



Digital Nomads Guides

**Bonus
Material
Online!**

SANTIAGO *de Chile*

Jess Whiteman

Santiago de Chile

Free Sample

Digital Nomads Guides

First Edition 2017 - 2018

All rights reserved

© 2017 Jess Whiteman, Iris Veldwijk & Jonas Breuer - digitalnomadsguides.com

Author: Jess Whiteman

Writing this ebook was heaps of work. Please respect that by not copying it or passing it on to other people.

Everything in this book has been researched thoughtfully and with great care. However, things can change at any time. We can't rule out mistakes 100%. We are not liable for any damage created by the information in this book. This book is not a substitute for thinking for yourself ;)

Cover photo by Hector Manzanilla - Follow [@hankcamomile](https://www.instagram.com/hankcamomile) on Instagram!



Table of Contents

Why Santiago?.....	3
About this Guide	4
Part 1: The basics: How to get set up in Santiago	5
Money, ATM's & Prices	5
WiFi Speed and Availability	7
WiFi Vocabulary	7
Places to work	8
Accommodation.....	11
Mobile Internet.....	12
Plugs & Power	13
How to meet other Digital Nomads	13
Food.....	14
Transport.....	18
Visa	21
Safety	21
Chilean Holidays	21
Free time	22
Attitude	25
Other Cultural Notes.....	26
Part 2: Barrio Guides.....	27
Providencia	28
Barrio Italia (Inside Providencia)	32
Las Condes	33
Centro	35
Ñuñoa.....	38
Recoleta & Bellavista.....	40
Vitacura	42
Final Words.....	44



Why Santiago?

With the most (relatively) stable economy in South America, Chile is a good choice for digital nomads, and Santiago is a large, cultural metropolis filled with distinct neighborhoods (*barrios*) that have heaps of personality. It also has decent internet access and speed.

While Santiago (and Chile in general) is highly developed in many respects, you can still enjoy street food and the like. Chile is considered to be one of the safest countries in South America, but most Chileans will warn you to be careful with your belongings (see Part 1 Safety).

One of the first questions Chileans (especially *Santiaguinos*) will ask you, is why you came to Chile. Despite the fact that it's attractive for expats in terms of security and the economy, Chileans often don't understand why people come to visit their country. They are humble and very harsh critics of their country.

Chile is blessed in terms of natural beauty. So while you're here, be sure to travel around the country to discover the diverse landscapes this wonderful country has to offer. As Chile is protected by the Andes mountain range and the ocean, there are not so many mosquitos or diseases that cross over.

Now, if you assume Spanish is spoken here in Chile, you would be almost right. Chileans are known for speaking Chilean; a version of Spanish that is faster, missing syllables and full of slang and second meanings. Living in Chile is certainly an entertaining way to learn Spanish! Check out the Learn Spanish section at the end of Part 1.

Chileans are very warm people and you should be prepared to be hugged and kissed (on the cheek) as a way of greeting - even when you are introduced to new people. Be prepared to do the same when meeting/greeting people, or you will seem rude. You will also find that Chileans don't have issues with personal space like many from Western cultures - you'll notice this in the Metro and while waiting in queues.

Those who like both beach and mountain, street food and fine dining, novelty and comfort will definitely enjoy this diverse country.



About this Guide

Part 1 of this guide has all the tools you need to get set up in Santiago, in order of importance. We believe you should just book a flight to the city and not worry about being prepared. If you read this book at the airport or on your flight, you'll be as prepared as can be **in just 40 minutes**. Important Spanish words are introduced if they're necessary vocabulary. They follow directly after the English. All prices are in United States Dollar (US\$) as it's widely understood and the Chilean Peso just has too many zeros.

Part 2 of this book has specific information about the neighborhoods (*barrios*) in Santiago. The neighborhoods aren't ordered according to historical centrality like in other guides, but rather according to lifestyle compatibility in terms of co-working spaces and laptop-friendly cafés. All cafés have been tried out by our writers and vouched for by expats living in Santiago at the time of writing. All cafés included mention the internet speed in Megabit (Mbit), a PowerScore and ZenScore. PowerScore is a rating of the number of charging points out of five, in which five is the best and one is the worst. People with great laptop batteries can go to a café with a low PowerScore, but people who have energy-challenged equipment should skip over these. ZenScore is about how workable a café is in terms of noise, again with a rating out of five - five being very quiet and one being very busy. It's not just decibels, it's also how many people are walking by your table causing distraction. This is of course a little more variable as it's dependent on the time of day and day of the week. Our writers visited all the cafés during a weekday before 17:00.



Part 1: The basics: How to get set up in Santiago

Money, ATM's & Prices

The currency in Chile is the Chilean Peso, just called the peso in Chile. They usually use the \$ symbol, which can be confusing when you are associating that with the US-Dollar. A juice price indicated as \$1.000 is quite normal. The currency code is CLP. A slang term for \$1,000.00 CLP is a *luca*, which is basically the value of one or two units of every type of street food out there. You may also hear the them refer to it as a *lucita*.

Pro tip: Understanding how they say numbers. You will find that sometimes Chileans say long numbers in different ways (when shopping). For example, \$22,500 may be said as twenty-two thousand five hundred or twenty-two, five. This can be confusing at first. It's always beneficial to clarify the cost before paying.

