

PROVINCE

TIERRA DEL FUEGO

Land of contrasts, sheep ranches, and the natural habitat of numerous bird species and marine fauna.



JUAN PABLO ZAPATERO


Tierra del Fuego, the largest island in South America, is the southernmost boundary of the American continent. Historical remains of the first settlements of hunter-gatherers and pioneer explorers eager for riches from white and black gold, wood and livestock, reveal epics of the great efforts made in search of a better life in these remote lands that, to this day, still conceal places with no trace of a human footprint.

Its first inhabitants, the Selknam, called it Karukinka, which means "our land." Today, this territory is shared by Chile (on the western side) and Argentina (on the eastern side). To access it from the mainland one must cross the cold waters of the Strait of Magellan, the main natural channel connecting the world's two largest oceans, the Pacific and the Atlantic.

DISTRICT

PRIMAVERA

It is named after Springhill (Cerro Primavera), one of the first settlements in the area.



BIRDWATCHING, BAHÍA LOMAS

The town of Cerro Sombrero is the capital of the Primavera district, strategically located at the northeastern point of entry to Isla Tierra del Fuego. Historically, much of its economic development has been based on oil and natural gas production.

Primavera has the singular characteristic of being the only Chilean district with access to the Atlantic Ocean, through the eastern mouth of the Strait of Magellan. In the inland part of the island, the district covers part of the extensive steppes of Tierra del Fuego. The landscape, devoid of woodlands, contrasts sharply with that of the south of the island, in the western part of the Strait of Magellan.

WHAT TO VISIT. The Cerro Sombrero company town is an attractive site, originally conceived as an oil camp and designed by US urban planners and architects in the late 1950s, imitating the cities of their country. Highlights include the church, the Plaza de Armas, and its village

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FOLK FESTIVALS

LARGEST BARBECUE IN TIERRA DEL FUEGO. This great festival brings together representatives from Tierra del Fuego and from Argentina, who compete to prepare the best spit-roasted whole lamb. A jury evaluates the gourmet concept, presentation, cooking, and flavor.

First weekend of February.

SHEPHERD'S PEASANT FESTIVAL. A family friendly celebration held in tribute to the fieldwork inherent to rural Patagonian culture, which includes sheepdog competitions, traditional rodeo, artistic performances, folk nights and a huge spit roast. Participants from all over the region travel especially to attend this event, as do many from Argentina.

Third week of February.

Activities in Nature

BIRD WATCHING AND EXPLORING THE MOUNTAIN RANGE. From the northern part of the island to the less-explored Cordillera de Darwin, Tierra del Fuego is a destination with unique and inimitable landscapes. Be responsible in your adventures and minimize impacts on ecosystems.

MOUNTAIN BIKING. The Island is an excellent biking destination and can be explored using the main road or back roads. Due to its distances and isolation, it is

important to plan trips and ration meals. Bicycles can be leased in Porvenir or at the Karukinka Park. Inquire in advance.

KAYAKING. From Caleta María, one can enjoy this sport for the duration of the season, crossing glaciers, fjords, and bays with sub-Antarctic forests. It provides the perfect setting to explore and live the unique experience of paddling alongside the fauna that inhabits these isolated landscapes.



National Tourism Service I Chile

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Puerto Natales

Pedro Montt 19
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(61) 241 2125

Porvenir

Av. Manuel Señoret 770
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THE GLACIERS ROUTE

Wildlife Reserve.

It includes places that are only accessible by sea. It comprises Canal Whiteside, located between Isla Dawson and Tierra del Fuego, and the coast from Bahía Inútil to Seno Almirantazgo, a journey through fjords and bays where colonies of elephant seals, black-browed albatrosses, and leopard seals coexist. It is an area rich in native forests and glacier tongues from the ice fields of Cordillera de Darwin. Its location made it one of the largest wildlife reserves and it was declared a Biosphere Reserve. It is part of the Alberto de Agostini National Park (1,460,000 hectares).


Numerous bays and glaciers surround Seno Almirantazgo. One of them is Bahía Brookes, which is characterized by its imposing cliffs and a surprising snowdrift amphitheater. The cove has abundant flora, where the Antarctic beech and the tundra prevail. It is also the habitat of Peale's dolphins, penguins, cormorants, Fuegian steamer ducks, and otters.

In Bahía Jackson, the undisputed stars are the southern elephant seals. Good sighting practices and safety measures are essential to

avoid affecting the habitat of these large animals. Here, one can also visit Albatross islet, the only colony in the surrounding areas where one can observe these beautiful birds, a local tourist activity that attracts an increasing number of visitors.

Useful tips: Always plan ahead. Contact local operators. Navigation is possible all year round. During heavy snowfalls, road conditions can result in a change of plans. Minimize the impact of your stay and do not feed wildlife.

BLACK-BROWED ALBATROSS



THE GOLD ROUTE

Land of Pioneers.

