

Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

Arrival Guidelines

Web: <https://www.uc.cl/>

Contact e-mail:
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Schedule

Mon 27th – Tue 28th May

Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe training.

Tue 28th May

Informal welcome

Wed 29th May

Core RCG meeting.
RCG dinner

Thu 30th May

Core RCG meeting.
Visit to the PUC's Coastal Marine Research Station at Las Cruces.

Fri 31st May

Core RCG meeting.

Dear delegates,

We are more than pleased to welcome you to our country! We have prepared this document to inform you about some basic aspects of Chile and its capital city.

Arriving

Which documents should I submit to enter Chile as a tourist?

Incoming visitors must submit their travel documents. A passport and the duly stamped visa as necessary, at International Police. Individuals from specific countries such as Australia may need to pay a reciprocity fee.

International visitors are required to fill out a Tourist Card and hand in a copy of this document when leaving the country.

Where could I find a money exchange office at the airport?

The airport features two exchange offices, located on the first and third level of the Public Hall. You could also find several offices in Santiago and even some banks offer this service at a slightly higher rate. You will as well find ATMs on the streets and at the hotels.

What kind of transportation could I find at the airport?

There are a few official public transportation options: basic taxis, executive taxis, minibuses and buses. You will find the offices right after the duty free.

Useful tips

Money Exchange Offices

We advise you to go to authorized offices or exchange in your hotel. The fares do not change significantly from one office to another.

Can I pay in USD for any service?

Hotels in Chile usually accept dollars as a form of payment; nevertheless, we recommend exchanging your currency for Chilean Pesos (CLP) to eat and buy souvenirs. Most stores also accept credit cards.

Shopping

Markets and stores are usually open Monday to Sunday from 10:00 to 20:00.

Banks and ATM's

ATMs in Chile are available to be used with any bank card. Banks are open from 9:00 to 14.00, Monday to Friday. You may find ATMs outside the Banks (available 24/7), inside malls or most supermarkets.

How much should it be from the airport to the Hotel?

The Transvip (minivan) service costs approx. 7.000 CLP in a shared transfer, 20.000 CLP in an executive taxi, and the exclusive transfer costs approx. 27.000 CLP. We do not recommend taking a regular/basic taxi outside the airport since the fares may raise excessively. In the following link, you will find extra information about the subject: <https://www.nuevopudahuel.cl/pinformation?language=en>

About Chile

Language

The official language in Chile is Spanish, which is spoken by most of the population. Indigenous people have their own languages, such as Quechua (North), Mapudungun (South) and Rapanui (Easter Island), which continue to be used by some of them along the country.

Currency

The official currency is the Chilean Peso, which is the only valid monetary unit in the country's territory. The value of the peso relative to the American dollar, Euro and other foreign currencies changes slightly daily; therefore, you should check the exchange rate on the date you plan to travel to Chile.

Money may be exchanged freely at official banks and exchange offices, since there are no restrictions on foreign exchange. You could also use credit cards which are accepted almost everywhere. Metal coins come in denominations of \$10, \$50, \$100 and \$500, while bank notes, come in denominations of \$1,000, \$2,000, \$5,000, \$10,000 y \$20,000.

What is the conversion of United States Dollar (USD)/Euros (EUR) to Chilean Pesos (CLP)?

Approximately, 1USD is equivalent to 660 CLP, and 1EUR corresponds to 745 CLP, but as aforementioned, we suggest checking these values upon arrival.

Santiago

Santiago is a big city. The urban cluster of counties (comunas) and neighborhoods effectively associated to Greater Santiago amounts to about 7 million people (40% of the national

Weather in May

Santiago

During your stay, you can expect a maximum temperature around 23°C and a minimum temperature around 3°C.

Las Cruces

Weather in Las Cruces can be colder and more humid than in Santiago, ranging from 2°C to 20°C with averages going from 9°C to 16°C. We recommend bringing a waterproof jacket and comfortable shoes.

population). One can find some write-ups on Santiago, its neighborhoods and the rest of Chile in the National Service of Tourism website (<https://www.sernatur.cl/>).

Naturally, Santiago has some big city problems such as congestion at rush hours. There are many nice neighborhoods downtown and a fair number of green areas and parks. Santiago is one of the safest major cities in Latin America and it has a modern metro system which efficiently connects most neighborhoods.

Weather

Santiago has an extremely nice four-season weather, similar to northern California or some places in southern Europe. It is generally dry, with nearly all the rain concentrated in the winter months. It is highly recommended wearing layers as Santiago's weather varies during the day, especially during spring, with cold mornings and evenings but hot during the day. It is also advisable to bring an impermeable coat in case of rain. It rarely hails or snows in the city. Central heating is common only in modern buildings, whereas air conditioning remains relatively rare and unnecessary in most places.

Activities

Santiago is a big city with many urban life amenities while still preserving the charm of suburban spaces. Those neighborhoods in the eastern part of the city, towards the foothills of the Andes are a good example of it. It is definitely a modern city, where most stores accept major credit and debit cards. Santiago has many options for eating, shopping and general entertainment. There are many typical and ethnic places where you can enjoy different types of cuisines. You can find lots of bookstores, artisan/jewelry shops, libraries, theaters, movie theaters and a big music scene with rock concert venues, an opera theater, an excellent philharmonic orchestra, and many groups of chamber music, which play all year round. In addition, the "modern times" have brought the all-American invention of the shopping mall. There are four or five huge malls in town, with hundreds of stores, many of which will be familiar to the foreign visitor, cineplexes and restaurants in each.

