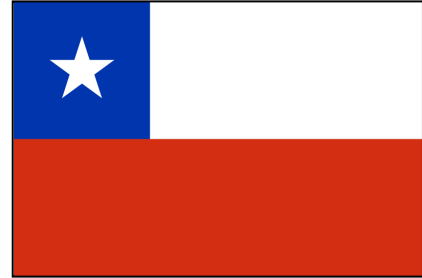


Chile!

To live in Chile however, is very different. This country is located on the opposite side of the world in South America. Chile occupies a long and narrow coastal strip wedged between the Andes Mountains and the Pacific Ocean. Although the Chileans are used to it, the air in Chile is very thin and due to the Mountains and non-natives are likely to get altitude sickness! However the mountains are a great location for many winter sports and other aspects of this country's culture...



The most popular and widely followed sport in Chile is football. Located throughout Chile are many football stadiums. Chile is also a host of winter sporting events because of its' geographical location. Skiing and snowboarding are done in the 4 thousand kilometers (2500 mi) of mountains. Surfing is also very popular; the beautiful beaches attract thousands of tourists each year! Other sports include Basketball and Chueca.

If you live here in Chile - you must know the national dance: The Cueca (a traditional song). Well known folk performers include: Violeta Parra, Los Jaivas, and Illapu. The traditional instruments include: the guitar, and tambourine - very similar to that of Spain! There are modern types of music too: since the late 1980s new bands like La Ley, have begun to appear.

The best thing about living in Chile is the cuisine. It is very diverse due to the variety of products grown in Chile's seaborne nature. When in Chile you will notice many similarities between the Country and Spain, this is because between the 15th and 20th century it was under the rule of Spain in the Spanish Empire. The cuisine arose from the fusion of traditional indigenous ingredients with Spanish culture and traditions. Further European immigration also brought with them various styles and traditions in cooking: French cuisine for example marked an important turning point influencing culinary methods and creating a type of Criollo style that has been implemented in Chilean gastronomy. Many Chilean recipes are enhanced and accompanied by wine and Pisco. Throughout Chile each region spanning from north to south contain a variety of culinary recipes special to each location. Chilean cuisine is a reflection of the country's topographical variety, featuring an assortment of seafood, beef, fruits, and vegetables. Traditional recipes include cazuela, empanadas, humitas, and curanto.

