

# Santiago de Chile Research Guide

*This is a multi-authored document on carrying out research in Santiago, compiled by staff and students at the Centre of Latin American Studies, Cambridge. We hope it will be helpful to you and to many others in the future. Please do add new discoveries to it and update it if you find any details to be wrong. \$ indicates Chilean pesos (prices approximate).*

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## Where to stay

The city centre (Comuna de Santiago) or nearby Providencia are probably the best-placed for easy access to libraries, universities, cultural centres, etc. Providencia is greener and quieter, though accommodation is slightly costlier. Within the city centre, barrio Lastarria and barrio Bellas Artes are pleasant and popular among visitors. Neighbourhoods further east (La Reina, Las Condes, Ñuñoa, Vitacura) are also attractive, but less convenient in terms of transport. Somewhere near to a Línea Uno metro stop would be a good option for getting around.

## Travelling around the city

The **Metro** ([www.metrosantiago.cl](http://www.metrosantiago.cl)) is reliable, and covers many of the city's neighbourhoods. You'll want to buy a Bip card (like an Oyster card) for \$1,500 at a Metro station – fares are around \$650 per trip, slightly more expensive at rush hour. The Bip card also works for the city's extensive **bus** network. The webpage [www.transantiago.cl](http://www.transantiago.cl) provides a good journey planner between any two points in the city. Payment and fare structure is the same as for the Metro.

**Taxis** are easy to find and inexpensive by UK standards. The starting fare is \$300, and then around \$130 per minute/100m travelled. Uber is also in operation in the city.

A brief note on street names: the city's central avenue, officially called Avenida Libertador Bernardo O'Higgins, is more commonly referred to simply as the **Alameda**.

## Bookshops

**Metales pesados** (José Miguel de la Barra 70). Especially good for social sciences, and with very knowledgeable staff.

**Lea +** (In the **Centro Cultural Gabriela Mistral (GAM)**, Av. Lib. B. O'Higgins 227). Always has interesting selections of new Chilean poetry and other literature, and a small cinema section.

**Ulises** (Lastarria 70). Very wide-ranging collections across Chilean and Latin American literature, film and visual arts. Helpful staff.

The **Drugstore** mall (Av. Providencia 2124) has a number of good bookshops in and around it: **Contrapunto** is especially good for visual arts and film, **Catalonia** (on the side street Las Urbinas) publishes interesting works under its own imprint, and **Takk** (Andrés de Fuenzalida 18) and **Nueva Altamira** are also worth a browse.

**Librería El Cid Campeador** (Merced 345). Very eclectic but charming second-hand bookshop. **Libros Prófugo**, on the same block of Calle Merced, is more organised.

**Feria Chilena del Libro/Antártica**. Various branches throughout the city.

**Librería Universitaria** (in the Casa Central of the Universidad de Chile, Av. Lib. B. O'Higgins 1050). Good for recent academic publications, especially from the Editorial Universitaria.

## Libraries

There is a list of major public libraries here: <http://www.santiagocapital.cl/categorias/home/bibliotecas>.

**Biblioteca Nacional** (Av. Lib. B. O'Higgins 651). Catalogue online at <http://descubre.bibliotecanacional.cl>. Housed in an impressive neoclassical building which is worth a visit in its own right. The Chilean collection can be accessed in the Salón Gabriela Mistral, on the first floor at the back. There are lockers just outside the room which take a 100-peso coin. You'll need ID (your passport) to register online at one of the computer terminals before you can order books, but you may need help from the central desk to do this. You can order only two books at a time, but they take a very short time (a few minutes) to arrive – check the screen near the issue desk. Your passport is held behind the desk while you consult your items. If you're not sure which reading room to go to, check the 'Ubicación' of a text in the online catalogue; staff in the Salón de los Investigadores can also help you refine your search.

**Universidad de Chile** (at various sites). Catalogue available at [www.catalogo.uchile.cl](http://www.catalogo.uchile.cl). The Facultad de Filosofía y Humanidades and the Instituto de Comunicaciones e Imagen (ICEI) are on the Ñuñoa campus (Av. Capitán Ignacio Carrera Pinto 1045). You should be able to consult items onsite, with ID, free of charge.

**Universidad Católica** (at various sites). Catalogue available at <http://bibliotecas.uc.cl>. You can gain access to general collections by registering as a 'socio externo' for a day, at a cost of \$2,000 (you'll need ID with you). You won't be allowed access to any items marked as reserve, however.

There is a **Feria permanente de libros usados** in Galería Veneto, close to the Teatro Nescafé de las Artes at Av. Providencia 1120. The shops are mostly open Mon-Fri 10am-8pm, and Saturdays until 5pm.

## DVD shops

**La Tienda Nacional** (Merced 369) stocks recent Chilean film, and has friendly staff who will help with queries. There are a couple of other places along the same block of Calle Merced (300-400) which stock DVDs, including some older Chilean cinema (for instance at Librería Psiquis, Merced 303).

