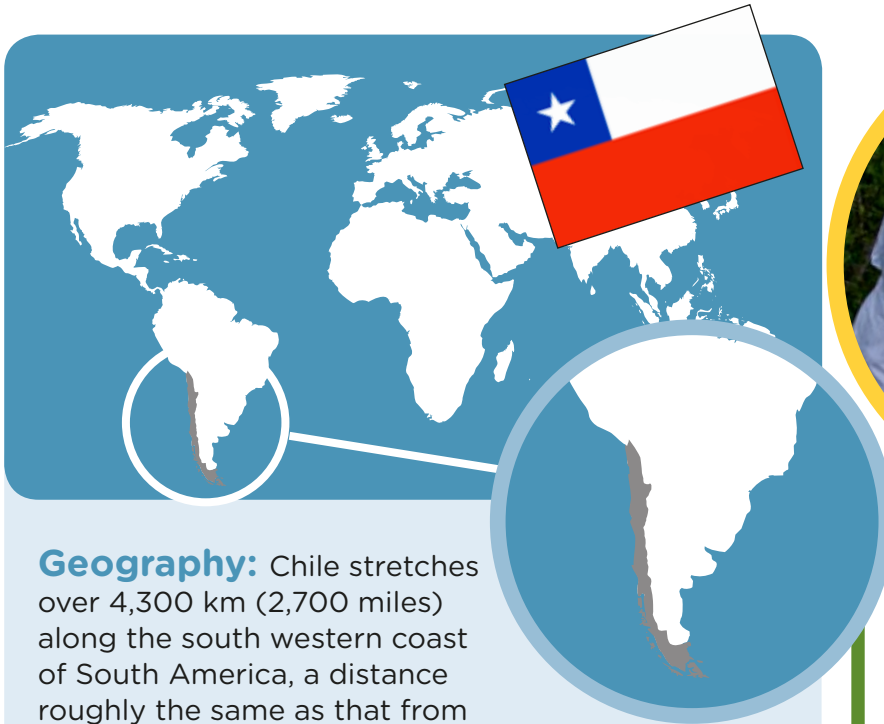


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Country factfile: Chile page 1 of 3

Chile, Apicoop, Mifruta, Honey, Blueberries, Raisins

Chile



Geography: Chile stretches over 4,300 km (2,700 miles) along the south western coast of South America, a distance roughly the same as that from Edinburgh to Baghdad. At the same time, its width is never greater than 240 km (150 miles), making the country more than eighteen times longer than its widest point.

The mountain range of the Andes provides a wall on the eastern side of the country and face the Pacific Ocean in the west. Chile is bordered by Bolivia and Argentina to the East and touches Peru at its most northerly point. Its capital and largest city is Santiago.



Meaning of the Flag



The Chilean flag consists of two horizontal bands of white (above) and red (below), representing, respectively, the Andean snow and the Indians' blood fallen in their heroic struggle against the Spanish invaders. The flag also has a blue square in the top left hand corner of the white band with a white five-pointed star in the centre. The blue represents Chile's clear blue sky while the white star came from the coat of arms of the Araucanian Indians, early inhabitants of the area.

Did You Know?

The Andes mountains have more than fifty active volcanic peaks.

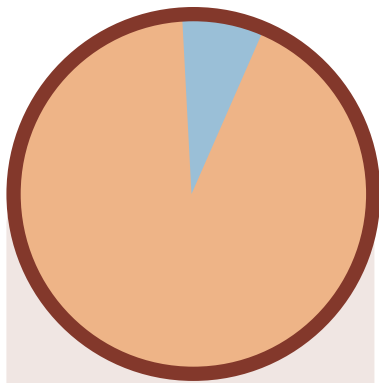
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Did You Know?

Over one fifth of the world's copper is produced in Chile.



Religion: Roman Catholic 89%, Protestant 11%, small Jewish population



Quick Spanish lesson:
Hello - "Hola!" (oh-la)
Bye - "Adiós!" (ah-dee-os)

Language

Spanish (official language), Huilliche, Mapudungun, Quechua and Rapa Nui



Population: **16.45 million**

Population Density: **21 people per sq km**

Literacy: **98.6%**

Children enrolled in Primary Education: **94.4%**

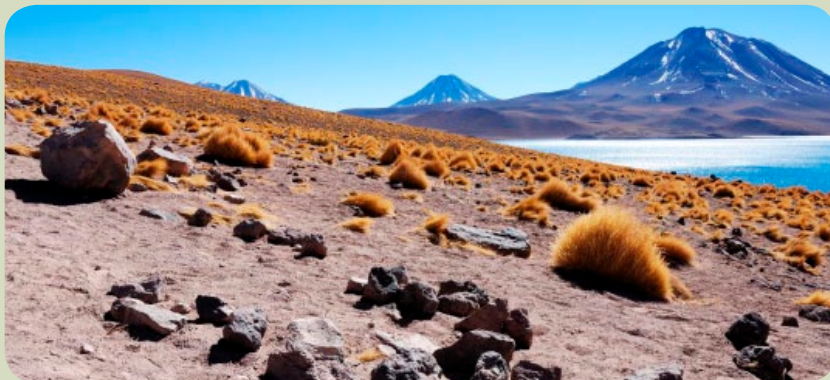
Children enrolled in Secondary Education: **85.3%**

HIV/AIDS prevalence in population (15-49 years old): **0.3%**



Did You Know?

Most of the Chilean population live in the capital city of Santiago.



Climate Chile's length explains the great variety of climates and regions that can be found across the country. The northern region, which includes the great Atacama Desert, is extremely dry and the central region is a fertile area with a mild climate. The southern region is by contrast cold and rainy, having icy fjords and glaciers at the southernmost tip.

Statistics from www.worldbank.org

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History

12,000 BC	1460	1541	1553	1810	1814
Native Americans (over a dozen different societies) inhabit the area.	Battle with the Incas	Pedro de Valdivia begins Spanish conquest and founds Santiago	Araucanians capture and kill Valdivia	Government <u>Junta</u> announces autonomy for Chile in Santiago	Spain regains control of Chile
1817	1818	1879-84	1973	1990	
Spanish defeated at the Battles of Chacabuco and Maipu by Army of the Andes	Chile becomes independent	Chile defeats Peru and Bolivia in War of the Pacific	General Pinochet takes control of the country after a military coup	Pinochet reinstalls democratic system of government in Chile	

Glossary: Junta – military-led government

Country Focus: Paillaco and Aconcagua Valley

Paillaco

Apicoop, which is a beekeeping co-operative, is based near Paillaco, a city in southern Chile in Valdivia province. Agriculture is the primary industry here but there has been increased migration to urban areas over the past decade as farmers are unable to earn a decent income.



Aconcagua Valley

Aconcagua is 80km from Santiago and is named after the highest peak in the Andes, Mt Aconcagua. MiFruta farms are below this mountain. It is a fertile area, enjoying warm summers and cold winters.