

General FAQs

ARCS-USA El Colorado, Chile Camp FAQ's:

(Last updated: 20 Feb 2017)

Below is a list of general FAQs (frequently asked questions) collected over the last several years and should address most of your questions. If you have a specific question you'd like answered but cannot find it in the below list, please email it to info@arcsusa.com. An additional list with more specific FAQs will be forwarded to each participant upon receipt of a completed application form.

This is an Adobe PDF document with embedded bookmarks. Left click the 'key word/phrase' of the below index to automatically navigate to the question's 'answer'.

<u>(Key word/ phrase)</u>	<u>Question</u>
(Above tree-line skiing)	Will we be skiing above the tree line ?
(ATM's)	Will I be able to use ATM's in Chile ?
(Camp details)	Are there more camp specific details available ?
(Camp CD & DVD)	When will I receive my copy of the camp pictures & videos ?
(City codes)	What are the airport city codes for Newark, Miami, Dallas-Ft Worth & Santiago, CL ?
(Clothing)	What type of clothes should I bring ?
(Cost of Camp)	What is the cost of the Chile Camp ?
(Cost of food)	Is food expensive in Chile, at El Colorado ?
(Electricity)	Can I bring electronic stuff (iPod, portable DVD player, digital camera, laptop, etc) with me down to the Camp ?
(E-Mail)	Is there a public PC available for doing e-mailing ?
(Internet access)	Can I get Internet access while at El Colorado ?
(Language)	Is English readily spoken in Chile ?
(Lifts)	What type of lifts do the ski area have ?
(Lift lines)	Does El Colorado experience long lift lines ?
(Minors)	Are there any issues involving minors (less than 18 yrs of age) traveling without one or both of their parents to Chile ?
(Non-Racer)	Can a non-racer attend this summer camp ?
(Parents)	Can parents accompany their young athletes to the Camp ?
(Passport)	Is a passport required to travel to Chile ?
(Photography)	Is it a good idea to bring a camera ?

General FAQs

[\(Pre-Camp Session\)](#)

Will there be a pre-camp session for those wanting to get several 'on-snow' days before the actual race camp ?

[\(Resort altitude\)](#)

What altitude will we be training at ?

[\(Reciprocity Fee\)](#)

Is there a Reciprocity Fee when entering Chile ?

[\(Shopping\)](#)

Are there any good shopping malls in Santiago ?

[\(Ski-in/out Condo\)](#)

Does the Condo really have ski-in / ski-out access ?

[\(Skiing terrain\)](#)

What is the skiing terrain at the resort like ?

[\(Sunsets\)](#)

Are the sunsets worth viewing ?

[\(Swim suit\)](#)

Is there a swimming pool at the Monte Blanco ?

[\(Time zone\)](#)

What is the time zone for the El Colorado ski area ?

[\(Training schedule\)](#)

What is the typical daily camp agenda ?

[\(Vertical feet skied\)](#)

How many vertical feet can I expect to accumulate ?

[\(Weather\)](#)

What are the temperatures & weather conditions at El Colorado ?

General FAQs

- (Above tree-line skiing) Will we be skiing above the tree line ?

El Colorado as well as La Parva & Valle Nevado is situated well above the tree line of the Andes. El Colorado is one of the three resorts located in the valley of the Rio Mapocho, in the high cordillera of central Chile. El Colorado is a cone shaped mountain with southwest facing slopes and is bordered to the west by Farellones village, on the north by La Parva, on the south by Valle Nevado and on the east by the long cliff-band that stretches from Cono Este to the base of the Embudo lift. The above three resorts are situated on a plateau base at about the 9,000' level. Within the immediate vicinity of the resort bases, you will find some trees, which were probably planted by the locals a long time ago. However, the surrounding mountains consist mostly of steep, rocky, barren terrain, sprinkled with cattle & horses here & there ! This gives rise to the illusion that the mountains are close & nearby which, in fact, they are far from it !

[Return to Top](#)

- (ATMs) Will I be able to use ATM's in Chile ?

The name brand credit cards are generally accepted in ATMs in Chile. However, the Chilean government suggests you might have better luck using a debit card or ATM specific card versus a regular credit card. In either case, check with your bank to get a PIN (personal id number) that is designated to work overseas.

