

**TEAM LEADER
PROJECT INFORMATION PACKET**



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Maranatha in Chile

In 2007 Maranatha responded to the request of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Chile to construct 80 urgently needed churches. Beginning in January 2008, Maranatha will construct these churches with the cooperation of many volunteers from around the world.

The following information has been specifically compiled to help acquaint volunteer team leaders with Chile and to equip them with some of the basic information necessary for a successful mission trip to that country. This information is not a substitute for a site visit by each group's leadership team. During that site visit you will be able to collect the detailed logistical information that will ensure a positive experience for your team.

About Chile

Chile, which claims a part of the Antarctic continent, is the longest country on earth. The Atacama Desert, in the north of the country, is the driest place of the earth. The rain there is under 0.04 inches per year. The center of Chile, with the two cities Santiago and Valparaiso, has a Mediterranean climate with average temperatures of 82°F in January and 52°F in July. In the middle of Chile, the country is very fertile.

Santiago is the capital of Chile and is located in the center of the country on a plain in the foothills of the Andes Mountains. The city is situated between the majestic Andes Mountains on the east and the Pacific coast on the west.

Chile stretches over 2,700 miles along the southwestern coast of South America, a distance roughly the same as that from San Francisco to New York, or Edinburgh to Baghdad. At the same time, its width never exceeds 150 miles, making the country more than eighteen times longer than its widest point.

Chile is a well-educated country. Only 2.7% are not able to read or write. Some believe that Chile has one of the best school systems in South America.

(Taken from <http://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chile> and <http://www.geographia.com/chile/>)

Chile Statistics

- Chile is a Spanish-speaking country, slightly smaller than twice the size of Montana
- Chile has a population of 16.4 million people
- Climate is temperate; warm deserts in the north; temperate central valley; cool channels and archipelagos in the south
- About 70% of the population is Roman Catholic and the remaining 30% are Protestants
- Primary language spoken is Spanish.
- Over 96% of the adult population is literate
- Chile's currency is the Chilean peso. 1 US Dollar equals 520 Chilean Pesos (May 2007)
- About 18% of Chileans live below the poverty level
- Elevation ranges from 0 to 22,572 feet above sea level

(Taken from "The World Factbook" <https://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/ci.html>)

Chile Map



The Adventist Church in Chile

The first Seventh-day Adventist missionary to work in Chile was Clair Nowlen, a colporteur, who came from Argentina to Valparaiso, Chile in 1894. By 1896 there were some 70 Adventists in Chile. In January 1900 the first issue of *Las Senales de los Tiempos* ("Signs of the Times") was printed. In 1902, 8000 copies were printed each month. In 1914 the Chilean government officially recognized the corporation of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

By 1930 the Chile Conference, with headquarters at Santiago, had:

- 29 church congregations
- 1,771 members
- 8 church schools
- 4 ordained ministers,
- 8 licensed ministers
- 12 licensed missionaries
- 26 canvassers
- 5 church buildings
- 12 teachers
- 344 students

The Chilean Adventist University was inaugurated on April 15, 1906. The initial nine students were trained as ministers and teachers who were needed to serve the emerging Adventist Church in Chile. In 1990 the university assumed its current name, "Chilean Adventist University" (UNACH), and began offering new majors in Civil Engineering Industrial Agriculture, Commercial Engineering, Accounting and Agronomy. In 2002, the school achieved full educational autonomy.

In the area of evangelism, Francisco Milanovic, a member of a Gypsy tribe, was converted to the gospel in 1978, and five years later an evangelistic campaign was held among the gypsies who lived in the city of Santiago. From this, the first Gypsy Adventist church was begun in South America with 40 members. The congregation meets every Sabbath under a tent and the gospel has been preached to 95 percent of all gypsies who live in the country, reaching approximately 1,500 people who are favorable toward the Adventist church.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Chile is growing rapidly, with more than 123,000 members. Last year Chile was among the fastest growing in the South American Division. After evangelism efforts, many of these new believers have no place to go, with many congregations meeting in homes or shack-churches built of sticks or hay.

