

Republic of Chile



About Chile

Capital City:

- Santiago

Monetary Unit:

- Chilean Peso

Major Language:

- Spanish

Main Exports:

- Copper
- Fish
- Fruit
- Chemicals

Our Immigration Services in Chile

Tourist Visas & Special Work Permits for Tourists

– Guidance and assistance with visa applications filed with the Chilean Consulates abroad or Immigration Department

Work Contract Visas – For foreign nationals employed by a Chilean organization under a work contract

Temporary Residency Visas – For foreign nationals whose stay is considered useful or advantageous for Chile (i.e. investors, businessmen, scientists, consultants, etc.)

Permanent Residency – For foreign nationals who have held temporary residency visas for at least one year or work contract visa for at least two years, submitted with the Immigration Department

The Chilean Economy

Home to over 17.1 million people, Chile is one of South America's most stable and prosperous nations. Chile has one of Latin America's strongest economies mainly due to its vast copper resources. It is ranked by the World Bank as having an upper-middle income economy. (<http://tinyurl.com/29zzny>)

Chile became the first South American country to join the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (<http://www.oecd.org>), which is an international organization helping governments navigate the economic, social and governance challenges of a globalised economy. Over 4,000 companies from at least 60 countries have operations in Chile. Over 20 Free Trade Agreements with approximately 56 countries have given Chile access to over 4.2 billion consumers in markets around the world.

The Global Competitiveness Index published by the World Economic Forum for 2009-2010 ranked Chile as being the 30th most competitive country in the world and the first in Latin America. The World Bank's "Ease of Doing Business Index," which ranks countries based upon the conduciveness of the regulatory environment for new businesses, lists Chile as 43rd in the world that encompasses better, usually simpler, regulations for businesses and stronger protections of property rights. Source: <http://www.doingbusiness.org/rankings>

For detailed information about Chile's Economic Outlook, visit:

<http://www.economia.gob.cl>

Business Travel to Chile

Foreign nationals who wish to travel to Chile for business should ensure their passports are valid for at least six months and contain at least two blank visa pages. Only nationals of a select listing of countries will require a Tourism Visa in order to enter Chile. Otherwise, most foreign nationals are eligible to enter, visa-free, for stays of up to 90 days.

Permitted business activities when entering under tourist status include business negotiations and meetings, marketing and promotional activities, and attending conferences. Tourist entrants may not engage in employment in Chile.

U.S. and Canadian citizens, as well as many EU-state passport holders, may enter Chile without a visa for business purposes as indicated above; however a reciprocity fee may be levied at the port of entry. If the stay will involve more than simple business meetings, a visa may be required. A list of visa nationals and more information may be found at the following link: <http://www.extranjeria.gov.cl/> ; Visa list <http://tinyurl.com/5trs7lk>

Living in Chile

Chile is a country of enormous topographical diversity. It stretches some 4,630 miles from its border with Peru to the north to Cape Horn on the southern tip of South America. At its widest point, it is only 430 kilometers from the Pacific Ocean to its border with Argentina, located on the other side of the Andes. Source: <http://tinyurl.com/6kmc48y>

Overall, Chile is considered one of the safest countries in South America. As the freest market in Latin America, Chile has become

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an attractive destination for expatriates and the local population is generally welcoming to foreigners. Most expatriates settle in Concepción, Santiago, or Valparaiso. Concepción is Chile's second largest city and is located on the Bio Bio river. Santiago, the capital of Chile is famous for its developed economy and culture. It is the hub of cultural programs, art galleries and government buildings. Valparaiso was named a Unesco World Heritage sites in 2003 and is a historic port.

Chilean Business Culture

In Chilean business culture, business negotiations are conducted in a straightforward manner. Sales and pressure tactics are rarely effective and compromise is valued.

It is important to schedule appointments several weeks in advance. January and February are the summer months and many take vacation at this time.

Printed business materials should be provided in Spanish. Source: <http://tinyurl.com/6g94k8a>

Chilean Work Permit Process

1 Applications for work authorization may be filed either with the Department of Immigration, if the foreign national is already present in Chile, or through the Chilean Consulate abroad

2 Most expatriates apply while in-country and obtain a Special Work Permit for Tourists to permit employment while the work authorization application is pending

3 If applying from abroad, the applicant will be informed of the work authorization approval and will be required to obtain a visa stamp in his or her passport to facilitate entry to Chile

How Goel & Anderson can assist your organization in Chile

Organizations that wish to employ foreign workers abroad require an immigration service provider with a record of successfully coordinating and delivering global, business immigration services for multinational organizations. Goel & Anderson practices exclusively in the field of immigration to assist your company with the recruitment, hiring, and retention of foreign workers across the globe, including Chile. We understand that time and resources are valuable to your business and that staffing an international project can be critical to your business' reputation and success. We are committed to efficiently delivering business immigration solutions that combine broad global coverage with a depth of local expertise.

We carefully select co-counsel who share our service and compliance-oriented approach to meet the needs of organizations doing business in the global marketplace. Our Global Immigration Practice group and local counsel work closely together to ensure comprehensive business coordination and seamless delivery of services. Our immigration services include end-to-end processing, including: Work Permit

and Visa Application preparation and filing; detailed guidance on the visa stamping and post-entry process; and tracking key expiration dates. Personal representation at the Chilean Embassy or Consulate abroad and Local Police or Immigration Department may be available.

Generally, Chile imposes a cap of foreign national staff at 15% of the total workforce. There are some exceptions to this rule. Thus, if your company's Chilean office anticipates engaging foreign talent, an early analysis of immigration options and strategies, as well as a thorough understanding of the sponsorship obligations, will better position your project for success. We also understand that despite careful planning, emergent issues can arise. We are well positioned to assist your business to address unexpected business requirements. Because global immigration matters do not occur within a vacuum and the law is infrequently static, we seek local experts who may also assist with a range of related legal services, including corporate formation, contracts, employment agreements, licensing, and transactions and who will advise of changes in policy and procedures.

With headquarters outside of Washington, DC in Reston, Virginia and operations in Pune, India, Goel & Anderson is an immigration firm that is international in scope and personal in nature. We are known as a firm that is highly professional and also highly human. We offer clients extensive experience and a comprehensive understanding of all areas of business, employment, and family-based immigration law worldwide.

For more information about our Global Immigration Practice and services, please contact Jill Marie Bussey at jill.bussey@goellaw.com or +1 703.796.9881.

*Goel & Anderson, LLC does not engage in the practice of law within India. All services in India are provided by our affiliate, G&A Immigration Services Private Limited.

The information contained in this document is intended for informational purposes only, is general in nature, and does not constitute legal guidance.



Innovative Approaches to Immigration Law

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