












Chile - Low



Chile Country Map

-  POLITICAL
-  ARMED CONFLICT
-  TERRORISM
-  CRIME
-  CIVIL UNREST
-  MARITIME AND PIRACY
-  HEALTH
-  ENVIRONMENTAL
-  TRANSPORTATION

Last Published: 13 January 2026

COUNTRY OVERVIEW

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Chile is a South American country that shares borders with Peru, Bolivia, and Argentina. The country stretches along the southwest coast of South America for approximately 4,300 km, although at its widest point it is only 350 km. Due to its

unique shape, Chile has a wide range of weather conditions, varying from desertic to tropical, temperate, and even subpolar.

Crime rates are overall lower than neighbouring countries. The most common forms of crime include property and petty crime in major cities.

Protests are common in Chile. These often turn violent, and police usually respond by deploying tear gas and pepper spray as well as other crowd-control methods.

There are several environmental threats. As Chile lies along a fault line, earthquakes are an ever-present risk, and several active volcanoes are located across several regions. Chile is frequently affected by forest fires.

CULTURAL INFORMATION

Cultural Tips

- The official language of Chile is Spanish, although several groups in the extreme northern and southern regions only speak indigenous languages.
- Even fluent Spanish speakers have difficulty understanding the Chilean accent and the "*chilenismos*," or modes of speech and slang that are native to this country.
- Conversational space is closer in Chile than in some other countries.
- The tipping of metered taxi drivers is optional, although it is customary to round up the trip. At hotels, tipping porters 200 - 300 pesos per bag is customary. Restaurants usually include a 10 per cent service charge, but waiters and bartenders expect an additional 10 per cent cash tip.
- Homosexuality and civil unions are legal in Chile. LGBTQ travellers may encounter some discrimination.

KEY FACTS	
CAPITAL	Santiago
CAPITAL CITY PHONE CODE	2

KEY FACTS

COUNTRY PHONE CODE	56
CURRENCY	Chilean Peso
ELECTRICITY	220 V, 50 Hz
GMT	-3 to -5 (Easter Island)
LANGUAGES	Spanish
LEADERSHIP	President Gabriel Boric
OFFICE WORK WEEK	Monday-Friday
OFFICIAL COUNTRY NAME	Republic of Chile
PLUG STYLES	Type C, Type L
RELIGION	Christianity
TIME ZONE OFFSET	UTC-4
TYPE OF GOVERNMENT	Republic

RISK SUMMARY

Political - Low

Chile has a low political risk level. The country has a stable, democratic system of government. Chile's modern history was characterised by a 17-year-long period

of authoritarian rule. In 1973, General Augusto Pinochet took power after one of the bloodiest coups in 20th-century Latin America. His dictatorship (1973-1990) killed more than 3,000, with tens of thousands imprisoned, tortured, or missing.

On 16 November 2025, Chile held the first round of its general elections. The ruling, centre-left Unidad por Chile (UpCH) coalition won the most seats but lost ground to the far-right Cambio por Chile and centre-right Chile Grande y Unido Coalition. The presidential vote was decided at the 14 December runoff. José Antonio Kast, of the Republican Party (PRCh), defeated Jeannette Jara, of the Communist Party. Kast will take office in March 2026.

In July 2022, a new Chilean constitution, which was to replace Chile's military rule-era constitution, was rejected via referendum. This led to violent demonstrations in Santiago.

Chile often ranks among the Latin American countries least affected by corruption.

Armed Conflict - Low

Chile has historically been involved in conflicts with its neighbours. However, there is no current threat of an interstate conflict involving Chile breaking out.

The country is currently involved in a low-intensity internal conflict with the Mapuche Indigenous group in the southern regions. This is linked to the loss of vast territories by Mapuche communities during the Pinochet dictatorship. Chilean governments have issued several states of emergency in relation to the conflict. Arson attacks on private vehicles and property have been carried out as Mapuche communities call for the redistribution of land and increased regional autonomy in the face of repeated government crackdowns.

Minefields exist on the country's borders with Peru and Bolivia due to previous conflicts. In general, these areas are well-marked; however, some signs may be in a state of disrepair and can be missed or difficult to read.

Terrorism - Low

The threat of terrorism is low; however domestic terrorism from anarchist groups does exist and is centered in Santiago. These groups have targeted Banks, ATM machines, and public transport with small explosive devices, however, this was predominately in the 1980s. More recently over 200 smaller bombings occurred from 2005 to 2014 with small and different anarchist groups often claiming responsibility, however not many were fatal. In relation to this, on 8 September 2014, a fire extinguisher bomb exploded in the Escuela Militar metro station in Santiago injuring 14 people. Though no group or individual claimed responsibility.

The Araucania region has experienced many attacks that many have labelled as terrorism. In November 2022, several arson attacks and blockades occurred in the region that Mapuche groups used to demand the return of ancestral lands. The groups also attack trucks and trains in the area.

Crime - Moderate

Chile has a relatively low rate of violent crime in comparison to other Latin American countries. However, petty crime, including pickpocketing, bag-snatching, and muggings, is frequent. Petty crime is common in larger cities such as Santiago, Calama, San Pedro de Atacama, Pucon, Iquique, Valparaiso, and Vina del Mar.

In the past decades, violent crime rates have increased, almost certainly due to growing activity by transnational gangs. The Venezuelan group Tren de Aragua has sought to expand operations in Chile, which has resulted in an increased number of kidnappings and murders, as well as threats targeting police and judicial institutions.

Muggings where criminals use guns and knives have also increased. Travellers should avoid overt displays of wealth. Violent crime is common around Cerro Alegre in Valparaiso, in Cerro San Cristobal Park and in multiple areas of Santiago such as parks, Plaza de Armas, Mercado Central, Bellavista and Barrio Lastarria.

Tourist locations and transport hubs are at a higher risk of crime, as are highly trafficked locations such as bus stations, cafes and restaurants, ATMs and banks, internet cafes, and even hotel lobbies.

Carjacking is a threat, particularly when transiting in low-speed areas or stopping at intersections. In affluent areas, criminals wait for targets to enter or exit private residences and carry out attacks while gates are opening/closing. Travellers should ensure all doors and windows are closed and locked whilst vehicles are stationary. Criminals are also known to puncture tyres when cars are stationary and then attack the driver when they are dealing with the punctured tyre. Taxi drivers have been known to overcharge passengers, rob them, and deal with counterfeit currency. Travellers should use official or pre-booked taxis.

