

Santiago, Chile and Easter Island

Dec 2010 and Mar – Apr 2018

Steve Ransome and Diane Watling





By plane
to and
from UK

5 hours by plane

Santiago,
Chile

Easter Island

This talk

South
America

By plane

Falkland Islands

Talk
part 1

South Georgia

3 days by ship

Republic of Chile



- Capital : Santiago
- National language : Spanish
- Independence from Spain : 1810
- Area : 291,000 sq mi (3x UK)
- Population 2017 : 17.5M (1/4 UK)
- Currency : Peso (800 CLP = £1)
- 1973 : Chilean coup, military dictatorship
- Chile today : Economically and socially stable and prosperous



Flying over the
Andes.

Longest mountain
range in the world

The previous time we
went we were delayed
and it was dark



Santiago

Enormous
Chilean Flag from
2010

23 * 60 ft

200 ft flagpole



Our
hotel

Le Reve



Free
pantry

(for late
night
snacks!)



Santiago, capital of
Chile

Andes in background

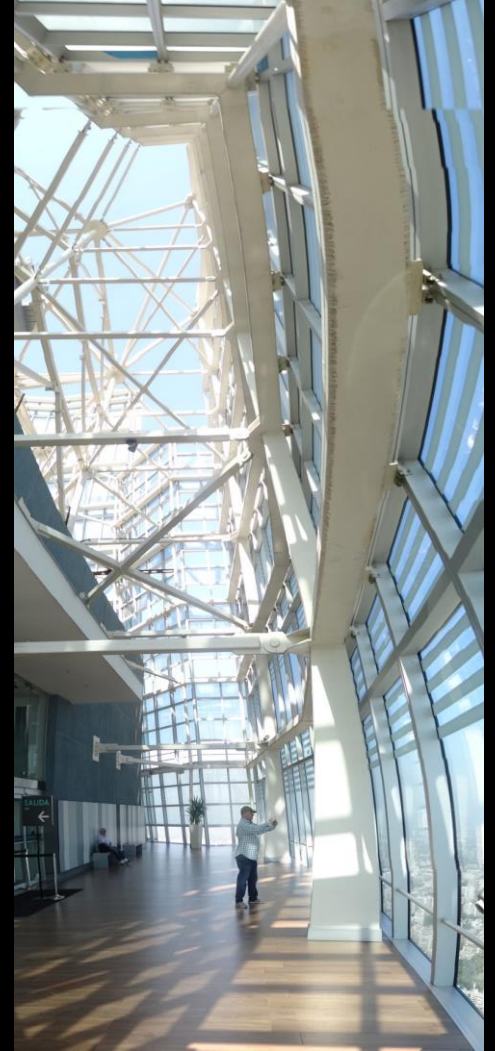
Population 5.5M



South America's tallest building Gran Torre - 64 storeys (looks like the shard)



Top of Gran Torre (open to sky and rain – Just like London's Shard)



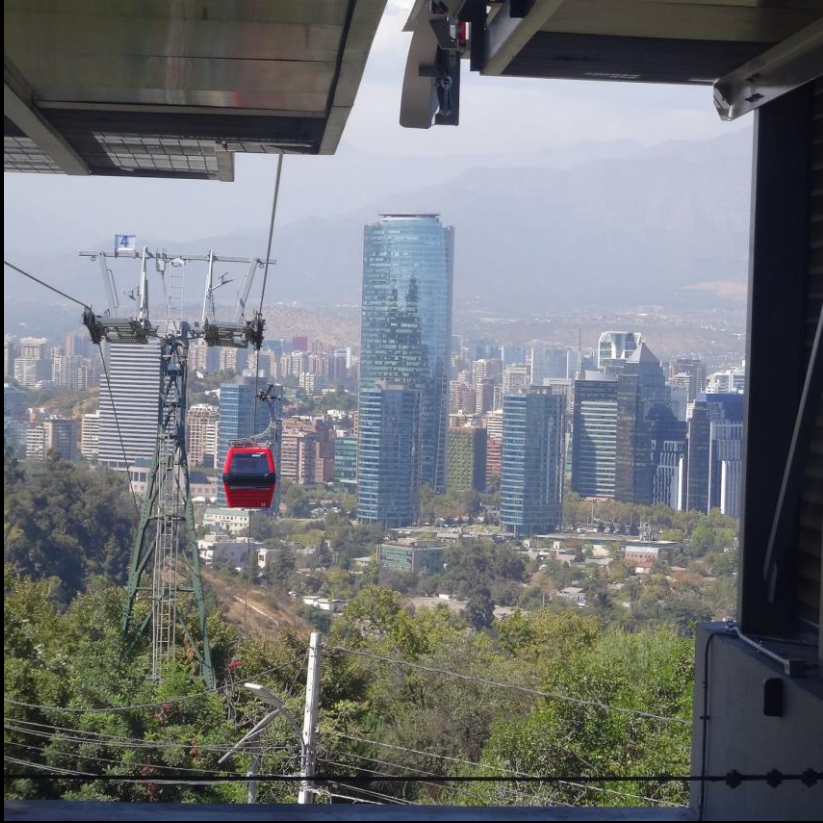
View from Gran Torre
(Andes partially obscured – not good visibility)



View of Santiago



Cable car in Santiago



Old Chemist's shop renovated



Fashionable district called Paris-Londres

Chileans think it's just like Paris and London

It's nice but not like either



Life sized knitted statues of famous Chilean women Gabriela y Violeta



Gabriela Mistral
poet-diplomat, educator and
humanist.
In 1945 she received a Nobel
Prize in Literature



Violeta Parra
composer and visual artist.
"The Mother of Latin
American folk"



