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Santiago

City Overview

History

Santiago began as a fortified encampment, known by the name Santiago de la Nueva Extremadura, the furthest point of the Spanish empire. It was founded in 1541 by conquistador Pedro de Valdivia. By the late 16th century, Santiago was a settlement of just 200 houses, inhabited by 700 Spaniards, plus their thousands of Indian laborers and servants, and a growing population of mestizos. For over two centuries, Santiago remained the only city in Central Chile, and rural society consisted of large farms known as haciendas. On September 18, 1810, independence was declared in the Real Audiencia building, adjacent to Santiago's historic Plaza de Armas.

It was not until the late 18th century that Santiago slowly began to acquire some of the aesthetics of a city. Even so, Santiago still had barely 30,000 residents at the time of its independence from Spain. In just a few decades, however, the capital had more than 100,000 inhabitants. Railway and telegraph lines linked the city to Valparaíso, a lively commercial center with a population of 60,000. Independence also brought new wealth to Chile mainly from the nitrate fields of the north. In recent years, unprecedented economic growth has added numerous high rises and pristine residential neighborhoods to Santiago's backdrop of historic architecture.

At the height of the economic boom, the regime moved to legitimize and regularize its reforms and its permanent status. Its new "constitution of liberty" was approved in a controlled plebiscite in 1980, in which the government claimed to have received 67 percent of the vote. The constitution's approval marked the institutionalization of Pinochet's political system. In the eyes of the military, a dictatorship had now been transformed into an authoritarian regime. When the new charter took effect in 1981, the dictatorship was at the peak of its powers with political and economic success. The legacy of the Pinochet dictatorship was an economic program that introduced a corporate consumerism work ethic.

Culture

Western travelers are less noticeable than in neighboring Peru and Bolivia because of Chile's European heritage. The European education of many Chilean intellectuals influenced the country's art, music and architecture. As a result art galleries, museums and a thriving theater scene are a large part of Chilean culture. Nobel Prize-winning poets Gabriela Mistral and Pablo Neruda were products of Chile and, until the military coup of 1973; its cinema was among the most experimental in Latin America. Folk music was used as an important means of expression during the Pinochet era and was regularly performed overseas by exiles.

Religion is prevalent in Chile and over 90% of the inhabitants are Roman Catholic, but evangelical Protestantism is becoming popular. Impressive and omnipresent best describes the country's Catholic architecture, from high-flying colonial churches to roadside shrines, some of which are amazing manifestations of folk art. Chile's official language is Spanish, though many other native languages are still spoken. In the south there are perhaps half a million speakers of Mapuche and in the north, there are more than 20,000 speakers of Aymara.

Chile's cuisine reflects the country's topographical variety, and features seafood, beef, fresh fruit and vegetables. Chile's biggest standard meal is lomo a lo pobre - a giant slab of beef topped with two fried eggs and buried in chips. Curanto is one of the nation's finest dishes and consists of a hearty stew of fish, shellfish, chicken, pork, lamb, beef and potato. Chilean wines are the best in all of South America.

Weather

Santiago's climate is mild and Mediterranean with a wet season between May and August. This is also the coolest time of the year, but even then, the temperature rarely drops below freezing. Santiago is best in the spring (September through November) or during the fall (late February into April). Although the winters are mild, when it rains in Santiago it's snowing only an hour away in the Andes. The coast, however, west of Santiago offers numerous beaches. The climate is virtually identical to Northern California.

Currency

Currency is the Chilean peso (CH\$), which is equivalent to 100 centavos. The exchange rate is CH\$638.90 per US\$ (August 2004) or CH\$1000 = US\$1.58 (July 2004).

Cost of Living

The cost of living in Chile is one of the highest in Latin America so expect to pay prices similar to those in parts of America or Europe. Fortunately, those areas frequented by tourists tend to price things in US dollars (US\$) as well as pesos.

Job/Internship Search

Internship/Job Boards

Academic Careers Online

A searchable database with international careers in academia <http://www.academiccareers.com>

AIESEC

In 80 plus countries, AIESEC is a student-run international organization with chapters on many campuses, including in Chile, and offers business-related internships open to all majors. AIESEC members do however have preference.

