



Santiago Chile Trip Notes **July 25 to August 10, 2018**

Headlines

- Santiago has been on my list. I was there many times in the 90s for business and then as a tourist for ten days in 2015.
- Marie and Tom had not visited, Marie has some Hispanic origins, and was studying Spanish.
- It's hot in August but not in the Southern Hemisphere where it's their winter.
- The Andes' snow covered mountains consume and beautify the ring of Santiago.
- Within a day's visit there exists snow covered Andes on one side, Valparaiso on the coast, or vineyards in all directions.
- Tom found a luxury penthouse apartment in central Santiago that looked perfect. (But it wasn't.)
- I knew a Tour Guide from my 2015 trip who was perfect. (And she was.) Like our Parisian/American tour guide and newfound friend, Richelle, Jeanette will also be a friend and hopefully in our future too.
- I'd just been to Santiago de Compostela in May for my Camino pilgrims route so why not the Spaniard's next town - Santiago.
- Santiago is one of the safest cities in Latin America. We also find it to be one of the most kind and family-fied. And entrepreneur, no beggars, everyone helping each other. We think it comes from having so many natural disasters such as earthquakes that they have learned to take care of each other.
- I must return. This trip was a renewal and itinerary was set for Marie and Tom. There is so much more to do. I will look to stay in Sanhattan (their modernized, upscale, embassy and Business driven area) next time.
- It is not French, and probably not totally to Tom's liking. He is correct as I remember saying in the 1990s that it is somewhat a country still in the 1950s but maybe the 1960s now. Pleasantly so.



From Tom:

There is no question that the main thing that made this trip so successful and memorable is our wonderful guide - Jeanette. She just knows SO much and was able to answer all of our questions (from all three of us!). All in English and with interesting asides and anecdotal stories, keeping us entertained and learning all the while. Just a super gal. She even took us shopping in the astonishing markets, bought the supplies, and took us home to her apartment where she and Marie prepared a Chilean feast while Diana and Tom drank Pisco Sours and played ball with her miniature and super cute Schnauzer Katarina. Wonderful experience.

Next?

On my wish list is to go far north to the Atacama desert and far south to Patagonia. Both are tough to get to. Both are quite remote. Jeanette offers to go with me.

Transport/getting there - United Polaris service. It was quite different getting there vs coming home, (but that's a story that follows). Returning from Santiago into Houston was a delight. It wasn't the Dreamliner but it was the new seating where everyone has an aisle seat and a well-designed little cubicle. Desk, a couple lights, plenty of room and lots of privacy. Food wasn't shabby either — we have a number of choices. I had the gravlax appetizer, grilled salmon with Parmesan polenta and artichoke ratatouille. My side salad and warm nuts comes all at once by my choice instead of one plate at a time. Gotta' get on with sleeping! Before breakfast comes.

Poor Marie only got upgraded on 1 of 4 segments but fortunately the longest one. I have a bone to pick with United because we really paid up for an upgradable ticket, used what is supposed to be a rare and special "global gift certificate" which didn't work for 3 legs. Full flights. Actually it was sad that we had to even feel lucky to get a stand by seat going there, having already missed Santiago by 24 hours due to weather.

Chile and their immigrants – Like we used to be, they should be proud that they will take in any and all immigrants. The government even grants money for start-ups. No loan, just a gift. Chile should also be proud that they don't have beggars. Everyone is willing to try selling something, do something, work at anything. It really shows.

Daily Trip Notes/Updates

Update from Houston's IAH - We are not where we are supposed to be. Weather in Newark created such a delay that we spent hours on the tarmac (twice – the crew timed out) and the missed our flight to Santiago. We finally got in near 2am to IAH and spent the night at the Marriott Houston George Bush airport and we are on standby for tonight's flight at 10 PM to Santiago.

Part one – in Houston delayed on way to Santiago Chile

Santiago Chile here we come – or are we?

From 3 PM to 3 AM we had quite the airline experience. It hasn't yet ended well. Our Newark flight sat on the tarmac in the pouring rain long enough to time-out the flight crew. The next time sitting on the tarmac with the new flight it was within minutes of timing-out also. We did finally land in Houston, long missing our flight to Santiago, Marriott had 2 rooms, and we tucked ourselves into beds by 3am. I'm surprised I slept any because we only had two confirmed tickets and one standby for the next night. I couldn't even purchase another ticket and couldn't get another flight for two more days.

I was already wound tight because Tom had found what he thought was his dream car and wanted to purchase it that morning when a limo was picking us up at 12:45 PM. I envisioned all sorts of problems and most of them happened.

But as most things we worry about never come to pass we now have a new (for us) Audi A8 L-class sitting in our driveway. I haven't even seen it's inside but I'm told it's all black leather and of course black on the outside. I have the impression that you could have a picnic in the huge backseat.

We have spent all evening, and part of the middle of the night, and all the next day, begging anyone we could to push the system and get us a seat for Marie because we certainly are not leaving a kid in Houston for tomorrow's flight. Flights thru Miami on another airline didn't work, nor did through Dallas, and I'm certainly not doing two plane changes on little unknown airplanes. I've offered to pay, I've offered to give up my seat and let Tom and Marie go on so they can take part in the pre-booked tours, and I can't think of anything else to do but hope. But damn, I have been trained that "hope is NOT an option."

