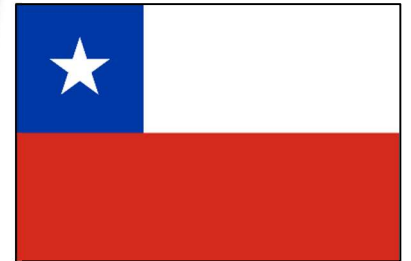


# SMRA 2024

## Santiago de Chile

### Travel Tips



*SMRA 2024 will be held in Santiago de Chile and for first time in South America! Chile is a country with many landscapes, and we do recommend you to stay longer for holidays if possible. The conference is in early summer. Here are some tips for start planning your travel, compiled but our very own local SMRA experts.*

#### *Arriving at the airport in Santiago*

The Santiago de Chile Airport is called Arturo Merino Benitez International Airport ([www.nuevopudahuel.cl](http://www.nuevopudahuel.cl)). The airport is located approximately 20 km west of the city and there are different official options to get to Santiago. On the airport website you will find relevant information regarding taxis, transfer services and buses. We recommend booking these services at the airport's website or one of the counters, which are the official representatives. For transfers we recommend Transvip ([www.transvip.cl](http://www.transvip.cl)). Trips to downtown run about 20,000 and 30,000 Chilean pesos (or about \$25 to \$36)

#### *Managing money*

The currency in Chile is the Chilean peso. The most common method of payment is with card, and international credit and debit cards are accepted almost everywhere. In the rare case that you cannot use your card you will need cash that can be obtained from ATMs.

#### *Where to stay in Santiago?*

The conference will be held in Club Manquehue in the Vitacura neighborhood (Av Vitacura 5841, Vitacura, Santiago). We recommend you to stay in the same neighborhood or nearby neighborhoods such as Las Condes and Providencia. Some hotels nearby are Hotel Bidasoa, Novotel Santiago Vitacura, Hyatt Place Santiago Vitacura, Double Tree by Hilton Santiago Kennedy, Renaissance Santiago by Marriot, Mandarin Oriental, Hotel Marriott Santiago. There are also plenty of Airbnb options.

#### *Cell Phones*

Your domestic provider will likely offer some international calling plans that include Chile. Another affordable option is the use of a prepaid SIM card (a physical card) or an eSIM card (digital) if your phone is region unlocked. eSIMs can be compelling because they can be setup anywhere if the phone supports it. There are numerous providers for international eSIM Cards offering inexpensive voice and data options. One popular choice for Chile is Airalo.

## What to do in Santiago?



Santiago is the capital of Chile. It is situated at 520m and has a population of ~5.6 million. Santiago has a Mediterranean climate with averages between 10C and 29C in November for the minimum and maximum temperatures.

There are several places you can visit in Santiago or in a close distance. Beaches and ski areas are both 1-hour from Santiago.

In Santiago you can visit places such as:

- **Parque Metropolitano and San Cristobal Hill:** with several parks and activities. You can hike up, take the “funicular” (cable train) or the

“teleférico” (gondola lift), it offers a nice view of Santiago.

- **Centro cultural la Moneda:** museum underneath the house of government.

- **GAM:** is a cultural center and museum, that also has nice restaurants and coffee places.

- **La Chascona:** Pablo Neruda’s (Chilean poet) house.

- **Sky Costanera:** Gran Torre Costanera is the tallest building in South America, it has a viewpoint “Sky Costanera” from where you have a nice view of Santiago and the mountains.

- **Parque Bicentenario de Vitacura:** is a nice public park where you can walk and enjoy several activities.

- **Pueblito los Dominicos:** is a handcraft market where you can find souvenirs from Chile.

- **Cerro Calan:** small hill with easy walks and nice views of the city.

- **Trekking:** there are several trekking areas in Santiago like Cerro Manquehue and nearby like in Cajon del Maipo and Farellones.

- **Eating:** there are several areas or “barrios” with nice restaurants and bars, some of these areas are “Alonso de Cordova”, “Isidora Goyenechea”, “Barrio Italia”, “Barrio Lastarria”.

## What to do close by to Santiago?

Now a small list of things you can do or visit close by to Santiago!

