

Study Abroad - Gabrielle Parris

[Bienvenido a Santiago](#)

Published on Thu, 07 Jan 2010 21:10:46 +0000 by Gabrielle Parris

Hi Loyola Family! I am blogging you from Santiago, Chile an AMAZING city...I still can't believe i' m here. I arrived in Santiago on the morning of Jan 7th where I ran into some trouble with customs :/ In Chile it is illegal to bring fruit into the country because of the possibility of bringing in disease with the fruit. We were given a declaration of fruit and animals for on the plane to Santiago where you are to declare if you are bringing any fruit into the country and I failed to declare the pear and two oranges I had in my purse, because I forgot they were there...so I was questioned as to why I hadn't declared my fruit, I wasn't fined luckily but it could have been a bad situation. Besides that tiff Santiago has been wonderful. I have an AMAZING host family. My host mom is a singer and music teacher and loves to cook for me. She made me a traditional Chilean dish called Huma, which is grounded corn and onions wrapped in leaves and boiled. You eat it with Aji Sauce (Aji is a chile in Chile) It has now officially become my favorite Chilean dish. My host dad is a marine biologist and loves to talk about the environment here in Chile, places where I should travel, and her LOVES to talk about Obama! We live in a condo in a nicer part of town called Las Condes. I can see the Andes Mountains from my room and the view is beautiful. We had orientation at our school, Universidad Alberto Hurtado, on friday. The campus is absolutely beautiful, its perfect. Also on friday, me and another student got lost coming back from school from the Metro (the subway system) and we discovered how big Santiago is the hard way, but getting lost sometimes is the trick to learning about your surroundings. I now feel like I can get to various places with no problem now. I've already started to make chilean friends, meeting them in various places mostly at bars. We took a trip to Bellavista, a very artsy part of town with many bars and disotec or dance clubs. The night life there is exciting and everyone is really friendly. We met a group of Brazilian, Chilean and American people at an outside bar here. They invited us to sit with them at their table and the rest is history. Its very easy to meet people here if you are outgoing. Chileans like when Americans talk to them in Spanish because its like a compliment to them. By the way, the Spanish here is NOT the same as the Spanish you learn in school in the US. They have words called Chilenismos that are just different words to mean something else, like Altiro means right now and Cachai means to understand. They speak so fast here too... The exchange of American dollars to Chilean pesos was at first very confusing. The exchange rate fluxuates everyday but it averages to 1 dollars=500 chilean pesos. Im still getting adjusted to the small things, like the time change (3 hrs from Chicago) and little customs like kissing EVERYONE you meet on the cheek. Its exciting to get more involved in the culture and society here. We start our intensive spanish class on monday...wish us luck!

[About](#)

Published on Thu, 07 Jan 2010 21:10:46 +0000 by Chris Abplanalp

This is an example of a WordPress page, you could edit this to put information about

yourself or your site so readers know where you are coming from. You can create as many pages like this one or sub-pages as you like and manage all of your content inside of WordPress.

[Travel, Travel, Travel!](#)

Published on Sat, 30 Jan 2010 18:12:28 +0000 by Gabrielle Parris

Intensive Spanish class here in Chile is COMPLETED!! I can't believe its been 3 weeks already. The class was extremely informative in learning about the Chilean culture, including some of Chile's famous artists like Pable Neruda, Violeta Parra, and Victor Jara. We actually took a trip to Valpairaiso to visit one of Pablo Neruda's homes. Valpo (as we call it here) was beautiful and filled with old architecture...I was once the main port city in South America before the construction of the Panana Canal. Â We were there for Chile's Bicentennial Carnival where there was a free concert of Chilean, Colombian and Mexican musicians, it was amazing! In our Intensive Spanish class we also visited a few local places one of which was a HUGE outdoor market called, La Vega where everyone from people who live in Santiago to people from the campo (more rural parts of Chile) come to buy and sell fresh fruits, meat, and even clothing. We went in a group to La Vega and the Chilean men were very vocal about letting us know they didn't mind us being there, after awhile it actually gets annoying but it comes with the territory. The Intensive Spanish compared to classes at Loyola was very easy. I have never had the chance to take a language course at Loyola because I tested out of my language requirement but all the other girls who have taken one at Loyola have said its SUPER layed back and easier here. The weather is still VERY hot! Almost a little comfortable at night when you try to fall asleep even though its way cooler here in the evenings than during the day. I've been sick so the heat hasn't helped the healing process... Its vacation time for us, we will all be traveling throughout South America. I will be traveling with another girl from Loyola Chicago, two girls from St. Louis University, and one girl fr0m St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia. Its so easy to get along with the other Americans here because as soon as you hear someone speak english you automatically flock to them, its funny. Our group will be traveling to southern Chile, Pucon, Puerto Montt, Chiloe (and island off the coast of Chile) and Punta Arenas (Patagonia, wayyyy south close to Antarctica) Â we also want to travel to Argentina and Uruguay but those plans are pending. I'll be sure to let you know how the trip goes along the way! Chao!

