

2009/2010 *General Chile Travel & Information*

Important Phone Numbers:

- The Fly Shop, Inc.**
(Open 7 days a week, 7:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.)
800-669-3474 • BUS. 530-222-3555 • FAX: 530-222-3572
E-mail: travel@theflyshop.com • www.theflyshop.com
- Holdy Tours**
(Alicia Regueiro)
925-927-6617 • 800-446-1111 • FAX 925-927-6640
E-mail: alicia@holdytours.com
Web site: <http://www.holdytours.com/>
- Hotel Plaza San Francisco**
PH: 011-562-360-4444 • FAX: 011-562-360-4486
E-mail: reservas@plazasanfrancisco.cl
Web site: <http://www.plazasanfrancisco.cl/>
- The Ritz-Carlton, Santiago**
FAX: 011-56-2-470-8501 • PH: 011-56-2-470-8500
E-mail: Reservations.chile@ritzcarlton.cl
Web site: <http://www.ritzcarlton.com/en/Properties/Santiago/Default.htm>
- Marriott Santiago Hotel**
Dial toll-free U.S. reservations number – 888-236-2427
Web site www.Marriott.com
- El Saltamontes**
Coyhaique PH: 011-56-67-23-2779 • El Saltamontes 011-56-67-21-1111
- La Posada de los Farios**
Coyhaique Office: 011-56-67-23-64-02 • rex@chilepatagonia.com
- Patagonia Drifters**
“Granite Canyon Lodge”
Coyhaique PH: 011-56-67-23-0909 •
Lodge: PH: 011-56-1960035
E-mail: chilefish@patagoniachile.cl.
- Patagonian BaseCamp**
PH: 011-56-2-1960031 • E-mail: marcel@patagonian-basecamp.com
- Tierra Maga**
Service & Tours, Santiago
PH: 011-56-9-9-0991376
E-mail: welcome@tierramaga.com
Web site: www.tierramaga.com

- Location of Chile:** Chile is located along the Southwestern coast of South America. The Andes and Argentina define the Eastern border. It's bordered to the North by Peru. Bolivia lies to the Northeast. The Pacific Ocean borders to the West.
- Country Size:** Chile is 2,400 miles long, about the distance from San Francisco to New York. It's only 150 miles wide at it widest point.
- Geography of Chile:** Chile, in the language of the indigenous peoples, means "where the world ends." This is an apt description when you consider the country stretches farther South than any other land mass in the world, besides Antarctica.
- The climate is highly varied and closely resembles the Western coast of the U.S. and Canada. The Humboldt Current carries cool waters up from Antarctica and its effects are felt along the entire coast, producing a rich diversity in marine life. In the Northern part of Chile lays the Atacama Desert, the worlds driest. The central region is very similar to California, with a long "Central Valley" encompassing one of the finest wine producing regions in the world.
- To the South, lies the beautiful lakes district with its pristine lakes and majestic volcanoes. Further to the South is Patagonia, with its vast uninhabited wild lands, temperate rainforest, rugged mountains, volcanoes, glaciers and fjords. The Andes stretch the entire length of the country. The Northern Andes reach altitudes over 20,000 feet. The Southern Andes diminish in size, becoming a string of rugged peaks and snow-capped volcanoes reaching skyward from lush temperate rainforest.
- Capital City:** Santiago is the largest city in Chile with 5 million inhabitants. The capital is Valparaiso and is Chile's largest port, located directly to the West of Santiago.
- Population:** Total population is approximately 15 million inhabitants. More than 50% of the country's population lives in the Fifth Region and the Santiago Metropolitan Region.
- Ethnicity Mix of People:** The majority of Chileans (95%) are of European decent or "mestizos," a mix of European and Indian blood. Three percent are full-blooded indigenous peoples, most commonly called Mapuche or Pehuenche.
- Types of Religions:** 75% Roman Catholic, 15% Protestant and, 10% Jewish, Muslim and other faiths.
- Type of Government:** Chile has been a democracy since 1989. Prior to that time, the country was under the leadership of military dictator, Augusto Pinochet. Transition to democracy has been smooth.
- President:** On March 11th, 2006 the new president of Chile, Michelle Bachelet, took office. Michelle Bachelet is Chile's first woman president and the second in Latin America.

General Information of Patagonia: In Patagonia, Chile is defined by a rugged mountainous coastline of fjord islands and temperate rainforests, much like the inside passage of S.E. Alaska. As one moves East, toward the border of Argentina, the land becomes increasingly drier (Pampa) and is quite similar visually to Montana and other areas of the Western U.S.

