## card:

# AT&T: 800.225.288 MCI: 800.207.300

TRANSPORTATION Taxis are widely available in Valparaíso and Santiago. Call for a "radio taxi," rather than hail one on the street. "Colectivos," a mix between a taxi/bus, run fixed routes and transport multiple parties. Santiago's metro system is easy, fast, and efficient. Buses, known as "micros," are accessible, but a little more challenging to use...even for locals.

TOURIST INFORMATION The Tourist Information Center in Valparaíso is located at 507 Viña del Mar, Office # 302.

In Santiago, the National Tourism Board (Sernatur) is at 1550 Providencia Ave

USEFUL WORDS AND PHRASES Chileans speak Spanish very quickly with a unique accent and chilenismos (Chilean sayings), creating a distinct Castellano chileno.

"Po" Usually added at the end of a sentence for emphasis, this is slang for por supuesto, meaning "of course."

¡Chao! Rather than say adios, Chileans part ways in Italian.

# NOTES

ion has been compiled for the convenience of our guests and is intended solely for that purpose While we work to ensure that the information contained herein is correct, we cannot accept responsibility for any changes that may have taken place since printing © RCCL 2009 All rights reserved.



GENERAL INFORMATION Named a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2003, Valparaíso is Chile's second largest city. The city rose to importance during Chile's colonial period as the main stopover port that connected ships going between the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans. Today the seaport of 800,000 residents is the home to Chile's navy and seat of Congress. Popularly known as "Valpo," the city reflects an eclectic mix of colonial and maritime culture. Valparaíso's colorful buildings are a physical reminder of the city's vibrant past. Magnificent old mansions and elegant government buildings dot the city, while old funicular lifts climb the hillside. Earthquakes, like one in 1730 that devastated the port, make the colonial structures left standing treasured relics in Chile.

Linking Valparaíso to the capital of Santiago is the Valle de Casablanca, one of the country's best and newest wine regions. The cool Pacific breeze and low valleys have made the valley famous for white wines, including Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc.

Once in Santiago, brace yourself for the bustle of a thriving capital of six million people. Like Valparaíso, Santiago's landscape contrasts the colonial with the modern. Colonial buildings, metro lines, and department stores stand out against the white-peaked mountains of the Andes in the distance.

Santiago city life revolves around the central avenue that winds through this capital with over 30 distinct comunas. Throughout the city, the avenue has different names to represent the unique character of each neighborhood: Alameda in downtown, Providencia in midtown, Apoquindo in uptown, and finally Avenida Las Condes to the north of the city. This avenue can be your guide to Santiago's many historic sites, parks, and restaurants.

A treasure in itself, Santiago is the base from which to explore Chile's many natural attractions. The nearby ski resorts, including Portillo, the oldest in South America, are also an escape for local santiaguinos and tourists alike. Whether you stay in Valparaíso, Santiago, or discover the rest of Chile, you are sure to be pleased by the country's beauty and variety. HISTORY For thousands of years, long before Europeans arrived, Chile's long narrow coast had been populated by several strong tribes. The Mapuche tribe (called Araucanos by the Spaniards) lived in the central and southern area of Chile, while the Quechua tribe and Aymara



