Santiago is the capital and biggest city of Chile with over 5,000,000 people. You can find almost everything you need in this city. It has all star hotels, economical bed and breakfasts, restaurants of every ethnic background, discos, clubs, museums, universities, theaters, malls, a modern subway system which makes finding your way around Santiago a lot easier, and much more.

Santiago is located at 543 m above sea level in the central zone of Chile. It is at only 100 km from the Pacific Ocean and 40 km from the Andes mountain range.

If you want to venture out to other parts of Chile you can get there by bus, airline, and rental car from Santiago.

**SIGHTSEEING**

**Bellavista:** On the northern bank of the Mapocho, a couple of kilometres east of the Mercado Central is barrio Bellavista. Nestling at the foot of the green slopes of Cerro San Cristóbal, Bellavista is a warren of quiet, leafy streets lined with brightly coloured houses, steeped in a village-like atmosphere. It has a reputation for being the capital’s bohemian quarter, thanks in part to the fact that Pablo Neruda lived here, along with several other artists, writers and intellectuals.

Check it out by night when the main street, Pío Nono, becomes a colourful crafts market - and wrap up your evening with a candlelit dinner in one of the area's intimate restaurants. There’s no metro in Bellavista itself, but it is at a short walk from *Baquedano metro station (Línea 1).*
Barrio Bellavista

Bellavista neighborhood offers a wide range of attractions that include craftwork, art galleries, theatres and lapislázuli shops, among other activities. Intellectuals and artists consider this place as one of their favourite areas in town. For example, chilean poet Pablo Neruda built one of his houses here, "La Chascona", today a museum. The variety of restaurants, pubs, discoteques and "salsotecas" create an intense night life, turning the area into the meeting place of Santiago bohemian life.

Toda una diversidad de actividades ofrece el barrio Bellavista. Artesanías, galerías de arte, salas de teatro y joyerías de lapislázuli son algunas de las alternativas. Lugar preferido de intelectuales y artistas como el poeta Pablo Neruda donde construyó una de sus casas, hoy convertida en museo. La variada oferta de restaurantes, pubs, discotheques y salsotecas también permiten una intensa vida nocturna, siendo Bellavista uno de los puntos de encuentro favorito de la bohemia santiaguina.

1. Artesania Lapislázuli
2. Casa Museo Pablo Neruda
3. Iglesia Epifanía del Señor
4. Centro Cultural Monte Carmelo
5. Sala Galpón 7
6. Teatro Bellavista
7. Teatro San Ginés
8. Teatro Mori
9. Sala de Arte del Cerro
10. Sala de Arte La Ventana Cemical

Servicios que transitan por la Zona
403 416 502 501
Cerro Santa Lucía: Climbing up the exuberantly landscaped Santa Lucía hill - via a maze of swirling stairways, turrets and fountains - is an essential part of the Santiago experience. Your reward is sweeping views over the city, impressive even when the smog is out in force. *Metro: Santa Lucía station (Línea 1).*

La Chascona: The former house of Pablo Neruda - Chile’s Nobel Prize winning poet - is packed with bizarre and beautiful objects, from Victorian dolls and African carvings to music boxes and paperweights. Preserved as a museum, it makes for a fascinating wander. It is located in Providencia, [Fernando Márquez de la Plata 0192](#). Open for guided tours only (02-7378712).

Los Dominicos market: A good place to hunt for souvenirs is the lively *Los Dominicos market*, located at the end of avenida Apoquindo in Las Condes district, in a park in front of the Iglesia San Vicente Ferrer de Los Dominicos. Here you will find a huge range of beautiful handicrafts as well as antiques, books, fossils, a restaurant, and live music and dancing at weekends. Buses marked "Apoquindo" come here from the Alameda, or you can take the metro (Línea 1) out to Los Dominicos station (the last one).

Mercado Central: Santiago’s distinctive market. The current wrought - iron building dates from 1872. In addition to an appealing selection of fresh fruit, vegetables and fish, the market contains a number of restaurants ranging from modest to fine dining. A nice place to eat fresh sea food. Directions: Occupies an entire block bounded by [San Pablo, Puente, 21 de Mayo and Balmaceda Av.](#) (Metro: Cal y Canto Station (Línea 2)).

