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CHILE



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Introduction

There is hardly any other country that combines so many different climatic zones as Chile: Due to its huge north-south extension, Chile is the longest and one of the most versatile countries in the world. The country therefore offers the traveler scenic attractions that contrast strongly with each other. The north, with the Atacama Desert, is the driest area on earth, while the south is dominated by rainforests, lakes and glaciers. Hot springs, volcanoes and endless beaches are also waiting for its visitors. Only a few countries offer skiing in the Andes in the morning followed by relaxing on the Pacific beach in the afternoon.

In the modern metropolis of Santiago de Chile live about 6 million people: On weekends they are drawn to the beautiful seaside resort Viña del Mar with its palm tree beaches or to the picturesque port of Valparaíso. Moreover travelers encounter remote villages and fertile valleys. Today Chile is one of the most popular travel destinations in South America, being one of the safest and richest countries of the continent. Travel companies should therefore not miss this opportunity. The country is considered to be the most European in South America: besides Spanish influences, there are also German influences in the south (for example in Puerto Varas or Valdivia).

Nevertheless, Chile offers countless cultural facets, friendly people and culinary highlights. These and much more we would like to show you in the following chapters.





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10 Facts about Chile

1

Capital

Chile's capital is Santiago de Chile.

2

Neighbouring countries

Chile has borders with Argentina, Bolivia and Peru.

3

Population

Chile has a total of about 17.5 million inhabitants, of which about 5.5 million live in Santiago alone. Three quarters of the population live in the central zone of Chile (2017).

4

Size

Chile is about 4300 kilometres (2672 miles) long, but not even 300 kilometres (186 miles) wide.

5

Language

The official language is Spanish (and especially in rural areas you won't get far with English). The Chileans not only speak very fast, but also like to swallow endings of words or invent completely new word creations – which does not make it easy for travelers.

6

Currency

The currency in Chile is the Chilean Peso (CLP).

7

Culture

Two indigenous peoples still live in Chile today: the Aymara in the north and the Mapuche in the regions of the Lake District.

8

Warm hearted Chileans

The Chileans are unobtrusive, but curious and seriously interested in the visitor. Where from, where to, Te gusta Chile? (Do you like Chile?) are always the first questions. But they don't take punctuality too seriously. Appointments are generally handled with at least 15 minutes of leeway and for private invitations guests allow a "grace period" of at least 30 minutes to pass.

9

National Drinks

For decades there has been a dispute between Chile and Peru over the discovery or invention of the famous drink Pisco Sour - the national drink of Chile. Even today this conflict is not completely resolved - and probably won't be soon. Apart from Pisco, the drink "Terremoto" (earthquake) is nowadays an essential part of every bar in Chile and has become kind of a national drink.

10

Chilean cuisine

Culinary highlights in Chile include empanadas (stuffed dumplings), chorillana (French fries, sausages, onion and fried egg), mote con huesillos (pickled wheat and dried peach), pebre (hot chili sauce), Sopaipillas (pumpkin pastry), cazuela (hearty stew with beef or chicken, corn, rice and potatoes), pastel de choclo (corn casserole with meat filling) and the typical asado (grilled meat from beef, pork or chicken).



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The most Beautiful Cities in Chile

Chile's most beautiful cities stretch from the capital Santiago to Puerto Varas in the south and also the north has some highlights to offer. We would like to present to you all the different cities, that are definitely worth a visit.

Northern Chile

Putré

Putré is located at an altitude of 3,650 meters (*11,975 feet*), at the foot of the Taapaca volcano. From here you can directly reach the Lauca National Park, which is the starting point for spectacular tours and unique landscapes. The fresh mountain air, the charming colonial buildings and the peace and quiet make this place an attractive stopover, as the region is hardly developed for tourism: thus, you can explore the area without crowds of tourists. In Putré you will also find the indigenous people of the Aymara culture. The Aymara live in Bolivia, southern Peru and northern Chile. They are considered one of the oldest still living ethnic groups of the High Andes and as cultural precursor of the Inca high culture.



