

# NORTHEAST OF SANTIAGO CENTRO

The neighborhoods northeast of Santiago Centro comprise residential areas built around a commercial center. Until the late 1950s, some of these were nothing more than parcelas, or country homes situated on large plots of land, interspersed with slums for Chile's poorer classes. Today, Barrio El Golf has towering condominiums.

glitzy skyscrapers and posh shops and restaurants; Barrio Bellavista, Santiago's bohemian quarter, sits at the foot of the recreational Parque Metropolitano; and in the north, Barrio Vitacura comprises leafy streets with 20th-century mansions mixed with

#### Sights at a Glance

Historic Buildings, Streets, and Neighborhoods

- Barrio Patronato
- Plaza Camilo Mori
- B Barrio Suecla
- Barrio El Golf Barrio Vitacura
- Pueblo Los Dominicos

#### Museums and Galleries

- Museo de Arte Decorativas Casa Museo La Chascona
- Museo de Tajamares
- Museo Ralli
- Museo de la Moda

#### Parks and Sanctuaries

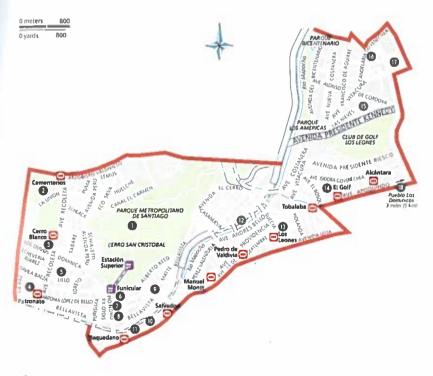
- Parque Metropolitano de Santiago 0088-9
- Parque Balmaceda
- Parque de las Esculturas

#### Sites of Interest

- 2 Cementerio General
- La Vega
- Patio Bellavista
- Casa de la Ciudadanía Montecarmelo



See also Street Finder maps 2, 3, 4 & 5



Statue of the Virgin atop Cerro San Cristobal, in Parque Metropolitano de Santiago.

For keys to symbols see back flags

# • Parque Metropolitano de Santiago

Covering some 3 sq miles (7 sq km) of vegetation-clad slopes. the Parque Metropolitano de Santiago was developed between 1903 and 1927 as the lungs of Santiago, encompassing the hills San Cristobal, Pirámide, Bosque, and Chacarillas, Previously bare and dry, the park was reforested with native plants and trees from across Chile and further developed with trails, picnic areas, swimming pools, a cultural center, and a cable car. It is now the city's recreational center and home to the Zoológico Nacional, and offers sweeping views of Santiago and the Andes.



★ Funicular

This 1925 funicular takes visitors to the top of Cerro San Cristobal and past the park's zoo.



\* Statue of the Virgin

This 45-ft (14-m) high statue was donated by France and erected in 1904. It can be seen from most of Santiago Centro.



Jardín Japonés

Inaugurated in 1997 by Prince Hitachi of Japan, the Japanese Garden features a lotus pond and water wheel. Filled with cherry trees and Japanese maples, this is a tranquil getaway from the bustle and noise.



Open 10am-6pm daily (summer: to 9pm). 🔠 🗷 🖽 🕮 Piscina Antilén: Closed Tue. Piscina Tupahue: Closed Mon. Zoológico Nacional: Entrançe from Pio Nono funicular. Open 10am-7pm daily (from 1pm Mor, to 5pm in winter). 🐴 w parquemet.cl

Transport

Baquedano.



★ Zoológico Nacional

Located on a slope with the metropolis as its stunning backdrop, the national zoo houses some 1,000 animals including native species such as condors, pumas. pudus, and llamas.



Enoteca Wine Museum

Housed in the Camino Real restaurant, this museum is a good spot for sampling some of Chile's best vintages.

#### **KEY**

The Pio Nono entrance, leading directly to the Estación Funicular.

forms part of the Plaza Caupolicán garden, with its medieval-style façade and souvenir stands.

- ② Cerro San Cristobal
- 3 Estación Cumbre
- Casa de la Cultura Anahuac
- Stación Tupahue
- O Piscina Tupahue is one of the most popular pools in the capital.
- The Jardin Mapulemu covers over 8 acres (3 ha) of diverse Chilean flora, with interpretative information.
- Estación Oasis
- The alternative entrance to the park, from Pedro de Valdivia Norte, has two-way traffic open to ascending and descending vehicles. This is also the exit point for all vehicles.



