

New observatory now in focus

*****Explore the wild black yonder through the clearest night sky in the world with explora en Atacama*****

Monday, 21st January, 2008 (Santiago, Chile) – Star light, star bright? That goes without say, but star light in focus? That’s another story. Thanks to South American company explora, adventurers in northern Chile’s Atacama Desert can witness the heavens in glorious refinement at the new observatory at Hotel de Larache.

Set amid the driest desert in the world, explora’s remote outpost is exceptionally situated for the finest stargazing on the South American continent with the recent installation of a Meade 16” f/10 LX200R Advanced RC Telescope offering guests yet another tool for exploration.

The Atacama Desert of northern Chile is a dream destination for stargazers, with high altitude, a virtually cloudless climate, and sparse settlements that minimise distracting light pollution and radio interference. Light years above the desert, the night sky burns with the astronomical highlights of the Southern Hemisphere, including the Southern Cross, the southern Milky Way, and even points in the North.

The explora observatory is located just 100 meters from Hotel de Larache and inside, guests gather beneath an observation dome measuring five meters in diameter. The new Meade LX200R is a first-class telescope, generously accessorised with premium-grade optical glass, a Super Wide Angle Eyepiece, and a “piggyback bracket” enabling the mounting of digital cameras for spectacular astrophotography. If that wasn’t enough, the Meade 16” also ranks as one of the largest “aficionado-level” telescopes to be found in Chile.

“We don’t want to be astronomers; we just want to assure explorers a unique experience of observing the wonders of one of the finest skies in the world,” explains Maurice Dides, General Manager of Hotel de Larache. *“Guests can look forward to identifying constellations, planets, stars of multiple colors, globular clusters, misty nebulae, and galaxies thousands of light-years away.”*

For day time adventurers there is plenty to do under the sun at explora en Atacama, including high altitude mountain treks, horseback riding, and hiking and walking through the stunning lunar landscape of the Atacama Desert. *For the night time adventurers, the moon, stars, clear sky, constellations and galaxies are now among the many exciting possibilities.*

For reservations at explora en Atacama, please call explora +56-2206-6060, email reserve@explora.com, or visit the website at www.explora.com.

Notes to editors:

explora is not so much a hotel group as a revolutionary travel experience. It is an enterprise, founded in 1989, to encourage a new attitude towards travel for those who have a passion for discovering new places and new people, in remote and relatively unexplored regions of the southern tip of South America.

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