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I can be in TWO Places at Once, even THREE

Friday, February 12, 2021



Exactly one year ago Joe & I were at Easter Island (Rapa Nui) in the middle of the Pacific Ocean.

Even though I am stuck at home, this week have just completed a virtual walk around that island My virtual trek included the iconic image on the left. These ancient statues are called Moai (Mow Eye) When seeing them in person the huge size of the figures is overwhelming.



We actually got up before sunrise to take a series of photos and returned later for different views



Note, we are nowhere near the Moai platform. This is just a matter of perspective We observed the rules and did not violate any space sacred to the Rapa Nui people.



The path of my virtual walk with milestone markers is on the left, but during our one week visit on our own, we were able to see much more. There are Moai all over the island.



The Rapa Nui culture was almost completely destroyed during colonial invasions and the introduction of Christianity, but a revival late in the 20th century has resulted in a melding of both

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The statues and exterior of this Catholic church in Hanga Roa, the main (and only) city on the island, exemplifies this. Mass was in both Spanish and the Rapa Nui language.

There are many more photos of our 2020 trip to this amazing place on my website (link at end)



Another milestone on my virtual walk was the Rano Kau volcano. It is very windy up here. There is a trail down to the interior lagoon of the crater with floating islands of totora reeds used even today to make native canoes.



We chose this particular week in February to visit Rapa Nui for a very special reason. It was the annual "Tapati Rapa Nui" festival – a 2 week celebration of the native culture. There were daily special events – athletic competitions, artistic demonstrations and nightly entertainment – LOTS of dancing by all ages. The youngest was 4 years old.



The two main clans of the island each nominate a woman as leader of their team. The teams earn points by winning the various competitions (athletic, cultural & artistic). The leader of the winning team is then crowned Queen.



These women are getting ready for a 5k – local style. They must carry 25 pounds of bananas. No, I did not elect to participate. I remember how hard it was to run with 25 pounds of extra weight on my body. No thank you, even though these 25 pounds would be discarded at the finish line.



This was a relay race where you pass the bananas not a baton.



Remember those reeds from the volcano used for native canoes?
Here is a race in that kind of water craft



And an Olympic style winners' ceremony



The most exciting competition (Haka Pei) is no longer “officially sanctioned” for safety reasons, but as the locals on the beach told us, it will happen anyway. So we grabbed a taxi and went to the interior of the island to stand at the base of an extinct volcano.

Haka Pei is an ancient competition of sliding down the side of the volcano at high speed on two banana tree trunks lashed together.

These are official photos. Spectators must watch from a distance for safety reasons.



Before the event a ceremonial “curanto” was prepared to honor the ancestors who practiced Haka Pei and bless those present. I recognized the Lord's prayer recited in Spanish - a merging of Christianity with Rapa Nui tradition. Food was prepared in a huge pit - All the food was free



Those who had not brought chairs, tents or eating utensils arranged branches on fallen trees and were provided "dishes" of banana leaves



Not sure exactly what we ate, but it was delicious.
Some items will never be included in my nutrition tracker.

How can I be in 3 places at once? I am simultaneously doing a 2nd virtual walk. This time with other Spark Friends from London through Germany, Poland, the Baltic countries, Scandinavia to Lapland. That one is 2500 miles long. It would take years on my own. Any journey is easier with friends.

If you have read this far, thank you for joining me on my journey.
More photos of our amazing week on Easter Island are on my website.
It includes our entire month in South America. Just scroll down the page for Easter Island.

www.brigs.us/2020-Feb-South-America/index.htm

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TOMATOCAFEGAL
LOve your love of each other
108 days ago



FRIENDLYMSBETSY
Wow. Delightful. Thank you so much for creating this post for us. I am now determined to undertake a virtual journey of my own. Zest is a choice!
108 days ago



CHERIRIDDELL
This was brilliant thank you so much. I enjoyed it immensely. My travels have been curtailed by the need for a wheelchair but they can't take away my enjoyment of armchair travels !
108 days ago



LGRIF22
WOW! What a trip! Thanks for the virtual trip!
111 days ago



2DAWN4
What beautiful photos!
111 days ago



SHAWFAN
Seriously Beautiful photos, Eileen! My question is how are you participating in virtual walks around these same places? I'm not very tech-savvy to know much about what's out in the world that does this.



Fantastic that you're able to revisit these places, even if it is virtual.

AWESOME



again. Somehow I was unsubscribed from your blogs. Then I was really busy.



111 days ago



GINA180847
Such a very interesting blog! Wow!



111 days ago



JUNETTA2002
Awesome pictures. Thanks for sharing.
111 days ago



ALICIA363
Thank you so much for this blog! Travelling vicariously, and learning!
You're the best!
I appreciate you!



