

Santiago Transport Guide

Getting Around Santiago

Navigate Chile's capital with confidence using the efficient Metro system, buses, and modern transport network designed for both locals and visitors.

Main Transport Options:

Metro de Santiago

Modern subway system with 7 lines covering the metropolitan area.

- 7 color-coded lines with 136 stations
- Operating hours: 6:00 AM - 10:30 PM (Friday/Saturday until 11:00 PM)
- Clean, safe, and air-conditioned trains
- Connects major districts and tourist areas
- Announcements in Spanish only

Pro Tip: Buy a Bip! card for seamless travel across all public transport

Transantiago Buses

Comprehensive bus network complementing the Metro system.

- 350+ bus routes covering the entire city
- Operating hours: 5:00 AM - 11:00 PM
- Modern GPS tracking and real-time information
- Integration with Metro system
- Express services (Rojo) and local services (Verde/Azul)

Pro Tip: Use the same Bip! card for buses and Metro with transfer discounts

Metrobus (BRT)

Bus Rapid Transit system serving outer areas and airport connections.

- Dedicated bus lanes for faster travel
- Connects to Santiago Airport (SCL)
- Modern articulated buses
- Integrated with Metro and regular buses
- Serves areas not covered by Metro

Pro Tip: Fastest way to/from the airport for budget travelers

Passes & Tickets:

Bip! Card

Essential smart card for all public transport in Santiago.

Best for: All visitors using public transport

- Works on Metro, buses, and Metrobus
- Automatic transfer discounts
- Reloadable at stations and many shops
- No expiration date
- Student and senior discounts available

Tourist Bip! Card

Special Bip! card designed for visitors with city information.

Best for: First-time visitors

- Pre-loaded with credit
- Includes city map and tourist information
- Same functionality as regular Bip!
- Available at airport and tourist centers

Daily/Weekly Passes

Unlimited travel passes for heavy users.

Best for: Extended stays with frequent travel

- Unlimited Metro and bus rides
- Available for 1, 3, 7, or 30 days
- Must be loaded on Bip! card
- Cost-effective for 4+ trips per day

Navigation Apps & Tools:

Mi Transantiago: Official app with real-time arrivals and route planning

Moovit: Popular navigation app with Santiago public transport

TransantiagoInforma: Service alerts and disruption notifications

Most Instagrammable Transport Spots:

Metro Line 1

Glass stations at Las Condes offer Andes mountain views

Metro Line 5

Quinta Normal station features beautiful architecture

Teleférico San Cristóbal

Cable car to hilltop with panoramic city views

Bus 506 to Cajón del Maipo

Scenic route to Andes foothills and hot springs

Insider Tips:

Rush hours are 7:30-9:30 AM and 6:00-8:00 PM - Metro gets very crowded

Keep your Bip! card topped up - you can't buy tickets on buses

Metro stations have clean public bathrooms (rare in Santiago)

Download offline maps - cell signal can be weak in Metro tunnels

Validate your Bip! card when boarding buses - inspectors check regularly

Metro Line 1 connects the airport to city center efficiently

Many bus stops don't have shelters - check weather before long waits

Tourist areas like Providencia and Las Condes are well-connected by Metro