Piscina Antilén Offering beautiful views of the

city, this is Santiago's highest swimming pool and a great respite from the summer heat,



For hotels and restaurants in this area see pp276-7 and pp291-2



Tombstones at Santiago's famous Cementerio General

# Cementerio General

Avenida Alberto Zañartu 951. City Map 3 A1. Tel (02) 2637-7800. Cementerios. Open 8:30am-6pm daily. C w cementerlogeneral.cl

Santiago's principal cemetery is the final resting place for many of the country's historical figures. Most of the nation's past presidents are buried here, including Salvador Allende, whose remains were moved to this site from Viña del Mar (see pp132-3) in 1990. The cemetery opened in 1821 and was inaugurated by Chile's first president, Bernardo O'Higgins, who now rests in a crypt at Plaza Bulnes (see p69). The area was designed as a "city" for the dead, with tree-lined streets and elaborate mausoleums. These run the gamut of styles from Gothic to Egyptian to Greek, and the cemetery's aesthetic appeal is Egyptian influence on a tomb an integral part of at Cementerio General

its attraction. Among those buried here are legendary folk singer Violeta Parra, former Senator and leftist Orlando Letelier, who was murdered in Washington, D.C.; noted poet and singer Victor Jara; and more recently, the Communist Party leader Gladys Marin, There is also a somber monument to the dictatorship era (see p52), a mural by sculptor Francisco Gazitua called Rostros (Faces) that lists thousands of Chileans who were executed. On the west side of the cemetery is the Dissenters' Patio, a burial

sector for the city's Protestants, who had been moved from their earlier burial site at Cerro Santa Lucía in the late 1800s.

# Museo de Artes Decorativas

Avenida Recoleta 683. City Map 3 A2. Tel (02) 2737-5813. Cerro Blanco. Open 10am-5:30pm Tue-Fri. 10:30am=2pm Sat & Sun. 🗂 ₩ artdec.cl

In 1982, the very valuable Coleccion Garcés was donated to the Chilean government and established as the Museo de Artes Decorativas. The museum was moved in 2005 to the old convent of the Centro Patrimonial Recoleta Dominica. The pieces here (more than 2,500) are divided into 20 thematic displays and include beautiful examples

of 18th- and 19th-century porcelain, crystal glasses and vases.

ornate silverwork, marble and ceramic objects, jewelry, and Greek, Roman, and Oriental art.

The center houses two other collections of interest. The Museo Historico Dominico displays 18th- and 19th-century religious objects such as sacred goblets and priests' clothing. The Biblioteca Patrimonial Recoleta Dominica is one of the largest private libraries in Latin America with 115,000 historically important books, maps, and investigative papers covering science and religion,

## O La Vega

Dávila Baeza 700, City Map 2 F1 Cally Canto, Patronato. 🕢 📳 ₩ lavega.cl

Located just across Mercado Central, La Vega is Santiago's principal fruit and vegetable market and a must-see for foodies. Amid its chaos of crates and stalls, and the buying and negotiating, La Vega offers an earthy and colorful experience. The market occupies a purposebuilt structure covering several city blocks and is surrounded by 100 or more vendors selling everything from sandals to electronics and pet food. At the center of La Vega are the food stalls that sell typical and inexpensive meals such as chicken soup cazuela. This is an ideal place to look out for local fruits such as chirimova (a custard apple), pimienta dulce (sweet pepper), which tastes like melon. tuna cactus fruit, and lucuma, a butterscotch-flavored fruit used in desserts such as ice cream.

### Barrio Patronato

Between Loreto, Bellavista, Dominica and Recoleta streets. City Map 3 A3. Patronato. Shops open 10am-7:30pm Mon-Frl. 9:30am-5:30pm Sat. w tiendaspatronato.cl

Occupying over a dozen blocks, Barrio Patronato is a bustling shopping area dominated by clothing stores and small eateries operated in large part by immigrants from Korea. China and the Middle East During the Colonial period, the



Stores and shoppers along a busy lane in Barrio Patronato

harrio was a poor residential neighborhood. It was then called La Chimba, which means Other Side of the River. The area continues to be populated by the working class and many of the neighborhood's original adobe houses still stand.

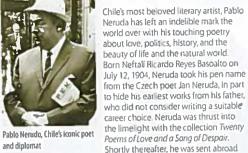
During the late 19th century, Arab immigrants from Syria, Lebanon, and especially Palestine settled in the Patronato neighborhood. They established the city's principal textile commercial center here, selling imported clothing and fabrics, as there was little national production of textiles at the time. Today, Patronato heaves with more than 10,000 shoppers per day, who pack the streets searching for T-shirts, shoes, ball gowns, suits, and trendy clothing at dirtcheap prices.