111 days ago



ALIHIKES
What a wonderful experience! Thank you for sharing the culture and beauty of Rapa Nui. I loved your insights as to the blending of cultures and religion. The celebration looked both exciting and beautiful.



It is great that you are doing another virtual hike. A fun way to revisit a special place, and stay fit!
112 days ago

JAMER123
What a wonderful vacation. I can only imagine how huge the statues are when you can see them in person. Fun activities!





THANK YOU! AWESOME

112 days ago



THINCPL2004

Your trip sounded very interesting!
112 days ago



RACHNACH

KEEP SPARKING!

112 days ago



LINOVER

Thank you for sharing your trip! It was very interesting.
112 days ago



KITTYHAWK1949

THANK YOU! GREAT! KEEP SPARKING!

112 days ago



SHAKERATTLEROLL

Thank you for sharing your travels.
112 days ago



DONNA_CPS2

KEEP IT UP!

112 days ago



UPTOIT59

How lucky to have all these wonderful experiences to re-live through memories and photos.

Also glad you got one last adventure in before Covid-
112 days ago



NECDOO

I am so thankful that you shared. I loved the virtual tour. I also went to your website. Those are some amazing pictures and great memories.

112 days ago



DEE797

Thanks for sharing your trip and memories with us.
112 days ago



SUSANYOUNGER

HUGS

112 days ago



ETHELMERZ

Thanks for showing us, how interesting!
112 days ago



PLCHAPPELL

Hope to travel again soon
113 days ago



RHOOK20047

Thanks for sharing with us
113 days ago





AZMOMXTWO

I just loved being with you on this journey I have never seen photos like this thank you
113 days ago



HAYBURNER1969

How cool to have actually been to those places in your virtual walk!
113 days ago



PATRICIAAK

WOW! Fascinating! You live a dynamic life!
113 days ago



NANANANA

This week, I relived walking on the edge of Mount Etna and touring Pompeii, plus a few other strenuous tours with my snow globes.

Your travels are amazing.
113 days ago



MARTHA324

Fascinating and thank you so much for sharing. It is hard to believe that this trip happened a year ago before all of our lives changed. So happy for you and your DH that you were able to do this.

And one day soon you'll be able to plan AND take your next trip.
113 days ago



1DAY-ATA-TIME

Wow! So interesting. Thanks for sharing.
113 days ago



NASFKAB

Wonderful memories. Wish I could have seen these places but unable to do so now.
113 days ago



YELLOW09RED

Good morning Eileen,
this is so awesome to see and read.
Joe and you are so blessed. Soon you two will be able to travel.
I love all of your pictures.

Thank you hugs
Take care this weekend.



Happy Valentine's day to you two.
113 days ago



LIS193

Wonderful memories
114 days ago



POLSKARENIA

Wonderful and so interesting!
114 days ago



1STBUCKETITEM

What a glorious time the two of you have experienced around the world. I thank you for sharing the wonderful cultures and history of each place you visit. How I envy your travels... but at least I can appreciate the places virtually through your lovely pictures.



114 days ago



MARYJEANSL

What a wonderful trip!
114 days ago






AMUSICALLIFE

What an exciting trip! Love the banana tree competition. Young men are all risk takers around the world. Great pictures
114 days ago



SCDALYNCH

What a wonderful trip.  For sharing you pictures and information.
Enjoy the weekend.
114 days ago



BKNOCK

Glad you had such a wonderful vacation before the Pandemic! Very cool pictures!
114 days ago



BJAEGER307

What a wonderful and interesting adventure you did have. Memories to have for a lifetime. That is something I think I would like to do. Wishing for the times when we could do that.
114 days ago



DARLENEK04

Thank you for sharing your trip and all the wonderful pictures....a place I will never get to go so I really appreciate going vicariously thru those pictures, and your words and description... Must be a fascinating place...

114 days ago



HARROWJET

Thank you for sharing your adventure.
114 days ago



RAZZOOZLE

I enjoy reading about all your adventures. They are very interesting and inspiring.
114 days ago



MSMOSTIMPROVED

I am adding Easter Island to my must see places! Whatever you had grilled in that banana leaf needs to get in my belly. Oh I miss traveling. My favorite place was Panama but I just love when the wheels go up and I'm on my way!
114 days ago



SAMMILESSACH

Amazing! Truly Amazing! Thank you for sharing this! I am glad you have gotten to travel (before Covid) , I pray you will again, I pray this covid stuff will be a very bad distant memory for all

soon.
114 days ago



ALEXSGIRL1



114 days ago



SUNNYBEACHGIRL

Oh I miss traveling and I am sad as I check off places I will never go in real time. Thank you for sharing you journey
114 days ago



DOVESEYES



114 days ago



MTN_KITTEN

So many adventures.





114 days ago

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