Other crimes are common, such as telephone scams and residential break-ins. The spiking of drinks in nightclubs and bars has been reported, followed by theft and assault. Most crime occurs in the Santiago metropolitan area; recent increases in crime targeting wealthy locals have occurred in Las Condes, Vitacura, and Providencia. There have been reports of people being followed from Santiago airport and then being robbed.

Civil Unrest - Moderate

There is a moderate threat of civil unrest in Chile. Protests are frequent and can turn violent, with police responding with violent crowd control methods. Locations that have a higher volume of unrest include Santiago, Valparaiso, and Concepcion. Alameda Avenue and Plaza Italia (Baquedano) in Santiago are hotspots for protests.

Demonstrations are common on the following dates: 29 March, the day of the Young Combatant, 1 May, International Workers Day, 11 September, the Anniversary of the 1973 coup, and 18 October, the anniversary of the 2019 unrest.

The main drivers of protests include socioeconomic conditions, political grievances, and localised incidents such as power outages. Protesters often stage road blockades by erecting improvised barriers. These can lead to transport disruptions and affect operations at airports and other transport hubs. Strikes are frequent and can cause significant travel disruptions, blocking access to remote areas of the country.

Police use crowd control methods, including rubber bullets, tear gas, and pepper spray. During the 2019-2020 protests, reports indicate that police used live am-

munition against protesters. At least 36 fatalities were recorded during the protests.

There is a risk of indigenous Mapuche groups staging protests in the Araucana region over land issues. These can also spread to Santiago and other cities. For example, in November 2018, violent protests erupted after an indigenous Mapuche man was killed by police during a confrontation. The incident sparked widespread protests across Santiago.

Maritime and Piracy - Low

There is no significant maritime or piracy risk off the coast of Chile.

There are multiple extant Traffic Separation Schemes (TSS) near the Chilean coast. Vessels may have to abide by specific navigation rules when transiting in TSSs, for instance exiting or entering the maritime corridors at specific points. Areas that have TSSs include the Quintero Bay, approaches to Valparaiso, the Bay of Concepcion, Bay San Vicente, and Puntas Arenas. The Strait of Magellan has specific navigation rules.

Maritime routes south of Cape Horn are notoriously difficult and dangerous due to strong winds and currents, large waves, and the presence of pack ice. Due to the direction of the wind, the passage from east to west is particularly difficult. Due to the dangers associated with the Cape Horn route, most vessels use the Strait of Magellan, further north.

The Strait of Magellan is entirely within Chilean jurisdiction. Passage is governed by the two Chilean-Argentine treaties (1881, and 1984). Vessels must inform Maritime Traffic Control stations at multiple points during their transit via the Strait. There are no speed restrictions in the Strait area, and there are multiple navigation aids including lighthouses. The route through the strait, while including areas with stronger currents, presents no notable difficulties.

Peru and Chile are at odds over a contested maritime border, however, an International Court of Justice ruling in 2014 has de-escalated the dispute.

In case of emergency at sea, use VHF Channel 16.

Health - Low

Healthcare facilities in Santiago and major cities in Chile are of a good standard and but it may be difficult to find assistance in remote areas. Private healthcare can be expensive without proper insurance. Chilean nationals and residents have access to public healthcare through the government-run Fondo Nacional de Salud (FONASA) scheme, with additional cover via privately run health insurers. State hospitals can be very crowded, and while they offer good quality care, private hospitals (clinics) offer a better standard of care.

Vector-borne diseases, including dengue fever and Chagas disease, are present in Chile, particularly in the country's central and northern regions. Other transmissible diseases present in the country include Typhoid Fever, Hepatitis A and Hepatitis B.

Air quality is low in Santiago during the winter and is likely to exacerbate any respiratory conditions.

Several popular destinations in the Chilean Andes are at more than 2,500 metres of altitude, the threshold at which altitude sickness symptoms tend to appear. Travellers visiting these areas should take time to acclimatise, avoid overexertion, and seek medical help if experiencing adverse symptoms.

Tap water in Chile's major cities is generally treated and safe to drink. Only drink bottled water in rural areas.

Environmental - Moderate

Due to its size, Chile has several environmental threats that vary considerably across regions.

Chile is located along a fault line, leading to frequent earthquakes. In 2015, an off-shore earthquake caused a tsunami that killed 15 people in Chile and one in Argentina. The strongest earthquake ever recorded occurred in 1960 in Chile, leading to the deaths of around 5,000 people and measuring around 9.5 on the Richter scale.

Chile is also home to around 500 active volcanoes, with a chain of volcanoes in the Puyehue and Los Lagon region, Chaiten in Southern Chile, Illaima in Conguillo National Park, Lascar in Northern Chile, and the Copahue Volcano in the Argentina/Chile border.

Flooding due to heavy rainfall is a common occurrence in south-central Chile. Evacuation orders due to the risk of rivers overflowing from heavy rainfall are common in the Ñuble, Maule, O'Higgins, and Biobío regions. Travellers to these regions should monitor Chile's National Disaster Prevention and Response Service (SENAPRED) website for warnings and evacuation orders.

Wildfires are frequent, particularly between December and March. At-risk areas include Ñuble, Biobio, and La Araucanía states. Wildfires are also prevalent between Santiago and Valparaiso and in Magallanes. In February 2024, at least 51 people were killed due to multiple fires in the Valparaiso region.

Santiago has one of the highest pollution levels in South America. Heavy smog can pose a serious health hazard between May and October.

Transportation - Low

As one of the longest and most geographically varied countries in the world, travelling around Chile can be difficult. The primary point of entry is the Comodoro Arturo Merino Benitez International Airport (SCL/SCEL) in Santiago, which is the country's busiest. There are several smaller airports throughout the country. Some flight providers include LATAM, which has the most routes, Sky Airlines, LAW, and JetSmart are other options. Flights have become more affordable in Chile and are sometimes cheaper than a long-distance bus. Consider flying from Arica to Santiago in a few short hours, compared to 28 hours via bus.

The road infrastructure around Chile varies but is generally of a good standard, which allows for regular, reliable road travel. All road signs are in Spanish. It should be noted that some rural roads are not properly maintained, while most long-distance highways are. Chilean bus routes are numerous and generally reliable. Since many identically numbered buses serve slightly different routes, check the placards indicating their final destination.

