

Rail services enable travellers to complete the journey from Santiago to Valparaiso in three hours, to Concepción in seven hours and to Puerto Montt in 18 hours. Cars can also be rented and international drivers' licences are accepted.

## Hotels

The three best hotels in Santiago are the Crowne Plaza Holiday Inn, the Carrera and the Sheraton. The first two are close to the Embassy and to most business appointments. The Sheraton is about 3 km from the downtown area. If reservations are made through the Canadian Embassy, a substantial discount is available.

## Customs Regulations

The following items are allowed in free of duty: 500 cigarettes, 100 cigars, 500 grams of tobacco, 3 bottles of liquor, camera, and all articles for personal use. Fruit, vegetables, flowers and milk products may not be imported.

## Health and Personal Security

The general level of community health is good in Santiago. There is an efficient sewage and garbage disposal system and no unusual pest or vermin problems exist. Foods and beverages are generally safe. Caution and discretion should be exercised in the selection of restaurants and in eating raw fruits and vegetables. Bottled mineral water is suggested even if tap water is safe to drink. There are no personal security problems but as in all major cities, one should avoid certain areas especially at night; night strolls are not recommended unless in a group.

## Business Calls and Entertainment

A confirmed business call is generally respected. Appointments should be made in advance through the Embassy or local representative. There are many good restaurants in Santiago but visitors should remember that operating hours are later than in Canada. Lunch is normally taken between 1:00 p.m.