

USEFUL INFORMATION

Requirements for entry to Chile

A passport will be the identification document required for entry to the country, except for citizens of Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, and Paraguay who are allowed to enter the country with their respective national identity card.

Visas

The Chilean Immigration law requires a passport with a visa for visitors of some countries. Entry to the country will be refused to persons not bearing the passport with visa. This is the case for citizens of the People's Republic of China, India, and Egypt. Similarly, visitors from countries that do not have diplomatic relations established with Chile need a tourism visa for entry. The visa can be extended at the consulate offices of the nearest country. For further information please visit the Chilean Ministry of Foreign Affairs website at: www.minrel.cl / *Consular Affairs*; *Consular Services Department* for e-mail addresses of the nearest or more convenient consulate offices.

Reciprocity Fee

Citizens of countries listed below must pay a reciprocity fee when entering Chile:

Mexico	US\$ 23
USA	US\$131
Australia	US\$ 61
Canada	US\$132
Albania	US\$30

The reciprocity fee can be paid cash in US dollars or with the following credit cards:

American Express

Visa

Mastercard

Passengers holding passports of the United States, Canada, and Albania shall only pay the fee once, for the whole life of the passport. The fee paid by passengers holding Mexican and Australian passport will be valid for 90 days.

Customs

Once in Chile and after passing through the International Police booth, passengers must go to the joint Customs and SAG (*the Chilean Agriculture and Livestock Service*) check area carrying their baggage. At this checking point passengers will be asked to complete the **Declaración Conjunta Aduana** (*the Joint Customs Statement*) form in which passengers must list all items contained in the baggage.

Items free from customs duty are those articles considered as baggage, such as:

- **Used video camera and recorded tapes for family use.**
- **Used mobile cellular phones.**
- **Used photo camera.**
- **Used sport gear for personal use.**
- **Medicine/drugs for personal use in appropriate quantities according to the needs of passenger and duration of stay in the country, be they over-the-counter drugs or medicine with the associated medical prescription.**
- **Used portable CD player**
- **Used personal stereo**
- **Used binoculars**
- **New or used gifts, not exceeding US\$ 150.00 or its equivalent in other currencies as per each traveler over the age of 15.**
- **Books, newspapers, magazines and printed material in general, either new or used.**
- **Physically handicapped or ill travelers are allowed to enter health or First Aid auxiliary equipment which is necessary for their displacement.**

Prohibited Goods

Under the law the possession and traffic of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances are prohibited and penalized in Chile. The possession and/or trade of components, materials, instruments, or equipment used in the illicit production, preparation, manufacture, or extraction of narcotic drugs is considered a serious offense.

Sanitary Controls

The *Servicio Agrícola Ganadero* (SAG) the sanitary enforcement agency, conducts phyto-sanitary controls. **Chile forbids the entry to the country of any type of animal and/or vegetable products or by-products.** The only exceptions are products covered by an Official Sanitary Certificate issued at the country of origin.

Vaccination

There are no special vaccination requirements for entry to Chile, as there is no risk of any diseases such as malaria or hepatitis in the country.

Drinking Water

Water is 100% potable, but visitors should get accustomed to drinking water gradually. The recommendation is to start drinking bottled (mineral) water that is available everywhere in shops and restaurants.

More tips

Currency

The Chilean currency is called the Peso Chileno (\$) or CLP). The dollar/euro exchange rate changes almost on a daily bases so information will depend on the date of your trip. Foreign currency exchange can be made freely at any bank, exchange bureau, hotels and/or at the airports, and you will not be asked to produce any special document.

The Chilean peso is issued in banknotes (paper bills) in denominations of \$1,000, \$2,000, \$5,000, \$10,000 and \$20,000, and in metallic coins in denominations of \$1, \$5, \$10, \$50, \$100, and \$500.

It is not common for stores to take dollar or euro banknotes as a means of payment. We suggest therefore you carry enough Chilean currency. On the other hand, credit cards are taken in most stores, and you can also use them in ATMs connected to the "Cirrus" or "Plus" network that also feature English menus. The most commonly used and widely accepted credit cards are Visa, MasterCard, American Express, and Dinners Club.

You'll find ATMs everywhere, in the banks, at supermarkets, pharmacies, shopping malls, in subway ('Metro') stations, and gas stations. ATMs only dispense Chilean currency (bank notes).

Currency

Today there is no currency control on tourists in Chile. Tourists can enter or leave the country with Chilean money, with foreign currency, or with any other means of payment.

Communications

The country telephone code for Chile is (56). The Santiago Area Code is 2, and the Valparaíso and Viña del Mar Area Code is 32.

A number of telecommunications providers (or *Carriers*) offer different rates for domestic and international long distance calls. We recommend you ask for the rates and services offered before making any call.

Calls can be made by Direct Dialing or through a carrier's operator. For calls from one place in Chile to another location within the country you must dial:

Carrier Code + City (area) Code + telephone number (ex.: 188 + 2 + 731 8330)

Transport

Taxicabs are painted black with a yellow roof and a number on doors and roof. Taxicabs have a meter and charge a flat rate plus a proportional rate every x meters. Taxicabs operate 24/7 in the main cities.

