

GENERAL USEFUL INFORMATION

INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Santiago's international airport known as Arturo Merino Benítez is located 15 km from city's down town. Many International carriers from all over the world fly into Santiago. The main Chilean airline, LAN Chile, operates from Europe, North America, Asia and South. Efficient taxi and bus services link the international airport with the main hotels and residential areas of Santiago as it is described below.

International Airport A. Merino

Tel - information:

(56 2) 6901752-6901753

CLIMATE

Santiago has mediterranean weather where the four seasons are clearly noticeable, summer and winter being the longest ones. Summer lasts from mid November through March with temperatures ranging between 15 ° C (59° F) to 32° C (90° F), and relative humidity of 50-70%. Winter time lasts from May to September with temperatures ranging between 0°C (32°F) to 16°C (60°F), in average.

CLOTHING

For the time of the Conference light dresses are appropriate, since neither cold nor rain is expected. Formal dressing dominates in Chile during working time

COMMUNICATIONS

Santiago has an excellent telecommunications system which links easily to any city in the world. Direct dial and collect calls can be placed from any telephone. Pay phones are located throughout the city and operate either with telephone cards or local currency coins. Portable cellular telephones are available to visitors for a small rental charge. The International Direct Dial (IDD) code for Chile is 56 and the city code for Santiago is 2.

ELECTRIC CURRENT

The electric current in Chile is 220-240 volts, 50 cycles, AC. TV broadcasting uses NTSC system.

CURRENCY

The local currency is the Chilean Peso (\$). The exchange rates are published daily in the newspapers. Cash and traveller checks (especially US Dollars) can be exchanged at all banks or exchange offices as well as in all major hotels. All major credit cards are accepted in Chile and some stores even accept foreign currency.

CHILE'S POLICE

Carabineros de Chile is the national police force, in charge of traffic, and of order surveillance.

LANGUAGE

The official language spoken in Chile is Spanish (Castilian). English is the predominant foreign language taught in schools. French, German, Italian, Portuguese are also but much less currently spoken.

MEDICAL SERVICES

Santiago has several of international level hospitals, clinics and medical doctors under private regime. Visitors are advised to take with them a health insurance certificate.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT MEANS

In addition to taxis (yellow and black), Santiago is well connected by buses and four underground lines (the Metro). There are also special taxis which are operated by licensed companies. These can be found at the airport, hotels or can be booked by phone. From the international airport and the main shopping centers most of the special taxis work on a fixed fare by area which is paid directly to the driver. The taxi fare, however, must be displayed electronically inside the car.

TIPPING

Hotels generally include any service charge on the bill. Restaurants tips are discretionary but often the norm remains not over 10 per cent of the bill.

VISA

As the Chilean Foreign Ministry bases its actions on reciprocity, visitors from some foreign countries will require a visa which is to be obtained by applying to the nearest Chilean Consulate. Requirements for a tourist visa include a passport valid during the time of stage in the country.

CULTURAL

Santiago has many cinemas, theaters, museums and libraries. The municipal theatre hosts opera and ballets from April to December every year. Special exhibitions may be visited at the Beau Arts Museum. In the surroundings of Santiago there are many world famous wine producers who may be visited to taste their renowned wines. Special tours to the house of the poet Pablo Neruda's (Literature's Nobel Prize winner) can be arranged.

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