

## CHILE RISK ASSESSMENT



### City & Country

Santiago, Valparaiso, Chile

### Prepared by

Sussex Abroad Office

### Before you go -

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office provides travel advice by country. It covers safety and security, local laws and customs, entry requirements, health and natural disasters along with a host of other useful information. We strongly recommend that students read the section related to their destination prior to departure and before undertaking any trip to another part of the county/region.

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/>

### VISA REGULATIONS

If you are a British passport holder visiting Chile for less than 90 days, you do not need a visa. On arrival in Chile the immigration authorities will issue you with a 'Tarjeta de Turismo - Tourist Card', an A5 sized white form. You must retain this document and present it to immigration when you leave. British-Chilean dual nationals must enter and leave Chile using their Chilean passport. **If you wish to stay longer or you have a different nationality, you should consult the nearest Chilean Embassy.**

### PASSPORT VALIDITY

Your passport should be valid for the proposed duration of your stay.

### HEALTH

There are good health facilities in Santiago and other major cities, but private clinics and hospitals are expensive. Make sure you have adequate travel health insurance and accessible funds to cover the cost of any medical treatment abroad and repatriation.

### TERRORISM

Terrorist attacks in Chile can't be ruled out. Attacks, although unlikely, could be indiscriminate, including in places visited by foreigners.

There are occasional acts of domestic terrorism by anarchist groups, mostly in Santiago, including the use of small explosive devices. Groups mainly target banks (ATMs) and public transport. Keep bags with you at all times, and report any suspicious behavior or unattended packages to local authorities.

There's a heightened threat of terrorist attack globally against UK interests and British nationals, from groups or individuals motivated by the conflict in Iraq and Syria. You should be vigilant at this time.

Find out more about the [global threat from terrorism](#), how to minimise your risk and what to do in the event of a terrorist attack.

Type	Nature of the Hazard	Procedures to Minimise Risk
<b>CRIME</b>	There have been reports of people being robbed by bogus and unlicensed taxi drivers, including airport taxis.	Only use official and/or pre-booked taxis and to ask taxi drivers for proof of reservation. Book a taxi in advance rather than hailing one from the street, especially late at night.
	There have been a number of incidents in major cities where those driving rental cars have been victims of crime. The perpetrators puncture the car's tyres surreptitiously (often while at traffic lights) and then target the vehicle when the occupants notice the flat tyre. Often the victims do not notice the theft is taking place as an accomplice will distract while another steals valuables from the vehicle.	Remain vigilant and keep valuables secure in this event.

	Pick pocketing and muggings are common in many cities throughout Chile, particularly around well-known tourist sites, bus stations and areas visited by foreigners.	Pay particular attention to your belongings in popular foreign cafes and restaurants where there has been an increase in bag theft.
<b>LOCAL TRAVEL</b>	Landmine accidents mainly affect livestock and local people crossing borders at unauthorised points. Most minefields are near the borders with Peru and Bolivia in the extreme north of Chile (regions XV, I and II) and Argentina in the south (region XII). Although most minefields are clearly marked, some signs and fences are old and damaged, and may be hard to spot. In some cases, minefields are laid right up to the edge of highways.	Check with local authorities before travelling to more rural areas, stick to clearly marked roads and observe all warning signs.
<b>HEALTH</b>	Air pollution in Santiago during winter (June-September) is a major problem. You may suffer from eye irritation and respiratory problems.	If you have specific you should bring a sufficient quantity of medical supplies and medicines with you for the trip
<b>DRUGS</b>	Consumption and possession of drugs is illegal and can lead to prison sentences.	Don't get involved with drugs.

<p><b>NATURAL DISASTERS</b></p>	<p>Serious earthquakes are always a possibility in Chile. You should familiarise yourself with safety procedures in the event of an earthquake or tsunami, and take note of instructions in hotel rooms. Building regulations require new structures to take account of seismic risks. Safety measures are widely known and put into practice by national organisations and the local authorities.</p>	<p>To learn more about what to do before, during and after an earthquake, see the website of the <a href="#">US Federal Emergency Management Agency</a>.</p>
	<p>A chain of volcanoes erupted in the Puyehue and Los Lagos region (500 miles south of Santiago) in June 2011 and are still active. There is a continuing risk of eruptions in Chaiten in southern Chile, Llaima in the Conguillo National Park and Lascar in northern Chile. The Copahue Volcano on the Argentina/Chile border also erupts periodically, causing local residents to be evacuated.</p>	<p>If you're travelling to these areas, monitor local media reports and follow the <a href="#">advice of the local authorities</a>.</p>

**Please also note and be sensitive to the following:**

- If you are a British national visiting Chile for more than a brief period, you are advised to register on arrival at British Embassy in Santiago, Chile.

- Leave your passport and other valuables in a safe place and carry a photocopy of the details page of your passport with you at all times.
- Homosexuality is legal in Chile and is increasingly widely accepted socially, although much of Chilean society is conservative.
- Consumption and possession of drugs is illegal and can lead to prison sentences.
- Only one hospital offers treatment on Easter Island and its facilities are limited. Those suffering from serious illnesses or injuries are often flown by air ambulance to mainland Chile for treatment. Make sure your insurance covers this.
- If you plan to go exploring or mountaineering, notify the local authorities before you set off. For further information on mountaineering, contact the Federación de Andinismo de Chile, Almirante Simpson 77, Santiago, Chile, Telephone: (56 2) 2220888.