THE YELLOW GOLD. The initial impetus to settle the island was driven by gold mining, which attracted numerous miners from America and Europe as of 1882. Shortly thereafter, the gold deposits proved to have a scarcity of valuable ore and were delegated to small miners. It was then that the colonizing impetus and large investments were redirected to livestock farming, which enjoyed its golden age at the turn of the twentieth century. Avestige of this past grandeur is Caleta Josefina, the oldest settlement on the island. The Russian gold dredger is part of Tierra del Fuego's rich heritage. This valuable piece of machinery was brought from England at the start of the twentieth century and declared a National Landmark in 1976.

THE WHITE GOLD. Between 1880 and 1920, Magallanes underwent a significant economic transformation. The southern economy was moving at a pace with growing wool and mutton exports. Huge sheep farms occupied the lands that, until then, had been inhabited by indigenous peoples, and thousands of European and



CALETA JOSEFINA

Chilote immigrants flocked to the region. At the same time, the development of the livestock industry enabled the growth and consolidation of the Porvenir village, which through the provision of services became the most important town on the island.

THE BLACK GOLD In the mid-twentieth century, the history of this area became intertwined with the unexpected discovery of hydrocarbon reserves, when oil sprouted from the Manantiales well in the Cerro Primavera sector. This finding triggered the transformation of the entire area, as new roads, oil and gas pipelines, drilling towers, and towns were built.

Five years after the shocking discovery, oil production began in Magallanes, and in the late 1950s, the National Petroleum Company (ENAP) founded the town of Cerro Sombrero. Designed to accommodate the oil company's employees, the town is characterized by its careful planning and modern architecture, which in 2008 earned it a nomination as one of the country's 18 most important architectural works of the twentieth century.

DISTRICT / CAPITAL

PORVENIR



STROMATOLITES PARK

Park. A memorial to the Selknam hunter and the municipal cemetery, where the families of the first Croatian immigrants were buried, are also worth a visit. The scenic lookout located in the southern area of Porvenir deserves a special mention. Here, one can enjoy an unrivalled panoramic view of the city. In the same sector is Casa de Piedra, a walk that wanders through part of Bahía Chilota, where coastal bird specimens can be seen.

The Fernando Cordero Rusque Museum and the San Francisco de Sales Historical Complex, which houses the first church of Tierra del Fuego and a small interpretation center with the history of the Salesians in Tierra del Fuego and Magallanes, are also noteworthy.

Air transport services (15 minutes) and sea transport (1 hour and 45 minutes) cross the Strait of Magellan from Tres Puentes (Punta Arenas) to Bahía Chilota (5 km from Porvenir). It is also possible to arrive by car on the Bahía Azul barge, which crosses from the island to the mainland in approximately 20 minutes, and then follow the road to Porvenir (approximately 130 km).

MAP BY LEÓN DEL MONTE LTDA. 2019
www.leonmonte.cl

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TREKKING.

One can enjoy low-, medium-, and high-intensity activities across the province. Plan ahead, bearing in mind the variability of the weather conditions. Use predefined paths such as Pietro Grande, which is 7 kilometers long and offers captivating panoramic views.

SPORT FISHING.

In rivers and lakes throughout the island, but especially in the Río Grande and the great lakes of the Timaukel district: Lago Blanco, Lago Despreciado, Lago Deseado, and Lago Fagnano in the far south.

★ FERNANDO CORDERO RUSQUE MUSEUM.

Its facilities house a photographic exhibition of the Selknam people, a wildlife show, and an interesting section on archeology and anthropology that includes the mummified body of an aboriginal in the island.

Jorge Schythe 71, Porvenir

★ KARUKINKA.

A private Nature Park that promotes a new biodiversity conservation model. Here, one can see peat bogs, Andean areas, Patagonian steppes, thickets, and coastline ecosystems, which are representative of southern biodiversity and the sub-Antarctic region, up close.

THE LAKES ROUTE

Anglers' paradise.

RIO GRANDE. Flowing through the Fuegian steppe, Río Grande is considered one of the best fishing rivers in the world. Famous for its hard-to-catch sea run brown trout, one can also find rainbow trout, river trout and Chinook or King salmon. Hence, year after year, experienced fly and bait anglers arrive from around the world to enjoy prizes weighing between 2 and 14 kilograms.



LAGO BLANCO

The geographical contrast between Cordillera Darwin in the south and the steppe in the north is astonishing, giving the landscape a particular beauty. Forests of Magellan's beech and lenga stand tall and imposing, with trees that can reach a height of up to 50 meters. They house a wide variety of plants, including endemic orchids.

LAGO BLANCO. This beautiful and extensive lake, 36 kilometers long and 18 kilometers wide, is located 218 kilometers southeast of Porvenir. In it, one can find abundant species for sport fishing, such as brown and rainbow trout, which can weigh from 2 to 3 kilos.

From the Lago Blanco one can hike

to Cerro Cuchilla (800 meters), which takes around 8 hours for a round trip. The hilltop, offers a spectacular panoramic view of Lago Blanco, Cordillera Darwin, and Isla Victoria. Take care of wildlife and respect the local fauna's environment.

LAGO LYNCH. It is a medium-size lake ideal for sport fishing. Tourism is an incipient development here, and it has the advantage of being exploited using sustainable criteria.

