

# Ski Chile

## Ski the Andes



World class skiing – season June to September - ski the Andes – quiet slopes – charming hotels – tailor made - beautiful Chillán – dramatic Portillo – huge Valle Nevado

Experience one of the great skiing destinations in the world - unrivalled in the southern hemisphere.

Ski between June and September at one or more of Chile's finest resorts.

Enjoy friendly resorts, great snow, beautiful scenery and no crowds.

This is a tailor made trip – we adapt each holiday to best suit you.

This is a Pura *handpicked* holiday with an activity rating of *medium* and a comfort rating of *premium*.



Cruising the slopes of Chillán.



**"We had an absolutely wonderful time skiing in Chile. One of the best holidays ever. The hotels and skiing at Portillo and Chillán were fantastic. Thanks for all of your advice and guidance at the planning stage." Toni M.**

### Suggested Holiday Itinerary

#### Day 01 | flight | travel to Chile

Fly overnight to Chile – this will usually be a Friday.

Please note: international flights are quoted separately for this holiday.

#### Day 02 | Chillán | arrive on the slopes

Early morning arrival in Santiago.

Take connecting flight south to Concepción and transfer to the beautiful spa resort of Chillán.

Arrive in time for a soak in the natural hot springs of your five star hotel at the foot of the slopes.



Enjoying the empty slopes of Chillán

Chillán is the most extensive and serious ski resort in Chile. The setting is stunning – spread across the slopes of a dormant volcano, surrounded by forests and with its own hot springs.

The resort combines wide slopes, great off-piste, and South America's longest chair lift as well as enough variety to satisfy any group of skiers.

The hotel is the best of Chile's ski hotels. (d)

#### Day 03 | Chillán | ski in the Andes

Chillán offers 10,000 hectares of skiable terrain spread over the slopes of two volcanoes in the heart of the Chilean Lake District.

From the top of the resort (2,700m) you look out across the beautiful Andes.

It has wide slopes, great off-piste, and South America's longest chair lift as well as enough variety to satisfy any group of skiers.

With nine lifts (one triple seat, three double seats and five surface) it has the longest run in South America, at 13kms.

There are two sensible hotel choices here, Gran Termas and Piramihuida.

The Gran Termas is the one we include on this holiday although we can change that to suit you.

It is a five star hotel and, in terms of the overall quality of rooms, service, food and décor, is the best ski hotel in Chile.

Questions? Ready to book? Call us on **01273 676 712**

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On-piste in Chillán.



An aerial view of the resort



The hot spring pool at the hotel – swim between indoors and outdoors.

The hotel is ski in/out and besides, it has its own hot springs – wonderful after a day on the slopes.

The Piramihuida is a more informal three star option seven kilometres from the slopes.

There are shuttles buses to get you up to the resort.

We can also offer cabin accommodation in this area for families and groups of friends. (b,d)

### Day 04 | Chillán | **ski in the Andes**

Of the 35km of groomed runs, 30% are for beginners, 40% for intermediate and 30% for experts.

If you are interested in lessons, instructors are a mix of locals and North Americans & Europeans who come here in their off season.

Many instructors have English as a first language and come from the best northern hemisphere resorts.(b,d)

### Day 05 | Chillán | **ski in the Andes**

The large outdoor pools are fed by natural volcanic hot springs and are a lovely way to relax after a day on the slopes.

The hotel has dedicated lifts serving the spa and hot spring area so you can come and go from your room in your bathrobe and slippers.

For some real pampering, book in for a massage or treatment in the modern spa facility. (b,d)

### Day 06 | Chillán | **ski in the Andes**

If you fancy a change there is a cross-country skiing area as well as dog-sledding, both of which can be great fun.

For the most serious enthusiasts, there is a helicopter on site for some serious off-piste adventure. (b,d)

### Day 07 | Chillán | **ski in the Andes**

After a week at the resort you should be really relaxed and at home.

Chillán is particularly special as it gives you a real flavour of Chile as well as being a world-class ski resort. (b,d)

### Day 08 | Chillán | **ski in the Andes**

Enjoy your final day of skiing. (b,d)

### Day 09 | Santiago | **ski, train, nightlife**

Check out of your hotel for your shuttle transfer back to Chillán where you catch train north to Santiago once more.

Timings are up to you – we assume that you ski as much as possible today and catch a late train.

On arrival in Santiago, transfer the very short distance to your hotel for the next five nights.

Enjoy the bright lights of the big city. (b)

### Day 10 | Santiago | **time to explore**

Today is yours to just relax and explore Santiago.

Your hotel is in the centre of this bustling city so you can explore on foot quite comfortably.

Alternatively you can take a bus or taxi out to visit a vineyard.

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Lovely runs including some forested, wide slopes and no crowds.



Enjoy all the comforts of your five star hotel.



The hub of Valle Nevado with its three hotels next to one another.



Fantastic conditions at Valle Nevado.

Concha y Toro for instance have their property right on the edge of town. (b)

### Day 11 | Santiago | **ski Valle Nevado**

For the next few days we arrange for you to try out some of the resorts around Santiago.

If you have more time to spare then you might like to stay up at the resorts but day trips are perfectly comfortable and a good way to sample the full variety of skiing.

Start today with Valle Nevado as it is the closest to the city – just 40km from downtown.

Drive east out of the centre and when the last houses disappear, you start heading up the mountain towards Valle Nevado.

The road up is an experience. About 60 switchbacks lead to the resort at the top of the mountain.

The story goes that the workmen were paid a bonus the shorter they made the road. The result is a really quite a steep and tight ascent.

From the city you will be at the ski station in an hour.

Once at the top you have wonderful views. The resort is spread out over the crest of the mountains. All of it is well above the tree line.

The resort is the newest in the country, opened in 1988.