The next edition may tell you how many people are or aren't in Santiago Chile. I had been there many times having to do with work in the 1990s and sometimes staying extra days as a tourist. Then in March 2015 I went for 10 days and had a delightful time with a wonderful-young-smart-comforting-fun tour guide. Jeanette has agreed to be with us as many days as we can. Tom found a luxurious three level penthouse apartment in a lovely location overlooking a park, the river, and the Andes. It looks like a crazy movie set and I'm sure curious to see it. We have booked a car and guide to see some of the wine regions and another day to go up to the

Andes where there would be skiing (for some). We will go to the famous shore towns and we will have a cooking class as well as a separate day food tour. Well, if we get there. Smile.

And on that, I will sign off and deal with my only remaining option: hope. With added doses of wine.



Part 2 - finally in to Santiago

Off to Santiago finally!

Maybe all my whining in between wine helped. I whined to everybody who I thought could help that I couldn't possibly leave a child behind and that we had been in transit forever. With wine in between it created an even more urgent whine. Marie got the only standby seat. First and last and very last minute. But that was all we needed. We were seated from one end of the aircraft to the other and nowhere near each other but at least we were on our way to Santiago.

I had thought I was going to have a stroke when I found out that the flight in fact was oversold. And then I was afraid I would get struck by lightning when I wished that the late connection from Panama wouldn't arrive in time which would open up a couple of seats.

Alert from US State Dept: "U.S. Embassy Santiago advises U.S. citizens living and/or traveling in Chile of nationwide demonstrations scheduled to take place on Monday, July 30."

We left home at 12:45 PM on Friday and arrived in our Santiago Apartment at 10:30 AM on Sunday. Same clothes. Stressed out. And the apartment was a surprise. I must show you now what it was supposed to be: 4402 sq. ft.- Bedrooms: 5 - Bathrooms: 5 — *The most exclusive penthouse in the Forest Park in the heart of Santiago. Live the magic of this fantastic place and enjoy the best view on your private terrace. A few meters from the tourist neighborhoods Bellavista and Lastarria with an intense nightlife, theaters and museums. Located in the historic center of Santiago and with the best access for where you want to go. The penthouse was built in 1950. It has parquet floor, high ceilings and original moldings and was remodeled with thermopane windows to isolate the sound and central heating. Its eclectic and elegant decoration will make you feel part of a movie; It really is quite an experience. Guests can access the entire apartment located on the 7th and 8th floor. On the 7th floor there is the living room, the dining room, the kitchen and 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms.*

On the 8th floor, 2 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms and on the 9th floor that corresponds to the terrace there is another bathroom. The apartment has an internal staircase through which you can access the 8th and 9th floors. Located in the heart of Santiago with a wonderful view to the Forest Park; steps from the tourist and bohemian neighborhoods of Bellavista and Lastarria, the Museum of Fine Arts and Museum of Modern Art and the Gabriela Mistral Cultural Center. You will find many restaurants, cafes and bars as well as music stores, emerging designers, boutique hotels and antiques fair. The apartment is located in a neighborhood with an entertaining nightlife, you will love! Absolutely the best location in Santiago. A few blocks from the penthouse there are 2 metro stations: Metro Baquedano 3 blocks apróx and metro Catholic University at 5m apróx.

Here are some of the pictures from the website:

<https://www.vrbo.com/8705997ha> more pics: <https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/23056183>

And what is it in reality? The term they use of eclectic is the best. Movie set also works. It is filled full of antique treasures mostly from China and a lot of junk. Some newly renovated. Some crap. Tom thought they should be arrested for false advertising. I thought it was a lot better than I expected. One of us is an optimist and one a pessimist.

We had already missed a day so we arranged with our tour guide that we would have a short nap and meet Jeanette at 1 PM; we spent 5 to 6 hours doing a little bit of touring and a big meal I have Pisco sour, wonderful local wines, and some local dishes that I had enjoyed in 2015. She helped us with some of the apartment problems by talking to the landlord, and made our grocery shopping hugely easier as it is typically trick-or-treat. We crashed early.

We were up early to walk along the park and meet our food tour and cooking class guide outside the fine arts Museum. It was cold like 34° but warmed up to high 50s. It turned out to be an even warmer day as far as we really enjoyed Noelle and the tour she gave us through the markets markets and then culminating in her home for a cooking class, lots of drink and a lengthy enjoyable meal. The description: www.chilecooks.cl - Taste Chilean flavours like a local! Come and explore with us the traditional food markets of Santiago and then enjoy a cooking class in our home. We will visit some of Santiago's traditional food markets such as "La Vega" and "Mercado Central", and later we will have fun cooking traditional Chilean dishes that we will eat later for lunch. The food tour also includes a taste of some Chilean wine and pisco sours.

.... if we want to prepare delicious recipes in our food tours, we need the freshest seasonal ingredient available on the market. We invite you to hunt down with us specialty produce that we won't find in the supermarkets, ingredients that we will be using later in our cooking experience. The Food Tour includes a visit to the following Food Markets, where we plan to hunt for our ingredients:

Mercado Central - Declared as the fifth best food market in the world by National Geographic. Under a wrought-iron, art nouveau canopy dating back from 1872, this animated fish market groans with an extraordinary display of sea creatures, from barnacles to giant squid, many unlabeled, untranslatable, or unknown outside Chile.

La Vega - Since "The Colonial Period", farmers have met in La Vega's surroundings to sell their fruit and vegetables. A wide variety of products are sold in its surroundings, mainly fresh fruit and vegetables from the Chilean Central Valley. Nowadays, "La Vega" concentrates more than 4% of Santiago's transactions.

Then we were sent home via Uber and soon crashed. Tomorrow the Andes starting early with the Tour Guide friend of Jeanette's with a car and driver.



The first pisco sour -- But not the last. I look forward to visiting the bar called the Republik of Pusco with hundreds of types.

After a long meal we went for a walk through the old section and couldn't resist a special crêpe for dessert. They claim to be French.
Meeting the next morning at the palace called the fine arts Museum.



