

TRAVEL TIPS

H₂O Patagonia Travel Tips

We understand traveling internationally can be intimidating. Chile, however, is one of the few places left where safe travel is not the exception but the norm. If you've never before traveled internationally Chile is an excellent way to acclimate yourself to the sport of globetrotting. People are friendly, getting around is easy, and the beauty of the landscape will prod you to return.

MAKING YOUR TRAVEL PLANS

Plan to arrive Santiago, Chile the first Saturday morning of your trip. From there you'll catch a connecting flight (*one hour and a half long*) from Santiago to Puerto Montt. Once in the Puerto Montt airport an H₂O Patagonia representative will meet you and take you to your accommodations.

Getting to Santiago, Chile:

Santiago is served by many major airlines including LAN CHILE (*one of the best and most preferred*), AMERICAN AIRLINES, DELTA, CONTINENTAL, BRITISH AIRWAYS, SWISS AIR, AIR FRANCE, AND LUFTHANSA. Most flights to Santiago depart in the evening, arriving Santiago the following morning. Getting to Puerto Montt from Santiago is easy as there are flights departing every hour of the day. To ease your travel into Chile we have partnered with LAN CHILE and WALDORF TRAVEL to secure discount fares for our clientele.

VISAS

For American and European citizens visas are not necessary for travel in Chile. Residents of other countries should check with their government agencies for visa requirements.

AIRPORT TAXES

Upon arrival in Santiago, Chile, US citizens are required to pay a reciprocity tax. Chilean customs accept only exact change, so please carry US currency in small denominations. In 2003 the tax amounted to US\$100. There is also an airport departure tax of US\$18 required when leaving Santiago on an international flight. For those planning to travel to Argentina there is an airport departure tax of US\$23.50.

DOCUMENTATION PRECAUTIONS

Months before you travel please make sure your passport is up-to-date and will not expire while you are in Chile. It's also advisable to keep at least one copy of your airplane tickets, passport, and driver's license in a separate place while traveling.

HEALTH PRECAUTIONS

Though water quality in Chile is generally safe, it is recommended that you drink bottled water while en route to our H₂O Patagonia base. You should also check with your country's health agency to learn if you will need to any vaccinations before you leave. Note that there is no risk of malaria in Chile.

MONEY

The currency of Chile is the Chilean Peso. As of this writing, the exchange rate was 625 Chilean Pesos for one US dollar. In Chile there are automatic bank tellers in almost every city and their exchange rate is fairly good. In Patagonia and along the Carretera Austral of southern Chile ATMs are far less common, so plan on bringing extra cash for your time in Puerto Montt. A credit card can be used at most stores, restaurants and hotels in well populated or tourist areas in Chile.

TRAVEL TIPS *(continued)*

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATION

Every town, including Futaleufu, has a phone from which international calls can be placed. There are also Internet cafes scattered throughout the region.

What to bring

Patagonia summer days can change from hot and sunny to cold and rainy in a matter of hours. A successful vacation can be yours by preparing for both extremes. Below is a short list of required gear. Once you place a reservation for a trip we will mail you a comprehensive list of what to bring.

Required Gear You Provide:

- 2 T-shirts
- 2 long sleeved synthetic pullovers
- 1 synthetic/fleece jacket
- 2 pairs nylon shorts (fast drying sport-type).
- 1 pair pants
- 1 pair synthetic/capilene sweat-style pants
- Rain gear including jacket and pants
- Sport sandals/Texas (These are shoes to be worn on the river, or you may also bring a special river shoe. Sourcing information provided on detailed equipment list.)
- Walking/hiking shoes, waterproof if possible
- Baseball cap or sun hat
- Warm (fleece or wool) hat
- Swimsuit
- Sunglasses with neck strap
- Sunscreen
- Flashlight/head lamp
- Water bottle - 1 quart
- Fishing gear (if desired)

H2O Patagonia provides:

- All food and drink (including an open bar) upon arrival in Puerto Montt
- All accommodation upon arrival in Puerto Montt
- All rafting equipment
- All canyoning equipment and guide service
- Fishing guide service
- Horses and guide service
- As many massages as you desire from on-staff therapists
- Personal dry bag (yours to keep)
- H2O Patagonia hat and t-shirt
- Video or DVD of your adventure