¡Bienvenidos a
Stanford en Santiago!

2015-16
Student Guide
Bing Overseas Studies Program
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HISTORY, POLITICS, & CULTURE

History
Inhabited by the Araucanian people and subjects of the Inca Empire, the territory of what is now Chile was conquered by Spanish conquistadores in the 1530s and placed under the authority of the Viceroyalty of Peru. Independence from Spain was achieved in 1818 after years of battle culminated in the victory of separatist forces led by Bernard O’Higgins, Chile’s George Washington. Chile has long boasted of attaining peaceful political stability fairly early during its republican period; however, its history tells of civil wars, coups, and wars with its neighbors such as the War of the Pacific against Peru and Bolivia, in which Chile emerged victorious and extended its territory to the northern deserts.

Between 1958 and 1973, power shifted from the right to the center and eventually far left under Salvador Allende, whose Socialist government nationalized key sectors of the economy, including banks and the copper industry, but failed to control runaway inflation and sharp economic deterioration.

Allende died in a September 1973 military coup that brought General Augusto Pinochet to power. In the years that followed, more than three thousand people died or disappeared at the hands of Pinochet’s secret police. Pinochet was voted out of power in 1990 after 17 years of dictatorial military rule, but not before changing the Constitution and giving amnesty to the military. Pinochet was arrested in Britain in October 1998 and returned to Chile on humanitarian grounds. In August 2006, the Chilean Supreme Court ruled that Pinochet’s diplomatic immunity could be lifted to have him stand trial for a case involving millions of dollars of public funds found stored in foreign bank accounts, but Pinochet passed away before trial in December 2006.

Since Pinochet, Chile has been ruled by the Center-Left Concertación alliance. In January of 2006, the Concertación candidate, Michelle Bachelet, was elected President of Chile. Bachelet was the first woman to be the leader of a major Latino country. Sebastián Piñera took office in March, 2010, following Bachelet’s first term. He is a businessman, politician, former Senator, and leader of the presidential and parliamentary electoral coalition Coalition for Change. Piñera is one of the wealthiest people in Chile. Bachelet was reelected on March 11, 2014 and will finish her term in 2018.

The government consists of an executive branch, a bicameral legislature, and a judiciary. The presidential palace, La Moneda, is in downtown Santiago, while the Congress is located in the beautiful coastal city of Valparaíso, a short 1.5 hour bus ride from Santiago. The president, who is both the chief of state and head of government (but does not head the armed forces like his US equivalent), is elected for a four-year term. The Chilean Constitution allows candidates to serve an unlimited number of nonconsecutive terms as President.
Culture
Chile has a relatively homogeneous population. Most chilenos are of European (German) or mixed-descent. The remaining indigenous people, the Mapuche, live in rural areas near Temuco. Although other ethnicities are generally accepted, students of African-American and Asian background might stand out, be referred to as "negro" or "chino," and at times receive unwanted attention. These terms are generally not used in a discriminative manner; rather, they are typically used for identification purposes only. Similarly, white Americans are frequently referred to as “gringo.” The term “guatón” is also used quite often and informally to endearingly refer to larger people. The dictatorship is still recent and very vivid history. This can be a touchy subject for many Chileans as middle and upper class Chileans are often sympathetic to Pinochet despite this being politically incorrect in younger, more progressive circles. Approach such topics with interest and caution.

Economy
Among the most prosperous countries in Latin America with a recent growth rate of 6% per year, Chile has a free market economy, strong foreign reserves and sustained inflows of long-term foreign direct investment. Chile has negotiated a Free Trade Agreement with the U.S. as well several other countries including South Korea. Copper mining, fishing, and forestry are the main industries. Recently increased copper prices have helped to increase the economy’s growth rate, but unemployment and inequality remain concerns for the Chilean government.