(Taken from the Seventh-day Adventist Encyclopedia Commentary Reference Series, Volume 10)

Maranatha's Chile Project

Maranatha has agreed to construct 80 churches in Chile. The Chile Union has allocated these among the missions. Maranatha will work systematically throughout the country building the churches. The availability of projects in a given time frame will be determined by the construction timeline, weather, and other factors.

Who is Funding the Projects in Chile?

The Chile Union is responsible for a small percentage of the cost for each church. Maranatha has agreed to raise \$30,000 for each new church. This money will be provided by donations to the \$10 Church program and donations specifically for Chile. Your team can also choose to completely sponsor the church you construct.

Planning a Project in Chile

Construction sites are located all around the country. Maranatha will be building several different church plans based on the needs of each congregation. The building plans are specific to Chile, although they are similar to other churches Maranatha builds in Central and South America.

Teams may need to plan extra days for in-country travel and excursions.

Scheduling Your Site Visit

Maranatha requires each group to make a site visit to Chile prior to the group's arrival. The site visit will be used to arrange and pre-pay for housing, transportation, excursion deposits, and other logistics.

An employee of Maranatha will meet you for your site visit and help you with your arrangements. You must check site visit dates with the Maranatha office prior to booking tickets.

Plan to have a minimum of one business day – Monday through Friday – to work through the details of your project (more may be needed). Sabbath is a good time to worship and interact with your host congregation. Please do not expect Maranatha's volunteer coordinators to assist you with planning and logistics on Sabbath. Most Chilean businesses are closed on Sundays.

Entry and Exit Requirements

Passport

A valid US passport is required to enter and depart Chile. Tourists must also provide evidence of return or onward travel. U.S. citizens traveling on regular passports do not need a visa for a stay of 90 days or less. Those planning a longer visit must obtain a visa in advance of arrival. Travelers who stay in Chile beyond the allowed entry time are charged a substantial fee. Travelers from other countries must check with the Chilean Embassy regarding entrance requirements.

Arrival Tax

Upon arrival in Chile, US citizens are charged \$131 to enter the country. This is a one-time fee, as long as the current passport is valid. Upon arrival they will staple the receipt in the back of the passport. If the receipt is kept with the passport, one will not be required to pay this fee again, until the passport expires.

Participants with passports from other countries will be required to check with their local consulate to determine exact fees required for their entry into Chile.
For more information visit <http://www.chile-usa.org>

Departure Tax

There is also a US\$18 airport departure tax in the Santiago Airport. This is usually included in your ticket price, but be sure to check with your travel agent or airlines before traveling.

Traveling With Minors

For those under the age of 18 who are traveling alone, with one parent, or in someone else's custody, must present a notarized document that both parents agree to their travel before the child will be allowed to exit Chile.

(Taken from http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/brochures/brochures_1229.html#c)

Transportation

Flights to Chile from Europe, Asia, North America and other South American countries arrive daily in Santiago, the only international airport in Chile.

From Santiago, you can continue your journey to the other provincial towns and cities of Chile via either domestic air travel, train, or bus. Train travel is available, but service is limited to certain cities.

Weather

Extending over 38 degrees of latitude, from the tropics to the vicinity of Antarctica, and from sea level to altitudes of over 20,000 feet, Chile has a wide variety of climatic conditions.

Extreme aridity prevails over the northern part of the country; the average annual rainfall in this region is 0.04 inches. Temperatures are moderate along the coast throughout the year and more extreme inland, especially in the central basin. The average temperatures for the hottest (February) and coldest (July) months are 72°F and 60°F respectively.

Central Chile (30-40 degrees latitude) has a Mediterranean type of climate, with cool and rainy winters (April to September) but without a completely dry season. Average annual precipitation increases substantially and temperatures decrease toward the south. The average temperatures for the hottest (January) and coldest (July) months at Santiago are 70°F and 46°F respectively. The average annual precipitation at Santiago is approximately 13.4 inches.

The climate of the southern region is cool and rainy the year round. It is characterized by abundant low clouds. The average temperature for the warmest (January) and the coldest (July) months are 65°F and 25°F respectively. The average annual precipitation is 119 inches. The changes of the snow line on the westward-facing slopes of the Andes can serve as an indication of the variation in climatic conditions with latitude and altitude.

