



SETOURS

HANDCRAFTED JOURNEYS®

CHILE
TRAVEL INFORMATION

General facts



Bargaining

Bargaining is not nearly as common in Chile as it is in its northern Andean neighbors. You can always try bargaining in smaller villages, off the tourist track, where sellers and shop owners are more open to negotiations.



Currency

The official currency in Chile is the Chilean peso (CLP) divided into 100 cents. US dollars are easy to change into Chilean Pesos at 'Casa de cambio' or currency exchange offices as well as at banks. Exchange rates are usually best in Santiago. There are some touristy places that will accept US dollars, although, the exchange rate is not favorable and your best bet is to try to pay for all transactions in pesos. The 'Casa de cambio' is open from 9am to 6pm Monday to Friday (closing 1-3pm for lunch) and Saturday until 1pm. Banks in Santiago are usually open weekdays from 9am to 2pm. You can find 'Casa de cambio' in nearby city centres, there are not many in the small towns. Don't exchange too much money at the airport, unless it is in an emergency, since they do not offer a great exchange rate.



Tipping

Tipping in Chile is voluntary, yet expected. The staff members that will receive tips are mostly porters, bellmen and waiters. Porters in hotels and airports would appreciate 1 USD for 2 pieces of luggage. In small hotels a CLP \$1,000 bill should be enough. In March 2016 the law was amended to prevent 10% tip being included in bills. 10% is the expected tipping amount if service was excellent. Leave 5% as a statement if you think service should improve. Leaving anything lower could be interpreted as being insulting. If you have all meals included in your itinerary consider 40-45 USD as average price for a meal so that you can estimate the tips for waiters. Taxi drivers are not usually tipped. Tipping on tours: If you've been given a good service on a tour, you may like to consider tipping your guide and/or driver. 10 USD per day would be reasonable amount to tip per person.



ATMs, travelers' checks and credit cards

ATMs, known as 'Redbancs', are largely available in towns and cities where credit/debit cards (Visa, Diners Club, MasterCard and sometimes American Express) are widely accepted. You can find them in supermarkets, pharmacies and gas stations. Outside of the larger, more tourist-centred towns, currency exchange can be tricky. Credit cards such as Visa and MasterCard are widely accepted, while facilities for Diners Club and American Express are less common. Travelers' checks can be exchanged in 'casa de cambio' and banks, but you will usually receive a poorer rate of exchange and/or be charged an additional fee.



Taxis

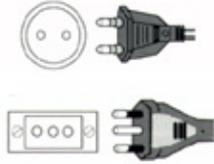
Taxis are plentiful. These should have meters and the fares displayed, but for long journeys, fares should be agreed upon beforehand and tipping is not expected. A surcharge of 50% applies on Sundays after 9pm. Minicabs may not bear the standard colours but still carry the orange license plate. Taxis are black with a yellow roof.

General facts (2)



Electricity

Electricity in Chile is supplied in 220 volts, 50Hz. The power sockets that are used are of the C/L type. If the standard voltage in your country is in the range of 220V - 240V (as in the UK, Europe, Asia, Africa and Australia), you will not need a power converter.



Phone calls and Internet access

The international access code for Chile is +56. If you want to get a SIM card at the stores you might be asked for your RUT number (Chilean tax number). Compliance differs from supplier to supplier of which there are four: Entel, Movistar, Claro and WOM (aka Nextel). In 2015 WOM started with its 4G/LTE on AWS (1700/2100 MHz) frequency, available for prepaid. You can get WOM SIM cards in supermarkets, kiosks and other sales points in Chile. Top-ups can be made at many locations all over the country (even in the remotest town there is a 'tienda' (small shop) which is able to add credit 'recarga'). Alternatively, you may recharge online at: <http://www.wom.cl/recargas/>. WOM offers different 'bolsas' (data packages) which are generally valid for 30 days. Easter Island is covered only by Entel.



Time zone

Mainland is GMT - 5 hours (GMT -4 hours from the second Sunday in October to the second Saturday in March). Easter Island is GMT -7 hours (GMT -6 hours from the second Sunday in October to the second Saturday in March).

Health Recommendations



Altitude Sickness

Compared with many Latin American countries, travelers to Chile generally get off fairly lightly when it comes to altitude sickness. Still, there are sites in the country higher than 2,800m (6,500ft) where first signs of altitude sickness can strike.

In San Pedro de Atacama itself you are not likely to face significant altitude issues (2,133m/7,000 ft). However, if you are heading to the Altiplanic Lagoons (4100m/13,450 ft) and El Tatio (4,300m/14,100ft) or leaving from San Pedro de Atacama to Salta in Argentina (highest point at 4,810m/15,780 ft) or Lauca National Park (over 4,000 m/13,123 ft) in Arica you might be affected.

