

LATIN AMERICA PRACTICES AND SOFT SKILLS FOR

# LAPASSION

AN INNOVATION ORIENTED NETWORK



## How to survive in the Chilean Jungle

### Santiago – 2018

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## How to survive in the Chilean Jungle

Chile is a long, narrow country along the southern half of the west coast of South America, between the Andes and the Pacific Ocean. The bordering countries are Peru to the north, Bolivia to north east and Argentina to the east. Chile has over 4,500km of coast on the South Pacific Ocean.

The Chileans are among the fast-talkers of the Hispanic world. This wouldn't be too bad if they didn't also swallow parts of words that actually enhance comprehension - such as the final 's', which will leave you guessing as to singular or plural most of the time. Chilean Spanish has a multitude of words and expressions that are only used inside the country, or only a few of the neighboring countries. Many go back to the influence of the Quechua and Mapudungun languages spoken by the native population of the area.

**If you are walking** through the streets of a Chilean city for the first time, you will need to correct your idea of the "typical Latino". The Chileans have a familiar European appearance. These people have been influenced by the continuous stream of immigrants, but due to their isolated position they did not have much of an impact in world history for centuries. You will only learn more of the special characteristics of these people on a closer look. In Santiago city and its metropolitan area live over 6 million people, **more than a third** of the entire population of Chile. Santiago is the political, financial and cultural center of the country.

## Transport from the airport

At the airport once you pass customs, but before you leave the terminal you will find the counters of authorized transportation companies. We recommend you get a transfer form there to your hotel and not the service of the taxi drivers that are outside the luggage terminal.

Be careful with the large number of taxi drivers in the arrival area as they insistently offer their services and immediately try to take the cart with suitcases if you are the least bit diplomatic.

The standard rate should be around \$15.000 - \$18.000 towards Providencia or Las Condes.

## Taxis

Taking a taxi in Chile is safe and relatively cheap. The black cars with their yellow roofs can be hailed anywhere. In Santiago, there is a base price of 300 pesos (USD 0.50) plus around 130 pesos for each 200 meters driven (or per minute when waiting) – during the evening/nighttime rates can be a bit more expensive. You can follow the fare on the meter which has to be at plain sight by law. Short rides (10 -15 minute ride) should cost less than \$5.000.

Recommendations:

- If the taxi driver seems lost insist that he pause the meter while he finds the way.
- When paying, be sure to **count the change** and don't leave any valuables in the vehicle.

- It's always safer, especially at night, to call a **Radio Taxi** instead of waiting for any taxi on the street corner. Radio taxis are just a little more expensive than "normal taxis", they arrive within 10 minutes and offer more comfortable and modern cars.
- You can also download the Safer Taxi / [EasyTaxi App](#) and request a cab that way.

*\*Tipping is not customary for taxi service.*

## Public transport

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If you are planning on riding the metro or the buses you will need to purchase a **BIP!** Card. This card has a one-time cost and can be topped up at any metro station or at specific newspaper stands. Luckily we have one right around the corner of the DDF headquarters, in case you need to fill it up. You can also buy a ticket at the metro station in case you don't want the BIP! Card. Don't be alarmed if you get charged different fares at different times of the day as this responds to peak hour rates.

## Wi-Fi

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Wi-Fi will be available all week at our headquarters though an institutional connection. *Eduroam* is not available at Duoc. You can find Wi-Fi connections and cafes, restaurants and at some metro stations.

## Phones

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Roaming rates are super expensive, so we recommend you turn it off data roaming on arrival. Virgin has a prepaid chips that can be installed in your phone which will allow internet access and telephone calls (**Plan \$10.000**: 125 MIN - 100 SMS - 500 MB).

## Cash

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The official currency for Chile is the Chilean Peso (CLP) and we use thousands! One thousand pesos is roughly US\$ 1.5. Notes come in denominations of \$1.000, \$2.000, \$5.000, \$10.000 and \$20.000 differentiated by color. Even though there are smaller amounts in coins, the most usual ones are \$50, \$100 and \$500.

Credit card payment is a normal way to pay, but be sure to have cash for smaller purchases such as taxis, sodas or nibbles.

## Tips

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In restaurants and cafés a tip of **10%** is expected. It is not included in the bill. Usually people leave a tip on the table when they leave. It is customary to take all the change first and then leave a tip.

