

WILDLIFE TRAVEL



18th November to 5th December 2018 (18 days)

CHILE

Chiloé, Juan Fernández and Easter Islands

NEW
ITINERARY
FOR 2018

Chile has been one of our favourite destinations since we first visited in 2004. This exciting new itinerary takes us from the temperate rainforests of Chiloé to endemic-rich Juan Fernández (Robinson Crusoe Island) and Easter Island with its famous 'moai' .

After a visit to the high Andes with the chance of seeing **Diademed Sandpiper-plover**, we fly to the Juan Fernández islands, whose ancient volcanic origins are evident in their rugged hills and **towering oceanic cliffs**. Here we explore the wildlife-rich forests - enjoying fantastic views of the dramatic landscape, and seeing the **rich marine life** during a pelagic boat trip.

Next we visit Chiloé Island, with its outstanding natural and cultural heritage. We have plenty of time to explore the **Valdivian Temperate Rainforest** looking for forest animals including rare mammals, frogs, lizards, and many colourful birds. Our time on Chiloé will include a visit by boat to see a breeding colony of **Humboldt and Magellanic Penguins** as well as an opportunity to visit some of the fantastic 18th century wooden churches.

A tour of the islands of Chile would not be complete without crossing the Pacific Ocean to the shores of the remote, volcanic **Easter Island**. Here we have time to learn about the fascinating cultural history of the island - visiting some of its most dramatic archaeological sites, as well as several of its islets by boat, to search for seabirds.

Our itinerary is designed to introduce the breath-taking diversity of wildlife of Chile's islands. We will also have the opportunity to find out about its diverse and rich cultural history, from the Easter Island cults to colonial society, all set amongst the landscapes that captured Charles Darwin's imagination.



Price
£7,250

Single Room Supplement
£750

Full board

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|------------------|----------------------|
| Day 1 | flight to Santiago |
| Day 2 | El Yeso Valley |
| Day 3-4 | Juan Fernández |
| Day 5 | Cumberland Bay |
| Day 6 | El Padre Bay |
| Day 7 | Chiloé Island |
| Day 8-9 | Valdivian Rainforest |
| Day 10 | Cucao |
| Day 11 | Puñihuil |
| Day 12 | Caulin Bay |
| Day 13 | Easter Island |
| Day 14 | Rano Raraku |
| Day 15 | Orongo |
| Day 16 | flight to Santiago |
| Day 17/18 | return to UK |

Leaders

Laurie Jackson with
local guides

island wildlife,
Easter Island moai

Wildlife and culture holidays



Our profits are donated to the **Wildlife Trusts**



Chile's Islands

Chiloé is a land of myths, legends and history, with countless and outstanding natural and cultural riches. It's still a well-kept secret located across a channel south of Puerto Montt, in Chile's Lake District, in the north-western corner of Chilean Patagonia. This green island is filled with picturesque countryside and maritime landscapes, colourful stilt houses, fishermen's boats and wooden churches in scattered villages and small towns nestled among the fields and rolling hills; everything framed in beautiful and dramatic natural settings, a place where people still build houses, churches and boats using the materials and ancient techniques passed from one generation to the next.

Juan Fernandez is a fascinating archipelago of volcanic origin, situated about 400 miles off Valparaiso, central Chile. Robinson Crusoe, the main island of the group, is accessible after a 2-hour flight journey from Santiago, Chile. Its rich history dates back to its discovery by Portuguese explorer Juan Fernandez in 1574, but its fame relates to the prolonged residence of the Scottish sailor Alexander Selkirk who was marooned there between 1704 and 1709. His epic survival story served as an inspiration source for Daniel Defoe's famous novel. The critically endangered temperate sub-tropical woodlands of the island, the Fernandezian forests, holds a large, diverse and rich array of flora represented by more than 130 endemic species, most of them regarded as Critically Endangered. During this trip, we shall explore these forests searching for its endemic landbirds: the remarkable Juan Fernandez Firecrown and the Juan Fernandez Tit-tyrant. We will also have the opportunity to explore the rugged coastline by boat, where we will look for its rare seabirds, including the petrels and shearwaters that nest in burrows in the secluded forests.