The region of Aysen is the 11th of the 12 regions of Chile and has a very recent history. Coyhaique is the government center (and sports fishing hub!) of the region and was founded in 1929.

The "Carretera Austral," or Southern Highway, a rugged gravel road running 800 miles south from Puerto Mont to Villa O'Higgins, is the continuation of the "Pan-American Highway". It is still under construction throughout its southern end, being widened for eventual paving. The main industries in Aysen are lumber, mining, fish farming, government, and tourism.

General History of Chile: During the 1500's, Spanish conquistadors took control of much of what is Chile today. However, they were unable to conquer the fiercely independent Mapuche peoples south of the Ninth Region's Río Bío Bío. In 1818, Chile gained independence from Spain during a widespread and united independence movement under the leadership of Simón Bolívar of Bolivia, Argentine José de San Martín, and Bernardo O'Higgins, a Chilean of Irish descent.

Development of Chile's port cities was greatly influenced by the California gold rush of 1849, where the coastal city of Valparaiso served as the first Pacific port of call during the sea journey from the Eastern United States to California. Chileans made up a large number of the first wave of prospectors to reach the foothills of the Sierra Nevada in search of gold.

Chile remained a democracy from time of independence until a violent military coup, led by General Augusto Pinochet in 1973, overthrew the socialist administration of President Salvador Allende. The resulting military dictatorship remained in power until 1989, after being rejected by voters in a plebiscite offered to modify the country's constitution and allow the regime to stay in power until 1997. The first multi-party elections in over a decade subsequently took place and voters elected Christian Democrat, Patricio Alwyn, who served a 4-year term while the country returned to democratic government.

Fishing History of Chile: Trout and salmon are not native to South America. They were first introduced into Chile and Argentina's regional rivers beginning in the early 1900's, primarily by European owners of the large estancias in the South who imported the eggs and smolt, by ship, from hatcheries in both the U.S. and Europe. Subsequent government sponsored introductions into the pristine lakes and rivers of the Lakes Region of Chile were very successful and this area blossomed into a sports fishing Mecca in the 1950's and 1960's. It was made famous by writers such as Roderick

Haig-Brown, Ernest Schweibert, and Joe Brooks. However, the fishing quality of the Lakes Region has since deteriorated due to pressure and mismanagement of the resource. Meanwhile, introductions into Patagonian waters have been highly successful and the Aysen Region of Chile has now overtaken the Lakes Region as the sports fishing center of Chile. Rainbow and Brown Trout are the most abundant species and Brook Trout (trophy-sized) and salmon can be found in a few remote areas.

Health Services:

Medical services are good but may not meet U.S. standards. Hospitals and doctors often expect immediate cash payment for health services. U.S. medical insurance is not always valid outside the U.S. Supplemental insurance that covers overseas medical costs and provisions for medical evacuation is recommended. There are small outpost health clinics within relatively easy striking distance of our Chilean properties for first-aid and emergency care.

Climate Patterns and Seasons:

The summer (Nov.-April) weather in Chilean Patagonia can most aptly be described as variable. Conditions can range from hot and sunny (80°F+) to cool and rainy (40°F). Anglers should be prepared for either type of condition.

The People of Chile:

Chileans are overall a very friendly people & welcome foreign tourists. The hospitality of the campesinos (country people) in rural Chile is renowned. One of the first things you may notice about Chilean society is that it is very homogenous. Although minority groups exist, they have either immersed themselves into the dominant culture or, like the traditional Mapuche have maintained their cultural identity while remaining on the edge of mainstream society. Historically, societal divisions have run more along lines of social class than ethnicity. However, as new opportunities have arisen for social mobility within Chile's growing economy, society in general has become, to an extent, less stratified.

Chileans are very dedicated to family life, and most social activity revolves around the family. It is not uncommon for unmarried children of all ages to live at home, and members of the extended family gather daily for meals and conversation.

Language:

The language spoken in Chile is Spanish, although many traditional Mapuche people have maintained their native language, and German may be heard in some areas of the South. Aside from the large hotels in Santiago, very few people in Chile speak English. A good Spanish dictionary and phrase book, or a pocket translator will be useful throughout your trip. All guides speak both Spanish and English. Chilean language is full of slang and unique idioms, and even fluent Spanish speakers will need time to adjust to local colloquialisms. Feel free to ask, as Chileans love to explain their slang.

