Chile and the Solar Eclipse

with David Gerdes, Professor of Astronomy

December 8 –16, 2020
The vast country of Chile stretches 3,000 miles through varied terrain and spans half of the South American continent, in a narrow band that in most areas is only 100 miles wide. Its cities reflect a thoughtful blend of old world and new, from the bustling capital Santiago to the “neo-colonial” town of La Serena. In the countryside, two of Chile’s diverse environments bring international prominence: fertile vineyards yield a world-class wine industry, and clear skies above remote deserts support the southern hemisphere’s leading astronomy research. Join University of Michigan astronomy professor David Gerdes as you travel from Santiago to Pucón to discover the beauty of Chile and its culture, capping your experience with in a once-in-a-lifetime viewing of the 2020 total solar eclipse!
WHY CHILE? A world leader in viticulture and astronomy, Chile is a country that blends tradition and innovation within a culture of contrasts, from cosmopolitan cities and colonial towns to remote deserts and lush vineyards.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

• Witness the 2020 solar eclipse in totality from Pucón, in central Chile’s lake district.
• Explore the mix of old and new in Chile’s cosmopolitan capital, Santiago, with a visit to San Cristobal Hill for a panoramic view of the city skyline set against Andean mountains.
• Sample some of Chile’s world-class wines at historical Santa Rita Vineyard, where you’ll learn about viticulture and local history.
• Enjoy stargazing opportunities at a vineyard and open-air amphitheater, accompanied by informative talks to enhance your understanding of the night sky.
• Discover why Chile is a world leader in astronomy at a tour of the renowned La Silla Observatory, a top research institution.
• Explore the charming streets of historic La Serena, taking note of the unique “neo-colonial” style resulting from the “Plan Serena” urbanization project.
• Soak in the natural hot springs of Termas Geologicas, designed in harmony with the serene forests surrounding them.

ACTIVITY LEVEL

EASY/MODERATE: Travelers should be able to walk at least 2 miles over some uneven surfaces without difficulty and climb 40 stairs consecutively. Walks typically last for at least 2-3 hours at a time.
DECEMBER 8 – DEPART U.S.
Flight to Santiago.

DECEMBER 9 – SANTIAGO
Upon arrival at the Santiago airport, you will be met by our representative and transferred to the hotel to drop off your luggage and receive a quick program orientation before heading out for a city tour of Santiago. From its original Spanish settlement in 1541, Santiago has evolved into Chile’s economic and political center, and an eclectic mix of historic and modern. The city’s population grew considerably with industrialization in the late 19th century, then experienced a boom as modernization further expanded the city throughout the 20th century. This excursion offers a complete view of the city and a chance to observe the results of its rapid changes during the last 100 years. Pass through the Civic District to see Constitution Square and La Moneda Palace, then head toward historic downtown Santiago to see the National Theater, finally arriving at the Plaza de Armas, the heart of the city since 1541. Surrounding this square are many important buildings, like Santiago Metropolitan Cathedral, City Hall, the National History Museum, and the Central Post Office. We continue north toward the river, passing Central Market, Mapocho Train Station (which now serves as a cultural center), and the Fine Arts Museum. After crossing the river, we reach the Bellavista neighborhood, Santiago’s bohemian quarter. Here we start the journey up San Cristóbal Hill, a picturesque urban park offering stunning views of the city skyline set against the Andes mountain range. After a stop for photos, we make our way down the hill and toward the newest parts of the city, Providencia, Las Condes and Vitacura. Lunch will be at a local restaurant, then you’ll have the afternoon on your own to see and do what interests you the most. Check-in at the hotel begins at 3:00 pm. Overnight at Hotel Atton. (L)
DECEMBER 10 – SANTIAGO
This morning, enjoy a brief talk on Chile’s history and economic development to learn more about Chile’s rapid growth through the last century. Then, board our motor coach and head south to Alto Jahuel for a visit to the Santa Rita Vineyard and Andean Museum. Founded in 1880 by Domingo Fernandez Concha at his farm on the slopes of Maipo Valley, this vineyard has been world class from its inception, thanks to Concha’s early dedication to introducing only the finest French vine stocks and hiring keen viticulturalists. Learn about the wine production process with French and American oak barrels used in the aging cellars, and walk into the storehouse, a stone cellar built by French architects that has since been declared a national monument.

