



Rutas Patrimoniales Collection

Los Lagos Region

- Chiloé Archipelago
- Palena Lake. Patagonian Andes
- Río Blanco. Patagonian Forests
- Río Palena. Patagonian Andes
- Río Ventisquero. Protected National Asset
- Vicente Pérez Rosales. National Park

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San Juan village, Dalcahue commune.

Download the map of 5 circuits:



**RUTA PATRIMONIAL**  
**ARCHIPIÉLAGO DE CHILOÉ**

ENG

CHILOÉ ARCHIPELAGO HERITAGE ROUTE | LOS LAGOS REGION



ENG



## VISITOR'S RECOMMENDATIONS



Wildlife observation requires a contemplative and respectful attitude towards natural spaces as visitors in Chiloé.



A favorable proximity for observing or photographing birds is essential for those with a special interest in this area. It is important to know and practice appropriate behaviors to avoid disturbing their habitat. Prioritize the use of existing infrastructure. It is recommended to read specialized field guides, such as "Birds of Chile" by Álvaro Jaramillo, or others that provide guidance on the care and vulnerabilities of species that can be found. Respect the ecosystems of Chiloé. We will learn about their important benefits along the Heritage Route.



The same applies to marine and terrestrial wildlife, for which the reading of the "Didactic Guide to Cetaceans" by the MERI Foundation is recommended, if there is interest in whale watching. This guide is a resource for learning more about these cetaceans.



During car trips, visitors are advised to be cautious of domestic animals which are generally free-roaming in Chiloé. This includes livestock such as cows, oxen, and birds (chickens, turkeys, ducks, and geese) as well as horses, and also wild animals such as the pudú, güiña, chilote fox, among others. It is important to be an active part of the care for our native fauna, especially by following traffic signs related to speed.



Road safety extends to being aware of other drivers' behaviors; the rural nature of the archipelago means that roads are often used by agricultural machinery or other vehicles moving slowly and/or unpredictably.

Route 5 is a two-way road that should be traveled with caution, given the numerous curves and slopes. The condition of the pavement may vary, and one should also consider the high traffic of truck rigs. Long stretches may lack shoulders, and there are areas with poor nighttime visibility.



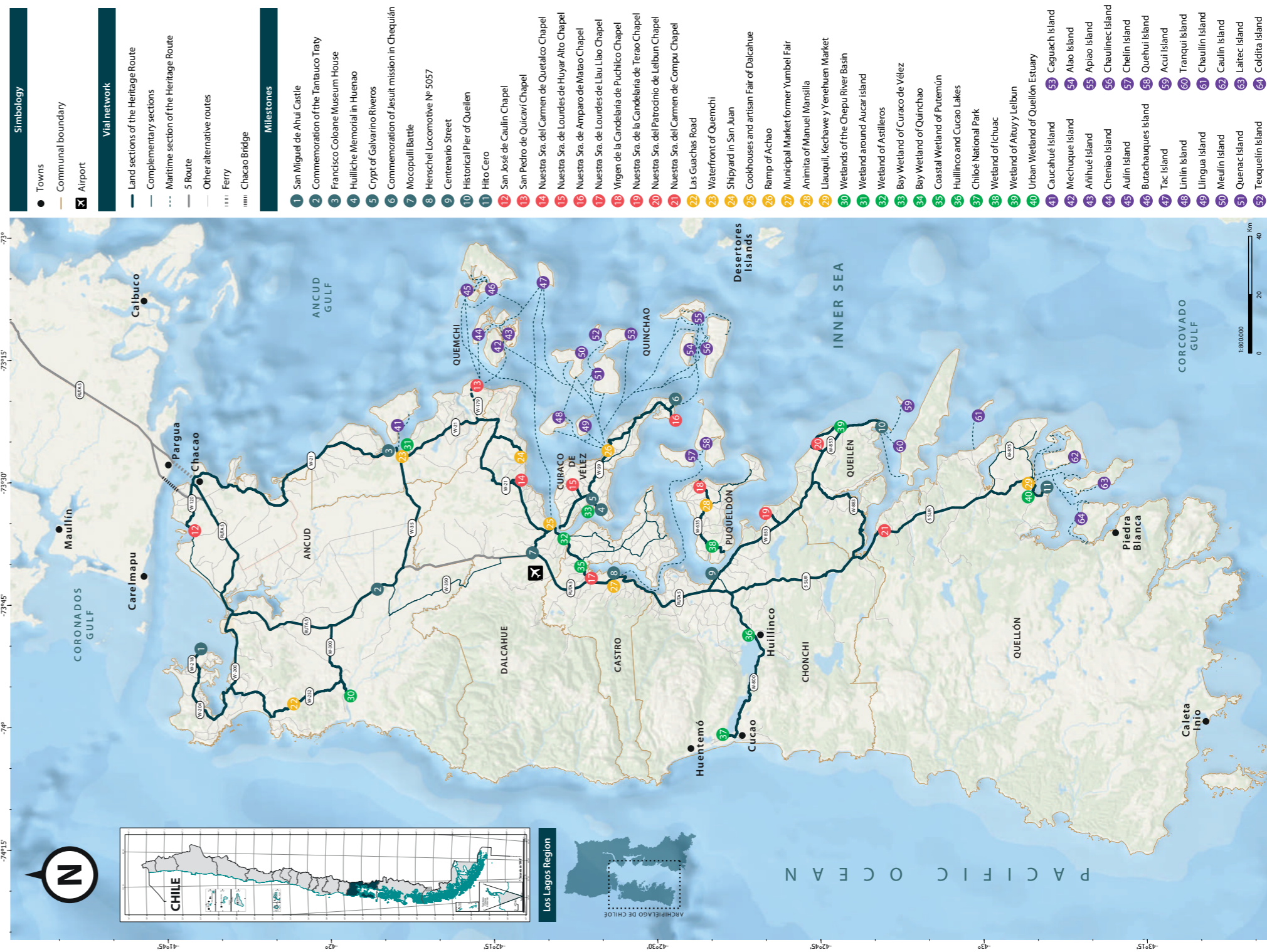
In general, weather conditions can drastically change the state of the pavement and gravel, so special care should be taken when driving on days with frost or drizzle.



Furthermore, behavior at each of the heritage sites offered in this guide must be respectful towards the communities that protect, manage, and conserve them.



Your visit should be made with respect towards the local chapels; the Chiloé Heritage Churches Foundation has developed a visitation protocol that is recommended to study. See the alternative circuit "Iglesias SPM Route," page 78.



## INFORMATION IN THE GUIDE



Technical info



Caution



What to see



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## PRESENTATION OF THE HERITAGE ROUTE

The **Heritage Routes Program of the Ministry of National Assets** was established in 2001, providing the public with free, self-guided tours to promote the value of fiscal cultural heritage. Since its inception, it has developed and implemented over 83 Heritage Routes throughout the country, creating a **heritage network that has enabled both national and international visitors to experience our cultures and landscapes.**



The "Chiloé Archipelago Heritage Route" was created in the context of the Bicentennial of the annexation of the Chiloé Archipelago to the Republic of Chile (1826). It serves as an invitation to explore this internationally renowned insular landscape, which has been **recognized since 2000 by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site (WHS), associated with 16 churches in Chiloé, and since 2011 by the FAO as one of the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS).** This is the first update of the Chiloé Archipelago Heritage Route, originally created in 2011 with a focus on "wetlands, birds, and culture." This new version includes **5 circuits**, divided into **64 milestones**, highlighting fiscal properties and Chilote heritage. It unveils the deep connection between the communities and their environment, covering approximately 170 km in length and 30 km in width of this mythical insular territory, rich in legends, which can only be fully experienced by visiting it.

