

# Travel Newsletter

## Chile Summer 2011



May 11, 2011

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### Don't Forget!

Before getting on a plane, make sure you have your **passport in your carry-on bag**.

Make sure you have paid your **program fee** and/or taken care of your financial aid. You will not be able to participate in the program if you haven't paid your fee.

**You must e-mail your travel plans to [dpraul@ifsa-butler.org](mailto:dpraul@ifsa-butler.org) as soon as possible, if have not already done so.** Please include your first and last name, host university, airline, flight number, date and time of arrival and hotel information if you will be arriving in Santiago before the program start date. We cannot arrange for our Santiago staff to pick you up at the airport if we do not know your travel plans.

### Security Check

Security will be tight, and you should allow ample time to clear security for your U.S. domestic and/or international flights. Carry-ons are subject to inspections; you may have to unload batteries or prove that your small appliances work. Be patient and cooperative with security personnel.

Keep the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) guidelines in mind when packing your carry-on bag. Do not bring on the plane any knives, sharp objects (such as nail files or scissors) or any item that could be used as a weapon.

### Checking In for Your Flight

You should plan to arrive at the airport three hours before your international flight, allowing yourself enough time to check in, get a boarding pass, clear security and make it to your gate.

You must check in for your flight. Otherwise, the airline can give your seat to someone else.

Ask if your U.S. domestic carrier has an agreement with your international carrier. If so, your domestic airline may be able to check your bags all the way through to your final destination, allowing you to get your international flight boarding pass at your domestic departure gate.

If your bags can't be checked to your final destination, you'll have to leave the gate area at your international departure airport, claim your luggage, check your luggage, get a boarding pass at the international airline desk in the check-in area and go through security to re-enter the gate area. Allow yourself plenty of time!

### Travel Problems?

If you are delayed and it looks like you may not make your flight, make arrangements with the airline (not your travel agent!) to get on the next available flight.

Be sure to **call us at 800-858-0229 and let us know** about your change in plans. We monitor messages on flight days, so if no one answers, leave a detailed voicemail. We will then inform our Santiago office of any delays on your behalf.

Provide us with your name, location, airline, old and new flight numbers, departure and arrival times and the name, telephone number and room number of your hotel (if necessary).

**Be sure to call IFSA-Butler on our general line at 800-858-0229 to ensure that the correct person gets the message. Please do not leave a message about travel problems on your program advisor's voicemail or e-mail.** Then call your parents to let them know about your flight change.

### Baggage Allowances

Most airlines allow two pieces of checked luggage and one carry-on bag. Contact both your domestic and international carriers for more information on baggage limits.

If you exceed baggage limits, the airline can require you to pay excess baggage fees and/or buy new luggage and repack onsite. Do not overpack!

Do not lock your luggage. The U.S. Transportation Security Administration has asked travelers to keep suitcases unlocked so they can easily be searched. Putting locks on your luggage can result in damaged, lost or delayed bags.

Please do not pack sporting equipment such as skis and bikes. If you feel you must bring your own, call your airline carriers for information about packing and excess baggage fees.

## Packing Your Carry-On Bag

Be sure to pack:

- Passport\*
- Plane tickets or e-ticket confirmations\*
- Cash, traveler's checks, credit cards\*
- *Preparing to Study Abroad*
- IFSA-Butler e-newsletter series
- Insurance coverage details
- List of contact names, addresses, phone numbers, fax numbers and e-mail for:
  - Academic advisor at your home college
  - Study abroad advisor at your home college
  - Parents and relatives
- Academic documents
  - Updated transcript
  - Rules of transfer credit
- Toiletries (liquids, gels and/or aerosols must be 3.3 ounces or less and fit comfortably in one, clear, resealable, quart-size plastic bag)\*\*
- Something to read/listen to
- Spare clothes in case your luggage is lost (It happens!)
- Any medications and prescriptions\*
- Water/snacks (purchased in airport, after security check)\*\*
- Camera

\* *Keep these items and other valuables with you at all times, preferably in a money belt or a bag worn across your chest.*

\*\* *FAA regulations require that liquids in excess of 3.3 ounces be placed in checked baggage. Please visit your airline's website for detailed security information. Also visit the Transportation Security Administration's website at [www.tsa.gov](http://www.tsa.gov) for an up-to-date list of prohibited items (click on "Travelers and Consumers" and then on "Air Travel").*

## Host Family Gift

You should pack a small gift for your host family, although nothing extravagant. Past students have found that chocolates, professional sports goods, calendars and products from their home regions all make good gifts. Many host families also enjoy products printed in English, such as T-shirts or towels.

## In-Flight Comfort

For comfort during the flight, wear loose-fitting clothes and comfortable shoes. Your feet might swell during the flight;

remember to walk around the cabin frequently to keep your blood circulating! You'll probably find that the cabin feels cold, so don't give away your blanket.

## Customs Forms

As your plane descends into Chile, your flight crew will hand out two forms; one is a tourist card and the other is a joint customs agricultural and livestock service (SAG) form. Fill out both. Because Chile is a geographically isolated country, it is free of many plagues that affect fruits, vegetable and livestock. For that reason, it is very important to declare any items that appear on the customs form, such as food, live plants, wood, feathers, shells, fruits, vegetables, nuts, spices, coffee, dried flowers, herbs, tea, etc. If you don't declare items, you will be subject to hefty fines.

