



La Isla de Pascua.

Chile

Mainland Chile is located along the western coast of South America between the Andes Mountains and the Pacific Ocean. The country also has many interesting islands, including the *Juan Fernández Islands*, where Robinson Crusoe lived for four years, and Easter Island (*Isla de Pascua*), an island with a mysterious past which is inhabited by people of Polynesian ancestry. Most Chileans live in urban areas, like the capital, Santiago. The



Los rascacielos de Santiago.

La región de los lagos (southern lakes region), Chile.



population is well educated and the country has a strong literary tradition: Chileans are very proud of their two Nobel Prize-winning poets, Gabriela Mistral and Pablo Neruda. Since much of Chile's population has European origins, it is not uncommon to encounter people of Italian, English, German, Irish or Polish ancestry, or to see street signs with names that are obviously not of Spanish origin. Indeed, the southern city of Puerto Montt was for many years a German colony and the liberator and first ruler of Chile was Bernardo O'Higgins.

When you visit, you will discover that Chile is a country of magnificent contrasts offering everything, from large cosmopolitan cities with the latest in modern-day conveniences and skyscrapers (*rascacielos*) that reach to the sky to the beautiful rustic countryside of the southern lakes region. Just a short distance away from cosmopolitan Santiago, ski resorts like Portillo or Farellones in the Andes Mountains and resort beaches near Viña del Mar offer an escape from the pressures of modern life.

6 Chile

Contesta las siguientes preguntas sobre Chile.

1. ¿Está Chile en América del Sur o en América del Norte?
2. ¿Qué montañas están en Chile?
3. ¿Qué océano está al oeste de Chile?
4. ¿En qué isla vive gente de ancestro polinesio?
5. ¿Cuál es la capital del país?
6. ¿Quién es una persona famosa de Chile?
7. ¿Adónde puede uno ir a esquiar? ¿Y a nadar en la playa?

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____
- 6) _____
- 7) _____