—Chile

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constant hum of the wild, fast traffic, things are pretty quiet and low-key.

The children appear to live very private lives behind high walls and metal gates.

Even the more exclusive shops are in around and through courtyards and virtually hidden from view. The absence of bargaining tipping and begging probably accounts for the relative quietness of the country.

Prices pretty much are as posted and the hard sell is confined to the large city market which boasts lots of action and palaver.

When we traveled to Polmaire near the coast, I was able to get a pottery bowl for less because it was a wee bit tippy but this is the exception rather than the rule even in small towns.

The Chilean philosophy appears to be, pick up as much big money as quickly as possible and let the one or two pesos go. Cab drivers get you to your destination as quickly as possible in order to pick up another fare. They frequently round off a 103 peso ride to 100 pesos and cherrily go on their way.

The bargains in Chile appear to be, the pottery or ceramics, the wine or pisco, the leather goods and hand-crocheted articles. I found eating out expensive.

Since even the little neighborhood eateries can cut into the pesos due to the a la corte menues, the smart money goes to super excellent seafood restaurants with much ambiance such as Coco on La Concepcion and then bread and cheese it for a few days.

The local dishes such as impanadas are not hot and spicy but the little meat turnovers are full of surprises like raisins and black olives.

The food, like everything else, seems a far cry from castanettes, colorful panchos and strumming guitars. The flavor is not Latino but is pleasant.

The few days of bright sunshine revealed Santiago and the surrounding environs to be attractive with many special spots to see such as Santa Lucia Hill, the Cathedral in plaza de Armes, several interesting museums with fantastic pre-Columbian artifacts, the copper mines to the north and the resorts to the south can keep you busy during an extended stay.

When you think about it a honeymoon in June in Chile can bring about a certain togetherness because if you don't speak the Spanish you have to talk to each other, which is nice on a honeymoon.

If you don't look sensational in a miniscule bikini, you can look arresting in soft suede pants and a local hand knit flaxen sweater and if it is constantly foggy and overcast preventing sightseeing then you just have to do other things. All in all Chile is not such a bad deal.



"Mail Order Frauds" are a common problem and the inefficiency of the postal service doesn't help matters. People often wait months thinking that items they ordered were "caught up in the mail," when, in reality, they were never sent. The company may have relocated or gone out of business by the time they inquire.

Although mistakes can happen with the mail, it's usually the companies with the "no refund" policies that cause the problems. Sometimes they'll send the "wrong" item and then refuse to exchange it, simply because it's the only item they sell, despite what their catalogue says.

—Focus on Fashion

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Short or tall, if everything is firm, and you have curves in all the right places — go for the gusto!

You may decide on The Spider, shown here, or a string bikini increasingly popular in resorts around the world. You are one of the lucky ones, who can wear whatever your heart desires.

Of course lucky is the most minimal factor involved, as a perfect figure is most often the result of hard work, discipline and iron willpower.

Now that you've chosen that wonderful suit, you're ready to hit the beach — or are you? If you have hair under your arms, or showing under the leg of your swimsuit, think again!

Not only is underarm hair unsightly, but it also retains odors and moisture in the heat. You will probably make out better with a depilatory cream than a razor, as they often leave razor bumps on sensitive upper leg areas. If you don't want to get rid of it, at least bleach it so it will go unnoticed.

One last point! If you've picked out your suit, gotten rid of unwanted hair, and you're on your way out the door with washer woman's knees, and rough heel and elbows, you're not ready yet!

Use a loofah (natural sponge), pumice stone, or an emery to turn rough skin satiny smooth! Keep problem areas well oiled.

Now you're set! Last one in is a rotten egg!

The next factor you'll want to consider when choosing a swimsuit is way in which it will be used. Do you actually want to swim several laps in it? Is so, a one-piece, tank-top suit is probably the one for you.

We all know the embarrassment that can result from taking a dip in a suit that is not really made for the water. There's the suit that's too thin, and become transparent when the water hits it. Or what about that cute strapless number — that refuses to stay up in the water? Suits of this nature are strictly for funning, and also look great worn with a feminine skirt in the evening.

On the other hand, if you're out there to get maximum exposure to the sun, you would probably choose a bikini. If you plan on hitting the Caribbean, or any resort area this summer, don't be afraid to take along one of the more daring string bikinis. You'll find you have plenty of company.

Food Facts

It is an undisputable fact. In the summertime, we drink more and that, the doctors say, is good. It's hot; we sweat; we need to replace the water we lose through perspiration.

The problem is *what* we drink and how often we drink it. A steady diet of gin-and-tonics may be the choice of a few devoted bar flies, but there are less staggering ways to beat the heat.

Soft drinks have surpassed coffee to become the number two beverage in the United States behind milk. Consumption is about 100 billion eight ounce servings every year, or better than one eight ounce serving for every man, woman and child in the United States, *EVERY* day.

