Congrats for choosing to study abroad in Chile! In addition to any cultural and social considerations you may have to make before and during your time abroad, you should consider how you want your actions to affect the ecosystems and communities that you will be a part of. This guide will walk you through ways to consciously and sustainably study abroad in Chile, including your options to shop locally, ride public transit, and give back to the communities you will be staying in.


**Public Transportation**

Valparaiso has its own metro system which connects the major focal points of the city and region together. Microbuses are the most plentiful and cheap form of public transportation in Valparaiso. A bus can also be taken from Valparaiso to Santiago and the Santiago airport, with buses departing multiple times per pay.

**Food Options**

Mercado El Cardonal has locally sourced produce and locally made products. Mercado del Puerto is also a local market which has fresh fish, produce, and goods.

**Volunteering**

Valparaiso has many volunteering needs and organizations are always looking for helpers that want to give back to the community. Senior centers, soup kitchens, animal shelters, and English-teaching programs are always looking for volunteers, and many specifically look for English speakers and foreigners.

**Recycling and Thrifting**

If you are staying with a homestay, there might not be recycling provided. However, recycling points are found around the city, with the two most prominent being the History Museum, and EcoQuinta. Here is a link to all recycling points in the city. There are numerous thrift and second hand stores, and flea markets are good options as well.