There is a threat of road traffic accidents (RTAs). In 2022, Chile had a traffic mortality rate of 10.8 deaths per 100,000 people, which was one of the highest rates among the countries analysed by the International Traffic Safety Data and Analysis Group (IRTAD). IRTAD assesses that speeding is the major cause of RTAs.

Due to high pollution in the winter, driving restrictions in central Santiago, within the Americo Vespucio ring road, are in place between May and September. Vehicles with a green seal registered before 1 September 2011 are subject to daily restrictions based on the last two digits of the licence plate. Restrictions are in place between Monday and Friday, between 07:30-21:00.

Most major international car rental agencies have offices in Santiago and other cities. A valid International driver's license, an age of 25 or older, and a valid credit card are necessary to rent a vehicle. Car leasing in Chile is expensive, as many providers rent only by distance.

Most inter-city travel in the north of the country will involve travelling through the Andes mountain range, which can reach heights of around 5,000 meters. Travellers should be aware that altitude sickness can kick in at these heights, and if driving yourself, then extra caution should be taken.

Taxis in most cities are a cheap and reliable way to get around. Most Chilean cabs are metered. In Santiago, it costs CH\$ 300 plus CH\$ 150 per 200m. Some ridesharing services are available.

Both Santiago and Valparaiso have commuter rail networks. Santiago's modern metro train line runs from San Fernando through Rancagua, capital of Region VI, to Estación Central, on the Alameda in Santiago. Valparaiso's rail connects Via del Mar and Valparaiso. Santiago's superefficient subway is the metro, with some recent expansions. Try to avoid peak hours, which can get very crowded. Santiago's subway is a hotspot for petty crime.

EMERGENCY DETAILS

POLICE EMERGENCY 133 AMBULANCE 131 FIRE BRIGADE 132. FOR FURTHER ASSISTANCE, TRAINING, OR ADVICE, PLEASE CONTACT THE

EMERGENCY DETAILS

**SOLACE GLOBAL RISK OPERATIONS CENTRE ON +44 (0) 1202 795 801
OR VIA SGR@SOLACEGLOBAL.COM**

POLICE NUMBER	133
AMBULANCE NUMBER	132
FIRE NUMBER	131
EMERGENCY DETAILS	

TRAVEL

TRAVEL ADVICE

Chile's road infrastructure is generally of good quality. Main roadways are paved and usually have security features like crash barriers. Road quality decreases sharply in rural areas, where a 4x4 wheel drive vehicle may be needed.

Due to winter weather conditions impacting road safety, authorities regularly close land borders with Argentina during the winter.

Travellers moving through the Araucania region should remain vigilant due to the high level of crime in the region, as well as the threat of attacks - including arson - carried out by Mapuche groups.

Under Chilean law, foreign nationals visiting or living in Chile could be deported for involvement in protests and demonstrations.

Tap water is safe to drink. However, high mineral content often can result in some mild gastrointestinal issues.

SIGNIFICANT DATES

MARCH 20, 2026

- **March Equinox:** Chile - Seasonal

APRIL 02, 2026

- **Maundy Thursday:** Chile - Observance

APRIL 03, 2026

- **Good Friday:** Chile - National

APRIL 04, 2026

- **Holy Saturday:** Chile - National

APRIL 05, 2026

- **Easter Sunday:** Chile - Observance

MAY 01, 2026

- **Labor Day / May Day:** Chile - National

MAY 21, 2026

- **Navy Day:** Chile - National

JUNE 21, 2026

SIGNIFICANT DATES

- **June Solstice:** Chile - Seasonal

JUNE 29, 2026

- **Saint Peter and Saint Paul:** Chile - National

JULY 16, 2026

- **Our Lady of Mount Carmel:** Chile - National

AUGUST 15, 2026

- **Assumption of Mary:** Chile - National

SEPTEMBER 18, 2026

- **National Day:** Chile - National

SEPTEMBER 19, 2026

- **Army Day:** Chile - National

SEPTEMBER 22, 2026

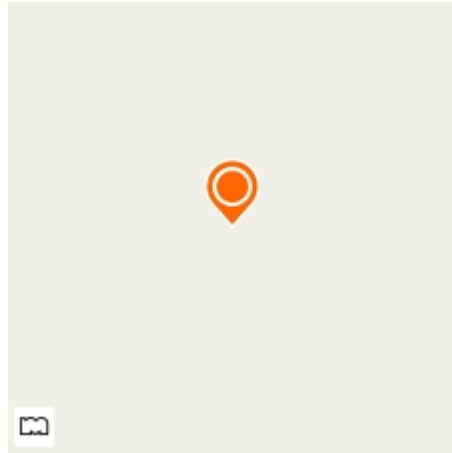
- **September Equinox:** Chile - Seasonal

OCTOBER 12, 2026

- **Columbus Day:** Chile - National

RECENT ALERTS

MAGNITUDE 5.7 EARTHQUAKE DETECTED EAST-NORTHEAST OF LA TIRANA



Category: Environmental - **Risk:** High



08-Feb-2026 16:48

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) has detected a magnitude 5.7 earthquake 76 kilometres east-northeast of La Tirana. The tremor occurred at 1623 UTC at a depth of 119.0 kilometres. No casualties or damages have been reported at this time. Aftershocks remain possible.

FIRE ONGOING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHILE, SANTIAGO

RECENT ALERTS



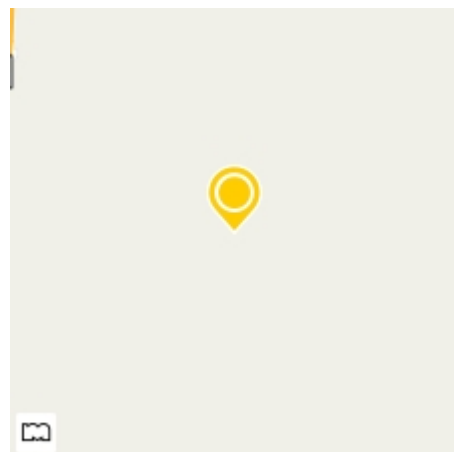
Category: Environmental - **Risk:** Moderate



08-Feb-2026 02:11

Local media reports that a large fire is ongoing at the Faculty of Veterinary Sciences and Agronomy of the University of Chile, in the La Pintana area of Santiago. Firefighters are on the scene and actively working to combat the fire. Footage circulating online shows a thick plume of black smoke emanating from the building. There have been no casualties reported at this time, including to animals belonging to the faculty.