San Pedro de Atacama

This remote and quiet paradise is located in the north-east of the country, in the driest desert in the world. Here, although there are many tourists, the pace is still slow.

Rustic hotels are located next to brick buildings on the dusty streets. But the real highlight is waiting outside the village: San Pedro is the starting point for tours into the Atacama Desert, the driest desert in the world. There you will find salt flats, volcanic geysers and hot springs.



Arica

In the port city in the north of Chile the sun shines almost all year round. Here you can relax and unwind. With good reason Arica is nicknamed "City of Eternal Spring". Its pleasant climate and the beaches with warm water invite you to enjoy romantic sunsets. The inhabitants walk in the streets, spend their time on the beach or go surfing the waves. After some relaxing days you can visit the "Valle de Azapa", a small oasis in the region and home of the oldest mummies in the world.



La Serena

La Serena was founded in 1544 and is the second oldest city in Chile after Santiago. Its charm lies in the colonial architecture of its buildings and the beautiful sandy beaches: A perfect combination for those who are looking for relaxation and culture. Beautiful churches and avenues can be found in the city centre, while in the surrounding area small villages and vineyards await travelers. In addition, you can participate in a Pisco tasting - a typical Chilean drink.



Central Chile

Santiago de Chile

No trip to Chile would be complete without visiting the huge capital. Santiago lies at the foot of the Andes mountains and offers cultural richness. Historical buildings are less common due to the numerous earthquakes in the last centuries. But the city convinces with its colorful street markets, green parks, versatile museums, venerable palaces and high skyscrapers in "Sanhattan". The artists' quarter of Lastarria invites you to stroll, while in Bellavista you can end the evening in the many restaurants and bars.



In addition, Santiago is the ideal starting point for discovering the natural treasures in the nearby surroundings, including thermal baths, glaciers and ski resorts.

Valparaíso

To the northwest of Santiago is Valparaíso, a beautiful port city declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. Picturesque, colourful houses drone on the hills and offer wonderful views of the sea. They can be reached by the many funiculars, among other things. The streets invite you to stroll and lead travellers to the traces of the poet Pablo Neruda, who once lived there.



Viña del Mar

Situated on the Pacific coast of Chile, Viña del Mar is also known as the "Garden City" because of its beautiful, spacious parks, many palm trees and lined avenues. The long promenade invites you to take a walk along; and a beautiful sunset can be enjoyed on the many beaches.



If you stroll through the many streets, you feel like you are transported back to the golden era of the last century: The numerous villas and old mansions of wealthy families that adorn the city today serve as elegant museums or entertainment centres.

Southern Chile

Pucón

The surroundings of Lake Villarrica in southern Chile have become a destination for nature lovers and outdoor enthusiasts in recent years. Around the active volcano Villarrica with its eternal plume of smoke, dense southern beech and araucaria forests attract hikers and horse riders. White water rivers invite you to go rafting, the deep blue lake is perfect for canoeing or fishing, and thermal baths and black-sand beaches await those in need of relaxation. The city itself is embellished by cozy restaurants, cafés and hotels that blend harmoniously into the natural landscape.



Valdivia

In 1960 a heavy earthquake damaged the city very badly, but Valdivia has nevertheless recovered. The many students also enliven the city and give it a colorful cultural scene. Even today Valdivia is still influenced by German immigrants and wooden colonial villas give it a very special charm.



Puerto Varas

Amidst impressive nature, you will find adventure and Chilean-German tradition in Puerto Varas. The huge beach promenade at Lake Llanquihue invites you to take a walk and offers a magnificent view of the Osorno and Calbuco volcanoes. Nearby you will find the beautiful waterfalls "Saltos de Petrohue", which you should not miss. But not only that, Puerto Varas also has an exquisite gastronomy and adventurers can enjoy kayaking, climbing and sport fishing.



Puerto Natales

Puerto Natales is one of the most important cities in Chilean Patagonia, although it was just founded by German sheep farmers at the end of the 19th century. Accordingly, German houses are lined up with small Patagonian homes and modern hotels. Charming landscapes like valleys, fjords and archipelagos can be found in the surroundings of Puerto Natales. In addition, the city is the starting point for tours through the Torres del Paine National Park and to the Milodon Cave.



