



/ EDUCATIONAL  
TOURS

**Capital:** Santiago  
**Dialing code:** 56  
**Language:** Spanish  
**Population:** 19.76 million  
**Drives on the:** Right



# Chile Information

## Travel documents

U.S. citizens traveling to Chile must have a passport that is valid for the duration of your stay. Please check [travel.state.gov](https://travel.state.gov) to confirm passport validity requirements prior to your tour. Citizens of all other countries should contact their appropriate embassies to find out what specific documentation is required for them to travel. Visas are not required for U.S. citizens visiting Chile for tourist reasons for up to 90 days. Travelers will receive a Tourist Card upon arrival that must be returned upon departure.

## Health precautions

For the most up-to-date information on necessary vaccinations, we recommend you visit [cdc.gov](https://cdc.gov) or consult your physician.

## Tour Director and bus driver

You will have the same Tour Director throughout your time in Chile. Bus drivers may change from day to day, so tipping for them should be considered on a daily basis.

## Transportation

Buses are modern and air-conditioned. Bus transfers to Valparaíso are day excursions and typically take three hours roundtrip. Flights between Calama and Santiago typically take two hours. Flights between Santiago and Buenos Aires, Argentina, typically take two hours.

## Currency

Local currency is the Chilean peso. U.S. dollars are rarely accepted in Chile, so it's best to withdraw a small amount of pesos from an ATM or exchange some U.S. dollars upon arrival to have local currency handy if needed. Credit cards are widely accepted. Make sure restaurants accept cards as payment before sitting down for any non-included meals. You should notify your bank of your travel plans to avoid service interruptions and inquiries about charges when withdrawing money abroad. We do not recommend using traveler's checks, as there can be high fees and a poor exchange rate to cash them. Visit [xe.com](http://xe.com) for more currency information.

## Tipping

It's customary to tip on tour as a token of appreciation. We recommend:

- \$6–8 per person per day for your EF Tour Director
- \$3 per person per day for your bus driver

We suggest you deposit the tip money for your Tour Director into your bank account, withdraw it at the end of the tour, and present it to them in the tip envelope provided by EF. Bus drivers may change from day to day, so tipping for them should be considered on a daily basis.

## Accommodations

Travelers in Chile can expect to stay in updated hotels that are centrally located, offer modern amenities, and provide a continental breakfast featuring a variety of traditional foods. Students under the age of 20 will share rooms with two or three other travelers of the same gender. Rooms will have single or shared double beds (or a combination of the two). Students may share rooms with students in the tour group who are not from their own school.

Adults will share twin rooms with other adults of the same gender, and they may share rooms with adults in the tour group who are not from their own school. Please note that groups may not all have rooms next to each other, and some may even be on different floors.

## Public bathrooms

Public restrooms are commonly available, but there is typically a small fee to use them. It's highly recommended that travelers carry travel toilet paper and hand sanitizer with them. Toilet paper is not flushed in Chile due to very old plumbing—it is thrown in the trash once used.

## Safety

Always inform your Tour Director if you need to break away from the group at any point. Store valuables in hotel safe deposit boxes and refrain from carrying large sums of money or wearing valuable jewelry. Please be sure to read EF's *Travel & Safety Guide* before going on tour.

## Phones and internet

It's easy to buy an international phone card in Chile to make phone calls home, and your Tour Director can help you find places to buy them. If you plan to use your personal cell phone on tour, contact your wireless provider to see what fees you may incur for calling, texting, or using data abroad. Wi-Fi is not available at all hotels in Chile, and when it is available, there is often a fee.

## Local food

Chilean cuisine is influenced by European (Spanish, German, Italian, French) and Indigenous cultures. Seafood, beef, and other meats are an important part of food culture in Chile. Tap water in Santiago is generally safe to drink and is treated according to World Health Organization standards. Water in Chile is rich in minerals, so flavor and smell might differ from what travelers are used to in the United States. Bottled water is also widely available. You will have the opportunity to explore Chilean cuisine each day through included breakfasts and dinners. Lunch each day will be on your own. We recommend budgeting \$12–\$15 per day for lunch.

## Weather

Since Chile is in the Southern Hemisphere, its seasons are opposite to ours in the Northern Hemisphere. Chile also spans a large vertical geographical area, resulting in a range of climates throughout the country. Chile's winter months are June through August, and average temperatures in Santiago during this time of year range from the low to mid 60s. The city experiences the most precipitation between the months of May and September. Chile's summer months are December through February, and average temperatures in Santiago during this time of year range from the low to mid 80s. Northern Chile (Calama) is home to the Atacama Desert and, as a result, has a dry, arid climate with minimal precipitation. Temperatures in this region average between the mid-50s to high-70s throughout the year. The desert also sits at high elevation, so nighttime temperatures can drop significantly. Please check [weather.com](http://weather.com) for your destinations and travel periods.

## Luggage

Fees for checking bags on the international flights between the United States and Chile are included in the price of your tour. Additionally, fees for checking a bag on any flights taking place while on tour within Chile or to Argentina are included.

## Packing

We suggest bringing the following items: a light jacket or windbreaker, comfortable walking shoes, swimsuit, hat, sunscreen, cotton clothing, hand sanitizer, and travel-size toilet paper. Please remember that seasons are opposite in Chile, with cooler weather from May to September, and bringing layers is recommended. As with most tours, we advise packing as light as possible to ensure all bags will fit in the storage compartments on your tour bus and on the airplane for your flights.