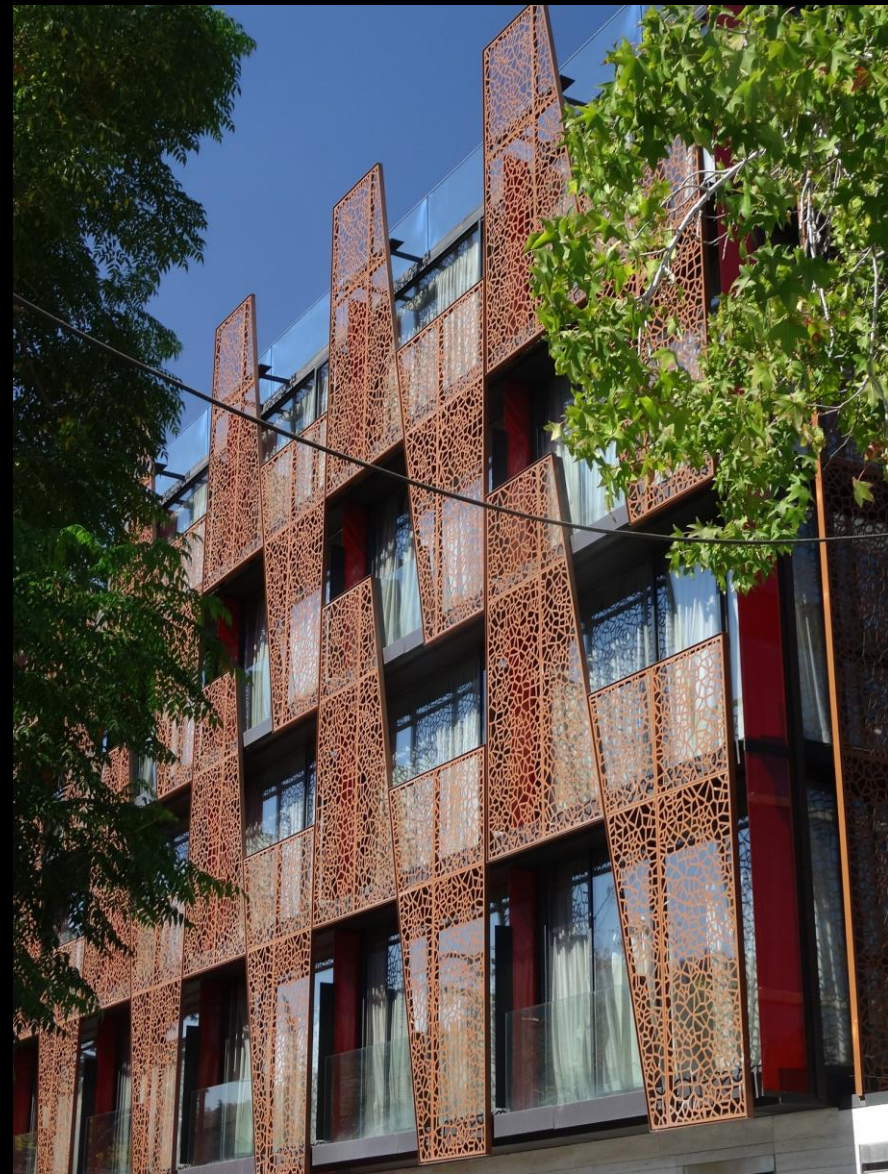
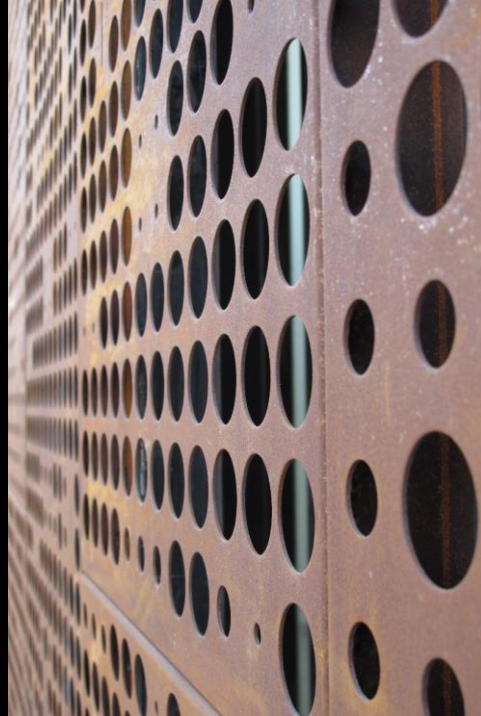
Old fish
market
restaurant



“Font of Neptune” Cerro Santa Lucia Park



There's a lot of Copper in Chile so it is used for unusual things like sun screens for buildings



