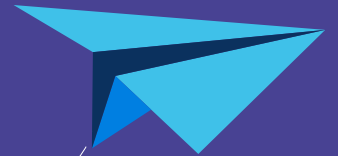




Welcomes you
to Chile!

2024



Welcome!

Chile is a long and narrow country located in the southwest of South America, between the Andes and the Pacific Ocean. More than 4,500 km long, it limits with Peru to the north, Bolivia to the northeast and Argentina to the east.

The capital of Chile, the political and financial center of the country, is Santiago, where more than a third of the total population (6 million) lives. The official currency in Chile is the Chilean Peso (CLP).

In Chile, the official language is Spanish, but Chileans speak so fast that even if you speak the language, you may not be able to understand them completely. In addition, Chilean Spanish has a multitude of words and

expressions that are only used within the country, or only in some of the neighbouring countries. So, if you are not understanding something, don't hesitate to say so and ask them to speak slower.

To make your stay in the country an excellent experience, we would like to provide you with some useful information.

Entering the country

Chile is very strict with products that can enter the country. Any product of plant or animal origin, even if labelled and sealed, must be declared to the Agriculture and Livestock Service (SAG).

No vaccines are currently required to enter Chile.

Safety

Emergency Telephone Numbers

131 Ambulance Service

132 Fire Department

133 Police (Carabineros)

137 Maritime Rescue

First of all, you can be sure that Chile is one of the safest countries to visit in Latin America. You can move about freely without taking major precautions, but like everywhere in the world, avoid marginalized neighborhoods in the big cities and be careful in the city centers. Chile has a low rate of violent crimes, however, it is possible to become a victim of theft or pick-pocketing.

We recommend you always transit through tourist sites, if possible accompanied and in well-lit areas.

While you travel, walk around and sightsee, we also recommend you keep your belongings safe - backpacks facing forward, carefully handling your cellphone, camera and money.



In cafés or restaurants, never hang your purse or bag from the seat-back and never leave your belongings unattended. Some restaurants provide special straps for tying bags to the seats. Better yet, keep it in your lap or at your feet under the table.

Weather

As Chile is located in the southern hemisphere, the seasons are the opposite of those in the north. The warmest months are December, January and February, and the coldest are June, July and August, but since Chile is so long, each zone has its own "thermal sensation":

In the north of Chile is the driest desert in the world, the Atacama Desert, it usually rains very little or almost nothing and its coastal area is temperate.

In the central area, where Santiago is located, there is a Mediterranean climate, but towards

the coast, in the Valparaíso Region, the days have lower temperatures.

The south of Chile is a rainy area with a lot of vegetation, and in the extreme south, the lowest temperatures in the country are found.

Transportation

In most cities in Chile cabs are metered, so taking one is generally safe, although not very cheap. You can follow the fare on the taximeter, which by law must be in sight. Short rides (5 -10 minute ride) should cost around \$5.000. Apps such as *Uber*, *Cabify* and *Didi* also work.

In Santiago it is common to travel by Metro or bus, commonly called "micros". For both, you use a payment card - tarjeta BIP! - which you can purchase and load with money at metro stations.

Do not be alarmed if you are charged different fares at different times of the day, as each period of the day has different fares.

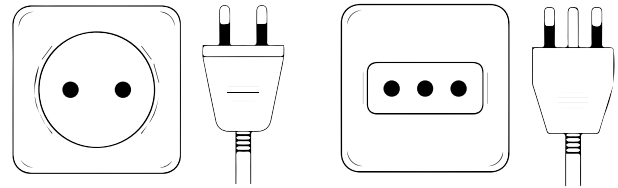
In the Valparaíso Region, close to the capital, you can also use the metro that runs through most of the urban area, passing through the cities of Valparaíso, Viña del Mar, Quilpué, Villa Alemana and Limache.

If you want to use "micros" buses, we recommend avoiding the hill areas (Valparaíso is a city full of hills) because the buses are known to go at high speeds through spaces that are not always very appropriate.

