

GET READY FOR CHILE



The Local
Experience Curator



NOMAD *Patagonia*
Explore Beyond Borders

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NOMAD PATAGONIA TIPS

Preparing for Your Trip & Answers to Other Frequently Asked Question

We are so delighted that you've decided to travel with us and we can't wait to host you in beautiful Chile! In order to help you pack and prepare, we've put together this list of helpful tips. If you have any additional questions, don't hesitate to contact your Travel Designer. See you soon!

- Your Nomad Patagonia Team

Entry and Exit Requirements

To enter Chile

For mainland Chile:

- Chile is fully open to visitors.

For Rapa Nui:

As of December 1, 2022:

- Certificate of vaccination
- Single Entry Form (FUI)
- Round-trip ticket
- Reservation at a tourist service registered in SERNATUR or invitation letter from the Provincial Delegation.
- 5-day health follow-up

Passports and Visas

- U.S., Canadian, New Zealand, and (almost all) Western European citizens DO NOT require a visa to enter Chile. You must simply travel with a passport that is valid for at least six months after your departure date from Chile, and you will be granted a temporary tourism visa for 90 days or less.
- Others should check with the Chilean Embassy or consulate in their respective area/region for entry requirements. Travelers who do require a visa can obtain one through the Chilean Embassy or consulate. Times to acquire a visa may vary. For more information check:

Chile has recently done away with their “Reciprocity Fee” for USA passport holders. Australian passport holders are still required to pay a one-time “Reciprocity Fee” of USD\$ 117 before entering Chile.

Packing

Weather and Activities Considerations

Weather in Chile varies greatly by region and season, so dressing for success (and comfort) means packing lots of different items!

Santiago: Situated in a valley and surrounded by snow-capped mountains, Santiago boasts a Mediterranean feel. The city receives very little rainfall during the year, with summer temperatures capable of reaching a blistering, humid 90°F (32°C) and winter temperatures lowering to 39°F on average (4°C). The spring and autumn seasons, from September to November and March to May respectively, are temperature-wise the most pleasant months to visit Chile’s capital city. The winter climate can cause moderate levels of smog to form in the city’s geographical basin.



- Atacama Desert: the Atacama Desert is arguably the driest spot in the world, and temperatures can reach extremes (from 95° F, or 35°C, at the hottest, to 28°F, or -2°C, at its coldest). Make sure to bring plenty of sun protection and layers apt for cold, cold nights and hot, hot days.
- Beaches: Much of the central Chilean coastline has a Mediterranean feel which has a wetter season from May to August, and lots of sunny weather and vacationing beachgoers during the summer months of January and February.
- Easter Island: This remote island is sub-tropical, meaning warmer temperatures and plenty of humidity in the summer (average 73°F, or 23°C, but can reach up to 90°F, or 32°C, on the hottest days). The winters are fairly mild (average 64°F, or 18°C, but can dip down to 50°F, or 10°C). Easter Island can be fairly blustery and receives plenty of rainfall in the form of showers year round, with the wettest months being the fall season of April-June.

Fashion and Dress Codes in Chile

Chile takes pride in being a casual yet fashion-forward country. In larger cities, such as Santiago, you will see a preppy-casual look on most city-goers such as collared shirts, lightweight cardigans, and nice jeans. Women will wear nice skirts or slacks, strappy sandals and heels, and on the beach, very little in general. Please wear what makes you feel comfortable and remember that flashy jewelry and accessories should be left at home, as they are a draw for pickpockets.

Baggage Size and Weight Restrictions

Check with your international flight provider, as many flights allow two free checked bags when flying internationally to Chile, or up to 23kilos of checked baggage free. Please triple-check luggage restrictions for your international flights secured on your own. You will likely want to pack for greater restrictions on domestic flights and ground transportation within Chile, which means packing a bit lighter and bringing something that can serve as an overnight bag if you don't want to be subject to extra baggage fees on your domestic flights.

Permitted baggage on domestic flights (you'll have all your luggage):

- Latam: Checked bags are one piece of 50 lbs. (23 kg) and carry-on is 17.6 lbs. (8kg)

Allowances depend on the category of ticket bought, so please check carefully before your travels.

Suggested Packing List

Our experience tells us: the lighter the better. Most hotels provide laundry services, which helps cut down on the amount to pack. Here's a short list:

Passport and international flight tickets. *We recommend also bringing an extra photocopy of your passport, kept in a secure location separate from the original.

- Small day bag with enough space for a camera, water bottle, and snacks.
- Lightweight poncho or waterproof jacket, perhaps even a compact travel umbrella.
- Lightweight trousers or shorts.
- T-shirts and loose long-sleeved shirts, for layering.
- Hat or cap to protect from the sun.
- Comfortable walking shoes with good ankle support.
- Sun lotion (high factor), lip balm and sunglasses.
- Basic travel first aid kit.
- Sanitizing hand gel (good to keep in your daypack).
- Basic toiletries (though most of your hotels will provide shampoos and soaps).
- Secure money belt or pouch.
- Camera, battery charger, spare battery, and plenty of memory cards.
- Bathing suit/plastic sandals.

When traveling to Patagonia or Easter Island, add:

- Binoculars
- Long pants and long sleeve shirt made from a light-colored, breathable material
- Good water-resistant walking shoes
- Windbreaker for unexpected air currents
- Flashlight or headlamp with extra batteries
- Ziploc plastic bags, to help protect spare batteries or equipment from humidity

Voltage

Voltage, Sockets and Plugs

Electricity in Chile is 220 volts, alternating at 50 cycles per second. If you travel to Chile with a device that does not accept 220 volts at 50 hertz, you will need a voltage converter. Check your devices for what voltages they are compatible with. Many laptops, cellphone chargers, tablets and e-readers have dual voltage, so you won't need a converter, though you may still need an adaptor.





