

Jacquie Whitt & Vidal Jaquehua <u>info@adiosadventuretravel.com</u> 757-714-6649 (US) +011 51 98 476 2877 (Peru)

# **Chile & Easter Island Pre-Departure Information**

Note: Local Time is GMT-3 in Patagonia & GMT-5 in Easter Island

Information contained in this document is vital to your trip. Please read all information carefully and let us know if you have any questions. You may want to print this and carry it with you.

# This document contains important information regarding:

Cash and Banks
Travel Insurance Recommendations
Checking In for Flights
Luggage Restrictions
Luggage Storage
Drinking Water
Ban on Plastic in Patagonia
Laundry
Communications & Phones

#### Cash & Banks

The national currency Chile is the Chilean peso. Many establishments will accept USD and/or credit cards. Bring enough for:

- Meals (some lunches and dinners). All breakfasts are provided by the hotels. Some boxed lunches are covered for activities in Patagonia.
- Beverages (water, soft drinks, alcoholic beverages)
- Gratuities (optional)
- Souvenirs
- Odds and ends. Example: taxi in SCL to go to dinner, etc.

The amount will vary from person to person. Here is an estimated guideline:

**Busy Days in Towns -** \$75-100 per person per day

**Days in National Parks -** \$50-75 per person per day

**Easter Island -** \$100-200 per person (for whole Easter Island trip)

- -» ATM's are located in Santiago, Puerto Natales, Punta Arenas, and Valparaiso.
- -- Daily limit for cash withdrawal per account is 200,000 pesos / about \$258 USD.
- -> Most restaurants accept credit cards.
- → Uber is popular and plentiful in Santiago.

### Travel Insurance Requirements

- --> We strongly recommend all travelers purchase travel insurance covering material losses, accidents, delays, air ambulance services, and life loss. Adios Adventure Travel & its representatives and partners do not include travel insurance with the programs (either on the Galápagos Islands or on the mainland). The programs offered by Adios Adventure Travel do not include coverage for unplanned out of pocket expenses.
- -- You are free to choose any provider including, but not limited to:
  - World Nomads Adios Adventure Travel Insurance: http://www.worldnomads.com/travel-insurance/#axzz2qllikAZa
  - InsureMyTrip.com good place to compare policies online

Your health insurance provider may offer services during travel. Call your provider to find out what your options are.

### Checking In for Flights

We book flights for our groups as a courtesy and to ensure continuity of the trip. We are not responsible for any changes made by airlines. Although we have not had any reports of problems with people who choose to check-in at the counter, we provide your confirmation codes in case you do want to check-in online in advance. All hotels have free wifi. If you have trouble connecting, you can ask your hotel staff for assistance in checking in. Before you depart for your trip, we provide you with the contact numbers to reach our in-country team. If you have any concerns about checking in online for your domestic flight and need advice, let them know before you travel.

--- When checking in at the airport for local flights, it can be beneficial to checkin together. Gather all the passports and present at once. However, it's also fine if you prefer to checkin on your own.

### **Luggage Restrictions**

- --- Santiago to Patagonia: 158 cms3 / 62 inches3 (sum of the width + length + height) / 23 kg (50.7 lb)
- → Santiago Easter Island: 1 checked luggage 23 KG (50.7 lb) (The airline allows 2 checked bags per person, but we recommend only 1 for 3D trip.)

Carry Ons are the same as flights in the US - Up to 15 lbs. Must fit in overhead bins.

### **Luggage Storage**

-» If you are booked at a hotel in Quito or Guayaquil, you can store your luggage at the hotel while you are in the Galápagos. When you return to Guayaquil or Quito, take a taxi for approximately \$2 to the hotel to collect your luggage and return to the airport. Please allow 1 additional hour layover before your connecting flight.

#### **Drinking Water**

--- Water in Chile is not only safe to drink from the tap, it is one of the best places for drinking local water on the planet. And it is the best option to reduce plastic waste.

## Ban on Plastic in Patagonia - Water Bottles & Plastic Bags

- → Plastic waste has been banned in Patagonia since 2014. In restaurants, when requested, bottled water is served in reusable glass containers. You cannot buy plastic bottles of water anywhere in Patagonia! Or ziploc plastic baggies..
- -» Bring reusable water bottles, bladders, or collapsible pouches for personal use and fill up at hotel tap. The guide will provide additional water in the van during the activities.

#### Laundry

- → Casa de Todos hotel in Santiago offers laundry service.
- -- Hotel Costa Australis in Puerto Natales offers laundry service.

Allow plenty of time. Hotels will offer 24 hour turnaround service, but we suggest you allow them at least 48 hours.

#### **Communications & Phones**

- -- Although WiFi may be offered, it is subject to interruptions and this is beyond the control of anyone.
- --> Even if you have international texting and cell phone service, you may or may not get texts and messages.
- -- Guides have local phone service, but it is subject to the same gaps and interruptions.
- → Expect to be "off the grid."