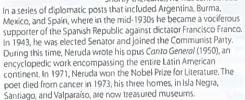
# Casa Museo La Chascona

Fernando Márquez de la Plata 192. City Map 3 B3. Tel (02) 2777-8741. Baquedano. Open 10am-6pm lue-Sun. 🚱 🕮 🛄 🖺 ₩ fundacionneruda.org

Built in 1953 on a steep slope of Cerro San Cristobal in the Bellavista neighborhood, the entrancing Museo La Chascona is one of 20th-century poet Pablo Neruda's three homes. The home was named La Chascona (Woman with Unruly Hair) for Matilde Urrutia, Neruda's secret mistress who lived here alone for a year; Neruda eventually married her in 1966. The house's original blueprints were drafted by Catalan architect Germán Rodríguez, However, Neruda eschewed many of his designs and standard models of homebuilding. Instead, he used a deeply personal and notably whimsical design of intimate living areas connected by a labyrinth of winding staircases, passageways, and secret doors. His love of the sea is evident in La Chascona's maritimeinfluenced architectural details such as porthole windows, cozy spaces with creaking floors and

# Pablo Neruda





arched ceilings, and a dining area that was once fronted by a stream to give the illusion of sailing while dining. The interiors exhibit Neruda's vast collection of art and artifacts, bought during his travels around the world.

and diplomat

Neruda was both a friend of former president Salvador Allende and a Decorative cross at La Chascona Communist. After the Pinnchet led coup of 1973, military vandals damaged and flooded the house, and the poet's funeral took place only with great difficulty. The Fundación Pablo Neruda, which operates La Chascona and the poet's two other residences, later

restored La Chascona to its original state. It now contains household items and decorative pieces rescued from the

Santlago house, as well as furniture and personal objects from Neruda's office in France, where he was ambassador between 1970 and 1973.

Neruda's library holds his Nobel prize medal along with letters,

photographs, books, and other publications. It is possible to visit the house with an audio-guided tour on a first-come, first-served basis. While waiting for your turn, the museum calé offers a pleasant area in which to relax.



The quaint, almost lyrical grace of the garden at Casa Museo La Chascona

For hotels and restaurants in this area see pp276-7 and pp291-2

Castillo Lehuedé overlooking Plaza Camilo Mori

## Plaza Camilo Mori

Constitución, esq. Antonía López de Bello, City Map 3 B3. @ Baquedano. **⊿ □ 6** 

Located in the heart of the bohemian neighborhood of Bellavista, Plaza Camilo Mori is named for the well-known Chilean painter whose house and studio stood here. The triangular plaza is dominated by the Castillo Lehuedé, a striking mansion popularly known as the Casa Rosa (Red. House) that is now a boutique hotel. This beautiful stone edifice was built in 1923 by architect Federico Bieregel for entrepreneur Pedro Lehuedé. The plaza is also home to trendy boutiques and restaurants as well as the Centro Mori, which hasts offbeat theater performances.

# Patio Bellavista

Constitución 30, City Map 3 84, Tel (02) 2249-8700. @ Baquedano. Open 10am-10pm daily. 🛮 🛄 🎦 w patlobellavista.cl

Inaugurated in 2006 as an urban renewal project, Patio Bellavista is a large collection of shops and restaurants that are spread around an interior square. This central plaza was originally a cité, a housing

facility for the working class in the 19th century, Today. well restored. Patio Bellavista features over 80 stores selling high-end artesania. or crafts, around two dozen restaurants and bars, book stores, art galleries, jewelry shops, as well as the boutique Hotel del Patio.

There are a number of outdoor cafés, which are popular with both locals and visitors. Patio Bellavista also hosts a variety of open-air cultural programs that include dance performances, live music shows, as well as exhibitions of paintings and photography.

# O Casa de la Ciudadanía Montecarmelo

Bellavista 0594. City Map 3 C3, Tel (02) 2820-2900. Salvador. Open 9:30am-1:30pm & 3:30-5:30pm Mon-Fri. 27 for events. W providencia.cl

Barrio Bellavista's primary cultural center, the Casa de la Ciudadania Montecarmelo is located in the building of the former Montecarmelo Convent, which in the late 19th century belonged to the nuns of Carmelitas de Santa Teresa. The order was known for its humility, and its members were referred to as descalzos (barefoot). Today, operated by the Corporación Cultural de Providencia, the beautifully renovated center conducts workshops and classes in photography, art, music, and dance. It has a yearround calendar of concerts.

cinematic events, and theater productions that take place on an outdoor stage, surrounded by the picturesque brick walls of the old convent, Montecarmelo also provides a place for Chilean authors to showcase new works of fiction and poetry.