Money and Budgeting

Exchanging Money and Using ATMs

- The official currency of Chile is the Chilean Peso (CLP). The symbol for the Chilean Peso is (Ch\$) and coins of 5, 10, 50, 100, and 500 Pesos are regularly used, along with bills of 500, 1,000, 2,000, 5,000, 10,000, and 20,000 pesos.
- Withdrawing Chilean Pesos from ATMs is a great way to obtain local currency, although many hotels and airports will be happy to help (with less favorable exchange rates). Please make sure to call your bank before your trip, to let them know you will be in Chile – this will avoid potential fraud scares, and ensure your cards are not blocked while traveling.

Always agree on prices in advance of purchasing services or goods. Additionally, this is a bargaining culture, so when purchasing souvenirs, you can bid a bit lower than the vendor's opening price! Often, merchants do not have much change, so try to have an ample supply of small bills. You can ask for change at your hotel, a money changer, or a bank.

Tipping

Tipping is not required but is a welcome gesture if you feel you received excellent service. Please tip in Chilean Pesos, as opposed to USD\$ or other currency.

- Your guide – \$ 20 USD per day (from your whole party, not “per person”)
- Your driver and/or host – \$ 10 USD per day (from your whole party, not “per person”)
- Waiting staff at restaurants – 10% (this is usually included in your bill, so check first. If you feel you receive exceptional service, leave a little more than 10%)
- Bellboys – Ch\$ 1,000 per bag.
- Other potential tipping opportunities: Housekeeping staff at your hotel, Bagger at the grocery store, etc.: maximum Ch\$ 1,000 per tip.



Budgeting

While most charges are included in your trip cost, you will need a bit of extra cash for:

- Meals not included in your itinerary.
- Souvenirs
- Taxis or other transport on your free days – this will depend on where you are. Your guides can provide estimates for costs, as it varies per city. Feel free to round up to the dollar for a very small taxi tip, but larger tips are not customary.
- Tipping. We've provided more information below.

Health, Safety, and Insurance

Before You Go: Vaccinations, Questions for Your Doctor

- There are no vaccinations required for entry into Chile, but the CDC recommends getting Hepatitis A and Typhoid for general travel to South America, as well as Tetanus. For more information please visit this [website](#).
- We highly recommend speaking with your health care provider 4 to 6 weeks before you travel; it is even better to speak with a doctor at a travel clinic.
- As of the time of writing, there have been no confirmed cases of the Zika virus in Chile.
- If you experience an emergency while travelling in Chile and surrounds, please dial (2) 133 and then contact your Nomad Patagonia Host immediately. The number for the International Police is (+56) 22708 1043.

Travel Insurance

Nomad Patagonia does not include travel insurance in its trip prices, but we strongly encourage you to purchase a plan before you travel in Chile. This is relatively inexpensive (usually falls under \$100 USD) and it protects you financially from sickness abroad and cancellations due to unforeseeable events. If you are trekking, you are required to have insurance coverage. We are happy to recommend the following providers: www.insuremytrip.com or www.travelguard.com

Food and Water Precautions

The tap water in Chile is generally safe to drink, though it may have a different taste due to high mineral content. We recommend drinking bottled water which is readily available in all hotels and local stores. The tap water is perfectly safe to use for food preparation and brushing teeth.

Medical Care

In Santiago and Valparaiso, medical care is modern and safe. If you have any medical issue whatsoever, contact your Nomad Patagonia Team and they will help you find the best medical care nearest to you.

Safety Tips

Extra caution should be taken in large cities, where petty theft is more common. Do not wear flashy jewelry or display expensive electronics – iPhones and the like make a very recognizable outline in pockets! Keep purses and bags securely closed, cab doors locked and cab windows rolled up. Use caution throughout the rest of Chile and always be aware of your surroundings. That said, you'll most often be with a guide who will be on the lookout for you and there is no need to be worried!

Staying in Touch

Internet

Almost every hotel in Chile will have WiFi, as well as internet-connected computers for guest use.

Your Mobile Phone

It may be possible to use your mobile phone in Chile. You'll first need to check with your home provider to see if your phone will recognize the local networks. You can then buy a prepaid SIM card from one of the Chilean telecommunications companies, the largest of which being "Claro." This can often be a lengthy process and frustrating if you do not speak Spanish, so if at all possible, stick to communication via the internet!

Time Zones

Chile is GMT -03:00, whereas Easter Island is GMT -05:00.

Calling Chile and Calling Home

The telephone country code for Chile is +56. When dialing Chile from the USA, dial 011 + the country code (56), followed by the number (which will contain 8 or 9 digits). For more information regarding making calls to Chile, please visit this [page](#). From within Chile, there are plenty of places available to make long distance calls easily. Phone cards are also available – just ask your guide to help you purchase one. In order to call home, dial the country code (e.g. 001 for United States) then the area code and number. If you are bringing a smart phone or tablet on your journey, certain apps allow you to make phone calls and send messages via Wi-Fi free. We recommend the Viber and WhatsApp apps, as well as FaceTime for Apple users. Skype is also popular and allows video calls.

Cultural Considerations

Chile is a bustling, modern country spanning from the Andes Mountains to the southernmost tip of South America, with one of the longest coast lines in the world facing the Pacific Ocean. Chile's primary language is Spanish, although there are a few small patches of the Atacama and Patagonia areas where indigenous languages are still spoken. Luckily, you'll be with your English-speaking guide most of the time, so even if you don't speak Spanish, you won't miss a thing!

*“Traveling – It Leaves You Speechless,
Then Turns You Into a Storyteller”*

-Ibn Battuta