<http://www.aiesec.org>

AIPT

The International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience (IAESTE) is a network of more than 70 countries that coordinates on-the-job training for students in technical fields such as engineering, computer science, mathematics, natural and physical sciences, architecture, and agricultural science.

IAESTE United States can provide work permit service for U.S. students who have identified their own internship overseas. This service allows U.S. students to overcome the largest stumbling block to working abroad—the visa!

<http://www.aipt.org/>

Amnesty International

They have an office located in Santiago that could provide internships in the non-profit sector.
Address: Huelen 188-A / 750-0617 Providencia / Santiago – Chile
Phone number: (56-2) 235-5945) <http://www.amnesty.org>

Contact Chile

Arranges interesting internships for high school graduates and college/university students, from 2 to 12 months in varied areas and all over Chile.

You can combine these stays with an intensive Spanish immersion course, and of course we also organize your stay at a Chilean home.

<http://www.contactchile.cl/en/internships-chile.php>

European Southern Observatory

European Organization for Astronomical Research in the Southern Hemisphere

Offer Job opportunities and internships in Chile

Phone: (+56 2) 463 3000 <http://www.eso.org/gen-fac/adm/pers/vacant/>

Hieros Gamos

A searchable database of law firms located all over the world including Chile

<http://www.hierosgamos.org>

Hospital Soup

A searchable database for health care and medical jobs in several countries including Chile

<http://www.hospitalsoup.com>

Intern Abroad

An international internships search engine with many links for paid, volunteer, academic, and non-academic internships in Chile <http://www.internabroad.com>

Internships International

Company that offers full-time internships for 2-3 months in several countries including Chile

Get to cooperate with company to design your own internship

www.internshipsinternational.org

Learning 4 Good

A searchable database of jobs internationally, including Chile posted in Spanish and English

<http://www.learn4good.com/jobs/language/english/list/country/chile/>

Southern Cone Internships

A website that posts internship opportunities in Chile and Argentina

If not at an advanced level of Spanish, students can take Spanish Immersion program that lasts from 2-14 weeks depending on experience.

Two week Internship Prep Course <http://www.sc-internships.com/ene2004/>

Study Abroad Links

A searchable database with study abroad opportunities and internship postings for several countries, including Chile <http://www.studyabroadlinks.com/>

Transitions Abroad

A searchable database for International Internships including ones in Chile

Gives several websites to find internships

- <http://www.transitionsabroad.com/listings/work/internships/worldwide.shtml>

U.S. Companies and Industries in Santiago

3Com Corporation

Develop/Manufacturer computer networking products and systems
Address: Huerfanos No 835 piso 21, Edif. Opera, Santiago, Chile
Phone: 56-2-633-9242 Fax: 56-2-633-8935 www.3com.com

Abbott Laboratories

Development/Manufacturer/ sale of diversified health care products and services
Address: Abbott Laboratories de Chile Ltd., Diagnostics Division, Casilla 169-D, Santiago, Chile
www.abbott.com

AETNA Inc.

Manage health care, annuities, individual retirement and group pension services, and asset management products worldwide
Address: Aetna S.A., Av. Sueccia 211 Providencia, Santiago, Chile
Phone: 56-2-364-2000 Fax: 56-2-364-2281 www.aetna.com

Alcoa Inc.

World's leading producer of aluminum and alumina; mining, refining, smelting, fabricating and recycling.
Alusud Embalajes Ltda, Santiago Chile www.alcoa.com

American Express

Travel, Travelers cheques, charge card and financial services
Address: American Express Bank Ltd., Agustinas 1360, Santiago Chile
Phone: 56-2-699-3919 Fax: 56-2-672-7686 www.americanexpress.com

Anheuser-Busch International Inc.

Malt Production, aluminum beverage containers, rice milling, real estate development, metalized and paper label printing railcar repair and theme-park facilities
Compania Cerveceria Unidas S.A., Santiago, Chile www.anheuser-busch.com

AON Corporation

Insurance brokers worldwide; underwriters accident and health insurance, specialty and professional insurance; and provides risk management consultation
Address: AON Claro, Santa Cruz SA, Hundaya 60 piso 7, Santiago, Chile
Phone: 56-2-331-5100 Fax: 56-2-331-5116 www.aon.com

Baker & McKenzie

International Legal Services

Address: Cruzat, Ortuzar & Mackenna (Baker McKenzie), Nueva Tajamar 481, Torre North piso 21, Las Condes Santiago, Chile
Phone: 56-2-367-7000 Fax: 56-2-362-9875 www.bakerinfo.com

Baker Hughes Incorporated

Develop and apply technology to drill, complete and produce oil and natural gas wells; provide separation systems to petroleum, municipal, continuous process and mining industries

Baker Hughes Process

Address: El Rosal – 4571- Huechuraba, Santiago de Chile, Chile

Phone: 56-2-740-0105 Fax: 56-2-740-0560

Baker Transworld Inc.