Language
Chilean Spanish is often difficult to understand for newcomers. You’ll likely spend your first week or two becoming accustomed to the dialect. There are two main reasons for this:

1. Chileans speak rapidly and often omit the end of words and consonants, especially words ending in “s” (e.g. “gracias” sounds like “gracia”; “más o menos” sounds like “ma o meno”)

2. Chilean Spanish is characterized by TONS of slang! Here are a few popular “chilenismos”:

   si ‘po = of course
   ya po = yeah; of course
   ¿cachai? = do you understand? (“get it?”)
   ¿cómo estai? = informal “what’s up”
   palta = avocado (*very important!)
   pololo/a = boyfriend / girlfriend (“novio” = fiancé)
   pololear = to date
   carretear = to party; to go clubbing
   el carrete = the party
   luca = 1,000 pesos (~US$2)
   bacán = cool
   huevón/weon = dude OR offensive name, depending on context
   ¡chuta! / pucha = shoot!
   fome = boring
   taco = traffic

Do not be embarrassed if you don’t understand! There’s nothing wrong with saying “Repita, por favor.”
LIVING IN SANTIAGO

The Stanford Center
Open weekdays from 9am – 7pm, on Fridays from 9am – 6pm (staff take a lunch break around 1:00-2:30pm and will not be available during those hours), the Stanford Center is where you will attend classes and language tutorials. Located in a converted house in the middle of Providencia, the Center has several classrooms, a computer cluster full of iMacs and a library of Chilean books, reference books, movies, and music. There is a locker room lounge (where each student has their own locker), a patio with tables, and a quiet study room. While at the center, be sure to get to know the staff (Iván Jáksić, Carrie Poole, and Mauricio Tapia). They are all extremely friendly and will serve as resources in everything from finding sports teams you can join and giving you directions around the city to scheduling an emergency medical appointment.

Computing
• Your host family may have a computer and Internet access, but don’t count on it. Some families do not, and even if they do, your access might be limited and you may have extremely slow Internet. At the Center, you can use one of the many iMacs or connect your laptop with an Ethernet cord or through the center’s wireless network.
• Look into using Gmail and Google Voice to stay in touch with friends and family back home. These services often provide free phone calls through your computer anywhere in the US and provide a convenient way to send text messages to friends in the US. Skype is also a good alternative but charges for calls to landlines.

To bring or not to bring (a laptop)?
• Bring a laptop.
• Laptops can always get stolen/damaged while traveling…and it does happen. Most people keep their laptops either at their host home or in their locker at the Stanford Center for the duration of the quarter. You must also be wary of protecting your computer against viruses/bugs. They may be unknown to North American-generated virus software, thereby leaving your computer unprotected.

Public Service and Internships
In order to do an internship, you must have strong Spanish language skills (completion of 2 years of Spanish is recommended). Public Service and internships, with or without Stanford credit, are very rewarding experiences. Students who wish to get academic credit should file for 2 or 3 units, depending on the total time commitment. The best preparation for these opportunities is to improve your Spanish as much as possible and to prepare a Spanish version of your resume. Students who take advantage of these opportunities frequently devote around ten hours a week. Your time commitment must consider travel time to and from your public service site. For a list of Non-Governmental Organizations in Santiago, see www.ong.cl. To get an idea of the great variety of volunteering options, see www.guiasolidaria.cl/homesoles.html.

If you intend to seek an internship or volunteer and you are already accepted to the program, you may contact the office well in advance. In your email, include any and all relevant information that will help her help you secure a desirable position.
Academic and Cultural Resources

- DIBAM: Dirección de Bibliotecas, Archivos, y Museos
  http://www.dibam.cl/index.asp

Bibliotecas

- Biblioteca Nacional de Chile
  Av. Libertador Bernardo O’Higgins 651, Santiago, Chile
  http://www.dibam.cl/biblioteca_nacional/index.asp

- Biblioteca de Santiago
  Av. Matucacana 151, Santiago, Chile
  800-220-600
  www.bibliotecadesantiago.cl

- Archivo Histórico Nacional
  Miraflores 50, Santiago
  Teléfono: 2-3605246
  Fax: 2-3605314

- Archivo Nacional de la Administración Central del Estado, ARNAD
  Agustinas 3250, Santiago
  Teléfonos: 2-681-7979 / -681-3069

Bibliometros:
- Estación de Metro El Golf, Providencia, Santiago
  Correo electrónico: b400bm3@abretumundo.cl
- Estación de Metro Los Héros, Santiago
  Correo electrónico: b400bm5@abretumundo.cl
- Estación de Metro Baquedano, Santiago
  Correo electrónico: b400bm6@abretumundo.cl

Museos/Parques

- Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes
  Casilla 3209 Santiago, Chile
  www.mnba.cl

- Museo Histórico Nacional
  Plaza de Armas 951
  Costado norte de la Plaza de Armas
  www.museohistoriconacional.cl