There are also a number of Radio-taxi companies that provide point-to-point transportation for a fixed rate. Radio-taxi companies may be reached on the phone.

The Santiago subway ('Metro') operates from 06.30 a.m. to 10.30 p.m. Monday to Saturday; and from 08.00 a.m. to 10.30 p.m. on Sundays. The metro charges different rates in valley hours (lower) and peak hours (higher). For further information please visit www.metrosantiago.cl.

A special electronic card by the name of **BIP** (or tarjeta BIP) must be used to access the 'Metro' and/or all buses; the BIP card is sold at the metro's stations. You can also buy a one way or return ticket at the metro stations for use only in the subway, valid for the day or time.

A toll is charged to any vehicle circulating on any urban freeways in Santiago. The toll is collected via the TAG, an electronic device affixed to cars. The daily ticket is worth some \$3,100 and can be bought via the website, or in some gas stations near the highways, or at the toll booths. In the case of rental cars the toll fee will be charged after the rental car is returned.

Weather

The latitude, elevation, and proximity to the ocean determine the climate variations in Chile.

October is spring time in Chile, and we will enjoy a mild weather, with little or no rainfall at all, and a temperature ranging from 12 degrees Celsius to 25 degrees Celsius. Rainfall increases and temperatures drop when moving southwards. During spring the sun rises at approximately 5.30 a.m. and sets more or less at 7.30 p.m.

For further information please visit www.meteochile.cl.

Power Supply

The power supply in Chile is 220 Volts, two cycles (i.e. 220V 50mHz). A power transformer should be used for electrical devices using 100V. However, most of portable equipment, including PCs has its own power transformer that sets automatically to the power supply used in Chile.

We suggest you verify the specific conditions of each different piece of equipment.

Security

There are two types of police forces in Chile. *Carabineros de Chile* is a military (armed) police body, they wear a green uniform and are responsible for ensuring and keeping order and public security across the national territory.

The *Policía de Investigaciones*, PDI (the Investigations Police) is the civil police of the country, they do not wear uniforms, and they conduct the technical and scientific investigation of crimes, among other duties.

Only police officers are authorized to demand to see your identity documents or passport. In the case of Investigations officers who don't wear uniform, they must show you their police badge.

Emergency Phone Numbers

Carabineros	133
Investigaciones	134
Bomberos (Fire Brigade)	132
Ambulancias	131

Taxicabs

It is advisable to use taxicabs registered with the Hotel you are staying, or to call any Radio-taxi company. Our recommendation: Quo Vadis (56-2) 209-0000.

Where to buy

The Alonso de Córdoba and Nueva Costanera avenues are at walking distance from most of the official hotels. The most elegant, sophisticated boutiques and European shops with brand names such as Louis Vuitton, Hermès, Ermenegildo Zegna, Cartier and Salvatore Ferragamo, and the most famous art galleries are found along these streets. Only a few feet away is one of the country's largest shopping malls, the *Parque Arauco* which not only provides a safe and nice place to buy but also offers a wide range of very good restaurants specializing in different types of cuisine.

What Souvenirs to Buy: Some Suggestions

Pisco

A spirituous liquor made from distilled grapes of the Muscat type give this product its unique feature: a very intense transparent aromatic liquor with high sugar content. The superb 'pisco sour' cocktail is made with this exquisite liquor and you can prepare it with three parts of pisco, one part of lime juice, sweetened to taste, and crushed ice.

Wines

In our country, there are some certified organic vineyards and other vineyards that grow grapes naturally with the sole aim of making the best wines without any use of chemicals. In the city you will find specialized wine stores that offer these products especially packed for your trip, or that can deliver the wines to your home paying an extra fee.

Lapislazuli

Lapis lazuli or the blue stone is a semi-precious stone made up of at least fourteen different minerals, among which one of the most important is lazurite that gives the stone its typical blue hue. The stone is considered a symbol of purity, health, elegance, luck, and nobility. It is mostly used in jewels, but also you'll find lapis in decoration and common-use objects.

Books

The Casa Museo La Chascona Store & Coffee-Shop, (Barrio Bellavista) offers postcards, and typical Chilean crafts and ceramics. The book store also displays Pablo Neruda's poetry books, and other books related to poet Neruda's life and work. Opens Tuesday to Sunday, from 10.00 a.m. to 7.00 p.m.

Librería Turística Australis

This book store specializes in maps, guides, and tourist books of Chile. DVDs and CDs featuring Chile and the regions are also available. Address: Avenida Providencia 1670 – local 5 – A.

International Departures, Santiago, Arturo Merino Airport

Passengers are required to show the following documents at the International Police booth: Identification documents (ID card or passport), visa, if required at the country of destination, and the boarding pass.

The boarding gates are located passing the Airport Security Controls (AVSEC). Only passengers leaving the country are allowed access to this area.

Boarding Fees:

- Domestic Boarding Fee is US\$11
- International Boarding Fee is US\$ 30

Local Organizing Committee (COL)

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