Valle Nevado provides you with a good sized playground: 40km miles of slopes and runs (22,000 acres) serviced by 11 lifts.

The runs break down as 12% beginner, 70% intermediate/ advanced, 18% expert.

The highest elevation of the resort is 12,000ft with a vertical drop of nearly 3,000ft.

The snowboarding at Valle Nevado is excellent, the world championship regularly visits.

The resort is connected to two other resorts – La Parva and El Colorado. In total this is over 100km of runs.

El Colorado is generally considered the least good of the 'tres valles' (Nevado, Parva, Colorado)

La Parva is probably the best – you may well want to buy an extension to your lift pass to allow you to ski all of these areas. (b)

### Day 12 | Santiago | **ski Portillo**

The transfer to Portillo is much longer at over two hours (140km), it is worth it though.

The setting is exquisite: a high Andean valley with the Laguna del Inca reflecting 5,000m peaks.

Portillo has a subtle magic to it which gets to most people, lots of whom come back year after year.

This despite the fact that people's general reaction, on arrival, is that Portillo is very small.

The actual slope infrastructure is 12 lifts serving 23 slopes. Of these 10% are for beginners, 70% for intermediate-advanced and 20% for experts.

In truth you could ski the entire resort comfortably in a day although there is a lot of very challenging off-piste. The resort has the superb 'va et vient' lifts – essentially four person drag lifts which take you up the steepest of slopes at something like 30km an hour.

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Enjoying the deep powder of the slopes at Portillo.

It is more like a rollercoaster than a ski lift. The purpose of these lifts is to get you high onto the valley walls from where you can access the large powder fields running down towards the lake. Return to Santiago at the end of the day. (b)

**Day 13** | Santiago | **ski or relax**

Today you can choose to either head back to ski some more or take the time to relax in Santiago before your journey home tomorrow.

**Day 14** | flight | **travel home**

Transfer to the airport for your flight home.

*Please note: transatlantic flights are quoted separately for this holiday. (b)*

**Day 15** | home | **arrive back**



Serious and extensive off-piste supplements a fairly small slope network.

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### Holiday Information

#### Pura Handpicked

This holiday is delivered by our partners on the ground in Chile.

This itinerary is exclusive to Pura and has been designed to show the great variety of skiing in Chile.

#### How active?

As energetic as you want, with plenty of opportunities for relaxing or trying alternatives to ski.

#### How comfortable?

We can tailor this holiday to include almost hotels if you prefer.

Good five star hotel in Chillán with all of the facilities one would expect. In addition, the hotel has its own spa and hot springs. There is a bar which hosts live music and events every evening.

Centrally located four star hotel in Santiago.

#### How independent?

Whilst at Chillán you ski in/out so really there is no need for anyone to look after you.

Back in Santiago we arrange for the transfers to and from the slopes and give you all relevant information to allow you to get around.

You have access to our representative in Santiago in case of need.

#### How responsible?

Pura Aventura is passionate about the places it visits. To help preserve the integrity of these destinations we:

- Keep groups small to minimise environmental impact.
- Work directly with local businesses and organisations to directly benefit local economies. We use small, locally owned hotels and restaurants. We know the owners except in the large cities.
- Work with local guides so that our holidays are more interesting for clients and more beneficial locally.
- Make payment to suppliers before our clients arrive.

#### When to go?

The ski season generally runs from late June to the end of September. You can expect 80% clear days.

Snow conditions at the start of the season are usually good though clearly there is greater risk of there not being enough snow at this time of year.

The middle two weeks of July are peak season in Chile so probably best avoided because of cost, conditions are very good though.

Into August and you are in high season, the conditions are usually very good in all resorts.

Late August/early September is when resorts drop to low season and is a great time to go for best combination of conditions and price.

By mid-September the snow in Chillan will be distinctly soft so better to stick to the higher, drier snow of Portillo or Valle Nevado if you are travelling late in the season.

#### Not based in the UK?

We are very happy to discuss your requirements if you are not travelling to and from the UK.

Please call us on **+44 1273 676712** between 9am and 6:30pm GMT weekdays.

#### Not quite right?

If this holiday's not quite right for you, call us to discuss your ideas or consider:

**Ski Chile: Desert Adventure** Combine a week at Chillán with a week actively exploring Chile's desert north.

**Ski Pyrenees** We have a range of family, small group and tailor-made options for wonderful skiing in the Spanish Pyrenees.

#### How do I book?

As a tailor made holiday we need to check availability and prices before taking your booking. If you would like us to prepare you a detailed proposal then simply email [info@pura-aventura.com](mailto:info@pura-aventura.com) or call 01273 676 712 with your preferred dates plus any other changes you would like us to make.

Once you have the proposal and decide you would like to go ahead then please call in with the following:

- Full names
- Address
- Contact telephone numbers & email
- Deposit of 15%

Deposits can be paid by card, cheque or bank transfer, whichever suits you best (the balance of your holiday is due 60 days prior to travel).

We send you a confirmation email detailing all of the services agreed between us. We ask you to check through all of this carefully and sign off on the holiday.

#### Prices & departures

<b>2012</b>	<b>Jun - Sep   from £1,795pp</b> <i>Price varies significantly according to season, hotels chosen and length of stay.</i>
Flights	International flights are quoted separately for this holiday ( <i>guide price £800 - £950</i> ). You can book these directly or we can book them on your behalf.
Prices include	All domestic flights/trains in Chile as per itinerary; Seven nights' in Chillán; Lift passes in Chillán; Five nights in first class hotel in Santiago; Transfers as per itinerary; Meals (b,l,d) as per itinerary; detailed local information.
Not included	Personal expenses; equipment hire; lift passes other than at Chillán; tips.

*Prices are per person, based on two sharing.*

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