- Museo de Arte Precolombino
  Bandera 361 - Santiago
  www.precolombino.cl

- Centro Cultural Palacio La Moneda
  Plaza de la Ciudadanía, La Moneda
  Metro Estación Moneda
  www.ccplm.cl
• **Museo de Arte Contemporáneo MAC**
  Parque Forestal s/n
  (frente á calle Mosqueto)
  www.mac.uchile.cl

• **Memoria Chilena**
  Av. Libertador Bernardo O'Higgins 651 Santiago, Chile
  Teléfono: 56-2-3605347
  www.memoriachilena.cl

• **Museo de Artes Visuales**
  José Victorino Lastarria 307, Plaza Mulato Gil De Castro, Santiago, Chile
  Teléfono: 56-2-26649337
  http://www.mavi.cl

**Your Host Family**
Before leaving for Santiago, you should receive your host family’s address and contact information. Homestays are located throughout the eastern portion of the city (in the neighborhoods of Las Condes, Providencia, and Ñuñoa), some within walking distance of the Center and all close to a bus stop and metro. Many students feel that the homestay is both the most challenging and the most rewarding part of the program. Take advantage of your host family to better understand Chilean culture and practice your Spanish skills.
10 Ways to Make Your Homestay Great

1. **Bring a gift!** Greet your host family with a small gift that is particular to your region of the United States. Try to avoid Stanford-specific items, as many families have hosted Stanford students in the past and already have these items. Host families seem to love Starbucks instant coffee as well (but make sure to get instant coffee, many families won’t have a coffee pot to brew non-instant coffee).

2. **Bring photos!** Your host family will love to see photos of your family, city, friends and life. Not only will they appreciate you making this connection, photos are also a great conversation starter.

3. **Discuss your family’s expectations early on and try to respect them.** You will not have a curfew and will carry your own house key, but be sure that your host family knows your plans. Be courteous when arriving late. You may not invite overnight guests to your family’s home unless specifically authorized by a responsible adult family member. Ask your host family to repeat instructions if you don’t understand them.

4. **Be conscientious about resources.** Electricity and water are expensive in Santiago, so turn off the lights whenever you leave the room and take short showers. Also, remember that Chilean plumbing systems tend to be older and often can’t handle large amounts of toilet paper, tampons, etc.

5. **Don’t hog the telephone or Internet.** Ask your family when you may use the phone. Chilean phone companies charge for every local call placed, and rates are cheaper after 8pm. Limit the length of your phone conversations and use a calling card or prepaid phone card (available all over Santiago) for long distance calls. If your family has Internet, remember you are sharing it with the whole family.

6. **Eat with your family whenever possible and tell them when you can’t be home for a meal.** During the week, your host family will serve you breakfast and dinner, and the Stanford Center will give you a food stipend to buy lunch. On the weekends, you get breakfast, lunch, and dinner at home. In addition to these three meals—or in lieu of dinner—some Chileans eat onces, an early evening tea course.

7. **Be honest about your food preferences.** As soon as you arrive, tell your family about your food preferences. Specify that you are a vegetarian or have other strict restrictions on your housing forms, and remind your hosts upon arrival. When you tell Chileans that you are a vegetarian, many will assume that you eat meat but prefer vegetables, or that you eat only chicken and fish. Be prepared to explain.

8. **Be prepared to discuss tricky topics.** Chileans are known for being rather frank about issues that Americans consider sensitive. Your family may want to discuss politics and religion with you. Chileans may also discuss race in a way that often makes Americans uncomfortable. Use your own discretion but remember that Chileans remain divided over the legacy of the dictatorship - don’t assume people share your political views.

9. **Befriend your Nana!** Many Chilean families employ a maid, called a nana, who cooks, cleans and cares for young children. Some nanas live in their employers’ homes, while others come daily or several times a week. While having a domestic servant might be uncomfortable for you, talking with your Nana is a good way to learn about the sector of Chilean society that she is from. Nanas often take the blame when belongings are broken or missing, so keep track of your personal items and lock up valuables.

10. **Take advantage of spending time with your host family!** Your host family is your best connection to Chilean society - the more you get to know them, the more rewarding the experience (and the more your Spanish will improve!).
**Getting Around**
Resident of Santiago are proud of their comprehensive public transportation system, which you will get to know well while living in the city. Regardless of what type of transportation you use, protect your personal belongings and never take out your wallet or passport in public.