A 5.0 MAGNITUDE EARTHQUAKE HAS BEEN RECORDED SOUTH OF LA TIRANA



RECENT ALERTS

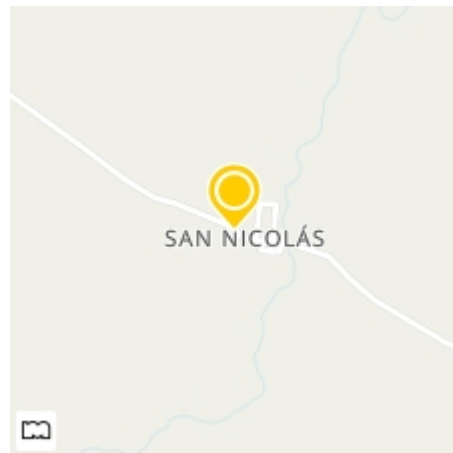
Category: Environmental - **Risk:** Moderate



06-Feb-2026 03:05

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) has detected a magnitude 5.0 earthquake 32 kilometres south of La Tirana, Chile. The tremor occurred at 0227 UTC at a depth of 35 kilometres. No casualties or property damage have been reported at this time. Aftershocks remain possible.

RED ALERT DECLARED IN SAN NICOLÁS DUE TO A FOREST FIRE



Category: Environmental - **Risk:** Moderate

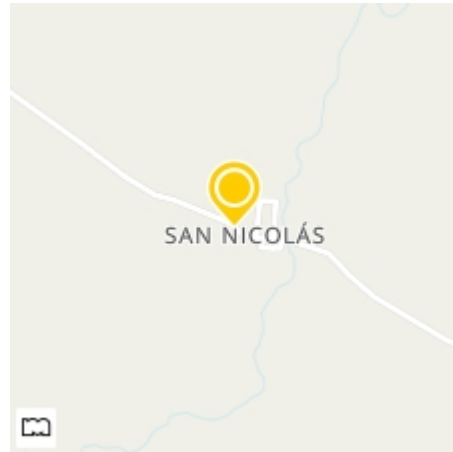


01-Feb-2026 21:11

According to local media sources, a red alert has been declared in San Nicolás due to a forest fire. Authorities have reportedly issued orders for preventative evacuations. The exact location of the forest fire is unknown. Currently, there have been no reports of any casualties. Further information remains limited. We will continue to monitor the situation and provide updates accordingly.

RECENT ALERTS

EVACUATION ORDER ISSUED FOR QUILLAHUE DUE TO A FOREST FIRE



Category: Environmental - **Risk:** Moderate

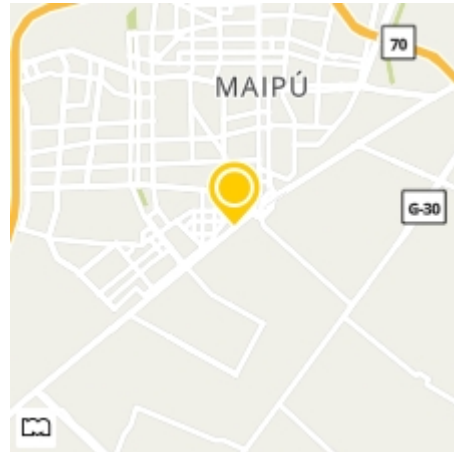


01-Feb-2026 20:22

Chile's National Disaster Prevention and Response Service (SENAPRED) have issued an evacuation order for Quillahue due to a forest fire. Currently, there have not been any reports of any casualties or damages. The exact location of the forest fire remains unknown. Further information remains limited. We will continue to monitor the situation and provide updates accordingly.

FLOODING ON CAMINO A MELIPILLA IN MAIPU

RECENT ALERTS



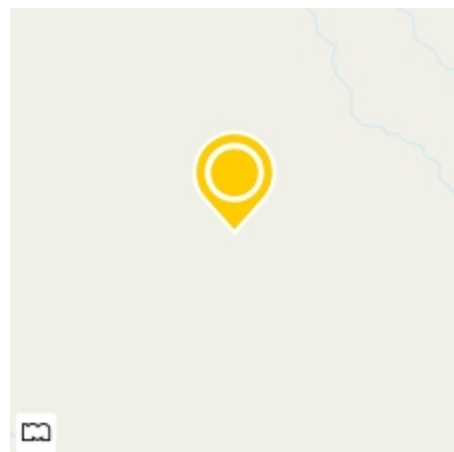
Category: Environmental - **Risk:** Moderate



01-Feb-2026 01:47

Local media reports that flooding is ongoing on Camino a Melipilla, a main road in Maipu, a satellite city of Santiago. The flooding is impeding traffic in both directions. Footage circulating online shows vehicles with their wheels partially submerged in the water. Drivers of low-clearance motor vehicles are advised to avoid travel on this road.

WEATHER ALERT FOR THUNDERSTORMS AND HEAVY RAINFALL ISSUED FOR ÑUBLE AND SURROUNDING AREAS



RECENT ALERTS

Category: Environmental - **Risk:** Moderate



30-Jan-2026 12:31

The Chilean Meteorological Directorate has issued a weather alert for thunderstorms and heavy rainfall for Ñuble, Bío Bío, La Araucanía and Los Ríos. The National Service for Disaster Prevention and Response (SENAPRED) has also issued preventative early warnings for the affected regions. Further information remains limited. We will continue to monitor the situation and provide updates accordingly.

ALERT ISSUED AHEAD OF OPENING MATCH OF 2026 COPA CHILE ON 30 JANUARY

Category: Civil Unrest - **Risk:** Low



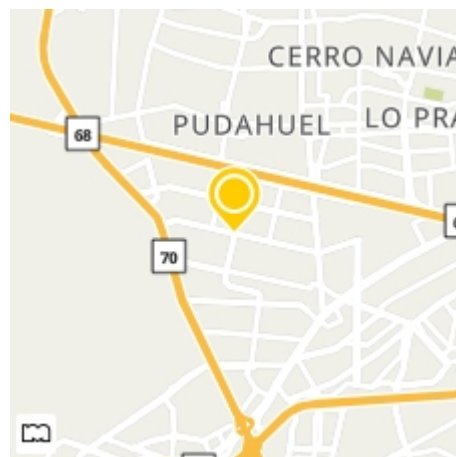
30-Jan-2026 00:17

Local media have reported that an alert has been issued at the Universidad de Chile ahead of the opening match of the 2026 Copa Chile at the National Stadium on 30 January at 2000 local time. The security alert has been issued

RECENT ALERTS

due to the threat of hooliganism ahead of the opening match and the price of the tickets. It is unclear the exact circumstances around the alert; however, we will continue to monitor the situation and provide updates if necessary.

