

CHILE WELCOMED 1.1% FEWER TOURISTS



Since January to August of this year Chile received 2.35 million foreign tourists, which is 1.1% fewer than during the same period in 2012.

The Assistant Secretary of Tourism, Daniel Pardo, said that although in the first semester Chile recorded a slight decrease in the arrivals of international tourists it is still a very good result. **For the second consecutive year, the country managed to attract more than 2.3 million foreign visitors**, which is the highest number for the last six years. According to Pardo, the amount of arrivals surpassed those of 2008 by more than 40%.

“The greatest number of tourists comes to the country through Santiago International Airport. Approximately 4 out of 10 visitors go through the airport, recording an increase close to 20,000 arrivals in the January-August period (+2.2%)”.

The decrease in the number of tourists during July-August 2013 was caused by the drop in arrivals of Peruvian (-12%), Brazilian (-7%), American (-5%) as well as Argentinian (-3.1%) tourists. However, Pardo highlighted the number of Bolivians (+7.4%) and Colombians (+6.5%), **while the European tourist arrivals increased by about 3%, influenced greatly by the massive arrivals of Spanish (+8.1) and French (+5.5%) visitors.**

The downfall in arrivals to Chile contrasts with the significant increase of tourism numbers in the neighboring countries, such as Peru with 11% more visitors, Colombia, Paraguay, Bolivia and Ecuador, all with grow rates over 5%.

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