

PROVINCE OF MAGALLANES

MAGALLANES AND ANTÁRTICA CHILENA REGION



MAGALLANES

In 1520, Portuguese navigator Ferdinand Magellan made the first round-the-world voyage across the strait that would later bear his name.



Located in the center of the region that bears the same name, the province's Strait of Magellan is one of the most important landmarks in Chile, both in maritime terms and historically and strategically speaking. It is undoubtedly also a focus of interest for tourists. Ferdinand Magellan sailed its waters in 1520 in order to navigate around the world. This is why the strait bears his name.

Punta Arenas, the regional and provincial capital, is the gateway to the Chilean Patagonia and houses the largest urban center in the region. Thanks to its cosmopolitan origin and architecture, it resembles a small European city, which offers every comfort to satisfy even the most demanding tourist.

Its location, in front of the mythical Strait of Magellan, is ground zero

for visiting places of impressive beauty and cultural interest, such as farms, old lighthouses and forts, Magellanic penguin colonies, the southernmost point of our continent, and a long list of activities and entertainment that are available year-round.

CLIMATE. Extremely variable. One can often experience all four seasons in a single day. During the summer, there are frequent and sometimes very strong winds. The days are long, reaching 18 hours of daylight in December, and the temperature averages between 6°C and 12°C. Winter is marked by a decrease in daylight hours (reaching around 7 hours in June), little wind, and a pristine clarity in the atmosphere. The temperatures are close to 0°C. During the coldest month, the average temperature ranges between -1°C and 1°C.



ISLA MAGDALENA LIGHTHOUSE

Strait of Magellan

Its 560-kilometer expanse is full of history, landscapes, and marine fauna. Of particular note are the largest Magellanic penguin colony in Chile and the only place in the southern hemisphere, aside from the white continent, where humpback whales feed: the Francisco Coloane Marine Park.

LIGHTHOUSES

THEY WERE BUILT IN THE LATE 19TH CENTURY, DRIVEN BY THE INCREASE IN MARITIME TRAFFIC ACROSS THE STRAIT AND THE NEED TO REACH THE CITY OF PUNTA ARENAS SAFELY.

PUNTA DUNGENESS LIGHTHOUSE. First Chilean lighthouse on the east-west shipping route along the strait. It is located 270 kilometers east of Punta Arenas, following Route 255 towards the Posesión sector, in the Atlantic mouth of the strait. This is Chile's easternmost boundary.

POSESIÓN LIGHTHOUSE. It is located on the east bank of Bahía Posesión, at a distance of 45 kilometers from the Punta Dungeness Lighthouse. Nearby, one can visit

the cemetery where settlers were buried and the remains of the paddle steamer Olympian.

PUNTA DELGADA LIGHTHOUSE. It is located in the Primera Angostura sector, on the northern shore of the strait, where the international highway to Argentina passes. Inside, there is a museum.

ISLA MAGDALENA LIGHTHOUSE. It can only be accessed by sea. It is located on the islet that bears the same name, about 37 kilometers northeast of Punta Arenas, where the largest Magellanic penguin colony is found.

SAN ISIDRO LIGHTHOUSE. It is located at the southern end of Península Brunswick, with the Darwin mountain range as a backdrop. To reach it, one must walk approximately 4 km from its access road.

SAN FELIX LIGHTHOUSE. It can only be accessed by sea or by air. It is located on the southern side of the Strait exit, in the direction of the Pacific Ocean.

FAIRWAY LIGHTHOUSE. It can only be accessed by sea or by air. Located on Canal Smyth, which connects the western mouth of the strait with the main inland water navigation route to the north. This is a possible whale watching location.

EVANGELISTAS LIGHTHOUSE. It can only be accessed by sea or by air. It signals the western entrance to the strait. It is considered a monument to Chilean efforts.

Activities in Nature

SKIING. The southernmost ski center in Chile is in Punta Arenas. It is located 7 kilometers from the city center. Lovers of the winter sport can enjoy skiing while overlooking the Strait of Magellan and Isla Tierra del Fuego. The winter center has 18 hectares of ski areas and a diner. **Season: June to September. www.clubandino.cl**

DIVING. This activity has flourished over the past few years. Due to the influence of the Cabo de Hornos current, it is home to unique marine

flora and fauna. One can also visit the ships that have been wrecked along the Strait of Magellan. An instructor who knows the area is required.