CLASHES REPORTED BETWEEN PROTESTORS AND POLICE AFTER TWO BUSES SET ON FIRE IN PUDAHUEL



Category: Civil Unrest - **Risk:** Moderate

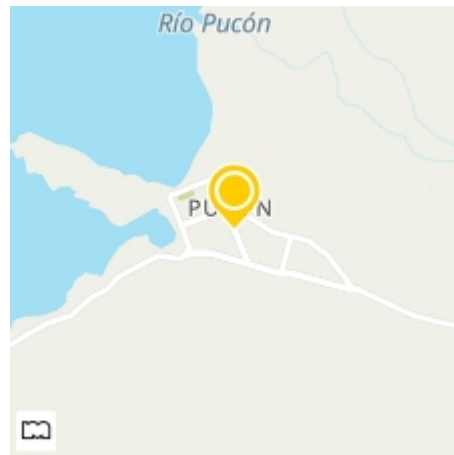


29-Jan-2026 03:55

Local media reports that clashes have broken out between protestors and police after two buses were set on fire in the Pudahuel area of Santiago. The incident was reportedly related to the anniversary of the death of a football fan. A group of 20-40 reportedly gathered and threw Molotov cocktails at the passenger buses. Public Order Control personnel have been deployed to control the situation. Further details remain limited at this time.

RED WILDFIRE ALERT FOR PUCÓN IN ARAUCANÍA REGION DUE TO FOREST FIRE NEARBY

RECENT ALERTS



Category: Environmental - **Risk:** Moderate



28-Jan-2026 20:32

Chile's National Service for Disaster Prevention and Response (SENAPRED) has issued a red alert for Pucón in the Araucanía region due to a forest fire near Villarrica National Park. The alert is valid from today until authorities decide that the fire no longer poses a threat to areas nearby. Authorities have deployed all available resources to tackle the fire. Further details remain limited at this time.

FCDO SUMMARY

Last updated: 01/27/2026 12:51:50

Warnings and insurance

This travel advice page also covers Rapa Nui (Easter Island).

Wildfires

Chile is experiencing severe wildfires in the southern regions.

The Chilean Government declared a State of Catastrophe in Ñuble and Biobío regions. Chilean authorities are advising people to avoid the affected areas, follow official channels for up-to-date information and, in the case of an evacuation order, follow the evacuation process swiftly and calmly.

Curfews have also been in place in parts of these regions in recent days.

If you are in the affected areas, or in an area at risk of wildfires, keep up to date with and follow the advice of local authorities and emergency services. Have an evacuation plan ready that does not depend on the UK Government.

For further guidance on wildfires, including the times and locations of any further curfews, visit the website of [Chile's National Disaster Prevention and Response Service](#) (Servicio Nacional de Prevención y Respuesta ante Desastres (SERNAPRED) (in Spanish).

Before you travel

No travel can be guaranteed safe. Read all the advice in this guide. You may also find it helpful to:

- see [general advice for women travellers](#)
- read our [guide on disability and travel abroad](#)
- see [general advice for LGBT+ travellers](#)
- read about [safety for solo and independent travel](#)
- see [advice on volunteering and adventure travel abroad](#)

Travel insurance

If you choose to travel, research your destinations and [get appropriate travel insurance](#). Insurance should cover your itinerary, planned activities and expenses in an emergency.

About [FCDO](#) travel advice

The Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office ([FCDO](#)) provides advice about risks of travel to help you make informed decisions. Find out [more about \[FCDO\]\(#\) travel advice](#).

Get travel advice updates

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- [Travel Aware on Instagram](#)

Entry requirements

This information is for people travelling on a full '[British citizen](#)' passport from the UK. It is based on the UK government's understanding of Chile's current rules for the most common types of travel.

The authorities in Chile set and enforce entry rules. If you're not sure how these requirements apply to you, contact the [Chilean Embassy in the UK](#).

Passport validity requirements

Your passport should have an 'expiry date' after the day you plan to leave Chile.

Check with your travel provider that your passport and other travel documents meet requirements. [Renew your passport](#) if you need to.

You will be denied entry if you do not have a valid travel document or try to use a passport that has been reported lost or stolen.

Dual nationals

When returning to the UK, British citizens must carry a valid [British passport](#) or [certificate of entitlement](#). See [Dual citizenship](#).

British-Chilean dual nationals

British-Chilean dual nationals must enter and leave Chile using their Chilean passport. Chilean entry and exit requirements for dual nationals may change without notice. For further information check with the [Chilean Embassy in the UK](#).

Visa requirements

You can visit Chile for up to 90 days without a visa.

The Chilean immigration authorities will give you a tourist card ('tarjeta de turismo'), an A5-sized white form. Keep it safe and give it to immigration when you leave the country. If you lose it, Chilean police investigations (PDI) allows you to [request a copy online](#) (choose 'Duplicado de tarjeta de turismo'). You can also go to the nearest PDI office.

To stay longer (to work or study, for business travel or for other reasons), you must [meet the Chilean Government's entry requirements](#).

Travelling with children

Chile requires children travelling with only one parent, with a guardian or alone, to have permission from the non-travelling parent or parents. Parents travelling with children for tourism have faced difficulty leaving Chile at the end of their visit when only one parent is present. You must have

- a written notarised authorisation from the non-travelling parent(s)
- an original birth certificate

If you're travelling with children aged 17 and under, check the website of the [Chilean Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#) (website in Spanish) for what documents you need to show.

Travelling with dual national children

Before a dual national child aged 17 or under leaves Chile, you must get authorisation to travel from a Chilean notary ('notaría') if the child is travelling:

- alone
- with only one parent or guardian
- with friends or relatives

If a child was born in Chile, they must have a Chilean passport to leave the country.

Travelling to Rapa Nui (Easter Island)

To [enter Rapa Nui \(Easter Island\)](#) you must:

- complete a [Rapa Nui entry form](#)
- show a return ticket
- show a reservation registered with [SERNATUR, the national tourism service](#) (select region 'Valparaiso' and comuna 'Rapa Nui' to refine your search for accommodation) or an invitation letter from the provincial delegation

Vaccine requirements

For details about medical entry requirements and recommended vaccinations, see [TravelHealthPro's Chile guide](#).

