

Helpful Information for Planning your Trip to Chile

Tourist Visa: U.S. citizens entering Chile must have a valid passport. U.S. citizens traveling to Chile for recreation, tourism, business, or academic conferences do not need to obtain a visa prior to their arrival in Chile. A Tourist Card will be issued for a stay of up to 90 days. The Tourist Card must be surrendered upon departure. Failure to submit this card upon departure may result in delays until a replacement is obtained. If lost or stolen, the Tourist Card must be replaced by the International Police (website is in Spanish only) at their nearest headquarters or at the international airport prior to departure.

Entry Tax: Effective February 26, 2014 US citizens are no longer subject to a reciprocity fee.

[Santiago Chile Airport Map](#)

Customs: Upon arrival in Santiago, all passengers must retrieve their luggage to go through customs control. Regardless of whether your bags were checked through to La Serena, you must collect them, pass through customs and bring them up to the third floor departure area to re-check them for your next flight. Elevators are available upon exiting the customs area. Be aware of people trying to help you get to your destination as there are no official representatives affiliated with the airlines in the lower level.

Money: There are several money exchange agencies in La Serena. Also, AURA's accounting office provides this service for visitors. Most US ATM cards function in Chile. Their use is very straightforward, after entering your PIN, choose "Foreign Client" and the remaining menus will be self-explanatory. The denomination you enter for retrieval is in Chilean pesos and you can expect a rate is around 650 pesos to 1 US dollar.

Transportation: Will be arranged from the airport to the Recinto. There will be someone waiting for you when you arrive. There's usually at least one LSST vehicle in the Recinto at all times, which travelers can use. La Serena is a pretty walk friendly city, downtown for example is about a 20 minute walk from the Recinto. You can always ask for a taxi which will take you wherever you need to go.

Accommodation: There is a house in the Recinto, where the LSST offices are located in La Serena, for LSST visitors. The house is equipped with bedding, kitchenware and basic household supplies. You are welcome to cook. For this, you will need to purchase food at the supermarket (there are a couple nearby) or at the local vegetable market (at a walking distance). Also, there are restaurants close to the Recinto.

Internet: LSST personnel that come to Chile who want to connect to the internet anywhere outside of the LSST subnets will need to register their MAC address with CISS. There is a form on the CTIO page which obviously LSST personnel can visit prior to arrival to request MAC addresses registration. The URL is <http://www.ctio.noao.edu/noao/node/add/network-connection>.

Mountain and Safety Information

Summit: If you are planning on staying overnight there is a hotel on Cerro Pachon that can be arranged for you. There are a few options for going to the summit. You can use one of our vehicles, take the bus or carryall. There's a cafeteria on Cerro Pachon where meals are provided.

Important: Staff are discouraged from driving up and down to the summit. If the person is required to use the vehicles, they must have completed the driver training course, at least the one on Litmos. Other courses will be implemented in the near future. The preferred form of transportation is the bus or the carryall.

Useful Links

[Practical Information for Travelers](#)

[Tololo and Tourism | CTIO](#)