Symptoms of altitude sickness generally appear six to ten hours after ascending and could include any of the following (headaches, nausea, shortness of breath, physical weakness).

Take plenty of fluids (up to 3 liters a day) and perhaps aspirin or paracetamol. Try to eat light food and avoid alcoholic beverages.



Food & Drink

The standards for health and hygiene in the larger cities and touristy regions are relatively high. Nevertheless, travelers should drink only bottled water, which is widely available throughout Chile. Do not drink tap water, even in major hotels, and try to avoid drinks with ice. If you're trekking in the mountains or visiting remote rural areas where bottled water is not available, boil water to purify it or use water-purification tablets.

You are safer eating fruits that you can peel or salads and fruits washed with purified water, as well as foods that have been thoroughly cooked. Your best bet is to eat at clean restaurants and to avoid food vendors.



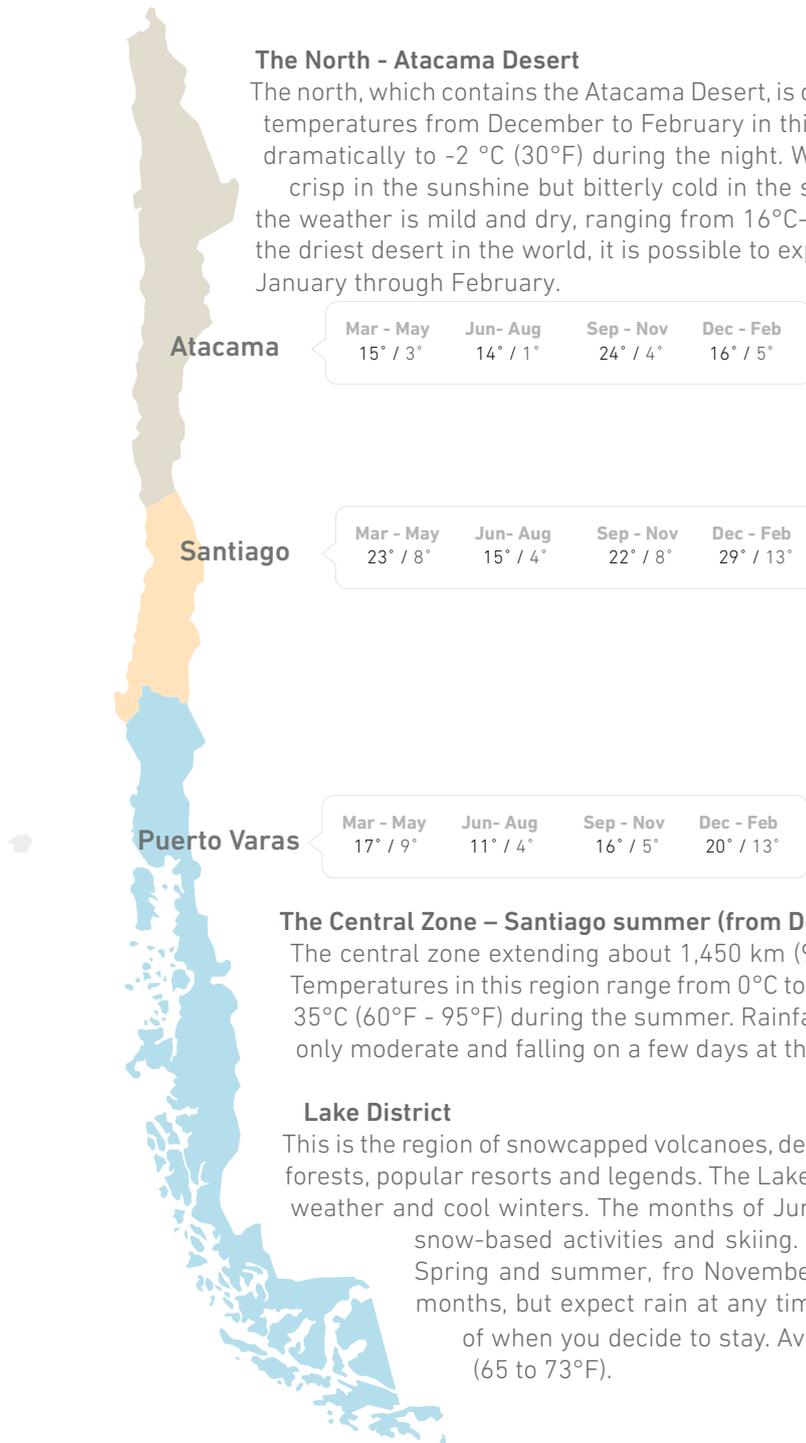
Immunizations

Travelers who follow basic, common-sense precautions should have few problems traveling in Chile. Chile requires no special vaccines, but travelers should be up to date with routine shots. In temperate South America, mosquito-borne illnesses are generally not a problem, while most infections are related to the consumption of contaminated food and beverages. Santiago is severely polluted and this could cause respiratory problems or eye irritations. The most severe pollution occurs from May to August. Health care in urban areas is adequate, but hospitals and clinics are expensive, and payment in advance may be required. Travelers are advised to arrange for medical insurance prior to departure.

Climate

The Chile's position between the Andes and the Pacific fosters several micro-climatic zones. Your packing list will vary depending on the regions you are travelling to.

