagoons of Miscanti and Miñiques. Look for vicuñas, South American camels, viscachas, similar to chinchillas, and other wildlife of the area. Afterward, relax in the warm mineral waters of the Termas de Puritana hot springs. We will have the remainder of the evening at leisure until dinner. HOTEL NOI SAN PEDRO DE ATACAMA (B, L, D)

DAY 5 WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9
San Pedro de Atacama ✈ ALMA
This morning visit the largest astronomical project in existence, the Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array, or ALMA as it is commonly referred to. While at ALMA (the operations facilities are located at 9,514 feet) we will visit the control room, laboratories, an antenna transporter and possibly antenna under maintenance. There will be an opportunity to visit the antenna installation. This visit will be optional and require participants to travel from the base station laboratories to the Chajnantor Plateau located at approximately 16,500 feet. Participants who wish to make this visit will need to be in excellent health and need to pass an onsite fitness test. In addition, a medical release form (signed by your physician) will be mandatory. Additional information regarding the status of the antenna installation visit and the medical release form will be included in your pre-tour documents. In the afternoon, we will explore the immense Salar de Atacama and Chaxa Lagoon, the entry point to the National Flamingo Reserve. The reserve is home to a variety of birds, including the Andean flamingo, Chilean flamingo, horned coot, silvery grebe, Andean gull, and greenish-yellow finch. HOTEL NOI SAN PEDRO DE ATACAMA (B, L, D)

DAY 6 THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10
San Pedro de Atacama ✈ Antofagasta
Transfer by motorcoach to Antofagasta. The afternoon is at leisure. HOTEL TERRADO ANTOFAGASTA (B, L, D)
DAY 7 FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11
Antofagasta ✶ Paranal ✶ Santiago
Depart by motorcoach to the Paranal Observatory (pending final confirmation), home of the ‘Very Large Telescope’ often described as the world’s largest. Located atop Cerro Paranal in the Atacama Desert, it has 4 telescopes of 8.2 meters in diameter. The Paranal Mountain was chosen because of its excellent atmospheric conditions and remote location. After touring the facilities, we’ll transfer to the airport for a late afternoon flight to Santiago. HOTEL PLAZA EL BOSQUE PARK & SUITES EBRO (B, BOX L)

DAY 8 SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12
Santiago ✶ Temuco ✶ Pucón
This morning we’ll fly south to Temuco and transfer to Pucón, a small town embedded in the Andes foothills and the site of the 2020 Eclipse. A city tour will introduce us to Pucón and Villarrica located on the shores of Lake Villarrica and the snowcapped Villarrica Volcano. PUCHON GREEN PARK HOTEL (B, L, D)

DAY 9 SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13
Villarrica Volcano & Lagoon
Today, we’ll enjoy a full-day excursion to Villarrica Volcano and Lagoon. A walk at the base of Volcano Villarrica will give you a beautiful view over the lakes Villarrica, Colico, Caburgua, and Calafquén. PUCHON GREEN PARK HOTEL (B, PICNIC L, D)

DAY 10 MONDAY, DECEMBER 14
Eclipse Day ✶ Pucón
This morning travel to our eclipse viewing site on the outskirts of Pucón which is directly along the path of totality. Enjoy lunch a day preparing for and seeing a total solar eclipse. A buffet lunch will be served on-site. Later that day celebrate with an excursion to local thermal hot springs set in a verdant canyon over a rushing stream. PUCHON GREEN PARK HOTEL (B, L, D)

DAY 11 TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15
Pucón ✶ Temuco ✶ Santiago ✶ Casablanca Valley ✶ U.S.
After breakfast transfer to the Temuco Airport for a flight back to Santiago. On arrival, we’ll drive to the Casablanca Valley where renowned Chilean wines are produced. We’ll have our farewell lunch at the Kingston Family Vineyards. Learn how this vineyard founded by an American family, including Harvard, Princeton and Stanford graduates, has evolved into one of Chile’s hottest, award-winning boutique wineries. Afterward, we’ll transfer to Santiago’s international airport for overnight flights home. (B, L)

DAY 12 WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16
Arrive U.S.
Arrive in the U.S. and connect with flights home.

