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Chile  
Relocation  
Guide



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Memb No: A091



<b>TELEPHONE:</b>	Country code (0056) +Area Code.
<b>STANDARD TIME:</b>	The majority of Chile is 3 hours behind GMT, although please note the Chile does observe Daylight saving, and some areas are on a different time zone.
<b>WEIGHTS &amp; MEASURES:</b>	Metric.
<b>ELECTRICITY:</b>	220v AC 50Hz.
<b>INOCULATIONS/VACCINATIONS:</b>	Recommended Hepatitis A and Typhoid.
<b>PUBLIC HOLIDAYS:</b>	New Years Day 1st January, Good Friday – Friday prior to Easter Sunday, Holy Saturday – Saturday prior to Easter Sunday, Labour Day – 1st May, Navy Day – 21st May – Day of the Glories of the Chilean Navy, Feast of St Peter and St Paul – 29th June normally celebrated on the nearest Monday, Our Lady of Mount Carmel – 16th July, Assumption Day – 15th August, Independence Day – 18th September, Army Day – 19th September – Day of the Glories of the Army, Race Day Holiday – Usually a Monday early/mid October, Reformation Day – 31st October celebrated on nearest Friday, All Saints Day – 1st November, Immaculate Conception Day 8th December, Christmas Day – 25th December. Note there are often Bridge Day holidays especially if a public holiday falls on a Tuesday etc.
<b>OFFICE HOURS:</b>	Normally about 09.00 hours to 18.30 hours with a standard working week of 45 hours.
<b>BANK OPENING HOURS:</b>	0900-1400 Mon-Fri.
<b>EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS:</b>	131 Ambulance, 132 Fire and 133 Police.
<b>BRITISH EMBASSY:</b>	British Embassy El Bosque Norte 0125, P6 Last Condes Santiago, Region Metropolitana Tel: (56) (2) 370 4100
<b>CHILEAN EMBASSY IN LONDON:</b>	37-41 Old Queen Street Westminster, London W1G 7DS Tel: 020 7222 2361

## Part 1 – Background information on The Republic of Chile

### Background

Prior to the coming of the Spanish in the 16th century, northern Chile was under Inca rule while Araucanian Indians inhabited central and southern Chile. The latter were not completely subjugated until the early 1880's. Although Chile declared its independence in 1810, decisive victory over the Spanish was not achieved until 1818. In the War of the Pacific (1879-84), Chile defeated Peru and Bolivia and won its present northern lands.

A three-year old Marxist government of Salvador Allende was overthrown in 1973 by a dictatorial military regime led by Augusto Pinochet, who ruled until a freely elected president was installed in 1990. Sound economic policies, maintained consistently since the 1980s have contributed to steady growth and have helped secure the country's commitment to democratic and representative government. Chile has increasingly assumed regional and international leadership roles befitting its status as a stable, democratic nation.

### Geography

Chile has an area of 756,900km distributed between the continents of South America, Easter Island, and San Juan Fernades Archipelago. It also has a territory in Antarctica, with an area of 1,250,000km.

### Climate

Due to its location in the Southern Hemisphere, Chile's seasons are the opposite of Europe's. In the central zone, summer begins in late December and ends in late March. Due to the country's extreme length, the seasons are distributed from North to South, which permits several harvests a year of some crops.

As a result of its unusual geography, Chile has a wide variety of climates depending upon the region. The North is a hot, dry desert. The Central Zone (from Copiapo to Concepcion) has a Mediterranean climate. While the South has a cooler, more humid oceanic climate.

### Population

The population of Chile as at November 2017 is 18,109,160, with six and half million living in Santiago.

### Currency

The unit of currency is the Chilean Peso (CH\$). Pesos are available in the following denominations:

Notes: 1,000, 2,000, 5,000, 10,000, 20,000.

Coins: 1, 5, 10, 50, 100 and 500, although the one Peso and five Peso coins are fast disappearing.

### Economy

Chile has a market-oriented economy characterised by a high level of foreign trade and a reputation for strong financial institutions and sound policy that have given it the strongest sovereign bond rating in South America. Exports of goods and services account for approximately one-third of GDP, with commodities making up some 60% of total exports. Copper is Chile's top export and provides 20% of government revenue.

From 2003 through 2013, real growth averaged almost 5% per year, despite the slight contraction in 2009 that resulted from the global financial crisis. Growth slowed to an estimated 1.7% in 2016. A continued drop in copper prices prompted Chile to experience its second consecutive year of slow growth, elevated inflation, and a depreciating currency.

Chile deepened its longstanding commitment to trade liberalisation with the signing of a free trade agreement with the US, effective 1 January 2004. Chile has 22 trade agreements covering 60 countries including agreements with the EU, Mercosur, China, India, South Korea, and Mexico. In May 2010, Chile signed the OECD Convention, becoming the first South American country to join the OECD. In October 2015, Chile signed the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade agreement.