Palacio de la Moneda: the actual seat of the President of the Republic of Chile is located at the heart of Santiago. It was designed by Italian architect Joaquín Toesca. Construction began in 1784 and was opened in 1805, while still under construction. In 1930, a public square was built in front of the palace, the Plaza de la Constitución (Constitution Square). *Metro: Moneda Station (Línea 1).*

Palacio Cousiño: For a glimpse of how Santiago's elite lived in the nineteenth century, visit the sumptuous Palacio Cousiño, a splendid 1870s mansion complete with all original furnishings, in [Dieciocho No. 438](#), Metro: Toesca station (Línea 2).

Plaza de Armas (main square): The Plaza de Armas is the epicentre of Santiago, both literally - it is where all distances to the rest of Chile are measured from - and symbolically. *Metro: Plaza de Armas station (Línea 5).*

Standing on the northern side of the square is the Palacio de la Real Audiencia, an immaculately preserved colonial building that today houses the Museo Histórico Nacional where military uniforms and suits of armour jostle for space with old furniture, sewing machines and women’s clothes. The west side of the square is dominated by the Cathedral. A combination of Neoclassical and Baroque styles, with its orderly columns and pediment, and its ornate bell towers, the cathedral is the fifth church to be built on this site - the first was burnt down by Indians just months after it was built, and the others were destroyed by earthquakes in 1552, 1647 and 1730. Inside, take a look at the main altar, carved out of marble and richly embellished with bronze and lapislázuli. Note also the intricately crafted silver frontal, which was made by Bavarian Jesuits in the
sixteenth century. You’ll find more examples of the Jesuits’ exquisite silverwork in the Museo de Arte Sagrado tucked away behind the main body of the cathedral, along with religious paintings, sculpture and furniture.

**San Cristóbal hill (Parque Metropolitano):** For a gut-churning ride and matchless views of the city, take the cable car over Cerro San Cristóbal - rounded off with a plunge in the hilltop pool, Piscina Tupahue. Take the funicular from the station at the north end of Pío Nono in Bellavista which shoots up to Terraza Bellavista. From here a path leads west to the teleférico (cable car) station known as Estación Cumbre. This provides rides across to Estación Tupahue, then descends to Estación Oasis at the foot of the hill. Get off at Tupahue for the open-air Piscina Tupahue, or switch cable cars to return to Estación Cumbre.

For the more energetic, the Cerro has a network of dirt trails, and a steep and winding road which goes to the top. There is a pool, zoo, giftshops, snack bars, and a fine restaurant to visit as well. The forested hill is a popular spot for running, mountain biking, and family outings. The Pedro de Valdivia Norte entrance (*Metro: Pedro de Valdivia station, Línea 1*) is open between 8 AM and 12 midnight.

**Teatro Municipal:** In April, the Teatro Municipal will offer a varied program of concerts and dance.

**MUSEUMS**

**Museo Arqueológico de Santiago (MAS):** Recently renovated, the museum is a center that reveals the values of the pre-Columbian cultures and the contemporary national plastic arts at the Museo de Artes Visuales. Address: José Victorino Lastarria 307, Santiago. *Metro: Universidad Católica (Línea 1) or Bellas Artes station (Línea 5).*

**Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Santiago, Espacio Quinta Normal:** close to the Museo Nacional de Historia Natural (see below), in Matucana 464. (See [web page]) (*Metro: Quinta Normal station, Línea 5).*

**Museo de Arte Popular Americano:** Popular Art consisting of pottery, fabric, musical instruments, religious images, painting, leather work, Mapuche silverwork, etc. from American countries, Europe and the East. Address: Compañía 2691, Santiago. (*Metro: Cumming station, Línea 5)*

**Museo de Arte Precolombino** is Santiago’s finest museum, with a beautifully presented collection of pre-Hispanic art drawn from the whole South American continent. Highlights include elaborate Meso-American incense burners, Andean textiles dating back as far as 3,000 years, and Maya carvings. (See [location]).

**Museo de Artes Decorativas:** The mission of the Museo de Artes Decorativas is to offer a place for the aesthetical delight and the knowledge of artistic objects, both useful and beautiful.
Located in Tabaré 654, Recoleta, Santiago. (Metro: Cerro Blanco station, Línea 2). The Museo Histórico Dominico can also be visited in the same building.