Address: L. Navarro 1066 sur 401, Casilla 40-0, Punta Arenas, Chile

Phone: 56-61-241124 Fax: 56-61-248169

www.bakerhughes.com

Bechtel Group Inc.

General contractors in engineering and construction

Address: Bechtel International Corp., Nueva de Lyon 72 piso 4, Providencia Santiago, Chile Phone: 56-2-234-4747 Fax: 56-2-232-5208 www.bechtel.com

Bristol-Myers Squibb Company

Pharmaceutical and food preparations, medical and surgical instruments

Address 1: Bristol-Myers Squibb-Chile, Av. Balmaceda 2174, Santiago de Chile, Chile

Address 2: ConvaTec, Una Compania de Bristol- Myers Squibb, Ave. Presidente, Balmaceda 2168, Santiago Chile

www.bms.com

Burson-Marsteller

Public Relations/public affairs consultants

Address: Burson-Marsteller, Av. El Bosque Norte 0440 Of. 404, Santiago, Chile

Phone: 56-2-203-5085 Fax: 56-2-203-5108 www.bm.com

Buy USA

Leading sectors for US exports and investments to Chile <http://www.buyusa.gov/chile/en/123.html>

C.B. Richard Ellis

Commercial real estate services

Address: CB Richard Ellis, Roger De Flor No. 2871 – Ofic. 103, Esquina Av. El Bosque Norte, Las Condes Santiago, Chile www.cbrichardellis.com

Cisco Systems, Inc.

Develop/mfr/market computer hardware and software networking systems

Address: Cisco Systems Chile, Nueva Tajamar 555 Sur 1902, Las Condes Santiago, Chile Phone: 56-2-365-0655 Fax: 56-2-365-0653 www.cisco.com

Citigroup, Inc

Provides insurance and financial services worldwide www.citigroup.com

1st Location

Address: Citibank N.A., Ahumada 48, PO Box 2125, Santiago, Chile

2nd Location

Address: Citibank N.A., Providencia 2653 piso 3, Av. Andres Bello 2687 piso 7, Santiago, Chile Phone: 56-2-338-3000 Fax: 56-2-338-3013

The Clorox Company

Manufacturer Soap and detergents, and domestic consumer packaged products

Clorox Chile SA, Santiago, Chile www.clorox.com

Coca-Cola Company

Has a successful worldwide internship program

Address: Coca-Cola de Chile S.A., CL-SANTIAGO, Av. Presidente Kennedy #5757, Piso 12, Las Condes, Santiago Chile Phone: (56-2) 426 – 3131

<http://coca-cola.com>

D’Arcy Masius Benton & Bowles Inc. (DMB&B)

Full service international advertising and communications group

Address: DMB&B, Kennedy Av. 5116 piso 4°, Vitacuram Santiago, Chile

Phone: 56-2-242-1920 Fax: 56-2-242-1910 www.dmbb.com

Dell Computer Corporation

Direct marketer and supplier of computer systems

Address: Dell Computer de Chile Corp., Coyancura 2283 of. 302, Providencia Santiago, Chile Phone: 56-

2-685-6800 Fax: 56-2-232-4290 www.dell.com

Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu International

Accounting, audit, tax and management consulting services

Address: Deloitte & Touche, Mac Iver 225, Casilla 3147, Santiago 1, Chile

www.deloitte.com

DHL Worldwide Express

Worldwide air express carrier

DHL Worldwide Express, San Francisco 301, Santiago Chile

Phone: 56-2-638-4502 www.dhl.com

The Dow Chemical Company

Manufacturer Chemicals, plastics, pharmaceuticals, agricultural products, consumer products

Address: Dow Quimica Chilena SA, Suecia 281, Casilla 14590, Providencia, Santiago, Chile

www.dow.com

Duracell International Inc.