The Chilean Government has generally followed a countercyclical fiscal policy, accumulating surpluses in sovereign wealth funds during periods of high copper prices and economic growth, and generally allowing deficit spending

only during periods of low copper prices and growth. As of 31 October 2016, those sovereign wealth funds – kept mostly outside the country and separate from Central Bank reserves - amounted to more than \$23.5 billion. Chile used these funds to finance fiscal stimulus packages during the 2009 economic downturn.

In 2014, President Michelle Bachelet introduced tax reforms aimed at delivering her campaign promise to fight inequality and to provide access to education and health care. The reforms are expected to generate additional tax revenues equal to 3% of Chile's GDP, mostly by increasing corporate tax rates to OECD averages.

### **Education**

Education in Chile is free and is considered to be inequitable amongst the population. The pre-primary level is two years of non-compulsory education for children four to five years of age. Primary and secondary education is compulsory. Primary education is from ages 6 to 13, and secondary education is from ages 14 to 17.

Public schools in Chile are open to expat enrolment, but are rarely used by foreign families due to the sometimes below par standards and the complications caused by the language barrier. The teaching language of the local institutions is Spanish.

### **Religion**

The majority religion in Chile, according to a 2017 survey is Christianity (72%), with an estimated 58% of Chileans belonging to the Catholic Church, 14% to Protestant or Evangelical churches and just 4% to any other religion.

### **Healthcare**

FONASA, the government run Fondo Nacional de Salud, is a program funded by public taxes to provide health care in Chile. Chilean citizens and foreign residents who pay taxes will receive a 7% monthly income deduction for the program. Public hospitals run by the government are required to provide free, quality health care to all the public, including those without health care coverage.

Most expats don't have access to free public healthcare benefits unless they have residency and are paying taxes in Chile. There are various private health insurance companies in Chile, or Instituciones de Salud Previsional (ISAPRE), that allow members access to private healthcare in Chile.

## **Part 2 – The Republic of Chile Import Customs Regulations**

**To the best of our knowledge, the following documentation is required to import house-hold and personal effects into Chile.**

### **Household Goods**

Almost all shipments arriving to Chile are subject to Customs Inspections as well as SAG (Health Authorities) inspections, including diplomatic shipments.

**For Returning Citizens, Non Citizens and Diplomats** the effects must arrive within 120 days before or after your arrival, otherwise duties and taxes on the whole amount of the import will be levied.

### **Returning Citizens**

#### **Documents Required:**

- Detailed Inventory list accepted only in Spanish or English.
- Travel Certificate (issued in Chile) and has a validity of 30 days (in order to obtain this you must be in Chile as the last entry stamp must appear in your passport).
- Photocopy of valid Passport (identification page with clear photograph and legible information).
- Completed customs forms which will be supplied by our Destination Agent.
- We will need to know the value of the effects which does have to be mentioned on the Bill of Lading.

Tax exemptions apply only to used Household effects and are applied depending on the length of stay abroad.

- Between six and 12 months : US\$500.00 FOB. No interruptions are allowed.
- Between 1 and 5 years: US\$3,000 FOB. 30 days of interruptions per year are allowed.
- More than 5 years: US\$5,000 FOB. 30 days of interruptions per year are allowed.
- Free re-importation of goods is possible. The original export documents will be needed.
- Only 1% of duty is charged based on CIF value.

If no tax exemptions are possible, used Household effects pay duties of approximately 30%. All new items pay around 26%, and if the value of the goods is more than US\$5,000, all the goods may be imported, however tax and duties will be to be payed on the additional value. In case of having a proceeding re-importation free, the customs verification is obligatory to check the old and the new items in the declaration.

Benefits are eligible under the Customs Tariff Schedule every 3 years.

### **Non Citizen Shipments**

#### **Documents Required:**

- Inventory list – accepted only in English or Spanish.
- Photocopy of Work or Temporary Resident Visa, both with a minimum of 365 days stamped in the Passport.
- Photocopy of Passport (identification page with clear photograph and legible information).
- Last entry to Chile stamped in Passport.
- Completed customs forms supplied by our Destination Agent.
- We will need to know the value of the effects which does have to be mentioned on the Bill of Lading.

The payment of duties and taxes may be exempted for Non-Citizens if you have a Visa based contract or a temporary Visa for a period of at least one-year. You may import up to US\$ 5,000 FOB in which case only 1% duty is charged based on the CIF value. Shipments over US\$5,000 are subject to higher duties over the excess of this amount.

If your Visa is still in process, it is possible to customs clear the effects under bond if you show the “Visa Application in Process”. The official Visa stamped in your passport must be shown to the Customs Authorities with 90 days. If not shown the whole shipment will be subject to customs duties at the higher rate. A maximum of two shipments is allowed, one being personal effects and the second being household goods. However, the total sum of both shipments cannot exceed the US\$5,000. Again if they do, they will be subject to full taxes etc.

### **Chilean Diplomats, Chilean International Officials, Ministry of Defence Personnel, Chilean Police and Investigation Police, plus Foreign Diplomats**

#### **Documents Required for duty free and tax free exemption:**

- Inventory List.
- Photocopy of Passport.

The corresponding Embassy or International Organisation must provide the Exoneration Form issued by the Chilean Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Diplomatic status does not avoid Customs verification and Agricultural Inspection (SAG).

