

EASTER ISLAND

TAPATI FESTIVAL & SANITAGO, CHILE

WITH DR. SIDSEL MILLERSTRÖM



**FAR
HORIZONS**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL TRIPS



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EASTER ISLAND

with Dr. Sidsel Millerström

Tour Easter Island, a Unique Open-Air Museum with Nearly 1000 Immense Stone Statues and Hundreds of Stunning Petroglyphs

At the southeastern tip of the Polynesian triangle lies windswept Easter Island, one of the most remote spots on the planet. Surrounded by an endless ocean as blue as the sky and located 2,300 miles west of Santiago, Chile, this tiny dot of land is sixty square miles of rocky grasslands, extinct volcanic cones, and steep ocean cliffs.

Easter Island, known to its Polynesian inhabitants as Rapa Nui, stands as a unique open-air archaeology museum. Home to nearly a thousand towering moai statues that cast enigmatic gazes across the landscape, numerous intricate petroglyphs, the island offers an unparalleled experience for those seeking to explore its deep mysteries through an Easter Island trip.

Our meticulously planned journey coincides with the vibrant Tapati Festival, a cultural celebration that showcases the rich traditions of the Rapa Nui people.

Each morning unveils thrilling competitions of strength and skill, while the evenings are filled with the soothing sounds of Polynesian music, as dancers adorned in grass skirts captivate audiences under the night sky. This festive time also pays homage to the island's history through traditional performances, including the mesmerizing cat's cradle chant, a method of preserving and passing down the lore of the land through generations.

Embark on a 12-day exploration with Far Horizons, accompanied by a group of just 14 guests. This tour extends beyond Easter Island to include a three-day visit to Santiago, Chile's capital. Here, you will explore the Natural History Museum and the Pre-Columbian Art Museum, as well as the picturesque coastal city of Viña del Mar. Our Easter Island tour package is crafted to provide an immersive experience, combining cultural festivities with archaeological discoveries for a truly memorable adventure.



Daily Itinerary

Day 1

Depart for Chile

Depart on a flight bound for Santiago, Chile.

Day 2

Arrive in Santiago

Arrive in Santiago and transfer to Hotel Magnolia, our home for the next two nights. After check-in and lunch on our own, we will tour the historical city, including a visit to the Pre-Columbian Art Museum which catalogs 4,500 years of South American civilization before the arrival of the Spanish and Museo La Merced which houses an interesting collection of Rapanui artifacts. Gather this evening for our Welcome dinner at an elegant restaurant overlooking the city. (D)

Day 3

Tour of Valparaiso

Our all-day-tour excursion takes us to Valparaiso, located on the shores of the Pacific Ocean. We will stop at one of Chile's premier wineries for a tasting and tour before lunch. Continue to Viña del Mar, one of Chile's most fashionable beach resorts. Here, we will visit the Fonck Museum and be given a private tour of its original Rapanui wooden sculptures and artifacts from Easter Island. Return to Santiago and our hotel in the late afternoon. (B/L/D)

Day 4

Fly to Easter Island

This morning fly to Easter Island and check into the O'tai Hotel, our home for the next six nights. Surrounded by lovely, fragrant gardens, this small family-run inn is only a block from the coast in the center of the village of Hanga Roa. Enjoy a traditional umu (earth oven) dinner to celebrate our arrival. (B/L/D)



Daily Itinerary *(cont'd)*

Day 5

Tahai, Anakena, Ahu Nau Nau, Ature Huki

Today's tour begins at Ahu Ko Te Riku (also known as Tahai), a large solitary statue, or moai, supports a massive maroon topknot.

Move on to Anakena, the island's largest white-sand beach and the landing place of the legendary Hotu Matua, the founding hero of the island.

Not far away we explore Ahu Nau Nau, with its row of statues with topknots, and Ature Huki, where statues stand on the side of the hill overlooking the beach. (B/L/D)



Day 6

The Village of Orongo and Rano Raraku

The ancient village of Orongo sits on the seaward edge of the volcano Rano Kao. Until the 1860s, the Festival of the Bird Man was held here each spring. The sacred site is famed for its hundreds of intricate petroglyphs carved on massive boulders perching on the edge of the cliff.