*La Micro*
Santiago recently restructured its public transportation. Transantiago, the new system that was unveiled in February 2007, was intended to increase efficiency and reduce pollution in the city.

- The micros cover countless routes throughout the city and can get you almost anywhere you want to go. Each micro route has a number, which appears on the sides and fronts of all buses that drive that particular route. Be sure to ask your host family which numbers will get you to the Center and other important destinations. Eventually, you will figure out the micros’ routes by looking at the list of major stops posted in the windshield. Maps of the entire Transantiago system are also available. See [www.transantiagoinforma.cl](http://www.transantiagoinforma.cl) for more information. Make sure to look at the maps before you take off since there are no maps at the bus stops.
- You will need a Bip! card to ride the Micro and the Metro, which the Center will provide to you. You can add money to your Bip! card at Metro stations. You will not be allowed to ride the Micro or Metro if you do not have money on your card.
- To hail a bus, wait at a stop and simply raise an arm (assertively!)
- Get to the bus stop early as Micros do not run on a set schedule and tend to arrive in groups, sometimes with long waits in between.

*El Metro ([www.metrosantiago.cl](http://www.metrosantiago.cl))*

- Santiago’s new and spotless subway system, *el metro*, also requires a Bip! card. Once you enter the Metro with your Bip! card, you can ride as many Metros as you want until you exit.
- With five different lines running throughout the city, the metro is the fastest and cleanest way to travel downtown and around Providencia, the neighborhood that houses the Stanford Center.
- Beware that the metro system closes at 11—if you’re out and about after, plan on taking the micro (which comes more irregularly at night, but technically runs 24 hours) or a taxi (at night it is strongly recommended to get radio taxis). El metro reopens at 6am.
- El Metro can also be very crowded and hot during rush hour so plan trips accordingly. Most Metros are not air conditioned.

*Los Taxis*

- Santiago offers three main types of taxi services, all of which charge based on distance. After you hail a cab, tell the driver your destination and ask for a price estimate. You will soon learn to judge which prices are fair for different distances. Traditional taxis have two numbers written in the lower right-hand side of the windshield, the bigger number denoting the rate per unit of distance they charge, and the other number denoting the starting rate. Keep in mind that the rates are more expensive at night across the board.
- You can usually hail a traditional cab in downtown Santiago, but a more reliable taxi option is the radiotaxi. To hire radiotaxis, which are generally unmarked sedans, you must call a dispatcher. Stanford often makes arrangements with a particular radiotaxi company that agrees to give an additional discount to students.
- Taxis collectivos are a third option. Like buses, collectivos follow set routes posted on their roofs or in their windshields, letting passengers on and off.
• Once you become familiar with the way back to your host family’s house, pay attention to where your taxi driver is taking you. Occasionally drivers attempt to rip off Americans by taking less direct routes.
• If you are a girl and taking a taxi alone, always ride in the back, regardless of what your taxi driver insists upon. Chilean men are generally much more forward than Americans, and riding in the front may mean you receive some unwanted attention that makes you uncomfortable.
• [http://www.taximetro.cl/](http://www.taximetro.cl/) allows you to estimate a taxi fare.

**Maps**

• A website with detailed and accurate maps of Santiago is [http://planos.amarillas.cl/](http://planos.amarillas.cl/).
• Maps.google is a helpful resource for planning trips (metro/micro combinations)
• You can also plan trips using this service: ([http://www.transantiago.gob.cl/](http://www.transantiago.gob.cl/))
• The more recent versions of Apple Maps and Google Maps on mobile devices typically cache maps. This means that if you view a certain region while connected to the Internet, the device can display that map repeatedly without an Internet connection. Forcing your device to cache a particular region could prove beneficial.