Staying Healthy in Chile:

In general, there is very little risk of infectious disease in Chile. In the South, the risk would be about equivalent to what it would be for a trip to Colorado. Most people, who have problems, pick up something either

during their plane flight to Chile or in Santiago. Commonly, those who do get sick often do so on their third day in Chile. Colds and stomach problems are the most common. To reduce the risk, use common sense and follow these basic guidelines:

- Take it easy the first few days
- Ease into local eating & drinking habits
- Always wash your hands before eating & after using the toilet
- Use discretion when eating from open-air stands
- Drink plenty of non-alcoholic fluids & avoid dehydration
- Drink bottled water while in Santiago
- Take Pepto-Bismol, yogurt or papaya enzyme tablets throughout your stay

Insects:

Bugs, generally, are not a problem in Chile, Patagonia. However, horseflies and the occasional mosquito can, at times, be bothersome. Pack a bottle of repellent with DEET as the active ingredient, just in case.

Potable Water:

It is strongly recommended travelers only drink bottled water while in Santiago. In the South of Chile water quality is excellent and generally very safe. However, bottled water is provided at all our lodges, and is recommended for guests.

Precautions:

Chile is, in general, a very safe place to travel, especially in the remote countryside of the South where most anglers will spend their vacation. While in Santiago, travelers should take common sense precautions, as they would in any large city. A high incidence of petty crimes - such as pick-pocketing & luggage theft - have been reported in the city. When traveling after dark, it is recommended to go by taxi. Travelers should avoid the city's parks at night.

The Chilean police, or “Carabineros,” are helpful and maintain a very high level of integrity. They are legally empowered to ask for identification at any time. It is always a good idea to carry copies of your passport and tourist card at all times. The original documents can be locked in your hotel's safe (caja fuerte). Stories of bribery of South American police do not apply to Chile. Never attempt to bribe a carabinero.

Currency:

Chile's currency is the Peso. As of August 2009, the exchange rate is 547.061 Pesos per U.S. Dollar. Coins come in 1, 5, 10, 50, 100 and 500 Peso denominations. Bills come in 500, 1,000, 2,000, 5,000, 10,000, and 20,000 Pesos. The higher denomination bills can be difficult to change in many places. Merchants throughout the country accept U.S. Dollars, although exchange rates may vary. Having a small calculator on hand is useful for transactions. Most merchants also accept American Express, MasterCard and Visa, as well as Visa check cards. ATM machines are available throughout cities in Chile, including Puerto Mont, Coyhaique and Puerto Varas, and feature most ATM networks such as Plus System. Outside of Santiago traveler's checks can be difficult, if not impossible, to cash and often require payment of a transaction fee.

- Electricity:** 220 volts, alternating current. Plugs have two rounded prongs. It is best to bring your own converter. We suggest a Dual-Wattage Foreign Travel AC Converter, it lets you use 120VAC (USA) devices on 240VAC foreign. This device is for electronic/motorized devices up to 50 watts, such as radios and battery chargers.
- Food in Chile:** With its vast coastline, Chile is best known for its wonderful variety of seafood (mariscos). However, Chile also has many typical dishes made with chicken (pollo) or beef (carne). Typical cuisine includes; Curanto, a mixture of steamed shellfish, sausages, and potatoes; Cazuela de Mariscos, a delicious seafood stew with a buttery base; Pastel de Choclo, a corn casserole with chicken and beef; Empanadas, fried or baked turnovers with a variety of fillings; and Asado de Cordero, fresh lamb roasted over open coals and traditionally prepared for special occasions. In southern Chile there is an excellent variety of locally produced (artesanal) cold cuts, sausages, cheeses, jams, fruits, bread, and honey. Chilean food is not overly spicy; however, meals are usually accompanied by a bottle of Aji, a spicy hot sauce derived from aji chile peppers. Lovers of spicy food will enjoy its unique taste. Desserts include German-influenced küchen and Celestino, crepes stuffed with a sweet filling called Dulce de Leche and topped with powdered sugar. Guests at our lodges will usually experience at least one traditional “asado,” usually on the last night, as well as a variety of typical Chilean dishes throughout their stay. Our Chilean lodges and outfitters compliment their meals with fresh fruits, vegetables, home-made pastries and bread. Wonderful Chilean wines are served during the mid-day meal and at dinner.
- Chilean Wines and Liquor:** Chilean wines are among the worlds finest. Wine selected from the country's top vineyards is served with dinner each night. Wine may be included with your riverside lunch, if desired. Just let your guide know. Pisco, grape-derived liquor, is the most popular hard alcohol in Chile. The national drink, Pisco Sour, made with lemon juice, is very delicious and will be served to toast your arrival at the first night's dinner.
- Taxes and Service Charges:** Foreign travelers are exempt from paying the VAT (value added tax) of 19% at hotels, if they present their passports, tourist cards and foreign credit cards to the hotel staff upon payment.
- Telephone Service:** Telephone service is very modern throughout most of Chile.
- Time Zones:** During the summer months, Chile is on the same time as the East Coast of the U.S. The rest of the year it is 2 hours ahead of EST and five hours ahead of PST.
- Luggage:** Preferably your bags should be locked with an approved TSA lock, available at The Fly Shop. In case of loss (this occurs very rarely in Chile), report it immediately to your airline representative before you leave the airport. Your lodge representative can help with this and arrange for getting your bags to the lodge. Please pack as light as possible. Soft duffel bags are best.

