VISA WAIVER PROGRAM
Program Overview

The Visa Waiver Program (VWP) allows nationals of designated member participants to travel to the United States for tourism or business (B visa category) purposes for up to 90 days without obtaining a visa. On February 28, 2014, Chile was designated as a member of the Visa Waiver Program. Beginning May 1, 2014, Chilean nationals may travel to the United States under the program. The VWP facilitates international trade and tourism and will be another sign of the United States and Chile's shared interest in improving travel security and expanding economic and cultural ties.

Under the VWP, Chilean citizens, like citizens of the other 37 participants, can travel to the United States for visitor or business purposes for 90 days or less. If traveling to the United States for any other reason, or for stays of more than 90 days, Chilean nationals will need to apply for the appropriate U.S. visa before traveling. Examples of purposes of travel not permitted on the VWP include, but are not limited to: studying for academic credit, employment, work as a foreign press or other information media representative, or permanent residence in the United States.

Chileans must use an e-passport (issued in Chile since September 2013) to travel under the VWP. Chilean citizens who do not have an e-passport will continue to require a visa to travel to the United States until they obtain an e-passport issued by the Government of Chile.

The VWP does not "waive" any requirements for entry into the United States. All VWP travelers are required to obtain a valid Electronic System Travel Authorization (ESTA) prior to boarding a U.S. bound air or sea carrier. ESTA is a Department of Homeland Security automated web-based system that determines an applicant's eligibility to travel visa-free to the United States under the VWP. An ESTA authorization does not determine whether a traveler is admissible to the United States. U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers determine admissibility upon a traveler's arrival at the U.S. port of entry. Travelers should be aware that by requesting admission under the VWP, they are generally waiving their right to review or appeal a CBP officer's decision as to their application for admission at the port of entry.

Travelers who are not able to obtain an ESTA approval must apply for a visa at a U.S. embassy or consulate.

Chileans in possession of a valid U.S. visa may travel to the United States on that visa for the purpose it was issued. Chilean nationals traveling on valid U.S. visas are not required to apply for an ESTA approval. For further information on ESTA or to apply for an ESTA approval, please visit www.cbp.gov/esta