Stark front facade of the Café Literario at Parque Balmaceda

# **O** Parque Balmaceda

Avenida Providencia, between Baquedano and Del Azzobispo. City Map 3 C4. E Baquedano. Salvador, 📮

Built in 1927 following the canalization of Río Mapocho. Parque Balmaceda is named for José Manuel Balmaceda, Chile's erstwhile president and a central figure in the country's short-lived Civil War of 1891 (see p49). A statue commemorating this national hero stands at the western end of the park.



The colorful offerings of a gift shop at Patio Bellavista



Sculptures by Chilean artist Federico Assler Browne, Parque de las Esculturas

Parque Balmaceda's central attraction is the relatively new Fuente Bicentenario, a fountain which lights up at night in a rainbow of colors. At the foot of the fountain is the Monumento de Aviación, an abstract sculpture installed during the Pinochet dictatorship.

The Café Literario, located at the center of the park, is well stocked with newspapers and books. An enjoyable place for a stroll. Balmaceda attracts locals from the Providencia and Bellavista neighborhoods, and from downtown Santiago.

# Museo de **Taiamares**

Avenida Providencia 222. City Map 3 C4. Tel (02) 2223-2700. Baquedano. Closed for restoration; phone for details.

Santiago's talamares were a complex series of underground dikes and brick walls that held back Río Mapocho during the 18th century. The mortar used for their construction was a mixture of egg white, limestone, and sand called caly canto. Designed by master architect Joaquin Toesca, these prevented Santiago from flooding for many decades until the modern canal system was developed in the late 19th century.

A part of the city's old taiamares was rediscovered during excavations in the Providencia neighborhood in the late 1970s. The Museo de

which is dotted with some 30 valuable sculptures by contemporary Chilean artists, including Pachamama by Marta Olvin, La Pareja by Juan Egneau, and Conjunto Escultorico by Federico Assler The park also offers views of the snowcapped Andes. Avenida Suecia, esc. Avenida Tajamares, created in 1980.

# Barrio Suecia

architect Germán Bannen with

funds from the Corporación

meander through the area,

Cultural de Providencia.

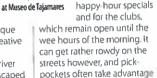
Serene walking paths

Providencia. City Map 4 F2. Los Leones. 🗸 📮 🖺

A micro-neighborhood, Barrio Suecia is packed with restaurants and bars that exude a North American flavor both in their design and cuisine. The area is dominated by bold and colorful facades.

During Its heyday, Barrio Suecia was the city's most popular spot for nightlife. How-

ever, focus has now moved elsewhere to areas such as Bellavista, Despite this, young travelers, expatriates, and office workers flock to the Part of the preserved wall neighborhood for happy-hour specials



of drunken revelers.

# **10** Parque de las Esculturas Avenida Santa Maria 2205.

features well-preserved

The museum suffered considerable damage during

until further notice.

examples of these archaic

the 2010 earthquake and

remains closed for renovations

thick walls and arched dikes.

hetween Avenue Pedro de Valdivia and Padre Letelier. City Map 4 E2. Tel (02) 2335-1832. 🗪 Los Leones.

i aid out after a massive flooding of Río Mapocho in 1982, Parque de las Esculturas was a creative response to the need to reinforce this area of the river shore. The park was landscaped between 1986 and 1988 by



Busy outdoor café in the micro-neighborhood of Barrio Suecia

### Barrio El Golf

Ave. El Bosnue & Ave. Isidora Goyenechea, City Map 5 B4 ⊕ El Golf Ø □ @

Often referred to as Sanhattan for its glitzy skyscrapers and North American feel, Barrio El Golf, a micro-neighborhood, is the city's most modern area and home to many major corporations and embassies. The avenues Isidora Goyenechea and El Bosotte comprise the heart of the barrio. and are characterized by an abundance of restaurants and several five star hotels. Little of the neighborhood's residential past can be seen, and most of the former mansions and large homes that remain are now upscale eateries. The Gran Torre Santiago here is the tallest building in Chile - and in South America - at 984 ft (300 m) high. It was designed by Argentine architect César Pelli (of Petronas Towers fame) and can be seen from almost every point in the city. The tower is part of the Costanera Center complex, which includes a mall. cinema, and restaurants. It can be found on Avenida Andres Bello, between Nueva Tajamar and Los Leones, and reached by the Tobalaba metro.

# Barrio Vitacura

City Map 5 82. 2 🔲 🦳 vitacura.cl

Named for the Mapuche chief Butacura (Big Rock) who lived here with his clan at the time of the conquistadores' arrival, Barrio Vitacura was expropriated in the mid-1500s as an



Tiramisu restaurant and café on Avenida Isidora Goyen echea, Barrio El Golf

asentamiento - Spanish settlements on indigenous land developed into haciendas.