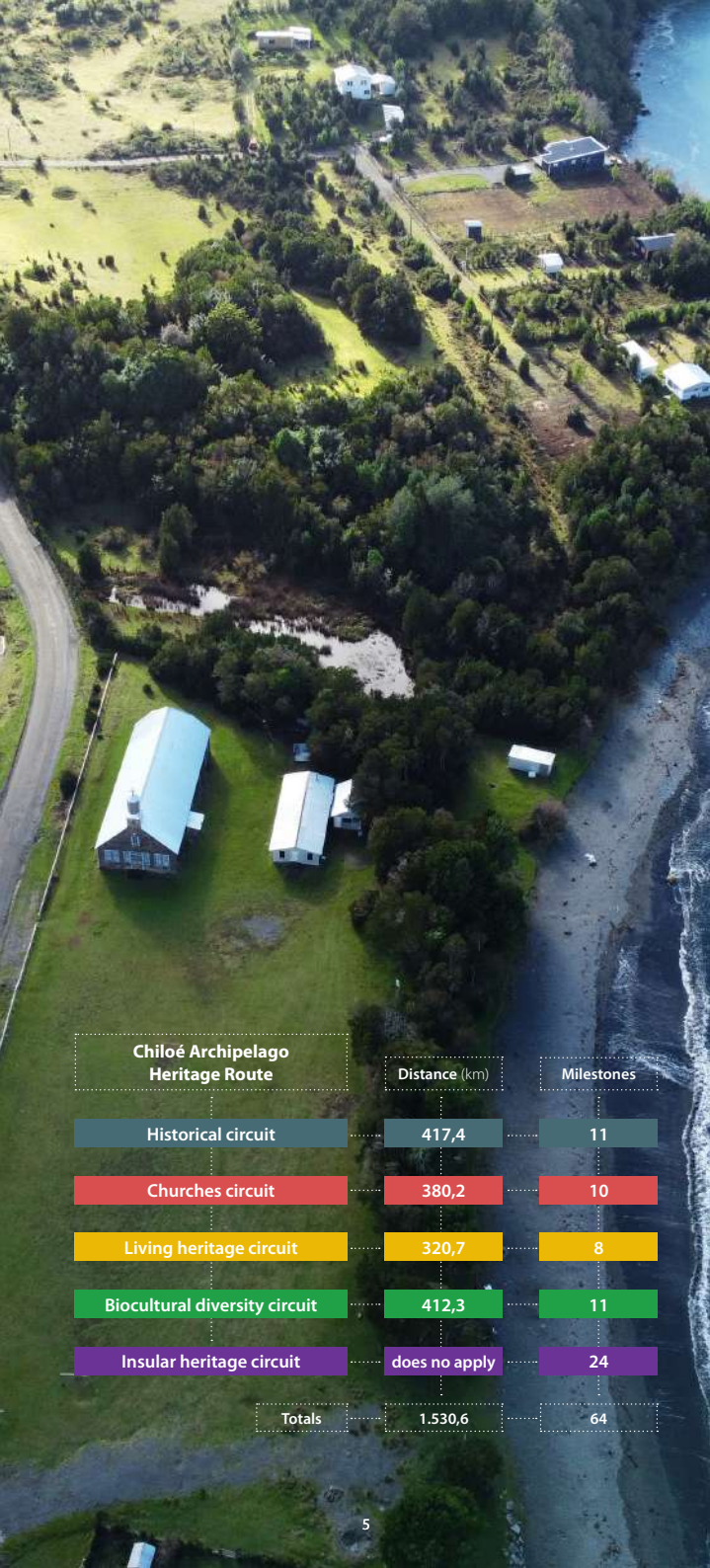


**Church and  
beach in Aituy**  
Queilen

### HISTORICAL CONTEXT OF THE ROUTE

During the last glacial period, Chiloé began to form geomorphologically and environmentally as the insular space we know today. The retreat of the glacier tongues from the Andes mountain range, 17,000 years ago, shaped the territory, dragging and pushing sediments along the way, leaving substantial





**Chiloé Archipelago  
Heritage Route**

**Distance (km)**

**Milestones**

Historical circuit	417,4	11
Churches circuit	380,2	10
Living heritage circuit	320,7	8
Biocultural diversity circuit	412,3	11
Insular heritage circuit	does not apply	24
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1.530,6</b>	<b>64</b>



marks on the landscape: lakes, lagoons, wetlands, basins, and islands.



**Along the coastal edge, traces of the first canoeists of the Archipelago endure: shell mounds, lithic artifacts, and animal bone remains.**

These sites and archaeological findings not only evidence a way of living forged in the relationship with the sea as a source of life but also symbolically represent the local population and their current modes of living, as they have hosted their ancestors for at least 6,000 years.



**In the mid-16th century, upon the arrival of the Spanish colonizers, Chiloé was inhabited by two human groups, each with a distinct language and culture: the chono (chono language) and the huilliche (Mapudungun language),** the latter spoken with certain local peculiarities and generally referred to as huilliche or veliche at different moments in Chiloé's history. Although these two groups differed in their economic, political, and cultural characteristics, they maintained relationships and exchanges, possibly alternating between peace and violence. Both groups maintained a coastal settlement pattern across the territory, guiding the first inhabitants of the Archipelago, preferably in sheltered areas of the inner sea near freshwater river mouths.

The speakers of the Chono language were canoeists who inhabited northern Patagonia, from the Gulf of Ancud to the Gulf of Penas, moving between the channels in dalcas. **Hispanic chronicles place the disappearance of this people in the 18th century, when the language likely ceased to be spoken. However, there are still communities in Chiloé**

Dalca: a sturdy boat made from three to five boards of larch or cypress, joined by seams of vegetable fiber and caulked with larch oakum (Ministry of National Assets, 2011).



**today that identify themselves as part of the chono people.** Their cultural heritage lives on not only in the toponymy of many places in Chiloé but also in culinary preparations, in basketry techniques using rushes, and in the navigational methods that laid the foundation for the construction of chilote boats and navigation through the southern channels.

On the other hand, it is known that when the huilliche migrated to the Archipelago from the north of the present Los Lagos region, the chono people were already migrants, traveling through the channels and coasts. It is also known that, by the time the Spanish arrived, the huilliche people lived in social communities called machulla, under the authority of one or more longko.

Unlike the chono of the 16th century, the huilliche practiced pottery and agriculture. They supplemented their diet by gathering plants and shellfish, fishing, hunting, and raising *chiliwekes*, an extinct camelid from which they obtained wool to make their clothing.

Throughout three hundred years of Spanish domination and two hundred years of the Republic of Chile, the traditions of the chono, huilliche, Spanish, and Chilean cultures have blended, projecting into the present across Chiloé.

**As a result of these diverse dynamics, the places proposed for exploration in this Heritage Route were formed, gaining their value and uniqueness through the representation of the abundant local heritage, opening a gateway to the interest of each visitor through the key patrimonial themes of Chiloé.**



**Chilote  
landscape**

Peninsula of Lacuy





## ECOSYSTEMS OF CHILOÉ

Before embarking on the journey through the five circuits of this Heritage Route, it is important to understand the ecosystems that sustain the life of the Chilote society, which in turn gives life to the local heritage. In the case of the Chiloé Archipelago, these ecosystems are shaped by the Pacific **Ocean**: the open sea to the west and the inland sea to the east of Isla Grande of Chiloé, including the Gulf of Coronados, Ancud, and Corcovado; the **beaches**, along its 1,500 kilometers of coastline; the native **forests**, scattered across the territory and especially dense in the Piuchué and Pirulil mountain ranges; and the **wetlands**, both coastal and inland, valuable spaces where flora, fauna, and human interaction coexist.

### OCEAN



On the western side of Isla Grande of Chiloé lies the Pacific Ocean, forming a coastal area with rugged geography where cliffs and rocky outcrops abound. **Due to these geological formations and the harsh conditions of facing the open sea, settlements along this coast are scarce**, with coves existing only to the north, from the Lacuy Peninsula to the Chepu area, and along the central coast between Cucao and Huentemó. These conditions are favorable for large marine mammals, such as the blue whale, sei whale, and humpback whale, which take advantage of the abundant food provided by the tides of the Chacao Channel and the Humboldt Current.

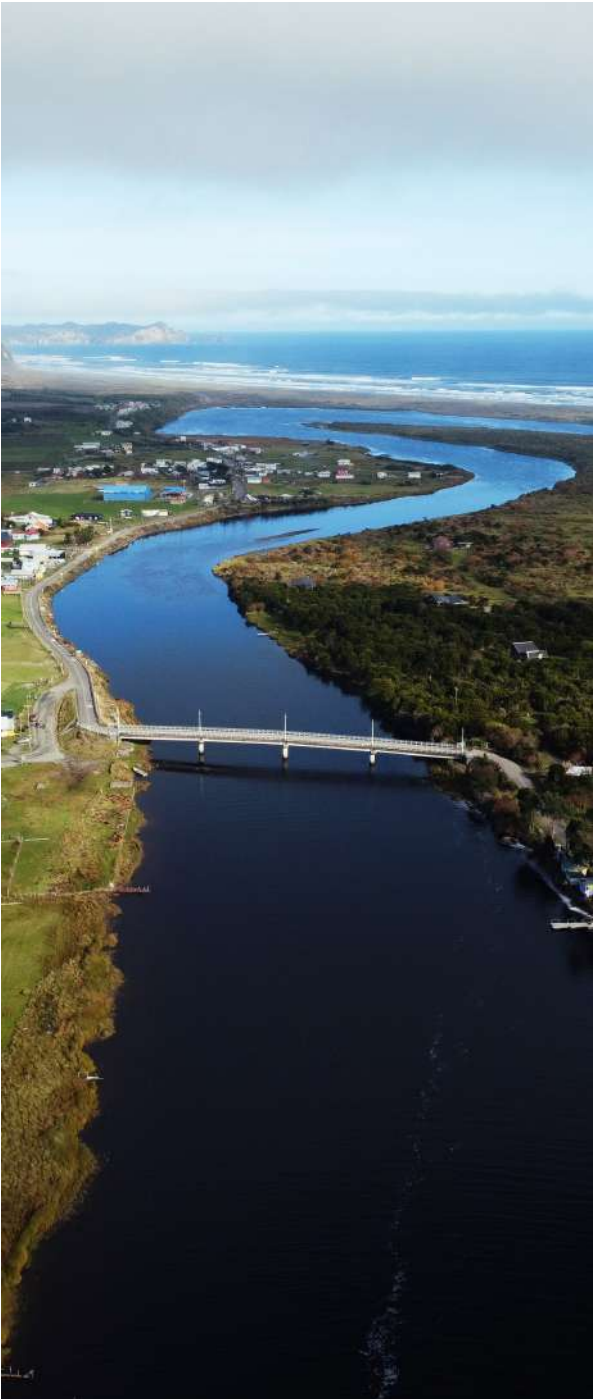


On the other hand, **along the eastern coast lie most of the towns and cities, as the calm waters of the inner sea allowed communities to navigate and take advantage of maritime resources** for self-sustenance, particularly along the coastal edge. Today, artisanal fishing is practiced in this area, and industrial activities are also highly visible in the insular landscape, such as mussel farming and salmon farming.



**Cucao**

Mouth to the Pacific ocean





## BEACH

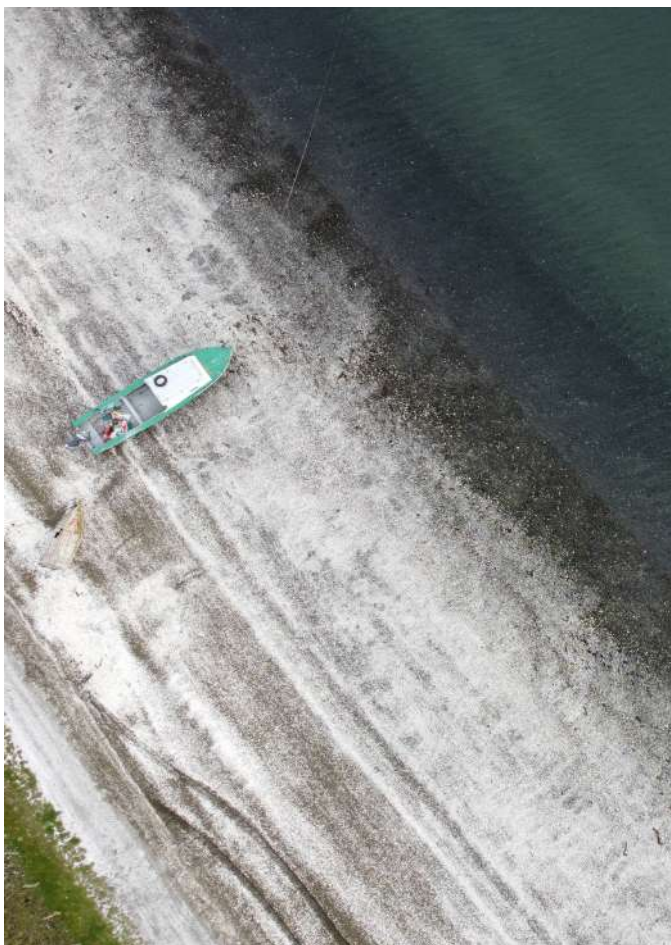
When approaching the heritage of Chiloé it is necessary to stop and observe the coastal edge of transition between two ecosystems, or the “ecotone”, in this case: between the sea and the land. Since the first human settlements in the Archipelago, ways of life have developed that take advantage of the qualities and natural resources of the coastal edge.