[Return to Top](#)

- (Camp details) Are their more camp specific details available ?

An additional FAQ list of camp related details will be sent out to all those who register for the ARCS-USA Chile Summer Camp to include information such as: travel documents, airline tickets & itinerary, travel baggage, credit card usage, curfews, emergency contacts while in Chile, meals, phone service, trip insurance option, water & weather.

[Return to Top](#)

- (Camp CD & DVD) What is the CD & DVD that the camp provides to all the participants ?

A CD of digital pictures and a DVD of all video taken during the camp will be provided to each camp participant about a month after returning home. It takes several weeks to create a master and make duplicates for all the camp participants.!

General FAQs

[Return to Top](#)

- (City codes) What are the airport city codes for JFK, Newark, Miami, Dallas-Ft Worth & Santiago, Chile ?

JFK- NY; EWR-Newark, NJ; MIA-Miami, FL; DFW-Dallas-Ft. Worth;
SCL- Santiago, CL

[Return to Top](#)

- (Clothing) What type of clothes should I bring ?

When packing for your trip, just remember that although there are palm trees in Santiago, it is still winter up in the Andes! The weather can be warm & mild or cold & fierce in the mountains. You'll be better off assembling your skiing wardrobe in "layers". That way you can peel off and add on clothing in smaller increments. One large down filled jacket will not cut it. You'll over heat. Bringing a daypack to hold your 'layers' and a water container for hydration while training on the mountain is suggested! You can check out the live web-cam shots at the resort to get an idea of the snow base. But wait for their winter to do so! (www.elcolorado.cl)

[Return to Top](#)

- (Cost of Camp) What is the cost of the Chile Camp ?

The cost of the ARCS-USA camp is very reasonable to say the least! The El Colorado camp session cost for the coming summer session is posted on the www.arcsusa.com website around February of the same year. And don't forget, that camp cost is all inclusive. That means everything including round trip air & ground transportation to/from the US & El Colorado, CL, as well as daily breakfast/dinner, lifts, training & lodging, and a trip to either Santiago or the West Coast.

"When compared with other summer alpine training camps, the ARCS-USA camp not only offers more 'on-snow' time than any northern hemisphere camp, but also has the lowest cost per 'on-snow hour' than any other summer camp in South America, Europe, or the US."

[Return to Top](#)

- (Cost of Food) Is food expensive in Chile, at El Colorado ?

General FAQs

The cost of food is relatively inexpensive throughout Chile. Considering that El Colorado is a ski resort area, food is less expensive than you'd find at ski resorts in the US.. The mini-food market, located within the Monte Blanco Condo complex, sells commodity items for less than most large-chain wholesale stores in the US. Don't forget, the Camp includes daily all-you-can-eat breakfast as well as a full course dinner ! Also, we'll be stopping at a very large, modern food supermarket on our way from the airport to El Colorado, where you'll be able to get just about any food item you wish to have during your camp stay.

[Return to Top](#)

- (Electricity) Can I bring electronic stuff (iPod, portable DVD player, digital camera, laptop, etc) with me down to the Camp ?

Chile uses 220v 50c, so don't plug in your 110v/60Hz hair dryer in unless you want to fry it and your hair!!! You can get transformers that will work depending on the amps you need. If the transformer starts sparking & smoking it is a good sign it doesn't have enough amps! The wall outlets are different than in the US but the adapters are cheap and pretty easy to find. They use the small "round" plugs for the outlet's (generally) two openings for tubular pins, not the flat prongs. Beware that "cycles", similar to voltage, is also an important factor. to keep in mind. Transformers go from 220V to 110V but do not convert from 60Hz to 50Hz (cycles). This may cause some appliances not rated to handle the lower cycle rate to over-heat. Recommended transformer wattage ratings: 0-50 watts for all electrical items (DVD players, laptops, iPods, etc); 50-1600 watts for all other appliances (waxing irons, hair dryers, etc).

[Return to Top](#)

- (E-Mail) Is there a public PC available for doing e-mailing ?

Well, there used be PC's available in the public located area at the El Colorado El Parador Base Lodge. However, with the advent of ubiquitous WiFi, most connect directly using their own personal laptops, tablets, smartphones, etc.