Vitacura lies in the north of the city under the shadow of Cerro Manquehue (Place of the Condors), which is a popular day hike. Today, Vitacura is the residential neighborhood of the affluent, the politicians, and the aristocracy. It is characterized by towering condominiums, Modernist homes, lush parks, and upscale stores and restaurants. The neighborhood is centered around Avenida Alonso de Córdova and Avenida Nueva Costanera. These two tree lined streets are populated with luxury goods stores, from Louis Vuitton to Longchamp, and exclusive Chilean and Argentine clothing and interior design stores. More recently, Avenida Nueva Costanera has become the focal point for Santiago's thriving gourmet restaurant scene, with posh eatenes such as Tierra Noble. La Mar, and OX (see p291-2).

The borough's sparkling new municipality building is part of a colossal urban renewal project that also includes Parque Bicentenario, a grassy expanse with lagoons and trails that has renovated the banks of Rio

Mapocho. This park is the staging center for outdoor festivals, especially wine galas and artisan fairs. An important institution here is the headquarters of CEPAL, the Spanish acronym for the United Nation's Economic Commission for Latin America, which is housed in an architectural landmark designed in the 1960s by Chilean architect Emilio Duhart (1917-2006).

Barrio Vitacura is Santiago's epicenter of high-brow art galleries, boasting more than two dozen venues whose exhibitions highlight Chile's finest artists. Housed in slick, Minimalist-style buildings with bookstores and fashionable cafés, the galleries are inconstant motion, hosting exhibitions that provide a space for established and fresh talent. The best-known is Galería Animal (see p99), the city's first cutting edge gallery that

launched the idea of presenting art in grand, airy spaces to give the works a more dramatic punch and draw a larger crowd. Galería Animal a so offers an extensive range of Chilean art for sale, and frequently rotates its temporary exhibits. In 2008, several heavyweight galleries



Nativity scene on a hill in the Bicentennial Park, Barrio Vitacura

For hotels and restaurants in this area see pp276-7 and pp291-2

opened to the public, including the transnational Mariborough Chile, Isabel Aninat (known especially for new talent), Arte Espacio, and Patricia Ready. The Patricia Ready gallery hosts temporary art shows featuring top artists such as Carlos Capelan and Bruna Ruffa, and its inaugurations draw Santiago's elite society.

# **6** Museo Ralli

Almiso de Sotomayor 4110. City Map 5 ( ) Tel (02) 2206-4224 Open : blam-5pm Tue-5un (Jan: 5at & Sun Only Closed feb. W museoralli.cl

one of the lesser-known museums in Santiago, the Museo Ralli boasts a small, yet impressive collection of Latin American and European art that includes a handful of works by Salvador Dalí, Marc Chagall, and loan Miró. This transnational museum - there are other branches in Spain, Uruguay, and Israel - was founded in 1992 by Harry Recanati, an art collector and retired banker who shuns any profit from it. The museum Is spread across 32,290 sq ft (3.000 sq m), and is located on a tranquil residential street, where it occasionally hosts temporary exhibits by contemporary European and Latin American artists.

# Museo de la Moda

Avenida Vitacura 4562, City Map 5 C1 Tel (02) 2219-3623 Open 10am-6pm iue-Sun. 🚰 😈 🚾 museodela moda.cl

Built to honor a family legacy and love of fashion, the Museo de la Moda was established in 2007 by Juan Yarur, who converted his parents' Modernist home into one of the most important fashion museums in the world. Yarur, the grandson of a textile and banking modul, scoured the globe for a decade in order to compile a nearly encyclopedic collection of more than 8,000 pieces of clothing. These range from the 18th



Modern glass exterior of the Patricia Ready art gallery, Barrio Vitacura

century to modern day, from classic couture gowns by Chanel and Lanvin to modern frocks by Gaultier and Hollywood memorabilia such as Joan Collins'wardrobe from the 1980s TV series Dynasty, Madonna's cone bra and pieces owned by Marilyn Monroe also make an occasional appearance. The utterly stylish and low litmuseum rotates its collections iri themes such as "Rock and-Roll" and "War and Love", with a special wing devoted to tennis, Yarur's sport of choice The museum is also a tour through his family home, preserved as it was in the 1960s and 1970s, with a special interpretive area dedicated to his lineage and place in Chilean history Many tems on display are immaculately preserved clothing and accessories once owned by Yarur's mother, Raquel Bascuñán. There is also a restaurant, the Garage, occupying, of course, the family's former garage.