### Conchas Blancas

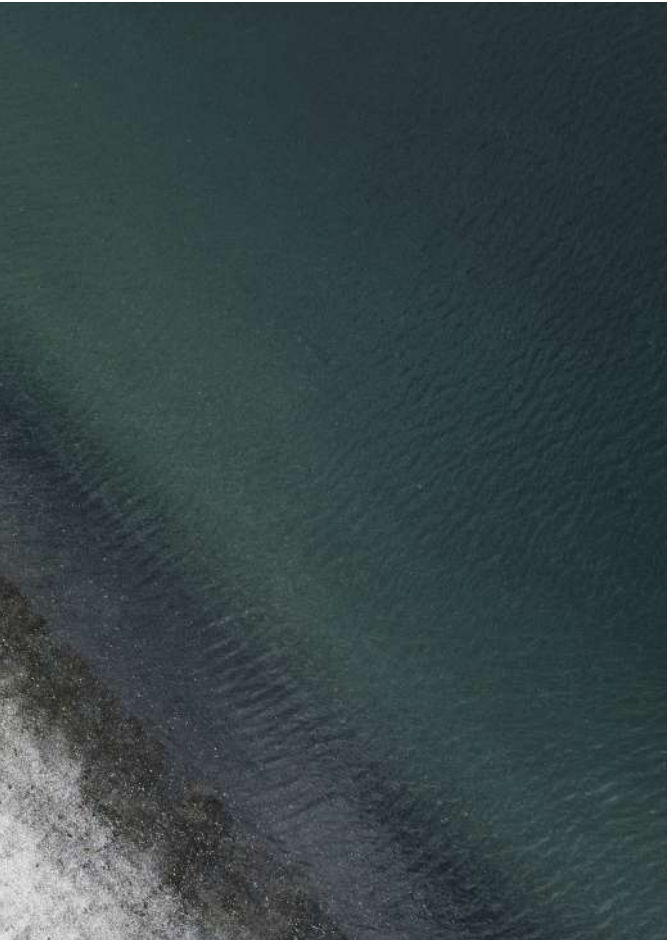
beach in Coñab,  
commune of  
Quinchao

There are countless inlets along the coasts of the Archipelago that make navigation possible, counteracting the unstable weather conditions and allowing access to the beaches of the inner sea, often associated with calm



bays, estuaries, and tidal streams — hence the toponyms with the suffix "dad" [lad, ldad, tad]: fondo de estero (bottom of the sea), estero (estuary), in the Spanish and Chilote sense — as well as dunes (such as the dunes of Chepu near Aulen Beach) and forests that hang over the sea.

**Beaches are, on one hand, the main habitat and access point for marine resources through gathering and fishing. They are also the spaces that safeguard Chiloé's archaeological heritage par excellence, as it is there that life in this territory has developed and thrived for several millennia.**



## FOREST



The native forest of Chiloé corresponds to the category of "temperate forests of southern Chile", recognized for its outstanding endemism, a consequence of geographical isolation. **85% of its species are found nowhere else on the planet.** The forests of Chiloé have been classified into two types. The "Valdivian forest" in the north and center of Isla Grande, from sea level to 400 meters above sea level (masl), where the predominant species are olivillo, coihue, ulmo, and tepa; and the "North Patagonian forest" in the south of the island and above 400 masl, where the predominant species are myrtaceous plants, canelo, coihue of Chiloé, tenío, tepú, and conifers like alerce, mañío, and ciprés.

In Chiloé, where glaciers are absent, forests play a crucial role in maintaining the hydrological cycle, since during the summer they slowly release the water they store. They are also an inseparable part of the cultural heritage, providing wood, fibers, medicines and food. They are strongly linked to local identity, cosmovision and spirituality.



Unfortunately, the forests of Chiloé are facing significant disturbances and threats due to overexploitation and human intervention. **In fact, in Chile, the greatest loss of native forest is located in Chiloé. Between 1998 and 2013, 10,230 hectares of native forest were lost, the equivalent of the entire Lemuy Island.** More recently, government statistics show a continued loss of native forest cover in the Chiloé archipelago, from 69.5% to 61% of the total provincial area between 2013 and 2020, respectively.

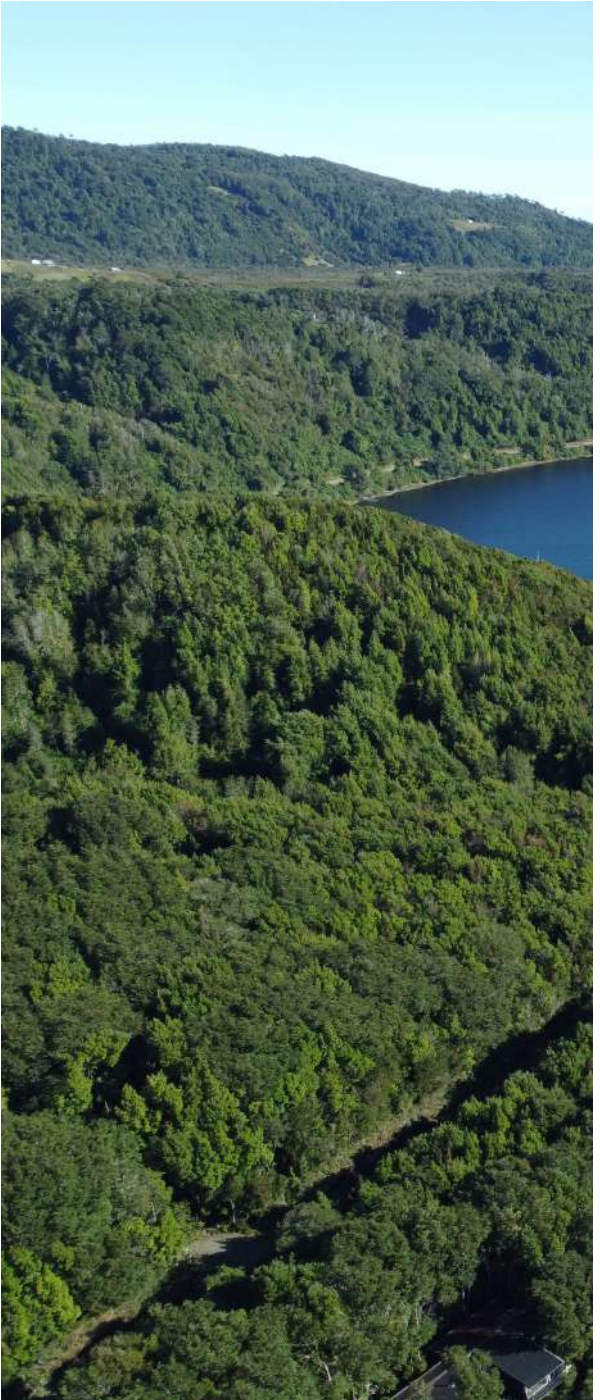
It is significant that conservation efforts are promoted, especially when a study published in 2024 (Pérez-Quezada et al. 2024) concluded that each hectare of mature forest in Chiloé absorbs an average of 18 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> per year, very close to the 22.5 tons absorbed by tropical rainforests on average.

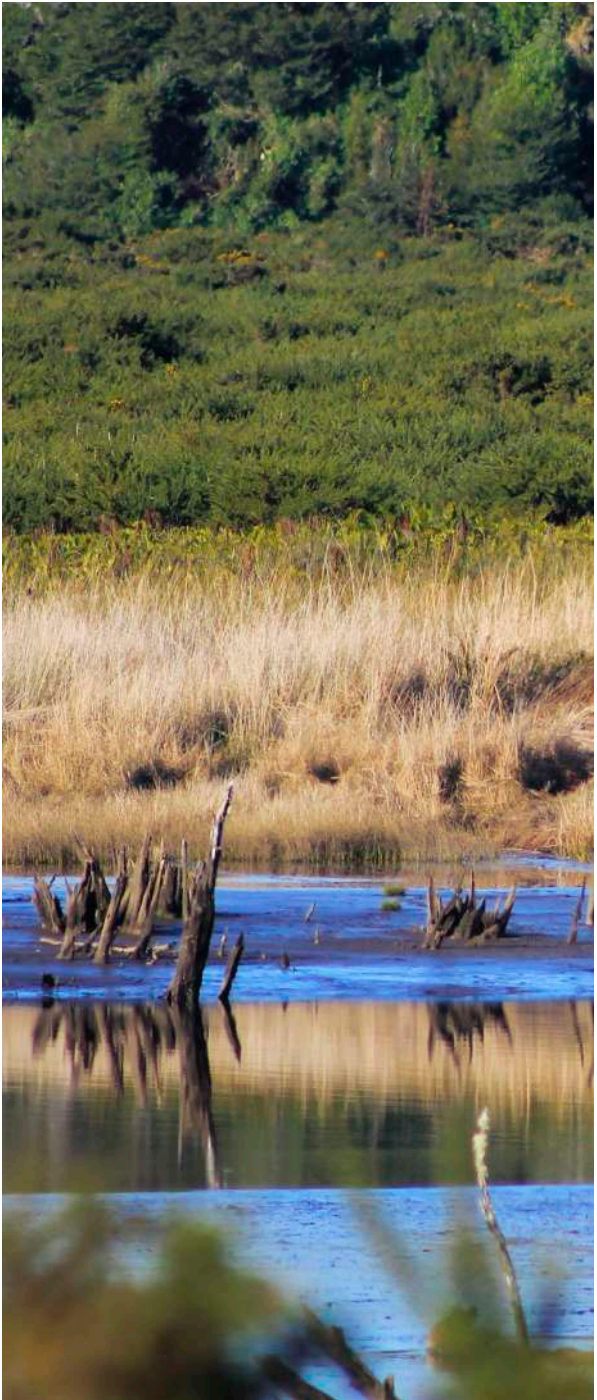


Temperate forest of southern Chile

Cucao Lake







## WETLANDS

Wetlands are aquatic ecosystems of great importance, not only because they sustain and preserve biodiversity, but also because they provide essential elements for human life.