It is recommended you set up temporary email account thru one of the major ISP's such as AOL, GMAIL, MSN, Yahoo, etc. so that you don't have to worry about having your password compromised if sent in the clear (unencrypted) over the Internet. Both the El Colorado El Parador Lodge & the Monteblanco Condos offer free Internet wireless access. For more secure communications, you might want to

General FAQs

consider bringing your own laptop and use https webmail or a VPN Internet connection back to your ISP mail service (providing they offer such service).

[Return to Top](#)

- (Internet access) Can I get Internet access while at El Colorado ?

Yes. See above. We encourage the camp participants to email home and let their family members know how they are doing. However, in the past, most athletes were having such a good time, they just didn't think about writing home every night !

[Return to Top](#)

- (Language) Is English readily spoken in Chile ?

No. Chile has a definite European flavor having been settled largely by Italians, Germans and English and of course Spanish, and a few Texans. Although the main language in Chile is Latin American Spanish only a few speak English. Ironically, the billboards in Santiago have a lot of English words on them. However, interestingly enough, if you ask around, it seems you can always find someone willing to assist you as a translator.

The Condo's have TV with a few channels of reception but without English subtitles !!!!!!!!

[Return to Top](#)

- (Lifts) What type of lifts do the ski area have ?

El Colorado has 19 lifts consisting of 4 chairs & 15+ surface lifts (T-bars) of which some are very long and some are very new. Also, some T-bars operate on (and thus serve) steep terrain. Although El Colorado is the oldest of the three valley ski areas, followed by La Parva, and then the more recent Valle Nevado, its 'chair' lifts are all modern. Several new surface lifts have been installed in recent years that make access to the upper mountain ski areas easier & quicker than before.

[Return to Top](#)

- (Lift lines) Does El Colorado experience long lift lines ?

Generally, there are no lift lines at El Colorado. Sometimes on weekend mid mornings, the bottom three lifts near the base lodge may experience a several

General FAQs

minute backup. Other than that, there are never any lines except the ones we make when we all ski together to a specific lift.

[Return to Top](#)

- (Minors) Are there any issues involving minors (less than 18 yrs of age) traveling without one or both of their parents to Chile ?

"In an effort to prevent international child abduction, many governments have initiated procedures at entry/exit points. These often include requiring documentary evidence of relationship and permission for the child's travel from the parent(s) or legal guardian not present. ... Dependent children under age 18 arriving in Chile alone, with one parent, or in someone else's custody, are required to present a letter notarized before a Chilean consular officer in the United States certifying that both parents agree to their travel." State Dept sheet.

A 'Permission to Travel for Minors' form will be provided upon receipt of completed application form..

[Return to Top](#)

- (Non-Racer) Can a non-racer attend this summer camp ?

You betcha ! Alpine race drill & gate training is an excellent way to improve one's own general skiing skill set. Racing does not have to be the main objective, rather improving one's ability to enjoy skiing a variety of terrain at any ski area they visit in the future. Increased confidence in one's ability to handle a variety of terrain consisting of variable steepness and surface conditions is direct result of such training. We started our kids in a race program when they were young in order for them to be able to ski with us when at any ski areas out West. Consequently, they are now better skiers than they would have been otherwise. (Of course, they also ski faster than us now. Oh well !!)

[Return to Top](#)

- (Parents) Can parents accompany their young athletes to the Camp ?

They sure can. In fact every season we generally have several parents who want to come down with their young athletes to mainly enjoy the phenomenal powder & terrain skiing. If not running the training gates themselves, they generally go skiing at the other two adjacent ski areas or take extra days off and tour nearby Santiago areas such as vineyards (Chilean wine is excellent), coastal towns (avg temps are in

General FAQs

upper 60's °F), or even a trip over to the infamous Portillo ski resort near Argentina. The Santiago area is rich in historic sites. One could actually spend a week just sightseeing in the nation's capital alone. Check your local bookstore or library for tour books on Chile. That will give you an idea of many of the other non-ski related activities offered in the area.

[Return to Top](#)

- (Passport) Is a passport required to travel to Chile ?

Yes, a passport is required to travel to Chile. If you don't already have one, don't wait, get started and apply for one now. Even if you are just thinking about traveling outside the US, apply for your passport now. Although there are service companies that can accelerate the process of getting you a passport, you'll pay extra for that service !