The north is desert, warm during the day but very cool at night. Santiago and the Central Valley enjoy a Mediterranean climate. The south is cold, bitterly so in winter, and often wet.



The North - Atacama Desert

The north, which contains the Atacama Desert, is characterized by hot and arid weather. Summer temperatures from December to February in this region can reach 38°C (100°F), and can drop dramatically to -2 °C (30°F) during the night. Winter days, from mid-June to late August, are crisp in the sunshine but bitterly cold in the shade and when the sun sets. Along the coast, the weather is mild and dry, ranging from 16°C-32°C (60°F to 90°F). Although classified as the driest desert in the world, it is possible to experience heavy rainfall from the end of January through February.

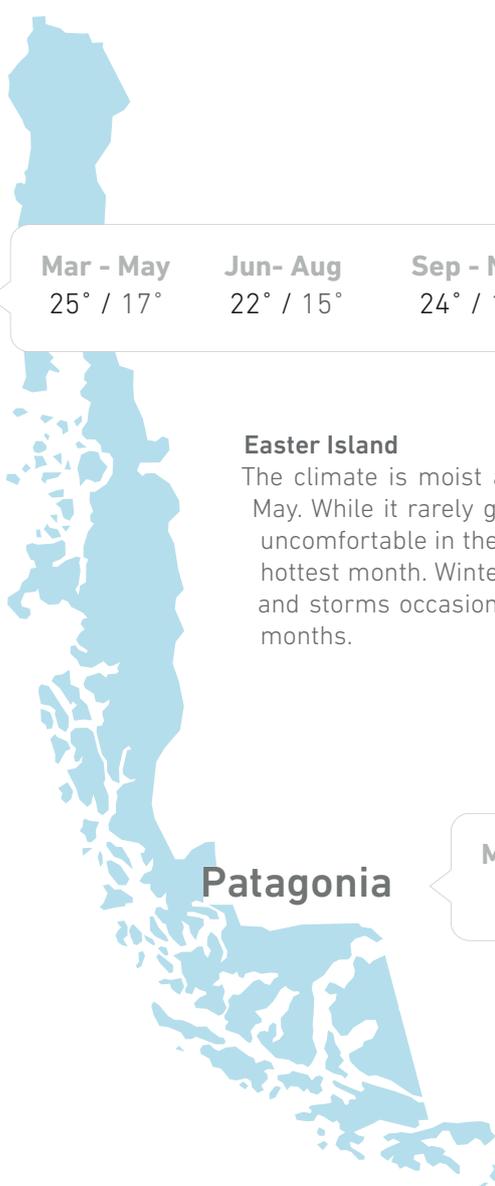
The Central Zone – Santiago summer (from December through March)

The central zone extending about 1,450 km (900 mi) has seasons that are better defined. Temperatures in this region range from 0°C to 13°C (32°F - 55°F) in the winter, and 16°C to 35°C (60°F - 95°F) during the summer. Rainfall is heaviest in the winter months but still only moderate and falling on a few days at this time.

Lake District

This is the region of snowcapped volcanoes, deep blue mountain lakes, pristine beauty of larch forests, popular resorts and legends. The Lake District has pleasant but changeable summer weather and cool winters. The months of June to September (winter) are the best time for snow-based activities and skiing. Wintertime temperatures average 7°C (45°F). Spring and summer, from November to April, are drier months than the winter months, but expect rain at any time and take your wet weather gear regardless of when you decide to stay. Average temperatures in summer are 18 to 23°C (65 to 73°F).

Climate (2)

A light blue map of Chile and Easter Island. Easter Island is marked with a small green leaf icon. A callout box for Easter Island is positioned to its left, and another callout box for Patagonia is positioned to the south of the main map.