**Cell Phones**

• Cell phones will be distributed to students during orientation, which you may use throughout the quarter. These phones will charge you by the minute or text message, not a monthly plan like you may have in the U.S., and minutes do not generally rollover at the end of your plan. To add more minutes to your phone, simply go into a drugstore or to one of the various places in the metro. Also, keep in mind the costs when using your phone. Sending a text message is generally cheaper than making a call. WhatsApp is the most frequently used messaging and calling platform between Chileans.
The Stanford center is located right off of the Salvador metro station and most home stays will be near the Manuel Montt and Manquehue stations.
Out to Lunch
Instead of commuting home for lunch each weekday, plan on buying lunch near the Stanford Center. Stanford will give you a daily allowance of about US $10.00 to be spend on food and transportation. There is a grocery store (Líder) near the Stanford Center, and some students end up buying sandwich supplies to leave in their lockers. Or, listed below are local restaurants and cafés you might want to try.

Castaño – A major bakery chain, you’ll see Castaños everywhere. They’re more ubiquitous than Starbucks in NYC. Go here for sandwiches, salads, and empanadas. Quick and cheap.
Dominó – One restaurant you must visit in Santiago for its famous completos (Chilean hot dogs) topped with every imaginable combination.
Bravissimo – The best ice cream sundaes and banana splits you’ll ever have, located throughout Santiago and Chile.
Galindo – Perfect for tasting classic Chilean dishes, such as chorillana and pastel de choclo. Stop by for lunch or dinner while exploring the Bellavista neighborhood! (Metro Baquedano – Calle Dardignac 098)
Emporio la Rosa – A fabulous ice cream shop with unique (and very Chilean) flavors.

This is a very short list of the many, many restaurants, food stands, markets and kiosks that you will find nearby the center and throughout Santiago in general. Be open. Try new things. Just remember to be safe and aware of what you are eating and under what conditions it was prepared. If you are a vegetarian, ask both if the food is vegetarian and then if it contains seafood or chicken. Many waiters will say that something is vegetarian when it contains fish or chicken.
Exploring Santiago
Part of the fun of being in a new city is exploring and discovering new places. Santiago is one of the safest cities in South America, but remember to use common sense. **Don’t travel alone at night and always have enough money for a taxi ride.** Here are a few favorite places recommended by former Stanford in Santiago students.

**Bellavista**
This is the original Bohemian, university neighborhood in Santiago. Home to Pablo Neruda’s Santiago house, the main streets of Bellavista are full of side-walk bars where Chilenos will sit and drink beer until the early hours of the morning.

**Plaza Brazil**
Even though some Chileans may not approve of this section of the city, Plaza Brazil and the surrounding blocks are some of the most colorful, interesting neighborhoods in Santiago. The plaza itself is lined with great cafes and bars where some of Santiago’s hippest young people hang out. These are great neighborhoods to explore during the day, but if you go at night make sure you are in a group.

**Barrio Lastarria**
Surrounding the street José Victorino Lastarria, Barrio Lastarria is a growing cultural and arts neighborhood with theatres, museums, cafés, and restaurants. It is located just next to the Centro Cultural Gabriela Mistral (GAM), a cultural center with lots of events happening every week.

**Patronato**
Also known as “the garment district,” Patronato is a great place to wander and people watch. There are tons of cheap clothing stores and kiosks with food.

**Cerro Santa Lucia**
This hill is a wonderful place to walk and take in the beautifully maintained lawns and gardens. Located right across the street from the Santa Lucia metro.

**Mercados**
There are hundreds of small markets and fruit stands throughout the city, home to some of the best paltas (avocados) and chirimoya (you will find out) that you have ever tasted. Be sure to visit these markets and take advantage of the fresh baked bread that comes out of their ovens periodically throughout the day. The upper east side is also littered with supermarkets, from secret Safeway sized establishments like Unimarc to Costco sized warehouse stores like Jumbo and Tottus. In addition to groceries, they all sell notebooks, pens, shampoos, DVDs, clothing, basketballs, tampons, etc. Bread and fresh vegetables must be placed in a plastic bag, weighed and stamped BEFORE you get to the counter. Also note: if you purchase drinks in glass containers, you will pay a deposit fee. Return the glass bottles to the same store to get your money back.

**Parque Metropolitano**
Often referred to as Cerro San Cristobal (the name of the largest of the three hills that make up the park), this is a forested public park rising more than 200 meters above the hustle and bustle of Santiago. It is one the city’s prominent landmarks, crowned with a huge 14 meter statue of the Virgin Mary. A funicular (hillside elevator) takes you directly to the top, and a teleférico (gondola) spans across two of the highest points for an impressive view of the city and the Andes. For the more energetic, the Cerro has a network of dirt trails, and a steep and winding road, which goes to the top. There are gift shops, a pool, snack bars, and a fine restaurant to visit as well. The forested hill is a
popular spot for running, mountain biking, and family outings. The park is also home to Santiago’s zoo.

