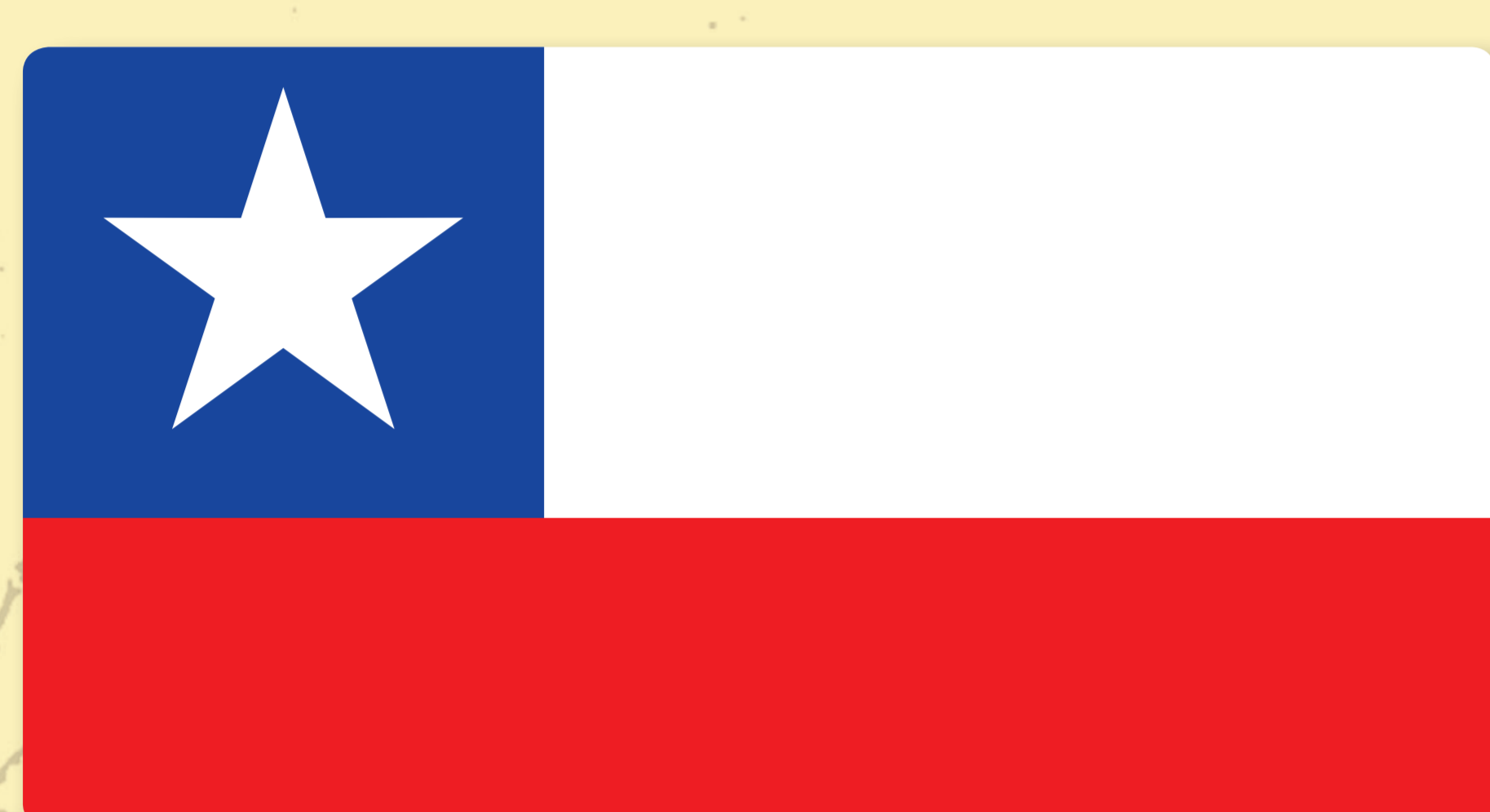


Chile

Londonderry Island, Tierra del Fuego



Latitude: 55° 08' 42" S
Longitude: 70° 52' 09" W
Distance from Derry, Londonderry, NI: 8350 miles

Londonderry is an island in the archipelago of Tierra del Fuego (Land of Fire) in southernmost Chile at the western end of the Beagle Channel and Darwin Sound. Nearby islands include Gilbert Island and Stewart Island to the northwest, O'Brien Island to the north, and Cook Island (or London Island) and Thompson Island to the east.

History

The English Cherokee-class brig-sloop "Beagle" chartered the Tierra Del Fuego on two expeditions. In the first Beagle Expedition 1826 – 1830, the ship was under the ultimate command of Phillip Parker King – the namer of Cape of Londonderry, Western Australia. Part way through its journey, its direct commander changed from Stokes to Robert Fitzroy, whose uncle was Viscount Castlereagh (Marquis of Londonderry). Fitzroy surveyed the Beagle Channel and then presumably also Londonderry Island.



