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For the Kirk Douglas/Burt Lancaster film, see Easter Island (film).
"Rapa Nui" redirects here. For other uses, see Rapa Nui (disambiguation).
This article or section should specify the language of its non-English content, using {{lang}}, {{langx}}, or other templates. Without this, it may be unclear to readers that the foreign text is not a mistake. (May 2025)
Easter Island (Rapa Nui: Rapa Nui; Spanish: Isla de Pascua) is an island and special territory of Chile in the southeastern Pacific Ocean, at the southeastern extremity of the Polynesian Triangle in Oceania. It is famous for its 887 extant large stone statues created by the Rapanui people between 1250 and 1500 to 1650 AD. Its population is 7,750 (2024 census), of whom 3,886 are ethnic Rapanui people.[1] Its capital is Hanga Roa, which is located on the island's southwestern coast. The island is 3,523 km (2,189 mi) west of the Chilean coastal city of Caldera, and 2,075 km (1,289 mi) east of Pitcairn Island, its closest neighbor.[2] Its 163.6 km (101.7 mi) coastline forms a triangle with sides of 24 km (15 mi), 13 km (8 mi) and 21 km (13 mi) in length.[3] The island's highest point is Rano Kau, a volcano 324 m (1,063 ft) in elevation.[4]
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Easter Island
Rapa Nui (Rapanui)
Flag of Easter Island
Flag of Easter Island
Motto: Te Pito o Te Henua
(English: "Navel of the World")
Anthem: Himene Tarona
(English: "Sunrise Hymn")
Location of Easter Island (circled in red) in the Pacific Ocean
Sovereignty: Chile
Capital: Hanga Roa
Largest village: Hanga Roa
Official languages: Spanish, Rapanui
Ethnic groups: 60% Rapanui people, 40% Chilean people
Demonym: Easter Islander
Government: Unitary presidential republic
Chief of State: Gabriel Boric
Governor: Ivo Tu Tepaeru
Legislature: None
Area: 163.6 km² (63.2 sq mi)
Highest point: Rano Kau, 324 m (1,063 ft)
Population: 7,750 (2024 Census)
Density: 47.4/km² (122.8/sq mi)
Currency: Chilean peso (CLP)
Time zone: UTC−6 (Easter Island Time)
Driving side: left
Calling code: +56 32
Internet TLD: .cl
Rapa Nui National Park
UNESCO World Heritage Site
Location: Easter Island, Chile
Criteria: Cultural: iii, v, vi
Reference: 715
Inscription: 1995 (19th session)
Extent: 7,150 ha (17,700 ac)
Coordinates: 27°07'S 109°23'W
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Etymology

The name "Easter Island" was given by the island's first recorded European visitor, the Dutch explorer Jacob Roggeveen, who encountered it on Easter Sunday, 23 April in 1722. While searching for Pierre-Antoine-Joseph Bouvet de Lozier's mythical island of Gonzalo Alvarez, he named it Paasch Eyland, "Dutch for "Easter Island", after the Dutch name for the Paschal feast.[5]
The current Polynesian name of the island, Rapa Nui ("Big Rapa"), was coined after the slave raids of Peruvian slavers in the 1860s, to distinguish the island from the Polynesian island of Rapa, which is also known as Marotiri or Rapa Iti ("Little Rapa"). Alternatively, Rapanui ("Rapanui") is used for the island and Rapa Nui for the original name of Easter Island and Rapa Iti for the original name of Easter Island and Rapa Iti.[6]
The phrase "Te pito o te henua" (Rapanui: Te Pito o te Henua) is a local name for the island and means "navel of the world".[7] It is also the name of the Rapanui anthem.[8]
Chile adopted Easter Island in 1888. In 1966, the Rapa Nui series granted Chilean citizenship, in 1967 Easter Island was made a province of Chile, in 1970 it was made a commune of the Fifth Administrative Region, in 1974 it was made a province of the Fifth Administrative Region, consisting of a single commune, in 1976 it was made a province of the Fifth Administrative Region, consisting of a single commune, in 1980 it was made a province of the Fifth Administrative Region, consisting of a single commune, in 1981 it was made a province of the Fifth Administrative Region, consisting of a single commune, in 1982 it was made a province of the Fifth Administrative Region, consisting of a single commune, in

Any surviving Easter Island statue (moai) was carved from tuff, a compacted volcanic ash. Most of the island's moai were carved from a single quarry at Rano Raraku, which contains over 400 unfinished statues, including the largest ever carved, at 21 metres (69 ft) tall and 82 tonnes (81 tons). Some of the island's moai were also carved locally (apart from broken, old moai, fragments of which were found in the quarry), but most were carried to various places on the island, and some were carried from the island to other places. Although it is unclear how the moai were moved, it is clear that they were moved while standing upright, and not while lying down.

Moai were carved with a single piece of tuff, and most were carved with a single piece of tuff, but some were carved with two pieces of tuff, and some were carved with three pieces of tuff. Most moai