**Parque O’Higgins**
This 80 hectare park is located southwest of the city center and contains gardens, playgrounds, and tree-lined pathways. It also offers tennis courts, a skating rink, swimming pools, a small lake, grass fields and several restaurants. The park is also the location of Plaza de las Artesanías, where 120 artisans and artists can be seen working and producing works of both beauty and practicality. Parque O’Higgins is the home of the Museo del Huaso, which exhibits the history of the Chilean campesino (farmer) and his life in the country. Other museums (one on Chilean insects and another on Chilean fauna) also grace the park’s peaceful expanses. It is also the home of Fantasilandia, an amusement park.

**Parque Quinta Normal**
Located next to the historic Barrio Yungay, Quíta Normal is home to a number of Santiago’s best museums—Museo de Arte Contemporáneo, Museo de Ciencia y Tecnología and the Museo Nacional de Historia Natural, among others. Across from the park is the Museo de la Memoria y los Derechos Humanos, which presents a detailed narrative of the 1973 coup and Pinochet dictatorship and commemorates those who were killed or disappeared during the Pinochet military regime. Remember to drop by the mini-museum in Metro Quinta Normal that features poetry and artwork related to the dictatorship.

**The Pinochet Legacy**
This excursion is not for the squeamish or faint of heart, but will provide you with a profound look into contemporary Chile’s national mind-set. Visit Chile’s National Cemetery to get a sense of the country’s past. See the tombs of Christian Democrat President Eduardo Frei Montalva (1964-1970) and of Socialist Party President Salvador Allende (1970-1973), deposed by Pinochet in 1973. You should definitely not miss the memorial honoring those who "disappeared" during the 17-year Pinochet regime. From the Cemetery, travel south to La Moneda, the Chilean presidential palace in downtown Santiago, which was bombed by Hunter Hawker jets during the coup. You can still see bullet holes in the surrounding buildings. After La Moneda, you should visit the Villa Grimaldi Peace Park. Villa Grimaldi, one of the principal torture centers during the Pinochet era, was converted into a national monument in the early 1990s when civilian rule returned to Chile. Those interested in the Pinochet period may also visit the city’s newly opened Museo de la Memoria y los Derechos Humanos.

**Futbol**
Chileans are rabid soccer fans and games are a great cultural experience even if you don’t love the sport. Many students go to see the famous Colo-Colo, Universidad de Chile (“la U”) or Pontificia Universidad Católica (“la Católica”) fútbol teams play. Ask the staff at the Center for details.

**Day Trips**
**Cajón del Maipo** A great and easy destination for a day in nature, Cajón del Maipo has hiking and horseback riding. If you camp for the night you can also visit the natural hot springs.

**Concha y Toro Vineyard** Find out where all the great Chilean wine comes from. It’s an easy metro ride away.
Valle Nevado/Farellones A quick day trip outside the city to ski resorts and other snow-related activities in the winter.

For those interested in hiking close to Santiago, this resource describes a number of great day hikes: http://www.revistarevolver.cl/living/gateway-andes-5-great-hikes-around-santiago
Nightlife
So you’ve heard us say it over and over again. Chile has a great nightlife. It’s a good idea to use the buddy system and go out with somebody in the program who lives close to you so you can take the taxi together. Good clubs and pubs are located in:

Plaza Nuñoa: There are lots of musicians and poets in the area, and restaurants and pubs all have a cozy feel to them. This place overflows with high energy and activity--and tons of Chilenos to bump into and strike up a conversation with. One of the oldest jazz clubs in Santiago is located here. A great find!

Bellavista: Make sure friends accompany you on your first night-time visit. It’s a lot of fun but it’s perhaps one of the sketchier places in Santiago at night. There are many restaurants and pubs along the main drag, Pio Nono, as well as all sorts of clubs and bars in the adjacent streets.

Avenida Suecia: This avenue in Providencia is home to a mellow jazz club as well as several discotheques. Suecia is however a definite "gringolandia," and the clubs tend towards the tacky and are often more expensive than other neighborhoods.

Manuel Montt: The area around the Manuel Montt metro stop in Providencia are filled with hip bars with an upscale but mellow feel.