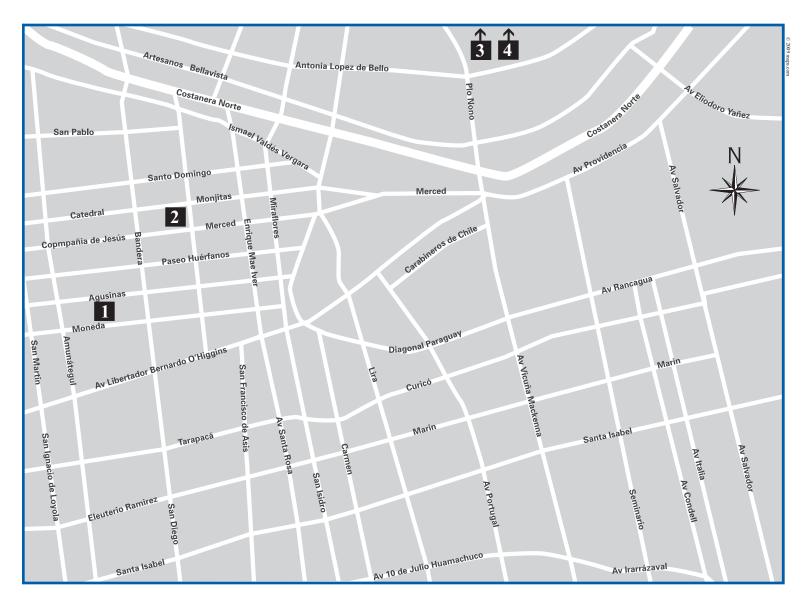
# Valparaiso

people lived in the Highlands and Midlands of northern Chile and Peru. The Araucanians withstood invasions by northern Incas and Spanish colonizers until 1550 when Pedro de Valdivia conquered the entire region. Even after the victory for the Spanish Crown, Araucanian resistance against the Spanish continued into the nineteenth century.

Valparaíso was founded in 1536 by Spaniard Juan de Saavedra who named the city for his hometown in Spain. The port became a critical trading and naval base for the Spanish armada. It also was popular site for invading foreigners such as English legend Sir Francis Drake who pillaged Valparaíso in 1578.

In 1541, Pedro de Valdivia, one of Francisco Pizarro's lieutenants, founded Santiago as the colony's capital. The city grew immensely in the late 1500s after indigenous resistance in southern Chile pushed Spanish colonists back to Santiago.





During the colonial period from 1550 to 1759, Chile provided agricultural resources for the Spanish empire and answered to the Viceroyalty of Peru. As the colony grew in size and importance, Chile also gained autonomy from the Spanish crown. The chaos that ensued after Napoleon Bonaparte's brother deposed the Spanish king in 1808 led a group of Chilean leaders from Santiago to declare self-rule on September 18, 1810. Battles between loyalist and separatist Chileans during this "Reconquista" period lasted for eight years. In 1818, Bernardo O'Higgins, an Irish-born patriot who became Chile's first president, and Jose de San Martin, the Argentine patriot, joined to finally defeat the Spanish in April 1818.

Following Chilean independence, Valparaíso became a critical stopover port for ships traveling around Cape Horn. South Americans also flocked to Valparaíso to catch a ship to California during the Gold Rush. A 1906 earthquake demolished many buildings in the port and the opening of the Panama Canal decreased Valparaíso's popularity as ships now had a faster way to travel between the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans.

After the War of the Pacific with Peru and Bolivia (1879 -1883), Chile gained mineral-rich territories to the north in the

Atacama Desert. This region, rich in nitrate deposits, became a critical source of wealth for the Chilean economy. Nitrate excavation, copper mining, industrial development, and immigration prompted growth in Santiago and Valparaíso in the early twentieth century. This growth also made the cities the primary theaters for political debates between conservative and liberal parties. The 1970 election of Salvador Allende gave Chile its first socialist president and caused more problems than it solved. On September 11, 1973, the Chilean military, led by General Augusto Pinochet, toppled the Allende government.

During the seventeen years of the Pinochet regime, economists from the University of Chicago, known as the "Chicago Boys," advised on the implementation of a series of reforms to radically transform Chile into a market economy. Since the return to democracy in 1990, Chile's political climate has stabilized, and its economic status has improved. In 2003, Chile signed a free trade agreement with the United States, and Santiago has emerged as a financial capital of Latin America. With an established democracy, sound economy, and an emerging arts scene, Chile will capture your interest from your first view of the Andes Mountains and that first sip of Chilean wine.

#### SANTIAGO PLACES OF INTEREST (ON MAP)

Palacio de la Moneda Chile's Presidential Palace is located on the Plaza de la Constitución in downtown Santiago. This was the site of the 1973 military coup led by General Augusto Pinochet.

**Plaza de Armas** The historic center of Santiago, artists  $\angle$  crowd this square selling their beautiful creations. The plaza is within walking distance of many of the city's most important buildings.

**Cerro San Cristóbal** From the top of Santiago's largest park and second-highest hill, you can see breathtaking views of the capital with the snow-capped Andes in the distance.