Continue to Vinapu, containing the ruins of two famous shrines, one of which has massive stonework reminiscent of the Inka civilization in Peru.

Within the flanks of the volcanic mountain, Rano Raraku, lies the quarry where the massive moai were carved. Many unfinished giants still lie imprisoned in stone, abandoned when the work suddenly and mysteriously stopped. Others stand buried to their shoulders in quarry debris and eroding soil and rock.

As we hike the trail alongside the mountain slope, we will see the statues in various stages of completion, including the one known kneeling moai. (B/L/D)

Day 7

Ahu Huri A Urenga, Ahu Akivi, and Puna Pau

The remote west coast of the island is today's destination. Begin with a visit to Ahu Huri A Urenga where a solitary statue still stands; it was once a solstice observatory. After a picnic lunch, we move on to Ahu Akivi where seven standing giants are oriented towards the summer solstice. The moai face a plaza fronted with stones, the site of early religious rites and dances. Finally, visit Puna Pau, where the red scoria topknots for the stone figures were quarried. (B/L/D)



Daily Itinerary *(cont'd)*

Day 8

Local Musical Performance and a Tour of Vaihu

Take a tour of Toki music school with founder and concert pianist Mahani Teave and learn about the innovative, green, and sustainable aspects of the building.

Continue to Vaihu, one of the most impressive sites on the south coast. Toppled in the wars, the statues now lie with their noses buried in the ground surrounded by scattered topknots. At Akahanga are numerous large figures and the remains of a village with the foundations of several boat-shaped houses lies on a hillside nearby.

After a picnic lunch at Ovahe Beach, continue to the north coast, to Ahu Hekii, Ahu Ra'ai and its petroglyphs, and Te Pito Te Kura, the largest statue ever moved. Tongariki was the largest ahu (shrine) built on the island. Destroyed by a tsunami in 1960, the huge moai were recently re-erected. Notable here are the stunning petroglyphs. (B/L/D)



Day 9

Enjoy your last full day on Rapa Nui

Today will be free to explore the island at your own pace. Enjoy the activities of Tapati, arrange a boat to take you out on the water, sit by the pool, explore the shops in the village, and enjoy your last full day in this Polynesian paradise. (B/L/D)



Day 10

Depart Easter Island

This afternoon, fly back to Santiago and transfer to the hotel. Dinner is on our own. (B/L)

Day 11

Cousiño Palace, Pablo Neruda's House Museum

Begin today at Cousiño Palace, an ancient residence of the richest family of the 19th century, decorated with art pieces brought from Europe.

After an elegant lunch at El Meson Nerudiano, it's on to the Pablo Neruda's House-Museum. Built in 1953, it was called "La Chascona" in honor of Neruda's secret love, Mrs. Matilde Urrutia, who later became his third wife.

In the late afternoon, we transfer to the airport for overnight flights back home. Dinner is on our own. (B/L)

Daily Itinerary *(cont'd)*

Day 12

Arrive Home

Overnight flights arrive back to your home.

PLEASE NOTE: Occasionally, due to circumstances beyond our control, itinerary changes may occur. We appreciate your understanding and flexibility should this be necessary

Pre and Post Trip Extensions

Far Horizons offers pre or post extensions for many of our trips. We can also arrange extra nights at the arrival and departure hotel should you wish to arrive early or depart later. Please contact us for details.



Why Take This Tour?

Spend 6 days on Easter Island with a study leader who worked on the island and throughout Polynesia for more than thirty years

Includes the Tapati Festival, a celebration of Rapa Nui culture

Special viewing of Rapa Nui artifacts in the Fonck Museum

Wine tasting in one of Chile's outstanding wineries

Optional pre-trip extension to the Atacama Desert in Northern Chile

Limited to 14 participants



Tour Information

Pricing

For current pricing, please visit farhorizons.com and navigate to our trip page.

Inclusions

Price based on double occupancy and includes:

- The accompaniment of your scholar throughout the entire trip
- Local English-speaking guide
- Hotel accommodations (3 or 4 stars; or best available based in the area)
- Ground transportation
- Airport transfers for arrivals and departures
- Most meals as noted in the itinerary
- Entry fees to all included sites and museums
- Gratuities to guides, drivers, and restaurant and hotel staff
- Coordination for any private presentations or tours

Trip prices are based on a minimum number of participants. If this minimum number is not met, trip prices are subject to change. Should the prices need to change, Far Horizons will reach out to registered guests to discuss directly.