Avenida Vitacura: Know where you are going before you venture out on this avenue by yourself. The restaurants, clubs and pubs are stretched out along this seemingly unending street. It is more expensive and tends to attract a slightly older, more cuico crowd.

Avenida Las Condes: Another equally long street. Just when you think you’re lost, you’ll hit Plaza San Enrique. Lively but expensive, clubs like la Sala Murano are great places to dance, catch a fashion show, enjoy a VIP booth, or attend a Halloween party populated by Santiago’s chic and fabulous.

La Piojera: A must go to experience “popular” culture! Located right outside the Cal y Canto metro stop, this gem is world renowned for its “Terremotos” (a drink topped with pineapple ice cream). Try to go here earlier, though, as it can attract a rougher crowd at night.

Bar The Clinic A bar owned by The Clinic, a satirical Chilean newspaper. The newspaper is named after The London Clinic, where Augusto Pinochet was arrested in 1998. The food, drinks, and atmosphere are fun and exciting – all of the menu items are named after Chilean political figures or events!

Miércoles Po: A weekly carrete held each Wednesday in a different location each week with foreigners from all over and Chileans. Find them on Facebook to get updates about the location and special events planned each week.

Check out carretes.cl for club and event details throughout Santiago!

Tips:
If you are a girl, be wary that walking with just other girls may not deter men from approaching you. If possible, have a male friend also walk with you, and never walk anywhere alone at night. Also, Chileans tend to party late at night, so don’t expect clubs to turn up before 11 at night (and most clubs won’t shut down before 5 or 6am).
TRAVEL

South America’s southern cone boasts many impressive travel destinations a bus or short plane ride from Santiago. Traveling is relatively inexpensive and is a varied and diverse country and region. In addition to any trips you plan and fund yourself each quarter, donors Helen and Peter Bing treat all Stanford in Santiago students to a luxurious, culture-packed weekend trip.

Whenever you travel, you must let the Center know where you are going, with whom, and where you are staying.

Viajes with BOSP and the Center

While studying abroad, you will have an opportunity to be introduced to the culture and people of Chile through events organized by the Stanford-in-Santiago Center. Take advantage of the Friday day trips to locations close to Santiago as they often give you access to places that would otherwise be difficult to get to. Every quarter, Helen and Peter Bing sponsor a Bing Trip for the students to introduce them to a part of Chilean or South American culture. This weekend or three-day long trip takes you away on an all-expense paid adventure to another part of the country. Try to find out where this will be before you start planning trips to avoid visiting the same place twice.

Keep in mind that BOSP and the Center does not sponsor personal travel, as the main purpose of your stay in Santiago is for academic reasons. Students must realize that the consequences of missing class and mandatory academic activities are severe. Planning trips that takes a student away from class for multiple days is unacceptable.

By Air

For packaged deals (which usually include airfare, airport transit, room and board) as well as airline bookings, visit the STA Student Flight Center located near the Stanford Center. Often, the most economical plane tickets are the discount fares offered by LANchile, a comfortable international airline with a reservations office on El Bosque Norte. Sky Airlines also offer relatively cheap flights. Remember to set your country of origin to Chile, not the United States, to see the prices in pesos. In addition, every Tuesday LanChile’s website offers up similarly reduced tickets for round-trip travel within the following week. Despegar.cl can be a helpful website to find affordable plane tickets. Some popular destinations: San Pedro de Atacama, Punta Arenas (Parque Nacional Torres del Paine), Chiloé, Buenos Aires, Easter Island, and Rio de Janeiro.

By Bus

Taking the bus is another alternative for trips of closer distances. Turbus and Pullman Bus are very reputable and fairly inexpensive; these companies direct buses to most towns in Chile. For most routes, they offer seats in a variety of price classes, ranging from “clásico” (standard bus seats) to “cama premium” (full reclining beds). Ticket offices are located inside most metro stations in Providencia including Tobalaba. Note that while many bus companies sell tickets online, most require a RUT (a Chilean tax identification number) to purchase tickets. Some popular destinations: Viña del Mar/Valparaiso, Mendoza, La Serena, Pucón.