Easter Island, more correctly known as Rapa Nui, is one of the most remote inhabited locations in the world, with a world-famous unique archaeological heritage. This small triangle of volcanic rock, located in Polynesia, right in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, has always been subject of curiosity, study and speculation. Many explorers, researchers and travellers have attempted to unveil its secrets, but still important missing pieces remain to be discovered. What are the origins of the islanders? How did they transport their massive moai stone heads from the quarry locations to the their platforms? Why is Rongo Rongo the only written language in Oceania? Our guides will show us the best locations and provide all the known scientific background and interpretation.



ITINERARY

Please note that we may change the itinerary to suit local weather and road conditions or for other practical reasons, at the leader and guide's discretion

Day 1, 18th Nov An evening flight takes us from London to Amsterdam and then to Santiago in central Chile, arriving **Day 2 19th Nov** After leaving our luggage at our hotel and collecting packed lunches, we will head up from the 'mediterranean' climate of the lowlands into the Andean foothills and the **El Yeso Valley**, famous as one of the easiest places to find the bizarre Diademed Sandpiper-plover and other mountain birds, including the endemic Crag Chilia. o/n Santiago.

Day 3, 20th Nov Today we fly to **Robinson Crusoe** (two hours), the only inhabited island of the remote Juan Fernández archipelago, some 670km off the coast of Chile. A boat ride (90 minutes) will then take us towards Cumberland Bay with plenty of time to get settled in to our hotel and explore the local area around San Juan Bautista, our home for the next three nights.

Day 4, 21st Nov Today we explore **Juan Fernández National Park** an area of the highly-threatened Fernandezian forest, a habitat of high floristic diversity where as well as the more than 130 endemic plant species, we will look for the endemic birds of the island - Juan Fernández Firecrown and Juan Fernández Tit-tyrant, and enjoy breath-taking coastal views.

Day 5, 22nd Nov We take a boat trip from **Cumberland Bay** hoping to encounter the endemic Juan Fernández Fur Seal along with a suite of rare seabirds: Juan Fernandez, DeFilippi's, Kermadec and Stejneger's Petrels.

Day 6, 23rd Nov From our hotel, we will head to El Padre Bay by boat before our return from Juan Fernández to the mainland, flying to Santiago. o/n Santiago.

Photos: (page 2, left to right) *polyphyllum* (WT), Juan Fernandez Fur Seal (FSE) and Easter Island 'moai' (FSE)
(page 3, from top) Southern Pudu (WT), Peale's Dolphin (FSE), Chucao Tapaculo (FSE)



Day 7, 24th Nov This morning we fly to **Chiloé Island**, driving south to the magnificent Tepuhueico reserve for the rest of the day looking for mammals, frogs and reptiles that live in these woods. o/n Tepuhueico.

Days 8-9, 25th-26th Nov We have the unique opportunity to spend two days exploring the pristine Tepuhueico woodlands, part of the **Valdivian Temperate Rainforest**. We hope to encounter **rare mammals** including the critically endangered endemic Darwin's Fox, Southern Pudu (the second smallest deer in the world) and Kodkod (a rare woodland cat). There are also a number of endemic birds to seek out, including Black-throated Huet-huet, Chucao Tapaculo, Des Mur's Wiretail and Green-backed Firecrown. o/n Tepuhueico.

Day 10, 27th Nov We visit the maritime temperate rainforest within **Chiloé National Park**, home to Slender-billed and Austral Parakeets, Thorn-tailed Rayadito and the rare Rufous-tailed Hawk. The National Park opens to the Pacific, where Chilean, Peale's and Bottle-nosed Dolphins can all be found feeding in the sheltered inshore waters and where we may find the little-known Snowy-crowned Tern. o/n Castro.