Single Supplement

Should a roommate be requested and one not be available, the single supplement will be charged.

Exclusions

- International round trip airfare
- Internal flights to/from Easter Island
- A separate donation check of \$150.00 per person to a designated donation project
- Passport or visa fees
- Required vaccines or tests
- Airport or departure taxes
- Alcoholic drinks, beverages or food not included on set menus
- Excess baggage charges
- Personal tips and hotel incidental expenses
- Laundry or other items of a personal nature

Donation Checks

As a tour company that benefits from the cultural and natural riches of our destinations, we have a policy of donating to the scientific and cultural sites and projects which we visit. This has created a bond between Far Horizons and the academic and local communities that has helped us establish an extensive list of lecturers and contacts in each of our destinations. We ask that each participant donate to the noteworthy project we designate. The donation amount is \$150.00 per person. Note that the donation is required as part of your registration for the trip and that it is non-refundable.

Exchange Rate Fluctuations

Prices are based on currency exchange rates keeping below a projected level. While it is unlikely, if the exchange rates should change substantially, Far Horizons reserves the right to charge an additional amount to the trip cost.

Registration

A deposit of \$1000 per person is required along with your registration & health forms, which will be linked in the email confirmation you receive once you pay your deposit on our booking platform. Final payment is due 120 days before departure. Prior to departure, you will be sent a reading list and a tour bulletin containing travel information.



Tour Information *(cont'd)*

Cancellation

Cancellations received in writing at least 120 days before departure will receive a refund less a \$500 per person administrative fee. Cancellations received less than 120 days before the departure date will not receive a refund. If for any reason you are unable to complete the trip, Far Horizons will not reimburse any fees. Upon registering for the tour, the purchase of travel protection with both trip cancellation and emergency evacuation is strongly advised. Links to recommended insurance policies will be included in the email you receive confirming receipt of your deposit.

Expectations During Travel

Our trips are designed for flexible, energetic people who like to be active, have a spirit of adventure and a positive attitude. We have designed this trip to be as comfortable as possible, while also aiming to visit some remote or unique sites that other companies do not attempt to include in their itineraries. There may be days where we have very long drives and the conditions of the roads may vary. Hotels and transportation in some remote areas may not be up to western standards. There may be times when no bellhops are available; please pack with the understanding that you need to be able to handle your own luggage at times. Sometimes we may be walking over uneven trails for a mile or more; hiking boots are strongly recommended. Not every meal will be haute cuisine and several lunches may be picnics or box lunches. By maintaining a flexible attitude we will soon be captivated by the beauty of the natural scenery, the hospitality of the local people, and the fascinating sites we will see. Your flexibility and patience will be appreciated.

Air Ticketing

International round trip flights are not included in the cost of the trip. If Far Horizons must change the trip dates or cancel the trip for any reason, Far Horizons is not responsible for any air ticket you may have purchased. Please send your complete air schedule as soon as you have it. NOTE: Please contact Far Horizons if you would like for us to handle your air ticketing.

Private Tours and Talks

The private tours of archaeological sites and talks by specialists are scheduled in advance and include a donation to each. Specialists working at these sites are excited about showing their work to interested enthusiasts. However, please be aware that there may be times when the director or a member of the staff may not be on site when our groups arrive due to other commitments.

Walking and Standing

Far Horizons expects all participants to be physically active and able to walk and climb independently throughout the full touring days. This includes walking over uneven terrain (uphill and downhill) for 2 miles or more at each site. You should expect to be on your feet for much of each day, averaging as much as 5 miles of walking per day. **As such, each participant should be able to walk unaided at a pace of 3 miles per hour for at least an hour at a time, and to stand unsupported for at least 60 minutes.** Bearing this in mind, we suggest that, if you have not already done so, you begin walking several miles every day, ideally including stairs and hills. If you have questions about your ability to keep up with the group or the strenuous nature of this trip, please contact the Far Horizons staff.



