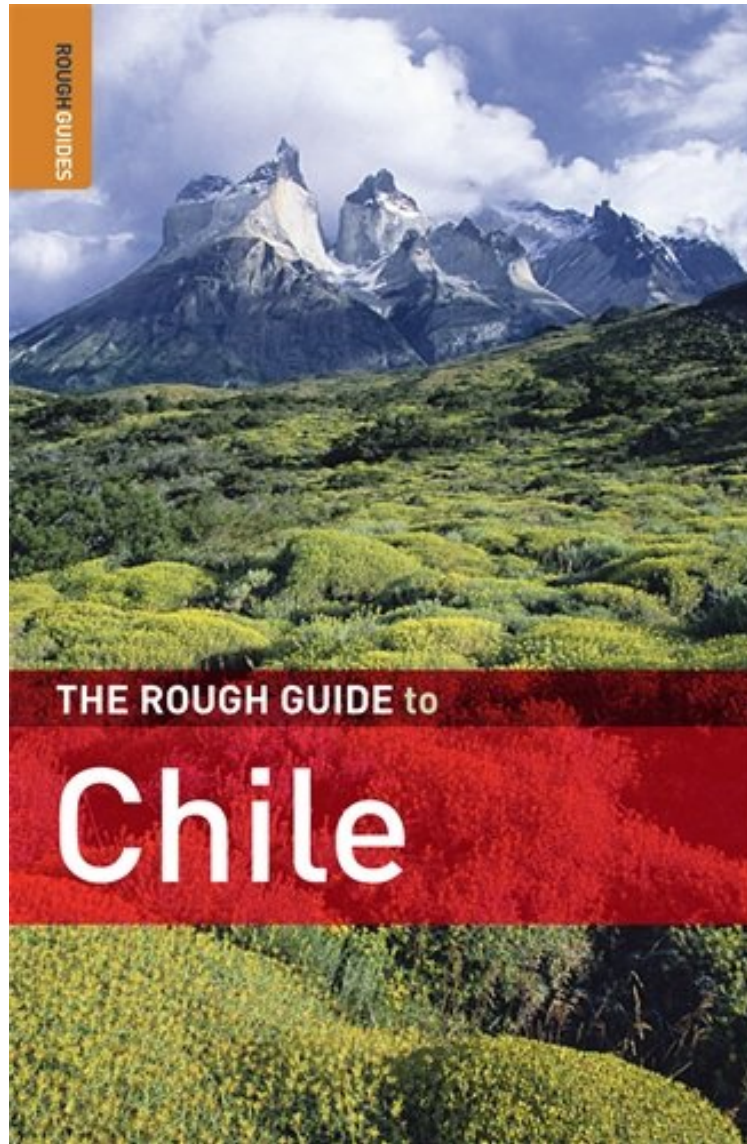


[Free pdf] The Rough Guide to Chile (Rough Guide Travel Guides)

The Rough Guide to Chile (Rough Guide Travel Guides)

Andrew Benson, Melissa Graham

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#2295172 in Books Rough Guides 2009-08-03 2009-08-03 Original language: English PDF # 1 7.74 x .98 x 5.14l, 1.06 #File Name: 1848361750592 pages | File size: 66.Mb

Andrew Benson, Melissa Graham : The Rough Guide to Chile (Rough Guide Travel Guides) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Rough Guide to Chile (Rough Guide Travel Guides):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. love the book, but problems abound By sarsparilla this was my bible while i was living in santiago for a month this jan 2011 studying spanish. i compared books and chose the rough guide based on the cultural glimpses they provide, and i thought their section on santiago had more suggestions regarding