Manufacturer Batteries www.duracell.com

Address: Duracell Chile, Roman Diaz 1271, Providencia Santiago, Chile

Eastman Kodak Company

Develop/Manufacturer Photo and chemical products, information management/video/copier systems, fibers/plastics for various industry

Address 1: Kodak Chilena SAF, Alonso Ovalle 1180, Casilla 2797, Santiago, Chile

Address 2: LOOK, Eleodoro Yanez 1804, Santiago, Chile

Address 3: Muebles Andes, Rura 68 No. 6910, Casilla 547, Santiago, Chile

Address 4: Nueva Vision, Hermandado de Aguirre 939, Casilla 9727, Santiago, Chile

www.kodak.com

Ernst & Young, LLP

Accounting and audit, tax and management consulting services

Address: Ernst & Young, Paseo Phillips 56, Casilla 50080 & 2186, Santiago, Chile

Phone: 56-2-6396125 Fax: 56-2-638-3622 www.eyi.com

Exxon Mobil Corporation

Petroleum exploration, production, refining; Manufacturer Petroleum and chemical products; coal and minerals www.exxon.com

Address 1: Comapnia Minera disputada de Las Condes SA, Pedro de Valdivia 291, Santiago 9, Chile

Address 2: Exxon Mobil, Inc., Avda. Vitacura 4465- Las Condes, Santiago, Chile

Phone: 56-2-299-4000

Address 3: Exxon Mobil, Inc., San Antonio Chemical Plant, Barros Luco esq. 7 Norte, San Antonio, Chile

Frito-Lay Company

Manufacturer Snack food products

Evercrisp Snack Products de Chile SA, Santiago, Chile www.fritolay.com

General Electric Company

Diversified manufacturing, technology and services

Address: General Electric de Chile S.A./ GE International, Casilla 21003, Chile

Phone: 56-2-555-3031 Fax: 56-2-555-0361 www.ge.com

General Motors Corporation

Manufacturer Full line vehicles, automotive electronics, commercial technologies, telecommunications, space, finance

Address: General Motors Chile SA, Casilla 14370, Santiago Chile www.gm.com

The Gillette Company

Develop/Manufacturer Personal care/use products: blades and razors, toiletries, cosmetics, stationary www.gillette.com

Inversiones Gilco(Chile) Ltda., Santiago, Chile

Oral-B Laboratories de Chile SA, Santiago, Chile

Productos Gillette Chile Ltda., Santiago Chile

Publicidad Intensa Ltda., Santiago Chile

Union Quimica Americana SA (UNISA), Santiago, Chile

The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company

Manufacturer Tires, automotive belts and hose, conveyor belts, chemicals; oil pipeline transmission

www.goodyear.com

Address: Goodyear de Chile SAIC, Casilla 3607, Santiago, Chile

Grant Thornton International

Accounting, audit, tax and management consulting services

Address: Grant Thornton Intl, Grant Thornton Bldg., Agustinas No 853 Piso 11°, PO Box 3577, Santiago

Chile Phone: 56-2-633-8669 Fax: 56-2-632-7359

www.grantthornton.com

Hewlett-Packard Company

Manufacturer Computing, communications and measurement products and services

Address: Hewlett-Packard SA, Av. Andres Bello 2777 piso 24, Edif. De la Industria, Las Condes Santiago, Chile

Phone: 56-2-230-1620 Fax: 56-2-203-3234 www.hp.com

The Home Depot Inc.

Home improvement warehouse-style, retail chain stores

Address: The Home Depot Chile, S.A., Cerro Colorado 5030 Sur 410, Las Conches Santiago, Chile Phone:

56-2-362-1991 www.homedepot.com

Homestake Mining Company

Precious metal and mineral mining and gold mining

Agua de la Falda, SA, Santiago, Chile www.homestake.com

Intel

Branch in Chile offering jobs <http://www.intel.com/jobs/chile/sites/santiago.htm>

Johnson & Johnson

Manufacturer/ distributor/R&D pharmaceutical, health care and cosmetic products

Address: Johnson & Johnson de Chile SA, Clasificador 13333, Correo Central, Santiago, Chile
www.jnj.com