Stained glass in museum



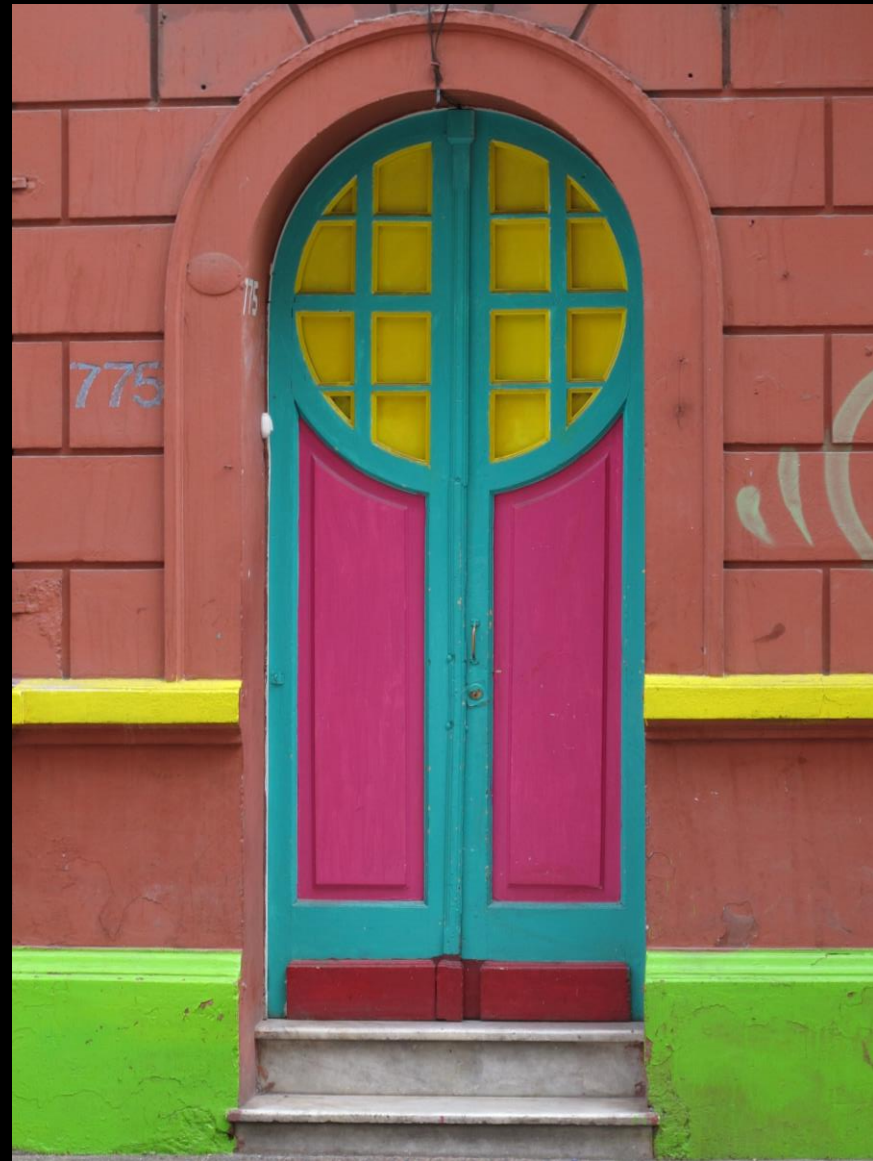
Old buildings with balconies



Painted trees (left) covered in Ivy (right)



Bright front door



Gargoyle



Cool courtyard inside a university



Old restaurant – with office Christmas parties



Open air mass on the hillside overlooking Santiago



Wooden Nativity Scene with a pigeon (it was nearly Christmas but Summer in December)