Customs rules

There are strict rules about [goods you can take into or out of Chile](#). You must declare anything that may be prohibited or subject to tax or duty.

Safety and security

Terrorism

There is a high threat of terrorist attack globally affecting UK interests and British nationals, including from groups and individuals who view the UK and British nationals as targets. Stay aware of your surroundings at all times.

UK Counter Terrorism Policing has information and advice on [staying safe abroad](#) and what to do in the event of a terrorist attack. Find out [how to reduce your risk from terrorism while abroad](#).

Terrorism in Chile

Terrorists are likely to try to carry out attacks in Chile.

Some individuals or groups claiming to represent the interests of indigenous communities have carried out attacks in the Araucanía, Biobío and Los Ríos regions of the country. State actors and businesses operating in these regions are the primary targets of these groups. You should exercise caution and follow the instructions of local authorities.

Anarchist groups have also carried out attacks, mostly in the Santiago Metropolitan region. Attacks are principally aimed at causing property damage. Keep bags with you at all times, as unattended bags might be treated with suspicion by local authorities. Report any suspicious behaviour or unattended packages to local authorities.

Political situation

There is a risk of violent protest in Santiago and other Chilean cities, particularly on Friday afternoons and evenings.

Even peaceful protests can become violent. The largest protests usually take place in central Santiago. Police can use tear gas and water cannons against protesters.

Avoid all demonstrations. Under Chilean law, you can be deported if you're involved in or promote violent acts that could disturb social order or the system of government.

Nationwide protests often take place on significant dates, such as:

- 11 September (anniversary of the military coup)
- 29 March (Day of the Young Combatant)
- 1 May (Workers' Day)

Crime

Pickpocketing, mugging and thefts from vehicles are very common throughout Chile, including inside airports, churches, hotels and bus stations, and at viewpoints and petrol stations.

This is a list of scams and techniques which have been used on British Nationals in Chile, especially in central Santiago and Valparaiso:

- **Distraction robbery:** The victim is distracted by one person while a second person steals the victim's handbag or backpack from their chair or from under the table.
- **Liquid spill:** Liquid is 'accidentally' spilled on a traveller, and the scammer steals the victim's valuables while pretending to be assisting cleaning it off.
- **Tyre puncture:** The driver pulls over owing to a punctured tyre (not knowing that their tyre has been deliberately punctured). A person then approaches the car offering to help, and distracts the driver whilst a second person steals belongings from the car.
- **Hire cars:** Hire cars are targeted and broken into whilst parked at a viewpoint, petrol station or other location. Sometimes the driver is approached and distracted by one person while belongings are stolen from the car by a second person.
- **Airport taxi:** Unlicensed taxi drivers at Santiago Airport add extra digits to the amount for the taxi journey i.e. charging 5,000,000 CLP (approx. 5,000 GBP / 5,000 USD) instead of 50,000 CLP. Others have convinced passengers to enter their pin number into a credit card reader whose display cannot be read. People have lost up to 10,000 GBP via this method.
- **Theft of belongings at Santiago airport:** This includes luggage stolen both before check-in at the airport terminal and from the baggage carousel after arrival.

Taxi scams at Santiago Airport

Many foreign visitors have been scammed for large amounts of money by unlicensed taxi drivers, including in airport taxis. Well-known taxi companies can be booked via ridesharing apps. Only book and pay for official taxis from inside the airport before exiting the building.

Do not use any transport from inside the airport if you cannot pay for it before getting into the vehicle.

See [how to recognise official taxis](#) (in Spanish) and be wary of people impersonating authorised taxi drivers. There are criminals inside the airport arrival area who dress up as authorised taxi drivers, including people inside the airport arrival hall wearing official-looking lanyards and jackets, with printed price lists.

To reduce the risk of being overcharged you can insist on paying in advance for your journey at one of the two official taxi booths in the arrivals at Santiago's international airport, immediately after customs and just before you head through to the public area of arrivals. If one of the booths does not have a card reader available on that day, then you can go to the other booth instead.

If you do decide to pay in the taxi, you should insist on seeing the amount you are charged before you present your card for payment at the end of the journey. Carefully review the amount being charged on portable credit card machines before paying, including the number of zeroes shown on the screen.

If a taxi takes you to an ATM to withdraw cash for payment, do not let the driver near the ATM while you use it.

Read information about the official transportation options at Santiago airport:

- [taxis](#)
- [buses](#)
- [transfers](#)
- [car rental](#) (read the section 'Vehicle crime' below if you are planning on renting a car)

Book taxis in advance rather than hailing one from the street, especially late at night. Keep in groups and avoid walking alone late at night.

Protecting your belongings

Keep your valuables and passport somewhere secure, such as in a hotel safe. Bags hanging on chairs or mobile phones on tables can be targeted by thieves, who may use distraction techniques or work in pairs. Take particular care:

- around tourist sites, and areas popular with tourists

- in cafes and restaurants
- at transport hubs, including at the airport, bus stations and ports
- in hotel lobbies during arrival and departure
- in service (petrol) stations and service station restaurants

When travelling by bus or coach, take care of your belongings when getting on and off. Keep your valuables with you, do not put them in storage compartments, especially for long journeys between regions. Be extremely wary of distractions at bus stations, where there are frequent thefts.

Violent theft (muggings)

Muggings happen frequently, especially in Santiago and Valparaiso, and increasingly with weapons such as guns and knives. Muggings can take place during the day and in plain sight of others. Be aware of your surroundings, particularly in tourist areas or near official buildings. Muggers will target:

- tourists
- people carrying large amounts of money – leaving ATMs or currency exchanges, for example
- your passport (carrying a photocopy is enough)
- valuable watches or jewellery
- your mobile phone

Do not resist any attempted mugging.

Vehicle crime

There has been an increase in criminals:

- targeting rental cars in major cities – they puncture the car's tyres, often while at traffic lights, distract the occupants when they notice the tyres and steal valuables
- following people from the airport on arrival and robbing them, sometimes at gunpoint
- targeting vehicles entering or leaving private residences while the gates are opening or closing

- carrying out carjacking's in Santiago, especially in affluent areas – some armed carjackers target high-end vehicles on highways
- targeting people parked at viewpoints and stealing belongings from their cars

Be aware of your surroundings in and around the airport, when driving and on arrival at your destination. Keep vehicle doors locked and windows closed. Wait for gates to fully close before leaving your vehicle.