**In Chile, the Ministry of the Environment recognizes their importance by implementing public policies such as the National Strategy for the Conservation and Rational Use of Wetlands. This recognition is also evident in Chile's adherence to the Ramsar Convention in 1980 (an international treaty for wetland conservation), which became a national law in 1981 through a decree by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.**



In addition, it is important to highlight that there is a National Wetlands Committee in Chile that promotes and implements significant conservation actions, supported by several organizations, communities, municipalities, academia, and private sector stakeholders, aiming to execute sustainable management plans that respect the flora, fauna, and water resources contained in the wetlands.

**There are 110 wetlands in the Chiloé Archipelago identified in a collaborative effort between the Chiloé Wetlands Committee, the Regional Ministerial Secretariat (SEREMI) of the Environment of Los Lagos, and the GORE of Los Lagos.** These 110 wetlands act as a major greenhouse gas sink, capturing and storing carbon from the atmosphere. Therefore, they are a remarkable stabilizer of the climate.



Notable among them are peat bogs and pomponales, vast areas of flooded soils covered by mosses from the genus *Sphagnum*, mainly *S. magellanicum* or pompon moss, a species capable of absorbing and retaining up to 20 times its weight in water, as well as shrubs, ferns, and other wetland plants.

Together with the forests, the peatlands function as containers of fresh water, ensuring its availability throughout the year: they retain it in winter and release it in summer.



### Wetland

System of rivers:  
Pudeto, San Antonio and Negro

## CHILOTA CULTURAL AREA

When studying the local history, it is necessary to recognize that during the 16th, 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries, the province of Chiloé encompassed a larger territory than it does today. The maximum boundaries of that province would approximately correspond to the plains of Osorno in the north and Los Chonos Archipelago in the south, which is slightly larger than the area shown in the 1920 map on the following page.

In relation to this space, it is possible to identify a contemporary Chiloé cultural area that does not coincide with the current province of Chiloé.



**This cultural area extends through Puerto Montt, Calbuco, Carelmapu and Maullín, includes continental Chiloé, the Desertores Islands and the coast of the province of Palena, as well as the coast of Aysén, and the Guaitecas and Chonos archipelagos. An area traced by navigation.**

At present, the province of Chiloé has a political-administrative division of 10 communes: Ancud, Quemchi, Castro, Dalcahue, Curaco de Vélez, Quinchao, Puqueldón, Chonchi, Queilen and Quellón.



**Chiloé**  
and Llanquihue,  
1920





UE

E.T. Sistema Métrico  
Escala de 1:500,000  
Escala gráfica 1 cm = 10 km

L. LLANQUIHUE

CORONADO

GOLFO DE YUCATÁN

BAHÍA DE CUCUÁ

ROCA DEL GUANZO

LA VAIERCA



Puerto Montt

5 Route

Chacao Bridge

Pargua-Chacao

5 Route




5 Route

Chaitén

Chaitén

Pto. Cisnes  
y Chacabuco

- 5 Route
- Other routes
- Maritime ways
-  Mocopulli Airport

## MOBILITY IN CHILOÉ

Before starting the journey, it is important to understand the ways of mobility, or transportation, in Chiloé.

The most common way to access Chiloé Island by car is through ferries. From the north, the route connecting Pargua and Chacao operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Other routes connect Chaitén and Castro, Quellón with Chaitén, Puerto Cisnes and Puerto Chacabuco. For these last routes, it is recommended to check with Naviera Austral and book ferry tickets in advance.

Another way to get there is by air. The Mocopulli aerodrome in the commune of Dalcahue has several routes from Santiago, and there are also connections with Concepción.

In 2014, construction began on the Chacao Bridge, a major structure between Isla Grande and the continent. One of the most challenging suspension bridges in the world, it is the longest in South America, at 2,750 meters long with three towers 190 meters high, and is being built in an area with strong tides, sea currents, winds, and rain.

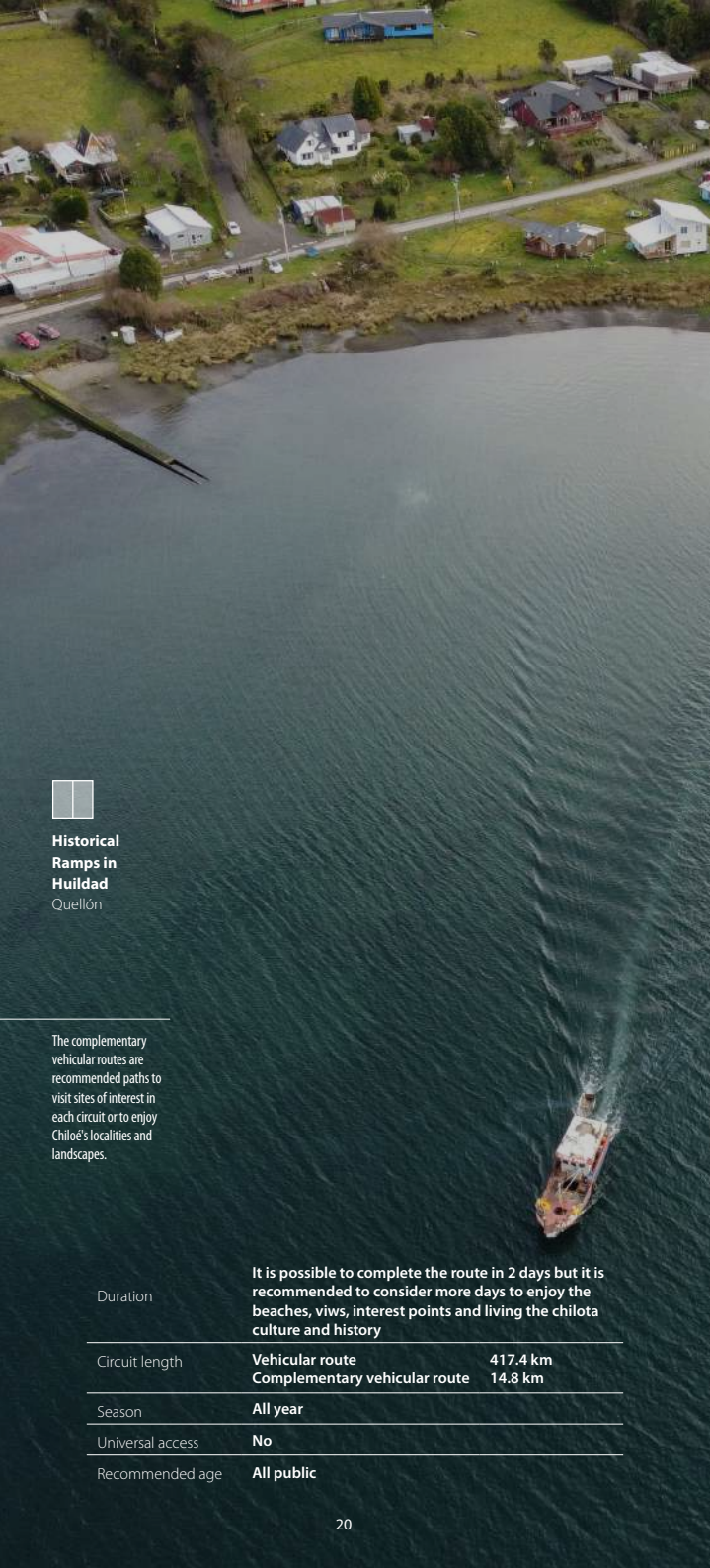
Route 5 connects the Archipelago from Chacao to Quellón, forming the main road system on the island. There are also several paved and gravel roads that improve intercommunal connectivity. **Due to their winding nature, these alternative routes offer slower travel, making them an attraction in themselves, and allowing travelers to enjoy the deep rural landscape of Chiloé.**



Two islands have road connections by ferry from Chiloé Island: Quinchao and Lemuy. The other islands in the archipelago are accessible by sea, and only some have smaller airstrips.

The different circuits in this guide are mainly designed to be traveled along the Archipelago's alternative paved routes, and Route 5, which offers faster travel, and it is recommended for returning and leaving the Archipelago once the journey is completed.





## Historical Ramps in Huidad

Quellón

The complementary vehicular routes are recommended paths to visit sites of interest in each circuit or to enjoy Chiloé's localities and landscapes.

Duration	It is possible to complete the route in 2 days but it is recommended to consider more days to enjoy the beaches, viws, interest points and living the chilota culture and history	
Circuit length	Vehicular route	417.4 km
	Complementary vehicular route	14.8 km
Season	All year	
Universal access	No	
Recommended age	All public	





## HISTORICAL CIRCUIT OF CHILOÉ

In Chiloé, various historical layers coexist, shaping the Archipelago's heritage to this day.

