

Intercambio academico en Santiago, Chile

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Some information about the city

Santiago :

- Was founded in 1541
- Is the name of the capital and the region which counts 37 towns
- Is located in the middle of Chile at 2000km of the north border and at 2000km of the last city at the south
- Has the highest tower in South America called the « Grand torre Santiago » which includes, among other things, a large shopping center
- Has over 7 million inhabitants, a third of the total population in Chile





Some information about the country

The republic of Chile :

- Is the most developed and the less corrupt country in South America
- Includes Easter islands in the pacific ocean
- Was invaded in 1520 by Fernan de Magellan, the first European explorer to set foot on what is now Chile
- Includes the driest desert of the world « the atacama desert » and the mythic region of Patagonia





Useful information before going to Santiago



- You don't need to make a student visa
- You should not choose « Magister » because it doesn't correspond to our year of study, just in Engineering
- The University of Santiago de Chile, USACH, is closely linked to ENSGSI, many teachers did their Masters in France and therefore speak French, the courses are also similar

As soon as you arrive in Santiago

- You have to take an appointment to create your ID card, your « cellula de identidad », you will be asked for this card very regularly, when you register on a site, when you reserve your bus ticket or even when you go out to a club. In addition, la USACH requires foreign students to obtain it.
- It is recommended to go out with the group dedicated to foreign students « USACH sin frontera », outings are organized by Chilean students in order to create links, especially if you went alone this will help you acclimatize more quickly



USACH
SIN FRONTERAS
Programa de Monitores

About the language

I already spoke a little Spanish when I arrived, but the Chilean accent is complicated to understand. It took me 2 months to really become comfortable speaking Spanish.

Concerning the lessons, it was easier because the teachers speak slowly and the materials on the board help to understand.



About the language

Before my exchange, I took Spanish lessons with a teacher at the Faculty of Arts and I took help from the PrepMyFuture Platform.

Also, I had learned at school like everyone else, the Spanish spoken in Spain or in South America is different, they certainly have different words but also a different way to conjugate. For example, they don't use « vosotros » but « ustedes ».





Que aprendí durante mi intercambio ?

Sobre mi :

- Aprendí a valirme por mí mismo y pedir ayuda a los demás ante cualquier situación. Aunque salí con dos amigos, me encontré sola por momentos ya sea en el transporte o en la universidad y no dudé en pedir cuando la necesitaba, los chilenos siempre están muy felices de ayudar a los extranjeros.
- También aprendí a delegar, de hecho los chilenos muchas veces trabajan en el último momento, ya que yo no trabajo así en absoluto. Tenía tendencia a intentar hacer las partes de otras personas por medio a quedarnos sin tiempo. De hecho, su ritmo de trabajo era simplemente diferente al mío.



Que aprendí durante mi intercambio ?

Sobre los demas :

- Aprendi que aprender un idioma es muy personal. Cada persona aprende a su propio ritmo y puede entender o no ciertas cosas en ocasiones sin que esto signifique un buen nivel o no. Parender un idioma moderno es largo, complicado y sobre todo, no lineal. A veces retrocedemos, a veces progresamos, pero no debemos desanimarnos !



Las diferencias culturales



Los chilenos están muy apegados a su cultura, a sus tradiciones y a su nación. Durante las fiestas patrias, se exhiben banderas en todas las tiendas, balcones y pasillos de los edificios. Es un acontecimiento real, sobre todo porque mientras estuve allí estaban celebrando el 50 aniversario del golpe de estado de Pinochet.

Algunos jóvenes también practican la « cueca », un baile tradicional que utiliza pañuelos.

Las diferencias culturales

Santiago es una ciudad muy europeizada, hay muchos rascacielos, el centro de la ciudad y el distrito de negocios son muy similares a los de las grandes metrópolis europeas. No hay mucha diferencia en cómo opera la ciudad.





Las diferencias culturales

En cuanto a los chilenos, son bastante reservados pero muy acogedores. Muchos estudiantes nos ayudaron cuando llegamos a la universidad. Los profesores también hacen todo lo posible para estudiar a los extranjeros. Viajan muy poco, sobre todo los jóvenes, y tienen mucha curiosidad por conocer los motivos que empujan a los estudiantes a venir a su país. A menudo desconocen la belleza de su país.