[EARTHQUAKE!](#)

Published on Sat, 06 Mar 2010 14:27:34 +0000 by Gabrielle Parris

Hello all! I just returned to Chile after basically a month of traveling before we start the semester here. I traveled throughout Argentina and Uruguay. It was a very beautiful and once in a life time trip. Our first stop was Mendoza, Argentina. We stayed there for a couple of crazy days were in the end my backpack was stolen : (Â but all that was taken was clothing so im grateful my passport and credit cards were not taken. It was very frustrating because that definitely made me upset and want to go back home...but not home to the US home to Santiago! Â Our next stop was Buenos Aires, Argentina where we met up with our other friends in the program in

Chile. We spent about a week there where we took a visit to the ZOO! it was probably the BEST zoo I have ever been too, the animals were so close to you, they weren't completely caged up, it was great. We made a lot of friends from Argentina and the US alike. Buenos Aires, compared to Santiago is a very dirty city and reminds me a lot of Manhattan with the hustle and bustle of people and its size. The subway was very old and different compared to Santiago's clean and prompt metro. Our next stop was Montevideo, Uruguay where we met up with the cousin of one of my friends from the program. She was extremely sweet and basically set up our whole Uruguayan adventure for us. We started by staying in a hostel in Montevideo then we left for Cabo Polonia, Uruguay which is part national park part beach town; a beach town with no electricity or running water. It was an experience but it was beautiful and we had a great time. We were able to enjoy a beautiful beach and great artisan shopping. The next stop after that was Punta del Este Uruguay, another beach town but VERY touristic and the total opposite of Cabo Polonio. We stayed in a beautiful beach house and celebrated the birthday of one of the girls in our group. We went to an amazing fondue restaurant, the food was sooooo good! We actually learned about the earthquake while we were in Montevideo before we left civilization. My initial reaction was extremely surprised and I really didn't know what to think about it because I didn't know the gravity of it. Chile sits on top of two plates that move up on each other all the time so earthquakes here aren't really a big thing, so I just thought it was another small quake. When we got to Punta del Este where we could watch the news we discovered it was much bigger than 'just a small quake' it was very scary how serious it was and we realized how lucky we were not to be affected by it. All our host families are fine and the other people in the program here are safe as well. The earthquake was so strong that it supposedly moved the earth's axis 8 centimeters, craziness!! but all is well and I am very eager to get out and start helping those in need close to me. I hope we can count on the support of the Loyola Chicago community in helping all the people here who have lost everything.

[Life In Santiago](#)

Published on Sun, 18 Apr 2010 00:15:56 +0000 by Gabrielle Parris

Hello Loyola Family! Sorry it's been so long since I've posted a new entry, I finally started the semester here. I'm taking an International Politics class, Poetry and Latin American Society class and a Poverty and Development. There is a lot of reading and for the Poverty and Development class we have a service learning aspect to it. I will be interning at a micro-business non-profit called Accion Emprendedora; I'm really excited for it! Our International Politics class is composed of all Chilean students. It's a very interesting experience, taking a class with all Chilean students, because they love to discuss current issues and sometimes veer off track from the lecture but it is really interesting listening to the discussions (or trying to at least). They speak very fast and don't complete a lot of their words. I've become very accustomed to the dialect here but when talking to other Chileans it's still hard to make out what they are saying a lot of the time. Me and two girls from St. Louis University and Boston College play soccer for the school's team. It's been a lot of fun also. We have met so many girls and they are very welcoming and always greet us when we see them at school. We won our first game last Wednesday, it put us all in a good mood and made all of our practices worthwhile. I'm excited to play more games with them. It's fall here now and the weather shows. It's become very cold at night and it even drizzled yesterday. We have

had to get out the closed-toed shoes and jackets. It not all that bad because, the cooler weather is refreshing and a nice break from the continuous heat. We have been in Chile for about 3 months so we have about 3 1/2-4 months left and time is going by really fast. Its almost May! It's going to be sad to leave but we are enjoying our time and planning another possible trip to Machu Picchu in Peru! So we'll see how that goes!