



## Security Message for U.S. Citizens: Santiago (Chile), Civil Aviation Strike Continues

Aviation; Other

Western Hemisphere > Chile; Western Hemisphere > Chile > Santiago

12/20/2015

The U.S. Embassy informs U.S. citizens traveling to and residing in Chile that employees of the Dirección General de Aeronáutica Civil or DGAC (Chilean civil aviation authority that oversees all airports), continue to strike through Sunday, December 20. While some flights are operating, international flights are being given priority for arrivals and departures. DGAC employees on strike announced that the strike would last 24 hours, but later stated the strike would continue indefinitely. At this time, the Embassy cannot confirm when the strike will end.

The U.S. Embassy has received confirmation from LAN airlines that as a result of the strike the company has ceased operations in the following Chilean cities: Arica, Copiapó, La Serena, Concepción, Osorno, Valdivia, Puerto Montt, Chiloé, Balmaceda, and Isla de Pascua (Easter Island).

The Chilean Government has confirmed that a limited number Chilean military aircraft are operating in order to move Chilean citizens and foreign nationals to Santiago, particularly from Easter Island (Isla de Pascua). These flights will continue over the next several days and are being coordinated with Chilean air carriers and local municipalities. U.S. citizens should adjust their travel plans accordingly, especially in light of the upcoming holidays. The U.S. Embassy recommends U.S. citizens continue to work with their air carrier to reschedule their flights. Additionally, multiple forms of transportation are

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available throughout Chile to assist passengers traveling from a closed airport to an operating airport.

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U.S. Embassy continues to monitor the situation and will inform U.S. Citizens as more information becomes available. If you have an urgent need to travel due to a medical or family emergency, but have been unable to as a result of the DGAC strike, please contact the U.S. Embassy at [santiagousa@state.gov](mailto:santiagousa@state.gov).

The U.S.

Embassy strongly recommends that U.S. citizens traveling to or residing in Chile enroll in the Department of State's **Smart Traveler Enrollment Program**. STEP enrollment gives you the

latest security updates, and makes it easier for the U.S. embassy or nearest U.S. consulate to contact you in an emergency. If you don't have Internet access, enroll directly with the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.

Regularly

monitor the **State Department's website**, where you can find current Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and the Worldwide Caution. Read the **Country Specific Information for Chile**. For additional information, please refer to our **"Traveler's Checklist"** page.

Contact the **U.S. Embassy in Chile** for up-to-date security information. The U.S. Embassy in Santiago is located at Andres Bello 2800, Las Condes, Santiago and is open Monday to Friday from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm (telephone number: +56 22 330 3716). If you are a U.S. citizen in need of urgent assistance, the emergency number for the U.S. Embassy is +56 22 330 3000.

You may

also call 1-888-407-4747 toll-free from within the United States and Canada, or 1-202-501-4444 from other countries. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).

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