Interrogations about the stereotypes I had

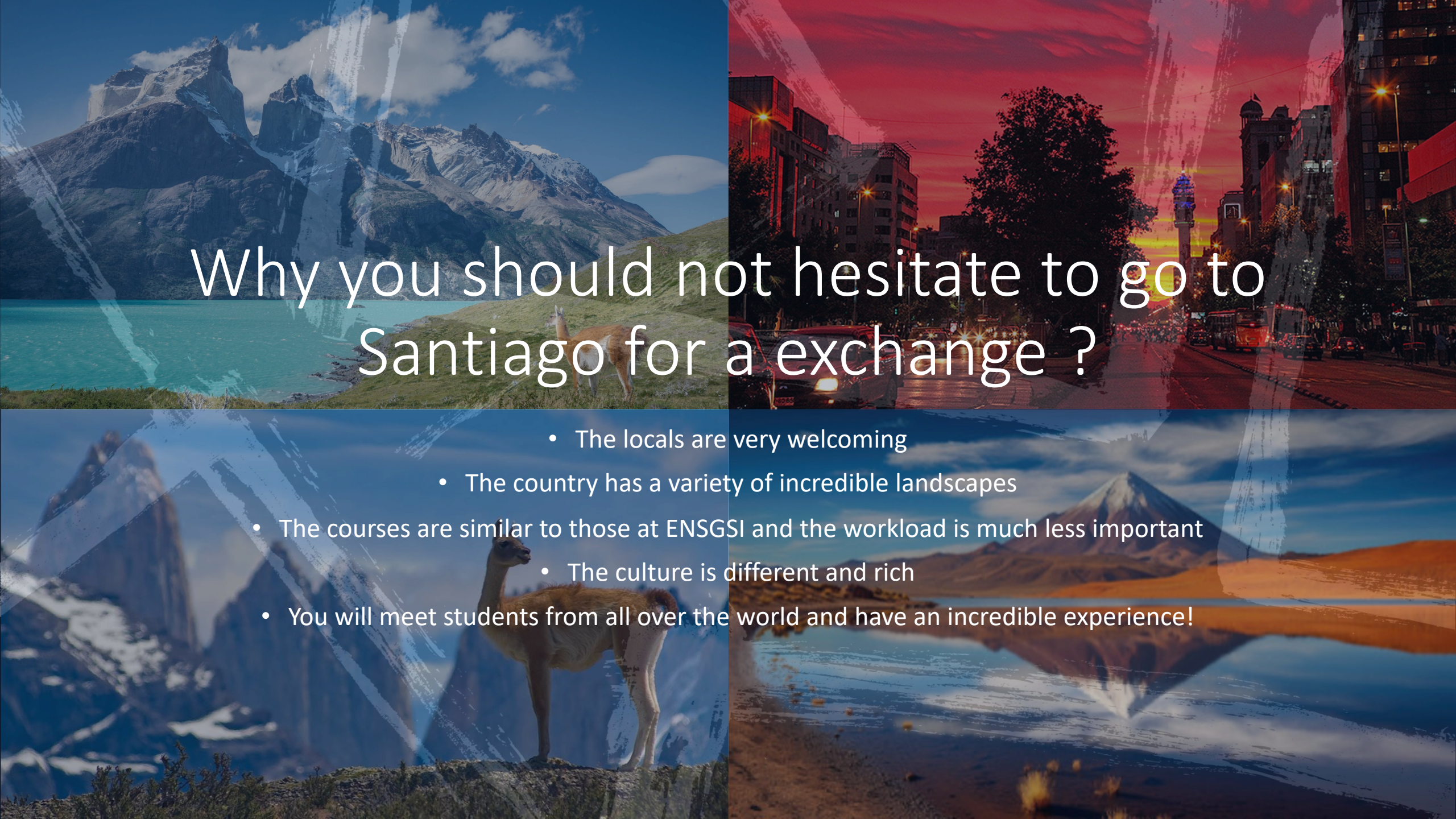
- I had this cliché of very party-loving, very extroverted southern Americans who went to party every weekend. In reality not at all, the majority of Chileans I was in class with were very reserved, they didn't talk much, they didn't go out much either. The majority did not live in the center of Santiago and had to take the train or the bus to return home in the evening, so they only went out to university parties until 9 pm.
- I thought life was cheaper, prices in supermarkets are the same as in France, so you have to favor the markets! Also some cities are very touristy in Chile, in particular the southern region of Patagonia is very expensive.



The last papers to fill out

When returning to France, you must not forget to complete the departure certificates for scholarships from the University of Lorraine and as well as that of the Grand Est region.





Why you should not hesitate to go to Santiago for a exchange ?

- The locals are very welcoming
- The country has a variety of incredible landscapes
- The courses are similar to those at ENSGSI and the workload is much less important
- The culture is different and rich
- You will meet students from all over the world and have an incredible experience!