I lovely old building that I had enjoyed in 2015 filled full of old wrought iron above the multitude of vendors and eating kiosks.

If you didn't know how to tell a boy from a girl crab, we now have the knowledge. Here is where her eggs are stored. SHE tastes the best.

Noëlle looked about 13 years old except her knowledge. She had grown up in Santiago with a fisherman father. Surprisingly she was trained as a veterinarian but moved into these cooking classes.

After some of the ugly scenes in the fish market to include the octopus we enjoyed the flower market.



Have you ever seen such huge and meaty tomatoes? All their vegetables seem to be on steroids. They are kiwi were double the size of anything I've ever seen.

But after walking for three hours plus the stop for coffee and snacks was needed.

How would we get to Noelle's home? Well, Uber of course.



Making the dough for empanadas.



There were lots of unique fruits that we had no knowledge of and Noëlle purchased bits of each to add to our dessert.

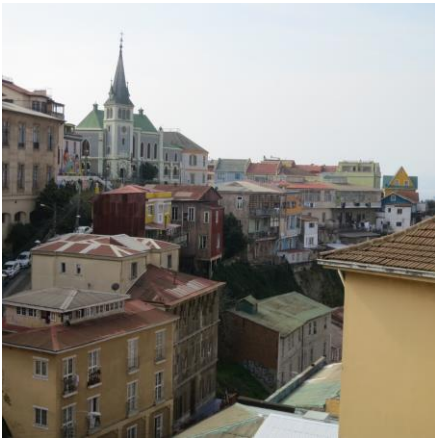
The Caramel flan was the end of the meal but not the end of the day. The end of the day came as early as 8:30pm when we were pooped out.

From Tom - All's well that ends well and we're off in about an hour for a fresh market tour with a chef who'll then take us to her kitchen where we have a cooking class and a meal we prepare. The three of us are going and Marie's very excited about it as she is just starting to cook. It's a lovely clear day with just a bit of fog but we can see the mountains and we'll be at about 42 today (fortunately we anticipated this and have clothes to suit). No pictures yet but stay tuned.

Again from Tom: And the Santiago adventure continues - Some scenes from the day before yesterday - Market tour and back to the young gal's nice apartment for cooking lessons and a typical Chilean dinner (empanadas plus!!)



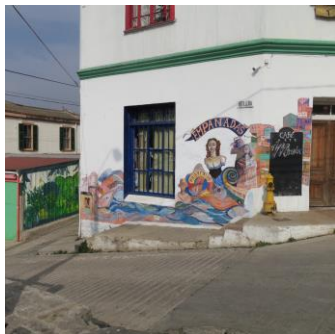
More from Tom: We had another great day with our wonderful guide that Diana had found when she was last here (March 2015) and we have a car and driver also so it ain't cheap (but, you know, it's only.....) Anyway, more pictures today from Valparaiso (see google images too). What an interesting place (with the most graffiti of any place we've ever been.



More from Tom in Valparaiso:



Tom probably was envious of the cat naps. He's used to a couple naps a day and missed all of them each and every day.



He was fascinated at how the artists managed to paint many stories up and here is the answer: scaffolding. We watched the artist in harness who was across the street figuring out his next move.

Wednesday - 4th report.

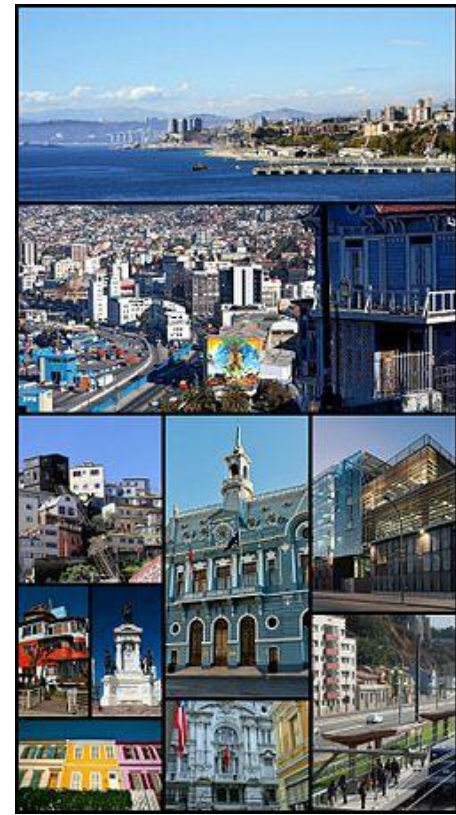
Off we go to the famous port and seaside resort called Valparaíso. This might be Tom's favorite day.

Valparaíso - <https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valpara%C3%ADso>

Valparaíso- a major city, seaport, and educational center in the commune of Valparaíso, is the second largest metropolitan area in the country. Valparaíso is located about 120 km northwest of [Santiago](#) by road and is one of the [South Pacific's](#) most important seaports. Valparaíso is the capital of Chile's third most populated administrative region and has been the headquarters for the [Chilean National Congress](#) since 1990. Valparaíso has seven universities.

Until the Panama Canal it was the most important port in South America. Now in part because of UNESCO it is an chanting unique and colorful mountainside town. It was the focus of our day.

That is, if you don't count the Pastries and avocado toast and Chi cha tasting or the many Empanadas we indulged. Followed by a tour of a vineyard and Wine tasting. It was a long but most enjoyable day.



Chi Cha needs to be looked up but it seems to be a very inexpensive wine. Jeannette showed us how it had been consumed in early days and after a major competition is still consumed in a ceremonial event by their top political person yearly.



Our first view of Valparaíso.