**Museo Histórico Nacional:** Painting, photographs, art, textiles, weapons and handicraft, among other things, are part of this Museum created in 1911, and located at the Plaza de Armas. Its goal is to preserve, to research and to spread the Chilean historical patrimony. *Metro: Plaza de Armas station (Línea 5).*

**Museo La Merced:** Two important sections can be found in the museum: one of religious art that shows paintings and silverwork of the XVII and XVIII centuries, and another section devoted to American and Easter Island archeology. Address: Mac-Iver 341, Santiago. *Metro: Bellas Artes station (Línea 5).*

**Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes:** Paintings, drawings, and sculpture by 16th- to 20th-century Chilean and European artists fill the grand National Museum of Fine Arts. The elegant, neoclassical building, which was originally intended to house the city's school of fine arts, has an impressive glass-domed ceiling that illuminates the main hall. Address: Bounded by Jose M. de la Barra and Ismael Valdés Vergara. *Metro: Bellas Artes station (Línea 5).*

**Museo de Santiago / Casa Colorada:** The Casa Colorada is half a block from the Plaza de Armas, an antique structure made of stone whose color gives it its name -- "The Red House." It is widely regarded as the best-preserved colonial structure in Santiago, built between 1769 and 1779 as a residence for the first president of Chile, Mateo de Toro y Zambrano. Today, the Casa Colorada operates as the Santiago Museum, depicting the urban history of the city until the 19th century. A visitor center with information about Santiago is also located in the Casa Colorada. *Metro: Plaza de Armas station (Línea 5).*

**Parque Quinta Normal:** Located at Matucana 502 (*Metro: Quinta Normal station, Línea 5*), this 39-hectare (96-acre) park was first used as an animal breeding site and acclimatization park for imported trees; today, it is home to lawns, a wide variety of non-native trees, and a lagoon with boats. It is also home to the Museo Nacional de Historia Natural, (temporarily closed for repairs), which has a fairly interesting collection of stuffed animals and birds, mounted insects, plants, and anthropological exhibits. There is also the Artequín Museum at Av. Portales 3530, housed in a cast-iron building that was first used as the Chilean exhibition hall at the 1889 Parisian centenary of the French Revolution. The building was taken apart, shipped to Santiago, and reassembled here. The museum strives to introduce visitors to the art world through 120 reproductions of well-known works by artists from Picasso to Monet. Kids love the Museo de Ciencia y Tecnología for its interactive displays. Last, there is the Museo Ferroviario, with railway exhibits that include 14 steam engines and railway carriages.

**SHOPPING MALLS**

**Alto Las Condes** has 245 shops, three department stores, a multiplex, and a food court. Address: Av. Kennedy 9001, Las Condes, Santiago. The buses will usually display 'Alto Las Condes' in their boards.
Apumanque. Manquehue Sur 31, Las Condes, Santiago. You can take the metro out to Estación Manquehue (Linea 1) and you are then in front of the mall and other shopping centers.

**Parque Arauco:** From Metro Escuela Militar (Linea 1), buses depart to this shopping mall in Las Condes, every 20 minutes.

**PICTURESQUE QUARTERS**

**Barrio Brasil:** Within Agustinas, Avenida Norte Sur, Rosas and Ricardo Cumming, this is an elegant residential neighborhood dating from the 20th century, created around Plaza Brazil. At one time, this was the farthest limits of the city, but as the city grew, wealthy residents moved east in search of quieter surroundings. This barrio now is considered the Bohemian section, with the university, cultural centers, restaurants and cafes.

**Barrio Lastarria:** Bounded by Parque Forestal, Cerro Santa Lucía and Avenida Libertador Bernardo O’Higgins, this neighborhood was established at the end of the 19th century. From the beginning, intellectuals and artists made their homes here and today it is known as a fine residential area with cultural establishments and many restaurants. Plaza Mulato Gil de Castro is an entertaining and novel cultural center found in the beautiful Parque Forestal. It is made up of an interesting and harmonious group of homes, designed by the architects Ignacio Cruz and Walter Biggeman. Everything takes place in the plaza, which includes workshops on painting, sculpture, reproductions & ceramics, as well as bookstores, theater and exhibition halls. It is recommended to visit after a good walk through the area; choose one of the small restaurants with tables outside, drink a good beer and take advantage of the latest books from the publishing houses in the Plaza. Enjoy a coffee at Emporio de la Rosa or Cafe Mosquito.
Barrio Bellas Artes / Lastarria

Lively cultural and gastronomic area, where coffee shops, restaurants and cultural centres are mixed with theatres, bookstores, antique shops and museums, that are set up in old houses and imposing buildings with great architectural value.

Activó núcleo cultural-gastronómico donde se mezclan cafés y restaurantes con centros culturales, teatros, librerías, antiguos y museos, que funcionan en antiguas casonas o en imponentes edificios de gran valor arquitectónico.

