**Visiting Chile for the Total Solar Eclipse on December 14, 2020**

For the total solar eclipse on Monday, December 14, 2020 it's less about the time of day or altitude of the eclipse, and more about the fact that totality will occur over the beautiful [Chilean Lake District](https://www.travelandleisure.com/articles/chile-lake-district-travel).

A volcanic area of hot springs and hiking paths some 470 miles south of Santiago, this lovely leisure area is dominated by lakes and is popular for hiking, mountain biking, boating, and rafting. There's something for everyone here (at the nearby resort town of Pucón, for example, there are even casinos).

Totality will occur over Pucón at 1:03 p.m. on December 14, 2020 and last for 2 minutes, 9 seconds. Since it's the middle of the day, the eclipse will take place directly overhead (71 degrees), similar to how most of the U.S. experienced totality in 2017.

Unique Vantage Points

For hikers after a unique vantage point for the eclipse, consider the 9,380 ft. Volcán Villarrica. After a [guided trek](http://www.summitchile.org/?page_id=46) from Pucón, observers should be able to see the moon's shadow sweep across the landscape below. Don’t plan too far ahead, however, because it's one of the most active volcanoes in South America. It last erupted in 2015.

 If it's behaving, expect guided eclipse-viewing hikes to the crater from Pucón. Here, totality will last 2 minutes, 6 seconds.

**Total Solar Eclipse Weather Forecast**

Although Chile is the best place to head for both the 2019 as well as the 2020 total solar eclipses, there is no guarantee of clear skies.

The 2019 eclipse occurs in July, when it's winter in the southern hemisphere, so there is always the possibility of persistent low clouds. Eclipse-chasers will have to take their chances. The December 2020 eclipse is in the middle of summer, so the chances of clear skies are a little higher.

The 2020 eclipse does come with one other unexpected bonus. The night before the eclipse also happens be the peak of the [Geminid Meteor Shower](https://www.travelandleisure.com/trip-ideas/space-astronomy/december-stargazing-geminid-meteor-shower%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank), the year's best, where observers could see a stunning 120 meteors per hour in the northwestern sky. Yet another reason, if you needed one, to go see at least one Great South American Eclipse.