Some of the ritzier British homes in one of the many completely different sections.

Yes this house sits on a cliff and was over one of the many funiculars available that we took.

We do believe that there is more graffiti here than anywhere we've ever known. They have competition and approval to paint on buildings. So if it is approved is it really still graffiti?



This is a funicular with a stairway to the side. They still require evacuation routes for tsunamis. A stop for their thick hot chocolate with churros. Later we stopped for a selection of empanadas. Our last stop of the day was a very pleasant wine tasting. Though Chilean wines are famous and generally very good, there was only one here that we really thought to be special. Marie and Tom took the wine tour of the cellar where they are famous for storing wine in pottery.

Thursday - 5th report

Off we go with guide Jeanette and driver Ignacio to Pomaire, Isla Negra and Lo Abarca. The artisan town of Pomaire welcomes us to see and experience the ceramic art of pottery, then we visit the town of Isla Negra to visit Pablo Neruda Museum, our second Nobel Poet award winner. Lo Abarca will be our town for BBQ lunch and to appreciate the mosaics art in the streets.

In between we drive through San Antonio and the huge shore and Las Cruces. There is the Largest swimming pool in the world near here.



We have breakfast and then we stop mid-morning and then we have lunch and then we have dinner. All this wonderful avocado toast and pastries is going to add up.

The little pottery town is well known and just jam-packed full of this almost black pottery made from the local dark dirt. It is not just for dishes, mugs, and fire pits but also for big cooking pots for slow steaming.



Yes there are dogs everywhere to include on the roof. Fortunately they are well fed and happy and seemingly no problem. Other than the lack of owners to pooper scoop.

There were no pictures allowed inside Pablo Neruda's home but the outside was more special anyway. I had visited his home in Valparaiso and knew he loves the water views. His home in Santiago was a little bit junkier. Neruda was not only a prize winning novelist but he became important in the government as a senator.



The restaurant named Le Sauce translates to the willow because there's a huge willow tree nearby. Jeanette had come here over the years from childhood, saw the place grow, and it was very special that she shared it with us. It might be a highlight.



A couple of 80-year-olds had done many of the mosaic murals and the town was full of them.

Upcoming Plans:

Friday Santiago with the car including the Cemetery

Saturday Santiago on foot and using their metro

Sunday foodie double tour with dinner at Jeanette's house. Monday and Tuesday still unplanned

The Santiago Apartment

You win a few. You lose a few.

This one sounds spectacular but I was leery about the pictures. About having no reviews. It is in some ways like a movie set but in more ways it is a poorly maintained and false advertised apartment. Eclectic to the extreme with some beautiful antique Chinese pieces, amazing chandeliers, but with unworkable kitchen items and poorly maintained plumbing. The good is that we all had our own rooms, bathrooms and lots of space.

Per vrbo: Luxurious penthouse apartment. The most exclusive penthouse in the Forest Park in the heart of Santiago. Live the magic of this fantastic place and enjoy the best view on your private terrace

A few meters from the tourist neighborhoods Bellavista and Lastarria with an intense nightlife, theaters and museums. Located in the historic center of Santiago and with the best access for where you want to go

The penthouse was built in 1950. It has parquet floor, high ceilings and original moldings and was remodeled with thermopanel windows, to isolate the sound and central heating.

Its eclectic and elegant decoration will make you feel part of a movie; It really is quite an experience.

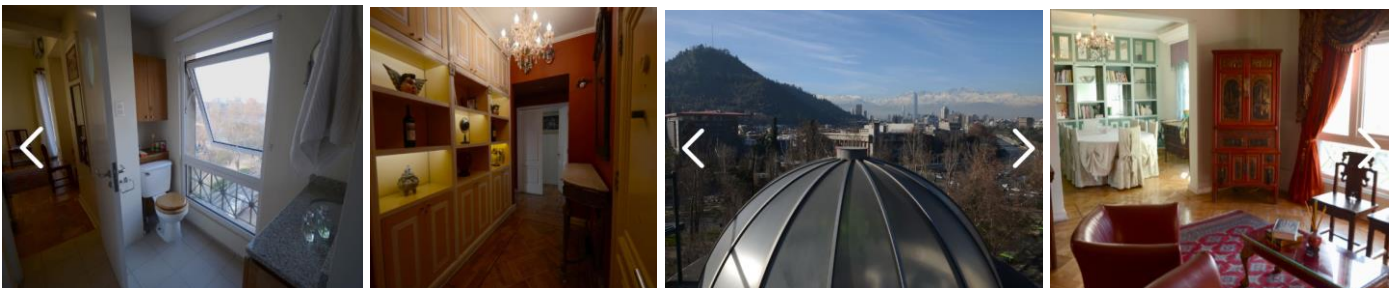
Guests can access the entire apartment located on the 7th and 8th floor.

On the 7th floor there is the living room, the dining room, the kitchen and 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms.

On the 8th floor, 2 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms and on the 9th floor that corresponds to the terrace there is another bathroom.

The apartment has an internal staircase through which you can access the 8th and 9th floors. Parking for 1 car. Located in the heart of Santiago with a wonderful view to the Forest Park; steps from the tourist and bohemian neighborhoods of Bellavista and Lastarria, the Museum of Fine Arts and Museum of Modern Art and the Gabriela Mistral Cultural Center. You will find many restaurants, cafes and bars as well as music stores, emerging designers, boutique hotels and antiques fair. The apartment is located in a neighborhood with an entertaining nightlife, you will love !.

Absolutely the best location in Santiago. A few blocks from the penthouse there are 2 metro stations; Metro Baquedano 3 blocks apróx. and metro Catholic University at 5m apróx.