Children learning a dance for the mass



Old Church



Hot dog



Filming a restaurant commercial as penguins



Sculpture of people on a penny farthing bicycle



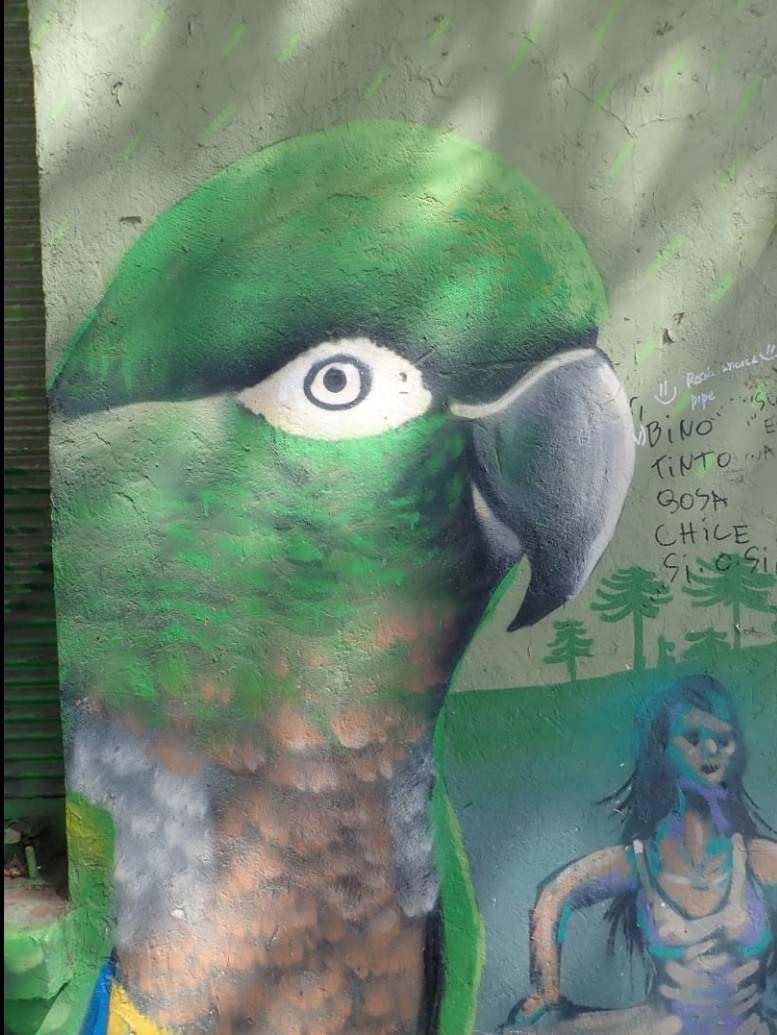
Recycled chairs made of old pallets



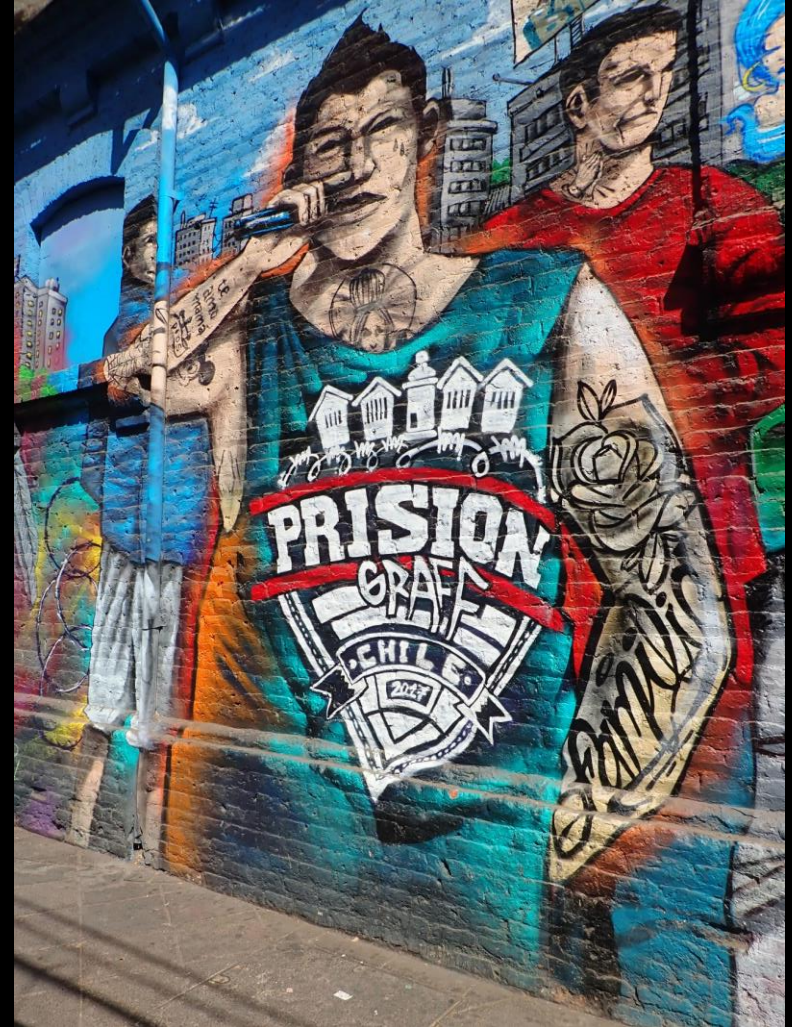
Wall paintings



Wall paintings



Wall paintings



Wall paintings



Graffiti in Santiago



Santiago mural – sleeping man (Jesus?)



Santiago airport (left) hotel (right) at 5am



Flying to Easter Island from Santiago Chile – 5 hours



Easter Island or Rapa Nui

- Polynesian arrived 12th century
- 1000 Moai (statues) created by Rapa Nui people
- Thriving and industrious culture
- Land clearing for cultivation led to gradual deforestation.
- Discovered by Dutch explorer Jacob Roggeveen on Easter Sunday 1722
- Island's population was 2–3,000
- European diseases, Peruvian slave raiding in the 1860s and emigration depleted the population to a low of 111
- Chile annexed Easter Island in 1888
- One of the most remote inhabited islands in the world (2,182 mi) from land

Easter Island Map – about 20 miles across, 3 main volcanoes



Hotel

“Airport”

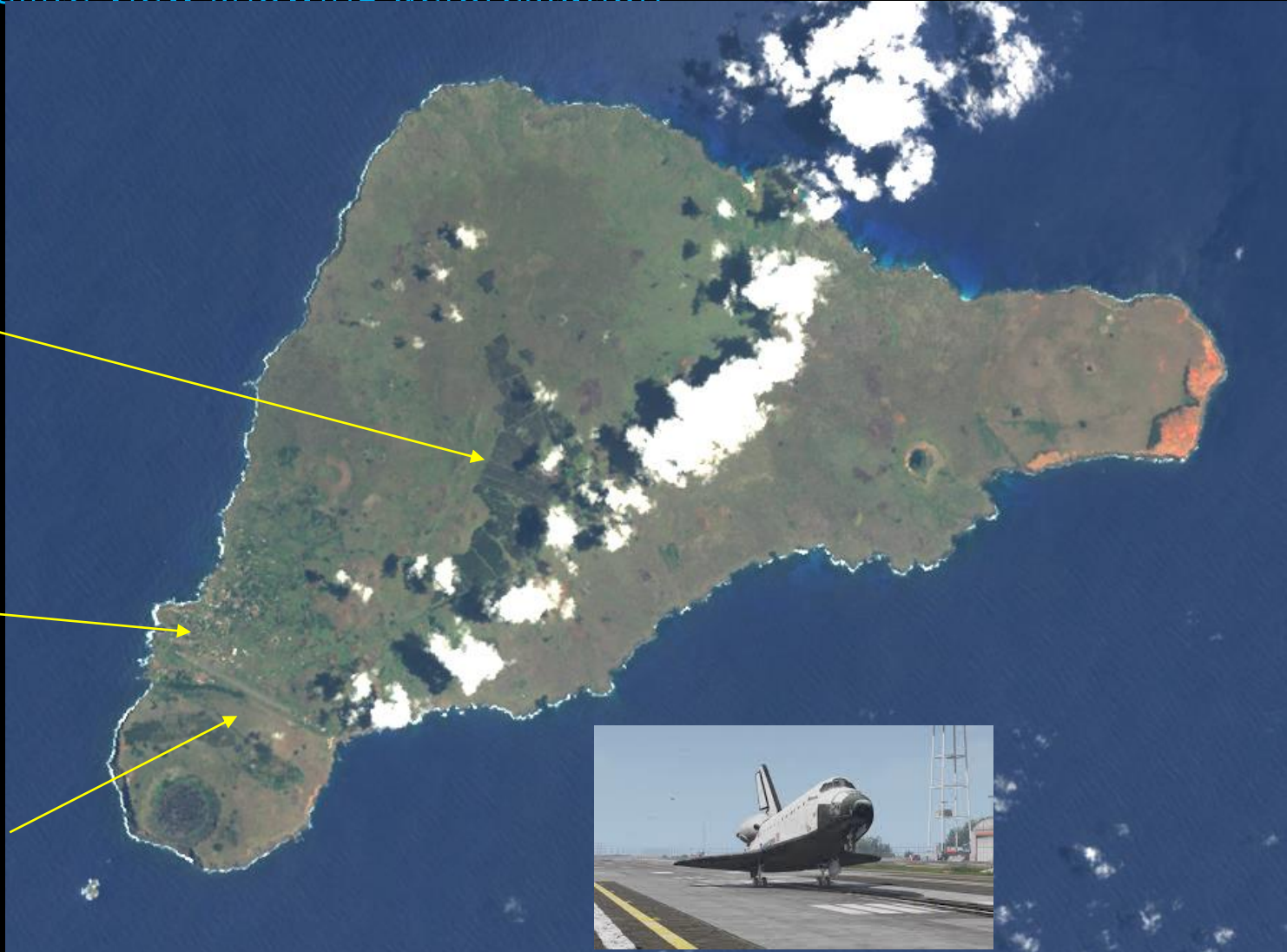
Easter Island Satellite view showing deforestation