Dresses from the War and Love exhibition Museo de la Moda

# Pueblo Los **Dominicos**

Apaguindo 9085, @ Los Dominicos. Open 10am-8pm daily 🖉 💷 🛅 ₩ culturallascondes.cl

One of Santiago's best and most enticing shopping areas for local arts and crafts, the Pueblo Los Dominicos is a rustic complex housed within the former grounds of the neighboring Iglesia Los Dominicos. In 1982, the pueblo was expanded and landscaped to resemble a Chilean Colonial village with whitewashed, low-slung adobe buildings that evoke a bygone era. The area was originally a Mapuche settlement headed by chief Apoquindo, whose name was given to the grand avenue that ends here.

Today, the pueblo offers 160 small shops to independent artisans for selling wares such as ceramics, leather goods, jewelry. folk art, stained glass, furniture, textiles, clothing, and even animals such as rabbits and birds. Part of the appeal here is that the shops double as workshops, giving visitors a glimpse of the artistic process and an opportunity to interact with the artisans.

The ambience is truly idvllic. enhanced by trickling creeks and the sound of flute music wafting through the village, Saturday and Sunday are the best days to come here, when the Iglesia Los Dominicos holds mass. The church is featured on the Chilean 2,000 peso bill and is a historical monument that provided shelter to revolutionaries during the nation's battle for independence in the 1810s.

# GETTING AROUND SANTIAGO

Chile's dynamic capital city is well-connected by an efficient public transport system. Its outstanding metro service is the easiest and cheapest way to access the city's main attractions. Most of the capital's primary sights and services are located in or around central Santiago, which is served by metro lines 1 to 5. However, the metro tends to get crowded during rush hour, when it becomes

preferable to use one of the numerous, reasonably inexpensive taxis, radio taxis, and colectivos (route taxis). Santiago's bus service was overhauled in 2007, when its old buses were replaced with smart, environmentally friendly vehicles. For the most part, short-term visitors will find the bus system less useful than the metro and, late at night, taxis are the better alternative.



A metro shuttle through scenic Santiago

#### The Metro and Rail Network

The immaculate Metro de Santiago is mostly an underground system that covers nearly the entire city and many of its suburbs. Regarded as the most contemporary and extensive metro network in South America, it offers an efficient, fast, and inexpensive way to get around the capital. The network has a total of four lines, but the central Linea 1 and, to a lesser degree, the intersecting Linea 5 are the most useful for visitors. Strangely, there is no Linea 3.

The metro operates from 5:35am to 12:08am on all weekdays. On Saturdays, it starts operating at 6:30am and stops at 12:08am; on Sundays and all holidays, it runs from 8am to 11:48pm. Fares vary according to the time of day, with morning and evening rush hours being slightly more expensive, individual tickets

#### Buses

are available, although

rechargeable Multivía or

Bip! tickets are cheaper

avoid standing in long

tickets are bought for

about US\$2.50 and then

charged to the required.

deducted each time the

card is used. These can

passengers, by passing

them back and forth

across the turnstile.

The metro carriages

Passengers should stay vigilant

about their possessions, as pick-

pocketing incidents in packed

metro cars are not uncommon.

Starting at the Estación

Central, a reasonably efficient

rail system reaches Rancagua

(see p146) and San Fernando

(see p150). This rail network is

under the aggis of Empresa

de Ferrocarriles del Estado.

southbound overland commuter

are modern, but have a

limited seating capacity,

a so be used by multiple

and an easy way to

queues, Multi-trip

limit, an amount is

Transantiago is an ambitious attempt by Chile to eliminate the proliferation of poorly maintained, diesel-quzzling, private buses. The revamped bus system, introduced in 2007. aimed to consolidate routes and replace the capital's worst polluters with larger, more comfortable buses. Passengers do not pay in cash, but use Bip! cards, which are also valid on the metro. When metro lines cease operations at night. Transantiago buses ply alongside the main metro routes.

#### Driving

Driving is mainly useful when leaving the city for excursions. Santiago's narrow streets mean congestion and slow travel times, and parking can be difficult. It is possible to hire vehicles at international car rental companies including Hertz and Budget

Chile follows strict driving laws seat belts are compulsory,



The eco-friendly green-and-white Transantiago buses



A commonly found black-and-yellow Santiago taxi

dratk driving is a serious offence, and drivers must not converse on cell phones.

# Taxis, Radio Taxis, and Colectivos

The capital has a number of metered yellow-and black taxis. Fares are reasonable, but passengers are charged more during the night. Taxi drivers are generally courteous and helpful, but some may take indirect routes to hike up the fare. A system of unmarked radio taxis, generally newer vehicles, also operates in Santiago. These do not have meters but tharge customers per trip.

Colectivos are shared taxis that accommodate up to four passengers. These black taxis run on fixed prices and routes, and a placard on their roofs displays the destination.

