

Key words: Atacama Desert, ESO observatories



<p>ESOCast Episode 85: Chile Chill 7 – “Visitors to the Desert”</p>	
<p>00:00 [Visual starts] ESOCast intro 1. This is the ESOCast! Cutting-edge science and life behind the scenes at ESO, the European Southern Observatory.</p>	<p>00:00 ESOCast introduction</p>
<p>00:19 2. Chile’s Atacama Desert is one of the driest places in the world</p> <p>It’s paradise for the professional astronomers who use ESO’s telescopes</p> <p>Some of the world’s most powerful instruments for astronomical research are here</p>	<p>Atacama desert, timelapses</p> <p>Night timelapses taken at ESO observatories</p> <p>VLT, interior shot</p>
<p>01:03 3. <i>[People]</i> Although it’s an inhospitable place, many visitors come to this magical part of the world</p> <p>Here people can stand before a doorway to the Universe</p> <p>Watching the sunset and waiting for night to fall</p>	<p>Images of people at the observatories</p>

<p>The astonishing night skies add their own magic to the scientific studies carried out here</p> <p>Photographer Babak Tafreshi immerses himself in the sheer beauty of the place</p> <p>ESO Photo Ambassador Petr Horálek marvels at the Martian landscape of the desert</p> <p>Astronomer Yuri Beletsky has time to stand and stare</p> <p>Legendary rock star and astrophysicist Brian May came to visit this extraordinary place</p>	<p>Visuals showing Babak Tafreshi</p> <p>Visuals showing Petr Horálek</p> <p>Visuals showing Yuri Beletsky</p> <p>Visuals showing Brian May</p>
<p>03:36 4. [<i>Animals</i>] The observatories are honoured by visits from the local fauna as well</p> <p>A wild fox makes a tenuous living in the desert</p> <p>Vicuñas and guanacos, desert camelids, pass by the ESO observatories</p> <p>Desert donkeys are often to be found grazing by the roadside</p> <p>A tinamou bird explores the desert landscape</p>	<p>Image sequence of some animals in the Atacama desert</p>

<p>Short-eared owls guard the night</p> <p>And shy viscachas look for food</p>	
<p>04:25 5. [Comets] And finally the celestial visitors — comets...</p> <p>... show off in a spectacular sky over ESO's observatories and the desolate desert landscape</p>	<p>Still images of comets</p>
<p>04:57 6. Spectacular Comet McNaught in January 2007 brought breathtaking views</p>	<p>Images of Comet McNaught 2007</p>
<p>06:01 7. Comet Lovejoy unexpectedly survived its close approach to the Sun</p> <p>And appeared as the Christmas comet over the Atacama Desert in 2011</p> <p>The desolate beauty of the Atacama Desert will continue to enchant visitors</p>	<p>Visuals of Comet Lovejoy</p>
<p>06:39 [Outro]</p>	<p>ESOCast is produced by ESO, the European Southern Observatory.</p> <p><i>ESO builds and operates a suite of the world's most advanced ground-based astronomical telescopes.</i></p>

