



ORIENTATION PREPARATION

PACKING LIST FOR YOUR TERM OF SERVICE SANTIAGO, CHILE 2019

Are you excited to head to your city of service? Are you looking forward to forming relationships while living in community? Fantastic. By entering the Jesuit Volunteer Corps, you are committing to a simple lifestyle and to being present for others. Material things can sometimes cloud that commitment. We invite you to use our resource “Packing Intentionally for JVC” to help with your decision-making while packing for your term of service. Below you can find a list of recommended items to pack, created by years of Santiago JVs, to make things easier, too:

Note: * means this item is optional and could be helpful, but not necessary.

CLIMATE

Santiago experiences all four seasons. Summer runs from December to March and is very hot and dry. Summer temperatures range from the 80s/90s during the day to 60s at night. Spring runs from March to June and is defined by fluctuating temperatures: 40s/50s in the morning and 70s/80s by mid-afternoon. Winter runs from June to August, and is very cold and rainy. Daytime temperatures are in the 30s/40s, and drop below freezing at night. Fall goes from September to November, and is defined by similar fluctuating temperatures as in spring.

Most buildings in Santiago are constructed out of concrete with little insulation and very open floor plans. Air conditioning and central heating are uncommon in many of the places where the JVs work and live. “Air conditioning” means open windows and fans, and the heating system consists of many layers of warm clothing and small gas stoves. It’s often colder inside of buildings than outside due to the concrete construction, so it’s common in the winter to wear a heavy jacket and gloves all day. JVs should pack for all seasons: light clothing for summer, warm and waterproof clothing for winter, and layers for all temperatures in between.

THE BASICS

Women don’t typically wear athletic shorts in public, yet athletic clothing (i.e. track pants, running leggings, etc.) is very normal casual wear. Nicer shorts and skirts are acceptable, just know: the shorter it is, the more attention you draw to yourself. The JV house has a washing machine, so you will have regular access to this, but your clothes will be line dried (the majority of Chilean families use the washing machine / line dry method). Bring durable and easy to wash clothing. Wrinkle-free is the best. The JV house does have an iron, but it will save you a lot of time!

- Jeans, shorts (casual)
- Athletic clothing (shorts, t-shirts, leggings)
- Tank tops, t-shirts
- LOTS of layers (short- and long-sleeve basics, thermals, under armour)
- Light sweaters / Hoodies / Sweatshirts
- Heavy / waterproof winter jacket
- Hat, scarf, gloves (and fingerless gloves)
- Warm pajamas (fleece sweatpants, long underwear, etc.)
- Durable, waterproof boots / hiking boots (hiking shoes acceptable at work)
- Tennis shoes / sneakers (for activities with youth)
- Nicer sneakers (acceptable at work)
- Flip-flops

- Durable sandals
- Swimsuit (bikini ok, tankini / one-piece preferred)
- LOTS of underwear and (wool) socks!
- * Slippers

WORK

People in Santiago are well dressed and workplaces have a somewhat formal atmosphere. For work, you are expected to dress semi-professionally. This simply means looking put together, dressing appropriately, and making sure your clothes aren't too wrinkled. Bring nicer, yet practical clothing for the workplace. Layers (short- and long-sleeves, wool sweaters) are a good idea for the fluctuating weather throughout the day. Shoes should be semi-professional, and comfortable enough to stand in all day (durable flats, sturdy sandals, etc., NO flip-flops).

Fe y Alegria and Hogar de Cristo: Women dress semi-professionally: nice jeans, slacks, blouses, sweaters, skirts, and appropriate dresses. Jeans are the most common. Skinny jeans that are not too tight are common and acceptable for work. Leggings are also acceptable for wearing under dresses or skirts, and can come in handy for the winter. Nothing should be very tight (especially for teaching in the high school). Make sure to bring clothing that is appropriate for retreats and camping trips (jeans, t-shirts, sweatshirts, and sneakers that you don't mind getting dirty).

Servicio Jesuita a Migrantes: Nice slacks, jeans or skirts are acceptable. Dress while working in the office is not extremely formal. The majority of Chileans wear jeans, but it's also important to have a nicer pair of pants for different occasions or personal preference. SJM also includes more work in terrain, and jeans are required for this. Blouses and sweaters are acceptable for both office and outside of office work.

