

CFCA AWARENESS TRIPS

trip information

The following information is for **2013** trips. The dates and trips to specific countries change from year to year depending on interest, the political situation within the countries and the ability of CFCA projects to host an awareness trip. A detailed schedule and additional information will be sent one to two weeks prior to departure in the pre-departure packet.

CHILE

Trip Dates: Sept. 27 – Oct. 6, 2013

Trip Size: 12-25 participants

Please register by July 27 to reserve your spot.
If you still wish to register after this date, contact a trip coordinator regarding availability.

Trip Fee: \$600

Includes food, lodging and in-country transportation.
Airfare is **not** included.

On your trip to Chile, you may participate in some or all of the following activities:

- Be welcomed by the local CFCA staff who will be your hosts for the week, ensuring that your visit is enjoyable
- Spend time with your sponsored friend and possibly the family
- Visit the homes and communities of CFCA sponsored friends and their families, where you will learn about their joys and challenges
- Visit the charming port cities of Valparaiso and Viña del Mar

Entry and Exit Requirements

A passport valid for at least six months beyond the end of your intended stay is required to enter Chile. U.S. citizens do not need a visa for a stay of 90 days or less. At the international port-of-entry, a fee of \$160, payable in U.S. dollars or by credit card, is levied on U.S. citizen visitors. There is an airport tax of \$30 upon departure. The \$30 airport tax may be included in your airline ticket. *All fees are subject to change.* While in Chile, participants should carry their passport or a photocopy of it at all times. Participants who will be traveling with a minor should contact a CFCA trip coordinator for additional information.

Airport and Travel Arrangements

Make your airline arrangements only after your registration is confirmed and you receive the CFCA trip coordinator's written instructions for scheduling your flight. In the meantime, we strongly encourage you to research airfares with a travel agent, the airlines or via the Internet. Vista Travel may also be contacted regarding airfare at (800) 537-5066. This agency is familiar with our programs and schedules.

All travelers should depart from the U.S. on Sept. 27 to arrive the morning of Sept. 28 at **Arturo Merino Benitez Airport (SCL)** in Santiago. You will arrive at your destination one day after your departure due to overnight travel. Travelers will depart Santiago, Chile the evening of Oct. 5 to arrive back in the U.S. on Oct. 6. **The CFCA staff will meet all travelers at the airport who arrive on the scheduled arrival day. Do not accept offers of transportation from anyone other than our CFCA team.**



Accommodations and Food

All trip participants will stay in simple accommodations near the CFCA projects, usually in a hotel. Married couples and families will stay in private rooms. Individuals will be assigned a roommate. Running water for showers is readily available, but it may not be heated. **Although the water in this region of Chile is potable, CFCA asks trip participants to refrain from drinking the tap water.** Instead, the project will provide bottled water. Alcoholic beverages are not included in the trip fee.

Participants will eat simple meals that reflect the local cuisine. All meals will be eaten with the group. Do not purchase food from street vendors. Meals are often served at a later hour than most Americans are accustomed to eating. We recommend bringing snacks such as salted nut mixes, granola bars, etc., as you may want something to eat between scheduled meals. Chilean customs officials are very strict regarding food brought into the country. Refer to for restrictions.

Participants wishing to use personal electronic devices should carry an adapter and a converter. The **electrical current** in Chile is 220V versus the 120V in the U.S. The shape of the plugs is also different. Type C and type L outlet plugs are used. Diagrams of the outlets are available at www.electricaloutlet.org.

Climate

Valparaiso has a mild climate. Spring lasts from September through November and the average temperature during these months is between 60 and 80 degrees. However, mornings can be quite cool, and it is recommended that you bring a scarf and heavy jacket or a sweater. Participants should be aware that minor tremors may occur. The group travels along winding roads, which can cause motion sickness.

Health/Medical Preparations

Contact your medical doctor or local health department for immunization recommendations based on your health history. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at www.cdc.gov/travel has country specific recommendations regarding immunizations. You may also contact them by phone at 800-CDC-INFO (800-232-4636). CFCA staff members are not qualified to offer advice on immunizations.

You should consult with your medical insurance company prior to traveling to confirm whether your policy applies in a foreign country. **If your policy does not cover emergency expenses such as medical evacuation, we urge you to consider the purchase of temporary travel insurance.** Many insurance plans, including Medicare, do not cover treatment outside of the U.S. You may obtain further information on travel insurance from a travel agent or through research on the Internet.

Currency Exchange and Handling

The currency used is the **Chilean peso** (CLP). Your lodging, food and in-country transportation are included in the trip fee. You should bring additional money for the purchase of snacks and souvenirs, and to cover entry and exit fees. You should not carry bills in denominations greater than \$20 because they may be difficult for local banks or vendors to exchange. Do not bring torn or severely worn currency. You can bring U.S. dollars into the country. You will be provided with an opportunity to exchange money upon arrival either at the airport, at the lodging, or another method. Traveler's checks are not recommended, and ATMs are not readily available.