When you get off the plane, you will go through immigration, where you will present the immigration forms and your passport to the official.

After immigration, you will claim your luggage. With your luggage, pass through customs and hand the SAG form to the official. All your belongings will be scanned and the official may ask to see any items you have declared.

You do not need to declare your laptop computer, as a computer is part of your personal possessions. Remove the price tags and the wrappings on any new items before you pack them.

If you will be carrying a large amount of prescription medication, contact your program advisor in advance.

## Clearing Immigration

As you come down the escalator, an airport official may ask if this is your first visit to Chile. When you reply "yes," you will be directed to a line to pay the US \$141 reciprocity fee. Afterward, you can continue directly to the immigration line. Here you will present your **passport** and **tourist card**.

If the official asks for your Chilean address, students should use:

Avda. Portugal 24.  
Santiago  
Telephone: 09-7967-4033

## Getting to Orientation

Students who arrive at the Santiago airport on the morning of May 27 should meet the program staff at the meeting point in the airport (see directions in "If You Get Separated from the Group") at 10 a.m. From there, the group will travel together to the orientation hotel listed below. Students who arrive in Chile before May 27 should plan on meeting the group at the airport no later than 10 a.m. on May 27, or they can make their way to the orientation hotel by noon on May 27. You must let your program advisor know if you will be going to the hotel on your own.

Hotel Bonaparte  
 Mar del Plata 2171  
 Providencia  
 Phone: (56 2) 796 6900  
 www.hotelbonaparte.cl

### Lost Luggage

If your luggage doesn't come out of the carousel, see the airport officials to file a lost luggage claim **before you leave the customs area**. The claims area is located opposite carousel 5. You can give airline officials the hotel address listed above. Please note that these are not the addresses of the IFSA-Butler offices. Students should have airport officials call 09-7967-4033 before having luggage delivered. If you lose your luggage, also let our Chile staff know.

### Phone Home

**Call home as soon as possible after your arrival in Chile, as your family will be worried about you.** You can purchase pre-paid calling cards in Chile or use Skype to contact them. Let them know that you will be very busy during orientation and therefore might not have much free time to call home during your first few days. We will contact your parents if any emergencies arise.

### If You Arrive Early

If you arrive before the program start date, you'll need to make hotel or hostel arrangements. Check your *Lonely Planet* or *Rough Guide* travel guide for information about hotels and hostels in Santiago.

Past students recommend the following Santiago hostels:

Hostel Bellavista  
 Dardignac 0184  
 Providencia  
 Barrio Bellavista  
 732-8737  
 www.bellavistahostel.com

La Chimba Hostel  
 Ernesto Pinto Lagarrigue 262  
 Barrio Bellavista  
 735-8978  
 www.lachimba.com

Hostal Providencia  
 Av. Vicuña Mackenna 92 A/B  
 Providencia  
 (56-2) 635 2536  
 www.hostalprovidencia.com

### Luggage Storage

IFSA-Butler does not have luggage storage facilities. If you plan to arrive in Chile before orientation, you are responsible for finding accommodation and luggage storage. Remember, IFSA-Butler cannot store luggage for independent travelers who arrive before the first day of orientation.

The airport and bus station have storage facilities (*custodia de equipaje*) for a fee. This fee is quite high at the airport, but it's more secure than the storage facilities in the bus station.

### Currency

You can exchange currency at the airport. If you arrive late at night or on a weekend, you should definitely exchange your currency at the airport. Usually external exchange houses give a better rate of exchange, but they are not open on weekends or holidays. You will not be able to change money during orientation.

### Updated Calendar

We've included an updated summer program calendar. Please check to see if any of the dates associated with your program have changed.

### Last-Minute Tips

- Sign up for frequent flyer miles.
- Reread the host family and health insurance sections of *Preparing to Study Abroad Chile*.
- Photocopy your passport and tickets and give a copy to your parents.
- Give your parents the numbers of your credit cards and traveler's checks in case they are lost or stolen.
- Plan to try new things, taste new foods, and go where you never expected to go.
- Buy a travel guide or rent a video of Chile.
- Read something about Chile before you leave.
- Be prepared for adventure!

**Questions? Call us at 800-858-0229 or visit us online at [www.ifsabutler.org](http://www.ifsabutler.org).**

# Program Calendar

## Chile Summer 2011



### **Summer Global Business Program at the School of Economics, Universidad de Chile**

Arrive in Santiago	May 27
Program Starts	May 27
IFSA-Butler Orientation	May 27-30
Move into Housing	May 28
Classes Begin	June 1
Classes End	TBA
Last Day of Housing	July 21
Program Ends	July 22

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**These dates are correct as of January 11, 2011, but must be regarded as provisional, given the mutability of host university calendars.**

Upon arrival at your host institution, check the end dates for changes before confirming return travel plans. Ending dates vary from department to department, and you must complete all course obligations prior to departure. In addition, you should not make plans to travel on the final day of exams since there may be exams on that day.

Program housing is available only until the date listed as "Program Ends" on the calendar.

**Exams must be taken where and when scheduled.** Under no circumstances may students request that an exam time be changed. Exams are taken under formal examination conditions, and changes cannot be made for individuals.