## Food & drinks

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Typical meals in Chile consist mainly of lots of meat, especially beef and chicken, rice and potatoes, fresh fruit and vegetables from the fields of Central Chile. Even though seafood could be the common daily meal in Chile with its 4,500 km long coast, it is not. But you will surely find a **fresh seafood** selection on every menu. Whatever your meal is, you should accompany it with a good Pisco Sour!

**Coffee culture** in Chile is big. You will find many specialist coffee shops around the city where you can order a “café café” (real coffee), which usually is accompanied by a glass of soda. Be careful of the “café con piernas” (café with legs) in the city center – where young women in miniskirts or bikinis serve the espressos! (*These places are not recommended for women*)

## Time Zone

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Santiago is GMT **minus 3 hours**. This means that the majority of the countries in central Europe have a time difference of 5 hours (ahead). Daylight savings time in Chile was suspended at the beginning of 2015.

You can calculate the time difference between your city and Santiago using the following website:

<http://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/>

## Voltage

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The voltage is 220 V / 50 Hz, and appliances also need an adapter to plug into the Chilean sockets, which can be found in supermarkets or specialty stores. Our plugs look like this:



## Climate & clothing

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Considering Chile’s position on the globe, the seasons are opposite to the ones in the northern hemisphere. The climate in Santiago is similar to the Mediterranean. In the winter – mid of May until August – you have the rainy season, where temperatures vary greatly (at night temperatures drop to freezing point, during the day from 10° to 20 °C). During October – beginning of spring, the temperatures during the day may range from 10° to 27°C.

## Smoking

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A couple of years ago indoor smoking was banned from restaurants and cafes, but you may smoke in terraces or sidewalks. At Duoc, smoking is only allowed in the open air courtyards.

## Standard budget (sample costs)

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*\*Prices were updated on 11.06.2015 and were converted at 1US\$ > \$630 CLP, and 1€ > \$710 CLP.*

Item	CLP	US\$	Euro
Mineral Water	\$ 1.000	USD 2	€ 1,41
Coffee	\$ 1.700	USD 3	€ 2,39
Draft Beer	\$ 2.500	USD 4	€ 3,52
Sandwich	\$ 3.000	USD 5	€ 4,23
Lunch Special	\$ 5.000	USD 8	€ 7,04
Dinner (3 meal and wine)	\$ 20.000	USD 32	€ 28,17
Metro ride	\$ 750	USD 1	€ 1,06
Taxi (per km)	\$ 900	USD 1	€ 1,27
1 liter gas	\$ 800	USD 1	€ 1,13
Ticket at cinema	\$ 5.000	USD 8	€ 7,04
Newspaper	\$ 800	USD 1	€ 1,13
Pack of cigarretes	\$ 3.000	USD 5	€ 4,23

## Preventive measures

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Even though Chile is a country with high **hygiene standards**, you should give your stomach the time to get accustomed to the Chilean food and, at least during your first days, keep in mind the following advice:

Even though the quality of the **tap water** is good, foreigners may find it heavily chlorinated. Therefore, we recommend you avoid drinks which contain tap water or ice-cubes made from tap water. Prefer bottled water – con gas (sparkling) or sin gas (non-sparkling).

*\*Avoid eating at **market stalls** or street vendors*

## Safety

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First of all, you can be sure that Chile is one of the safest countries to visit in Latin America. You can **move about freely** without taking major precautions, but like everywhere in the world, avoid marginalized neighborhoods in the big cities and be careful in the city centers. Chile has a low rate of violent crimes. However, it is possible to become a victim of theft or pick-pocketing.

In cafés or restaurants, never hang your **purse or bag** from the seat-back and never leave your belongings unattended. Some restaurants provide special straps for tying bags to the seats. Better yet, keep it in your lap or at your feet under the table.

Beware of **pickpockets** on the urban buses (micros) and in the metro. Many times they are well-dressed and practice their art in pairs (one distracts while the other takes your wallet).

## **Earthquakes**

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Do not be alarmed if you feel a sudden shake – it is extremely common and may be a small tremor! Chilean buildings are built under strict anti-seismic construction laws so don't think the building will collapse. In the event of an earthquake, you should stay calm, stand under a doorway or beam, stay away from windows and wait until it stops moving to go outside.

## **Free useful apps**

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Public transport: *iTransantiago*

Taxi service: *Safer Taxi, Easy Taxi*

Private picture sharing (for IDFW 2015): *Cluster*

Travel guide: *Tripwolf Chile*