



- [A. Transportation Information](#)
- [B. Language Tips](#)
- [C. How to Dial Telephone Numbers](#)
- [D. Eating and Drinking](#)
- [E. Hotel Recommendations](#)
- [F. Reading and Movie List](#)

# Travel Information for Chile

## A. Transportation Information

**Santiago:** Airport code: Aeropuerto de Santiago (SCL) Website: [www.aeropuertosiatiago.cl/english/](http://www.aeropuertosiatiago.cl/english/). The airport in Santiago is located about 26 kilometers (16 miles) from the city center. For those flying to Argentina note that the only airline that flies directly from Santiago to Bariloche is LanChile ([www.lan.com/index-es-cl.html](http://www.lan.com/index-es-cl.html)). There are many indirect flights through Buenos Aires.

### Other Types of Transportation

**Bus:** The bus system in Chile is very well-organized and designed as an alternative to airplane travel. Many long bus trips are scheduled as over-night rides and buses are divided into categories depending on seat type, ranging from classic to semi-cama (half-bed) and premium (full-bed). Tickets can be purchased online or at the bus stations, which are typically conveniently located in the town centers. We recommend Pullman at [www.pullman.cl](http://www.pullman.cl) or TurBus at [www.turbus.cl](http://www.turbus.cl) for bus travel in Chile.

**Rental Car:** You can arrange to rent a car in Chile before you leave the US if you wish. Find out the exact address of the location to pick up your rental car; there is more than one rental office in some cities. If you want to rent your car through a Chilean company, we suggest you contact: Rosselot Rent a Car at [www.rosselot.cl](http://www.rosselot.cl).

**Taxis:** In Chile, *collectivos* are a style of taxi that run a certain route and can drop you off at any street corner within the route. Unless your group fills the car, they may stop for more people on the way, but they are quite a bit cheaper than a true taxi. Regardless of which style taxi you choose, we recommend agreeing on a price before getting in.

At airports, there are generally official taxi stands/counters—we recommend using these to call a taxi. Fares are generally agreed upon at these stands, unless meters are used.

## B. Language Tips

CÓMO SE DICE?....

Spanish is a fun language to speak. It's amazing how much you can communicate even with just a few simple phrases or words. People will take incredible interest and express great joy in your making an effort to immerse yourself in the language. Give it a try!

### Pronunciation: Vowel sounds are straightforward

- A – “ah” as in pasta E – “ay” as in tray
- I – “ee” as in feet O – “oh” as in crow
- U – “oo” as in moon

### Polite Phrases:

- Gracias! – Thank you
- Muchas gracias! – Thank you very much
- De nada – You're welcome Mucho gusto – Nice to meet you

- Hola! – Hello
- Adiós – Goodbye
- When you need to pass by someone on the street, or squeeze through a crowd, use: “Con permiso.” In reply, you’ll hear: “Pase, adelante” which means, “go ahead.”
- Disculpe (“dis-COOL-pay”) – Excuse me. It’s good to say this to someone before you ask a question. For example, Disculpe Señora. ¿Dónde está el baño? (“Excuse me, ma’am, where is the bathroom?”) Disculpe is also handy to use when you do something like step on someone’s toe or sneeze.
- Salud – To your health, more or less. Say this when someone sneezes.
- Que le vaya bien! – Take care! Say this upon leaving stores, restaurants, etc., as a kind, parting phrase. In response you’ll hear and will want to say, Gracias!
- Igualmente” which means “Thanks! Same to you.”
- Usted – The formal “you.” In Spanish, “you” comes in three forms. If you have to remember one, remember Usted. For example, Usted vive aquí? (Do you live here?).
- Se vende – For Sale

### **Bicycle Vocabulary & Directions:**

- la llanta (“yanta”) – tire
- la llanta se pinchó – the tire is punctured/flat
- los frenos – brakes
- el inflador – bike pump
- a la derecha – to the right
- a la izquierda (“eez-key-ER- da”) – to the left
- derecho – straight ahead
- recto – forward

## **C. How to Dial Telephone Numbers**

The International Access Code (IAC) for the US and Canada is 011 and for Chile it’s 00

The Country Code (CC) for Chile is 56 and for the US and Canada it’s 1

Area Codes in Chile can be various digits in length

To call Chile from the US or Canada, dial IAC + CC + LN.

**Example:** The local telephone number of the National Museum of Fine Arts in Santiago is 5288-9900. The number could also be listed as +56 5288-9900. In both cases, you would dial 011-56-5288-9900. Notice no Truck code is used when you dial.

To call the US or Canada from Chile, dial IAC + CC + LN.

**Example:** The local telephone number of the ExperiencePlus! headquarters in Colorado is 970-484-8489. You would dial 00-1-970-484-8489.

To call Chile from another South American country, dial IAC + CC+ LN.

**Example:** The local telephone number of the National Museum of Fine Arts in Santiago is 5288-9900. The number could also be listed as +56 5288-9900. In both cases, you would dial 00-56-5288-9900.

To call Chile from within Chile, dial LN

**Example:** The local telephone number of the National Museum of Fine Arts in Santiago is 5288-9900. The number could also be listed as +56 5288-9900. In both cases, you would dial (0) 56-5288-9900. Unlike the US there is no need to differentiate between local and long distance by dialing a 1. Notice that the Trunk Code (0) is dialed.

