

Explore exotic corners of Chile in two-week Geographic Society tour

In March, 1990, The Geographic Society of Chicago will offer travelers a unique opportunity to explore some of the world's remote marvels. Chile is the focus of a two-week tour that leads voyagers to such exotic geographic locations as Easter Island, the Andes, and Patagonia.

Dr. Richard J. Houk, chairman of The Geographic Society of Chicago and professor of geography, DePaul University, will direct the voyage.

Chilean culture comes alive for travelers in Santiago, Chile's sprawling Spanish-style capital and the tour's first stop. There, visitors embark on guided tours of the republic's economic and cultural center. They sip fine wines at renowned vineyards, witness Chilean folk dancing, enjoy a local-style barbecue, and travel by cable car to the panoramic heights of the nearby Andes.

The group also traverses South America's highest roads on its way to visit the famous "Christ of the Andes" statue at the Argentine border.

The voyage continues as travelers follow the trek of famous archaeologists and anthropologists to Easter Island, whose inaccessibility makes it a true enigma for those fascinated by cultural mysteries. One of the planet's most isolated land masses, Easter Island's geography and archaeological bounty contain baffling references to the world's past. Wandering through endless outdoor ceremonial altars, visitors view the mystifying statues and an-

cient volcanos which make the island so unique.

Patagonia, Chile's alluring southern region, presents another facet of the republic. There, the port of Punta Arenas, located on the strategic Straits of Magellan, prospers as the center of one of the world's largest sheep-farming regions and also maintains thriving cattle, petroleum and lumber industries.

On a cruise up an icy channel towards Patagonia's majestic Serrano and Balmaceda glaciers, the travelers view deep fjords and crystalline waterfalls as eagles and condors soar overhead.

Venturing into the wild, untamed heights of Patagonia to Paine Towers National Park, the awe-inspiring mountain range known for its gothic-looking, tower-shaped mountains, the group catches glimpses of jewel-like lakes, grazing sheep and guanacos, and bursts of floral coloring.

The 14-day tour, from March 11 to March 25, costs \$3,179, including round trip economy airfare, general liability insurance coverage, and a \$50 tax-deductible donation to The Geographic Society of Chicago.

For further information and reservations, contact Dr. Houk, The Geographic Society of Chicago, 7 South Dearborn St., Chicago, IL 60603, at (312) 726-5293, or Travel Plans International at (708) 573-1400.