Tour Information *(cont'd)*

Travel Insurance

We strongly recommend that you consider purchasing travel insurance. Should illness or an unforeseen event force you to cancel your travel plans after your final payment or during your trip, it would be doubly unfortunate to incur a significant financial loss. Trip cancellation protection will enable you to be reimbursed for the loss of your payment if you are unable to travel for any of the covered reasons in the "Outline of Coverage" section, or should you have an accident or suffer from any medical conditions during the trip.

Far Horizons offers customized protection plans through Travel Insured International (a Crum & Forster Company) with the following benefits:

- Trip Cancellation and Trip Interruption for covered reasons
- Trip Delay
- Baggage Loss and Baggage Delay
- Emergency Medical Expenses and Emergency Medical Evacuation
- 24-Hour Accidental Death & Dismemberment
- 24-Hour Travel Assistance & Concierge Services
- Option to upgrade to 'Cancel for Any Reason (CFAR)

We recommend reviewing the language in detail so you are aware of specific parameters; Depending on the policy, to waive the Pre-Existing Medical Condition Exclusion or to upgrade to CFAR coverage, the plan must be purchased within 14 to 21 days of the initial trip deposit, full trip cost must be insured, and traveler is medically fit at time of plan purchase. Otherwise, coverage may be purchased at any time prior to departure.

To obtain a personalized quote and/or purchase a plan through Far Horizons/Travel Insured International, simply click [HERE](#). For specific questions regarding the Worldwide Protector Plan, please contact Travel Insured International's Customer Care Center at 1-800-243-3174 or by email at customercare@travelinsured.com, and refer to Far Horizons' account number: 54070.

Itinerary Changes

Changes in our itinerary, accommodations, and transportation schedules may occur. While we are committed to keeping as close to the published details as possible, sometimes it is simply not possible. Weather events, government affairs, or other factors out of our control sometimes come into play. A good book to read as well as patience, flexible attitude, and a sense of humor are essential.





Meet Your Study Leader...

Dr. Sidsel Millerström

Sidsel Millerström received her PhD from the University of California, Berkeley in Polynesian archaeology. She is a specialist on archaeological art and architecture and has worked on excavations all over Polynesia including Easter Island, Fiji, the Marquesas, and Tahiti.

Since 1984, Dr. Millerström has worked on all six presently-inhabited islands in the Marquesas during which she discovered and recorded numerous tikis, carvings of human figures, and more than 7,000 ancient petroglyphs, now published in her book, *Te Henua Enana*. Up to this time no systematic survey had been conducted in the Marquesas, an archipelago which, in prehistory, was connected culturally with Easter Island.

Dr. Millerström excavated cave sites on Easter Island and worked with Dr. Georgia Lee documenting the petroglyphs and sculptures on the island.

Her knowledge about Easter Island, her love of the Rapanui people, along with her passion for all things Polynesian is infectious.



'Sidsel is wonderful! Her knowledge of the island and friendships with the islanders add much to the trip.' – George Alers



What People Are Saying About...

Dr. Sidsel Millerström

‘Sidsel is great! She knows so many people on Easter Island from her experiences there. She is personal friends with our guide, Enrieke, an islander, and it felt like we were welcomed as returning friends rather than visitors. I would travel with her as a study leader again in a heartbeat!’

– Carlene C. Nelson



Why Travel with Far Horizons?

With over forty years of experience, and an 85% customer return rate, we have stood the test of time. Remind yourself what makes Far Horizons so unique.

✦ Scholar Led Tours

Every tour is led by a well-respected PhD scholar with expertise in the subject & regions we visit.

✦ Trusted Partnerships

Trusted Partnerships: Every tour is led by a well-respected PhD scholar with expertise in the subject & regions we visit.

✦ Behind the Scenes Access

Our groups have private access to closed areas and on-site specialists.

✦ Unique Trips

Our itineraries are designed to showcase sites that are off-the-beaten path; we explore places that many travelers never see.

✦ Personalized Service

We love knowing our guests and helping with the decision process. We are here to assist you.

✦ Small Groups

Our tours have a maximum of 14 travelers. So you can trust that you will have a boutique experience every time.



READY TO TRAVEL WITH FAR HORIZONS?

EASTER ISLAND

WITH DR. SIDSEL MILLERSTRÖM

Email with Questions

journeys@farhorizons.com

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