

MISSION AWARENESS TRIPS

trip information

The following information is for **2012** trips. The dates and trips to specific countries change from year to year depending on interest, the political situation within the countries and the ability of CFCA projects to host a mission awareness trip. A detailed schedule and additional information will be sent one to two weeks prior to departure in the pre-departure packet.

CHILE

Trip Dates: Sept. 28 – Oct. 7, 2012

Trip Cost

\$475 (Includes food, lodging and in-country transportation. Airfare is **not** included.)

On your trip to Chile, you may participate in some or all of the following activities:

- Meet your sponsored friend and possibly their family
- Travel to subprojects and learn about the potential of CFCA families
- Learn about the realities that face CFCA families, staff and communities
- Be welcomed into the homes of CFCA families
- Learn about the diverse experiences and unique perspectives of sponsored friends and their families
- Visit Valparaiso and Viña del Mar

Entry and Exit Requirements

A passport valid for at least six months after arrival is required to enter Chile. U.S. citizens do not need a visa for a stay of 90 days or less. At the international port-of-entry, a fee of \$140, payable in U.S. dollars or by credit card, is levied on U.S. citizen visitors. There is an airport tax of \$30 upon departure. The \$30 airport tax may be included in your airline ticket. *All fees are subject to change.* While in Chile, participants should carry their passports or a photocopy of one at all times. Participants who will be traveling with a minor should contact the CFCA mission awareness trip coordinator for additional information.

Airport and Arrival Arrangements

Applicants should await receipt of the confirmation letter before making airline reservations. In the meantime, we strongly encourage you to research airfares with a travel agent, the airlines, or via the Internet. Vista Travel may also be contacted regarding airfare at (800) 537-5066. This agency is familiar with our programs and schedules.

All travelers should depart the U.S. on Sept. 28 to arrive the morning of Sept. 29 at **Arturo Merino Benitez Airport (SCL)** in Santiago. You will arrive at your destination one day after your departure due to overnight travel. Travelers will depart Santiago, Chile the evening of Oct. 6 to arrive back in the U.S. on Oct. 7. **CFCA staff will meet all travelers at the airport who arrive on the scheduled arrival day. Do not accept any offers of transportation from anyone other than our CFCA team.**



Accommodations and Food

All trip participants will stay in simple accommodations near the CFCFA projects, usually in a hotel. Married couples and families will stay in private rooms. Individuals will be assigned a roommate. Running water for showers is readily available, but it may not be heated. Tap water is unsafe for drinking. Instead, the project will provide bottled water. Alcoholic beverages are not included in the trip cost.

Participants will eat simple, nutritious meals. You will have the privilege of trying a variety of foods. Typically, a selection of food is available at each meal. All food is prepared with purified water. All meals will be eaten with the group. Do not purchase food from street vendors. Meals are often served at a later hour than most Americans are accustomed to eating. We recommend bringing snacks such as nut mixes, granola bars, etc., as you may want something to eat between scheduled meals.

Participants wishing to use personal electrical appliances should carry an adapter and a converter. The **electrical current** in Chile is 220V versus the 120V in the U.S. The shape of the plugs is also different. A type C outlet plug is used. Diagrams of the outlets are available at www.escapeartist.com. Search for “diagrams of adaptor plugs.”

Climate

Valparaiso has a mild climate. Spring lasts from September through November and the average temperature during these months is between 60 and 80 degrees. However, mornings can be quite cool, and it is recommended that you bring a heavy jacket or a sweater. Participants should be aware that minor tremors may occur, and travel along winding roads can cause motion sickness.

Health/Medical Preparations

Contact your medical doctor or local health department for immunization recommendations based on your health history. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at www.cdc.gov/travel has country specific recommendations regarding immunizations. CFCFA staff members are not qualified to offer advice on immunizations. You should consult with your medical insurance company prior to traveling to confirm whether your policy applies in a foreign country. **If your policy does not cover emergency expenses such as medical evacuation, please consider the purchase of temporary travel insurance.** You may obtain further information on travel insurance from a travel agent or through research on the Internet.

Currency Exchange and Handling

The currency used is the **Chilean peso** (CLP). Your lodging, food and in-country transportation are included in the trip cost. You should bring additional money for the purchase of snacks and souvenirs, and to cover entry/exit fees, if applicable. You should not carry bills in denominations greater than \$20 because it may be difficult for local banks or vendors to make change. Do not bring severely worn or torn currency. Traveler's checks are not recommended, and ATMs are not readily available.