The line of permanent snow is approximately 18,000 feet in Chile's extreme north. It descends to 14,000 feet opposite Santiago and to 2,200 feet at Tierra del Fuego.

(Taken from <http://www.ddg.com/LIS/aurelia/chigeo2.htm>)

Cultural Sensitivity

It is important to acquaint your team with the Chilean culture prior to your trip. You can learn about the particular sub-culture of your specific location while on your site visit. Don't forget to ask about the cultural sensitivities of the local Adventist population, as your team will be representing them while on the project. Learning about the local attitudes towards dress, jewelry, and behavior will help your team earn the respect and trust of your hosts.

In the south of Chile, aggressive photo-taking can be particularly offensive to some.

Upon greeting and leaving, cheek kisses are exchanged between men and women and between women. Both parties gently touch cheek to cheek, and send the kiss to the air. Between men, the kissing is replaced with a hearty handshake.

(Taken from (Chile & Easter Island) by Lonely Planet. Page 37. Seventh Edition, 2006)

Excursion Options

Chile is a country of startling contrasts and extreme beauty, with attractions ranging from the towering volcanic peaks of the Andes to the ancient forests of the Lake District. There are a multitude of very good parks, and plenty of opportunities for fine adventure travel. Chile is justly famous as the location of Torres del Paine, considered by many to be the finest nature travel destinations in all of South America.

The most obvious factor in Chile's remarkable slenderness is the massive, virtually impassable wall of the Andes, a mountain range that is still rising and that contains more than fifty active volcanic peaks. The western border is of course the Pacific Ocean, but it is a misconception to picture Chile as nothing more than the steep western slope of the Andean peaks. All along its length, Chile is marked by a narrow depression between the mountains and the sea.

To the north the land rises and becomes more arid, until one reaches the forbidding Atacama Desert, one of the most inhospitable regions on earth.

To the south, just the opposite transformation takes place: the land falls away and the region between mountains and ocean fades into the baffling archipelagic maze that terminates in Chilean Patagonia. Chile's southern extremity is marked by Cape Horn, a treacherous headland surrounded by almost continuously storm-tossed seas and passable only through the foggy stillness of the Strait of Magellan.

In the center of the country, however, is a long and expansive river valley, a five hundred mile corridor occupied in the north by vineyards and great farms and in the south by primeval forests and enchanting lakes. Santiago, the capital, anchors the northern and more prosperous section of the central valley. The lush Lake District to the south, however, is the homeland of Chile's indigenous peoples, the Araucanians.

Also part of Chile are two notable Pacific possessions – the Juan Fernandez Islands and the famous Easter Island, both of which are administered as national parks. The Juan Fernandez islands are located about 416 miles off the Chilean coast, while Easter Island is situated 2,299 miles distant.

Chile's climate is as diverse as its geography. Aside from the obviously extreme climatic conditions of the Andes and the Atacama, however, the country enjoys a comfortable temperate climate.

(Taken from <http://www.geographia.com/chile/>)

Miscellaneous

Telephone

Dialing from the US dial 011 + Country Code: 56

Most of Chile is under GSM (1900) for cell phone networks. Contact your cell phone provider before you depart for coverage options in Chile.

In Santiago cell phones can be rented costing around \$2 per day for the device and \$1 a min for domestic calls inside Chile and \$2 a minute for USA and Canada.

(<http://www.chilecellrent.com/>)

Money

Currency

The unit of currency is the Chilean Peso (\$ or CHP), which exists in banknotes of \$1000, \$2000, \$5,000, \$10,000, \$20,000 and coins of \$1, \$5, \$10, \$50, \$100 and \$500.

Foreign Cash

Foreign cash is not generally used, except for hotels. They may waive the value-added tax of 19% (IVA) if you are a foreigner, when you pay in US dollars or credit card and show a copy of your entrance visa. Mention that you are a foreigner at check-in and again at check-out, otherwise you may end up paying the 19% tax.

Credit cards

Credit cards are widely used and accepted. Some stores will charge you an 8% fee for using a card. The most commonly accepted cards are Visa, Master Card and Diners Club. In medium-sized to large businesses American Express is also honored. Exchange rates for credit cards are very convenient. Some small, rural towns function solely on a cash-only basis, so have cash handy when going off the beaten path.

