

Use our general accessibility guide to see resources for all of our programs. [Click here](#)

If you're looking for specific country information, see below.

Chile: Spring Break/March programming



Helpful information about your country destination and planned activities

Check the website for examples of past syllabi

<https://www.forestry.oregonstate.edu/international/parks-and-protected-areas-patagonia-chile>

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Traveling to the program site

Participants will need to arrive in Balmaceda Airport and take a shuttle to Coyhaique. If you arrive later than your arrival time, we will provide you with information for an Uber/taxi.

Hikes/Physical Activity

Activities include rafting in Rio Baker and backpacking in Cerro Castillo on the Las Horquetas trail. Students will participate in white water rafting at Puerto Bertrand along the Baker River.

Backpacking up to 15miles a day while carrying a pack of 20lbs+. Terrain on the backpacking trip is quite variable and steep.

Tent camping in variable weather (3 nights)

Rafting rapids of class 2-3+ with the possibility of flipping (no prior experience in rafting required; lifejacket and helmet provided)

Lodging

During the stay, you will be in dorm-style rooms, have access to group meals, and beautiful paths through the surrounding forest. There are great opportunities to visit the local scene. It is a cozy accommodation surrounded by nature. Colorful hostels offers the opportunity to visit restaurants, local markets, the central square, and much more!

There will be three nights spent in tents.

Food

Mostly groceries bought during the trip.

Leaders have participants' dietary restrictions already and will buy accordingly. Participants can buy or bring extra food/nutrition to supplement if desired.

Lunch is the main meal of the day; business lunches are popular, and may be lengthy. Many Chileans eat a late afternoon snack ("la once") of cheese or sweets and tea or coffee (around 7 p.m.) or dinner after 8 p.m.

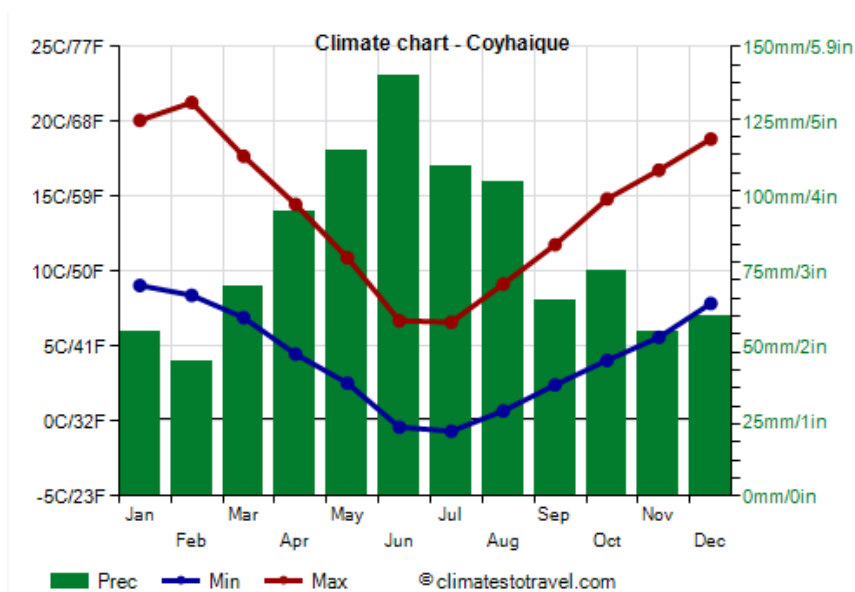
Vegetarian options may be available.

Environment

You'll be at roughly the same latitude as Oregon during your time in Chile. The end of March in Coyhaique feels similar to the end of September in Oregon.

The hike through Cerro Castillo can experience more extreme temperatures including snow as you will be traversing at 6000+ft.

If you want to compare the weather of Coyhaique with that of your hometown, remember to compare January through December from one place with July through June for the other place, as they are located in different hemispheres



Culture

Greet everyone individually upon arrival. Good topics of conversation include family, sports (especially soccer which is called football everywhere outside the US), international travel, and local sights. Chileans are proud of local traditions of poetry, literature, folk music, and wine making. Avoid speaking in a raised voice; soft-spoken voices are respected. The official currency is the Chilean peso (CLP). Some businesses in Santiago accept US dollars, but this option is very limited. 1 USD = 1,001.34 CLP as of 1/8/25.

Chile's Patagonia region is becoming an increasingly popular destination for LGBTQ+ travelers, offering a blend of stunning natural landscapes and a growing, welcoming atmosphere. While cities like Santiago and Valparaíso have a more established LGBTQ+ scene, Patagonia's vast wilderness and adventurous spirit are attracting a diverse range of travelers.

Patagonia Chile is generally considered a safe travel destination for black travelers.

Country laws

Visitors must respect the preservation of Chilean heritage sites; penalties for infractions can be severe. Do not alter landmarks in any way and do not trespass.

Bargaining is not done while shopping, even in street markets.

U.S. citizens entering Chile must have a valid passport. U.S. citizens traveling to Chile for recreation, tourism, business, or academic conferences do not need to obtain a visa prior to their arrival in Chile.

Chile has made significant strides in LGBTQ+ rights, with legal protections including anti-discrimination laws, civil unions, and marriage equality.

Patagonia is known for its low crime rates, particularly in the smaller, more remote communities.

Many Black travelers have reported positive and welcoming experiences in Patagonia.

Patagonia is generally considered safe for female travelers, even those traveling solo.

It's always wise to take common-sense precautions, such as keeping an eye on your belongings, especially in tourist areas.

Find Chile on the following links:

[A brief guide to Chile culture, people, history, language and food](#)

[Things to know before traveling to Chile](#)

[Disability in Chile](#)

[Vegetarian and Vegan travel in Patagonia](#)

[Solo female travel safety in Chile](#)

[A safe and vibrant LGBTQ destination](#)

Academics

You'll use Canvas, Zoom, and Word/PPT.

Currently, part of the course grade relies on daily journaling and a final group presentation. Talk with DAS and program leader about alternative options.