LAGO ESCONDIDO. In Karukinka, one can again find remarkable places for sport fishing, especially in the Lago Escondido sector, from whose basin emerge the headwaters of the fantastic Río Grande. The upper part of this

SEASON.

October to April.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

Fragile Ecosystem / Do not light fires / Use camp stoves / Remove all your waste / Give notice of your departure at the Pampa Guanaco checkpoint or at the Karukinka Park.

FISHING LICENSE.

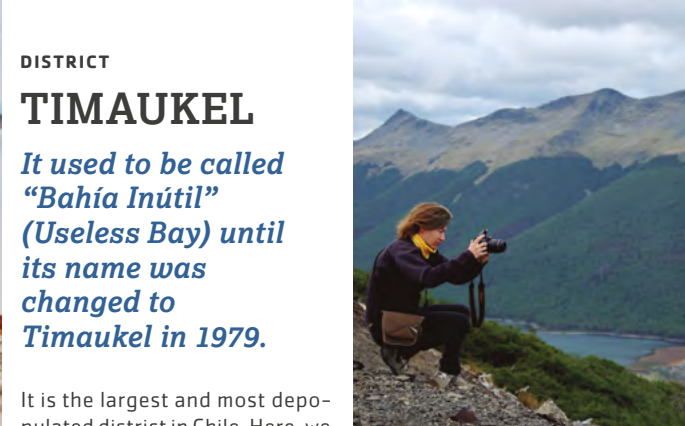
Chilean residents must obtain an "inland waters" and a "marine waters" Recreational Fishing License. Foreigners must request a one-year license at the offices of SERNAPESCA or through its website, www.sernapesca.cl

CAUTION.

Fishing enthusiasts must wash and disinfect any item that comes into contact with the aquatic environment to prevent contamination and/or the spread of Didymo.

DISTRICT

TIMAUKEL



KARUKINKA NATURAL PARK


It used to be called "Bahía Inútil" (Useless Bay) until its name was changed to Timaukel in 1979.

It is the largest and most depopulated district in Chile. Here, we find an area especially suited for special-interest tourism, namely, adventure tourism activities (horseback riding or trekking in Valle de los Castores, La Paciencia or Pietro Grande) and sport fishing in its attractive rivers and lakes.

Ever-vigilant guanaco herds can be seen throughout the distinctive landscape of Timaukel, which also boasts lake ecosystems and a waterfront. It is a perfect place for photo tours and birdwatching, learn about real sheep farming activities (such as shearing), or practice sport fishing in the Grande and Azopardo rivers.

WHAT TO VISIT. The Pingüino Rey Park is one of the greatest attractions in the area. This conservation area is located 114 kilometers from Porvenir and houses the only king penguin colony in South America. It is crucial to walk only on authorized trails in order to preserve these birds' habitat and protect the

wildlife where their lives unfold. Taking the road to the south of the island one can find the Karukinka Natural Park, a private reserve and biodiversity conservation model for Tierra del Fuego. Karukinka is the starting point for adventure circuits such as the Blanco, Despreciado, Deseado, and Fagnano lakes.



SCULPTURE TO THE CANOE TRIBE

ALBERTO DE AGOSTINI.

In the early twentieth century, the Salesian priest Alberto de Agostini, a mountaineer and explorer par excellence, roamed the island of Tierra del Fuego for three decades, producing the greatest collection of photographic and cartographic records of southern Patagonia available at the time. Through the work of Agostini, Patagonia became well known around the world.

A bit of literature

Uttermost Part of the Earth (1948), Lucas Bridges

End of a World (1990), Anne Chapman

Explorations in Tierra del Fuego, Vaino Auer

The Aborigines of Tierra del Fuego, Martín Gusinde

Tourist Attractions Map

Tierra del Fuego Province

National Tourism Service I Chile

Magallanes and Antártica Chilena Region

Free Map

www.patagonia-chile.com



RINGED FISHER, MEGACERYLE TORQUATA

imposing river reveals a different and unique part of it, which combines isolation, a woodland environment, and exceptional tranquility to pursue this sport.

LAGO DESEADO. Surrounded by lenga forests in a pristine environment, the awe-inspiring landscape invites one to rest and enjoy peace and tranquility. Like other watercourses in this part of the island, it offers trout fishing enthusiasts a fantastic place to practice this activity.

LAGO FAGNANO. Also known as Lago Kami, in the Selknam language, this body of water is located to the south and center of the large island of Tierra del Fuego. About 93% of its 590 km² area is

located in the Argentine part of the island, and the remainder in Chilean lands. Its mouth is located in the Río Azopardo torrent, which drains into Seno Almirantazgo in the Strait of Magellan.

The road ends at the Caleta María, a meeting point not only for visitors, but also for scientists, who come to admire the great biodiversity surrounding Seno Almirantazgo, which is protected by Karukinka to the north and by the Yendegaia National Park to the south. Caleta María is easy to access and offers a wide variety of wildlife observation and adventure tourism activities.

FLY FISHING, RÍO GRANDE