ATMs

In commercial and banking areas as well as gas stations, it is easy to find Automatic Teller Machines (Redbanc network) honoring cards of all local banks as well as Cirrus cards, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Exchange rates are very good.

Money Exchange

The government does not regulate the market of foreign currency in Chile making it possible to exchange money at any established “Casa de Cambio” at market driven exchange rates. They are common in the downtown area and Providencia district as well as shopping centers.

(Taken from <http://www.gochile.cl/Info/Hbook/moneda.asp>)

Time

UTC (Coordinated Universal Time, formerly known as Greenwich Mean Time GMT)

Time zone: UTC-4. (except Easter Island UTC -6)

Daylight savings: UTC-3 from the second Saturday in October to the second Saturday in March.

(Taken from <http://www.chile-travel.com/chile-info.html>)

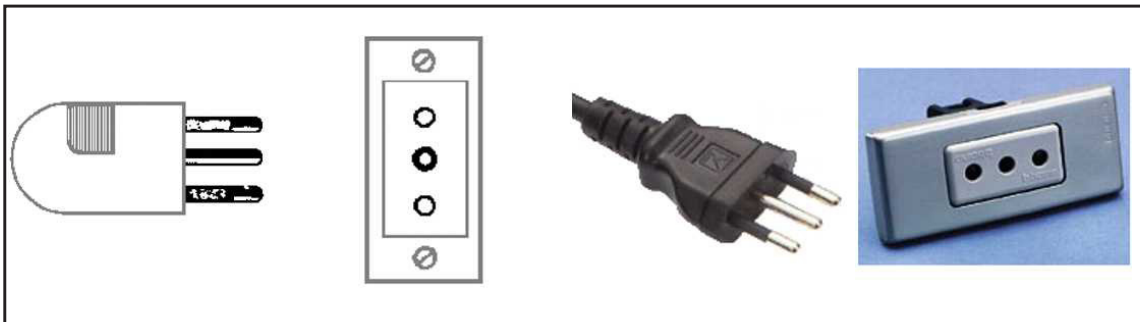
Electricity

The electrical current is 220 V, 50 Hz in Chile. Plugs are type C & L.

Type C



Type L



Additional information available at:

<http://kropla.com/electric2.htm> & http://www.currentsolutions.com/knowledge/country_spec_a-g.htm
& <http://users.pandora.be/worldstandards/electricity.htm#plugs>

Food

A variety of food is available throughout the country. Chile is known for its fabulous exotic fruits, high quality fish and seafood. You will want to spend time on your site visit to research the types of food available in the region you visit.

Maps

A suggested map is made by Nelles Chile – Patagonia Nelles Map and can be ordered from Amazon.com. Other good maps can be purchased in Chile.

Gifts

Many Maranatha groups wish to give items to their host congregation. From past experiences, if all items are given to the pastor, the temptation to keep donations is too great. Either distribute items to the congregation at church, or give them to individuals as you see fit. Group gifts should be given to the church in front of everyone, so there is no question as to whom the gift has been given.

Medical Information

It is essential to give careful attention to food preparation and eating while in Chile. Travelers should only drink bottled water.

Maranatha requires that each volunteer have a current tetanus shot (within the last 10 years) prior to traveling to Chile. In addition, each group should make their own decisions regarding vaccinations and prophylaxis. Complete health information for the traveler can be obtained from the Centers for Disease Control, www.cdc.gov/travel or (877) 394-8747.

Altitude Sickness

Most of the projects are not at high altitude, however you may travel through high altitude areas heading to your site or visit high altitude on excursions. If this is the case you will need to be well informed about altitude sickness and how to respond to it.

What is Altitude Sickness? Altitude Sickness (AS) is a medical condition with symptoms ranging from mild discomfort to fatal illness that may occur at higher altitudes. It affects everyone to some degree, including the most experienced and fit individual, and occurs most commonly at altitudes above 7,000 feet elevation, but could occur at lower elevations. Altitude sickness symptoms, range from a mild headache to very serious cerebral or pulmonary edema (excess fluid in your brain or lungs). Rapid onset of symptoms, worsening symptoms or symptoms persisting longer than 48 hours will require immediate evacuation to lower altitudes. Symptoms vary, but may include the following:

Mild AS: Mild headache – relieved with ibuprofen or aspirin, mild fatigue, dizziness, insomnia, shortness of breath on exertion, increased respirations and heart rate, slight nausea with little or no vomiting, loss of appetite.