Newly
planted
forests

Hotel

Runway

(adapted in case the
space shuttle needed to
land in an emergency
which never happened)



Easter Island airport – there's only room for one plane at a time!



1 or 2 flights a day, only from Chile or Tahiti

Panorama to Hanga Roa



Rounded
Extinct
Volcano



Typical Easter Island Landscape – few trees



Typical sea view – either no beach or it's rocky. Not man-made dock



Waves breaking on Volcanic rocks



Rugged Coastline – very few beaches



Rapa Nui panoramas – main street (top) and harbour



Typical Rapa Nui Hotel – thatched roof and overhangs to shelter from rain



Rapa Nui house



Wildlife watching (fish, eels, turtles etc.) at the harbour



Long eel – at least 3ft long



Unidentified
Easter Island fish.
Harbour was full of
them



Di tried to feed the previous fish, they weren't interested but lots of these appeared from nowhere and ate the lot

Easter Island butterflyfish



Green Sea turtles swam
around the harbour



















Rapa Nui protowriting - Rongorongo



Rapa Nui protowriting - Rongorongo



 various plants?	 frigatebird?	 sea turtle?	 'lozenges'
 palm tree?	 fish?	 caterpillar?	 'chevrons'
 man standing?	 flying fish?	 centipede?	 'circle'
 seated man eating?	 crayfish?	 squid?	 'cross'

No one is really sure what these mean. It seemed writers would use them differently to each other and used them as their own "shorthand".



Parroquia de la Santa Cruz – unusual Church in Hanga Roa with rongorongo writing?



Church in Hanga Roa

Animal carvings



Design for new church to look like a turtle!



Easter island foundations for house
holes are for canes for roof



Thatch roof Rapa Nui house – very narrow and low roof



Easter island thatch house holes are for canes for roof



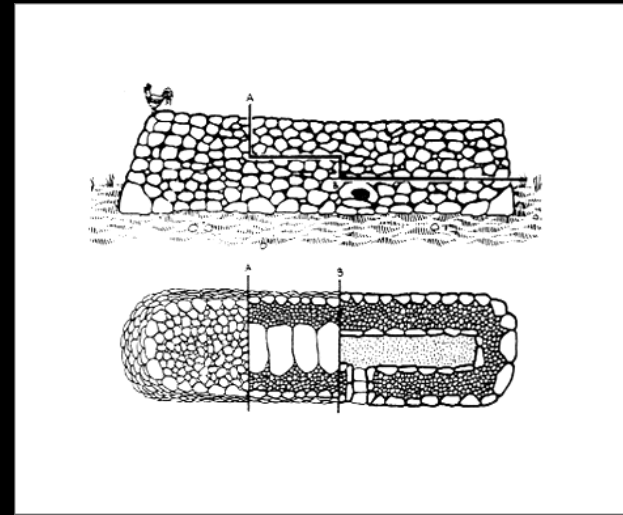
68-70 TOP The foundations of an Easter Island hare paenga, or elliptical dwelling.
CENTRE A similar house under reconstruction, showing the framework of curved branches
inserted in holes in the foundation slabs. ABOVE Drawing of a finished hare paenga, with
its outer layer of plant material and a crescent-shaped pavement of stones in front.



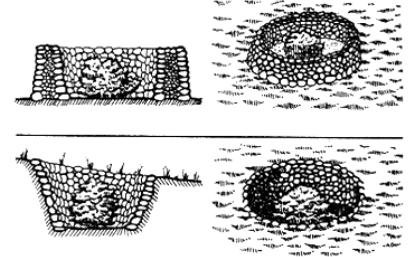
Drystone Cairn buildings around Easter Island
What is this for ?



It's a Chicken coop Hare Moa



Manavai Growing fruit and vegetables –
rock mulch to keep in the moisture on dry ground



71,72 Garden enclosures called 'manavai' (place of water) provided protection from the wind. 1 LEFT and TOP Artificial manavai above ground. ABOVE A natural manavai in a subterranean lava tube or cave.