Different human groups have contributed to the formation of cultural practices and goods over successive periods, creating a true palimpsest, reflected in the following historical layers: the "**early indigenous geography**," which includes shell middens, fishing corrals, and indigenous cemeteries, as well as the spatial framework of current settlements based on continuity: *caví huilliche*, chapel, and later town; the "**colonial**," which encompasses the defensive infrastructure system, the proliferation of water mills, and historical events related to the Jesuit evangelization processes and *encomiendas* (a colonial system of land grants and forced labor); the "**modern and other innovations**," which includes the railway infrastructure, industrialization, the spread of docks and modern roads, and the development of neoclassical and stilt architecture; and the "**heritage preservation of traditions**," with museums and collections related to local traditions, featuring elements, displays and history of the local communities.

These layers are present in contemporary Chiloé identities through traces, marks, or commemorative elements that will be explored in this historical circuit of Chiloé

## ARCHEOLOGICAL HERITAGE

### *Layers of insular heritage*



The archaeological heritage in Chiloé reveals human occupation of the territory dating back 6,200 years. Currently, over 1,000 archaeological sites associated with fish traps and shell middens are known to exist.

Fish pens are aquatic structures used to catch fish. These spaces are flooded by high tides and cleared by low tides. They were built using stones (gravel, sand, cobbles, and erratic blocks) as well as plant materials, by communities that utilized the shoreline to obtain food. The traps demonstrate knowledge of the sea and the available materials.

Shell middens, on the other hand, are mounds that typically contain shells, animal bone remains, ceramic fragments, and lithic tools. Sometimes, they also contain remains of fires or "curantos" (traditional pit ovens) and burials of the people who inhabited the area.

However, Chiloé's archaeological heritage is not limited to shell middens and fish pens. It includes all ancient remnants of human life in the Archipelago, as well as underwater archaeology, which is essential for understanding its history.

Marijke Von Meurs, director of the Ancud Regional Museum, emphasizes that **"these are very vulnerable places, [...] where remnants once existed, today it is difficult to find them."** It is recommended to visit local museums that carry out the important work of safeguarding, among other things, collections of archaeological finds from Chiloé, such as the Regional Museum of Ancud, the Museums of Achao, Quellón, Puente Quilo, and Castro, among others.



**Fish pens**  
Chala island



## SPANISH DEFENSIVE HERITAGE

### *Hispanic fortifications in Chiloé*

The Spanish founded towns and cities in the Americas based on three main criteria: the presence of mineral wealth, the abundance of indigenous labor, and geographic characteristics that allowed for military protection.

In Chiloé, they did not find land or waters rich in gold and silver, but they did find a territory full of natural wealth and indigenous labor.

In 1537, Martín Ruíz de Gamboa, who led the conquest of Chiloé at the request of Governor Rodrigo Quiroga, founded the city of Castro, protected by the inner channels of the Archipelago, and, for that reason, had a high concentration of native population.

At the same time, he founded the Fort of Chacao in 1567, the northern entrance to Chiloé Island, using defensive techniques similar to palisades—vertical wooden posts tied together with ropes to form defensive walls.



**The Spanish defense system in Chiloé was based on forts directly supported by "batteries," infrastructure generally composed of six pieces of artillery, and by "sentinels," lookout points to guard the territory at all times.**

Between the 16th and 19th centuries, around 225 fortifications were built in Chile. Twenty-seven of these fortifications were related to the control and protection of Chiloé, spread across the areas of Carelmapu, Lacuy, San Carlos de Ancud, San Antonio de Chacao, and Castro-Tauco.

The last stronghold of Spanish colonialism in the Americas was Chiloé, which was annexed to the Republic of Chile in 1826.



**When visiting the Balcacura battery, it is recommended to stop by the beach, where Charles Darwin disembarked from the Beagle in 1834.**



**Tauco Fort**  
Chonchi



**Fortifications**  
in Chiloé.

Note: Martínez, Witker, Bahamonde y Neira, 2021.





- Fort San Miguel de Ahui
- Chaicura Battery
- Balcacura Battery
- Corona Battery
- Guapacho Sentinel

- Fort San Antonio de Chacao
- La Poza Battery
- Remolinos Battery
- Pampa de Lobos Battery

- Royal Fort San Antonio
- Fort San Antonio
- El Muelle Battery
- Poquillihue Battery

Pacific Ocean

- Castro Battery
- Santiago de Castro Fort

- Tauco Battery

## MILESTONE 1

## SAN MIGUEL DE AHUI CASTLE

### Ancud

Coordinates (latitude / longitude)	-41,82965 / -73,85743
Distance / time to the next milestone	68.5 km / 68 min
Accumulated distance	0.0 km

This circuit begins at the San Miguel de Ahui Castle, a Historic Monument and a state-owned property, also known as Fort Ahui. Its marked entrance is located about 37 kilometers from Ancud, at the end of the unpaved W-218 Route.



**By walking along a rugged pedestrian path of about 300 meters, you reach the site**, which is part of a lesser-known historical layer of the territory. "Everyone knows that there are fortifications in Valdivia, but here in Chiloé there were as many as in Valdivia, with one difference. The fortifications in Valdivia were built by prisoners from Peru, serving their sentences in Valdivia, while here in Chiloé they were built by the chilotes themselves, our ancestors," says Nelson Bahamonde, a local historian.



The Ahui Castle dates back to 1779 and was designed by the Spanish military engineer Manuel de Zorrilla. Originally, it was built with luma wood palisades. In 1818, reinforced walls were made from cancagua stone, a malleable material that also allowed the development of vaults, moldings, and columns.

In military architecture, a castle is a fortification designed primarily for defense with several defensive features (walls, gates with bastions, moats, artillery, among others), but what distinguishes it from other forts is its use as a temporary refuge for either civilians or military personnel. This nuance differentiates a castle from other types of military structures in colonial Spanish architecture.

It was part of the defensive subsystem of the Lacuy Archipelago, alongside the Batteries of Corona, Chaicura, Balcacura—the latter two which are very close to this site—and the Guapacho Watchtower.

**Today, after a process of enhancement between 1999 and 2005, it is open to visitors, where they can appreciate the powder magazine, period cannons, and some archaeological finds from the site.**



**San Miguel  
de Ahui Castle**  
Milestone 1



## MILESTONE 2

## COMMEMORATION OF THE TANTAUCO TREATY

*Ancud*

Coordinates (latitude / longitude)	-42,09833 / -73,7619
Distance / time to the next milestone	30.1 km / 30 min
Accumulated distance	68.5 km



Continuing along the route by vehicle until kilometer 1,142 of Route 5, **the old Caicumeo Road can be found, marked as "Camino Viejo," along with the Tantauco River and an exit to the west leading to the Tantauco Chapel and its homonymous cemetery.**

<sup>2</sup> O'Higgins, 1942, p. 74 and ss.

<sup>3</sup> Urbina, 2010, p. 100 and ss.

<sup>4</sup> Barrientos, 2013, p. 132 and ss; Barros, 1856, p. 187; and, Rodríguez, 104, p. 334 and ss.



José Santiago Aldunate and Antonio Manuel Garay (patriot colonel and royalist commander, respectively) agreed to a 4-day armistice on January 16. From the testimonies of Tomás O'Higgins,<sup>2</sup> who traveled the Caicumeo Road in 1797, and the works of Rodolfo Urbina,<sup>3</sup> it is known that there was a very basic barracks at the San Antonio Bridge over the river of the same name, where **on January 18, 1826, the Treaty was drafted by two royalist commissioners and two patriots who had invaded Chiloé. That same afternoon, it was signed by Antonio de Quintanilla, governor of Chiloé and commander of the royalist forces, in Tantauco; and Ramón Freire, Supreme Director of Chile and general of the patriot forces, signed it the following day, January 19, in San Carlos (today's Ancud).**<sup>4</sup>

The Treaty, which marked the annexation



**Tantauco sector, you can see Route 5 and the Tantauco Church**  
Milestone 2





of Chiloé to the Republic of Chile and the end of Spanish monarchy in the Americas, is exemplary and highly respectful of the defeated. It consists of 13 articles that addressed the incorporation of Chiloé into Chile, the surrender of the royal army, the freedom of movement for the King's soldiers, respect for the property and goods of the Chilotes, the forgetting of past political conduct and opinions, and the preservation of civil, military, and religious positions.

**Although the original document has been lost, its text and signing details are known from a copy preserved in the National Historical Archive of Chile (Ministry of the Interior Fund, volume 75, which contains letters sent by the Intendancy of Chiloé) and from historical publications, such as the books by Diego Barros Arana (The Campaigns of Chiloé) and Manuel Torres Marín (Quintanilla and Chiloé).**

According to oral testimonies, around 1958, the Rotary Club of Ancud installed a monolith adorned with the Rotary wheel and a plaque with the Treaty copy on the Caicumeo Road, about 40 meters north of the Tantauco River. For a time, it was decorated with cannons and chains, which were later removed, along with the plaque and the wheel. Today, the only remnant is a concrete piece, which is not at the original location, but the local indigenous communities continue to advocate for its restoration.

From here, the route continues southeast towards Quemchi.

Check here to read the  
13 articles in spanish:



**Monolith and scattered canyons, now destroyed.**

Note: Tangol, 1972, p. 48



## MILESTONE 3

## FRANCISCO COLOANE MUSEUM HOUSE *Quemchi*

Address	Yungay Street 22
Coordinates (latitude / longitude)	-42,14394 / -73,47119
Distance / time to the next milestone	56.3 km / 60 min
Accumulated distance	98.6 km

By car, access to the waterfront promenade of Quemchi is possible via Route W-35, where the Francisco Coloane House Museum is located. This space was created in 2000 and inaugurated in 2010, on the centenary of Francisco Coloane's birth (1910-2002), the renowned Chilean writer, a distinguished son of Quemchi, and the recipient of the National Literature Prize in 1964.

Marjorie Mena, the museum curator, says that the house was brought to its current location from Huite, 4 kilometers away, using a traditional method called minga de tiradura (house pulling). "Special people who knew how to work with house pulling were sought, such as people from Calen. A team of 12 oxen

To access the original minga report in French, scan the following QR code:



Spanish version at the Francisco Coloane Museum House



was used [...] and the boats Viviana IV and Viviana V towed the house by sea," says Mena. The minga is a form of collaborative labor, "a community effort that is not paid. Food and celebrations are provided instead," she adds.