#### Walking

Central Santiago, with several multi-block pedestrian malls, can be easily explored on foot, Parks such as Cerro Santa Lucía and the Parque Metropolitano, across the Río Mapocho, are also great for walkers. Neighborhoods such as Las Condes and Providencia are walkable. but in some parts of the city. the sidewalks need repair and have few wheelchair ramps at corners. Drivers in Santiago generally respect pedestrians, but walkers need to be careful crossing. the multi-lane Alameda.

#### Cycling

Many locals get around on bicycles, but it is better to avoid major avenues such as the Alameda and Avenida Vicuña Mackenna The streets are often bumpy and there are many potholes, but new bicycle lanes and routes are being introduced.

#### DIRECTORY

#### The Metro and Rail Network

#### Empresa de Ferrocarriles del Estado (EFE)

Alameda Bernardo O'Higgins 3170, Estación Central.

### Tel (02) 2585 5050. 💟 efe.cl Metro de Santiago

Tel 600 600 6292.

metrosantiago.cl

#### **Buses**

#### Transantiago

Tel 800 730 073.

transantiago.cl

#### **Driving**

#### Budget

Luz 2934, Las Condes, **Tel** (02) 2795-3928. **W budget.cl** 

#### Hertz

Andres Bello 1469, Providencia.

Tel (02) 2360-8618. W hertz.cl



# SANTIAGO STREET FINDER

The map given below shows the different areas of Santiago covered by the Street Finder maps - Plaza de Armas and Santiago Centro; West of Santiago Centro; and Northeast of Santiago Centro. The map references given in the Santiago section of the guide for sites of interest, historic attractions, shopping areas, and entertainment venues refer to the maps on the following pages. Map references

are also provided for Santiago hotels (see pp276-7) and restaurants (see pp290-92). The first figure in the map reference indicates which Street Finder map to turn to, and the letter and number that follow refer to the map's grid. There is also an index of street names on page 113. The symbols used to represent sights and useful information on the Street Finder maps are listed in the key below.



AVENIDA ALONSO DE CORDOVA

AVENDO A A DONNANO

Vehicles parked near an equestrian statue, adjacent to Avenida Libertador Bernardo O'Higgins



The tree-shaded Plaza Caupolicán on Cerro Santa Lucia (see p74)