Punta Arenas

A big city at the end of the world: Right at the Strait of Magellan and just on the mainland, opposite the island of Tierra del Fuego, lies Punta Arenas. The city is the starting point for all excursions to the labyrinthine island world of Tierra del Fuego and to Antarctica. Additionally, you can explore the Isla Magdalena from here: home to the largest colony of penguins in southern Chile.





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Top 10 Highlights in Chile

Many of Chile's sights are located very close to the cities mentioned above. Thus, an excursion can always be combined optimally with a city trip. We present to you the most beautiful highlights.

Northern Chile

Atacama Desert: Valle de La Luna

The "Valley of the Moon", as it is called translated into English, is only about 15 kilometres (*9 miles*) away from San Pedro de Atacama and can therefore be easily reached on a day trip. The rocky landscape that one finds here is similar to the moon's surface, hence the name. The valley is especially impressive if one experiences it at sunrise or sunset and the salt formations create longish shadows.



Elqui Valley

The heart of Chilean Pisco production is located in the north of Chile. The Valle del Elqui is a beautiful green valley, through which the river Elqui roams. Here you will find small villages, nice people and fertile vineyards.



Vicuña is a small town in the Valle del Elqui and the ideal starting point to explore the valley. But also at night there is a lot to see, as the clearest starry sky of the world can be found here. Astronomy tours to the surrounding observatories invite you to do so.



Central Chile

Wineries around Santiago

Most Chilean wine is produced near Santiago, often only a few hours' drive from the capital. There are many first class vineyards throughout the region. Travelers can take part in wine tours and taste the different wines.

Cajon del Maipo

Only about 50 kilometres (31 miles) east of Santiago is this high mountain valley, which is perfect for one or more day trips to escape the hectic city life. Only one road leads into the narrow, 70 kilometres (43 miles) long valley of the Rio Maipo up into the Andes Cordillera to hot thermal springs, huge glaciers and azure blue mountain lakes.



Southern Chile

Villarica Volcano

The always active volcano fascinates many mountain enthusiasts, it smokes, bubbles and hisses from its crater. The ascent stretches over glaciers and volcanic scree, crampons are necessary for the ascent. After 8 hours you have made it: the view from above is worth the effort. In good weather conditions you can even see the orange glow of the lava in the deep crater mouth. And the special highlight: downwards, the way goes rapidly downhill over natural glacier slides.



Torres del Paine National Park

A trip to Chile would not be complete without visiting the Torres del Paine National Park. On breathtaking hikes through the world-famous park you will pass glaciers, crystal clear lakes, raging rivers and beautiful forests. The national park was declared a biosphere reserve by UNESCO in 2013 and is without doubt the biggest tourist attraction in Chilean Patagonia.



Chilean Islands

Easter Island

A few hours flight and thousands of kilometers from the mainland of Chile, Rapa Nui - also known as Easter Island - is located. It is famous for its mysterious Moai: huge statues whose former purpose and exact construction are still unknown today.



There are many theories surrounding the mysterious sculptures. In addition, there is a great landscape and Polynesian culture on Rapa Nui, as well as beautiful white beaches full of palm trees. The only city on the island is called Hanga Roa.

Isla Robinson Crusoe

The flight in an eight-seater propeller plane from Santiago de Chile takes just under two hours. The island owes its name to the Scottish navigator Alexander Selkirk, who was abandoned on the island in 1704 and had to eke out a living for four years on the then uninhabited island alone. Selkirk was the historical model for the novel character Robinson Crusoe. The tourism is not yet widely developed, but beside a handful of hotels in San Juan Bautista there are also some restaurants where one can have a delicious meal. Almost the whole island is a national park for which one has to pay an entrance fee, but therefore, one experiences very closely the gorgeous landscape and can watch the many animal species as the Magellanic penguin and the Juan Fernández sea bears, a seal species that only lives here.