KAYAKING. This is one way to tour the extensive coast of the Strait of Magellan, navigating, for example, the bay that runs through the city of Punta Arenas or those close to Fuerte Bulnes, the beaches and bays of the San Isidro Lighthouse, and even keep company with whales in the Francisco Coloane



Must-sees

★ PALI AIKE NATIONAL PARK. Also called "El Escorial del Diablo" (The Devil's Dross), this is Patagonia's volcanic area. One of its highlights is the Pali Aike Cave, where archaeological human remains dating back more than 11,000 years have been found inside it. One can also follow a trail to the Morada del Diablo crater, where one can see fields of volcanic cones and lava.

How to get there: It is located 196 kilometers northeast of Punta Arenas on international highway Route 255, 28 kilometers inland from Villa Punta Delgada. It can be visited year round. High Season: October to April.

★ LOS PINGÜINOS NATURAL LANDMARK. Conformed by Isla Magdalena and Isla Marta, it stands out for its protection of wildlife species such as the Magellanic penguin. The southwest end of the island is home to South American sea lions and South American fur seals.

How to get there: It is located 35 kilometers northeast of Punta Arenas. Season: October to April.

★ PUNTA ARENAS WATERFRONT. Walking along the waterfront of the Strait of Magellan, one can see marine fauna, the monument to the schooner Ancud, and beautiful views from the Strait to Tierra del Fuego and the Cordillera Darwin.



PALI AIKE NATIONAL PARK

Attractions and Reserves

PALI AIKE NATIONAL PARK. Its landscape is similar to that of the moon. Low-rise volcanic cones, caves, various craters, basalt walls, and lava slags tell the story of recent eruptions. This is a veritable paradise for geologists, volcanologists, and anthropologists. The Pali Aike Cave Trail is one of its great attractions.

MAGALLANES NATIONAL RESERVE. Covered with an abundance of greenery, the national reserve congregates native species of lengas and Magellan's beech trees that extend throughout its 19,625 hectares. It stands out for its hydrographic protection, wildlife, and Magellanic forests.

LAGUNA PARRILLAR NATIONAL RESERVE. Its main features include an abundance of wild flora and fauna. It also has campsites and picnic areas. Guided hiking trails within the National Reserve are available, and sport fishing is allowed there as well.

FUERTE BULNES. Public-private initiative that houses a modern multimedia exhibit that blends art and science to explain the land's formation processes, the life forms

that inhabit it, and the history of human presence in this part of the world.

FRANCISCO COLOANE MARINE PARK. Covering an area of 67,000 hectares, it is the first marine park in Chile. It is the most important feeding site for the humpback, Sei and Minke whales, in addition to orcas, among other marine species from beyond Antarctic waters that, year after year, have chosen to feed near Isla Carlos III. It can only be visited with local tour providers. Whale watching season: December to April.

FUERTE BULNES



AMBASSADOR

SHIPWRECKS

THE DIFFICULT WEATHER CONDITIONS OF THE STRAIT HAVE CAUSED AN ESTIMATED 140 SHIPS TO SINK IN ITS WATERS.

MARIGOLD. A ship in Francis Drake's fleet, which disappeared somewhere south of Isla Desolación in September, 1578.

TRINIDAD. A Spanish ship in the Sarmiento de Gamboa expedition, it was intentionally grounded near Punta Dungeness to use its wood to build the first settlement of the Strait, Nombre de Jesus.

AMADEO. First steamboat registered in Punta Arenas. It is considered to have played a historic part in the

development of Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego. It was stranded in front of the San Gregorio Farm. It was declared a National Landmark in 1972.

AMBASSADOR. One of the last Clippers of the Tea Race. It was stranded on the beach of San Gregorio in 1937.

LONSDALE. Considered a historical relic, it is located across from the Maria Behety Park. This pontoon was used by the firm Braun & Blanchard to transport wool in Punta Arenas.