Day 11, 28th Nov Today we visit the west coast of the island, to the little fishing village of Pufihuil. Here we will take a short boat trip out to a group of offshore islands to see one of the few mixed breeding colonies of **Humboldt** and **Magellanic Penguins**, where we may also catch sight of the endearing little Marine Otter that feeds around the colony. Following lunch we will visit the picturesque towns on the eastern coast. o/n Castro.

Day 12, 29th Nov This morning we visit the mudflats of **Caulin Bay**, winter home to the majority of the world's Hudsonian Godwit along with many other shorebirds. Our flight takes us back to Santiago, ready for our trip out into the Pacific tomorrow o/n Santiago.

Day 13, 30th Nov This morning we fly 3,500 kilometres out into the Pacific Ocean to one of the most remote inhabited places in the world, the famous **Easter Island**, a World Heritage Site and National Park. On arrival, we will



explore the village of Hanga Roa, our home for the next 3 nights, and experience our first encounter with the iconic 'moai' stone statues of Rapa Nui.

Day 14, 1st Dec Our day will include visits to some of the most dramatic and distinctive sites of Rapa Nui, as we head towards the volcanic crater of **Rano Raraku**. We will see the largest Moai ever built and Ahu Tongariki the largest ceremonial site on the Island.

Day 15, 2nd Dec Undoubtedly a highlight of our visit to Easter Island, today we visit the **ceremonial site of Orongo**, set in the huge caldera of the extinct Rano Kau volcano. As well as the ancient artefacts this is also an area to spot many endemic plants. In the afternoon we will take a boat trip towards the three volcanic islets off the southwestern tip of the island, where we should see a number of seabirds including Herald Petrel, Henderson's Petrel, Great Frigatebird and Masked Booby.

Day 16, 3rd Dec We will have time this morning to visit the local craft market and anthropological museum before our return to Santiago for one final night before our morning flights next day (**Day 17 4th Dec**) **arriving in the UK Day 18, 5th Dec.**

Photos (page 4) Marine Otter (FSE) and Magellanic Penguins (WT) (page 5 from top) Austral Parakeet (WT), Robinson Crusoe Island, Juan Fernandez Petrel, Moai of Easter Island (all FSE)



Accommodation, Meals & Transport

Accommodation will be at good lodges and hotels all with en-suite accommodation. **Rooms are very limited on Juan Fernandez, and we may have to ask all travellers to share twin bedrooms for these three nights.** Meals provided during the stay will be a mixture of local and International dishes. Requests for special diets can be accommodated.

We will ensure that our travelling is as comfortable as possible, using small coach/mini-bus.

We will take domestic flights between Santiago and the islands (with Latam to Chiloe and Rapa Nui, with Lassa airlines to Juan Fernandez – the latter in an 8-10 seater plane, 10kg luggage limit but some can be left secure in Santiago).

Leaders and guides

Our leader for this holiday is **Laurie Jackson**, an all-round naturalist who has worked for the Wildlife Trusts in Bedfordshire, Sussex and Devon, and now works for Buglife as their Landowner Advisor. Laurie has led several previous Wildlife Travel trips from Svalbard to Transylvania and Morocco. She will help you to enjoy all aspects of the wildlife we come across in Chile, along with our ever-popular local guide, **Claudio Vidal**, author of several books on the natural history of Chile, and guide for our five previous trips to the country. Claudio will not be joining us on Easter Island, where we will be accompanied by local guides.

Weather

A range of weather is expected. In Santiago it is likely to be sunny and warm: it will be cooler as we travel higher up into the Andes. Chiloe is home to temperate rain forests, and is likely to be cool (10-15 degrees) and damp. It can be windy and cold at times, and we might expect some rain. Temperatures on Easter Island and Juan Fernandez should be relatively mild (15-20 degrees). It will feel considerably colder during boat trips.

Photos: (page 6) Castro waterfront, Chiloe (FSE): (page 7, from top) Red-legged Cormorant, Black-browed Allbatross (both WT), Darwin's Fox (FSE), Rufous-tailed Plantcutter (WT) and Moai statues (FSE)



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Extending your holiday

Chile is a fantastic country, one of our favourite destinations, and well worth spending more time in. If you would like to extend your holiday to take in some of the other highlights of this friendly country, from the Atacama to Torres del Paine, please speak to us.