International Travel to Chile from U.S.A.:

The national airline of Chile, LAN, services Santiago with daily flights from Los Angeles, Miami, Dallas and New York. LAN is a wonderful airline, featuring old world service, and modern Boeing 767-300 aircraft. Better yet, LAN offers very competitive rates. Most flights depart in the afternoon or evening, arriving in Santiago the following morning, (one day later). American, Delta, and United Airlines service Santiago daily with links from most of the major city airports in the United States.

Approximate Flying Times:

Los Angeles: 11 hours • Dallas: 9.5 hours • Miami: 6.5 hours • New York: 10 hours.

Reconfirming your Airline Reservations:

South American airlines are notorious for over booking flights by as much as 30%. It is critical you reconfirm all your flights, both domestic and international, at every interval during the trip. This means when you arrive in Santiago, either reconfirm your LAN flight to Coyhaique the day before, or have the concierge do it for you. If you miss that flight, there may not be another for 2 days, so it is very important.

Recommended Travel Agents for South America:

Holdy Tours - Alicia Rodriguez, Regueiro (she is great and knows the business inside and out)

2065 N. Broadway, Ste.204 Walnut Creek, CA 94596

925-927-6617 • 800-446-1111 Fax 925 927-6640 • E-mail: alicia@holdytours.com • www.holdytours.com

Immigration Requirements

for entry into Chile: U. S. Citizens:

When traveling to Chile, a valid passport is required with an expiration date occurring at least 6 months later than the day of arrival. There are neither requirements, nor recommendations, for immunizations; check with your personal doctor if you are concerned.

Non-US Citizens:

Citizens of countries other than the United States should inquire with the nearest Chilean Consulate as to entry requirements specific to them. It is the responsibility of all guests to have required documents in order prior to departure. For more information please call the Chilean Consulate in San Francisco: Ph: (415) 982-7662 Fax: (415) 982-2384

Chilean Tourist Card:

A Chilean Tourist Card Application will be handed out by your carrier during your flight to Chile. Please fill out the application and present it and your passport to Chilean Immigrations upon arrival into Santiago. Immigrations will take one copy of the Tourist Card and leave you with another which you must keep with your passport and present to Immigrations when you leave Chile. Loss of your tourist card may result in a penalty upon departure.

Airport Entry and Departure Taxes: Good for the life of the passport, a fee of \$131 USD (paid in cash or with a credit card) will be charged to all U.S. Citizens entering the country by plane for the first time. This is the same amount charged to Chileans applying for a visa to the U.S. When you get off the airplane in Santiago, signs will lead you to Immigrations (passport control) and

Customs. As you come down a flight of stairs you will enter a large room where people are lining up to pass through Immigrations. At the bottom of the stairs to the left (U-turn) there is a payment kiosk. **Before you get in the Immigrations line**, walk to this kiosk, and pay the \$131 fee, and then get in the Immigrations line. After clearing Immigrations, you will proceed to the baggage claim area, secure a FREE luggage cart, retrieve your baggage and make your way to the Customs clearance area.

A domestic airport tax of \$8.00 is charged when flying within the country. A departure tax of \$26.00 is due upon leaving Chile for another country. Departure Tax is usually included in the ticket price.