accommodations, restaurants, etc than the other books. I took weekends away to Valparaiso/Vina del Mar, the Elqui Valley and San Pedro de Atacama. I love the philosophy of the Rough Guide books--their recommendations were eco-friendly, and emphasized local, well respected and well run mom and pop businesses over bigger chains/more popular businesses around, especially in Atacama, a huge tourist attraction. There's a sizeable portion at the end of the book solely dedicated to the history of Chile, from geographical origins to political disputes to the current economy and culture, which I found extremely informative and really appreciated throughout my trip while taking long flights or bus rides. The two recent reviewers are correct in saying that their details need a major revamping. Most of the ones I discovered were pricing issues, as it seems the prices they quoted were a few years old. Some tours/trails were closed completely, or were open at different hours than the book described. One restaurant that they highly recommended was noted to be closed after 7pm daily and closed on Sundays. I went at 8pm on a Sunday and they were serving dinner throughout the night. Love their recommendations for accommodations, tours and experiences. The book is also hilarious in some sections, a refreshing read. It's still catered more towards the budget backpacker in terms of accommodations, but they have some higher end places listed too. The details can be frustrating though, so be prepared and double check before you go. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent Guide - With Exceptions By PeachMan Except for the section on Santiago, this is an excellent guide for independent travelers. It served us well on a driving exploration of the coast from La Serena south to San Antonio including the port of Valparaiso, a unique and underrated gem. We also used it while cruising from Valparaiso down to the Strait of Magellan. It worked well and was accurate for getting around Puerto Montt, Puerto Varas, Puerto Natales and Punta Arenas on our own. The brief Chilean history chapter provides the background needed for a better appreciation of modern Chile while the section on Chilean menu terms is useful even if you think you know Spanish. The problem with the Santiago section is the Downtown Map on page 89 (fourth edition, August 2009) which contains errors, the most grievous being the incorrect location of Museo Precolombino which is "unquestionably Chile's best museum" according to the Guide's authors. Being male we searched for it for at least one hour on an exceptionally hot afternoon before asking for directions. Users note: it is actually located immediately above Eating Drinking map-key 7 on the corner of Compa and Bandera. When you get there you will discover that it is closed for renovation until some unspecified time in 2013! 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Don't ever get this book By APEI just got back from Chile and this book is worthless. Every place I went to on my trip and looked up something in this worthless (and heavy) book the hostel was closed, the restaurant didn't exist, or the Museum wasn't really free on Sunday as the book suggested. The maps were outdated, incorrect information, less than comprehensive are all reasons I am very disappointed in the purchase of this book. My advice to you: look for the publish date and then subtract a year to get the most current possible date anything in the book could reference. Don't don't don't be a sucker like me and count on this book while travelling.

The Rough Guide to Chile is the essential travel guide with clear maps and detailed coverage all the top attractions and scenic journeys along the length of this country. Discover all corners of Chile, from the vast Atacama Desert and magnificent, snow-capped Volcn Osorno to the granite spires of the Torres del Paine massif in Southern Patagonia and the mysterious moai statues on Easter Island. Full-colour features explore adventure sports in Chile and the wildlife of Chile, while a practical Spanish language tips will get you started on learning Chilean Spanish. Find detailed practical advice on what to see and do in Chile while relying on up-to-date descriptions of the best hotels in Chile, restaurants and bars in Chile, plus all the insider shopping and entertainment tips to make the most of the spectacular Chilean festivals. You'll find expert tips on exploring Chile's varied landscapes and outdoor activities, including trekking towering volcanoes, white-water rafting, and skiing and snowboarding snowy slopes; with an authoritative background on Chile's history and culture. Make the most of your holiday with The Rough Guide to Chile.

"Thorough, solid, carefully researched and full of interesting reading." - The Independent About the Author Melissa Graham has travelled widely in the Andean countries of Chile, Peru and Ecuador, where she developed a love of the region's landscapes and people. Andrew Benson has travelled extensively in Chile and is co-author of this edition. Excerpt. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved. WHERE TO GO Given Chile's great size, and the huge distances that separate the main attractions, it's important to give careful thought to your itinerary before you go. If you want to experience both the northern and southern extremes, you should invest in a LanChile air pass, unless you're prepared to spend many hours sitting on a bus, or are in the country for an extended period. Otherwise, most visitors with just two or three weeks to play with tend to choose between heading north or south from Santiago, even then singling out a few chosen targets, rather than trying to fit everything in. Something else to bear in mind is that, on the whole, Chile's cities are not that exciting, and are best used as a jumping-off point to get out into the backcountry. In light of this, you should seriously consider renting a vehicle for at least part of your trip, as public transport to some of the most beautiful areas, including many national parks, is nonexistent. We discuss each region's highlights in greater detail in the chapter introductions; what follows is a brief summary of the attractions of each area. Santiago, though boasting some fine monuments, museums and restaurants, is not to everyone's taste, with its ceaseless noise and traffic