Easter Island

Mar - May	Jun- Aug	Sep - Nov	Dec - Feb
25° / 17°	22° / 15°	24° / 15°	27° / 18°

Easter Island

The climate is moist and there is sporadic rain, which becomes more intense in May. While it rarely gets any hotter than 29°C (85°F), it can feel very muggy and uncomfortable in the austral summer (December through March). February is the hottest month. Winters are mild, with a low of around 14°C (57°F). Heavy rainfall and storms occasionally hit the island in July and August, which are the coolest months.

Patagonia

Mar - May	Jun- Aug	Sep - Nov	Dec - Feb
17° / 3°	15° / 0°	17° / 3°	22° / 5°

Patagonia

(Torres del Paine National Park, Puerto Natales, Punta Arenas)

The weather is extremely erratic in Patagonia. In the summer and prime time (from October to March) you can expect some warm sunny weather, as well as cold, rainy and windy days. Weather changes in a matter of minutes, and returns to sunshine just as quickly. Wind is the one consistent factor in Patagonian weather. Windstorms can reach upward of 120kmph (74 mph), and it's not unusual to experience heavy rain during the summer. The windiest months are from mid-December to early February, but it can blow any time between October and April. Winters are calm, with irregular snowfall and temperatures that can drop to -15°C (5°F).

We recommend dressing in layers - to be able to take an outer layer off when you get too warm and put a layer on when you get chilled. You want your inner layer to be wicking (no cotton). Next layer should be insulating and warm, and the top layer should be waterproof/breathable. The winter months, July and August, can be extremely cold and facilities sometimes shut down.

Safety

Chile is, overall, among the safest countries in South America. Nevertheless, visitors should take the same security precautions that they would in any big city in the world.

Pick pocketing and muggings are common in many cities throughout Chile, particularly around well-known tourist sites, bus stations and areas visited by foreigners. In the unlikely event that you are involved in a mugging, for your own safety, it is suggested that you do not resist and rather hand over what is asked of you. The possibility of having a bad experience can be greatly reduced by taking a few simple precautions:

- Copy all important documents (passport, air tickets) and carry only copies with you.
- Leave your valuables and important documents such as passport, international flight tickets, jewellery at the hotel. If possible in the safe. In case there is only one safe in the reception obtain a receipt with each item listed.
- If necessary, carry important documents and cash in a belt under your clothes.
- Keep an eye and a hand on your things at all times. Be especially cautious in crowded places, especially in main cities; pay particular attention to your belongings in popular foreign cafes and restaurants where there has been an increase in bag theft.
- Rural areas are considered to be safe.
- Avoid walking alone in quiet areas or at night. Travel in a group, if possible and tell somebody where you go if you are alone.
- Avoid marginal areas and be alert in empty streets during the day and night. Also, always take special care in busy streets, around markets and in and around bus terminals; either avoid carrying a bag in such areas, or secure it, as bag-slashers and pickpockets sometimes operate.
- In case you get into trouble with authorities insist on seeing their identification.
- Check your change and check the banknotes and coins. If necessary, ask for other change if you get any torn notes.
- NEVER leave your bag(s) unattended, especially in airports, bus terminals and hotel lobbies.
- Emergency telephone numbers are 133 for police, 132 for fire and 131 for ambulance.
- Remember that you are subject to the laws of Chile, and it is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with these laws before leaving. Penalties for possession, use, or trafficking of illegal drugs are strict.

Packing Check List

Clothing

- Sweatshirts
- Fleece jacket
- Rain jacket
- Trousers or convertible pants
- Cargo shorts
- T-shirts
- Socks
- Underwear
- Hat or cap
- Hiking shoes
- Sandals
- Swimsuit

Toiletries

- Toothbrush and Toothpaste
- Shampoo
- Nail scissors and nail file

- Shaving kit
- Cosmetics
- First-aid-kit
- Aspirin or light pain killer
- Sun block
- Sunglasses

Others

- Passport
- Air tickets
- Cash
- Credit or debit card
- Copies of all personal documents
- Camera
- Binoculars
- Daypack for short stays
- Adapter

Dining Recommendations



SANTIAGO DE CHILE:

AQUÍ ESTÁ COCO

La Concepción 236, Providencia
+56 2 2410 6200
Seafood & Chilean Cuisine
www.aquiestacoco.cl
\$\$\$\$

BORAGÓ

Av. San José María Escrivá de Balaguer 5970,
Vitacura
+56 2 2953 8893
Chilean
www.borago.cl
\$\$\$\$

99+1

Andrés De Fuenzalida 99
+56 2 2335 3327
Bistronomy
www.99restaurante.com
\$\$\$\$