MEN

- Slacks (khakis and nice jeans (dark wash, no rips), 2+ of each)
- Comfortable, durable dress shoes
- Dress socks (for spring / summer)
- Long-sleeve button ups (5+)
- Polos (5+)
- Sweaters (4+)
- Dark suit or sport coat with slacks, dress shirt, tie (for formal occasions)

WOMEN

- Nice jeans (dark wash, no rips)
- Slacks (1-2)
- Leggings
- Layers (short- and long-sleeves)
- Blouses / Button-ups (3+)
- Work appropriate skirts / dresses
- Sweaters (2+)
- A few sundresses or casual skirts (for summer)
- Nice dress, heels (1+, for special occasions)
- Open toed/dressy sandals (not flip flops, Birkenstocks, etc.)

TOILETRIES

The JVC house has a Chilean hair dryer, so it's not necessary to bring one with you. Many varieties of shampoo and conditioner are available in Santiago at affordable prices, but it's a good idea to at least bring enough toiletries to last the first few weeks. Lotion, deodorant, razors, face wash, makeup, lip balm, and tampons are available BUT more expensive and there's less variety.

- Travel-size toiletries (in reusable containers for later retreats and weekend travel!)
- Any specific toiletries that you will need
- Quick-dry towel
- Sun screen!! (very expensive here)

- * Contact lens solution (expensive, less prevalent – bring a supply, or switch to glasses?)
- * Makeup (Chilean women care about their personal hygiene/appearance. Makeup is a common standard of professionalism in the workplace, but makeup here is really expensive. If you foresee yourself wearing makeup, it may be helpful to bring a good supply with you.)
- * Tampons (expensive, not readily available – Stock up at Orientation! / Consider a menstrual cup?)
- * Pedicure bar (Santiago is rough on the feet)

MEDICINE

Water in all of Santiago is potable! Don't worry about filtering water or bringing water tablets. We have access to good clinics through GeoBlue, however if you take a specific medicine, it can sometimes be challenging to find its equivalent in Chilean pharmacies. If you're concerned about access to prescription medicine, try to converse with GeoBlue before arrival in-country.

- Prescription medicine (as much of a supply as you can)
- Basic medication (aspirin, cold medicine, and vitamins)
- * Bandages and Neosporin (expensive here)

ELECTRONICS

There is no need to bring an adapter as they are very cheap in Santiago and work for basic electronics such as hair straighteners and charging cameras, iPods, and computers. If you have appliances that use more voltage or are more fragile/expensive (such as electronic razors), you may want to bring a transformer (220 volt).

- Alarm clock / Watch
- Head lamp (for camping and/or power outages in Santiago)
- Extra batteries / rechargeable batteries (expensive here, hard to find exactly what you need)
- USB flash drive (1+, for work)
- Laptop (The majority of professional Chileans (aka our coworkers) have small netbooks, and some have larger laptops. It is almost a must for working in a school and SJM, and can be helpful if working in Hogar de Cristo or a parish (but not necessary). Keep this in mind when discerning bringing a laptop.)
- Small camera (common in Santiago, useful especially when working with youth, but not necessary)
- iPods (Not very common, as many Chileans use their cell phones to listen to music, however if you have an iPod or MP3 player you want to bring, just make sure you're cautious and intentional with its usage.)

MISCELLANEOUS

- Reusable water bottle (Nalgene, Hydroflask, etc.)
- Thermal sleeping bag, 30 or 40-degrees (Winters are VERY COLD – this is VERY important!)
- Sturdy backpack / messenger bag (for school / work, in good condition: no holes, sturdy zippers, inside pockets for secure storage during travel to/from work)
- * Long strapped purses that can be worn across the chest and in front of the body (more secure and practical)
- * Backpack / small duffel (for short school / work retreats and other trips)
- Sturdy umbrella
- Hat / Sunglasses
- Addresses of family / friends (Mail can be sent affordably—around \$1.50 for letter to U.S.)

- U.S. Stamps and envelopes (to send letters home with U.S. visitors)
- * Ziploc bags or Post-it notes (if you like using these, they're expensive in Santiago)
- * Pictures of friends and family!!
- * Any books you'd like to bring (We have a good collection, but there's room to grow!)

DON'T FORGET!

- PASSPORT and extra copies of any important documents
- Prescription medications