### **Inheritance**

Same as household effects.

### **Any New Furniture**

#### **Documents required - same as Household goods, plus original commercial invoice:**

I.V.A (Additional Value Tax) and Customs duty (approximately 26%) is payable.

### **Works of Art and Antiques**

Same as household effects plus an invoice may be required, or a certificate issued by the corresponding museum or gallery.

Customs duty will be payable at about 30%.

### **Precious Metal Objects**

**Documents required – same as Household goods, although a commercial invoice may be required:**

May be entered as personal effects if in a reasonable quantity.

### **Motor Vehicles – Returning Citizens**

Chilean citizens who are returning to Chile may import one new or used vehicle, while paying full customs duties and taxes corresponding to each case. The returning citizen will need to go personally to the Customs authority at the port of entry, at least five working days prior to vessel arrival to request the import.

#### **Documents Required for New Vehicles**

- Commercial invoice.
- Vehicle Property Title.
- Copy of Passport.

Returning Citizens can import a used car provided they have lived abroad for at least 18 months, (verified by Travel Certificate). 60 days interruptions per year are allowed. The used car must be shipped from the Country abroad where the Citizen has been residing and must have been owned and used for at least six months prior to export from said Country.

#### **Documents Required for Used Vehicles**

- Franchise request form, which must be signed in person at the Customs Service.
- Travel Certificate with a validity of 30 days.
- Notarised Sworn Statement declaring permanent residency.
- Commercial Invoice, or notarised sworn statement declaring the value of the vehicle.
- Technical Specifications Form of the vehicle.
- Vehicle Property Title.
- Annex No. 83 declaring the address where the vehicle will reside.
- Bank Guarantee Bond or Insurance Policy issued in US\$ for the amount of taxes payable for the vehicle. Resolution provided by the customs service granting the franchise.
- Uninterrupted Stay Resolution, in case you do not meet the maximum of a 30 days entry requirement.

Duties of approximately 26% will apply.

### **Motor Vehicles – Foreign Citizens**

Foreign citizens may only import new vehicles, and all corresponding customs duties and taxes are to be paid through a Customs Broker before the Customs Service.

#### **Documents Required**

- Commercial Invoice and Vehicle Property Title.

### **Motor Vehicles - Chilean Diplomats, Chilean International Officials, Ministry of Defence Personnel, Chilean Police and Investigation Police, plus Foreign Diplomats**

May not import vehicles through the customs exemption. Therefore new or used vehicles must be imported under the name of the spouse, and the respective duties and taxes are payable. The household goods and car can be imported in the same container, but the shipping paperwork must be in both names.

### **Motor Vehicles – Foreign Diplomats**

Can be exempt from paying the duties and taxes only when it is one new vehicle. In the case of a used vehicle, Customs grants temporary admission extendable only until the end of the diplomats mission, through a TITV or Declaration of Temporary Admission.

### **Motorcycles**

Only new vehicles are allowed into the Country on the payment of taxes and duties. Used motorcycles are completely forbidden.

### **Bicycles**

Are admitted free of taxes with household effects only if considered to be a sports cycle or city cycle. The number of cycles must not exceed the number of members in the family. This regulation is applicable to Returning Citizens, Non-Citizens and all Diplomats.

### **Wine and Alcoholic Beverages**

All wines and alcoholic beverages are subject to high taxes and duties, and we ask that you do not include in your shipment as importation increases the customs clearance time, resulting in considerable increased costs.

### **Food**

Please do not include with your household effects as importation increases the customs clearance time, resulting in considerable increased costs.

### **Pets**

We work with a number of Pet Relocation Companies who can help you Import your pet to Chile.

Please contact us if you wish to be put in contact with our partners.

### **Medicines**

It is recommended that medicines are not shipped with your effects, as the Medical prescription has to be submitted for approval of the Chilean National Health Service, which can take several weeks.

### **Prohibited Items**

Firearms, ammunitions, any other dangerous objects, used tyres. plants and soil, narcotics, drugs, any pornographic material.

### **Endangered Species**

A CITES certificate is normally required. There is a worldwide ban on the movement of Ivory without a CITES Certificate. **Please note old pianos usually have ivory keys and a CITES certification will be required.**

For information on obtaining a CITES certificate please visit:

<http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/endangered-species-application-for-import-and-export-permit>

### **Fumigation of Wood Packaging**

The Chilean Government adopted ISPM-15 (International standards for Phytosanitary Measures Publication 15) Guidelines for Regulating Wood Packaging Materials in International Trade (aka NIFM-15) to standardise the treatment of wood packing materials used for the transport of goods.

Shipments into or out of the country in wooden packaging, need to have a Seal, certifying that the shipment has received the required treatment (HT = Heat Treatment, a minimum wood core temperature of 56C for a minimum of 30 minutes) or fumigation with Methyl Bromide (MT).

*Although every care is taken to ensure that all information in the Atlantic Relocation Guide is accurate and up to date Atlantic cannot accept liability for any inaccuracy.*

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