*(*BIP! Card only works in Santiago. If you want to use the MetroTrain service in Valparaíso, you need to purchase another card. Buses are paid in cash.)*

Voltage

The voltage is 220 V / 50 Hz, and appliances also need an adapter to plug into the Chilean sockets, which can be found in supermarkets or specialty stores. These are C or L plugs. Our plugs look like this:



Preventive measures

Even though Chile is a country with high hygiene standards, you should give your stomach the time to get accustomed to the Chilean food and, at least during your first days, keep in mind the following advice:

- Even though the quality of the tap water is good, foreigners may find it heavily chlorinated. Therefore, we recommend you avoid drinks which contain tap water or ice-cubes made from tap water.
- Prefer bottled water – con gas (sparkling) or sin gas (non-sparkling).

**Avoid eating at market stalls or street vendors*

To have in mind!

- Chile is an seismic country, so you may feel more than one sudden shake or tremor during your stay. For your peace of mind, constructions are built under strict anti-seismic construction laws. In the event of an earthquake, you should stay calm, stand under a doorway or beam, stay away from windows and wait until it stops moving to go outside. Just remember to stay calm and follow instructions.

- Chilean law prohibits smoking in enclosed public spaces, restaurants and cafeterias, but you can smoke on their terraces or sidewalks.

Duoc UC campuses are smoke free, and smoking is only allowed in designated areas.

- The official currency for Chile is the Chilean Peso (CLP) and we use thousands!

One thousand pesos is roughly US\$ 1.2
Notes come in denominations of \$1.000, \$2.000, \$5.000, \$10.000 and \$20.000 differentiated by color. Even though there are smaller amounts in coins, the most usual ones are \$50, \$100 and \$500.

- In restaurants and cafés a tip of 10% is expected. It is not included in the bill. Usually people leave a tip on the table when they leave. It is customary to take all the change first and then leave a tip.
- Santiago is GMT minus 3 hours. This means that the majority of the countries in central Europe have a time difference of 5 hours (ahead).

You can calculate the time difference between your city and Santiago using the following website:

<https://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/>



Visiting Santiago

Santiago, capital of Chile, mixes in its corners colonial architecture and Latin style.

The most outstanding places to visit in Santiago: The presidential palace known as *Palacio de la Moneda* is one of Santiago's architectural icons. A giant Chilean flag flies in front of the white, neoclassical building, which houses movie theaters, art galleries and an independent bookstore.

The *Bellavista neighborhood*, the city's bohemian quarter. There is street art and a quiet, raucous nightlife, art galleries, theatrical performances, dance clubs, many restaurants and another of

Pablo Neruda's houses, *La Chascona*.

Another interesting neighborhood is *Lastarria*, with its cobblestone streets and European style, offers antique stores and independent boutiques, as well as the *Gabriela Mistral Cultural Center*.

Two of the hills overlooking the city are *Santa Lucía Hill* and *San Cristóbal Hill*, both easily accessible and free of charge.

Visiting Valparaíso

Valparaíso is a unique city, full of hills, colors and a lot of places to visit. If you have time, we recommend you to visit:

Cerro Alegre, which is one of the most important tourist areas of Valparaiso, with a neighborhood with unique architectural elements and lots of color. Its backbone can be found on *Montealegre Street*.

The other famous and touristic hill to visit in Valparaíso is this *Cerro Concepción*. This is where most of the lodging and hotels are located. It is the place we most recommend to stay overnight,

both for its safety and its environment and important places to see.

La Sebastiana, one of the 3 famous houses that Pablo Neruda had. It is one of the most picturesque for its unique architectural style and the details that the poet introduced.

As Valparaiso is between hills with many slopes, you will have to go up in their *elevators* that are one of the most famous tourist attractions to visit in Valparaiso, with opening hours from 07:00 and 23:00.

Visiting Viña del Mar

Among the places or tours that you should try to do in your visit to Viña del Mar, we suggest:

Visit the *Quinta Vergara* and the *Palacio Vergara* with its beautiful gardens. In this mansion were held important political, musical and social meetings of the time.

The obligatory photograph of the city is next to the *Flower Clock*. Legend has it that those who have their picture taken with this clock will return to the city.

Just above the Clock of Flowers you will find the *Cerro Castillo*, with a viewpoint that allows a beautiful panoramic view of the coast.

Walking north along *Avenida Marina*, you will see the *Viña del Mar Casino*, *Plaza Mexico* and its colorful water fountain, while enjoying the beautiful view of the sea.

Crossing towards the coast you will come across the emblematic *Avenida Peru*, a must to go to see how the waves break on the rocks.