

V IBEROAMERICAN CONGRESS ON GEOMETRY

Useful Information

Visa Information

All visitors to Chile must have a valid passport.

Arriving at the Airport

Upon arrival in Santiago Airport, USA, Australia, Canada and Mexico citizens must pay a reciprocity tax before proceeding to immigration control; for USA citizens this tax is US\$ 131. Credit cards are accepted; this tax payment is valid for repeated entries into Chile until your passport expires.

The following products should not be brought into Chile as a fine will be charged: milk products, meat, fresh fruit and vegetables, nuts and dried fruits, plants and seeds. Bringing these products into Chile is seen as a very serious offence, so please make sure you eat or dispose of these products before arriving at the airport.

For more information please see <http://www.aeropuertোসantiago.cl>

Most people will be immediately continuing their flight to Temuco airport, where they will be picked up by congress organizers, on dates and times to be announced, and brought to Pucón, about 100km away.

In case you are planning on spending some time in Santiago, read the additional information at the end of this document.

Currency Exchange

There are many ATM's (Redbanc network) in Chile, including Pucón, so an easy way to get cash is to bring a debit or credit card. You can also exchange money in banks or at *Casas de Cambio* (currency exchange offices). Banks are open from 9:00 to 14:00, Monday thru Friday; *Casas de Cambio* are usually open from 9:30 to 18:00. The government does not regulate the market of foreign currency in Chile, and therefore the exchange rate fluctuates. The current exchange rate is about \$520 (pesos) for 1 US dollar.

Weather

The weather in Pucón in December (spring-summer) can vary considerably. Days could be warm (T-shirt) and sunny or cool and rainy (not freezing) so you should bring summer clothes as well as warm clothes. UV radiation is usually high enough to warrant sun protection.

Electricity

Electrical current in Chile is 220V-50Hz and electrical outlets have round holes, so coming from the US you may need a plug adaptor (modern power supplies for computers or other chargeable devices usually tolerate a voltage range from 110V to 240V but you may want to make sure). For more details, you can visit <http://electricaloutlet.org/>

Most hotels will have Wi-Fi internet access; some may have open access to computers available for guests.

Tourist attractions

There are lots of things to see in and do around Pucón. For starters there is the Villarrica lake, where weather-permitting you could go for a swim, and there is the Volcano, just in the background. There are also several hot-springs nearby. Weather may well condition what the best options are.

There are many websites featuring the main attractions, but to get started you could look at http://www.welcomechile.com/pucon/index_i.html

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

From the Airport to Santiago

Santiago International Airport is located approximately 20 kilometers West of the city.

There are several options to get to the city:

1. Official Taxis

The official taxi booths are located inside the main terminal when you exit customs. The cost will depend on your final destination. For instance, the cost from the airport to Providencia borough is approximately \$14.000. It is not common to tip the driver.

2. The Airport Transfer Service

These are minibuses that offer a shared taxi service. They drive you from the airport and drop you off at your hotel. This should be arranged within the airport. Two companies offer this service: Transvip and Turbus. Approximate cost: \$5.000 (depending on your destination).

3. By Bus

These are shuttle buses that go from the airport to the city. Two companies offer this service: Turbus and Centropuerto. You can catch these buses immediately upon exiting the main airport terminal. During the day they run frequently; you pay the driver directly. Once you arrive in Santiago, you can get off the bus at a subway (Metro) station (<http://www.urbanrail.net/am/sant/santiago.htm>), and take the subway to your final destination. The ticket costs between \$1.500 and \$2.000.

From Santiago to Pucón by Bus

There are several Bus companies that go to Pucón. A convenient option is TurBus (+56-2-490-7500). You can also check its web page <http://www.turbus.cl>.

Most buses travel at night but it is also possible to go during the day (it takes around 10-11 hours)