“The Navel of the world” Magnetic Stones brought from Polynesia



There is opposition to “foreigner owned hotels” allowed by “corrupt” officials, but not any dislike of foreign visitors



Moai (Easter Island Statues)



Moai

900+ statues

Built 1250-1500AD

Typical height ratio 3 head to 5 parts body

Up to 10m/33feet tall and 90 Tons

Placed on stone platforms “AHU”

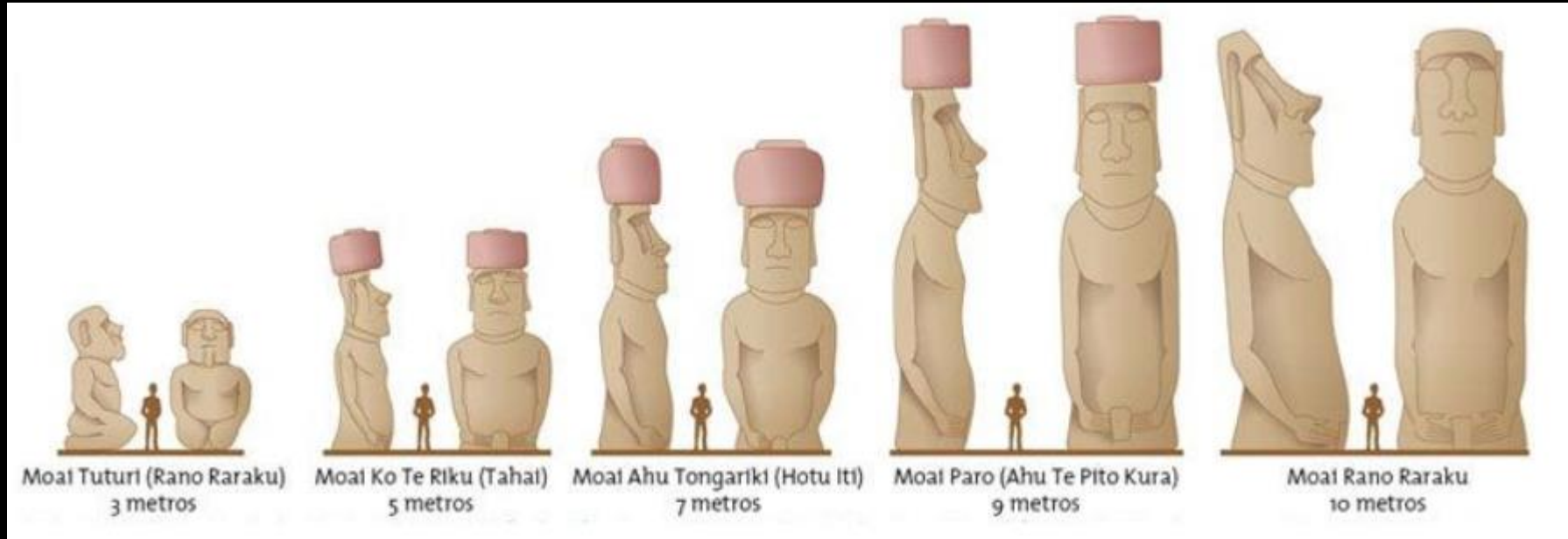
Deities to represent their ancestors

Usually built facing villages to watch and protect the people



PUKAO

- Some moai have top knot (either a hat or a hair style) of different rock red scoria
- This one has replica coral eyes with either black obsidian or red scoria pupils.
- The two types of rock come from different quarries



Most statues were made near a man made dock to get boats and provisions in and out for the villagers. There are almost no sandy beaches in Easter Island



Ahu Vai Ure at Ahu Tahai on stone platform AHU

All Moai had
been toppled
and/or
damaged

5 re-erected
Moai

Can see
cement
repairs
around heads



Moai stone showing harder granite for carving them



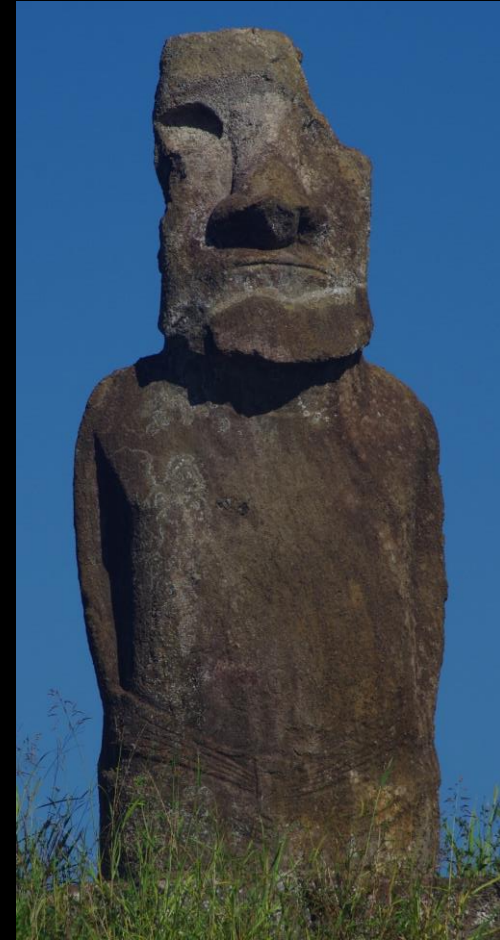
Ahu Akivi 140ft above sea level, 1 ½ miles away



- These 7 Moai are the only ones to face the sea
- Thought to help guide sailors back to the island
- Face setting sun at the equinox



Thia Moai had two sets of arms and fingers. Was it buried and recarved?