Customs:

Generally, foreign tourists pass through Chilean customs smoothly. You may bring into the country, on a duty-free basis, personal items needed during your trip such as; clothing, footwear, toiletries, medications (w/ a copy of the prescription), as well as sporting and fishing equipment. There are specific limitations for the following items: 400 cigarettes, tobacco - 500g, 50 large cigars, or 50 small cigars; 2.5 liters of alcohol; and a reasonable quantity of perfume. Expensive electronic equipment, such as cameras or laptop computers, must be declared and should be accompanied by a copy of the receipt and a simple list noting serial numbers. In order to avoid import taxes you may need to prove upon departure that you are bringing these items home. Prohibited items include: live animal products, meat, flowers, fruit, and vegetables.

Carry-on restrictions:

Each airline has their own specific restrictions on carry-on luggage. Please be sure and contact your airline directly with any questions you may have. You may also try checking the Transportation Safety Administration (TSA) website at www.tsa.gov/public/ up-to-date information on carry-on guidelines.

Domestic Travel in Chile:

There are three airlines presently servicing the Puerto Montt and Coyhaique (Balmaceda) airport. You will reach Puerto Montt in about 2 hours, then fly onto Balmaceda for another 1.

Excess Baggage rates:

Flights: Santiago to Balmaceda is \$3,000 CLP Chilean Pesos or US\$6 per kilogram Santiago to Puerto Montt: is \$2,000 CLP Chilean Pesos or US\$4 per kilogram Two (02) bags **not to exceed** 23 kilograms (50 pounds) **are allowed**. Any piece weighing over 23 kilograms and less than 32 kilograms will be charged with US\$25.

**LAN Airlines: In Chile
(domestic flights only)**

Checked Baggage: depends on your class of ticket, Total weight of luggage 20 kilograms (44 lbs) for Tourist Class, 30 kilograms (66 lbs) for Executive Class, and 40 (88 lbs) kilograms for First Class.

Carry-on Luggage LAN Airlines:

First Class 1 piece weighing 16 kg (35 lbs), Executive Class 1 piece weighing 16 kg (35 lbs), and Tourist Class 1 piece weighing 8 kg (17 lbs).

Catching your Domestic Flight:

You must first clear immigrations and retrieve your luggage, and then clear through Customs. The entire arrival process in Santiago should take

between one and one ½ hours. The new international terminal in Santiago is very modern and well laid-out. Once you clear customs make your way to the third floor of the terminal and check in for your domestic flight to your end destination. If you are short on time, let one of the airline attendants know and they will expedite your check in.

Airport Hotel

Transportation Options:

You have several options in transferring from the airport to your Hotel. If you are staying at the Ritz Carlton, you can opt for their shuttle/van service which must be arranged prior to arrival. The van can accommodate 4-passengers with luggage and takes 30 minutes. The meeting place for the van is just outside of Customs and a driver will be waiting for you with a name sign. When you make your room reservation for Ritz Carlton using The Fly Shop's Reservation Form, please fill-out the appropriate transfer information portion, including carrier name, flight number and arrival/departure times. There is also a taxi/transfer service kiosk just outside of Customs where you can arrange for transportation to your hotel. The cost is very reasonable, approximately \$16.00. Lastly, you can pre-arrange for private transportation with our Santiago tour company, Tierra Maga. For transportation from your hotel to the domestic airport we suggest you have the hotel concierge arrange for a taxi.

Souvenir Shopping in Chile:

Sweaters and other knit items made by local women are available at Los Farios. There is a small crafts market in Coyhaique that sells knit goods, carvings, pottery, etc. Chile is also known for its Lapis Lazuli jewelry, and there are many shops in the Bellavista area of Santiago. Lapis is available in the airport shops as well. Also available are locally produced chocolates, jams and honey. Handmade Mapuche goods and silver jewelry make fine souvenirs.

Places of Interest in Santiago:

A day or more in Santiago may be spent visiting the city's numerous points of interest, some of which include:

Museo de Arte Precolombino

Bandera 361 Plaza de Armas. Closed on Mondays. Tue to Fri 10:00hrs to 18:00hrs. Sat, Sun and Holidays 10:00hrs to 14:00hrs. A well-arranged museum that chronicles over 4,000 years of pre- Columbian civilization.

Museo Colonial de San Francisco Alameda 834, Downtown.

Located along the side of the San Francisco church (dating back to 1618 having survived all the earthquakes, entrance is by the church). Colonial building displaying numerous artifacts and an attractive central garden.

Museo de Bellas Artes Parque Forestal, Downtown.

Santiago's fine arts museum, displaying permanent collections of French, Italian, Dutch and Chilean paintings and often hosting very interesting visiting exhibits.

