



# Santiago

## Includes »

Sights.....	44
Activities.....	58
Courses.....	58
Tours.....	59
Festivals & Events.....	60
Sleeping.....	61
Eating.....	65
Drinking.....	69
Entertainment.....	72
Shopping.....	74
Getting There & Away.....	76
Getting Around.....	79
Around Santiago.....	80
Pomare.....	80
Maipo Valley Wineries.....	82
Cajón del Maipo.....	82

## Why Go?

Surprise: the Chilean capital is suddenly cool. Santiago has always had its measured charms – fine dining, perfectly landscaped gardens, a famous seafood market, the stunning backdrop of the Andes – but in the past few years it has undergone a cultural metamorphosis. In celebration of Chile's bicentennial, the city poured millions of pesos into the construction of sleek new cultural centers, thoughtful museums and gorgeous green parks. The upscale neighborhoods of Vitacura and El Golf bloomed with stylish new art galleries, the new W Hotel started drawing A-list celebrities to its rooftop bar, and the faded but beautiful Barrio Brasil was infused with vibrant public art and funky youth hostels. True, Santiago may never be as glamorous as Rio or as dynamic as Buenos Aires, but now it's more than a stopoff on the way to Chilean Patagonia or the Atacama. Understated but up-and-coming, Santiago just became a destination in its own right.

## Best Places to Eat

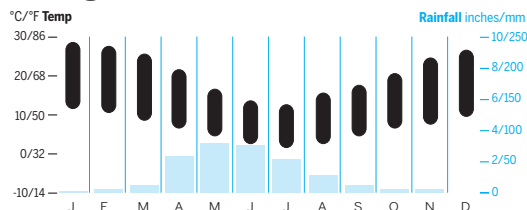
- » Liguria (p68)
- » Peluquería Francesa (p67)
- » Azul Profundo (p67)
- » Astrid y Gastón (p68)
- » Tiramisú (p69)
- » Aquí Está Coco (p68)

## Best Places to Stay

- » W Hotel Santiago (p65)
- » Aubrey Hotel (p63)
- » Vilafranca Petit Hotel (p64)
- » Bellavista Home (p63)

## When to Go

### Santiago



**Mar–Aug** The wine harvest kicks off in March, while May brings ski season to Tres Valles.

**Sep–Nov** Comfortable temperatures make the shoulder season ideal for sightseeing.

**Dec–Feb** Summer in Santiago sees street festivals and getaways to the Cajón del Maipo.

## Santiago Cuisine

With cuisines from all of Chile represented at the table and a generation of innovative new chefs experimenting with classic dishes, the capital city is a gourmet's playground. Whether you're eating lunch at a plastic table inside the bustling seafood market or dining at a high-end eatery in Providencia, it is customary to begin the meal with a pisco sour and *machas a la parmesana* (razor clams baked in parmesan cheese and white wine) or an *empanada de pino* (stuffed with ground beef, onions and hard-boiled eggs) before moving onto a main course of *paila marina* (seafood stew), *pastel de choclo* (a baked casserole made of corn, meat and cheese) or fresh grilled fish, preferably paired with a fine wine from the Colchagua Valley. For dessert, try cake or ice cream topped with *manjar*, the Chilean version of *dulce de leche* (but don't expect espresso! Chileans are crazy for Nescafé instant coffee.)

### PARQUE POR LA PAZ

During Chile's last dictatorship some 4500 political prisoners were tortured and 266 were executed at Villa Grimaldi by the now-disbanded DINA (National Intelligence Directorate). The compound was razed to conceal evidence in the last days of Pinochet's dictatorship, but since the return of democracy it has been turned into a powerful memorial park known as **Parque por la Paz** (☎292-5229; [www.villagrimaldi.cl](http://www.villagrimaldi.cl), in Spanish; Av Arrieta 8401; ☉10am-6pm). Each element of the park symbolizes one aspect of the atrocities that occurred there and visits here are fascinating but harrowing – be sensitive about taking pictures as other visitors may be former detainees or family members. Check the website ahead of time to arrange a guided tour. Take the yellow bus D09 (you need a Bip! card) from right outside the Av Vespucio exit of Plaza Egaña metro station; it drops you opposite.

## Santiago's Best Museums

- » Museo de la Moda (p55)
- » Museo de la Memoria y Derechos Humanos (p53)
- » Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes (p50)
- » Museo de Arte Contemporáneo (p50)
- » Museo Chileno de Arte Precolombino (p45)
- » Museo de Artes Visuales (p51)

## Main Points of Entry

- » Aeropuerto Internacional Arturo Merino Benítez: International airport.
- » Terminal de Buses Santiago: The main bus station.
- » Estación Central: Train station with connections to south-central Chile.

## Fast Facts

- » Population: 5,883,000
- » Area: 2030 sq m
- » Elevation: 543m
- » Telephone code: ☎02

## Top Tip

» Most first-time visitors to Chile will have to pay a 'reciprocity fee' (US\$140 for American citizens) when going through passport control at the Santiago airport. Credit cards and cash are accepted; the stamp is valid for the life of the passport. Once in the arrivals hall, avoid the taxi stand and go straight to the desks for flat-rate taxis or shared shuttles.

## Resources

- » [www.lonelyplanet.com/chile/Santiago](http://www.lonelyplanet.com/chile/Santiago)
- » [www.chile.travel](http://www.chile.travel)
- » [www.santiagotimes.cl](http://www.santiagotimes.cl)
- » [www.eatwineguides.com](http://www.eatwineguides.com)
- » [www.chile-travel.com/santiago](http://www.chile-travel.com/santiago)