

Chile

Climate:

Chile is for the most part mountainous, with the Andes range dominating the landscape. Because of the country's extreme length, it has a wide variety of climates, from the coastal desert beginning in the tropical north to the cold subantarctic southern tip. Temperatures drop in a regular pattern from north to south; the principal cities average the following annual mean temperatures: Arica 64° F (18° C), Antofagasta 61° F (16° C), Santiago 57° F (14° C), Puerto Montt 52° F (11° C), and Punta Arenas 43° F (6° C). During winter, when the polar front advances northward, temperatures drop, though not drastically, owing to the temperate action of the ocean. If snow falls in central Chile, it does not stay on the ground for more than a few hours. During summer, cooling sea winds keep temperatures down and there are no heat waves.

Currency: The local currency is the Peso. Keep in mind that crisp, new US dollars are crucial when trying to change money. Dollars that are written on or have frayed, torn edges are usually not accepted. The best exchange rate will be at the ATM, where no exchange transaction fee should occur and you receive the current rate of the day. Before departure, call your bank to determine locations of ATMs in the cities and towns throughout your itinerary, and be sure and ask if the ATM will have instructions in English. Nearly all should. Visa, MasterCard, American Express and Diner's Club cards are widely accepted. Go to <http://finance.yahoo.com/currency?u> for current exchange rates.

Visas: For U.S. and Canadian citizens, a valid passport is needed for entry into all South American countries. However, it is NOT necessary to obtain a visa BEFORE entering any South American countries.

Entrance Fees: \$100 for US citizens/ \$55 for Canadians - This payment is good for as long as your passport is valid. This fee must be paid in cash before clearing customs and the passport check.

Immunizations: Recommendations change frequently, so you must check directly with the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), a traveler's clinic or other medical authority.
<http://www.cdc.gov/Travel/destinationList.aspx#P>

Tipping Guideline: Drivers - \$5-\$8 pp per day
Mainland guides - \$10-\$20 pp per day
For trekking trips: Cooks - \$4pp per day
Porters and other trekking staff - \$3pp per day

Budget: You will need to analyze your spending habits and decide how much extra money to bring for alcoholic beverages, soft drinks, gratuities, souvenirs, and laundry. For a ten day trip, budget at least \$200 - \$300pp for additional expenses. A rule of thumb: take half the clothing and twice the money you thought you would need.



Dialing Code: 56

Time Zone: GMT/UTC -4

Electricity: 220V, 50 Hz

Additional Country Information: More country specific information can be found on our website. Go to the Travel Center page (<http://www.mythsandmountains.com/2000/travel/center.cfm>) and then scroll down to the bottom of the page. There you will find links to various websites from the CIA Factbook to travel films.

Spanish 101:

please - por favor
thank you - gracias
hello - hola
goodbye - adios
see you later - hasta luego
yes - si
no - no
I'm sorry - lo siento
excuse me - perdón
I don't understand - no entiendo
Do you speak English? - habla inglés?
I don't speak Spanish - no hablo español
Good afternoon - Buenas tardes
Good night - Buenas noches
How much is? - Cuanto es?
Good - bueno
bad - malo
car - coche
postcard - postal
map - mapa
menu - la carta
bill - la cuenta
waiter/waitress - camarero/camarera
tomorrow - mañana
yesterday - ayer
today - hoy
I need - necesito
breakfast - desayuno
lunch - almuerzo
dinner - cena
Airport - aeropuerto
departure - salida
arrival - llegada
petrol - gasolina
chemist - farmacia
Doctor - medico

aceite de oliva - olive oil
ajillo/ajo - garlic
arroz - rice
atún - tuna
champiñones - mushrooms
gambas - prawns
ensalada - salad
a la plancha - grilled
pollo - chicken
helado - ice cream
al horno - baked
huevo - egg
jamón - ham
mariscos - seafood
pan - bread
papas - potatoes
pavo - turkey
pescado - fish
pimiento - pepper
queso - cheese
sal - salt
salchicha - sausage
sopa - soup
tortilla - spanish omelette
tostada - toast
agua - water
agua sin gas - still water
agua con gas - fizzy water
bebida - drink
botella - bottle
café con leche - coffe with milk
cortado - espresso with milk
café solo - black coffee
cerveza - beer
hielo - ice
leche - milk
té - tea
vino - wine
zumo - fruit juice
zumo de naranja - orange juice

SUGGESTED READINGS

See the Longitude Books website: <http://www.longitudebooks.com/> for more book ideas.

McEwan, Colin (1998). Patagonia

The companion volume to an exhibition at the British Museum, this wonderful book is an illustrated overview of the natural history, geography and human history of "the Uttermost Part of the Earth."



Chatwin, Bruce (1989). In Patagonia

A master of travel, history, and adventure. There's no travel writer as engaging, insightful and just plain wonderful as Bruce Chatwin. His award winning book captures the allure of the land, its history, wildlife and people.

Chester, Sharon (1995). Birds of Chile

Designed for easy reference in the field, this handsome book includes a checklist of the birds of Chile - and features 29 color plates illustrating 300 common birds.

Antoine de Exupery (1995). Night Flight

Alone in a storm over the Andes en route from Punta Arenas to Buenos Aires. In this wonderfully evocative novella, de Exupery captures the thrill of early flight and the courage of the pilots. Based on true-life experience, de Exupery pioneered the first regular postal routes in South America and the Sahara in the 1920's.

Sarmiento, Domingo (1970). Life in the Argentine Republic in the days of the Tyrants: or, Civilization and Barbarism

Durrell, Gerald (1975). Whispering Land

Auto Mapa MAP. Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego

A detailed physical relief map (1:1,000,000) of Tierra del Fuego. On the reverse is a smaller-scale map of the lower part of South America from just below Buenos Aires to Cape Horn. Imported.

Darwin, Charles (1989). Voyage of the Beagle

The wide-eyed tale of a young man on a five year voyage that changed his life - and our way of thinking about the world. It is still essential reading: evocative, insightful and of more than historical interest. His descriptions of Tierra del Fuego, Patagonia and the Chilean fjords are an excellent introduction to the region.

Lindenmeyer, Clem (1992). Trekking in the Patagonian Andes

This convenient guide features trail maps and route descriptions of walks throughout Patagonia, including long sections on Torres del Paine in Chile and Glacier National Park in Argentina. With detailed practical information, color photography, 27 maps and good background on preparing for your trek.

Ackerman, Diane (1992). The Moon by Whalelight

In a series of astute and delightfully readable essays, journalist Ackerman introduces us to whales, bats, alligators, penguins, and the people who study them. Her chapter on Roger Payne and his work on the right whales of Peninsula Valdez combines anecdote, observation and solid natural history.