Museo Arqueológico de Santiago

Lastarria 321, Downtown.

Set amid an historical small neighborhood, with interesting cafes and art galleries, this museum offers a number of exhibits from the indigenous peoples of Chile.

**Palacio de la Moneda
(Presidential Palace)**

Located between streets Morande and Teatinos. The largest colonial building constructed by the Spanish during the 18th century. Originally the Royal Mint and now the seat of the President of Chile. Bombed in 1973 by the Chilean Air force during a military coup led by General Augusto Pinochet. Recently renovated, the Palace interior courtyards are open to the public during the day.

Cerro Santa Lucia (Original City Fort) Originally named Huelen by the natives and renamed Santa Lucia by the Spanish conquistador Pedro de Valdivia, on 13 December 1540, when he founded the first settlement at the foot of the hill, later to be named Santiago in 1541. It was Marco du Pont who, during the retaking of Santiago between 1814 to 1817 after an uprising by the natives, converted the hill into a serious defense fort. In 1872 an effort began to transform the fort into an important public place of interest by enlisting 150 jailed prisoners who worked to exhaustion to complete the first part in 1872. The porch and staircase were completed in 1903. This is a great place to visit if you want an impressive view of the immediate downtown area and to enjoy relative quiet within the park that surrounds the fort.

**Teatro Municipal Agustinas
corner with San Antonio, Downtown**

Opera and Ballet March to December.

Barrio Paris-Londres (Historic Area)

A small, historic area located behind, but close to the San Francisco church. Narrow streets and interesting architecture.

**Mercado Central
(Food Market & Restaurants)
Valdés Vergara 900, Downtown.**

The building was constructed between 1868 and 1872 with sections pre-fabricated in England, designed by Fermin Vivaceta for the purpose of exhibiting works of art, but it quickly became used as a market. Today the market is still active and it is an interesting place to eat. A number of restaurants that specialize in fish dishes surround the principal hall where one can eat and admire the fish, meat and vegetables on display amid the flurry of market activity.

**Palacio Cousiño (Colonial Home)
Dieciocho 438, Downtown.**

An elaborate 19th-century mansion dating back to 1871. Built by the Cousiño family from wealth accumulated from coal and silver mining. Well preserved images from an elite life. Open: Tues - Sun: 09:30hrs - 12:30hrs. 14:30hrs - 16:00hrs. Tel: 698 5063

**Cerro San Cristóbal is a hill in the
Barrio Bellavista section
of Santiago, Chile.**

The hill rises 860 m above the rest of Santiago; the peak is the highest point in the city. Its original indigenous name was Tupahue. It was named by the Spanish conquistadors for St Christopher, in recognition of its use as a landmark. At the peak, there is a church with an amphitheater, and a 22 m statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary donated by France in the 1920s. Pope John Paul II gave mass there in 1987. The spot is a superb location from which to view the city.

- Business Hours:** Businesses in Chile normally open at 9:00AM, close 1:00PM to 3:30PM for lunch, and stay open until 7:00-8:00PM. Most businesses are open Saturdays until 2:00PM and closed Sundays. Banks are open to the public Monday through Friday 9:00AM to 2:00PM.
- Postal Rates:** Postal rates in Chile are equivalent to those in the U.S., and service is reliable. Allow 2 weeks for a letter to arrive to the U.S. The cost for a letter or postcard to the U.S. is approximately \$1.00 USD.
- Social Customs for Chileans:** In informal situations, a gentle kiss on the right cheek is common for a man greeting a woman, or between women. Men shake hands. Conversations are customarily started, (especially when transacting business), with a greeting equivalent to “good day:” “Buenos dias” is used in the morning, “Buenas tardes” in the afternoon until 6:00 or 7:00PM, and “Buenas noches” in the evening. Chileans will always ask about your family in conversation – they are not prying but are expressing sincere interest. Photos of your family and home region are always welcomed and provide a good way to break the ice.
- In some rural areas of Chile, when visiting with locals, it is customary to share a hot tea-like drink called “mate” (mau-tay). Yerba mate is a strong herb, packed into a gourd (called a mate) which is then filled with hot water. It is sipped using a silver-plated straw called a “bombilla.” Each person sips the gourd dry - not lingering over the drink - and then passes the mate back to the host who refills it and passes it on to the next person. An invitation to share mate should be considered very special.
- Of course, it is impossible to explain all of Chile's rich customs and culture in this limited space. We recommend the book "Culture Shock, Chile: A Guide to Customs and Etiquette," by Susan Roraff and Laura Camacho/published by Times Editions Pte Ltd. It provides an excellent overview of Chilean customs and society.
- Fishing License:** The lodge or outfitter you are fishing with will take care of your Chilean Sportfishing License. However, in order for them to do so, it is imperative The Fly Shop receive the following information from you at least 4 weeks prior to your departure date:
- 1) Your name, as it appears on your passport
 - 2) Passport number
 - 3) Expiration date of passport
 - 4) Date of birth
- Gratuities:** Tipping is a personal decision and should be based on the level of service you received during your stay and your overall satisfaction with the trip. Generally, each satisfied client will leave a gratuity somewhere in the range of 7% - 10% of total cost of the lodge package. Please be prepared to pay your gratuity in Cash USD\$. Gratuities can be left with the lodge or fishing manager and will be divided appropriately among the entire staff.