**Hiking, horseback riding, rafting, etc:** The mountains are never far away in Chile - you can be in high mountain territory within 1.5h from Santiago! Plenty of outdoor activities in places such as San José de Maipo (Cajón del Maipo), Monumento Natural el Morado, Reserva Nacional Río Clarillo, Santuario de la Naturaleza Cascada de las Animas, Río Olivares.

**Visit wineries:** There are several wineries within or near Santiago. In Santiago you can visit for example Cousiño de Macul, Concha y Toro, Santa Rita, Viña Undurraga, Las Haras de Pirque. One-to-two hours from Santiago you can visit Casas del Bosque, Casa Silva, Viu Manent, Lapostelle, and many more. The wine region is called “Colchagua” where you can find plenty of nice wineries and hotels.

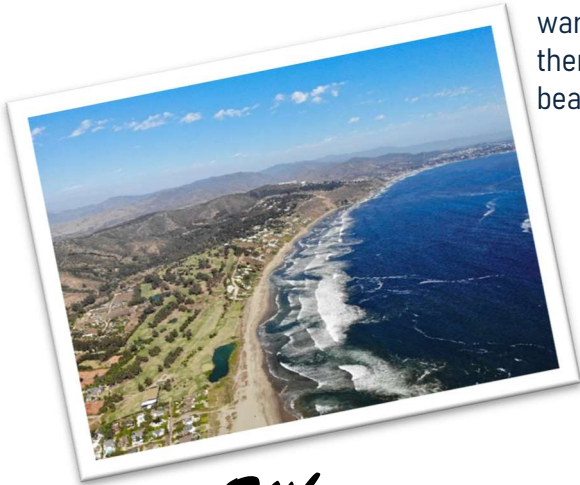
**Shopping:** Casa Costanera, Costanera Center, MUT (Mercado Urbano Tobalaba), Parque Arauco, Alto las Condes



**Thermal water hotels:** Termas de Cauquenes, Termas Jahuel.

Continued

**Seaside towns and beaches:** The closest seaside town is Valparaiso (some people hate this town and some love it). You can find very nice beaches and coastal walks in Cachagua and Zapallar, two hours



from Santiago. If you want to go further away Playa Blanca is a nice beach close to La Serena. Those that want to swim in the Pacific should know that water is a bit cold on the beaches close to Santiago (Chileans do swim there though!). The water is warmer further north where there are plenty of other beaches.

The **public transport system** in Santiago is called Red Metropolitana de Movilidad, known as RED. It is an integrated public transport system that has buses, subway, and Metrotren. To travel through RED you need a special card called Tarjeta Bip! that can be obtained and recharged at various points. The metro is open from 6:00 to 23:00 hrs from Monday to Friday, from 6:30 to 23:00 hrs on Saturday, and from 8:00 to 23:00 hrs on Sunday. During the morning, from 6:00 to 9:00, and in the afternoon, from 18:00 to 20:45, Lines 2, 4, and 5 have two services (red stops and green stops) and trains do not stop at every station. The route of travel is color-coded on doors of all trains. You can find more information in <http://www.red.cl/>

**Ride sharing** (Uber, Cabify) is readily available and very reasonably priced, but technically illegal at the airport.

## Where to eat in Santiago?

*Renowned for its variety and high quality of fish, seafood and meat, along with award-winning wines, Chilean cuisine offers an enticing blend of local and international flavors. Some of the traditional drinks and dishes include pisco sour, empanadas de pino, pastel de choclo, asado, etc. Here are some recommendations...*

You can find plenty of restaurants and coffee places in several "barrios" (neighborhoods) such as Alonso de Cordova, Isidora Goyonechea, Barrio Italia, Barrio Lastarria, among others. Here is a small list with places that we like or have heard good recommendations.

### Coffee Places:

- Rita Roux
- Casa Juliet
- Puelo Cafe
- Quinoa (vegetarian)

### Restaurants:

- Ambrosia & Ambrosia Bistro
- Boca Nariz (Chilean food & wine)
- Restaurant Bidasoa
- Chipe Libre (Pisco bar)

- Mestizo (Chilean food)
- La Calma de Fred (fish)
- Cuevoaca (steak house)
- Happening (steak house)
- Tiramisu (pizzas and pasta)
- Tanaka (peruvian fusion)
- Pulmay (seafood)
- El huerto (vegetarian)
- Casa Luz (Chilean food)
- Liguria (Chilean food)