Kellogg Company

Manufacturer Ready-to-eat cereals and convenience foods

Address: Kellogg Chile SA, Attn: Chile Office, One Kellogg Square, PO box 3599, Battle Creek, MI 49016-3599

www.kelloggs.com

KPMG International LLP

Accounting and audit, tax and management consulting services

Address: KPMG Peat Marwick, Miraflores 222 piso 9, Santiago, Chile

Phone: 56-2-639-4387 Fax: 56-2-639-4438

www.kpmg.com

Eli Lilly & Company

Manufacturer Pharmaceuticals and animal health products

Address: Eli Lilly Chile S.A., San Eugenio 567, Santiago Chile

Phone: 56-2-239-8952 Fax: 56-2-239-2814

www.lilly.com

J.P. Morgan Chase & Co. Inc.

Provides integrated financial solutions for institutions and individuals worldwide, including asset management, investment banking, and commercial banking

Address 1: J.P. Morgan Chase & Co., Casilla 9192, Centro Comercial de la Merced, MacIver y Huerfanos, Santiago, Chile

Address 2: J.P. Morgan Chase & Co., Agustinas 1235 piso 5, Santiago, Chile

Phone: 56-2-699-0068 Fax: 56-2-690-5177

www.jpmorganchase.com

Motorola, Inc.

Manufacturer Communications equipment, semiconductors and cell phones

Address: Motorola Chile S.A., Av. Nueva Tajamar 481 Sur 1702, Las Condes, Santiago Chile

Phone: 56-2-338-9000 Fax: 56-2-338-9090

www.motorola.com

Nalco Chemical Company

Chemicals for water and waste water treatment, oil products and refining, industry processes; water and energy management service

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Phone: 56-2-624-6540 Fax: 56-2-624-6508

www.nalco.com

PriceWaterhouseCoopers LLP

Accounting and auditing, tax and management, and human resource consulting services

www.pwcglobal.com

1st Location

Address: PriceWaterhouseCoopers, Anibal Pinto 215, piso 6th sur 607, Casilla de Correo 705, Concepcion

Chile Phone: 56-41-241772 Fax: 56-41-230154

2nd Location

Address: PriceWaterhouseCoppers, Edif. Espana, Huerfanos 863 piso 4, Casillo de Correo 3337, Santiago,

Chile Phone: 56-2-638-3032 Fax: 56-2-633-3329

Procter & Gamble

Personal care, food, laundry, cleaning and industry products

Address: Procter & Gamble, Av. Nueva Tajamar 481, Torre Sur-Of. 901, Las Comedes, Santiago, Chile

Offers internships and seminars in Chile for students abroad. Check their website for current positions.
<http://www.pg.com>

Raytheon Company

Manufacturer Diversified electronics, appliances, aviation, energy and environmental products; publishing, industry and construction services
Raytheon International, Santiago, Chile www.raytheon.com

Wyeth-Ayerst International Inc.

Antibiotics and pharmaceutical products
Address: Laboratorios Wyeth Inc., Casilla 263-V, Correo 21, Santiago Chile
Phone: 56-2-238-2232 www.ahp.com/wyeth

Xerox Corporation

Manufacturer Document processing equipment, systems and supplies www.xerox.com
Address 1: Xerox De Chile, S.A., Casilla Postal 1076, Carrera 1807, Antofagasta, Chile
Address 2: Xerox De Chile, S.A., Cochrane 879, Valparaiso, Chile
Address 3: Xerox De Chile, S.A., Casilla Postal 14889, Correo 21 Stgo., Alcantara # 107, Las Condes Santiago, Chile Phone: 56-2-338-7000 Fax: 56-2-338-7432
Address 4: Xerox De Chile, S.A., Casilla Postal 2747, San Martin 880 5 piso, Concepcion, Chile

Young & Rubicam Inc.

Advertising, public relations, direct marketing and sales promotion, corporate and product ID management.
Prolam/Young & Rubicam, Santiago, Chile www.yr.com

Volunteer Opportunities

Action Without Borders

Posts volunteer opportunities searchable by country, including for Chile.
<http://www.idealists.org>

Student Visas & Work Permits

A student visa is required for stays longer than 90 days and requires the following:

- Valid passport
- Evidence of sufficient funds to cover stay
- Return or onward ticket
- a letter of acceptance from the institute you'll be studying at
- a letter of confirmation that the school and courses are government approved
- a letter of police clearance (e.g. Canadian Police Certificate for Visa Requirements, available from the RCMP)
- a doctor's health certificate
- 3 passport-sized photos
- Time required to issue visa: 24 hours-7 days depending on whether application has to be referred to the relevant authorities

The cost of a student visa is approx. US\$50.00 and is valid for one year. It is illegal to work in Chile under a student visa.