PROGRAM NOTE: Chile will be a prime location to experience the Total Solar Eclipse. We will provide an optimal viewing location to experience this phenomenon. Please keep in mind that viewing the eclipse will be weather dependent. Since we have no control over the weather, there is always a chance that we will not be able to view it or view it only for a short period of time. Also, we will be visiting working observatories located in remote regions of Chile, so our schedule will rely on precise timings. Keep in mind that unexpected schedule changes could affect the program. Your Travel Director will keep you fully informed of any changes to planned activities. A sense of humor, flexibility, and patience will be greatly appreciated during this program and especially on eclipse day!
WHAT TO EXPECT
This exclusive expedition is designed for Rice University Alumni and friends who are interested in learning about the astronomy and experiencing a total solar eclipse as well as the wildlife, geology, and superb natural landscapes of the Atacama Desert and Lake District of Chile. December is summer in Chile and average temperatures in Santiago are between 83°F and 54°F. In the Atacama Desert temperatures generally range from 79°F to 45°F and average daily temperatures in the Lake District generally range from 70°F to 49°F. Walks will be from one to two miles and at times over rocky, dusty, and uneven terrain and at high elevations. The pace of the walks will be leisurely. Some of the excursions in the Atacama Desert can reach (for a short time) altitudes of approximately 14,000 feet. The visit to the Paranal Observatory (pending final confirmation) is at approximately 8,645 feet. An optional visit to the antenna installation at the Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array will be at 16,000 feet. All the hotels are located in what are considered comfortable elevations. Roadways can be narrow with steep ascents/descents and at times rocky, unpaved, and dusty. Drives can be up to four hours depending on the excursion. Clothing that can be layered, as well as sunblock, sun hat, sunglasses, and comfortable walking shoes with a sturdy tread, will be essential on this trip. Eclipse viewing glasses will be provided for the Eclipse Day. To enjoy this experience, participants must be in good physical and mental health and be able to keep up with the pace of the group. Since some travel will be in remote areas, everyone must be flexible concerning time schedules, food, insects, weather and dust. Program participants requiring extraordinary assistance must be accompanied by someone who can and will provide all required assistance. We describe this trip as relatively active. Travel is by jet aircraft and motorcoach.

PROGRAM COST INCLUDES
Study leader’s lectures and discussions • Accommodations and meals as specified in the itinerary • Wine with included dinners and farewell lunch • All land transportation • Four in-tour flights from: Santiago to Calama, Antofagasta to Santiago, Santiago to Temuco, Temuco to Santiago, provided increases in the in-tour airfare after the initial pricing of this program are not included (see below) • Professional guides and tour director throughout • Gratuities to local guides and drivers • Airport transfers for group flights • Domestic airport departure taxes • Entrance fees • Eclipse viewing site • Eclipse viewing glasses • Baggage handling • Pre-departure information.

PROGRAM COST DOES NOT INCLUDE
US domestic and international airfare • Passport Fees • Meals not specified in the itinerary • Personal items such as laundry, fax, e-mail, wi-fi or telephone calls • Liquor other than wine or beer included with some meals • Room service • Excess baggage charges • Private transfers • Medical expenses • Travel insurance • Deviations from the scheduled tour • Any increases in the in-tour airfare (included as part of the main program cost), security, or fuel surcharges imposed after the initial pricing of this program are not included • Tip to the tour director is at the passenger’s discretion.

LAND PROGRAM COST
(Per person, double occupancy)
Standard Room (in Pucón, 269 square feet).......................... $8,995
Standard Plus Room (in Pucón, 322 square feet).................. $9,170
There are a limited number of Triple Rooms. Please call for availability and price.
Single Supplement (Limited availability).............................. $2,250

SAMPLE COACH AIRFARE
Houston/Santiago/Houston............................................. $1,506
(As of July 2019, and subject to change)
RESERVATIONS, DEPOSITS & FINAL PAYMENT: To reserve your space on this program, a $1,000 deposit is required per person. A second deposit of $2,000 per person will be due on or before December 9, 2019. Please fill out and mail, e-mail or fax the registration form. Deposits may be charged to a credit card. Reservations are acknowledged in order of receipt. Final payment is due August 7, 2020, 120 days prior to departure and must be paid by check. Royal Adventures handles all invoicing. CST #2009579-40.

CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS: Cancellations must be received in writing by the Traveling Owls from the participant. Cancellations within 14 days of booking: full refund; cancellations received up to 120 days prior to departure will be assessed a cancellation fee equal to the full amount of deposits paid. Cancellations received within 120 days prior to departure are subject to 100% penalty of all deposits and payments, regardless of booking date. There are no refunds for unused meals, accommodations or other trip features.