*It's common to leave a tip of 10% in restaurants and coffee places, which is usually not included in the bill. It's not common to tip cabs.*





## Travelling in Chile

*There are several places you can visit in Chile, from the driest desert in the world (San Pedro de Atacama) to impressive ice fields and icebergs (Campos de Hielo Sur-Norte, Laguna San Rafael). Where to go it will depend on how much time you want to spend there and how much adventure you want to have. Here just a few ideas, you can find more in <https://www.chile.travel/en/>*

### San Pedro de Atacama

is a town in Northern Chile. Most attractions are part of the Los Flamencos National Reserve, perhaps Chile's most varied and amazing national park. Great places to visit are the **Geysers del Tatio**, **Valle de la Luna** and **Lagunas Altiplanicas (Chile & Bolivia)**. You can also visit the **Alma Observatory**, the largest astronomical project in existence. You may need 4-5 days for this. Here is a useful link to start with...

<https://www.chile.travel/en/where-to-go/macrozone/north-and-the-atacama-desert/>

[http://wikitravel.org/en/San\\_Pedro\\_de\\_Atacama](http://wikitravel.org/en/San_Pedro_de_Atacama)

### Torres del Paine

Torres del Paine is a national park in the Patagonian Chile at the southern end of the Campos de Hielo Sur. You will see spectacular granite mountains, glaciers and dark blue or green lakes. There are beautiful multi day treks (6-10 days) that bring you to some of the most beautiful places of Chile and the world. You either have to reserve a campground, cabin or hotel for each stage. You also can rent a car and do day hikes in the park. You will need a week or more for this. Useful links are...

<https://parquetorresdelpaine.cl/>

<https://www.chile.travel/en/>

[http://www.wikiexplora.com/index.php/Trekking\\_Torres\\_del\\_Paine](http://www.wikiexplora.com/index.php/Trekking_Torres_del_Paine)



# Travelling in Chile continued...

## Tierra del Fuego (Argentina)

is an archipelago off the southernmost tip of the South American mainland and home to the southernmost city in the world, **Ushuaia**. Tierra del Fuego National Park has dramatic scenery, with waterfalls, forests, mountains and glaciers and is the closest inhabited place to Antarctica and also a good place to watch penguins. You will need a week for this. Useful links include...

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tierra\\_del\\_Fuego\\_National\\_Park](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tierra_del_Fuego_National_Park)

<http://www.patagonia-argentina.com/en/tierra-del-fuego-national-park>

## Wine Valleys

Chile is famous for its fully bodied red wine, which gets its special flavor due to the excellent warm climate in the central region and the sheltered location between the coastal mountains and the Andes. Visiting one of the vineyards in the Casablanca, Colchagua, Maipo or Aconcagua valley is worthwhile a trip from Santiago. You can visit these areas in 3 days. You can also visit specific wineries in one-day visits and stay in amazing winery hotels like ViK.

<https://www.chile.travel/en/what-to-do/wine-and-gastronomy/>



## Carretera Austral (North Patagonia)

For those of you seeking adventure, traveling the rugged unpaved road known as the Carretera Austral that winds its way for a thousand kilometers through the remote and thinly-populated part of Chilean Patagonia south of Puerto Montt is almost guaranteed to be an unforgettable experience. Lago General Carrera, the Marbles caves and the surrounding areas are one of the most beautiful and remote mountain and lake regions in the country. We advise to rent a 4-wheel SUV as you don't want to get stuck in the middle of nowhere. You will need a week or more for this. Useful links are...

<http://www.lanube360.com/carretera-austral.htm>

## Lakes and Volcanoes

Is famous for its beautiful blue lakes and snow-capped volcanoes and the fairly mild weather. There are several small villages around the lakes both in Chile and Argentina and the crossing of the lakes between Chile and Argentina is a great experience. You will need 4-6 for this.

<https://www.chile.travel/en/where-to-go/macrozone/the-south-its-lakes-and-volcanoes/>



## Easter Island

Easter Island or Rapa Nui is located 3700 km from continental Chile. This small island is one of the most remote in the world, it has nice beaches, volcanoes and lots of culture, including nearly 900 monumental statues called moais, created by inhabitants during the 13th-16th centuries. The moais are carved human figures with oversize heads, often resting on massive stone pedestals. Flights from Santiago take about 5 hours. You will need 3-5 days to visit this.