Moderate to Severe AS: Increased headache – not relieved with ibuprofen or aspirin, irritability, nausea, persistent vomiting, moderate fatigue, shortness of breath with exertion, irregular breathing at night.

Cerebral or Pulmonary Edema: This is a rare but life-threatening stage, and is almost always preceded by minor symptoms first. Symptoms include severe respiratory distress, shortness of breath even at rest, gurgling in lungs, lack of coordination, confusion, loss of consciousness.

Who is susceptible? Anyone of any age planning to travel to high elevations. The following risk factors increase the likelihood of getting altitude sickness:

1. Ascending too fast or not allowing enough time to acclimatize.
2. Pre-existing illness* – specifically those affecting your circulation or breathing.

***NOTE:** Individuals with certain conditions will need specific evaluation by a physician prior to going on any Maranatha project that includes travel to high elevations. These conditions include but are not limited to:

- Individuals with any of the following conditions should obtain specific clearance from their physician to participate on projects involving high elevation travel: hypertension, diabetes, obesity, asthma, history of heart attack or stroke.
- Individuals with any of the following conditions should not travel to high elevations for Maranatha projects: any moderate to severe cardiac or pulmonary disease such as congestive heart failure, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, or unstable coronary artery disease.

When does it occur? Altitude sickness can occur at any time if you ascend too fast, if you do not allow yourself enough time to acclimatize (flying directly into a high elevation), or if you have pre-existing medical conditions that limit your body's ability to compensate. Symptoms may be felt immediately upon arrival or within a few hours of arrival at a high elevation. Symptoms may come and go, and can appear with increases in elevation. Individuals respond differently, and should expect to have some illness upon any travel to high elevations. Symptoms are relieved by decreasing your elevation.

Where does it occur? Altitude sickness occurs where travelers ascend to high altitudes. Some people feel the effects at lower altitudes as well. Because Chile has many high elevation destinations, travelers to Chile commonly experience some form of altitude sickness. Symptoms can occur at the work site and/or while on excursion.

Why does it occur? The physiology of altitude sickness is still not completely understood. The basic issue is that with increasing altitude there is a progressive decrease in barometric pressure and a corresponding decrease in the amount of oxygen you inhale. This results in less oxygen being delivered to your body and vital organs. Over time, your body tries to compensate and if successful, the symptoms disappear or are reduced. If your body is unable to compensate, you need to descend.

To Prepare For Your Trip To High Elevation Sites in Chile Maranatha Recommends:

- Under the advisement of your physician, start preparing before you go to Chile by engaging in an exercise regimen designed for high-altitude excursions.
- Make an appointment with your doctor or a medical specialist to discuss and evaluate your physical condition and your risks regarding altitude sickness.
- Plan time to acclimatize into your schedule. Arrive at your site on Friday morning and rest through Saturday evening. Begin light work on Sunday.
- Know your destination elevation. Make informed decisions. Plan accordingly. Take time to acclimatize at high elevations.
- Learn to identify the symptoms and be willing to admit that you have them. Help others to take the necessary precautions to avoid serious illness.
- While in Chile, drink plenty of water and eat healthy.
- Carry some ibuprofen or aspirin for your personal use during the trip.
- Contact the Centers for Disease Control for more altitude sickness information at: www.cdc.gov/travel/diseases/altitude.htm

IMPORTANT NOTE: Every participant on a Maranatha project involving travel to high elevations is required to return a signed consent form prior to your departure to Chile. If you do not have a copy of the form, contact your Project Coordinator or the Maranatha office at 916-774-7700 to obtain a copy.

Contact Information

For more information about leading a team project to Chile, contact:

Maranatha Volunteers International
990 Reserve Drive, Suite 100
Roseville, CA 95678
916-774-7700 Phone
916-774-7701 Fax
leaders@maranatha.org

For more detailed information about Chile, purchase the Lonely Planet Chile & Easter Island travel guidebook.

You can also find additional information at: <http://www.geographia.com/chile/>