United States Embassy <http://www.usembassy.cl/contents-en.htm> Address: Andres Bello 2800, Las Condes, and Santiago, Chile

Housing

There are a number of different areas to live in and around Santiago. The tourist attractions, universities, and corporate headquarters are all located in the old center, or Santiago Centro. The surrounding areas are

the districts of Providencia, Las Condes and Vitacura. The last two areas are often called "Barrio Alto", not only because of its close proximity to the mountains (and higher altitude) but also because it is home to many upper middle class to upper class Chileans.

The old center of Santiago is the traditional place to live for students, especially because of its low prices and the vicinity of the big universities. Definitely not luxurious, visiting students are likely to find a native students' community willing to share its simply equipped apartment.

The district called Providencia is a favorite due to its central situation and beautifully landscaped neighborhoods. The old city center, the new business center in Las Condes or some of the university campuses in Ñuñoa are all easily accessible. The rents here are usually slightly more expensive than those in Santiago Centro, and modern apartments on the main metro line 1 tend to be the most expensive.

Ñuñoa is located to the south of Providencia and is a good alternative for those wanting to economize without worrying about longer commuting distances. Nevertheless, the western part of Ñuñoa is quite well connected to the center by the metro line 5. It is considered a safe district in most of its parts.

Las Condes and Vitacura are generally much too expensive for students and are only accessible by bus or private vehicle.

Contact Chile website lists many available vacancies/rentals that they take reservations for:

<http://www.contactchile.cl/en/rooms-chile.php> (for rooms/home stays) or

<http://www.contactchile.cl/en/apartments-chile.php> (for furnished apartments)

☀*Spain Exchange* website lists student housing offers: <http://www.spainexchange.com/housing/>

Universities located in Santiago: Pontifical Catholic University "Madre y Maestra," "Universidad Catolica de Chile," "Universidad de Chile," "Universidad de Santiago de Chile," and the University of Santiago de Compostela.

Insider Tips

I spent my time in Santiago as a student and my experiences were shaped accordingly. In any other role, the city would have appeared, smelled and tasted differently to me. I would have heard different noises. I would have felt different things. Therefore, the experiences I took away with me string together in a strange way. The Santiago I walked through, with the Andes to the east and the sea in the distance to the west, is a different city with different streets and stray dogs.

Getting around the city is very easy. There are thousands of black and yellow taxis which are quite cheap—I heard one person say that Santiago has more taxis than New York City. The subway system is efficient, clean, and safe; it is sacrilegious to say so, but I actually came to prefer it to the system of my city, Washington, D.C. But, the most inexpensive and entertaining way to travel within the city is by the “micros”, or buses. Do not try to understand the system, if it can be said there is one. There are hundreds of routes throughout the city which overlap each other heavily at times, running east/west across the city. Each route is given a route number, but it is more or less arbitrary, so the only way to become adept is by memorizing the route numbers which correspond to the area you wish to go to. In each bus' front window, there is a placard which lists the major streets and “comunas” (areas of the city) on the micro routes. There is no schedule or timetable, so sometimes while I waited 30 minutes for the 235, two 341 micros passed by in a five minute span. It can be frustrating, but as I mentioned earlier, usually I could hop onto a variety of buses which would all take me to the general area of my destination. However, during rush hour, I never had to wait more than a few minutes for a bus I could take.

One way to try to appreciate how the system works is by understanding each route as an individual business operating independently of all other routes. The bus drivers compete against each other for business which means that they drive aggressively—some of the craziest driving I've ever seen in a 25 foot vehicle. Often times, the drivers' sense of ownership and individuality came through in the decoration of the bus. The drivers let on musicians, vendors, and beggars to give their pitch or play their piece.

