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February 20, 2023
Hanga Roa (Easter Island)



Moai at Rano Raraku, Easter Island

View from the port hole in my cabin



Easter Island

Island in Chile

4.4 ★★★★★ 3,828 Google reviews

Easter Island, a Chilean territory, is a remote volcanic island in Polynesia. Its native name is Rapa Nui. It's famed for archaeological sites, including nearly 900 monumental statues called moai, created by inhabitants during the 13th–16th centuries. The moai are carved human figures with oversize heads, often resting on massive stone pedestals called ahus. Ahu Tongariki has the largest group of upright moai.

— Google

Area: 163.6 km²

Population: 7,750 (2017)



All fifteen standing moai at [Ahu Tongariki](#), excavated and restored in the 1990s

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The ship anchored out and we took the tender boats to the island. pretty rough seas and the lady in the red and white stripe top on the left was getting ready to throw up.



Once ashore they had shuttle buses waiting for us and I took the Culture & History tour, it was pretty pricey \$333.35 for a three hour tour. The incredible moai sculptures that dot East Island are known the world over. Our first stop we went to the main Rano Raraku quarry, where most of these outsized figures were carved out of volcanic tuff stone. Several hundred moai remain, which either stand or lie on the slopes of Rano Raraku, some still connected to the bedrock and seemingly awaiting removal to their final resting place. One of the ahus (platforms). We moved on and found 15 re-erected moai. Considering that Rapa Nui had only stone tools with which to fashion the figures, their sheer size - some are more than 10m (33ft.) in height and tip the scales at over 80 tones (78 long tons/88 short tons) - is all the more impressive. Then we visited Anakena Beach, the home of the restored Ahu Nau Nau platform with 5 moai as well as Ature Huki, the first moai to be re-erected in modern times. Then back to the ship, still rough seas.



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