The exchange rate fluctuates daily but is relatively stable compared to some of Chile's neighbors. As of March 2018:

1000 CLP = 1.70 USD = 1.30 EUR

Note that the full stop is used as a thousand separator in Chile. A price indicated as \$10.000 means \$10000. Since the value of the peso is so low, you will rarely see prices with cents indicated.

ATMs accepting VISA and MasterCard are widely available, also in smaller towns. Ask for *cajero automático* if you can't find one. Most ATMs don't have a fee for VISA cards, but avoid Santander which has a fee of about US\$7.50 . Some ATMs charge for MasterCard, but not for VISA. In larger cities, give a few a try if you find the fees appear to be high. Best to try a few ATMs and find the one with the lowest fee or - hopefully - no fee.

Exchanging money is easy in towns close to any of Chile's borders, but less common away from those places. Santiago and Valparaíso do have a few exchange bureaus. In Santiago, head to *Calle Agustinas* (between *Bandera* and *Ahumada*) for a lot of *casas de cambios* (currency exchange offices).

Chile is one of the more developed and therefore more expensive countries in South America however, that should not deter you because it comes with benefits like stable internet and better hygiene. Here are some pricing examples:

Fruit juice - US\$1.50
Empanada - US\$1.50
Skewered meat on the street - US\$1.50
Restaurant meal - from US\$10
Beer in a bar - from US\$2.30
Bottle of wine - from US\$3
Hostel bed - from US\$13
Airbnb apartment - US\$40
City bus fare - US\$0.90



Bus from Santiago do Valparaíso - US\$7.50

Of course, all of the above are approximate prices as of March 2018.

So, how expensive is it to live in Santiago for a week? Let's say you're on a budget. You stay in a hostel dorm and cook for yourself or eat *empanadas*. You have two beers per week and use the metro/bus system a few times per week. That sums up to a weekly budget of about US\$200 per week, approximately US\$850 per month.

If money is not that tight, you might opt for your own apartment, go to a restaurant every day and have a proper night out twice per week. You explore the city by taxi, since you can't be bothered to figure out the buses. That comes to about US\$550 per week, or US\$2,300 per month.

This is about the range you can expect. Accommodation and food will equally affect your budget. Food is generally expensive in Chile (especially compared to its neighboring countries). If you're on a budget, take advantage of the cheap *empanadas* and other street food to save some pennies. More about that in the Food section below.



Part 2: Barrio Guides

Bonus material unlocked! In the full version of the guide, you'll find the access to the online area here, to find an interactive map and more goodies to use in the city!

Santiago is a densely populated city with many diverse *barrios*. Every *barrio* has its own style - some are hip, some very fancy, and others more grungy. Explore the city to find “your” *barrio*.

Not all *barrios* are created equal. They are ordered by attractiveness for digital nomads. We have visited all working friendly cafés in this list personally. We were not alone: in fact, all the cafés we mention had other people working on laptops during our visit. This is important social proof. The WiFi speed is the average result of at least two speed tests. The PowerScore describes how easy it is to find a charging point. The ZenScore tells you how quiet a café is.

At this point, you might be annoyed by us using *barrio* as if it's an English word. While there can be different opinions about Spanglish, this word is so common, so we will continue using the word. It basically means neighbourhood and is used in Santiago and throughout Latin America. The barrios are not necessarily boundaries of legal municipalities, counties, boroughs etc. You'll notice that in some cases we have focused on a smaller section of a *barrio* because it is more suitable for digital nomads. We've called them micro barrios.

Even if restaurants are not the focus of Digital Nomads Guides, there are some places which are just too awesome to keep silent about. Therefore, you will find a food and drink section in some, but not all of the *barrios*. There's also a few live music venues which we had to include for you. Enjoy!



Image credit: Wikipedia user Osmar Valdebenito - [License](#)



Providencia

Providencia is a large neighborhood in Santiago, and it can probably be described as the main *barrio* for a few reasons. It's heavily populated and has many business, residential and recreational areas. The red line metro (line 1, which runs through the middle of the *barrio*) and the roads are always busy and congested with people moving about. Many expats as well as middle and upper class locals live here. You'll find plenty of choices for accommodation, restaurants, cafés and cultural activities. This is a good *barrio* to start with in order to orient yourself with Santiago's geography, pace and lifestyle.

Work

Our free sample only shows one working friendly café. The full guide has seven places in Providencia and 20 in total.

Faustina Café

Andres Bello 2177 (close to metro station Los Leones, line 1)

Mon - Fri 07:30 - 18:30, Sat 09:00 - 14:00, Sunday closed

4 Mbit

PowerScore ★★★★★☆

ZenScore ★★★★★

This is a modern café located on the main road, running alongside the Mapocho river through Santiago. It has plenty of space inside and out with a selection of tables (small and large) and also some couches. It's also filled with light and they offer a range of coffees, cake and a small but sufficient food menu. Even though it's beside a main road, you don't hear the noise - even with the door open. You'll remain calm with the chilled music and the sweet sounds of the coffee machine as they prepare your brew. They also have lactose free milk alternatives.



Final Words

Did you like this free sample? In the full guide, you'll find so much more, including a total of 20 café reviews. Head to digitalnomadsguides.com/santiago-chile/ for more information.

