

# Ski Chile

## Ski Portillo



Portillo resort - first class hotel - hot pool - ski in/ski out - stunning views - challenging off piste - expert tuition - powder fields - famous va et vient lifts – fabulous hospitality and food

Portillo is undoubtedly Chile's most charming ski resort.

Ski or board, Portillo is primarily a skiers resort though boarders will be amply entertained.

What Portillo lacks in size, it makes up for in space. There are never more than 450 guests on the mountain.

Enjoy a fantastic friendly atmosphere which is unique to Portillo and brings people back year after year.

Take on one of the four va et vient lifts which carry you up the steep sides of the valley at a thrilling pace.

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



Skiing Roca Jack slope with the distinctive Grand Hotel Portillo behind.



***"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.***

### Holiday Itinerary

#### **Saturday** | Portillo | **arrive on the slopes**

Arrive today in Chile.

Portillo is a two and a half hour drive to the north of Santiago.

*Transfers are not included in this package but we can arrange these for you.*

The following description is of a complete ski week in the four star Grand Hotel Portillo.

Whilst this is the only accommodation at Portillo, there are various room grades available.

You should arrive at the resort before lunch.

Since check-in is later this afternoon, we recommend that you pack your ski kit near the top of your bags in order to get out onto the slopes straight after lunch.

There is no better way to get over a long journey than a few bracing descents. (l,d)

#### **Sunday** | Portillo | **ski in the Andes**

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

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

The actual slope infrastructure is 14 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.

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

Because there are only ever 450 guests on the slopes you get to know everyone very quickly and you feel as if you are at a large private ski party.

Portillo really is quite beguiling. (b,l,d)

To book or for more information call us on **0845 22 55 058**

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Near empty slopes in the highest stretch of the Andes



Deep fluffy powder



Small but comfortable rooms



The pool and hot tub with a five star view.

### Monday | Portillo | *ski in the Andes*

The nature of the terrain makes Portillo particularly well suited to skiers though there are some great fun accessible powder fields for boarders.

It is not uncommon to share the slopes with one of the Olympic ski teams as they come here for their summer training.

For most mere mortals, the sight of an Olympic standard skier thundering down the impressive 'kilometro lanzado' slope is enough to make us stop and watch for a while.

Portillo has four superb 'va et vient' lifts – essentially four person drag lifts which take you up the steepest of slopes at something like 30km an hour.

In truth 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.

The latest addition to the va et vient family gives you easy access to the 'kilometro lanzado' slope.

This is basically a wide open 1km steep, clear downhill run where the world ski speed record has been set many times in the past. (b,l,d)

### Tuesday | Portillo | *ski in the Andes*

The Grand Hotel has been here since the 1940s and that's the feel of the place.

Rooms are generally fairly small, comfortable but not spacious. Windows are relatively small. There are no TVs in rooms.

Portillo does have spectacular communal areas - the living room is the hub of the hotel and really does feel like a large family living room.

The restaurant is on the same level with large picture windows to the Laguna del Inca and mountains.

There is a small exercise room/gym and a large sports hall with indoor football, table tennis, etc.

There is a small cinema where films are periodically screened.

There is a fantastic outdoor pool and hot tub which is very popular after the slopes are closed.

There is live music in the bar every evening and a disco in the basement.

Down the road in the village is the local bar - think village hall with a small bar.

If not staying in the main hotel building, you have two other options: the Octagon lodge and the Inca Lodge.

The Octagon lodge has comfortable rooms with four single beds (built in bunks) and private bathroom. It is a couple of paces from the door of the hotel.

If staying here you eat in the main dining room and have full access to all facilities of the hotel.

The Inca Lodge is a good deal more basic with dorm style bunk rooms and communal bathroom facilities.

Meals are taken in the self-service cafeteria but otherwise you have full access to the resort and hotel facilities.

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### **Wednesday** | Portillo | *ski in the Andes*

It is impossible to talk about Portillo without talking about the service.

There are over 500 staff looking after the 450 guests. Several of the staff have been at the hotel for over 40 years.

You will find that each day has a rather lovely settled routine to it.

Your table is allocated at the restaurant – you will always eat in the same spot and are served by the same, invariably excellent, waiter.

After a fresh and delicious breakfast, head downstairs to collect your gear and ski out for the morning.

Return for coffee and snacks at any time or stay out until lunch.

Lunch and dinner are always three courses with various choices, the standard of cooking is a highlight.

After the lifts close at around 5pm people congregate either out in the heated pools or in the living room.

After dinner people generally drift into the bar to listen to music before turning in for the night.

Hardier souls will carry on into the 'nightclub' downstairs for a dance. (b,l,d)

### **Thursday** | Portillo | *ski in the Andes*

Enjoy another full day of skiing.