1. Posada del Corregidor
2. Instituto Chileno Alemán de Cultura
3. Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes
4. Instituto Chileno Francés de Cultura
5. Centro Cultural del Mulato Gil
6. Iglesia La Vera Cruz
7. Instituto Chileno Suizo
8. Palacio Bruna
9. El Biógrafo Cine Arte
10. Teatro Lastarria
11. Hostal Andes
12. Biblioteca Nacional
13. Castillo ridalgo
**Barrio París Londres:** Bounded within San Francisco, Alonso Ovalle, Serrano and the Alameda, this neighborhood was once acres of flower and vegetable gardens maintained by Franciscan friars. Most of the houses, built in the 1920’s display various architectural styles and the once narrow streets are now vehicle restricted areas with artist studios, hotels and restaurants.

**Barrio Concha y Toro:** Between the Alameda, Brasil, Agustinas and Ricardo Cumming (*Metro República station*), this is a neighborhood of narrow, short streets converging on a small plaza, once the property of doña Teresa Cazotte, the widow of Concha y Toro of wine fame. Between 1926 and 1939 a number of neoclassical, gothic and renaissance style three story homes were built, and are now a favored residence of artists and filmmakers who use the barrio in their films.

**Barrio Yungay:** This solidly middle class neighborhood located between the Alameda, Ricardo Cumming, Rosas and Matucana streets had its beginnings in the middle of the 19th century on what was known as the Llano de Portales. Plaza Yungay was created to honor the Chilean victory of the Battle of Yungay in the War of the Pacific. Located in the plaza is the monument to the Roto Chileno, created by Virginio Arias.
Barrio La Bolsa: The neighborhood developed in the early 20th century on land once owned by the Agustine nuns. Located between the Alameda, Bandera, Moneda and Paseo Ahumada, this barrio shows the classical influence in its buildings, notably the Stock Market, Bolsa de Comercio, the Compañía de Seguros and the Club de la Unión.
The Civic District covers an important area of downtown Santiago. It is called this way because you can find offices and government buildings, ministries, agencies and its main landmark, Palacio de La Moneda. The main trip goes from north to south, from Plaza de La Constitución, Agustinas, La Moneda, Plaza de La Ciudadanía, Paseo Bulnes, to be completed in Parque Almagro.

El Barrio Cívico de Santiago comprende una zona de mediana extensión en el centro de la ciudad, dentro de la comuna homónima. Se le denomina de esta manera debido a que los edificios que se encuentran dentro de él son en su gran mayoría dependencias y edificios de gobierno, tanto ministeriales y organismos varios como su principal hito: el Palacio de La Moneda. El eje principal comprende de Norte a Sur, Plaza de la Constitución desde calle Agustinas, La Moneda, Plaza de la Ciudadanía, Paseo Bulnes, terminado en el Parque Almagro.
Cont. Civic Center
SANTIAGO PONIENTE

Barrio Santiago Poniente

Santiago Poniente Circuit is an area that extends from Alameda to Quinta Normal Park located in Matucana street with Portales. In this circuit you can enjoy a wide range of activities of a cultural, but also scientific and technological nature, which can be of great interest for young adults but also for children.

Circuito Santiago Poniente es un área que comprende desde la Alameda hasta el Parque Quinta Normal ubicado en calle Matucana con Portales. En este circuito se pueden disfrutar de una amplia gama de panoramas de tipo cultural, pero también científico y tecnológico, lo que puede resultar de gran interés para jóvenes y adultos, pero también de los niños y niñas.

1. Planetario USACH
2. Centro Cultural Matucana 100
3. Biblioteca de Santiago
4. Museo de Arte Contemporáneo
5. Museo Nacional de Historia Natural
6. Museo Artequin
7. Casa de Moneda
8. Museo Ferroviario
9. Centro de Extensión Balmaceda Arte Joven
10. Museo de Ciencia y Tecnología
11. Museo Infantil
12. Museo de La Memoria
13. Museo de la Educación
14. Escuela de Artes y Oficios-USACH
15. Estación de Ferrocarriles

Servicios que transitan por la Zona

- 105: 105a, 105, 2, 1010, 120, 210, 218a
- 221: 302, 313a, 401, 404, 406, 407
- 409, 410, 412, 413, 418, 419, 421, 422
- 426, 427, 431, 508, 511, 513
- 826, 827, 815, 803, 818, 819a
- 110, 115, 116, 117, 118
- 181, 185, 190, 191, 195, 196, 197
- 101, 105, 109, 110, 116, 159

Mapa del Barrio Santiago Poniente.