

# Chile



Approach Iquique



Humberstone town

## **Arica and Iquique, Chile**

Airports: SPSO to SCAR (Arica) to SCDA (Iquique)

Pisco Peru to Arica Clear Chile customs, fuel then to Iquique

Date: 22nd January 2020

Distance: 450Nm to Arica 130NM to IQQ Total: 580NM

Handler: SCAR - Patricio Lohr- SCDA Aeroclub/Self

SPSO- Sergio - SUA Services

Fuel: Universal

On departure of Pisco we are sent heading over the Pacific until we get to FLevel 14000, then turn back over Paracas and the nature reserve that we drove through on a beach buggy.

Our departure is heading south along the coast of Peru to enter the airspace of Chile. Clearances were required which have been organised by the handler. Again our climb rate is very slow due to the heat although we are collecting some icing on the wings which clears easily with the de icing boots. It is -21c at 31000ft.

A very quick visual approach descent into Arica on the coast, landing to clear customs and immigration to Chile, they check through the aircraft and again take photos as it is the first time they have seen the Cirrus Jet.

Refuel, flight plan lodged, general declarations completed and we are ready to roll back out to SCDA Iquique just 130NM.

At 3200ft we get a Fedec cast message and our climb rate is very poor, a little sluggish and the message has wont clear. We report to ATC that we are coming back to the airport and start the turn around. Amir working hard going through all the possible causes, flying by hand and descending in readying for a quick return landing. At the point of downwind to approach the Fedac checklist complete and the message clears. Immediately we announce aborting landing and returning to flight plan and navigation. Climb rate to 17000ft has returned to normal. Just an hour flight.

Arica coast line is a dry sand dune flat scenery with large agricultural sectors and all with good water dams, for a dry desert there must be good ground water. The area is vastly more populated and built up than Pisco. The coast line coming into Iquique (pronounced E-KeKa) is vast deep red dry mountains to the coast we fly over the water/beach line with the

mountains towering above our left wing, past the main modern City with beaches full of people enjoying. The airport is on the next flat peninsula, ocean on one side mountains on the other, a beautiful sight.

We taxi to the Aeroclub where we have arranged with the kindness of the President Marcelo.

The town is mostly a tourist destination for local people to spend the summer in the beach the hotels - are fully booked! We pre booked an apartment for 2 days as it advertised a much needed washing machine however there was not one in the apartment. We ask where the aircond is, no English, she points to the fan and the window. After calling the Manager in and with the assistance of google translate and the threat to trash them on bookings and trip advisor we are released from our 2 night obligation to stay and the rate for one night drops to \$70 cash and they throw in security parking!

So the move to the Hilton (thankfully organised by Marcelo) for the remainder of our 4 day stay was welcomed.

Chile and Bolivia are going through some turmoil with organised rioting groups being driven into towns to attack the commercial shops, hotels and businesses. We also saw the same when we left Pisco, the road outside a Gas provider plant was lined up with the organised vans and cars full of protesters. Riot police were blocking the plant entrance and the gas tanker trucks delivering or picking up Gas were blocked from operations.

All the business, shops, banks, restaurants and even the Dreams Casino has been heavily boarded up as all the windows have been smashed, these beautiful buildings have been vandalised and graffiti written everywhere.

There is a conservative government in position for the past 30 years in Chile which has brought prosperity and balance. The economy is going well which is evident by all the huge numbers of families going to holiday places and the coffee shops and restaurants are buzzing with locals and local tourists, so this small minority group vandalising is causing damage to tourism and trade. It is very sad because the people of Chile are very warm and welcoming they go out of their way to try to help and accommodate.

We visited a very interesting old mine town called Humberstone, where the production of Saltpetre (nitrate for fertiliser) was the largest producer in the world until the chemical substitute created by Germany in 1940's. The mine ceased operations by 1960 and has been preserved as a museum.





Pilot Shirts needed here



Iquique - City

Marcelo took us to the best restaurants around town and we enjoyed some very unique to Chile seafood- locos (a type of mussel or abalone) sea urchin and fresh local fish. It rains here only 4 days a year and we see one of those days where the entire dry red mountains are covered in cloud but it is still very warm so the locals in the beach just carry on swimming and playing.



Amir and Marcelo at Dreams Casino