Friday - 6th report

Today was again with Jeanette the tour guide and Ignacio the driver to see the parts of Santiago that were not easily accessible by foot or by Metro.

Weather? It's been 30s to just touching 60s, dry, half the time overcast, and just what I'd hoped for - avoiding summer heat.

On my list to visit in 2015 was the cemetery and I didn't get there. We have visited the Buenos Aires famous cemetery called Recoleta, various Parisian cemeteries in particular Pierre La Chaise and Montparnasse, and twice the most amazing one I've ever known of which is in Milan and worthy of spending a day. As many of the cemeteries, the one in Santiago had been built to get rid of a health hazard and it was built far out of town, but alas, today it is pretty much in the middle of town.



Cementerio General de Santiago, is one of the largest cemeteries in Latin America with an estimated 2 million burials. The cemetery was established in 1821 after Chile's independence when Bernardo O'Higgins inaugurated the Alameda de las Delicias along the old course of the Mapocho River.

O'Higgins set aside more than 85 hectares of land for the foundation of what became a magnificent grounds filled with ornate mausoleums surrounded by palm and leaf trees set amidst lush gardens and numerous sculptures, which have been estimated be 237. The cemetery, which is located northwest of Cerro Blanco, serves as a true urban park for Santiago.

https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cementerio_General_de_Santiago



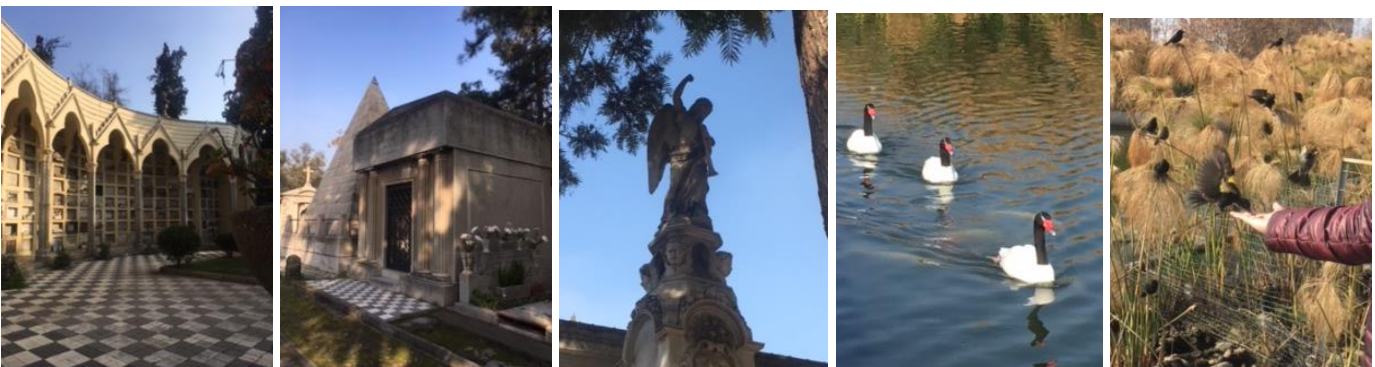
Pueblito Los Dominicos aka Los Dominicos Village is a crafts market and popular tourist shopping destination in a heritage zone of Santiago, Chile. It is located at the end of Avenida Apoquindo in Los Dominicos Park, to the side of San Vicente Ferrer Church (also known as Los Dominicos Church).

Cerro San Cristóbal (Tupahue, San Cristóbal Hill) is a hill in northern Santiago, Chile. It rises 850 m AMSL and about 300 m above the rest of Santiago; the peak is the second highest point in the city, after Cerro Renca. Cerro San Cristóbal was named by the Spanish conquistadors for St Christopher, in recognition of its use as a landmark. Its original indigenous name is *Tupahue*.

https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/San_Crist%C3%B3bal_Hill



Overview. At the entrance to the cemetery



A way for the poor to be buried

Into the ritzier area and their Centennial Park. A drive up these hills showed some beautiful states overlooking the city with the Andes in the background.

Sweet little birds eating out of Marie's hand.



Still in the ritzy park, then up the hill with an overview. Into the craft portion of Santa Domingo.



The architecture in Santiago is quite different because of their extreme amount of earthquakes. You're not gonna find any gargoyles that might fall on your head. Note that their Virgin Mary is 45' whereas Christ the Redeemer in Rio is 38 meters. Still huge. Back into Bella Vista, the overtime bar scene with lots of little restaurants. This was in the same restaurant that I enjoyed in 2015. Yep, we climbed to the top. It was my third trip up. Two times in a car and one time on foot.



A typical drink as a sweet tea with wheat and a peach. It seemed in the same mode as the Chinese bubble tea with tapioca. From the top you got a good view of Santiago and the tallest building in South America. If you look close you can see the cable car that goes to the top. There is also a funicular. When the stop light is red, entertainers come out. This guy was juggling fire. While he was on stilts. At the Santa Domingo of all places, you could purchase an X-rated key ring.