La Chascona Located in the colorful neighborhood of Hellavista, poet Pablo Neruda designed and named this house the "disheveled one," a nickname for his third wife, Matilde.

### VALPARAISO PLACES OF INTEREST

Local Cuisine: Chile has a wide variety of seafood, including abalone, salmon, conger eels, and sea bass. Some local favorites include: Pebre - A spicy salsa made with tomatoes, on-Muelle Prat This pier is a meeting place for locals and tourists ions, and peppers. Chileans use it as a condiment for bread, red alike. See the replica of the Spanish ship Santiaguillo, shop in meat...or any other food. Empanada de pino – Chile's signature the arts market, or say hello to the sea lions along the shore. empanada is made with ground beef, raisins, olives, and hard-Ascensor Concepción One of fifteen funicular elevators in boiled egg. Pastel de choclo – This hearty Chilean casserole is Valparaíso, this is the oldest (1883). Ride the elevator to the top made with corn, chicken, beef, raisins, and hard-boiled eggs.

to see a spectacular view of the city and pier.

La Sebastiana One of Chilean national poet Pablo Neruda's three homes, this house has a maze of rooms, reflecting his eclectic personality and life.

Plaza Sotomayor This central square is the heart of Valparaíso's city life. It is also home to many historic sites, including the Naval Heroes Monument, the Justice Tribunal, and the Ex-Intendencia buildings.

Museo Naval y Marítimo Located in a mansion that used to be Chile's naval academy, the Naval and Maritime Museum has several exhibits on the history of the Chilean Navy, as well as the port of Valparaíso.

## Beyond Valparaíso and Santiago

Viña del Mar This town is minutes away from Valparaíso and is home to white sand beaches, the national casino, and a famous flower clock.

Valle de Casablanca Casablanca's cool temperatures make it ideal to produce excellent white wines, especially Sauvignon Blanc, Chardonnay, and Late Harvest varietals.

Valle del Maipo This region surrounding Santiago is best known for some of Chile's most famous vineyards that produce very good red wines, especially Carménère, Cabernet Sauvignon, and Merlot.

**Portillo** South America's oldest ski area located 90 miles north

of Santiago, Portillo is renowned for unrivaled skiing in the Andes during the winter, as well as its idyllic views of snowcapped mountains and sparkling lakes at any time of year.

- SHORE EXCURSIONS To make the most of your visit to Valparaiso, Santiago and surrounding areas we suggest you take one of our organized Shore Excursions. For information concerning tour content and pricing, consult your Shore Excursion Brochure, Shore Excursion TV Channel or contact the Shore Excursion Desk. When going ashore, guests are advised to take with them only the items they need and to secure any valuables.
- LOCAL CUSTOMS Bargaining: Though prices are fixed in restaurants and stores, bargaining at open-air markets is common.
- Tipping: A 10% tip is customary at restaurants, but tipping is not necessary in taxis.

- Local drink: Pisco Sour This is Chile's national drink, made with pisco, a brandy made from Muscat grapes, egg whites, lemon (mango in Arica) and sugar.
- SHOPPING FACILITIES Chile is one of two places in the world to find lapislazuli, a dark blue semi-precious stone. Mapuche- and Aymara-produced souvenirs (pottery, stone work, textiles, silver) are sold in some artisan markets and shopping malls. In Valparaíso, visit O'Higgins Square or Muelle Prat, right next to the pier.
- Ferias artesenales (craft fairs) are all over Santiago. Visit downtown Santiago, especially near Feria Santa Lucia and the nearby shops in front of Santa Lucia Hill. For the best array of products, visit the Pueblito de los Dominicos in Las Condes, which has over 180 stalls of treasures, like lapislazuli, Chilean cowboy
- crafts, pottery, and silver work, among other things.
- LOCAL CURRENCY The local currency is the Chilean peso
- (CL\$). Foreign currency is not widely accepted in Chile. ATM's are usually available, especially in heavily trafficked tourist areas.
- POST OFFICE AND TELEPHONE FACILITIES In Valparaíso there is a Post Office at 856 Prat. Another location is 95 Plaza Sotomayor. In Santiago, the Correo Central (Main Post Office) in is in the Plaza de Armas.
- Dial the following access numbers to use a personal calling