If your passport will expire within 6 months of your date of travel, it is strongly suggested you have it renewed before such travel.

U.S. citizens are admitted to Chile for up to 90 days. A VISA is required beyond 90 days. When entering, at customs, you'll need to fill out a tourist card that allows visitors to stay for up to 90 days. You'll need to show that tourist card to Customs when leaving the country as well. Make sure you don't lose it. Suggest you keep it with your passport.

The US Department of State strongly encourages travelers to obtain passports well in advance of any planned travel. Routine passport processing time can take up to 6 weeks from when it is received.

For further passport information, go to the State Department's Consular website: http://travel.state.gov/passport/get/get_4855.html.

[Return to Top](#)

- (Photography) Is it a good idea to bring a camera ?

You bet it's a good idea. We're not kidding when we say the views are majestically beautiful and every sunset is spectacular. You'll also be fascinated with the cultural architecture & environment of the country side when we take a day off mid-camp period and at the end of the camp for some sightseeing & touring. You'll want to document your entire trip. In addition, pictures & video's taken by the Camp staff will be provided on CD & DVD to all participants. Something to avoid is taking

General FAQs

pictures of Chilean naval vessels and military areas, including persons. Doing so is illegal and could cause confiscation of your camera equipment.

[Return to Top](#)

- (Pre-Camp Session) Will there be a pre-camp session for those interested in getting several 'on-snow' days before the actual race camp ?

We will consider offering a free-ski pre-camp session should sufficient interest arise. If that were to be offered, it would occur during the week before the actual camp. The objective of such a session would be to a) allow additional time for those who would like several extra days to get acclimated to the altitude and become (more !) physical fit for subsequent training, and b) provide a more 'ski-vacation' atmosphere by skiing several ski areas with ample time-off for relaxation and recovery before the main alpine training camp.

[Return to Top](#)

- (Resort altitude) What altitude will we be training at ?

Santiago airport is at 1,500' altitude. The base of El Colorado is at 9,000'. The ski area has basically two halves: the lower half (9,000'-10,000') used mainly by the local skiers and the top half (10,000'-11,350') used mainly by camp athletes & the more advanced skiers! We will be visiting the La Parva or Valle Nevado adjacent ski area, where we'll be skiing a few runs that top off at 12,000+'. Most of our free-skiing and GS training will be between the 10,000'-11,000' level. For SL, we generally use a lane between the 9,500'-10,000' level that is served by a dedicated T-Bar.

[Return to Top](#)

- (Reciprocity Fee) Is there a Reciprocity Fee when entering Chile ?

Since Chile has now entered the Visa Waiver Program, the obligation for all U.S. Citizens to pay the reciprocity fee upon entering Chile has been eliminated.

You can read more about entry and exit requirements for Chile on the following link: <http://chile.usembassy.gov/entryandexit.html>

[Return to Top](#)

- (Shopping) Are there any good shopping malls in Santiago ?

General FAQs

Although Santiago is one of the oldest cities in South America it is undertaking a highly accelerated modernization program. As such, in the Las Condes section of Santiago (eastern side closest to El Colorado) there is a very large and ultra modern shopping mall. Nearby there is also a local Chilean craft village complex. We will be stopping at both locations during 'day-off' visit to Santiago sometime in the middle of the camp session.

[Return to Top](#)

- (Ski-in/out Condo) Does the Condo really have ski-in / ski-out access ?

Yes it does. The "boot room" is where we exit & enter the Condo complex. It is located on the South side facing the main El Colorado lodge. The Condo Management requests that we put on & take off our ski boots in the boot room. From there, you will exit and ski down to the ski lifts located less than several hundred yards away. When returning to the Condo, you will be able to ski down the northern side of the front trails of El Colorado, directly to the Condo boot room.

[Return to Top](#)

- (Skiing terrain) What is the skiing terrain at the resort like ?

El Colorado has a vertical drop of 3,388' with over 2,700 skiable acres. The top of the mountain is about ~11,350'. Trail (piste) terrain is listed as: Green-64%, Blue-18%, Black-18%. However, off-piste terrain expands the Blue & Black coverage considerably ! Generally, if you can see off-piste terrain, you can (try to) ski it ! But you need to be aware that a few chutes and valleys go no-where in particular and could result in dire consequences. Always consult with one of the Camp coaches before venturing out into those areas. Unlike the US and more similar to Europe, in South America the skier assumes the risk & responsibility of knowing what they are getting into (or not getting out of). All trails are groomed nightly. And regardless of the day time temperature & strong sun, due to the altitude and low humidity, off-piste areas generally remain "powdery" !

