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## CHILE

### FLAG



### FACTS AND STATISTICS

- **Location:** Southern South America, bordering the South Pacific Ocean, between **Argentina** and **Peru**
- **Capital:** Santiago
- **Population:** 17,363,894 (July 2018 est.)
- **Ethnic Groups:** white and white-Amerindian 95%, Amerindian 3%, other 2%
- **Religions:** Roman Catholic 89%, Protestant 11%, Jewish NEGL%
- Spanish is the official language of Chile.
- There are also quite a few indigenous languages such as Mapudungun (spoken between the Itata and Tolten rivers) and Aymara (spoken in the mountains of the north).

### CHILEAN CULTURE & SOCIETY

#### Religion

- Most Chileans are Roman Catholics.
- Religion has played a large role in defining social and political life.
- Religious instruction in public schools is almost exclusively Roman Catholic.
- Abortion is actually illegal due to the influence of the Church.
- Divorce was illegal until 2004.
- Most national holidays are religious in nature.
- Chileans of more mature generations still celebrate their saint's day as much as they do their own birthday.



### The Role of the Family

- The family occupies a central role in Chilean life.
- Extended families are very close and will frequently congregate for major occasions and celebrations.
- Family and business are intertwined to the extent that nepotism is seen as a positive concept.
- Many small firms will be 100% family run.

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### **Class Structure**

- Chilean history has had a large influence on modern day class lines.
- Generally speaking, class is drawn along financial lines.
- Today's wealthiest class are more or less the same land owning families of before.
- A middle class has developed of late and now accounts for nearly a half of the population.
- Classes are fluid and it is possible to move either upwards or downwards depending on your salary.

### **Social Profiling**

- Due to class structures it is commonplace for people to try and deduce another's position in the social rank.
- This is primarily done through external appearances, i.e. dress, etc.
- As a result they present themselves in the best possible way.

## **ETIQUETTE AND MANNERS IN CHILE**

### **Meeting & Greeting**

- Men will usually shake hands.
- Women generally pat each other on the right forearm or shoulder.
- These are always accompanied by the appropriate greeting for the time of day - "buenos dias" (good morning), "buenas tardes" (good afternoon) or "buenas noches"(good evening).
- Between friends and family things will relax and become more unreserved - men may embrace and energetically pat each other on the back whilst women will kiss once on the right cheek.
- Always let your Chilean counterpart progress to this stage of formality.
- Like many South Americans, Chileans use both their maternal and paternal surnames. The father's surname is listed first and is the one used in conversation.
- If you know of any titles always try to use them.
- If no title exists then simply use "Senor" (male) or "Senora" (female) followed by the surname.
- When addressing older people with whom you have a personal relationship, who may be referred to as "don" (male) or "dona" (female) with their first name.
- First names are used between close friends - wait until invited to move to a first name basis.

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## Gift Giving Etiquette

### Some general etiquette guidelines include:

- If invited to a Chilean's home, take sweets/chocolates or wine for the hostess.
- Send flowers in advance.
- Do not give yellow roses as they indicate contempt.
- Do not give purple or black flowers as they symbolize death.
- Do not give scissors or knives as they indicate you want to sever the relationship.
- For a young girl's 15th birthday, a gift of gold jewellery is the norm.
- Gifts are opened when received.

## Dining Etiquette

- Dining etiquette can be quite formal in Chile.
- As a general rule, observe and follow if ever unsure.
- Here are some basic dining etiquette guidelines:
- When sitting wait to be shown to your place.
- Women sit before men.
- The hostess invites people to eat.
- Keep your hands visible when eating. Keep your wrists resting on the edge of the table.
- Always use utensils to eat.
- Avoid speaking with eating utensils in your hands.
- It is considered polite to finish everything on your plate.
- Wait for a toast to be made before taking the first sip of your drink.
- The host makes the first toast.
- The most common toast is "Salud!"
- When you lift your glass, look at the person being toasted.
- Pour wine with the right hand only.