Chiloé

Chiloé consists of a main island and small offshore islets. The inhabitants, the Chiloé people, are cordial. Away from the big hotels, which one looks for in vain on Chiloé, one can escape the hustle and bustle of the cities. On Chiloé, one finds fishermen, shepherds and potato farmers.

The most important cities of the island are called Ancud and Castro, here are the colourful pile dwellings of small log cabins and proud wooden churches. In addition, Chiloé is home to untouched wilderness and the storm-whipped Pacific coast.



Isla Magdalena

The Isla Magdalena (Monumento Natural Los Pinguinos) is located about 30 kilometers (*18 miles*) northeast of Punta Arenas in the middle of the Strait of Magellan. It is 85 hectares (*210 acres*) in size and is a nature reserve for the Magellanic Penguins, which reach the island every year in September and build their nests there. In October the eggs are laid and in November the young ones hatch to be independent in January. In April, the penguins leave the island for the Atlantic or Pacific Ocean and return in September as they do every year. The penguins can be observed and photographed at close range during the excursion, which starts from Punta Arenas.





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Adventure Tourism Chile

Chile is a perfect destination for adventure seekers, outdoor enthusiasts and sports enthusiasts. Due to the many different landscapes in the country, everyone gets their money's worth. So you can perfectly hike, cycle, climb, surf, ski, raft and much more in Chile.



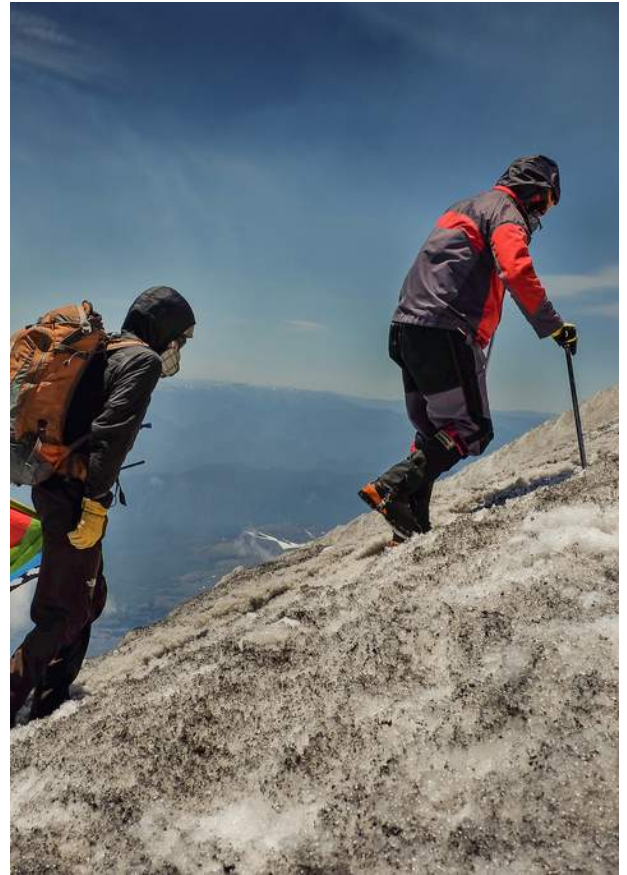
Hiking

Some of the most beautiful hikes can be done in southern Chile, where icy mountains border on deep blue lakes and relaxing thermal baths. Impressive landscapes await travelers here. Especially the lake region, the Carretera Austral and the Torres del Paine National Park offer the most beautiful routes. For the more adventurous, there is the Isla Navarino or even Antarctica, far away from all tourists. In Chile one can find various hikes for every fitness level, from 30 minutes to tours lasting several days.



Mountaineering

In the Chilean Andes and the many volcanoes one can find a variety of climbing possibilities in different levels of difficulty. For climbing the volcanoes Villarica and Orsono near Pucón no special previous knowledge is required, tours with experienced guides are offered. The ascent takes about five hours. However, some volcanoes in the north have a height of more than 5,000 to 6,000 metres (*16,404 to 19,685 feet*), which should only be climbed with experience and the right equipment.