[Return to Top](#)

- (Sunsets) Are the sunsets worth viewing ?

Sunsets viewed from El Colorado are probably more spectacular than one can imagine. Because of the open western view toward the Pacific ocean and atmospheric conditions often evidenced over the ocean & continent land mass, the sunsets are incredible. Almost every sunset offers numerous Kodak photo moments.

General FAQs

The ensuing colors are rich & vibrant. Make sure you have an extra digital storage card, because you'll want to take a lot of pictures.

[Return to Top](#)

- (Swim suit) Is there a swimming pool at the Monte Blanco ?

You bet. Make sure you bring your swim suit. The Monte Blanco has a fairly large heated indoor pool. Enjoy a relaxing swim before dinner (or after dinner; or at lunch time)!

[Return to Top](#)

- (Time zone) What is the time zone for the El Colorado ski area ?

The Chilean Ministry of Energy has announced starting in 2015. the South American country will no longer change its clocks on a yearly basis. Instead it will adopt it's Daylight Saving Time as Daylight Standard Time. Well, that didn't work out to well, so they went back to standard time in 2016. However now they switch to daylight savings time about half way thru the camp dates ! Wonderful isn't it ? For 2017, DST will start at midnight Sunday Aug 13th. Sunrise and sunset will be about 1 hour later on Aug 13, 2017 than the day before. There will be [more light in the evening](#).. This is because Chile is longitudinally further East than New Jersey. EL Colorado's is latitudinal coordinate is as far south of the Equator as Atlanta, Georgia's coordinate is north of the Equator making the days down there LONGER overall. The lower lifts close around 5-6pm. When the Sun is out it is very bright outside. When the Sun sets, it's like a light switch turning off. Unless, of course, there is a moon out. In which case watch out for 'moon burn' (only kidding!).

[Return to Top](#)

- (Training schedule) What is the daily camp agenda ?

Typical daily schedule consists of: 7:30am-Breakfast; 8:30am-Noon-Training/drills/gates; Noon-2pm- Lunch/Rest break; 2-5pm- Mix of Training/drills/gates & dry-land activities; 6-7:30 video analysis in the HDTV large screen viewing room, 7:30pm-Dinner, lights out by 10pm. (Don't worry, there is wiggle room for using the game rooms, pool, walking in the village, emailing, etc.) Breakfast & dinner may switch between the Condo restaurant and the El Parador

General FAQs

restaurant. That decision is generally made the month before the camp and announced to all campers before arrival.

[Return to Top](#)

- (Vertical feet skied) How many vertical feet can I accumulate ?

The amount of vertical feet accumulated really depends on how much skiing an individual actual does. Obviously, you'll get a lot more vertical on free-ski days as opposed to training days, especially SL which is generally done on a shorter hill & shorter lift. But on average, you can expect to accumulate 160,000+ vertical feet per session. (Whew ! That would be like skiing down Mount Everest $5\frac{1}{2}$ times !!!!)

[Return to Top](#)

- (Weather) What are the temperatures & weather conditions at El Colorado ?

Well, this is going to sound a bit confusing but, when the Sun is out, it's very warm. When the Sun is not out it's very cool. When the wind is blowing or it's snowing (as in blizzard), it can be very cold.

However most of the time it's 'sunny'. Since the training lanes face West, the temperature can be as high as 50° F. But you will roast in the Sun. Use lot's of Sun Screen ! The snow does not get wet due to the altitude and very dry air. In the shading areas of the mountain, the temps normally hover between 25-30° F. Of course, one cannot predict exactly what to expect, but keep this in mind, there are Palm trees in Santiago. El Colorado is only 25 miles away, but base elevation is about 7,500 ft higher. The latitude of El Colorado below the Equator is equivalent to that of Atlanta, Georgia is above the Equator. The average temperatures at the El Colorado base have been: 25-30°F at night and 30-50°F (if sunny) during the day. The slopes are groomed nightly and are always in great shape, especially the training lanes.

[Return to Top](#)