**The Francisco Coloane House Museum recalls the home where the writer spent his childhood, serving as a public space<sup>5</sup> for encounters and a bridge between art and literature through its permanent exhibitions and collection on display. The building evokes the stilts houses that once existed in Quemchi, which were destroyed by the 1960 tsunami, offering visitors a journey through the past and present.**

Francisco Coloane baptized Quemchi as "the town of a thousand landscapes," and the Aucar Island as the "island of the wandering souls." Marjorie concludes by recalling, "For him, the souls would sail at night; the cemetery was a boat, and when the tide rose, the souls would go out to sail [...]. His presence can still be felt in the streets and places."

The route continues on Route W-21 towards Dalcahue and the Quinchao Island.



<sup>5</sup> See Museums of Chiloé, page 170.



**Francisco  
Coloane  
Museum House  
interior**  
Milestone 3



## MILESTONE 4

## HUILICHE MEMORIAL IN HUENAO

### *Curaco de Vélez*

Coordinates (latitude / longitude)	-42,45795 / -73,62297
Distance / time to the next milestone	2.8 km / 3 min
Accumulated distance	154.9 km

Having entered Quinchao Island by ferry from Dalcahue, the route passes through Curaco de Vélez towards Punta Huenao along the Avenida del Mar, which turns into Route W-571 as it approaches the coast. After 4 kilometers, the Huilliche Memorial, carved in wood, can be found on the left-hand side.

The organization of settlements or chapels in Chiloé is based on the historical distribution of indigenous communities in *caví* (a social structure linked to families descending from a common ancestor), mostly located along the coastline of the inland sea. These communities were early on turned into *encomiendas*, a colonial system in which Spanish settlers were granted land and the local indigenous people were forced to provide labor for them, often without compensation. These were referred to as towns or chapels of the Indians. In the first half of the 17th century, Castro was attacked and destroyed by Dutch privateers and indigenous allies from the northern part of the island. This led to immediate retaliation against these allies and created a sense of insecurity among the Spanish population. As a result, many Spanish settlers migrated to more rural areas, specifically to the “towns of the Indians,” where their *encomiendas* were usually located, shaping a cultural geography of Chiloé in coastal rural settlements until the mid-20th century.

In 1712, a rebellion broke out among the indigenous population in the central part of the Archipelago due to the excessive increase in labor demands, such as housebuilding, handicraft production, and farming, imposed by Spanish *encomenderos*, who did not provide any payment. The indigenous people, gathered in Quilquico, decided to revolt against the Spanish, destroy their properties,



Wood sculpture  
Milestone 4



kill them, and burn down the city of Castro. However, due to the difficulties in forming alliances because of distance and limited communication, and after having killed some Spanish settlers, the Spanish response was swift. Soldiers were sent to recover Castro, and nearly one hundred indigenous men were decapitated in Huenao. Only after the intervention of Jesuit missionaries to end the conflict, the rebellion was suppressed, and all the guilty parties were sentenced to death.

It is estimated that around 30 Spanish settlers and 400 indigenous people lost their lives, along with the burning of fields, houses, and crops. After this, there were some improvements in how the indigenous people under encomienda were treated, even though the Spanish encomenderos resisted. The encomienda system in Chiloé officially ended in 1782.

The Huilliche Memorial, “in honor of our history,” was erected by the local community with public funding and inaugurated in February 2020, commemorating this rebellion.

**To continue, take Route W-571, which leads to Huenao Beach, from where a rugged trail provides access to a natural viewpoint over the hill of the same name.**



## MILESTONE 5

## CRYPT OF GALVARINO RIVEROS

### Curaco de Vélez

Address	Main Square (Plaza de Armas)
Coordinates (latitude / longitude)	-42,4396 / -73,60256
Distance / time to the next milestone	32 km / 35 min
Accumulated distance	157.7 km

Back in the town of Curaco de Vélez, right in the middle of its Main Square, you'll find the crypt of Galvarino Riveros Cárdenas (1829-1892). It's easily recognizable as a bright red beacon.

**Since 2012, the remains of the rear admiral and esteemed son of the community have rested in this Public Monument,**



Crypt in  
Curaco de  
Vélez

Milestone 5



recognised for capturing the battleship **Huáscar** during the **Naval Battle of Angamos (1879)**, a key moment in the outcome of the **War of the Pacific**.

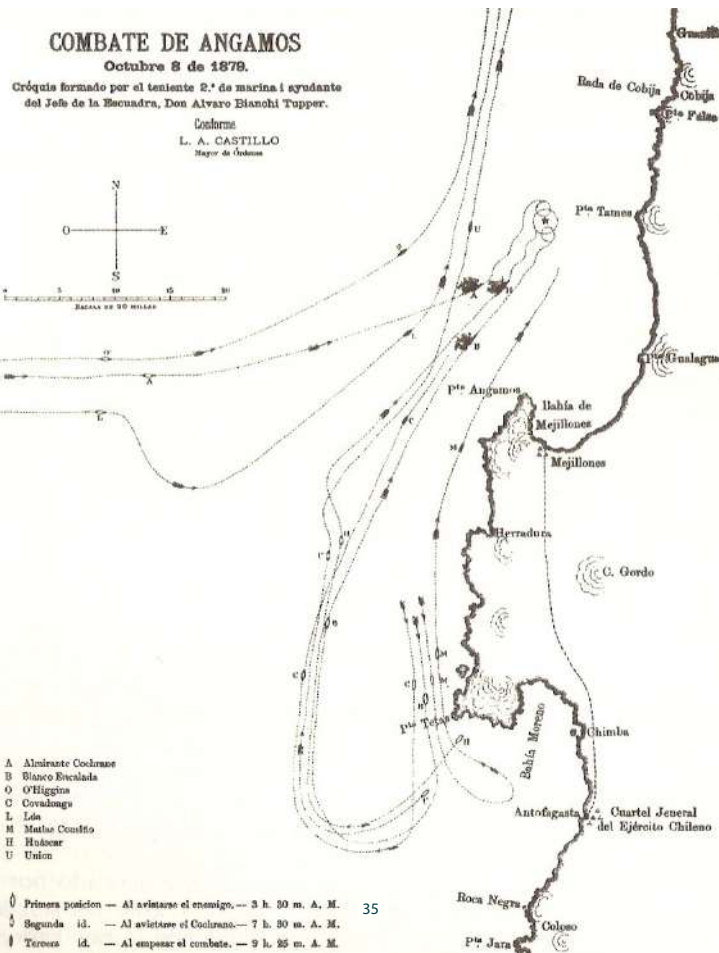


While there aren't any records of his birth, it's known that he lived in the Changüitad area. Galvarino Riveros represents the involvement of the Chilotes in Chilean navigation, and he also validates the town's motto, "Cradle of Heroes."

To continue with the Heritage Route, head towards the southern tip of Quinchao Island.



Sketch of Naval Battle of Angamos, 1879



## MILESTONE 6

## COMMEMORATION OF JESUIT MISSION IN CHEQUIÁN

### *Quinchao*

Coordinates (latitude / longitude)	-42,57798 / -73,40219
Distance / time to the next milestone	55.9 km / 60 min
Accumulated distance	189.7 km

Heading south along Route W-59, you reach the town of Chequián, the site of the first Jesuit settlement on an island in the inner sea, outside Castro.

Priests Melchor Venegas and Juan Bautista Ferrufino were the first Jesuits to arrive in Chiloé from Penco in October 1608. After settling in Castro, and following decades of missionary work, they faced a geographically difficult and economically poor environment. Despite these challenges, they managed to establish the Jesuit mission in Chiloé during the 18th century.

Since 1702, there had been an indigenous village and a Jesuit residence in Chequián to oversee the productive activities. After abandoning the mission of Huar, due to the mass migration of chono people to other islands, the missionaries from Huar settled in Chequián at the end of 1718, where they continued their evangelization efforts. This place became the first Jesuit settlement in the islands of the inner sea of the Archipelago for

For more information, to see chapter XVI in the book *Historia de Chiloé* (History of Chiloé) (Barrientos, 2013):



Pages 110-121.





missionary purposes, outside Castro. It was probably chosen because the Jesuits owned a large agricultural property of 500 *cuadras* (750 hectares). This settlement operated for the mission only until 1753, when Achao was granted the title of Villa de Santa María. This coincided with the inauguration of the chapel dedicated to the Virgin of Loreto, which became a model for many churches in Chiloé.

**The current ramp in Chequián is located on the beach, next to the present-day Chequián Chapel. This site provides a chance to recall the landscape the missionaries faced as they landed here and then sailed to other islands in the Archipelago to carry out the circular missions. From here, you can see the islands of Quehui, Chelín, and Imelev. Walking east along the beach, the islands of Chaulinec and Alao can also be seen.**



To learn more about the evangelization process in this area, visit the Museum of Evangelization, located inside the Church of Achao. You can also explore the interesting historical connection between Bariloche and Achao, related to the image of the Virgin of Loreto from the same church.

From here, the circuit continues back to the mainland to visit a site that commemorates a Spanish event against Chile that took place in 1824.



**Bay and ramp in  
Chequián**  
Milestone 6



## MILESTONE 7

## BATTLE OF MOCOPULLI

*Dalcahue*

Coordinates (latitude / longitude)	-42,34179 / -73,70555
Distance / time to the next milestone	21.3 km / 25 min
Accumulated distance	245.6 km

Heading north from Dalcahue, take Route W-45 by car, then turn south onto Route 5 at the well-known "Cruce (Intersection) Mocopulli." On the left, atop a hill, stands the monolith commemorating the Battle of Mocopulli, built in 1972 by teachers from the Dalcahue community, members of the United Workers Union of Education.