Not only is Santa Rita a notable vineyard for its wine production, it also played a unique role in Chilean history. During Chile’s war for independence in the early 1800s, the property belonged to Doña Paula Jaraquemada, who supported the revolutionaries not only by providing supplies, but also by once hiding 120 soldiers from Spanish forces in the wine cellars. Today, the vineyard’s onsite restaurant bears her name: Doña Paula. Here you’ll enjoy a typical Chilean lunch in the traditional colonial architecture of a 200-year-old dining room and national monument. Santa Rita Vineyard is also home to the Andean Museum, a private collection of more than 1,800 pieces of pre-Columbian Chilean art, including Mapuche wool, textile, and silver work. After exploring the museum, take a moment to peruse the excellent museum shop, where you can purchase souvenirs like handcrafted textiles, figurines, and jewelry. This evening, enjoy a special “Star Marriage” dinner at Estancia el Cuadro, a winery located in Casablanca, one hour from Santiago. This experience includes an astronomy talk, welcome drink, stargazing, and four course meal with wine pairing. Overnight at Hotel Atton. (BLD)

DECEMBER 11 – LA SERENA
After early breakfast, transfer to the airport for your flight to La Serena. La Serena is the second oldest city in Chile (after Santiago) and it maintains a distinct neo-colonial style in accordance with the “Plan Serena,” an urban renewal project designed to allow the city to grow into the 20th century, yet keep its historic roots and unique style. The heritage of the city includes 30 churches, a thoroughfare lined with replica classical statues, and townhouses dating from the last century, as well as the newer public buildings erected under the Plan Serena. Enjoy the panoramic view from the hill overlooking the city and the bay of Coquimbo beyond, affording a perfect opportunity for a photo stop. La Serena’s close connection with the ocean can be witnessed at the traditional fish market by the Port of Coquimbo. Typical of this region, the market’s colorful scene shows off the great variety of fish and shellfish available as a result of the city’s main industry.

After dinner, head towards the Elqui Valley, a world-famous astronomy hotspot, thanks to its remarkably clear skies year-round. Make a visit to the Alfa Aldea Natural Planetarium, located in a vineyard just outside the city of Vicuña, which offers an open-air stargazing experience designed to emulate humankind’s early interactions with the skies above. Begin with an introductory talk, then enjoy stargazing in the open amphitheater, with telescope assistance. Overnight at Hotel in La Serena. (BLD)
DECEMBER 12 – LA SERENA
After breakfast, transfer to La Silla Observatory, located 2.5 hours northeast of La Serena. La Silla is strategically located at a high elevation far from any light pollution, and operates three major telescopes onsite, as well as series of minor telescopes. Funded by the European Southern Observatory as the primary hub of astronomical observation in the southern hemisphere, La Silla’s telescopes generate more scientific papers than any other ground-based telescope operating on the visible spectrum. Learn more about these impressive observatory facilities, past research, and ongoing projects before transferring back to La Serena later this afternoon. Enjoy an informal talk and then dinner at Restobar Moscatel. Overnight at Hotel in La Serena. (BLD)

DECEMBER 13 – TEMUCO
This morning, transfer to the airport for our flight to Temuco, the site of the upcoming solar eclipse. Upon arrival, take a visit to Termas Geometricas, a series of hot springs immersed in the Villarrica Sur National Park. These thermal baths were designed by the architect Germán del Sol, who, through construction with natural materials, wanted to bring together nature and geometry in order to achieve a harmonious whole. With temperatures ranging between 98 and 104 degrees Fahrenheit, the hot springs are a great opportunity to soak in a bath of thermal waters and appreciate the natural beauty of your surroundings. After lunch, continue on to the hotel. Overnight at Holiday Inn Express Temuco and Dreams Temuco. (BL)

DECEMBER 14 – TEMUCO / PUCÓN
Today you will spend the day getting ready for this afternoon’s total solar eclipse. The majority of the eclipse takes place over the Pacific Ocean, then it passes over Chile and Argentina in the late afternoon, finally ending over the Atlantic. South of Temuco, in Pucón, a total solar eclipse of just over two minutes (near the central part of the path) will begin at 16:01 pm with the sun at about 70 degrees high in the sky. The total eclipse will end at 16:03. This evening, reflect on and celebrate your experience at a farewell dinner. Overnight at Holiday Inn Express Temuco and Dreams Temuco. (BLD)

DECEMBER 15 – DEPART
Have the morning at leisure to enjoy the hotel facilities. Then, gather together for a farewell lunch at the hotel before heading to the airport for your flight to Santiago and connection flight to the USA. (BL)

DECEMBER 16 – ARRIVE U.S.

PRICING

$4,595 per person

Price is based on double occupancy with 10 participants. Single occupancy offered at additional cost of $625 per person.

