



Santiago, Chile

2010 Course Dates:

- Jan 4 - Jan 29, 2010
- Feb 3 - March 3, 2010
- March 8 - April 1, 2010
- April 7 - May 5, 2010
- May 10 - June 4, 2010
- June 9 - July 7, 2010
- July 12 - Aug 6, 2010
- Aug 11 - Sept 8, 2010
- Sept 13 - Oct 8, 2010
- Oct 13 - Nov 10, 2010
- Nov 15 - Dec 10, 2010

Santiago, Chile Course Fee: US\$ 1,995

Accommodation: Approximately US\$ 500-740

The capital of Chile, Santiago is nestled in a valley at the foot of the picturesque Andes. The city of six million residents has a mild, Mediterranean climate and is centrally located, making it the perfect base from which to explore. In less than two hours in either direction, you can be strolling on the coast of the Pacific Ocean or skiing in the snowcapped Andes.

Chile boasts one of the most stable economies in South America, with an unemployment rate that is among the lowest on the continent. Santiago's dependable financial system, modern facilities and general receptivity to foreigners makes it a great place to get certified—and to teach English. Approximately two decades of uninterrupted economic growth have transformed Santiago into one of Latin America's most modern metropolitan areas, with extensive suburban development, dozens of shopping malls, and impressive high-rise architecture. The city has some of Latin America's most modern transportation infrastructure, such as the growing Santiago Metro (the metropolitan underground train system) and the new Costanera Norte, a freeflow toll-based highway system that passes below downtown and connects the Eastern and Western extremes of the city in a 25-minute drive. Santiago is headquarters to many important companies and is a regional financial center.

TEFL Training Center



We are the experts on Chile with over 15 years of experience in the country. Our TEFL training center in Santiago was founded in 1990 and is now the largest of our South American schools. The center's modern facilities offer 17 fully equipped classrooms, central air-conditioning and heating, plus access to fax, phone, e-mail and the Internet.

The training center is conveniently located in Providencia, an upscale neighborhood with tree-lined residential streets, high-rise office buildings, and plenty of shopping and restaurants. It is also only a few blocks from the city's sparkling metro system, and just a five-minute walk from Suecia, a

hotspot for nightlife that hosts some 50 restaurants and nightclubs.

Teaching English in Chile



Chile is on the leading edge of the push for English fluency—since 2004, the Chilean government's English Opens Doors program has been placing native speaking teachers in classrooms around the country. And nowhere is the need for English more apparent than in the business world. A prime source of TEFL jobs in Chile is private or group classes for company employees and executives.

Because Santiago is Chile's economic, political, and cultural center, the majority of English teaching positions will be found in and around the capital. However, teaching jobs are available nationwide, ranging from the northern

cities of Arica and Iquique, to the central coastal towns of Viña del Mar and Valparaiso, to Concepcion, Valdivia, and Puerto Montt further south.

The Importance of English in Chile:

The ministry of education has stressed the importance of the English language for the country's development. Its recent reforms (Reforma) recommend that English be taught earlier - at primary levels - in schools. This is partly a reaction to a groundswell of pressure from parents in Chile who, like parents in many parts of the world, see English as a passport to the future for their children. However, the Reforma stresses the importance of reading and listening skills, not communication. In addition, the funding and resources do not match the promises; many state secondary school teachers face English language classes of 40 to 50 mixed ability students. There is, too, an enormous deficit in the number of suitably trained and qualified English-speaking teachers to teach English at primary level.

The demand for English, and perhaps the lack of development in ELT in the state system, may explain why the number of private English language teaching institutes has increased so dramatically in the past five years (in Santiago, from less than half-a-dozen to hundreds).

Santiago, the capital, has literally hundreds of language-teaching institutes, such as the Instituto Chileno Norteamericano de Cultura (American English) and the Instituto Chileno Britanico de Cultura (British English), both highly professional organisations with well-developed programmes and high academic standards, which were founded in Santiago more than 60 years ago. The Norteamericanos, known as bi-national centres (BNCs), were founded all over South and Central America and Mexico during the 1940s and 1950s. The Britanicos, known as Anglos in some parts of Latin America, share a similar pedigree. They are teaching and examination centres for the Cambridge suite of examinations: PET; KET; FCE; CAE and CPE.

Valparaiso and Vina Del Mar, west of Santiago, on the coast, about one and a half hours from Santiago by bus, have several ELT institutes, including the above-mentioned Norteamericano and Britanico; the operations are generally on a much smaller scale, but there are usually jobs available, and the air is clean and life is infinitely less hectic than that of the capital. There are also several universities, with English as a significant component of their programs, in these cities. In Vina, there are also a few of the private "British" schools, both primary and secondary, already mentioned.

There are also ELT institutes in the other cities of Chile (such as Punta Arenas in the extreme south, Puerto Montt and Temuco in the south, Concepcion nearer the centre, La Serena and Antofagasta further north and Iquique and Arica in the far north).