- Please be aware that tickets sometimes sell out fast. DO NOT wait till the last minute to purchase tickets, especially for return trips!
- Know ahead of time to which bus station you are leaving from and which your trip will return to in Santiago. If you return late at night you may have to take a taxi back from the center of Santiago, which is far from many host homes. This can get expensive, so plan ahead.
Resources
Agents at the STA Student Flight Center and most other Santiago travel agencies are often happy to help plan trips. Also, be sure to consult the Stanford Center’s many guidebooks and get your host family’s recommendations.

DESTINATIONS:

Viña del Mar & Valparaíso: Beautiful beach town with an impressive amount of street art. Valparaíso is the idyllic location of (one of) Pablo Neruda’s homes. Valparaíso is also the location of Chile’s Congress. This area receives many tourists from Argentina during the summer and Viña del Mar hosts Latin America’s biggest annual music festival each summer.

La Serena: Also coastal, but farther to the north, La Serena is home to the main pisco-producing region and the Capel pisco factory. La Serena has a beautiful downtown and a number of interesting markets.

San Pedro de Atacama: The world’s highest and driest desert, the Atacama Desert is the location of amazing sights such as Valle de la Luna, hundreds of geysers, dune surfing, and other incredible formations and activities. Home to the driest location on Earth, some parts haven’t seen rain in over thirty years.

Pucón: Described as the Aspen of Chile, this picturesque town is host to dozen outdoor activities, including river rafting, “canopying” (zip lining), horseback riding, and hiking an active volcano. Set amongst lakes and mountains, it’s hard to beat, although may be a little pricier than other destinations.

Pichilemu: Pichilemu is a beach city south of Santiago known for its world-class surfing. It is about a three and half hour bus ride from Santiago.

Buenos Aires: Always a favorite of Stanford Overseas students, Buenos Aires has it all: cheap beef and wine, amazing nightlife, great shopping, and thrilling soccer. You will have to pay a reciprocity fee of ~$160.

Mendoza: A beautiful bus ride over the Andes, Mendoza is technically in Argentina but geographically closer to the Chilean capital than it is to Buenos Aires. It’s cheap, and has vineyards and lots of outdoor activities such as horseback riding, paragliding, and river rafting.

Torres del Paine: This amazing national park condenses the best of Norway, Alaska and Iceland in the heart of Southern Patagonia. Granted World’s Biosphere Reserve status by the United Nations, it justifies venturing to the far end of the world. Plan on spending at least 3-4 days if at all possible—avid hikers could easily spend more than a week. Also, remember that because of bus scheduling, you must spend a night in the town of Puerto Natales before you enter the park.

Isla de Pascua: Called “the bellybutton of the world”, Isla de Pascua (aka, Easter Island or Rapa Nui) sits 3,600km from Chile in the middle of the Pacific Ocean and is home to the incredible and mysterious moai, the stone statues that sit along the coastlines. Expensive and requires booking in advance!

Arica: Sits on the border with Perú…originally part of Perú but gained by Chile during the War of the Pacific in the 1880s. Beautiful beaches (with warm water!), great seafood, and Peruvian pisco sours (beware of the controversy over who first invented pisco—the Peruvians claim it’s theirs, too!).
**Puerto Montt & Chiloé:** Puerto Montt and Chiloé are in the heart of the beautiful lakes district of central Chile. Puerto Montt is a little fishing town heavily influenced by German immigrants who opened breweries and built little chateau style homes. Chiloé is an island in the district that is noted for its unique cultural heritage, including a rich tradition of folklore and wonderful, painted houses on stilts. Chiloe is also home to a penguin colony.

**Isla Negra, Algarrobo, El Quisco:** These little neighboring beach towns offer beautiful and solitary access to the ocean. These are sleepy little towns but Isla Negra is home to one of Pablo Neruda’s houses and has a relatively large tourist industry accordingly.

**Perú:** Perú has tons to offer but many students take this opportunity to visit the Incan ruins at Macchu Pichu.

**Brazil:** A great place to visit if you’re willing to pay the airfare. A visa and reciprocity acquired before travel are required but the process for both is quick and easy at the Santiago Brazilian Consulate office.

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**SUMMING UP**

- Buy your plane ticket ASAP
- Submit your arrival information on the Google Doc sent to you by Ise DeSmet (idesmet@stanford.edu)
  - Write your host family a letter or email
  - Make sure your financial business is in order
  - Keep an open mind and have a great time!

Also, remember that the SAs are here to answer questions!

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