Viscount Castlereagh
Marquis of Londonderry



Expedition Ship

Did you know

The second Beagle Expedition 1831 – 1836 (returning to Tierra Del Fuego): again under the command of Fitzroy, with Charles Darwin accompanying: FitzRoy had found a need for expert advice on geology during the first voyage, and had resolved that if on a similar expedition, he would "endeavour to carry out a person qualified to examine the land; while the officers, and myself, would attend to hydrography." Command in that era could involve stress and loneliness, as shown by the suicide of Captain Stokes, and FitzRoy's own uncle Viscount Castlereagh had committed suicide under stress of overwork. His attempts to get a friend to accompany him fell through, and he asked his friend and superior, Captain Francis Beaufort, to seek a gentleman naturalist as a self-financing passenger who would give him company during the voyage. A sequence of inquiries led to Charles Darwin, a young gentleman on his way to becoming a rural clergyman, joining the voyage.



HMS Beagle replica under construction



Traditional Dance

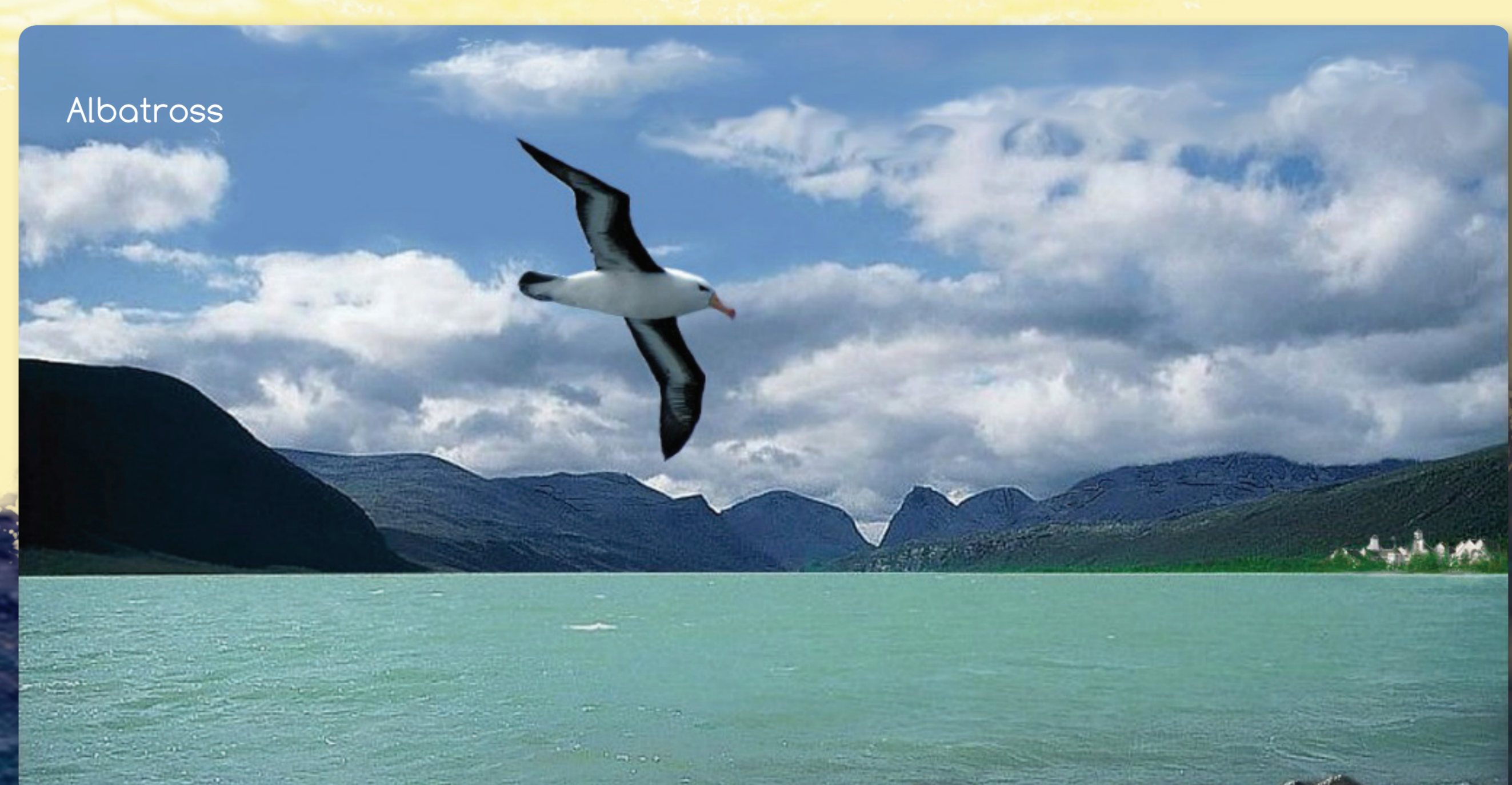
Facts and figures Chile

Area: 291,930 sq ml (756,096 sq km)
Population: 17,268,000
Capital: Santiago, pop 5,883,000
Currency: Chilean peso
Religions: Roman catholic, Evangelical
Language: Spanish

Chile is only about 100 miles (160 km) wide from east to west



Ice Station



Albatross