If you're robbed, hand over your cash and valuables without resistance. If you're carjacked, local authorities say it is best to raise your hands and get out of the vehicle to avoid violence.

Drink spiking

People have been given 'spiked' drinks in nightclubs and bars, particularly in the Suecia and Bellavista areas of Santiago. These incidents leave victims open to theft or assault. Keep your drinks in sight and be wary of people offering to buy drinks for you.

Laws and cultural differences

Personal ID

Always carry a printed copy of the photo page of your passport with you.

Alcohol laws and bans

It's illegal to drink alcohol in public places including streets, roads, squares and promenades.

Illegal drugs and prison sentences

Using or possessing drugs is illegal and can lead to prison sentences.

LGBT+ travellers

Same-sex relationships are legal in Chile and are increasingly widely accepted socially, although much of Chilean society is conservative.

Read more [advice for LGBT+ travellers](#).

Outdoor activities and adventure tourism

Fires in national parks

Open fires are illegal in national parks in Chile, outside permitted camping areas. Local authorities may revoke your tourist permit if you're caught starting a fire in a Chilean national park. You may be asked to leave the country voluntarily within 72 hours or face deportation. If your open fire starts a larger forest fire, you may also face criminal penalties and fines.

Hiking and mountaineering

If you're planning to go exploring or mountaineering, tell the local authorities before you set off. For further information on mountaineering, contact the [Federación de Andinismo de Chile](#). For any other type of exploring, contact the [Chilean Embassy in London](#) to see if you need a permit. The rescue services in Chile are good, but you may have to pay if they help you.

Transport risks

Road travel

If you are planning to drive a hire car or a UK vehicle, see [information on driving abroad](#).

You can use a UK photocard driving licence to drive in Chile for 3 months. If you still have a paper driving licence, you may need to [update it to a photocard licence](#) or get the [correct version of the international driving permit \(IDP\)](#) as well.

You must have your passport and proof of your tourist status, such as your tourist card ('tarjeta de turismo') or the entry stamp in your passport, with you in the vehicle.

See [information about driving licences in Chile](#) (in Spanish).

If you hire a car, get appropriate insurance. Windscreen repair can be expensive, so consider including windscreen damage cover.

You cannot get car insurance if you're driving on Rapa Nui (Easter Island). If you have an accident or do any damage to your vehicle there, you'll have to pay for the repairs yourself.

Driving conditions

Main roads in Chile are surfaced, but you may need a 4-wheel drive vehicle in the countryside. Be prepared for a range of driving conditions, from snow and ice to hot sandy deserts. Between June and September, winter weather sometimes temporarily closes the Chile-Argentina border crossing high in the Andes, including the main Los Libertadores crossing between Santiago and Mendoza.

Toll roads are increasingly common.

Landmines

Landmine accidents mainly affect livestock and local people crossing borders at unauthorised points. Most minefields are near the borders with Peru and Bolivia in the extreme north of Chile (regions XV, I and II) and Argentina in the south (region XII). Although most minefields are clearly marked, some signs and fences are old and damaged and may be hard to spot. In some cases, minefields are laid right up to the edge of highways. Check with local authorities before travelling to more rural areas, stick to clearly marked roads and observe all warning signs.

Extreme weather and natural disasters

See [extreme weather and natural hazards](#) for information about how to prepare, and how to react if there is a warning.

Heavy rain and flooding

When necessary, the Chilean National Service for Disaster Prevention and Response (SENAPRED) issues warnings for heavy rain which may impact travel plans. Road conditions may be hazardous, with increased risk of delays and accidents. If you travel, plan your journey carefully and allow extra time. Follow local news, weather updates and the [SENAPRED website](#) (in Spanish) for the latest information.

Forest fires

Chile often has severe forest fires which can be very destructive and spread rapidly. These fires have caused multiple deaths, as well as sometimes causing the closure of national parks and roads.

If you find yourself in or near the affected areas of any fires:

- follow the advice of local authorities, including evacuation orders
- monitor local media to stay informed of the rapidly evolving situation
- notify friends and family of your safety
- review your personal security plans
- make evacuation plans that do not rely on British government assistance
- have travel documents up to date and easily accessible
- carry identification at all times, such as your passport or a copy of it

Earthquakes

Major earthquakes are a risk in Chile. The US Federal Emergency Management Agency website has advice about [what to do before, during and after an earthquake](#). Take note of instructions in hotel rooms.

Building regulations require new structures to take account of earthquake risks. Safety measures are widely known and put into practice by national organisations and the local authorities.

Volcanic eruptions

A chain of volcanoes is active in the Puyehue and Los Lagos region (500 miles south of Santiago). There is a continuing risk of eruptions in Chaiten in southern Chile, Llaima in the Conguillo National Park and Lascar in northern Chile. Copahue, a volcano on the Argentina-Chile border, erupts periodically, causing local residents to be evacuated. Villarrica, a volcano near the popular tourist destinations of Pucon and Villarrica in the IX region of La Araucanía, is also active.

If you're travelling to these areas, monitor local media reports and follow [local authority volcano monitoring advice](#) (in Spanish).

Regional risks

This section has safety advice for regions of Chile. It only covers regions where [FCDO](#) has specific advice.

You should also read [FCDO's overall travel advice](#) and [safety and security advice](#).

Araucanía Region

There is ongoing civil unrest in the Araucanía Region, especially around Temuco. This includes attacks by groups of demonstrators against both people and property. Be cautious if you travel within the Araucanía Region. There is an ongoing state of emergency in the provinces of Biobío, Arauco, Cautín and Malleco because of a significant increase in violent incidents. The military are assisting regional police. Follow the instructions of local authorities.

Health

Before you travel check that:

- your destination can provide the healthcare you may need
- you have [appropriate travel insurance](#) for local treatment or unexpected medical evacuation

This is particularly important if you have a health condition or are pregnant.

Emergency medical number

Call 131 and ask for an ambulance.

Contact your insurance company quickly if you're referred to a medical facility for treatment.

Vaccine recommendations and health risks

At least 8 weeks before your trip:

- check the latest [recommended vaccinations for Chile](#) or [Easter Island](#)
- see where to get vaccines and whether you have to pay on the [NHS travel vaccinations page](#)

See [what health risks you'll face in Chile](#), including altitude sickness, which is a risk in parts of Chile. Read more about [altitude sickness on TravelHealthPro](#).

There are confirmed cases of dengue fever on Rapa Nui (Easter Island). Take steps to [avoid being bitten by mosquitoes](#).