While in Santiago, it is customary to tip hotel staff & other service providers. Guidelines for typical gratuities in Chile include: \$1 - \$2 per bag to bellmen, plus \$1 - \$2 for opening the room, \$1 - \$2 to doormen for assisting with a cab, \$5 to concierge for special efforts & errands, and 10% of your total meal bill (“la cuenta”) for wait staff or room service personnel. Airport chauffeurs may be tipped \$1/per person, plus \$1/per bag if help is given. It is not customary to tip taxi drivers in Chile, however, it is a nice gesture to allow them to keep small change.

Credit Cards:

Because of their remote location and limited communication, credit cards are not accepted at any of our Chilean lodges as a form of payment. Cash, US\$ is the preferred type of payment for gratuities, souvenir or

items of personal nature. Traveler’s Checks are discouraged, as when cashed, they are levied a steep service charge, sometimes in excess of 20%.

Suggested Books on Chile and Patagonia:

- “Last Cowboys at the End of the World” by Nick Redding (former guide of Rex Bryngleson of La Posada de los Farios) Based on the lives of Gauchos living in Cisnes Medio area and right on the Ranch where La Posada de los Farios sits.
- “In Patagonia” by Bruce Chatwin
- “The Old Patagonia Express” by Paul Thoroux
- “A River for Christmas” by Ernest Schwiebert
- “Chile and Easter Island” (a travel survival kit), Lonely Planet Publications, by Wayne Bernardson
- Chile- Insight Guides, APA Publications, by Tony Perrottet • South American Handbook
- Birds of South America

Helpful Information:

Fish estimation formula: Girth squared (x) the length (÷) 800. This is a widely accepted formula that will give you a fair estimate of your released Sea-run Brown Trout’s weight.

$$\frac{G \times G \times L}{800} = W$$

G = girth (inches)
L = length (inches)
W = Weight (pounds)

Conversions from Metric to U.S. Equivalent

To convert	into	multiply by
Centimeters	Inches	.394
Meters	Yards	1.093
Kilometers	Miles	.621
Kilograms	Pounds	2.205

Metric Equivalents

1 inch = 2.54 centimeters
1 yard = .9144 meter
1 mile = 1,609.3 meters or 1.6 Kilometers
1 pound = .454 kilograms
1 acre = .4047 hectare
640 acres (1 square mile) = 259 hectares or 2.59 square kilometers

CATCH & RELEASE - GOOD TECHNIQUES HELP REDUCE FISH MORTALITY

MERELY RELEASING a fish which you have caught and landed does not ensure it will survive. To reduce fish mortality, anglers must handle fish carefully and quickly with approved techniques. Always fish using a barbless fly. This not only makes it easier to release the fish but is a safety precaution for both you and the guide. Use steel hooks so that if the leader must be cut to prevent additional trauma and the hook is left in the fish, it will corrode more quickly than nickel or stainless steel hooks. Whenever possible, we like to have the guides assist you in releasing fish. If one is not available to help you release a fish, please follow these guidelines:

Land the fish as quickly and efficiently as possible; the longer the playing-time, the greater the stress on the fish.

If you can, it is best to remove the hook without handling the fish. However, it is often necessary to hold a fish during the hook removal process. Hemostats, or the new "Ketchum Release," should be used to remove the hook.

When holding a fish, cradle it gently and horizontally in two hands (size of fish permitting). Turning the fish upside down can often disorient the fish and keep them calm long enough to remove a hook.

Keep hands and fingers away from the gills; do not put fingers over the eyes. Do not squeeze the fish in the throat or stomach regions; vital organs can be easily injured.