The top fare was equivalent to about \$0.50 when I left. The government has had a difficult time regulating the system. One method now is in place involving small paper tickets, but it is inefficient and easily abused. Some of the drivers pocket at least part of the fare when they can, even though sporadic visits from ticket-counters are supposed to keep them honest. Someone told me once that the whole system is owned

by the Chilean mafia, but I don't know if that's true. I also heard that in a few years, the government plans to overhaul the system completely in an effort to curb pollution from the aging buses and to bring some semblance of organization to the system. While I agree that the pollution problem needs to be addressed, I rather enjoyed the frenetic and unpredictable nature of the micros. It made for an interesting ride every time.

I lived with a family, as did everyone in my program. Occasionally, we would run into other American university students who did not live with families, but instead rented apartments or leased rooms from a family looking to take on university students. The former circumstance is more rare since it is more expensive, but not unheard of. The latter situation is more common. Renting differs from my own experience in that I was looked on as another member of the family rather than having a landlord/tenant relationship. Many families have a small one or two room house, a "casita," next to the main house which can be used as an apartment for a few borders. I'm not sure what kinds of arrangements are made with food and laundry, but I imagine a little of both would be provided. I think the universities have a directory or listing of interested families, but, of course, I never had to use it.

As far as internship opportunities, again, I didn't have one, but I know of someone who did during the summer. Proficiency in Spanish is a prerequisite, I'm sure, but the attitude of Chilean businesses would be open and encouraging to North American involvement of any kind. Santiago is quite developed and has the most stable economy in South America. Yet, it is quite apparent in the attitude of its people that the nation is looking to establish itself in the international scene, politically and economically. In its efforts to validate itself to the rest of the world, Chilean companies would probably be very accommodating.

Santiago has many parks, but I would recommend two specifically for different reasons. The first is Parque Quinta Normal in the center of the city. The park is old, set near the downtown area amidst the activity and noise and heated smog of the city center. In the park, set off by a high fence, it is quiet with enormous palms trees and sycamores. On the expansive grounds, there is an outdoor pool and several museums, but I would recommend neither. Instead, I usually sat on a bench in the shade and read or ate my lunch instead of attending class. The other park is Parque Apoquindo, on the upper side of the city in a more suburban setting. Bordering a large mall of the same name, the ambiance is less romantic and more commercialized, but I still spent a lot of time there because of its proximity to my house. It has several basketball and tennis courts, a large field, and a rose garden. Because it is located away from the polluted city center, the Andes appear as though they rise up above the field and on a clear day it looks like you could throw a stone over the mountains.

All of the guidebooks do a good job of highlighting nice restaurants and bars in Bellavista, Suecia, and around Mercado Central. The restaurants serve good seafood and the bars are lively. Two places my friends and I frequented that probably are not listed in the guidebooks. As often as we could, we ate at a little place called "Way's Gyros" located on Alameda, a little east of Baquedano that served gyros and salads of two varieties: chicken and pork. They make the food right in front of you and, while it is not culturally Chilean, the food is absolutely delicious.

A bar we went to often was called "La Ciudadano," a block or two south of Alameda near Manuel Montt. It's a small bar that plays supposedly popular American music, but the element is quintessentially Chilean. We never encountered any other gringos, Americans, there. It has relatively inexpensive specials on mixed drinks and weak Sangria. Many bars in Santiago have sets of dice and cups with which to play Cacho, a popular game at parties. I'm not going to explain the rules but I recommend getting a Chilean youth to teach you as soon as you get there. It is a simple but nuanced game of betting and bluffing. Other students in my program bought sets to bring back to the U.S.

I would also recommend visiting Mendoza, Argentina, which is only a few hour bus ride over the Andes from Santiago. The bus ride itself is worth the trip as the narrow road makes hundreds of cutbacks up the steep mountainsides. Be careful when planning, though, because the pass is often closed in the winter due to snow—you might be stuck in Mendoza for a few extra days. In the city, there are restaurants called "tenedor libres" which can be loosely translated to mean "all-you-can-eat" places. One in particular, "Las Tijanas," only charged 15 Argentinean pesos (= \$5 US) for the most elaborate and classy buffet spread I

have ever seen. Its selection of meat was amazing. I would imagine that such a restaurant in America would charge at least \$25 US for the same food. Indeed, many consumer products like books, shoes, perfume, and leather goods are cheaper in Argentina. Since I left South America, the Argentinean economy has improved, but prices of certain items will surely be lower than in Santiago.

