

Some practical notes regarding your stay at Paranal:

At the Antofagasta airport

The ESO bus driver will wait for you showing an ESO sign. The bus will also pick up ESO staff in downtown Antofagasta. The drive from the airport to Paranal takes in total about two and a half to three hours. Water bottles are available in the bus. Please note that there is no restroom facility on the bus. You will arrive at Paranal around lunchtime.

Arrival at Paranal

The bus will stop at the entrance gate where everyone briefly leaves the bus to register. You will be handed a visitor magnetic card—the barcode is also used to register for the meals in the casino (=dining room). The bus will then drive down to the Residencia entrance.

Residencia and rooms

At the reception, you will be handed your room key and should also receive information when to meet with your support astronomer to discuss OB preparation and to show you the office assigned to you. Typically, this meeting is done after lunch on your first day.

Please note that the room to which you are assigned belongs to a regular staff member and most of their belongings are stored in the closets and/or room.

There are no alarm clocks in the Residencia rooms. You can activate a wake up call with the phone in your room. *64 and then the time in four digits, e.g. 1700. Cancel by *65.

Meals

The times of breakfast, lunch and dinner are indicated on the casino door. You can also stop by at any time to get snacks like yoghurt/ cereals/ water/ fruits/ coffee, without having to swipe your card. To get night dinner at the Control Room, please fill out the form available at the reception before 20:00.

Leisure activities

If you still find leisure time after preparing your OBs (:-)), there is a cinema room and a Sauna in the Residencia. Typically once a week there is a public movie showing which is announced on the board next to the casino entrance. It is also possible to watch satellite television in the cinema room. In the building opposite the parking lot (first building on right when leaving Residencia) is a gymnasium including a squash court. There are no showers or changing facilities in the gym.

Leaving Paranal

After your run, departure from Paranal down to Antofagasta is normally between 16:00 and 16:30, please ask the exact time at the reception. A DVD with your data will be ready for you at the reception before your departure.