To photograph the fish, have someone ready with the camera and do it quickly, but **KEEP THE FISH IN THE WATER!**

Never throw a fish back. Grasp it gently and return it carefully into quiet waters deep enough to support it. Revive the fish by pointing its head into the current until it recovers enough to swim out of your hands. (Seeing a fish swim out of your hands might be the moment of C & R's maximum enjoyment!) Be patient, this may take more than a few minutes. If a fish needs to be revived and the gill plates are not moving, gently hold the fish under water by the tail with one hand and support the underbelly with the other. Face the fish into the current and gently move the fish back and forth. Generally, a few minutes of facing the fish into the current will be enough assistance so that it can swim off on its own.

Whirling Disease & New Zealand Mud Snails:

We recommend new or bleach washed boots to prevent the spread of whirling disease and New Zealand mud snails.

What is Whirling Disease? *Myxobolus cerebralis* (Mc) is a parasite that infiltrates the head and spinal cartilage of fingerling trout where it multiplies rapidly, causing the fish to swim erratically and, in severe cases, die. When an infected fish dies, millions of tiny indestructible Mc spores (each about the size of a red blood cell) are released to the water where they can survive in this "dormant" form for up to 30 years. When Mc spores are ingested by Tubifex worms, the spore changes inside the worm and is released from the worm in a highly infective form, the Triactinomyxon (Tam). Tams are free-floating in the water until they infect trout, causing spinal deformities and decreased abilities for feed. Whirling disease is most infective to rainbow and cutthroat trout, but can infect all salmonid species.

Prevention: Rinse all mud and debris from equipment and wading gear

- Rinse, then thoroughly dry your boots, waders and other fishing equipment. This is generally sufficient to kill the TAM stage of the parasite.
- Chlorine (regular household bleach) is a very effective disinfectant, and one of the few that can kill all stages of the parasite if used at the proper concentration. However, chlorine is a very strong chemical and can harm your equipment with prolonged exposure, so make sure you rinse the chlorine off your waders and other equipment after you disinfect, and dry in the shade.
- To kill the TAM stage, use 1 part chlorine to 32 parts water. It must stay in contact for about 10 minutes to assure disinfection.
- To kill the mature myxospore that may be found in the mud from an infected stream is much more difficult and hard on equipment.
- 50% solution (1 part chlorine to 1 part water) - dip waders into a solution of the bleach or wipe or spray it on.
- 10% solution (1 part chlorine to 9 parts water) and soak your equipment for 10 minutes.
- Quaternary ammonium compounds are also effective in killing both parasite stages. These disinfectants are commercially available for disinfecting fishing equipment (Bright Water TM) or for the pet/veterinary trade (Roccal-D TM, Parvosol TM).
- Equally effective is water heated to nearly boiling (200°F) poured over your gear and allowed to cool.

Santiago Restaurant Recommendations

I was enjoying my last evening at Minchos Lodge when I was joined at dinner by a nice couple and their friend enjoying a fishing vacation down from Santiago. These were typical fun loving and sophisticated Chileans, floor traders by day, fly fisherman by night. One of the subjects that came up were nice restaurants in Santiago, and at my request they passed along their top recommendations. Enjoy! - Mike Mercer

A Pinch of Pancho

International Food
General del Canto N° 45
Providencia
Phone: (562)-2351700

Pinpilinpausha

Spanish and International Food
Isidora Goyenechea N° 2900
Las Condes
Phone: (562)2336507
Fax:(562)2325800

Bel Paese

Italian Food
Av. Apoquindo N°7741
Las Condes
Phone: (562)2127086
Fax:(562)2127078

Ocean Pacific's

Marisqueria (Chilean Sea Food)
Av. Ricardo Cumming N°221
Santiago
Phone:(562)6972413
Fax:(562)6731858
E-Mail: oprestaurant@hotmail.com • www.oprestaurant.cl

Happening

Carnes (Meats)
Av. Apoquindo N°3090
Las Condes
Phone:(562)2332301

Hereford Grill

Carnes (Meats)
Av. El Bosque Norte N°0355
Las Condes
Phone:(562)2319117

Coco Loco

Marisqueria (International and Chilean Food)
Av. El Bosque Norte N°0215
Las Condes
Phone:(562)2313082
Fax:(562)2450765
E-Mail: cocoloco@netline.cl • www.cocoloco.cl

Cuerovaca

Carnes (Meats)
El Mañio N°1659
Vitacura
Phone: (562)2063911