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Explora en Rapa Nui EASTER ISLAND LUXURY HOTEL



Address: Sector Te Miro
Neighborhood: In between the Southwest and Southeast corners
City: Easter Island
Phone: 866-750-6699
Website: www.explora.com



The Explora single-handedly ushered in a new era of comfort on Easter Island when it opened in 2008. Where “luxury” used to mean A/C and hot water, it now means individual temperature control, hydromassage bathtubs, ocean views from every room, and exquisite Chilean cuisine prepared by in-house local chefs. The creature comforts alone are reason enough to stay, but the real reason to splurge on the eco-friendly Explora is for its comprehensive guided tours of the island’s sites – one of the best organized programs on the island. These excursions, along with meals and open bar, are all included in the rates.

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Ever since Explora announced it would build a new lodge on Easter Island, adventure travelers have waited curiously to see what the company – famous for its end-of-the-earth resorts in Patagonia and the Atacama Desert – would turn out on this remote outpost. Since Explora en Rapa Nui opened in 2008, customers have been nothing less than delighted by its stunning architecture, surprisingly sophisticated amenities, and the staff’s commitment to preserving the island.

A 5-hour flight from Santiago, Easter Island is famous for its mysterious Moai, hulking stone statues created centuries ago by the Rapa Nui people, whose ancient society remains largely unknown. The lodge is a long, low building perched on a remote outcrop overlooking the ocean near Rano Raraku volcano, location of the quarry where the towering Moai were carved (it’s one of the only hotels located outside the island’s main town, Ranga Hoa). The 30 crisp, modern rooms favor light woods and pale tones, while Pacific views flood through floor-to-ceiling windows.

The island is best explored over a 3- to 5-day stay, and Explora’s local guides arguably provide the most in-depth and rewarding excursions of any outfitter on the island. Take a leisurely bike tour through forested sections along the coast or opt for the more strenuous trek to Hanga Oteo, where you can relax in natural pools, wander amid the Moai, and enjoy a picnic of local tuna seviceh and Chilean wine. Best season for value: fall.

Great Value Alternative: The cottages of [Cabañas Pikera Uri](#) are spacious, clean, and just outside Ranga Hoa. *From \$85/night; www.pantupikerauri.cl*

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