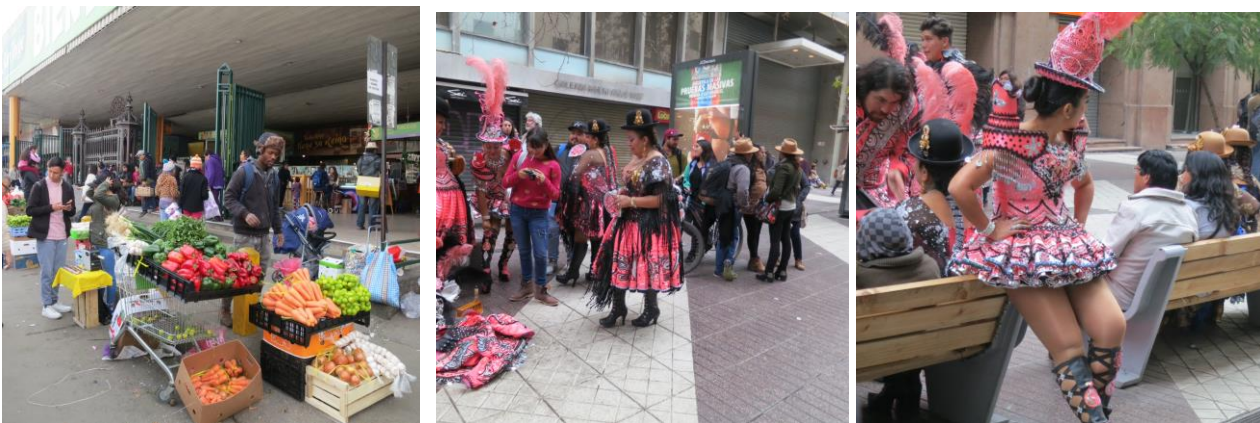
And on that I certainly should say good night.

More and pictures from Tom: Today we visited the cemetery and other important spots in Santiago. We are so fortunate to have our wonderful guide (Jeanette) that Diana found on her 2015 trip. She has made all the difference for all of us. And, we have Ignacio and his Kia van that holds us all comfortably and tools us around with little hassle. Tomorrow we're doing inner city and using public subway and other city transport.



He had many more pictures but some were duplicates and my fingers are getting tired and I'm ready for still another trip to I'm looking for The End. Smile.

More from Tom: At the market Saturday with our guide (Jeannette) (total chaos) in foreground, lunch at a seafood place -with very large Colombian waitress, and even a parade.



There were more but I see Tom working on a Photo Show so maybe you'll see them that way in due course.

Saturday - a very big day.

I doubt that Tom would have agreed to this tour of Santiago and their markets and their historical section on foot if he had known it would be near 7 to 8 miles. But he and we made it.

His pictures show what he calls total chaos. What I saw was city-folk adapting to their needs and very entrepreneurial. Yes, busy and crowded, but showing how inexpensive one can live and how ahead of the game are the Chileans. I had envy I'm 2015 and I do still.

For 1000 Chilean pesos or \$1.50 you can buy a kilo of fish or a dozen socks or a big pack of toilet paper or two big tubes of toothpaste. They work on taking care of their environment and their healthy eating and their produce seems to be on steroids. Any and everybody can easily eat. It is most amazing and I am quite impressed once again. Like I was in 2015.

Our Tour Guide, Jeanette, has told us many stories that impressed us on the Chilean government and how the peoples live. I will try to later outline these beneficial methods of living and family togetherness.



We started out walking and this is our neighborhood. Murals are everywhere but this was instrumental in understanding early life of Santiago



The palace of Fine Arts. All museums are free with the local restaurants or parking supporting them — in this case there was a castle restaurant across the street where I ate and drank in 2015 which supported the free entry of this museum. I thought this was just a small vendor but in fact it was the Brazilian type of chicken that are stuffed inside with raw egg. The government had to make an exception to their health laws because this is what the Brazilians are used to. This is a country that are readily adaptable and open to immigrants have all type. The market really is total chaos. One has to push their way through. The bargains are amazing but the numbers of people are even more so.



Some of the vendors are really cute and like getting their picture taken. Equally they like to amuse the customers and when I took the picture of the pigs head these boys wanted their picture taken and posed with a kiss. There was a sweet little hole in the wall where grandma cooked for me in 2015, I took her picture, and always remembered her. She has now gotten entrepreneurial, enlarged her stall area, and seemed quite amused if not flattered when I showed her her picture from 2015. We ate similar foods. Marie and Tom share desires for the same food stuff and here they are with soft ice cream cones dipped in chocolate. Donkeys? I think so and I was told that their milk was full of vitamins and worthy of a increased price. We went to another little hole in the wall for fish soup. This gal had an unusual figure which was obviously very full yet with a tiny waist. We learned that that is typically Colombian of which we will see in February 2019 when we visit Colombia. I suppose she had the figure that I have fear of getting with all my touring of food stalls.



Jeanette took us to the Chilean history Museum. I have been there before but is worth so much more when you have a tour guide who knows what she's looking at.
The cathedral. Always on the place des Armas.



I have a zillion pictures of these performers at a festival parade. If you want added to my iCloud photo sharing account, please advise.

We were pooped and on our way to "Paris and London" we stopped at the San Francisco hotel for a few more pisco sours. As we were leaving we were able to watch the group of wedding participants lineup to enter the San Francisco church.

Remember I told you they were very open to immigrants? The section where some French and where some British settled is very much in keeping with their country. We ended our tour on the streets of Paris which were cobblestone and also London architecture. The picture shows the two street signs of Paris and London. We were fortunately close to home but not close enough to Tom's liking. But he made it and we had a super day and looked forward to the following day which would be total foodie.

Sunday - foodie day - winding down but still full time foodies.

We started the day looking at food in the market. Midday we were still looking at food in the market. Later the day we were still looking at and cooking that food from the market. Later yet we were still eating food from the market. Foodies we were.

Jeanette was amazing. After the market shopping and then picking up Tom at the apartment and taking an Uber to Sanhattan (Santiago's Manhattan) we were guests of Jeanettes home. The food was pulled out of our grocery bags and prepared for more gourmet foodie time. Marie and Jeanette seem to really bond over the shopping, the chopping, the cooking, etc. it was a long but lovely foodie day. She sent us home via Uber well into the evening.