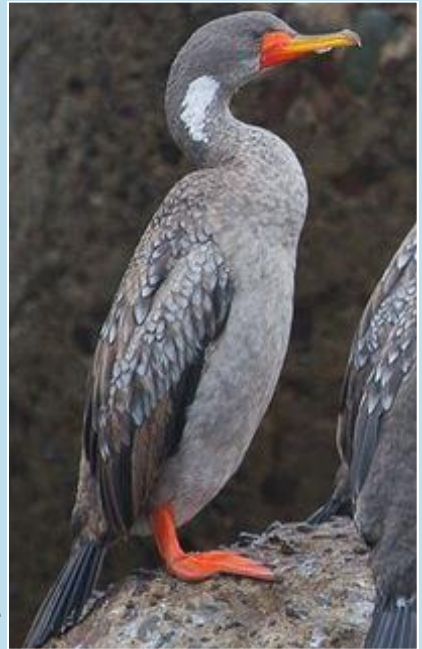
You might also consider travelling out to Chile a day earlier, to have a day to catch up after the long flight, and a more relaxed start to your trip

Health and Fitness

No strenuous walking is involved but you need to have a **reasonable level of general fitness**. Most of the walks are not long (perhaps a couple of hours), but we will sometimes walk on **rough ground**. There are a few occasions when we walk uphill but this is not excessive.

We will be visiting **high altitudes** near Santiago (optional trip to El Yeso Valley at c **3,000m**). **If you have any reason to believe that you will be adversely affected at these altitudes you must consult your doctor prior to booking.**

This trip involves several boat trips, in a variety of sized vessels: you should be happy getting in and out of smaller boats, and may want to talk to your doctor about sea sickness medication. General inoculations for travel are recommended. We do not visit malaria/yellow fever areas.



International Flights

Group flights are with KLM as follows:

18th Nov dep London Heathrow 17.05, arr Amsterdam 19.15
dep Amsterdam 20.55, arr Santiago 11.05 (19th)
4th Dec dep Santiago 12.45, arr Amsterdam 10.00 (5th)
5th Dec dep Amsterdam 11.40, arr London Heathrow 12.05

Chile is 4 hours behind UK in November/December

It is possible to fly from other regional airports, including Manchester: ask us about options.

Passports and Visas

You must have a valid passport for this trip (valid for at least six months after the end of the holiday). Temporary tourist visas are issued on arrival in Chile for holders of UK/EU passports. For holders of other passports please check with the relevant embassy.

Insurance

Personal travel insurance providing good medical cover, including emergency rescue and repatriation, is essential for this trip.



TO BOOK: Contact us to check availability and reserve a place. Then complete the Booking Form and send to Sunvil Holidays (CAA-ATOL Licence 808, ABTA V6218), our tour operator, with your deposit. All details about booking are given in the Booking Pack.

**DEPOSIT PER PERSON £1,500, SECOND INSTALMENT ON
CONFIRMATION OF HOLIDAY £2,200 (to cover committed costs)
BALANCE DUE BY 19/8/2018**

INCLUDED: Return flights from the UK, including airport taxes. Local transport as specified in itinerary including domestic flights within Chile and ferries/boat trips. 15 night's accommodation (2 nights extra on overnight flights), full board basis (picnic lunches). Services of leader and local guide.

NOT INCLUDED: Drinks with evening meals, refreshments. Entrance fees during any optional sightseeing. Gratuities. Travel insurance.

WILDLIFE TRAVEL

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Wildlife Travel Ltd. Reg. No 2237697; (for Registered Charity numbers, please contact us)*

All photos courtesy Far South Expeditions (FSE) or Wildlife Travel (WT)

Front cover (clockwise from top): Diademed Sandpiper-plover (WT), Juan Fernandez Firecrown, Chiloe church, Robinson Crusoe Island views (all FSE). Back: *Schizanthus hookeri* and Crag Chilia (WT)