Your price includes:

• Internal flights Santiago-La Serena and La Serena-Temuco
• 6 nights’ accommodations in Deluxe and Superior First Class hotels
• 17 meals (6 breakfasts, 7 lunches, 4 dinners)
• Sightseeing and activities as described, including entrance fees
• Lectures by David Gerdes (based on a minimum group size)
• Holbrook Travel tour guide
• Private vehicle transportation throughout program
• Luggage handling, one bag per person
• Bottled water on the bus
• Departure tax
• Gratuities for local guides and drivers

Price does not include: international airfare, trip cancellation insurance, hotel gratuities, drinks purchased on own, or items of a personal nature.

Holbrook Travel can assist with making your flight arrangements upon request. Trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended (offered through the Alumni Association of University of Michigan).
AAUM RESERVATION FORM
Chile and the Solar Eclipse

Enclosed is my/our nonrefundable deposit for $_______ ($1000 per person) for ____ person/people on the tour listed below. I/we understand the final payment is due at least 95 days prior to departure. Payment may be made by American Express, Discover, MasterCard, or VISA or by personal check. Please make check payable to Holbrook Travel, Inc. and mail deposit check to: Holbrook Travel, 3540 NW 13th Street, Gainesville FL, 32609. For questions please call the Alumni Association at 855-764-0064 or Holbrook Travel at toll free 800.451.7111, or email travel@holbrooktravel.com.

Full Passport Name________________________________ DOB ____________ Gender ______
E-mail _____________________________________________ Class Year ________________

Full Passport Name________________________________ DOB ____________ Gender ______
E-mail _____________________________________________ Class Year ________________

Badge Name(s) _________________________________________________________________

Address ___________________________________________________________________
City _____________________________________ State ____________ ZIP ______________
Home Ph. (_______)_____________________   Cell Ph. (_______)______________________

Please book my/our air from __________________. I/we request an air upgrade to ______________.
☐ I will share a room with __________________________.
☐ I request a single room (limited availability).

Note: The undersigned has read the schedule of activities for the above-referenced tour, and agrees that their signature below represents their acceptance of the General Terms and Conditions.

Signature __________________________________________ Date________________

Method of Payment
☐ Check   ☐ American Express   ☐ Discover   ☐ MasterCard   ☐ VISA

Account # ____________________________ Security Code ________ Exp. Date _________

Name of Cardholder _______________________________________________________

Signature ______________________________________________________________

Final invoicing will be sent by our tour operator, Holbrook Travel, Inc. The balance of the program price must be paid to Holbrook Travel. Final payment is due 95 days prior to departure (check or credit card).

ASSOCIATION’S DISCLAIMER
The Association is not the Tour Operator. The Association is not responsible for changes of flight times, fare changes, dishonor of airline, hotel or car-rental reservations, delays, losses, injuries, inconveniences, cessation of operations, airline or tour operator bankruptcies, acts of God, or any other event beyond our control. The Association acts only as an independent contractor and not as a principal, agent or joint venture for the airline, hotel, car-rental company, cruise line and/or tour operator named in brochure. As a result, the Association is not responsible for their acts or omissions. The Association acts only as agent for the participants with respect to travel services, and it shall not be responsible for changes of flight times, fare changes, dishonor of airline, hotel or other reservations, injury, damage, loss of baggage, accidents or for the acts or defaults of any person or entity engaged in conveying participants or in carrying out other arrangements of the tour. Further, the Association shall not be responsible for losses or additional expenses of the participant due to sickness, weather, strike, civil unrest, acts of terrorism, quarantine, acts of God, or other causes beyond its control. The Association shall not be responsible for alteration in the itinerary as deemed necessary for carrying out the tour and the right is reserved to substitute hotels of similar quality. The right is further reserved to cancel and tour prior to departure, in which case the entire payment may be refunded without further obligation on its part. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or to retain any person as a member of the tour should such person’s health, actions or general deportment impede the operation of the tour or the rights or welfare of the other participants. No refund will be made for the unused portion of any tour. Applicants for participation on this tour accept in full all of the conditions set forth above.
GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS
Please read this information carefully, as payment of a deposit represents your acceptance of the following Terms and Conditions.

Not Included in Your Tour Price
- Domestic airfare from your departure city; costs of passports; personal expenses such as beverages, laundry, room service, and meals not specified; communications charges; gratuities to your Holbrook Travel Tour Guide which are at your discretion (suggested gratuities $10-$15 per guest, per day); and trip cancellation insurance. Additional baggage fees levied directly by the airline(s) may apply and are subject to change at any time. You should confirm directly with your airline(s) prior to departure.

