



S-Trek 2024 Travel Information

The following document contains the specific details of the travel for your HMI Gap program as well as some additional information on how you can arrange that travel. You are responsible for booking all airfare, and HMI coordinates all ground transportation during the course. We ask that **you arrange this air travel before December 15** in preparation for your upcoming program. As always, you can reach out to us directly with any questions at gap@hminet.org.

ARRIVAL: FEBRUARY 7, 2024

You should plan to arrive at Balmaceda Airport (BBA) before 2pm.

Gap staff will meet you at the **Balmaceda Airport**. Most students will be on different flights from the US to Santiago but on the same flight from Santiago to Balmaceda. From the airport, we'll gather and do brief introductions. We'll then board a chartered bus and continue our travels to our orientation site in Chile Chico. Note that you should expect 3-5 more hours of travel upon arrival in Balmaceda.

DEPARTURE: APRIL 26, 2024

You will travel from Balmaceda (BBA) to your home, departing no earlier than 2pm.

The course officially ends when you and your group arrive at the airport on the last day. Most students travel home at that time; however, you can elect to travel on your own and delay your travel or travel to a different destination. In this case, you should plan your additional travel starting from BBA.

EXTENDING TRAVEL

If you plan to arrive early or depart later than the course conclusion, please understand that you'll be traveling independently of HMI. Note that Chile offers a 90-day tourist visa. If you plan to extend your travel beyond 90 days (HMI Gap is 80 days), you must either extend your visa through the Chilean immigration service (located in Santiago) or leave the country.

BOOKING TRAVEL

We have partnered with [Éxito Travel](#) to help students make their flight arrangements. They can help you book flights from your city of origin to the start of the course and your return home or additional travel after HMI Gap.

While we do not require students to book travel through Éxito, we strongly encourage you to work with them. By doing so, you are more likely to get an affordable ticket that meets the specific requirements of the program and to travel with other HMI students and staff. They also offer additional assistance should your travel be disrupted.

Please use this [link](#), entering your individual information along with the HMI program in which you are enrolled and the travel details noted above. Once received, an agent from Éxito will contact you to book your travel.