

Dreaming of Snow in Summer? Visit Chile



Do you love to ski? Well, here is some good news for you: South America is a heaven for people who don't like to part with snow. Although the big skiing season starts in mid June and lasts until the end of October, in some areas of Chile there is snow all year around. Also, compared to the U.S. and Europe, spending your skiing holiday here is cheaper.

Local ski areas are fairly manageable; nearly two thirds of ski slopes are suitable for intermediate skiers and snowboarders. The travelers are well taken care of, from the moment they arrive at any of the local airports to the minute they put on their ski and enjoy the charms of the Andes.

Mountains vary considerably from the North to the South of Chile. Central Chile counts for the highest and best equipped area. Even snow is lighter here. There are three major ski resorts in Central Chile: Portillo, Valle Nevada and Termas de Chillan. Portillo is very popular as it offers approximately 500 hectares of suitable terrain, and lures many ski enthusiasts not only with well kept ski slopes, but also with the adventurous helicopter skiing and off-piste skiing at 4 300m!

Towards the South, the Andes lose height. However, the pleasure of cross-country and downhill skiing doesn't lose any of its quality.

Probably the most appreciated aspect of spending your holiday in the Andes is the fact that the area is not swarming with tourists. The capacities of the hotels are limited and the number of skiers hardly ever exceeds a thousand...compare that to some of Quebec's ski resorts where the lift has a capacity of 60,000 per hour! If you are not experienced or take your children with you, don't worry. The resorts offer quality training for all age groups, as well as other relaxing activities.

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