International Air Transportation
- Estimated airfare: $1,837 from Detroit to Santiago. Holbrook Travel offers group air fare and ticketing. Group transfers between the airport and hotel are included in your program cost. A note about online airfares: Occasionally, you may be able to find airfares online that are listed at a lower cost. In general, individual fares lack the flexibility of group airfare and often require immediate purchase. You will receive your temporary air schedule approximately 21 months prior to departure. Please note that seat assignments on your international flight are usually done at airport check-in. Due to the nature of tour operator tickets, other restrictions apply, including but not limited to, frequent flyer mileage accrual, stopovers, alternate travel dates, upgrades, and airline taxes and departure fees. If you prefer to make your own travel arrangements, booking the tour “Land Only” is available. We recommend that if you choose to make your own airline reservations, you do not purchase non-refundable tickets or those with high penalties for changes. If you choose to make your own airline arrangements, Michigan Alumni Travel and Holbrook Travel, Inc. shall not have any liability for any loss resulting from cancellation of this tour or changes in this tour.

Cancellations, Changes and Refunds
- If you must cancel your tour, the effective date of cancellation will be upon our receipt of your notification. All cancellations need to be submitted in writing to Michigan Alumni Travel. Refundable deposits are subject to the following per person cancellations received 95 days or more before departure are refundable minus the $1000 per person deposit; cancellations within 95 days before departure are non-refundable. Please note that we will not refund the cost of any unused portion of your tour package. We will not charge a fee for any changes made to your reservation outside of 95 days before departure. From 94 to 30 days before departure, if you make any changes to your reservation, a $100 per person administrative fee will apply, in addition to any fees or penalties imposed by airlines, hotels, or other third parties. Changes are subject to availability and cannot be guaranteed. If your reservation changes from double occupancy to single occupancy for any reason, you will be charged the single supplement. No changes to your reservation can be made within 30 days of departure. If due to unforeseen circumstances Holbrook Travel cancels your tour, you will receive a complete refund of all payments you have made to us.

Health and Medical Issues
- We welcome all travelers, but request that you be in good health to participate on a Holbrook Travel tour. All of our tours involve a reasonable amount of walking (typically two to three miles per day). You must be able to get on and off motorcoaches on your own. We regret that we cannot provide individual assistance; in such cases you must be accompanied by a companion who will assist you. Please note that our itineraries cannot accommodate wheelchairs. We reserve the right to remove anyone whose physical condition or behavior in our opinion, compromises the operation of the tour or the enjoyment of the other tour members. In that event, Michigan Alumni Travel and Holbrook Travel assume no financial responsibility for any unused portion of the tour. For the convenience of the majority of our travelers, Holbrook Travel has a no smoking policy on all tour buses. We will arrange sufficient rest stops so those who wish to smoke can do so.

Required Information
- Upon reservation, you must provide your full name as it appears on your passport, date of birth, and gender (for details, please visit tsa.gov). In the event an airline ticket is issued with incorrect information you have provided, or if you use a different passport than originally cited, you will be responsible for charges associated with the ticket’s reissue. A passport valid for at least six months after the completion of your tour is required for U.S. citizens on this tour.

Responsibility
- The liability of Alumni Association of the University of Michigan (AAUM) as sponsor, and Holbrook Travel Inc., as tour operator, is strictly limited. AAUM and Holbrook Travel, Inc. purchase transportation, hotel accommodations, restaurant and other services from independent suppliers not under our control. We serve only as agents for these suppliers in securing tour arrangements, and therefore we will not accept responsibility for wrongful, negligent, or arbitrary acts or omissions of these independent contractors; their employees, agents, servants or representatives. AAUM and Holbrook Travel, Inc. are not liable for injury, damage, loss, accident, or delay that may be caused by events not within our control, including without limitation, acts of terrorism, war, strikes, the defect of any vehicle, or the negligence or default of any third party. All coupons, receipts, and tickets issued are subject to the terms and conditions specified by the air lines, cruise line, and other independent suppliers. We will make every effort to operate our tours as planned, but we reserve the right to make itinerary changes as necessary. In extreme circumstances we reserve the right to change a hotel; we will select alternative accommodations of the same or better quality, and may change due to factors such as government regulations, water levels, or weather conditions. The services of any VIA and ARC crew member may be used in connection with these tours. The participant understands that if she books a special low cost airfares with penalties, and cancels the reservation, her she is responsible for any penalties incurred from the airline