OLYMPIAN. Steam-powered and paddle wheel boat. Its remains are still stranded on the Posesión beach.



FOLK FESTIVALS

SHEARING FESTIVAL. Event that keeps alive the traditions of the Magellanic countryside through a series of activities such as: shearing shows, popular recreational games, rodeo, performances by regional singers, Magellanic lamb barbecues and other regional culinary preparations.

Location: Villa Tehuelches, third week of January.

WINTER CARNIVAL. It is held in winter (June/July) to celebrate the winter solstice and the longest night of the year. A traditional Magellanic festival, the locals build floats and parade through the snow-covered streets of downtown Punta Arenas. The town queen is voted during the winter, and everything ends with a fireworks show on the waterfront of the Strait of Magellan.



SKIING, PUNTA ARENAS

AUSTRAL PIGMY-OWL, GLAUCIDIUM NANA

Marine Park. It is very common to encounter pods of Peale's dolphins during this excursion.

WILDLIFE OBSERVATION. Due to its different ecosystems, from the Patagonian Pampas in the east to the rain forests of the west, there is a great diversity of flora and fauna. This activity can be practiced in national parks and reserves, as well as along the waterfront of the Strait of Magellan and in the Maria Behety Park.

TREKKING. There are circuits that can take from one to several days. The main attractions explore some sectors of the Magellan National Reserve, Laguna Parrillar, Monte Tarn, the San Isidro Lighthouse and, if time permits, the Froward Cross.

BIKING. Punta Arenas has a bike path that allows its visitors to explore most of the city easily and safely. The waterfront of the strait is not to be missed.



Tips

- The region is characterized by its low temperatures and strong winds, mainly in spring, so it is recommended to wear waterproof jackets and pants, hats, shirts, thermal socks and gloves, windbreakers, trekking shoes, sunglasses, and sunscreen. It is also important to bring both short- and long-sleeve shirts and fleece clothing to wear as a second layer.

- Shops are open from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

- In order to protect the environment, shops do not use plastic bags, so it is recommended to bring your own reusable bag.

- Both hotels and shops take credit cards. However, it is essential to have Chilean pesos to pay for everyday expenses such as transportation, tickets, or local grocery stores.

- Banks and ATMs can be found in all the provincial capitals of the region.

- Exchange houses can be found in Punta Arenas and in Puerto Natales. The airport has only one ATM that delivers Chilean pesos.

- Punta Arenas does not have a bus terminal. Each bus company operates with a ticket office and a bus station. It is recommended to use official transports and to ask about their arrival and departure times.

- Parks, reserves and natural landmarks are managed by CONAF (National Forestry Corporation). It is important to always follow the instructions of park rangers when visiting protected wild areas in parks, reserves, and landmarks. Do not light fires or depart from authorized and demarcated paths.

Tourist Attractions Map Province of Magallanes

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National Tourism Service | Chile Magallanes and Antártica Chilena Region

Free Map

www.patagonia-chile.com

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CEMETERY, PUNTA ARENAS

MARIA BEHETY PARK. An Urban Nature Reserve that is also the only recreational park south of Punta Arenas. It houses a native relict forest that formerly extended to the Chabunco area. More than 30 bird species associated with forest birds and aquatic birds have been recorded there, owing to the park's artificial lagoon.

EL OVEJERO MONUMENT. It was created by sculptor Germán Montero and is dedicated to the Patagonia's shepherds.

MUÑOZ GAMERO SQUARE. Also known as Plaza de Armas, it is a public space located in the center of the city. A bronze sculpture unveiled in 1920 depicts the navigator Ferdinand Magellan and the southern ethnic groups.

A bit of literature

"Patagonia Bravía", William Greenwood (edited by Gladys Grace Paz and Duncan Campbell).

"Última Esperanza en el tiempo", Mateo Martinic.

"Magallanes", Stefan Zweig.

"In Patagonia", Bruce Chatwin.

In the Municipal Market of Punta Arenas, the flavors and aromas of the ocean blend. Here, you can buy fresh seafood and fish. One can also find eateries and typical handicrafts made of wool and wood, with Patagonian and Selknam motifs.