Monday will be a hop on/hop off bus day and Tuesday we will visit museums, some of the metro artsy stations, and climb up Saint Lusia hill before taking a car to the airport for an all-night flight.



More wall art on our way to the market
 Santiago is said to be one of the safest cities in Latin America and may be in part because the police are ever present.
 Fish heads are offered free and are a secret ingredient to fish soup
 We heard the music so stopped by this church, they invited us in, and we watch the dancers and wanted to take a picture but it didn't seem appropriate.
 At the market one can purchase all the ingredients ready cut for a soup for only about \$1.60.



This is the fish that we would have for dinner, and the merchant would cut it for us as well as cutting the sea urchin and various other seafood's for the fish soup.
 I don't know what it is about having polished shoes but it seems to be important to the Chileans and these stands are ever present. As are smiling people who are most willing to let you take their picture.
 It was Sunday and families were out as well as this policeman's group putting on a performance in the plaza des armas.
 The beginning of fish soup.



Jeanette's dog is thought of as her daughter and named Catalina. Catalina must've slept really well that night because she played and was excited much of the day and served as entertainment.
 One of my favorite foods is always the bread and here is Marie making it from scratch.
 That tiny kitchen service Jeanette well.
 Fish soup near ready.



That green stuff is seaweed.

The fish that was cut for us by the fish monger came out really well.

I never met a bread I didn't like.

The next day Jeanette served left over fish soup to some of her coworkers.

The End?

Maybe sort of. We went back to NJ on a night flight and it all went well with Marie even getting first class lie flat seat on the 9 ½ hour stretch into Houston. I complained later to United about not getting upgrades after having paid up for the ticket and they gifted us with generous future credits.

Marie and Tom had a couple days of errands after getting to NJ.

Marie is likely too busy for future trips but she was told all she had to do was ask, research and participate if she wanted more travels.

Itinerary

Wed Jul 25 - Marie

6:20am Depart Kansas City MCI via UA#3658 – conf#CEQR9C then #FQX9VS
10:16am Arrive Newark EWR

Fri Jul 27 – All

1:00pm Car service ordered
4:05pm Depart Newark EWR via UA#687
7:00pm Arrive Houston IAH for plane (and terminal) change – 3:55 layover but nice club

10:00pm Depart Houston IAH via UA#847

Sat Jul 28

8:20am Arrive Santiago CL SCL

Car booked with Maria, landlady: Maria offers “you can arrive early to the apartment don’t worry. :)”

Apartment: Spectacular Penthouse with private terrace
corner of Irene Moralis; recommend using back entrance on Calle Coronel Bueras
#107. Tele in apt: (02) 2638 4707

<https://www.vrbo.com/8705997ha> - more pics: <https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/23056183>

Maria Jose Corral will be at the apartment for welcome. Cell is +56 9 75591992

terrazafirmani@gmail.com – will have three sets of keys

From web: *Apartment: 4402 sq. ft.- Bedrooms: 5 - Bathrooms: 5 (Note shows Sleeps: 6)*

The most exclusive penthouse in the Forest Park in the heart of Santiago. Live the magic of this fantastic place and enjoy the best view on your private terrace. A few meters from the tourist neighborhoods Bellavista and Lastarria with an intense nightlife, theaters and museums. Located in the historic center of Santiago and with the best access for where you want to go.

The penthouse was built in 1950. It has parquet floor, high ceilings and original moldings and was remodeled with thermopane windows to isolate the sound and central heating. Its eclectic and elegant decoration will make you feel part of a movie; It really is quite an experience. Guests can access the entire apartment located on the 7th and 8th floor. On the 7th floor there is the living room, the dining room, the kitchen and 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms. On the 8th floor, 2 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms and on the 9th floor that corresponds to the terrace there is another bathroom. The apartment has an internal staircase through which you can access the 8th and 9th floors.

Located in the heart of Santiago with a wonderful view to the Forest Park; steps from the tourist and bohemian neighborhoods of Bellavista and Lastarria, the Museum of Fine Arts and Museum of Modern Art and the Gabriela Mistral Cultural Center. You will find many restaurants, cafes and bars as well as music stores, emerging designers, boutique hotels and antiques fair. The apartment is located in a neighborhood with an entertaining nightlife, you will love! Absolutely the best location in Santiago. A few blocks from the penthouse there are 2 metro stations: Metro Baquedano 3 blocks apróx and metro Catholic University at 5m apróx. We also have a parking lot in front of the apartment for 1 vehicle

Bed sizes: 2 bedrooms with queen size beds and another 2 bedrooms with single bed.

Apartment has gas Central Heating. Microwave yes. Coffee: a French press and an Italian coffee maker. No Nespresso machine.

Sun Jul 29

Santiago City Tour with Jeanette and using local transportation

Jeanette Torres Tele: 569.659.41985 email: jeanettetv@yahoo.com

Mon Jul 30 - Museums closed

Noëlle Alessandri at noelle@chilecooks.cl Tele: +56992349233 – pay \$80 x2 cash on arrival – 3rd?