and heavy pollution, and two or three days here is enough for most visitors. The capital is handy for visiting some of the countrys oldest vineyards, while a string of splendid beaches, as well as the romantic port of Valparaso and fashionable resort of Via del Mar, also sit on its doorstep. North of Santiago, highlights include the handsome colonial city of La Serena, the lush, deeply rural Elqui Valley, and another succession of idyllic beaches, the dazzling fringe of the Norte Chico, a region that mostly comprises semi-arid landscapes and brittle vegetation. At the northern edge of this region, the tidy little city of Copiap serves as a springboard for excursions to the white sands and turquoise waters of Baha Inglesa, one of the countrys most attractive seaside resorts, and east into the cordillera, where youll find the mineral-streaked volcanoes of Parque Nacional Nevado de Tres Cruces and the dazzling Laguna Verde. Further north, the barren Atacama Desert, stretching over 1000km into southern Peru, presents an unforgettable, if forbidding, landscape, whose attractions number ancient petroglyphs (indigenous rock art), abandoned nitrate ghost towns and a scattering of fertile, fruit-filled oases. Up in the Andes, the vast plateau known as the altiplano, as high and remote as Tibet, encompasses snow-capped volcanoes, bleached-white salt flats, lakes speckled pink with flamingos, grazing llamas, alpacas and vicuas, tiny whitewashed churches and native Aymara communities. The best points to head for up here are Parque Nacional Lauca, reached from the city of Arica, and Parque Nacional Volcn Isluga, reached from Iquique. South of Santiago, the chief appeal of the lush Central Valley is its swaths of orchards and vineyards, dotted with stately haciendas, while further south, the famous, much-visited Lake District presents a picture-postcard landscape of perfect, conical volcanoes (including the exquisite Volcn Osorno), iris-blue lakes, rolling pastureland and dense native forests, perfect for hiking. A short ferry ride from Puerto Montt, at the southern edge of the Lake District, the Chilo archipelago is a quiet, rural backwater, famous for its rickety houses on stilts, old wooden churches and rich local mythology. Back on the mainland, south of Puerto Montt, the Carretera Austral a 1000km-long unpaved "highway" carves its way through virgin temperate rainforest and past dramatic fjords, one of which is the embarkation point for a two-hundred-kilometre boat trip out to the sensational Laguna San Rafael glacier. Beyond the Carretera Austral, cut off by the Campo de Hielo Sur (southern ice field) lies Southern Patagonia, a country of bleak windswept plains bordered by the magnificent granite spires of the Torres del Paine massif, Chiles single most famous attraction, and a magnet for hikers and climbers. Just over the easily crossed border in Argentina are two of the regions star attractions: the Fitz Roy Sector in the north of the Parque Nacional Los Glaciares, a favourite for trekkers and climbers, and, to the south, the awe-inspiring Glaciar Perito Moreno. Across the Magellan Strait, Tierra del Fuego, shared with Argentina, sits shivering at the bottom of the world, a remote land of a harsh, desolate beauty. Finally, there are Chiles two Pacific possessions: remote Easter Island, famed for its mysterious statues and fascinating prehistoric culture; and the little-visited Isla Robinson Crusoe, part of the Juan Fernndez Archipelago, sporting dramatic volcanic peaks covered with dense vegetation.

WHEN TO GO The north of the country can be comfortably visited at any time of year, though if youre planning to rent a 4WD and tour the altiplano, note that the unpredictable weather phenomenon known as the Bolivian Winter (or invierno altiplnico) can produce heavy, sporadic rainfall between December and February (the height of summer), washing away roads and disrupting communications. In the centre and south of the country, you should avoid the months of June to September (unless you plan to go skiing), when heavy snowfall often blocks access to the mountains, including many national parks. The peak summer months are January and February, but as accommodation rates and crowds increase in equal measure, youd be better off coming in November, December or March, when the weather is often just as good.