15 Moai at Ahu Tongariki.



15 Moai at Ahu Tongariki – each represent different elder.



Ahu Tongariki – only one had a top knot



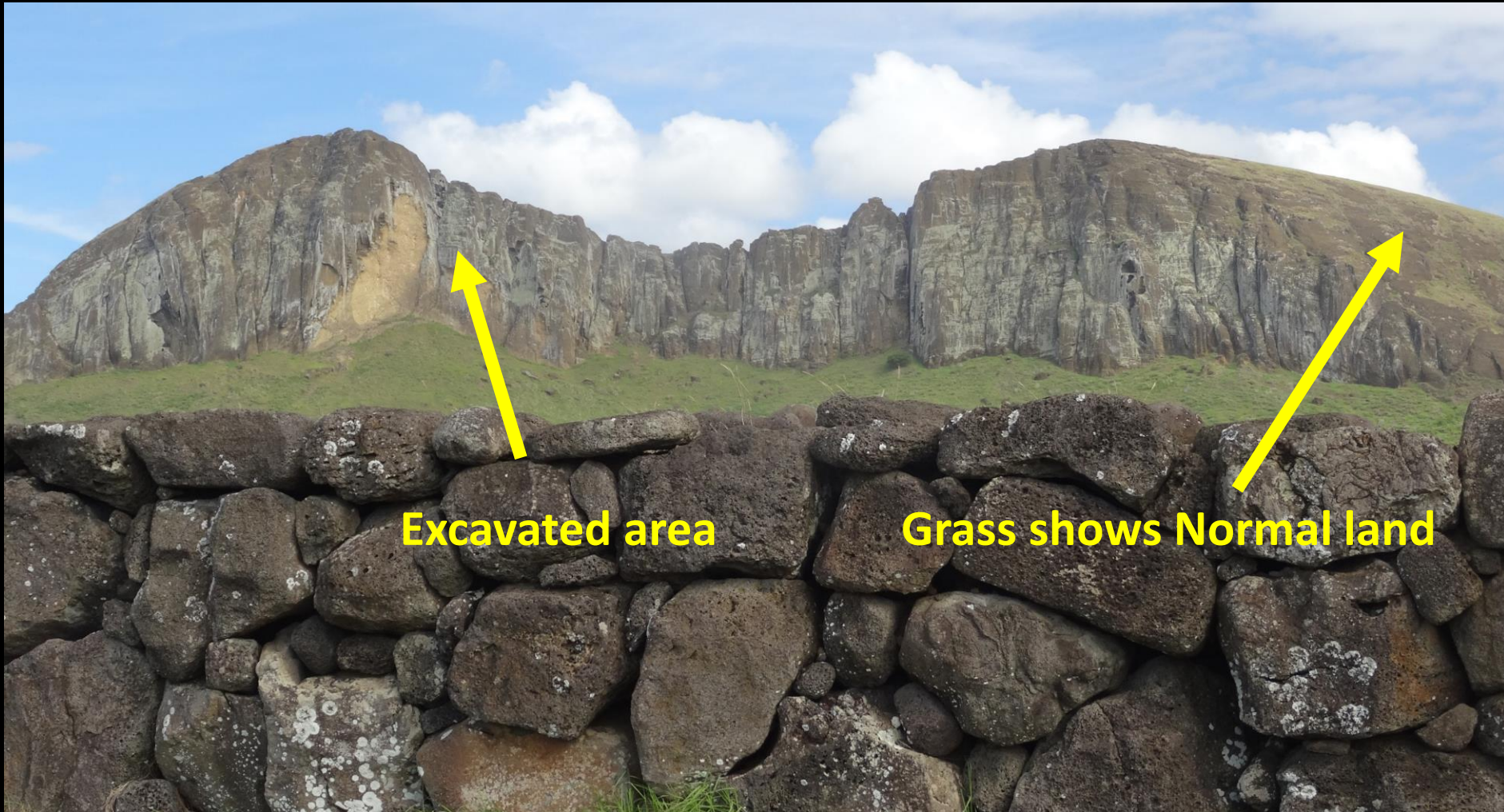
15 Moai at Ahu Tongariki.



Couldn't resist this shot



Main Quarry for Statues was a volcano



Rano Raraku stone quarry.
These Moai are still partially buried, not at their “final”
sites



Rano Raraku stone quarry.

Compare size of Moai with people



Heads only partly dug from the ground



Heads have large bodies still buried



Main quarry digging



Large Moai being dug out

Two statues were being dug out and abandoned



A different Quarry was used for top knots, many lay abandoned



Ahu Tongariki viewed from the quarry facing village



Statues (left) and main quarry (right)

How did they move them there?



How were Moai moved? <https://www.youtube.com/embed/yvvES47OdmY>



Rare (for Easter Island) stone wall – similar to Peru?



Erosion within the volcano – what causes it?