CHANGES IN ITINERARY: The Itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of Traveling Owls and the tour operator.

RATES: Tour costs are based upon current airfares, tariffs, and currency values. While we do everything possible to maintain the listed prices, they are subject to change.

INSURANCE: We highly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance. An application for insurance will be provided by the Traveling Owls upon confirmation. Neither the Association of Rice Alumni nor Royal Adventures accepts liability for any airline cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a non-refundable airline ticket. The airline ticket when issued shall constitute the sole contract and therefore the sole responsibility of the owners at all times. The price of the program is given in good faith based on current tariffs and rates and is subject to change. Any tariff, exchange rate, or fuel increases will be passed onto participants. Association of Rice Alumni, Rice University and Royal Adventures do not accept the liability for any airline cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable airline ticket. The air ticket when issued shall constitute the sole contract between the passenger and the airline concerned. All cancellations must be made in writing. There are no refunds for unused meals, accommodations, or other features. Because the total solar eclipse will be weather dependent, there is always a chance that passengers will not be able to view it or only for a short period of time. Neither Royal Adventures, nor the Association of Rice Alumni, nor Rice University makes any guarantees as to the viewing of the total solar eclipse. As part of the consideration and right to participate in this tour, each participant will be asked to sign a liability release.

DISCLAIMER: Every reasonable effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information presented in this publication. Neither the Association of Rice Alumni nor Royal Adventures is responsible for errors in or damages resulting from use of the information contained herein. Information contained in this brochure is subject to change.

QUESTIONS: Please contact Rice Alumni Traveling Owls at 713-34-TRIPS or TravelingOwls@rice.edu for details.

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T O T A L  S O L A R  E C L I P S E: Chile and the Skies of the Southern Hemisphere

Enclosed is my/our deposit for $___ ($1,000 per person) for ____ person(s) on Total Solar Eclipse: Chile and the Skies of the Southern Hemisphere departing December 5, 2020. I/We understand that a second deposit of $2,000 per person will be due December 9, 2019, and that final payment by check only is due August 7, 2020.

Please authorize credit card payment or make a check payable to Royal Adventures, and send, along with completed reservation form to: Rice Alumni Traveling Owls—MS 520, Rice University, P.O. Box 1892, Houston, TX 77251-1892. You may also call the Rice Alumni Traveling Owls at 713-34-TRIPS, e-mail travelingowls@rice.edu, or fax your reservation to 713-348-5210.

NAME AS ON PASSPORT DATE OF BIRTH

ADDRESS

HOME PHONE CELL PHONE

E-MAIL(S)

BADGE NAME(S)

PAYMENT OPTIONS

☐ Pay by check made out to “Royal Adventures”
☐ Please charge the deposit of $_____ ($1,000 per person) to: ☐ AMEX ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover Card

CARD #

EXP DATE SEC. CODE

ACCOMMODATIONS

☐ Standard Room ☐ Standard Plus Room
☐ I will share a room with __________
☐ I request a single room (limited availability)

FLIGHTS

☐ I/We will take care of my/our own international flights. Please book my/our air from ________ ☐ Economy ☐ Business

I/We have carefully read the Program Cost, General Information and Responsibility sections of this brochure and agree to their terms on behalf of myself and of my party named above.

SIGNATURE DATE

SIGNATURE DATE
TOTAL
Chile and the Skies
SOLAR
of the Southern Hemisphere
ECLIPSE
December 5–16, 2020

HIGHLIGHTS

OBSERVE THE 2020 TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE at a special viewing site outside Pucon, Chile.

GO BEHIND-THE-SCENES at some of the most advanced and largest observatories in the world with special entry to the Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array (ALMA) and Paranal Observatory (pending final confirmation).

MARVEL AT DAZZLING NIGHT SKIES with large amateur telescopes in the Atacama Desert.

EXPLORE CHILE’S LAKE DISTRICT known for its sapphire lakes, lush forest, and snow-capped volcanos.

ENJOY THE DRAMATIC SCENERY of the Andean north with its unusual wildlife, including the Andean flamingo, vicuña, and viscacha.

SPEND A DAY IN CHILE’S WINE COUNTRY, and TOUR SANTIAGO with a visit to the premiere Pre-Columbian Museum of Art.