Medication

The legal status and regulation of some medicines prescribed or bought in the UK can be different in other countries.

Read [best practice when travelling with medicines on TravelHealthPro](#).

Healthcare in Chile

There are good health facilities in Santiago and other major cities, but private clinics and hospitals are expensive. Make sure you have adequate travel health insurance and accessible funds to cover the cost of any medical treatment abroad and repatriation.

There is only one hospital on Rapa Nui (Easter Island) and its facilities are limited. People suffering from serious illnesses or injuries are taken by air ambulance to mainland Chile for treatment. Make sure your travel insurance covers this.

[FCDO](#) has a [list of medical providers in Chile](#) where some staff will speak English.

There is also [guidance on healthcare](#) if you're living in Chile.

Travel and mental health

Read [FCDO guidance on travel and mental health](#). There is also [mental health guidance on TravelHealthPro](#).

Getting help

The Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office ([FCDO](#)) cannot provide tailored advice for individual trips. Read this travel advice and carry out your own research before deciding whether to travel.

Emergency services in Chile

Ambulance: 131

Fire: 132

Police: 133

Contact your travel provider and insurer

Contact your travel provider and your insurer if you are involved in a serious incident or emergency abroad. They will tell you if they can help and what you need to do.

Refunds and changes to travel

For refunds or changes to travel, contact your travel provider. You may also be able to make a claim through insurance. However, insurers usually require you to talk to your travel provider first.

Find out more about [changing or cancelling travel plans](#), including:

- where to get advice if you are in a dispute with a provider
- how to access previous versions of travel advice to support a claim

Support from FCDO

FCDO has guidance on staying safe and what to do if you need help or support abroad, including:

- finding English-speaking [lawyers](#), [funeral directors](#) and [translators and interpreters](#) in Chile
- dealing with a [death in Chile](#)
- being [arrested or imprisoned in Chile](#)
- getting help if you're a [victim of crime](#)
- what to do if you're [in hospital](#)
- if you're [affected by a crisis](#), such as a terrorist attack

Contacting FCDO

Help abroad

See [how to get help from the UK government abroad](#) including in an emergency.

Help in the UK

You can call FCDO in London if you need urgent help because something has happened to a friend or relative abroad.

Telephone: 020 7008 5000 (24 hours)

[Find out about call charges](#)

Get travel advice updates

Sign up to [get email notifications](#) when this travel advice is updated.

Follow ECDO:

- [travel advice on X](#)
- [travel advice on Facebook](#)

Risk information for British companies

The Overseas Business Risk service offers [information and advice for British companies operating in Chile](#) on how to manage political, economic, and business security-related risks.

PACK SMART

Only pack items you can replace, leave valuables at home. You will be less likely to attract criminals and if threatened, you won't be tempted to put up a fight to save your belongings.



Carry a duplicate wallet with small denomination notes and old cards that you could relinquish if threatened by robbers. Only pack items you can replace, leave valuables at home. You will be less likely to attract criminals and if threatened, you won't be tempted to put up a fight to save your belongings.



Always check the destination restrictions regarding medications when planning your trip.

STAY SAFE: Hotels



Request a hotel room between the third & seventh floor. Ground floor rooms should always be avoided as they are easily accessible from the outside. Higher levels mean in the event of a fire there are many stairs to navigate and in some countries firefighters may not have ladders capable of reaching higher than the seventh floor.



Check your room phone works in case you need to call reception for help.



Know where your fire exits are. Count the number of doors to the fire exit from your room so you can feel your way in the event of a fire and a smoke-filled corridor.



To prevent unauthorised entry into your hotel room, make sure the windows and doors lock. Bolt the deadbolt and use the door wedges you've brought with you from home to wedge the main door closed.

TRAVEL SAFE: Out & About



When you are out and about, be aware of your surroundings - don't display obvious wealth, such as expensive jewellery, watches and mobile phones.



Use ATMs inside banks and shopping centres, where there is greater security and CCTV. Safety in numbers. If you are travelling with colleagues, stay together for meals and trips out. If you are alone, avoid quiet areas and trust your instincts.

Road traffic accidents are still the greatest threat to travel safety.



- Use licensed taxis.
- Always wear a seat belt.
- Keep doors locked & windows up.
- Avoid night-time driving.
- If the driver is using a phone or driving dangerously, insist they slow down/stop using their phone.

Check in regularly. Use the 'Check In' button on the Solace Secure app so your location can be monitored and you can view all intelligence alerts within your vicinity.

SAFE TRAVEL: Health Tips

See a medical travel specialist at least 4 weeks before travel.

Ask about recommended vaccines for specific destinations.

First aid kit with regular & special medication for trip - carry in hand luggage.

Evacuation & travel insurance to cover health emergencies while abroad.



Take an extra month of prescribed medication for pre-existing conditions.
Risk of malaria - take precautions to prevent mosquito bites and take malaria pills as advised.



Avoid drinking alcohol and becoming dehydrated.
Verify & consume safe water and food. Have a supply of medicine for self-treatment of diarrhoea.



Excessive sun exposure should be minimised by the use of sunscreen - sun can be more intense over water, snow and at altitude.

Leave animals alone. Animal bites or scratches can transmit rabies.

THINK SAFE: Know Your Destination

Understand the culture of your destination. Dress and behave so as not to cause offence or draw attention.



Know if the tap water is suitable to drink if not; only accept water from a sealed bottle.

Avoid ice in your drinks & salad washed in tap water.

Research where you are travelling to. Make a note of the local emergency services number. Know the current security and medical threats and advice. See the FCO website for general information (gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice).

DOCUMENT SAFE: Know Your Destination

Take photos/scans of your essential documents and email them to yourself. You can then access them remotely if your belongings are stolen:

- Passport
- Driver's Licence
- Travel Insurance Document
- Visa
- Medical Certificates

For 24/7 travel risk advice and emergency assistance contact Solace Global
Risk operations: + 44 (0)1202 795 801

The Solace Secure desktop and app provide up-to-the-minute alerts, providing
latest information on your travel location even when you are there.

CONTACT SOLACE GLOBAL RESPONSE TEAM

This report has been prepared for you by Solace Global Risk Ltd.

If you need urgent help, advice or assistance at any time please contact the 24/7 Response and Assistance Team.

If you have a question about this travel advice or any other location please email SGR@solaceglobal.com for further safety and security information.

For support using your Solace Secure platform or app please contact support@solaceglobal.com.

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