

# Chile

## Information for applicants

### Chile

Chile is one of South America's most economically successful countries and is characterised by a high level of political stability. The country extends over 4,200 km from north to south between the Andes to the east and the Pacific Ocean to the west, with an average width of around just 180 km. Chile covers an area of 756,096 km<sup>2</sup>, making it approximately twice the size of Germany, yet with a population of only 18.5 million or so. The capital city, Santiago de Chile, is home to some 7.3 million people. The Chilean landscape has several features of particular interest, including more than 2,000 volcanoes.

### Climate and sights

Stretching such a great distance from north to south, Chile spans a wide range of climate zones, from the hot Atacama Desert in the north, one of the driest places on earth, to the eternal ice of Patagonia. Accordingly, Arica, a city in the north of the country, has an average annual temperature of 18.7°C, compared with 6°C in the southern city of Punta Arenas.

In the winter months from June to August, the central zone around Santiago sees day-time temperatures of around 14°C, sometimes falling to 2°C at night.

Precipitation can be more frequent between May and August, primarily taking the form of snow in the Andes (which has excellent ski resorts) and rainfall in the south.

In summer (December to February), the climate is arid and hot, with an average day-time temperature of 30°C, becoming significantly cooler at night (10°C to 15°C).

Chile is a well developed tourist destination, with a good medium- and long-distance bus network and good roads for car drivers.

There are numerous interesting places for families to visit in the countryside as well as the cities. The capital, Santiago, for instance, is situated in a valley surrounded by the Andes and the Chilean Coastal Range. The palm tree-lined Plaza de Armas in the city centre features the neoclassical Metropolitan Cathedral and the National History Museum. The large Parque Metropolitano boasts outdoor swimming pools, a botanical garden and a zoo.

### Medical care

Chile offers very good medical care. The cities in particular generally provide good medical care should you fall ill. Santiago has a large number of good hospitals conforming to international standards and numerous specialist doctors, including ones who speak German. However, there can be technical and hygiene-related issues with medical care in rural areas. It is recommended that you take out worldwide health insurance cover and a repatriation policy.

### Accommodation and quality of life

Santiago has a wide range of suitable accommodation. You can expect to pay between EUR 500 and EUR 800 per month for a standard, furnished one-bedroom apartment in Santiago Centro and between EUR 600 and EUR 1,000 for a similar apartment in districts such as Providencia, Las Condes or Vitacura. Luxury apartments in prime locations can cost up to EUR 6,000 per month. In addition to this, you will need to pay for gas, water, electricity, a telephone connection, etc., and cover gate-keeper and maintenance fees, as well as a cleaning charge for the building and communal facilities.

Santiago de Chile is the main focal point of cultural life in Chile, providing a highly diverse cultural offering, including many museums, theatres, literary readings and concerts of all musical styles, from classical to pop/rock.

## Shops and services

There is an excellent range of shops and services in Chile, with all manner of goods readily available. The cities offer a sufficient number of large supermarkets selling food and everyday essentials, and there are many retail outlets and markets. The neighbourhood markets or *ferias*, some of which run several times a week, are the best places to buy fresh fruit and vegetables. It is also easy to get hold of organic produce and special items in the larger cities, though at higher prices.

Chile has excellent mobile and landline networks. Broadband Internet access is also very good and affordable, with flat-rate prices starting from EUR 20 per month.

## Accompanying partners and children

Accompanying partners can work in Chile, but cannot be accredited as accompanying partners if they do so. In such cases, the visa process is conducted independently of the seconded spouse. It is simpler and quicker to apply for a visa from Germany. Waiting times can be longer if you apply after arriving in Chile.

**Schools and childcare:** Santiago has numerous German schools which admit children to their kindergartens from four years of age and offer education programmes leading to the German

international *Abitur* qualification. The trilingual (German, Spanish and English) focus of teaching and learning helps school leavers to access international universities and thus creates excellent job prospects. The academic year runs from March to mid-December.

## Find out more

<https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aussenpolitik/laenderinformationen/chile-node>

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