Erosion within the volcano – too many horses



Showing the size of a Moai



Fallen Moai



Toppled Moai and top knot



Volcanic crater

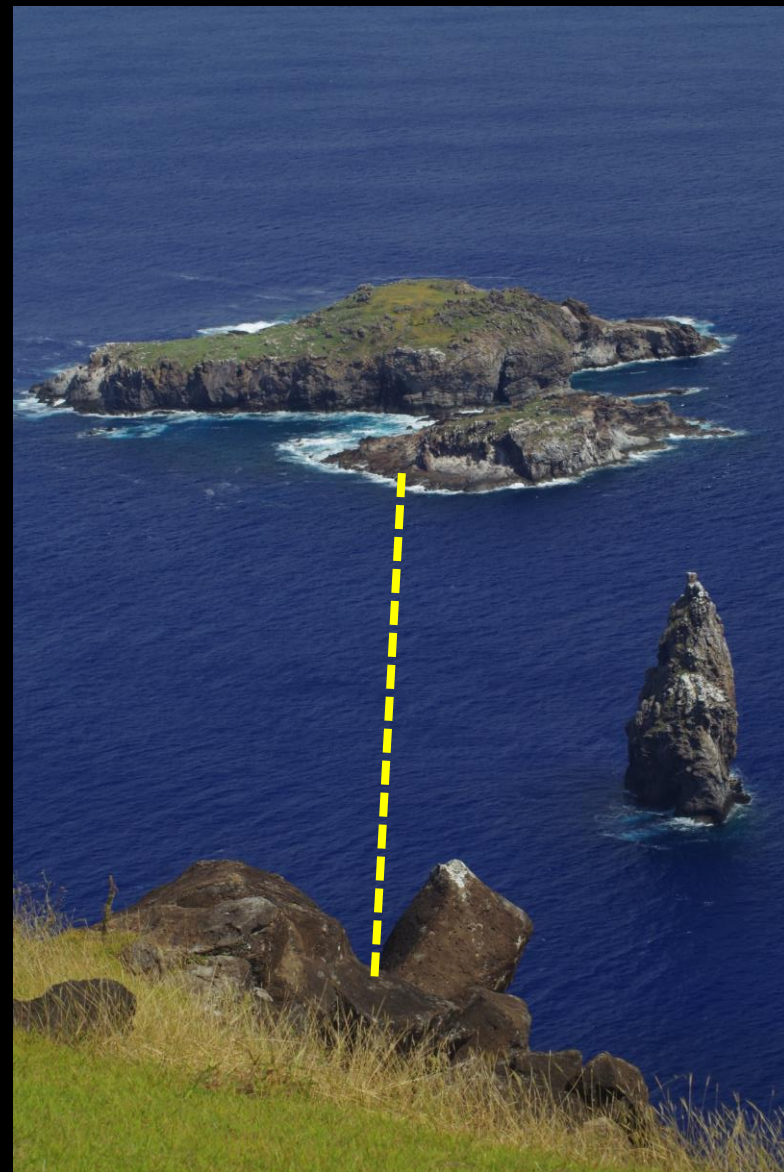


“Floating Islands” in Volcanic crater

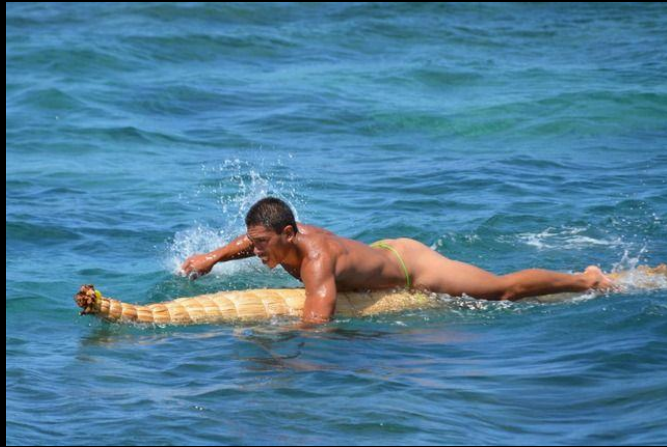


After Moai era - Bird man cult

Annual race to bring the first *manutara* ([sooty tern](#)) egg back undamaged from the nearby islet of [Motu Nui](#) to Orongo



After Moai era - Bird man cult



Every night there was a beautiful Rapa Nui Sunset



Dinner overlooking beach in Easter Island



Star gazing – with dark skies we see the milky way



In memory of my Dad who would write the year and place in the sand and take a photo every holiday

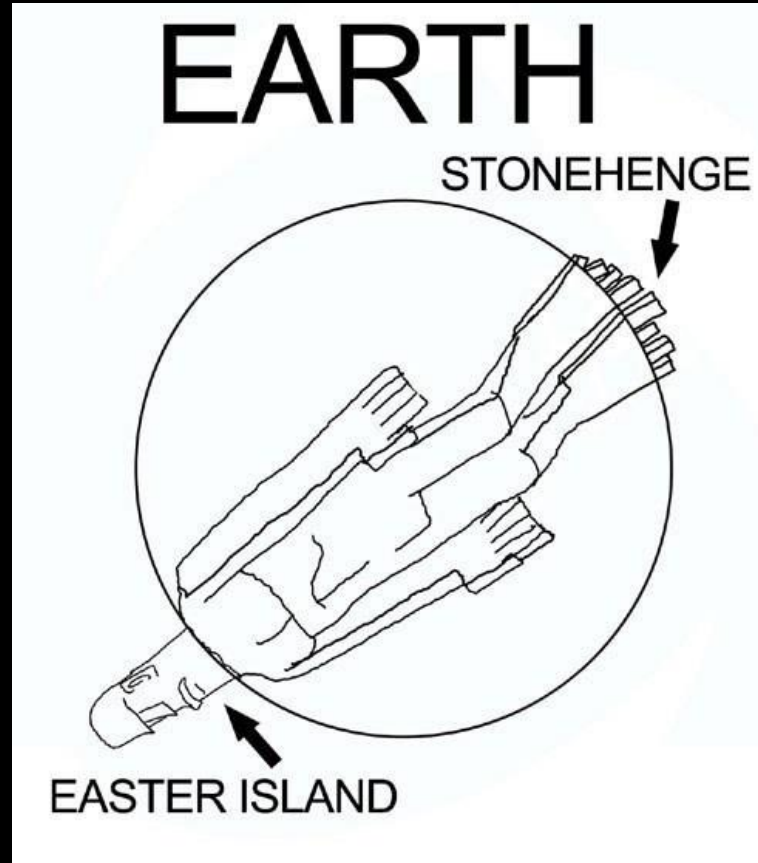


"2018
EI"

Easter Island

What are the Easter Island heads really for ?

What are the Easter Island heads really for ?



Thank you for your attention !