Where to eat

Nolita

Italian – American cuisine
<http://www.nolita.cl>

Quitral

Modern Chilean cuisine
www.quitral.cl

Bocanariz

International cuisine
<http://bocanariz.cl/>

Liguria

Chilean cuisine
<http://www.liguria.cl/>

Below you will find some useful information about Santiago, what to do and where to go.
<https://chile.travel/en/where-to-go/central-area-santiago-and-valparaiso/santiago>

Hotel Cumbres Lastarria

Walking distance from UC, this boutique hotel is in the cultural neighborhood of Lastarria.

Address: José Victorino Lastarria 299, Santiago.



The Ritz-Carlton Santiago

Located near El Golf metro station.

Address: El Alcalde, Av. El Golf 15, Las Condes.

Breakfast is included in the rate at both hotels



Transportation system

The name of the bus transportation system around the city is *Red Metropolitana de Movilidad* or Red. You can take a bus or the Metro by previously buying a “Bip!” card at any Metro station. We highly recommend using only the Metro, since it is easier and faster. A one-way trip in either bus, subway or combination of both can cost from 700 to 800 pesos, depending on the time and transportation chosen. If you want to go somewhere, you can plan your trip using the website <https://www.red.cl/> which is only in Spanish.

Metro

As we mention in the part of life expenses, Santiago's Metro trains are clean and modern. It is important to note that the Metro gets quite crowded during rush hours from 7:00 to 9:00 and from 18:00 to 20:00. To plan your trip go to <https://www.metro.cl/planificador/> and to see the network in its entirety go to <https://www.metro.cl/tu-viaje/plano-de-red>

Neighborhoods to Visit

Barrio Lastarria

Barrio Lastarria (Lastarria Neighborhood) is an historical neighborhood downtown Santiago. Now a popular tourist hub, Barrio Lastarria is a center for cultural activity with cinemas, theaters, museums, restaurants and bars. Activities such as festivals and live performances are commonly held throughout the streets of Lastarria given its strong cultural flavor, particularly in J.V. Lastarria street and Parque Forestal. Metro station Universidad Católica and Bellas Artes provide direct access to this neighborhood. Hotel Cumbres is in this Neighborhood.

El Golf

If you are staying at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel, you will be in a neighborhood called Barrio El Golf. This neighborhood combines the financial district with residential areas, high-end stores and restaurants. A good starting point to go down this

Useful tips

AC power plug

The power plugs used in Chile are of type L, and C. Local system uses 220 V and 50 Hz



Time Zone

Chile is part of GMT-3.

Water

Water is drinkable everywhere in Santiago.

In case of earthquakes

ALWAYS keep calm, Chile is a seismic country and its infrastructure has been built to support seismic activity. Never use elevators while an earthquake is ongoing

area is Plaza Perú (Isidora Goyenechea street, 3051), where you will find many executives catching a break or families visiting small organic markets or antique fairs on the weekends.

Barrio Italia

This neighborhood has become one of the most attractive areas in Providencia, since it is the main district for design and gastronomy. Here you will find a lot of restored houses hosting design and decoration stores, antique shops, beautiful cafes and small restaurants. Stores open at 11 am and close around 7 pm.

Barrio Bellavista

Barrio Bellavista (Bellavista Neighborhood) is an area that lies between the Mapocho River and San Cristobal Hill in Santiago. It is known as Santiago's bohemian quarter, with new hip restaurants, boutiques, and avant-garde galleries occupying loft spaces and lordly mansions that punctuate tree-lined streets awash with colorful antique homes. Many of the city's esteemed intellectuals and artists live in Bellavista, following the footsteps of its most famous denizen, Pablo Neruda. His famous house in Santiago, La Chascona, is in this area. In the evening, Bellavista pulses to the beat of music pouring from its many discos and bars. On weekends, there is an evening handicrafts market that runs the length of Pío Nono. You can access this area by the Baquedano Metro subway station, located just across the river. It is also a popular place to purchase craftwork made from lapislázuli, a semiprecious stone found principally in Chile and Afghanistan. Another attraction is the Santa Filomena

Parish also known as the Parroquia de Santa Filomena or you could visit the National Zoo located at the entrance of San Cristobal Hill. This neighborhood can turn sketchy at nights.

Barrio Yungay

Located west from downtown Santiago, it is one of the most traditional neighborhoods in the city. The buildings are a mix of colonial constructions, terraced houses, as well as some others with Bauhaus and Art Deco style.

In this neighborhood you will find museums such as The Museum of Memory and Human Rights (Matucana 501), the Science and Technology Museum, the National Museum of Natural History and the Contemporary Art Museum. Likewise, there are some other places of interest such as the Culture Center Matucana 100, Library of Santiago, Pasaje Lucrecia Valdés, and well-known restaurants like Boulevard Laveaud, Fuente Mardoqueo and Zarita Restaurant.

Security

Even though Chile is considered one of the safest countries in South America, it is important to be always careful and alert. We recommend keeping your valuable items with you in your bag or closed pocket when walking around the city, especially at night or in touristic areas. When going to a store, coffee shop or restaurant, do not leave your belongings unattended.

Useful tips

Emergency numbers

131 Ambulance

132 Firefighters

133 Police

134 Investigation Police (PDI)

56 2 2708 10 43 Immigration
and International Police

Driving side

In Chile we drive on the left side, just in case you decide to rent a car.