Mendoza is known for its wine. I set up a tour through my hostel and visited two vineyards on the outskirts of the city—one, a more commercialized operation and the other a smaller, local label that uses more traditional methods of production. A nice bottle only costs a few dollars and they made for good gifts. Chilean wine is also very inexpensive and there are many vineyards around Santiago to visit.

Attractions/Transportation

Architecture

The very heart of Santiago is the Plaza de Armas, which lies along the Alameda about five blocks south of the river. The city's European heritage is evident in the Parque Forestal, designed by a French landscaper on the model of Parisian parks. You can walk down tree-lined paths along the Mapocho, past small squares and the Museo de Bellas Artes. The Mercado Central is of British design (made with materials imported from England) and sells a wide variety of fresh and exotic produce.

Across the river, the Bellavista neighborhood is home to many restaurants and cafes. The Parque Metropolitano is Santiago's recreational epicenter, with walking trails, picnic areas, and a zoo. The top of Cerro San Cristóbal offers stunning views of the city and is accessible by bus, rail, or by foot for the most adventurous students. Also in the Bellavista area is La Chascona, the house designed by Nobel-Prize-winning poet Pablo Neruda - whose work was recently showcased in the film "Il Postino".

Entertainment

http://www.spanishabroad.com/chile/santiago/s_nightlife.htm
http://www.wguides.com/city/102/city_entertainment.cfm

Transportation

Overview of public transportation in Chile:

http://www.footprintsrecruiting.com/content.php?cat=426&sc=3&abarcar_Session=ff61cb45b06088c35a284a06ce468d31

Subway map of Santiago: <http://www.realadventures.com/listings/0001009.htm>

Publications

Santiago has a number of privately-owned newspapers, the most popular of which are the conservative El Mercurio, also available online at www.emol.com, and La Tercera at www.tercera.cl. A popular business-oriented newspaper is El Diario Financiero available at www.eldiario.cl. La Nacion is the government-owned newspaper and is available at www.lanacion.cl. While conservative sources prevail, there are other newspapers and magazines that tend to lean left of center (The Clinic and the bi-weekly La Epoca) and centrist (La Epoca or LaHora) viewpoints.

Safety

Consular Information Sheet: http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1088.html

According to the U.S. Department of State, Americans living or traveling in Chile are encouraged to register with the U.S. Embassy through the State Department's travel registration website, <https://travelregistration.state.gov>, and to obtain updated information on travel and security within Chile.

Americans without Internet access may register directly with the U.S. Embassy. By registering, American citizens make it easier for the Embassy or Consulate to contact them in case of emergency. The potential for terrorist activity is low. There has been some politically motivated violence among indigenous communities in southern Chile, none of which has affected Americans or other foreigners. Potential for civil disturbance is low, although demonstrations, sometimes violent, do occur, particularly on the anniversary of the September 11, 1973 coup against the government of President Salvador Allende. For the latest security information, Americans traveling abroad should regularly monitor the Department's Internet web site at <http://travel.state.gov> where the current [Worldwide Caution Public Announcement](#) , [Travel Warnings and Public Announcements](#) can be found.

Up-to-date information of safety and security can also be obtained by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll free in the U.S., or for callers outside the U.S. and Canada, a regular toll-line at 1-317-472-2328. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays). Crime rates are relatively low. Most crimes against foreigners involve pick pocketing or theft from purses, backpacks, or rental cars. There have been few violent crimes against Americans in Chile, although visitors should be as alert to the possibility of crime in Santiago and other cities as they would be in any large city. Tourists using taxis in Santiago should be alert to possible scams involving currency switching. There have been reports of taxi drivers switching 10,000 peso notes given them by passengers for 1,000 peso notes and demanding additional payment. Since the notes look similar, passengers should be very careful to indicate to the driver when paying in the larger denomination. Police are generally responsive to reports of crime by Americans.

If you are the victim of a crime while overseas, in addition to reporting to local police, please contact the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate for assistance. The Embassy/Consulate staff can, for example, assist you to find appropriate medical care, to contact family members or friends and explain how funds could be transferred. Although the investigation and prosecution of the crime is solely the responsibility of local authorities, consular officers can help you to understand the local criminal justice process and to find an attorney if needed.

American Consulate phone number in Chile: 56-2 232-2600