Northeast of

ntiago Centro

#### Key

Major sight

Other sight

Other building

Railroad station

Metro de Santiago

Bus station

Funicular

Visitor information

- Hospital

Police

Church

Expressway

Pedestrian street

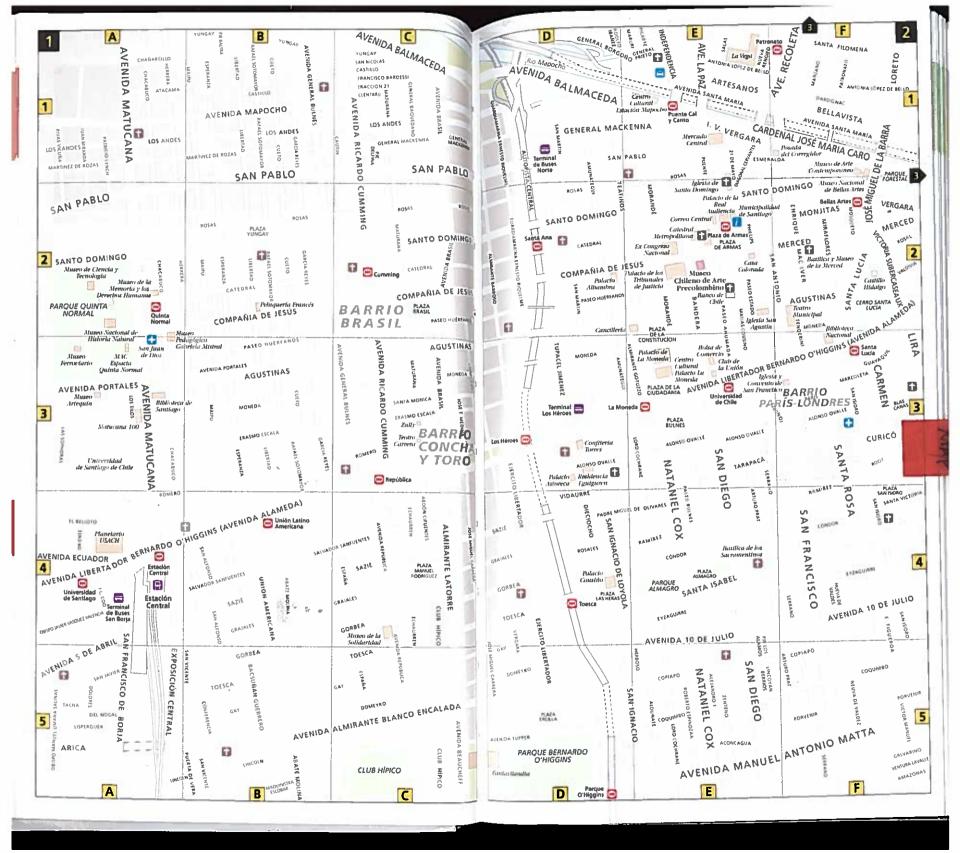
Scale of Maps 1-5

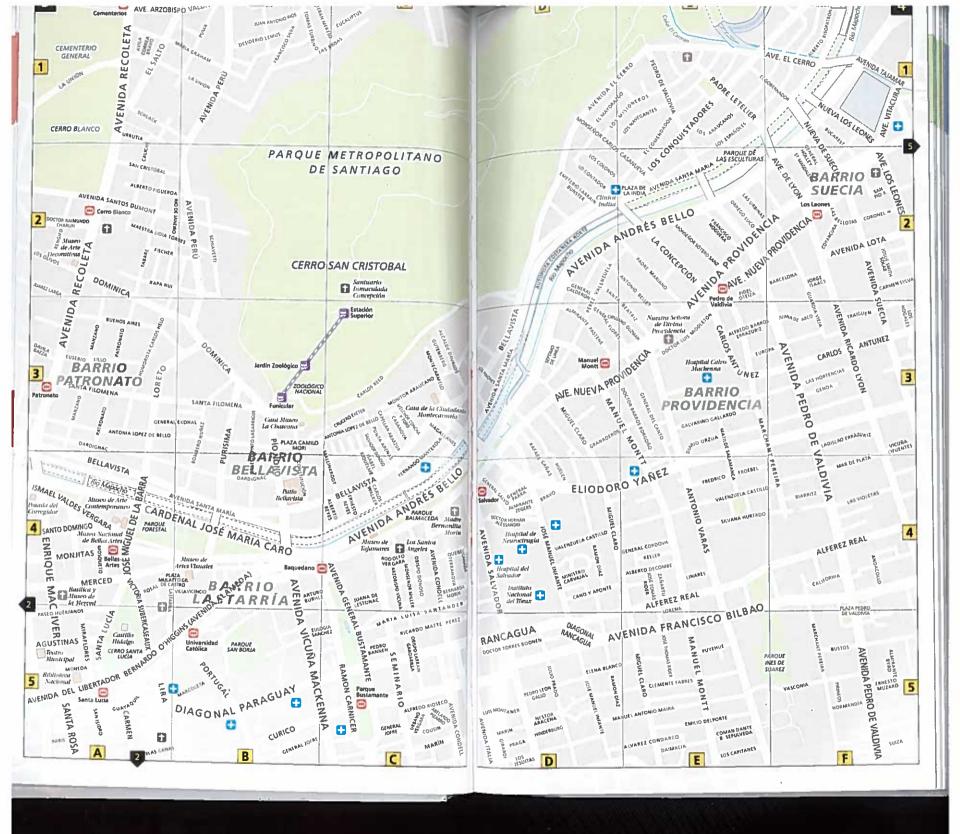
0 meters 0 yards

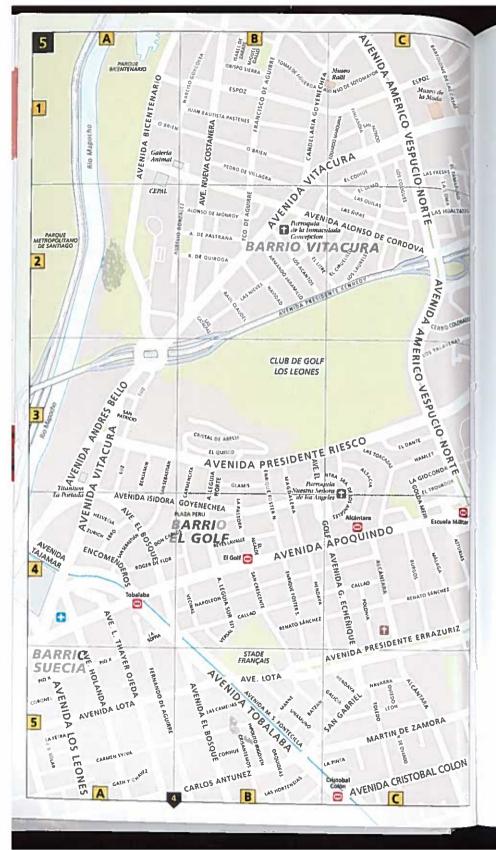




A green street sign outside a restaurant in Barrio Suecia (see p93)







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