On March 31, 1824, Chilean ships under the command of General Beauchef arrived in Dalcahue, while another group of soldiers had disembarked near San Carlos (today's Ancud) in Pugueñun. Despite the resistance from the Spanish and Chilote forces stationed in Castro, led by Ballesteros, Beauchef's patriot forces advanced through the swamps of Mocopulli, where —unexpectedly, and hopeful for a decisive victory— they were ambushed by Chilote militias, along with the Cavalry Corps from the Quinchao island and an indigenous battalion from Cucao called the "Compañía de Volteadores." The battlefield, located between a hill and a large



swamp, was named "La Herradura" due to the rounded shape of the plain.

The Chilotes' knowledge of the difficult, marshy terrain, combined with the lack of order in the patriot forces, led to a defeat on April 1, 1824, with two hundred casualties. However, the Spanish army under Ballesteros also suffered significant losses. Two or three days after the battle, the bodies and equipment of the fallen were burned and buried.

**Today, ammunition and weapons from this battle, which took place over 200 years ago, can be found in local museums. This battle marked the second failed attempt to annex Chiloé to the Republic of Chile.**



The annexation would only be achieved after the battles of Pudeto and Bellavista on January 13 and 14, 1826, making Chiloé the last Spanish stronghold in the Americas. Although the Chilotes initially supported the cause of the King of Spain, they were eventually forced to swear allegiance to the independence movement and accept the new republican regime.<sup>6</sup>

From here, continue on Route 5 toward Castro.

<sup>6</sup> Montiel y Orellana, 2023.



**Swamp where the battle would have taken place**

Milestone 7



## RAILWAY HERITAGE

### "El tren lluvioso, la babosa gigante"

"The rainy train, [...] the giant slug." This is how Pablo Neruda described the train in Chiloé.

On Saturday, February 6, 1909, the construction of the railway connecting the cities of Ancud and Castro began, carried out by the company Lezaeta & Durán Hnos. y Cía., using a narrow-gauge track of 60 centimeters. Three years later, in 1911, 300 tons of rails and the first two of five locomotives arrived at the Ancud station. These locomotives, which ran on wood and coal, were named Coquiao and Chonchina.

The inauguration took place at the Punta station in 1912, with services beginning in 1913, offering both freight and passenger cars.

The 96.8-kilometer route started at the Lechagua dock, with stops in Ancud, Pupelde, Coquiao, Punta, Butalcura, Mocopulli, Piruquina, Pid-pid, Llau Llau, Ten Ten, and Castro. The decline of the railway was not caused by the construction of the road between Ancud and Castro in the late 1950s, but by the 1960 earthquake, which completely disabled the already deteriorated tracks, stations, and bridges.

**Vestiges of Chiloé's railway development still exist. Local historian Nelson Bahamonde explains: "On one side [of the current Butalcura Bridge], the remains of the historical pellín pilings of the previous bridge are preserved. The current bridge is almost 100 years old."**

Since 1906, Quellón had the train escalator, as mentioned in the song *Inche allu eimi Quellón* (Sajuria) by Amador Cárdenas Paredes. This "locomotive ran from the dock along García Street up to the lagoon in the upper part of town," says Alexis Bórquez, a resident of Quellón. The train was used to transport raw materials for the Quellón S.A. alcohol and timber distillery.

The indiscriminate exploitation of native forests produced acetone, acetate, methyl alcohol, charcoal, and other by-products. The locomotives in public spaces in Quellón, and some others that were left in the native forest, are reminders of this industrial past.



#### Train of Chiloé.

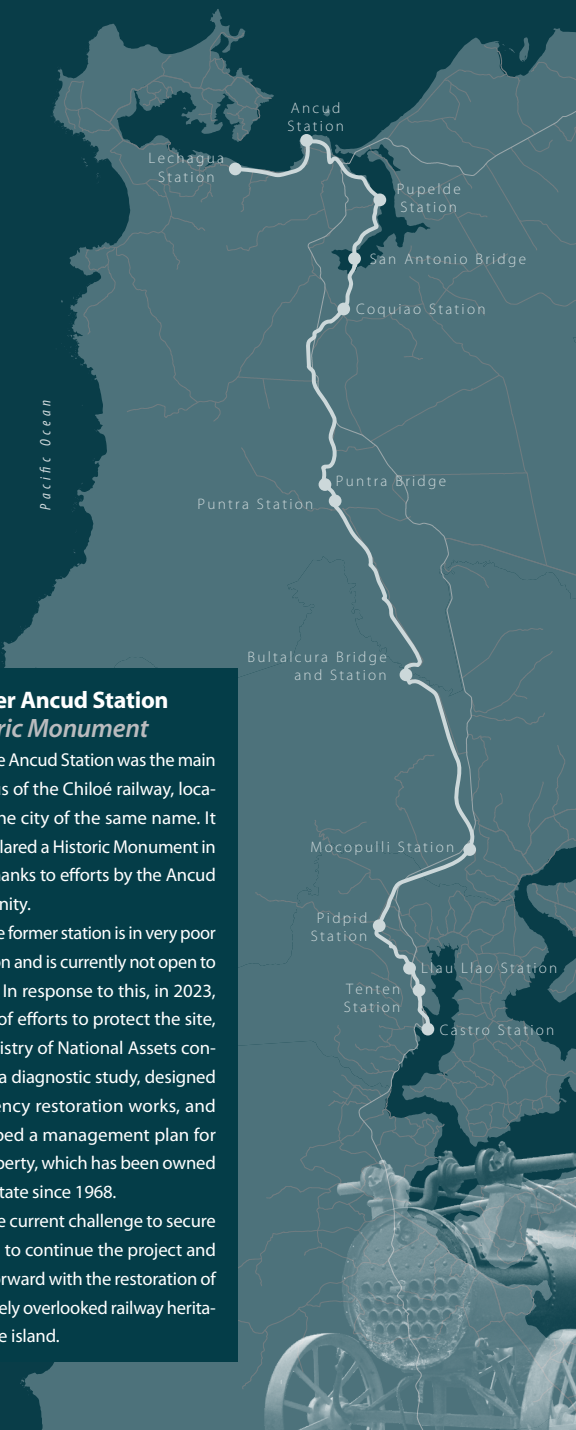
Note: based in Provoste, 1945 (caption of the map of 1909).



#### Locomotive

Quellón.





## Former Ancud Station *Historic Monument*

The Ancud Station was the main terminus of the Chiloé railway, located in the city of the same name. It was declared a Historic Monument in 2022, thanks to efforts by the Ancud community.

The former station is in very poor condition and is currently not open to visitors. In response to this, in 2023, as part of efforts to protect the site, the Ministry of National Assets conducted a diagnostic study, designed emergency restoration works, and developed a management plan for the property, which has been owned by the state since 1968.

The current challenge to secure funding to continue the project and move forward with the restoration of this largely overlooked railway heritage of the island.

## MILESTONE 8

## HENSCHEL LOCOMOTIVE N° 5057

### Castro

Address	Train Square
Coordinates (latitude / longitude)	-42,4949 / -73,76037
Distance / time to the next milestone	21.9 km / 25 min
Accumulated distance	266.9 km



Arriving from the north to the city of Castro by car along Route 5, **you will pass the bridge over the Ten Ten Estuary, from which the palafitos (stilt houses) on Pedro Montt Street can be seen.** The first left turn leads to Pedro Montt Street and directly to the city's waterfront, where the Henschel Locomotive is located.

Located in a small square called "El Tren" (The Train), the locomotive is a remnant of the Chiloé railway, representing the application of railway transport technology on an island territory with steam-powered locomotives.

The German-made locomotive is identified by a plaque with the number 5057. This



#### Locomotive in Train Square

Milestone 8



engine traveled a route of 88.4 kilometers, with an additional 8.4 kilometers of branch line.

The railway was primarily used for forestry exploitation, contributing to the industrial development and colonization of the interior of the Chiloé Island, and to a lesser extent, for passenger transport. Oral testimonies of this experience are still passed down.

The Henschel Locomotive No. 5057 was retired in 1962 and transferred to the San Bernardo Train Depot in Santiago. The Lions Club of Castro managed its return in 1983, and it was decided to display it outdoors in a public space, where its small 60-centimeter-wide gauge, connecting rods, cylinders, wheels, smoke box, and cabin can be admired.

**In 2022, following requests from local organizations since 2015, it was declared a National Monument, along with the former Ancud Station and the former railway bridge over the Butalcura River.**





#### **Butalcura Bridge**

Gilberto Provoste  
Collection,  
Niebla Castle Site  
Museum.

### **FORMER BUTALCURA RAILWAY BRIDGE**

Heading north from Dalcahue, 5 kilometers from Mocopulli on Route 5, take the exit to Carihueico. Upon reaching the W-350 route, turn right to arrive at Butalcura Bajo, where the Historical Monument, the former Butalcura Railway Bridge, stands over the river of the same name.

This route features mostly straight sections, as it was built directly over the former railway tracks of the Chiloé train.

The Butalcura Bridge was in use for rail traffic from its inauguration in 1925 until 1960, when the earthquake destroyed and dismantled the tracks, along with most of the railway infrastructure on Isla Grande de Chiloé.

Today, the 40-meter-long, 3.4-meter-wide bridge is open for pedestrian and light vehicle use.

**Informational plaques on the railings of the former Butalcura Railway Bridge still indicate the year 1925**, marking the year of its construction.

*Point of interest · Ancud*





## PALAFITOS IN GAMBOA

The palafitos (stilt houses) of Gamboa can be admired from their viewpoints or explored on foot. This neighborhood was established in the late 19th century, supported on luma and cypress stilts anchored in land affected by tidal movements. Although it was originally built to meet housing needs,<sup>7</sup> today its main use is more tourism-oriented.

**These houses, built entirely of wood at the edge of the sea, reflect the social, economic, and cultural relationship with the coastline. Their uniqueness has turned them into an unmissable sight when visiting Chiloé.** The term "vernacular architecture" and "adaptive engineering" are often used, however, the 1960 earthquake and tsunami almost completely destroyed the palafitos in the communes of Ancud, Quemchi, Chonchi, and Dalcahue, marking the end of new developments in this local architectural style.

