

Key Facts about Rapa Nui

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About Rapa Nui:

- Rapa Nui, also known as **Easter Island**, is a **Chilean dependency** in the **southeastern Pacific Ocean**.
- It is the **easternmost outpost of the Polynesian island world**.
- It is situated about 3,540 km to **the west of Chile** and about 1,900 km to the east of Pitcairn Island.
- Covering a total area of 163.6 sq.km., it is one of the **most remote inhabited places** in the world.
- It is a small, **triangular-shaped volcanic island**. It is about 24 km in length and has a maximum width of about 12 km at its widest point.
- It faces a **tropical rainforest climate**.
- UNESCO named Easter Island a **World Heritage Site** on March 22, 1996, and major parts of the island have been protected under the Rapa Nui National Park.
- **What are Moai Statues?**
 - Rapa Nui is famous for its large statues called moai.
 - They are **shaped like large human heads** and **erected on stone pedestals**.

- They are famous for their **carved heads** and **“Pukao,”** a **hat-like covering** made from a soft red stone.
 - Some moai stand 40 feet tall and weigh 75 tonnes.
 - They were **carved in volcanic stone** at quarries and then moved to their current locations across the island.
 - Scholars believe the Rapa Nui people built the moai between the **13th and the 16th centuries** and represented their revered ancestors.
 - Over 900 moai have been found on the island to date.
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Q1: What is a volcanic island?

A volcanic island refers to a large volcano that has erupted on the seafloor and has emerged above sea level, occurring in ocean basins or on ocean ridges.

Source: [New evidence upends contentious Easter Island theory, scientists say](#)

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/rapa-nui/>

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