## **D. Eating and Drinking**

Tap water from your hotel is perfectly potable, although the locals generally drink bottled water. You should fill your water bottle at the hotel before you leave, because while on the road you can buy bottled water at a corner store more easily than refilling your water bottle. Generally, every small town has a corner store, and café/bars are more typical in the larger towns.

Hotel breakfasts are usually continental breakfasts – a roll with jam, butter and hot tea or coffee. We ask our hotels to supplement breakfasts with cold cuts, yogurt, and cereals. Usually, instant coffee (Nescafe) is offered instead of freshly brewed coffee in Chile. On the road, you may be tempted by the smell of freshly baked bread at the panaderías. These stores offer a variety of delicious rolls fresh out of the oven as well as pastries sweetened with manjar or dulce de leche which is similar to caramel.

For a quick lunch on the road, most restaurants offer a variety of sandwiches that range in price depending on the number and type of ingredients. Another typical lunch is an empanada – a fried turnover stuffed with cheese or meat (carne). An empanada de pino will have ground beef, egg, raisins, and usually pieces of sausage or hot dog. An empanada filled with sausage is called chaparrita. Chileans love hot dogs, called completos, which you eat loaded with sauerkraut, tomatoes, and palta (mashed avocado). You can also buy your own supplies for a picnic lunch (fresh rolls, sliced cheese, avocados, fruit, etc).

We will provide suggestions for the evenings scheduled for dinner on your own. A common meal might be bistec a lo pobre, which beef, French fries, and a fried egg. Salads are a common menu item (as a first course, not as an entire meal), but note that they come with exactly what they say. For example, an ensalada de tomate (tomato salad), is chopped tomatoes on a bed of shredded lettuce. Nicer restaurants will offer a variety of seafood dishes and soups as well.

For snacks along the way, corner stores and panaderías can offer ice cream, pastries, chips, fruit, juice and water.

## E. Hotel Recommendations

### **Puerto Varas,**

[Hotel Puelche](http://www.hotelpuelche.com.cl) (www.hotelpuelche.com.cl)  
Imperial 695, Puerto Varas

### **Santiago**

[Hotel Rio Bidasoa](http://www.hotelbidaso.cl) (www.hotelbidaso.cl)  
Vitacura 4873, Santiago

[Hotel Vespucci Suites](http://www.vespuccisuites.cl) (www.vespuccisuites.cl)  
Av. Americo Vespuccio Norte 1473, Vitacura, Santiago

[Holiday Inn – Santiago Airport](http://www.holidayinn.com/hotels/us/en/santiago/sclap/hoteldetail) (www.holidayinn.com/hotels/us/en/santiago/sclap/hoteldetail)  
Walking distance from the airport

## F. Reading and Movie List

### **Literature on Chile**

- *Pinochet and Me*, by journalist Marc Cooper, is his first-hand account of the 1973 military coup that overthrew President Salvador Allende, and then the transition back to democracy in the early 1990s.
- *Travels in a Thin Country: A Journey through Chile*, by Sara Wheeler, a travel writer who explored Chile from the North to the South.
- *Chile's Native Forests: A Conservation Legacy*, by Ken Wilcox, describes the ancient forests of southern Chile and the efforts to save them.
- The *Discovery Channel's Insight Guide to Chile* has good maps, thorough information and even includes some of the rich myths and legends of Chile.

### **Literature by Chilean Authors**

- Isabel Allende is a popular novelist who now lives in California, (she was exiled from Chile during Pinochet's dictatorship). Her novel, *My Invented Country*, is a fascinating account of Chilean culture and personality. Her first novel, *House of the Spirits*, hearkens back to the traditional Latin American style of magical realism. For her novels based in Chile and California in the 1800s, try *Ines of My Soul*, or *Daughter of Fortune* and its sequel, *Portrait in Sepia*.

- Pablo Neruda was a famous Nobel Prize-winning Chilean poet and world traveler who wrote throughout his distinguished political career as consul and senator. His collections of poetry include *Twenty Love Poems: And a Song of Despair* and *Odes to Common Things*.
- Emma Sepulveda and her friend Marjorie Agosin were exiled during the Pinochet dictatorship, and wrote about their experiences in the book *Amigas: Letters of Friendship and Exile*.

### **Movies on Chile That We Have Enjoyed**

- *House of the Spirits* – based on the novel by Isabel Allende.
- *Motorcycle Diaries* – about the travels of Che Guevara and his friend Alberto Granado as they circumnavigate South America. The soundtrack is recommended also.
- *Missing* – based on a true story, this movie recounts the disappearance of American journalist Charles Horman during the military coup in Chile in 1973.
- *Machuca* – Andrés Wood's drama that describes how political unrest helps spawn and destroy a friendship between two schoolboys.
- *180 Degrees South* (2010). A documentary where Jeff Johnson retraces the 1968 journey of Yvon Chouinard and Doug Tompkins to Patagonia, including his goal of climbing the Corcovado Volcano in Patagonia.
- *Gloria* (2014). Paulina Garcia gets rave reviews for her portrayal of Gloria, a middle-age woman that learns life and romance gets more interesting as one moves through life in this Chilean drama.