**POST** (Av. Providencia 2035) stocks DVDs, CDs, vinyl records and books.

**Lea +** in the GAM (see above) has a selection of Chilean films on DVD.

The shop in the **Cineteca Nacional** (Centro Cultural La Moneda, see below) has a slightly bigger range of Chilean film.

## Museums and Cultural Centres

The websites <http://www.santiagocapital.cl> and <http://www.estoy.cl/> have details of current and upcoming cultural events and exhibitions.

There is a full list of cultural centres here: <http://www.santiagocapital.cl/categorias/home/centros-culturales>.

**Centro Cultural Gabriela Mistral (GAM)** (Av. Lib. B. O'Higgins 227). Offers a wide range of theatre, music, dance, and exhibitions. There's also free WiFi, tables to work at, and an inexpensive café. <http://www.gam.cl>

**Centro Cultural La Moneda** (Av. Lib. B. O'Higgins). Located right beneath the Palacio de La Moneda, it hosts various exhibition spaces, and the **Cineteca Nacional**, which has a varied programme of Chilean and other

works, and often runs seasons dedicated to a particular director or tradition. It is one of the few museums/galleries to open on a Monday and on public holidays. <http://www.ccplm.cl/sitio/>

**Museo de la Memoria y los Derechos Humanos** (Av. Matucana 501). Deals with human rights violations committed from 1973-1990. It has an extensive permanent exhibition, incorporating material from newspaper cuttings to archive film footage and the testimonies of victims. There are also temporary exhibitions. <http://www.museodelamemoria.cl>

**Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes** (José Miguel de la Barra 650). Also has a small collection of books on Chilean art. <http://www.mnba.cl>

**Museo de Arte Contemporáneo** (opposite Calle Mosquito, at the back of the MNBA). <http://www.mac.uchile.cl>

**Museo Ralli**. A little further out but well worth the journey: excellent collection of Chilean and Latin American art. <https://www.museoralli.cl>

The **CCU Sala de Arte** at Av. Vitacura 2680 (near the Costanera Centre) has revolving exhibitions.

**Museo de Artes Visuales** in Barrio Lastarria. <http://www.mavi.cl>

**Sala Gasco** <http://www.salagasco.cl>

**Galería AFA** <http://www.galeriaafa.com>

**Gabriela Mistral** <http://galeriagm.cultura.gob.cl>

**Patricia Ready** <https://galeriapready.cl>

## Art Cinemas and Theatres

Most cinemas in Santiago only show Hollywood films, but there are a number of small **art cinemas** across the city, some of them located in cultural centres:

<http://www.centroartealameda.cl>

<http://www.culturalareina.cl>

<http://ccesantiago.cl>

<http://biblioteca.providencia.cl/>

<https://normandie.cl>

<http://www.ccplm.cl/sitio>

<http://2017.cineclubuach.cl>

<http://extension.uc.cl/cine/cartelera>

<http://www.elbiografo.cl/wordpress>

**Theatres:** <http://redsalasdeteatro.cl> provides a good overview of what's on offer. There are clusters of theatres in the Bellavista area of Providencia, the Bellas Artes area of the city centre, and in Ñuñoa. Some recommendations: **Centro Mori:** <http://www.centromori.cl> **Teatro La Memoria:** <http://www.teatrolamemoria.cl> **Teatro UC:** <http://teatrouc.uc.cl> **Teatro Municipal** (classical music, opera, ballet): <http://www.municipal.cl> **Teatro Nacional Chileno:** <http://www.tnch.uchile.cl>. There's also plenty of theatre in the **GAM**.

If you're in Santiago in January, make sure to take advantage of the *Santiago a Mil* festival: <http://www.fundacionteatroamil.cl/santiago-a-mil/>

## Nice places to go when you're not working

**Parks: Cerro Santa Lucía, Cerro San Cristóbal, Parque del Bicentenario.** These all provide good views of the city and the Andes, which can be spectacular on a good day. Take the Teleférico from Providencia to the top of Cerro San Cristóbal in the Parque Municipal, going mid-morning to avoid queuing.

**La Chascona:** Pablo Neruda's house in Santiago. <http://www.fundacionneruda.org/es/la-chascona/informacion-visita>

**Barrio Yungay, Barrio Italia:** these are picturesque, historic neighbourhoods with an interesting array of shops, cafés, places to eat, etc.

**Cafés:** Barrio Lastarria, Barrio Yungay and Barrio Italia all have good options. In the latter, try **Café de la Candelaria** (Av. Italia 1149). In Providencia, **Rende Bú** (Av. Hernando de Aguirre 3645) has many fans, and the **Drugstore** mall (Av. Providencia 2124) has several solid choices in which to read your newly-purchased book(s). El Huerto (nearby at Orrego Luco 54) is an excellent vegan/vegetarian option.