



Santiago de Chile, 17 March 2010

Dear Friends;

Thank you all for your concern over the last few weeks. Although following the recent earthquake in Chile life has been filled with strong emotions, things are now getting back to normal.

The area hardest hit was the Concepción area which is 1003 miles/1614 km from San Pedro de Atacama, (about the same distance as Paris, France to Athens, Greece or New York to Miami in US) and surprisingly few casualties were reported given the size of the earthquake.

Tierra Atacama and our sister hotel Ski Portillo and their employees were totally unaffected by the quake and our administrative offices are functioning normally. The latest release from the US Department of State on 12th March, indicates that "The Santiago airport is expected to be fully operational by March 22, 2010. All other regional airports are open and operating on normal schedules."

The earthquake did NOT affect the major tourist areas in Chile of Atacama, Ski Area, Patagonia and Easter Island.

Both Tierra Atacama and Portillo have held local collections amongst staff in Santiago and surrounding areas and San Pedro de Atacama, to send much needed items to the areas where resources are low. We were encouraged by many of the guests who weren't able to travel to Tierra Atacama because of difficulties with their flights, who requested that we donate the cost of their stay to the Red Cross, rather than receive a 100% refund.

All this positive action is heartwarming and will go a long way to improve the short term situation and help with the longterm re-building of the area affected.

It is also important to point out that the people of Chile need your support now more than ever, as tourism is an important source of revenue for the country. We hope we can count on you and your organization's help, not only in the form of humanitarian aid on the ground, but also in getting the word out that Chile is still a great place to visit and open for business!

If you cannot travel, but would like to help Chile recover from this event, the Chilean Red Cross is accepting donations in the following bank account;

Citibank / Account Number : 9941973331 / ABA Code: :021000089 /
Address; 153 East 53 Rd. Street 4th floor. NY, NY 10022.

If there is any additional information we can help you with, please do let us know and thank you once again for your support and concern.

Warm Regards

The team at Tierra Atacama