Skiing

Chile is surrounded by the Andes mountains and many ski centers. There are three ski resorts in the immediate vicinity of Santiago alone: Valle Nevado, El Colorado and La Parva. Also near Santiago, located on the Argentine border is Portillo, known as the best ski area in South America. In the south, other places for winter sports line up, for example in Pucón, Corralco or Nevados de Chillán.

Sandboarding

If you are not in the mood for snow, sandboarding offers an optimal alternative! Near Viña del Mar you will find the dunes of Reñaca and Concón, where you can rent the boards. There are no lifts - you have to climb up the dunes afterwards. Also in Iquique in the north of the country there is the Cerro El Dragón ("Dragon Hill"): The biggest urban dune in the world.



Rafting and kayaking

The raging rivers of Chile offer optimal rafting possibilities. The river Maipo in the Cajón del Maipo, near Santiago, as well as the river Trancura near Pucón are a bit more gentle than the Futaleufú river. Kayaking is also very popular in Chile, kayaks can be rented at the many deep blue lakes. In Patagonia you can kayak past beautiful fjords and icy glaciers and also the marble caves offer a great spot.



Surfing



4,000 kilometres (2,485 miles) of coastline stretch across Chile and make the country a paradise for surfers. Known as the surfing capital of Chile is Pichilemu, a small town by the sea in central Chile. On the beaches you can go windsurfing, kitesurfing or even sailing. Arica, the city in the north of Chile, also offers good waves and good weather all year round - the annual national surf championship is also held here. In Iquique, surfers find perfectly shaped waves on Cavanca beach. Constitución has also become a venue for international surf competitions.

Cycling

Cyclists looking for a challenge should try the different trails in Lauca National Park or Pan de Azúcar National Park. In addition, the Carretera Austral in the Aysén region is one of the most famous roads in the world and invites you to take long bike rides during the summer months (December-February). The Cancha Carrera Mountain Bike Trail in Santiago is one of the best downhill trails in Santiago and only suitable for experienced mountain bikers, and in Valparaíso the urban mountain bike race of Red Bull attracts experienced cyclists.

Riding

Riding relaxed through Chilean forests or pure adrenalin while galloping over fertile valleys: Exploring Chile on horseback is a wonderful experience. You can ride through dunes and oases in the middle of the desert in the north, climb the peaks of the Andes, roam through rivers, trot along the beach or explore the many national parks on horseback. The Chilean horses, also called Corralero, are particularly strong and sure-footed in the mountains.



Fishing

Between November and May the south of Chile is a paradise for anglers, but in general you can fish all year round. You can enjoy the morning solitude in the fishing villages in the north, explore the lush forests in the south and take a boat to explore one of the many lakes. The hotels alongside the Carretera Austral in Aysén offer fishing boats for this purpose. You can also try out other techniques such as fly fishing and trawling.



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Planning the Trip

Best Time to Travel

Chile has four seasons, which run contrary to those in the northern hemisphere. Summer in Chile is from December to February. In the end, the best time to travel depends on the travel route, since the country has almost all climatic zones due to its length. For example, a summer in stormy Tierra del Fuego is completely different from the hot north of Chile.



The best time to **travel to the north** is all year round, be it for a visit to the Atacama Desert, the Andes or the Pacific Ocean. The climate here is subtropical desert climate, you should expect low temperatures at night. The temperature differences between summer and winter are relatively small and the weather is stable all year round.

The best time to **travel to Central Chile** is from November to April. The climate here is warm, temperate and Mediterranean, but can get very hot, especially in January and February, so December and March are more recommended. The coast is much more cloudy and foggy, making it sunnier inland than on the coast.

The best time to **travel to Chile's south** is from December to March. The climate here is rather fresh and it rains a lot. On Tierra del Fuego there is subantarctic climate. Between Christmas and March the campgrounds (e.g. in the Torres del Paine National Park) might be booked quickly, due to the high season in Patagonia.

For **winter sports**, the period from June to September is the best time to enjoy the powder snow in the Andes.