If you want lessons, the instructors at Portillo come from the finest northern hemisphere resorts such as Whistler, Vail and Chamonix. (b,l,d)

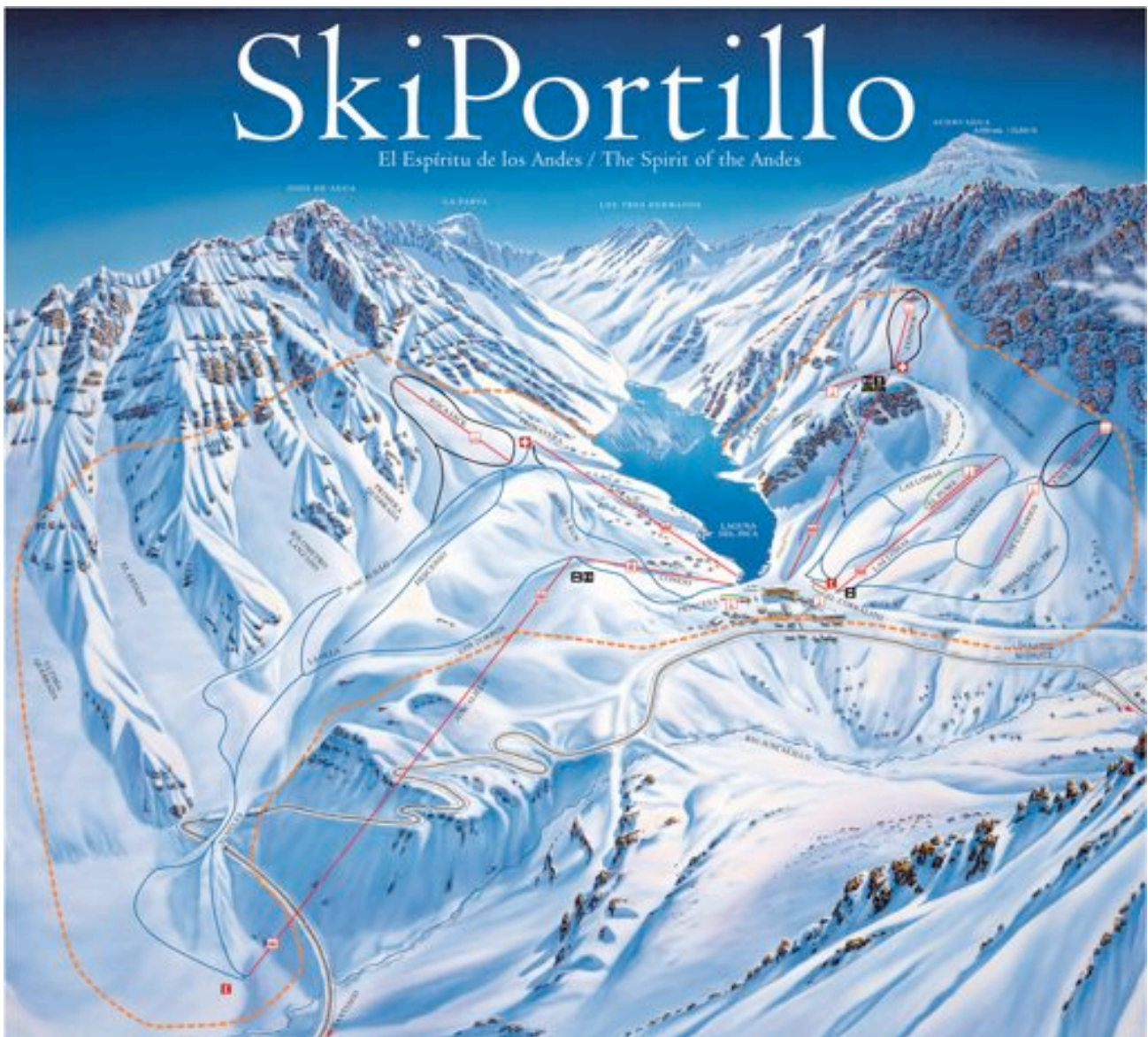
### **Friday** | Portillo | *ski in the Andes*

Enjoy your last full day of skiing. (b,l,d)

### **Saturday** | Portillo | *ski in the Andes*

Check out this morning.

If you want to stay and ski all day, you can but this afternoon you will have tear yourself away. (b)



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### Holiday Information

#### How long?

7 nights running from Saturday to Saturday.

#### How active?

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

#### How comfortable?

Comfortable four star Grand Hotel.

Please call us to discuss other accommodation options within the hotel such as the Octagon and Inca Lodges.

#### How independent?

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

You have access to our agents on the ground 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.

By mid-September the snow in Chillan usually gets pretty soft so better to stick to the higher, drier snow of Portillo or Tres Valles 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 7pm GMT weekdays.

#### Not quite right?

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

**Ski Chile: Ski Group** A two week small group skiing holiday to Chile which combines all of the main resorts (Chillán, Portillo and Tres Valles).

**Ski Chile: Ski Chillan** A week skiing the most extensive of Chilean resorts, particularly good for boarders too.

#### Prices & departures 2010

<b>Low</b>	<b>19 Jun   04 Sep   11 Sep   18 Sep   25 Sep   us\$1,590pp</b>
<b>High</b>	<b>26 Jun   03 Jul   31 Jul   07 Aug   14 Aug   21 Aug   28 Aug   us\$2,400pp</b>
<b>Peak</b>	<b>10 Jul   17 Jul   24 Jul   us\$2,950pp</b>
Flights	Prices above do not include international flights. We can arrange these for you ( <i>guide price £700 - £900 depending on season</i> ) or you can arrange your own.
Prices include	Seven nights' four star hotel staying in a valley view twin/double; Lift passes; Breakfasts, lunches and dinners (b,d) as per itinerary.
Not included	Travel; transfers; personal expenses; equipment hire; tips. <i>Price varies according to season, hotel, room grade and length of stay. For a quote, please call.</i>
Please note	Payments are processed in GBP converted at the rate applicable at date of payment. Whilst we keep this itinerary as up to date as possible, the definitive list of our departure dates & prices can be found at <b><a href="http://www.pura-aventura.com/departures">www.pura-aventura.com/departures</a></b>

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

*Prices may be subject to change: please confirm at booking.*

**SCSP10**

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