10:00am Meet at front of Bellas Artes museum (Jose Miguel de la Barra 650), the same area that your apartment. I'll be the girl with a red shopping cart.

www.chilecooks.cl (known by Jeanette) - *Taste Chilean flavours like a local! Come and explore with us the traditional food markets of Santiago and then enjoy a cooking class in our home. We will visit some of Santiago's traditional food markets such as "La Vega" and "Mercado Central", and later we will have fun cooking traditional Chilean dishes that we will eat later for lunch. The food tour also includes a taste of some Chilean wine and pisco sour. Approximately 6 hours long (includes: market visit, cooking class and lunch). Meeting at Bellas Artes museum, the exact location is given upon reservation.*

See website for dishes that may be prepared. Noted: We strongly believe that if we want to prepare delicious recipes in our food tours, we need the freshest seasonal ingredient available on the market. We invite you to hunt down with us specialty produce that we won't find in the supermarkets, ingredients that we will be using later in our cooking experience. The Food Tour includes a visit to the following Food Markets, where we plan to hunt for our ingredients:

Mercado Central - Declared as the fifth best food market in the world by National Geographic. Under a wrought-iron, art nouveau canopy dating back from 1872, this animated fish market groans with an extraordinary display of sea creatures, from barnacles to giant squid, many unlabeled, untranslatable, or unknown outside Chile.

La Vega - Since "The Colonial Period", farmers have met in La Vega's surroundings to sell their fruit and vegetables. A wide variety of products are sold in its surroundings, mainly fresh fruit and vegetables from the Chilean Central Valley. Nowadays, "La Vega" concentrates more than 4% of Santiago's transactions.

Tue Jul 31

Valle Nevado and the Andes Mountains or if weather not good, divert to Valparaiso and Casablanca with car and driver. Jeanette is busy so will arrange another guide who is a trusted friend. Visit to the mountain towns of Farellones, La Parva, El Colorado y Valle Nevado, opportunities to use gondolas in the ski resort.

Wed Aug 1

Continue with Santiago City tour, with car and driver so as to see far activities such as the cemetery and outside markets.

Thu Aug 2 – Valparaiso and Casablanca (or Valle Nevado) with Jeanette, car and driver
Valparaiso and Casablanca - We can visit the Heritage Town of Valparaiso and walk around the streets and corridors, enjoy the city and local food. After we can visit Casablanca town for a Wine tasting.

Fri Aug 3

See www.foodychile.com small group food tour(s). Jeanette knows this tour very well and will take us through the culture and tasting, leaving apartment in the morning, visit the market and do the tasting with the local activities, so in the afternoon we can visit other areas.

Sat Aug 4

Jeanette with car and driver will take us to one of the wine country visits but probably not to Colchagua where I've been and is a long drive. She might suggest Maipo Wine Valley and Countryside - Oldest Wine Valley in Chile and traditional countryside, we can visit a Traditional and a Boutique winery and have lunch in a typical restaurant.

Sun Aug 5

Open for more city or suggestions or another food tour – Jeanette if she has ideas and time

Mon Aug 6

Open – same. Always have hop on and hop off if Jeanette is busy or gets tired of us.

Tue Aug 7

9:15pm Depart Santiago CL SCL via UA#846

Wed Aug 8

6:00am Arrive Houston IAH for plane and terminal change – short 1:30 connection

7:30am Depart Houston IAH via UA#1666

12:02pm Arrive Newark EWR

Fri Aug 10 - Marie

8:40pm Depart Newark EWR via UA#3491

10:53pm Arrive Kansas City MCI

Emergency:

U.S. Embassy Santiago – carry in wallet

Av. Andrés Bello 2800

Las Condes, Santiago, Chile

Tele: (56-2) 2330-3000

Registered with STEP at www.travel.state.gov

Emergency Assistance Plus Program – 24/7

United Mileage Plus member #0186014 (card in file and in D's Wallet)

Tele: 866 816 2073 or 60 328 1752 collect



TOUR IN SANTIAGO – descriptions on website

If Jeanette not available, this is the company I used before. Lots of ideas:

Tours and Excursion in Chile – Descriptions at <http://turistik.com/en/>

CLASSIC HOP ON HOP OFF - *Price for adult \$23.000CLP

Available Monday to Sunday

PREMIUM HOP ON HOP OFF - *Price for adult \$30.000CLP

DINNER SHOW - *Price for adult \$49.000CLP

Available Monday to Saturday

MOUNTAIN TOUR - PANORAMIC ANDES - *Price for adult \$32.000CLP

Available from Saturday to Sunday AM Schedule (English and Spanish)

CAJÓN DEL MAIPO & EMBALSE DEL YESO - *Price for adult \$49.000CLP

Available from Monday to Sunday - Full Day tour

WINE TOUR - TRADITIONAL CONCHA & TORO TOUR - *Price for adult \$32.000CLP

Available from Monday to Sunday - PM Schedule Spanish - English

CONCHA Y TORO MARQUEZ TOUR - *Price for adult \$42.000CLP

Available from Monday to Sunday - PM Schedule (ONLY SPANISH)

SANTA RITA TRADITIONAL TOUR - *Price for adult \$32.000CLP

Available from Tuesday to Sunday - AM Schedule Spanish - English

UNDURRAGA TRADITIONAL TOUR - *Price for adult \$32.000CLP

*Price child from 03 to 11 years old \$20.000CLP

Available from Monday to Sunday - PM schedule

FULL DAY MAIPO: Concha y Toro + Santa Rita - *Price for adult \$63.000CLP

Available on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday - Full Day Schedule

COLCHAGUA WINE ROUTE - *Price for adult \$85.000CLP

Available on Saturday - Full Day schedule

COAST TOUR - VIÑA DEL MAR & VALPARAÍSO - *Price for adult \$36.000CLP

Available Monday from Sunday - Full Day schedule

VALPARAÍSO, WINE & NERUDA - *Price for adult \$63.000CLP

Available on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday - Full Day schedule

ISLA NEGRA & WINES - *Price for adult \$63.000CLP

Available on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday - Full Day Schedule

From company: We will have winter tours as well, but right now we are waiting for the confirmation of prices and details. That should be during the first week of June.