A **beach holiday** in Chile is, in view of the very low water temperatures, mostly only possible in the Chilean summer in the north of Chile.



From mid-December to February, Chileans have big holidays and like to travel domestically. This is the high season for tourism, the prices are a bit more expensive and more people visit the various attractions.

Arrival

Chile can be reached via the international airport of Santiago, from where connecting flights can be made to all other regions of Chile. By land, Chile can be reached from its neighboring countries Peru, Bolivia and Argentina, for example by long-distance bus (please observe the regulations for entering Chile with your own vehicle).

A special way to travel to Chile is by cruise. Numerous shipping companies offer the journey on luxury liners to the Chilean ports of Arica, Puerto Montt, Punto Arenas or Valparaiso. The routes vary from provider to provider.

Entry

Citizens of the USA, Canada, Great Britain, Ireland and countries of the European Union do not require a visa for entry and stays of up to 90 days, but a passport is required for entry, which must be valid for at least six months at the time of entry.

On entry, a free "Tarjeta Única Migratoria" is issued as proof of entry, entitling a stay of no more than 90 days and indicating the obligatory date of departure. This must be returned on departure. In the event of loss or theft, a replacement document must be requested before departure from the "Policía de Investigaciones (PDI)" (in the centre of Santiago, Morandé 672, Santiago-Centro, tel. +56 2 26809110, or at Santiago Airport, tel. +56 226901781) or from any PDI office in other regions.

Travel with underage children is subject to particularly strict regulations in Chile. Even though these regulations are basically only valid for children living in Chile, there are regularly considerable problems for travelers from other countries, especially if the children have dual citizenship or are otherwise closely connected with Chile.

Import conditions

Travellers carrying cash or securities with a value of more than USD 10,000 must actively declare this to Customs upon entry. There is a strict import ban on fresh food (dairy products, fruit and vegetables, meat and sausage products) as well as plants, weapons, drugs and pornographic material. Violations (e.g. also the accidentally undeclared apple in hand luggage) are punished with heavy fines and in serious cases with imprisonment. In principle, all food, including originally packed food, such as nuts, should be declared on the entry form.



Vaccinations

There are no compulsory vaccinations required for entering Chile, but the usual standard vaccinations are recommended. As travel vaccinations, vaccinations against hepatitis A (in the case of long-term stay/special exposure also against hepatitis B), typhoid and rabies are generally recommended.

Health

Chile is a popular destination for trekking tourists who climb to high altitudes. Often there is not enough time for a gradual altitude adjustment. Various forms of acute altitude sickness are possible. The medical care available in the larger cities is generally comparable to those in Europe or North America, but in the countryside it is often not.



All data is intended for your information, in case your customers have questions in this regard. However, the information provided does not replace consultation with a doctor, as the correct precautions depend on the destination, the type of trip and the personal risk, e.g. due to a previous illness. Your customers should therefore always consult their doctor. In addition, the current entry regulations of the countries should be observed.



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Summary

Chile is characterized by its diversity and scenic beauty. From the driest desert in the world, to lively cities, past deep blue lakes to millennia-old glaciers: Chile offers your customers incredible diversity, there is something for everyone. Ideally, you plan a trip for your clients together with a DMC that specializes in South America and has the appropriate planning skills and knowledge of the region. In this way, complications during the trip can at best be avoided or at least solutions can be found. In this way you can offer your customers a dreamlike journey to the longest country in the world. You are also welcome to arrange a meeting with our specialists to learn more about Chile or other destinations in South America.

CONTACT A SEPCIALIST



→ You would like to offer your customers trips to Chile and enter the tourism business with South America? Then find out more about our [Chile trips.](#)



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About Logistur DMC



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Logistur plans, implements and carries out journeys to various destinations throughout South America, according to the specific requirements of each of our partner agencies.

We have a team of experts and the necessary technology to facilitate the operational work of your agency. Put everything in our hands and you will be able to focus on the most important thing: the satisfaction of your customers and your sales.

Do you know someone for whom this e-book might be useful?

We invite you to recommend the Logistur Academy to others and to [share this link](#).