Although these are smaller operations, they are surviving well, and are always on the look-out for qualified native-speakers, although very few "gringos" decide to settle in these places - most of them just pass through on their way to the tourist attractions of the Patagonia region: the Torres del Paine and the lakes district, or the altiplano of the north.

Private English language teaching is another option: most teachers have private students/tutoring groups in addition to their work with institutions; although the income is not as guaranteed as that from working in an institute, it is generally much higher (somewhere between 5,000 and 10,000 pesos per hour).

Food and Clothing:



The Spanish came to Chile in 1541 and they brought grapes, olives, walnuts, chestnuts, rice, wheat, citrus fruits, sugar, garlic, and spices. They also brought chicken, beef, sheep, pigs, rabbits, milk, cheeses, and sausages.

Long before the Spanish came to Chile, the native Amerindians used corn in many of their dishes. The combination of the Spanish and Amerindians' foods formed popular corn-based dishes that are still part of the typical diet in the twenty-first century. Popular dishes include humitas (corn that is pureed and cooked in corn husks) and pastel de choclo (a corn and meat pie).

In 1848, many German immigrants came to Chile, bringing rich pastries and cakes with them. Italian and Arab immigrants also settled in Chile, along with other European immigrants. Each group brought its style of cooking to Chile. The Italians brought ices and flavored them with the different Chilean fruits. The Arab immigrants brought their use of certain spices and herbs, and the combination of sweet and salty tastes. Between 1880 and 1900, British immigrants brought tea to Chile. Teatime—inviting friends over for tea and coffee—continues to be enjoyed in modern Chile. Chileans serve té con leche (tea with milk). Chile has a wide variety of foods, including seafood, beef, fresh fruit, and vegetables. A traditional Chilean meal is pastel de choclo, a "pie" made with corn, vegetables, chicken, and beef. This dish is usually served with ensalada chilena (Chilean salad).

DO dress conservatively. Women will usually wear modest skirts or dresses and men will usually wear pants.

Climate:

Santiago has a Mediterranean climate with a long dry season and cloudy winter. January is the hottest month, reaching an average temperature of 22.1°C (71.78°F). July is the coldest, when temperature goes down to an average of 7.7°C (45.86°F). The annual average temperature is 13.9°C (57.02°F). Precipitation decreases from coast to the valley, where it increases gradually toward the Andes.

Accommodation:

Most TEFL course trainees rent a room in a shared house or apartment if they intend to remain in Santiago for a while. Hostels and homestays are better suited to short stay or as a temporary base for locating something more permanent. Please contact Via Lingua for details of the various accommodation options.

Communication, Telephone and Internet:

There are many phone booths throughout the city, thus we recommend you buy a phone card or keep CH\$100 peso coins at hand. From Chile, international calls are cheap and work efficiently. Multi-carrier services are available at almost every phone. Try to use public phone cabins. Most commercial and shopping centers have international call centers where you can obtain information, make collect calls, or buy calling cards. Cellular phones are widely used and can be easily rented. Some services include ENTEL, Telefónica, SmartCom, and BellSouth. Chile has well developed data communications services. E-mail and Internet is widespread. Some hotels offer such services in their business centers. You can also check your e-mail and surf the Net in several Cyber cafes throughout the city.

Excursions and Cultural Highlights:



Plaza De Armas. Designed by Pedro de Valdivia, it is considered the heart of the city. It is surrounded by the Cathedral, the Audiencia Real (Royal Court), the Central Post Office -formerly the conqueror's house- and Santiago's City Hall. At sunset it becomes a meeting and relaxation point where senior citizens, immigrants or mere passers-by take a rest, feed the pigeons or just hang out under the fresh shade of leafy trees.

Santiago's Cathedral. The building of the current temple -the fourth one, since the previous three were shattered by earthquakes and fires- was initiated during the government of Ortiz de Rosas, between 1748 and 1775. The new church was located in the same place chosen by Pedro de Valdivia, the city's founder, for the original one.

Joaquin Toesca intervened in its fourth restoration giving architectural unity to the Cathedral, as he blended both classical and baroque characteristics. Inside, it is possible to appreciate three naves, two on the sides and a higher one in the center, as well as a barrel-vaulted ceiling.

Some of the most outstanding features are the main altar, original from Munich and made of white marble with applications in bronze and lapis lazuli; the Holy Sacrament chapel, similar to the Saint John and Saint Paul Martyr chapel in Rome; as well as the organs, pulpits and carved mahogany altar seats, dating from the 18th century.

The Cathedral was declared a National Monument in 1951 and houses the Museum of Sacred Art.

"Real Audiencia" Palace Or National Historical Museum.

It was built between 1804 and 1907. The works were in the hands of Juan José de Goycolea, who imprinted a neo-classical style with Tuscan elements. It was inaugurated in 1808 and it was used as Court seat during colonial times. It later became the place where the First Local Government ("Primera Junta de Gobierno") declared Chilean independence. In 1911, it was turned into the National Historical Museum with over 12 thousand pieces, distributed throughout the 16 rooms representing the different periods of the history of Chile. It was declared a National Monument in 1969.