BOCANÁRIZ

José Vitorino Lastarria 276
+56 2 2638 9893
Wine Bar & Restaurant
www.bocanariz.cl
\$\$\$

BARRICA 94

Bellavista 052, Local 94, Patio Bellavista,
Providencia
+56 2 3210 2200
Seafood, Wine Bar, Chilean
www.barrica94.cl
\$\$\$

SARITA COLONIA

Loreto 40, Recoleta
+56 2 2881 3937
Peruvian Fusion
www.saritacoloniaarestoran.cl
\$\$

BAR LIGURIA

Av. Providencia 1373
+56 2 2235 7914
Chilean Cuisine
www.liguria.cl
\$\$

CONFITERIA TORRES

Av. Libertador Bernardo O'Higgins 1570, Santiago Centro
+56 2688 0751
Isidora Goyenechea 2962 Las Condes
+56 2333 2639
Chilean cuisine, café
www.confiteriatorres.cl
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CENTRAL MARKET

Puente 967, Santiago Centro
Chilean Seafood
www.mercadocentral.cl
\$-\$\$

Dining Recommendations



SAN PEDRO DE ATACAMA:

LAS DELICIAS DEL CARMEN

Calle Calama #370 B
+56 9 5758 9291
Chilean
www.lasdeliciasdecarmen.cl
\$\$\$

BALTINACHE

Domingo Atienza 2
+56 9 3191 4225
Fusion, Chilean
www.facebook.com/RestaurantBaltinache
\$\$\$

CKUNNA

Tocopilla 359
+56 55 298 0093
Latin & Chilean
www.ckunna.cl
\$\$

BARROS CAFE

Tocopilla 429-B
+569 8952 1895
Bar, Chilean
www.barrosturismo.com
\$\$

LA FRANCHUTERIA

Calle Gustavo Le Paige 527b
+56 9 6660 1122
French Deli, Vegetarian-Friendly
www.facebook.com/lafranchuteria
\$\$

VALPARAISO:

MARALEGRE

Calle Higuera 133, Cerro Alegre
+56 32 236 5350
Seafood, Chilean
www.maralegre.cl
\$\$\$\$

LA CONCEPCIÓN

Papudo 541
+56 32 249 8192
Seafood, Mediterranean, Chilean
www.restaurantlaconcepcion.cl
\$\$\$

CASA LUISA BISTRO & WINES

Almirante Montt 533
+56 32 324 5271
Seafood, Mediterranean
www.casaluisa.cl
\$\$

CAFÉ VINOLO

Almirante Montt 448
+56 32 223 0665
Café, Chilean, Seafood
www.facebook.com/vinilovalpo
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Dining Recommendations



PUNTA ARENAS:

LA LUNA

O'Higgins 1017
+56 9 222 8555
Seafood, Chilean
www.laluna.cl
\$\$

SOTITOS

O'Higgins 1138
+56 61 224 3565
King Crab
www.sotitos.cl
\$\$

LA MARMITA

Plaza Sampaio 678
+56 61 222 2056
Regional Cuisine
www.marmitamaga.cl
\$

CASA VALDÉS

Santa Rosa 040
+56 99 079 3938
Seafood
www.restaurantcasavaldes.cl
\$\$\$

LA JARDINERA

Santa Rosa 131 (Below Hotel Cabaña Del Lago)
+56 65 223 1684
Chilean, International, Healthy
www.facebook.com/www.lajardinera.cl
\$\$

EL PAN DE LA PAO

Puerto Rosales Km 11,5 Camino a Ensenada
+56 9 7529 4557
Tavern
www.elpandelapao.cl
\$\$

PUERTO VARAS:

LA MARCA

Ruta 225, Km. 1,5 | road to Ensenada
+56 652 232 026
Steakhouse, BBQ, Chilean
www.lamarca.cl
\$\$\$

EASTER ISLAND:

TE MOANA

Av. Policarpo Toro (across from Ahu Ko Te Riku)
+56 93 2255 1578
Contemporary, Polynesian, Seafood
www.facebook.com/TeMoana.Restaurante
\$\$\$

Dining Recommendations



TE RA'AI

Calle Kaituoe

+56 9 9414 4972

Fusion, Polynesian, Chilean

www.teraai.com

\$\$\$

KOTARO JAPANESE BISTRO

Camino Vaitea Anakena

+56 9 7255 7533

Japanese, Vegetarian-Friendly

www.izakayakotaro.blogspot.com

\$\$

CAFE RA'A

Atamu Tekena

+56 32 551 530

Polynesian Cafe

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