The palafitos in the Gamboa neighborhood, along with those in the Pedro Montt neighborhood, Quemchi, Queilen, Dalcahue, and on the islands of Mechuque and Añihué, are a living testimony of a way of living by the seashore in the Archipelago during the first half of the 20th century.



**Palafitos in Gamboa neighborhood**  
Castro

<sup>7</sup> There are exceptions, such as the Mechuque School, originally for educational use. Another case is the Francisco Coloane House Museum, originally for residential use, currently transformed into a museum.

## MILESTONE 9

CENTENARIO STREET  
*Chonchi*

Coordinates (latitude / longitude)	-42,62402 / -73,77307
Distance / time to the next milestone	42.7 km / 45 min
Accumulated distance	288.8 km

To reach the next milestone, continue south by car along Route 5. 36 kilometers from Castro, you will find the entrance to the city of Chonchi, founded in 1767 as San Carlos by request of the local indigenous people, who were led by the caciques: don Gabriel Pechuam, don Martín Calbuchilla, and don Sebastián Crevill.

As in most towns and villages in Chiloé, the Church of Chonchi is the main landmark.

Centenario Street is the main road that leads down to the waterfront, also known as Irrázabal Street. It starts at the square in front of the Church of Nuestra Señora del Rosario de Chonchi. **This entire urban area was declared a Typical or Scenic Zone in May 2000 due to its significant architectural attributes related to the use of wood in construction.** This milestone reflects the importance of Chonchi's port between the



18th and 19th centuries, during the height of the timber market.

Neoclassical buildings made of native wood still stand, with clear architectural influences from European carpenters who arrived via Chonchi's port and blended with local knowledge rooted in the island's carpenters and artisans.

Centenario Street still serves as the central axis of "La Ciudad de los Tres Pisos (Three levels City)," a name given to the area due to the difference in elevation between the plateau where the former San Carlos Chapel of Chonchi was located and the coastal level. The need for a connection between the chapel's square and the dock led to the creation of this quaint street, with notable architectural development to address these "elevations."

**The condition of the area shows the consequences of the 1960 earthquake and tsunami, along with several fires.** However, the area retains a unique architectural expression, now recognized as part of Chiloé's architectural heritage.

To the south lies another milestone, a testament to the development of key buildings in everyday life, this time in Queilen.



**Centenario street from church**

Milestone 9



## MILESTONE 10

## HISTORIC PIER OF QUEILEN

### *Queilen*

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Coordinates (latitude / longitude) -42,89035 / -73,47735

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Distance / time to the next milestone 85.9 km / 85 min

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Accumulated distance 331.5 km

From Chonchi, take Route W-853 south, a parallel road to Route 5 that leads directly to Queilen. This road becomes the main street of the city, Pedro Aguirre Cerda, and ends at the waterfront in front of the historic Queilen pier.

Some sources date its construction to 1928, 1930, and 1948, but what is certain is that its history is tied to the transport of passengers and inter-island trade, with a brief peak linked to the timber industry. The current ramp is located at the end of





the waterfront; however, it was the historic pier that established Queilen as a key point of connectivity with the rest of Isla Grande and the nearby islands of the Inner Sea, being recognized as a historic milestone of the town's identity.

After a restoration completed in December 2020 on the historic Queilen pier, a covered viewpoint was added at the end of its 100-meter length, preserving a traditional space for the community.

**If you're interested in the history behind this type of heritage or simply want to enjoy the proximity to the sea, it is recommended to visit the next point of interest via the Díaz Lira road.** To get there, head back north along the same route you arrived on for just 18 kilometers, then take the left turn to Route 5, which allows you to avoid retracing the entire route back to Chonchi.



**The pier, Acui island in the horizon**

Milestone 10





## **HISTORIC RAMPS OF HILDAD**

When leaving the Díaz Lira road and heading south on Route 5, turn left onto Route W-875 before reaching Quellón. After 6.3 kilometers, you will find the two historic ramps of the Huidad Estuary, the first port in Quellón for passenger and cargo transport.

Hugo Nilsson, a local resident, explains that "The Huidad Estuary consists of the northern side in Curanue, and along Route 5, we have Aguas Frescas. The head of the estuary is Coinco, and further down is Candelaria, which is historically significant as the first port of Quellón. It was where services, the telegra-



ph, and passenger and cargo ships arrived, with two very old ramps, easily 50 or 60 years old, still in use."

Large sawmills operated in Huidad, particularly in the Candelaria area, making use of the estuary's protection from the harshness of the ocean.

**Located in one of the largest wetlands of the Chiloé Archipelago, where various bird species can be observed,** the historic ramps of the Huidad Estuary also serve as a testimony to the boom in the timber industry in this area. This port infrastructure continues to be used by artisanal fishermen today.



## MILESTONE 11

## HITO CERO

## Quellón

Coordinates (latitude / longitude)	-43,13845 / -73,61717
Distance / time to the next milestone	0 km / 0 min
Accumulated distance	417.4 km

Continuing, the final part of the route leads into the important port city of Quellón via Route 5, which, unlike other cities, towns, and settlements in the Archipelago, is characterized and distinguished by its industrial origins.

Hugo Nilsson recounts that "the city of Quellón was founded in 1905, and became populated with many people [who migrated from various parts of the Archipelago] because of the arrival of the timber industry [the Quellón Distillery]." In fact, in 1905, Quellón moved from the area now known as Quellón Viejo to its current location.

Its primary connection to the rest of the Archipelago was by sea until the opening of the Longitudinal Road in 1966, now known as Route 5, highlighting both its isolation and port importance. This event marks a period in Chiloé's history associated with the modernization of the Chilean state through public infrastructure across the country.

Its land connection to the rest of the country was a significant milestone for the residents of the commune, improving connectivity, which in turn promoted better services in health, transportation, and education. It also became a landmark in the Americas, as it became **the southernmost point of the Pan-American Highway, which stretches from Alaska to Quellón.**

**For this reason, the "Hito Cero," a public monument represented by a plow, was erected in Punta Lapa in 2000** through the efforts of local social organizations. It has since become an attraction for visitors to the Chiloé Archipelago.



Sacho sculpture, southern part of the paramericana

Milestone 11





## WATER MILLS

### *Milling tradition in Chiloé*

The first watermills in Chiloé date back to the arrival of the Spanish conquistadors in the 16th century.

Since 1660, watermills proliferated alongside wheat production, gradually declining with the installation of the first industrial mill in the city of Castro.

They were originally built with a rustic structure made of wood and ratonera straw (a type of straw traditionally used for thatching roofs in the region), later evolving into more refined structures, with cladding made from planks and shingles of larch, cypress, and coihue.

In the 18th century, all sorts of items related to mills were manufactured in Chiloé: machinery, grain buckets, grinding stones, millstones, etc.



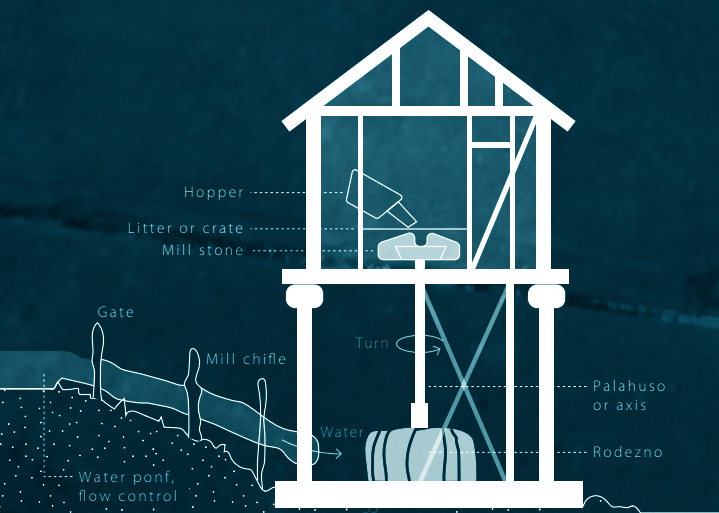
**The mills typically had areas ranging from 15 to 25 m<sup>2</sup>, with no divisions or windows, a gable roof or "A-frame" structure, and pilings with diagonal supports to withstand the strong vibrations during milling.**

Carlos Oyarzún, a SIPAM territorial advisor, recalls: "Rilán, for example, had particularly good conditions for wheat production, which is why there were so many mills there." Nicolás Bahamonde, a resident of Tenaún, also remembers the large number of mills in this locality, with even a sector called "Los Molinos" due to the abundance of mills along the nearby rivers, streams, and brooks.

Today, some remnants of Chiloé's milling heritage can be found in various local museums, as well as in different initiatives in rural areas that have restored disused mills, transforming them into tourist and cultural spaces.



**Water mill**  
(photo) camping «El Chono» in Quellón; and **Water mill section**



# CHURCHES CIRCUIT OF CHILOÉ

The history of Chiloé can also be appreciated through the buildings (chapels) that are part of the "Chilote school of religious architecture in wood." This Chilote School can be understood as a "way of doing," of inhabiting space and living spirituality, marked by four major historical moments or layers that contribute elements which overlap and coexist to the present day.

The first of these corresponds to the spatial distribution of the cavi huilliche, the **pre-Hispanic geographical matrix**, on which the chapels and "Indian" villages are built.

**Jesuit evangelization** contributed to the organization and management of local Catholicism: they integrated indigenous communities into an evangelization network (the circular mission), promoted the self-evangelization of the indigenous people through chapel wardens, and encouraged the construction of the first Catholic temples, approximately in the same locations they occupy today.

During the **Franciscan evangelization** period, starting at the end of the 18th century, a series of innovations emerged: the creation of Chiloé's main Catholic devotion (the Nazareno



Symbology of colors:

Present / Do not present



symbology of icons:

≈ Circular Jesuit mission

† Cemetery

■ Esplanade

● Chapel warden (Fiscales)

▲ Religious holiday

◆ Council party

🎵 Religious parade

🏠 Patron



de Caguach), the autonomous creation of chapel councils, and, after the establishment of the Diocese of Ancud in the 1840s, the persecution of Chilote heterodoxies and the establishment of the most distinctive features of Chiloé's churches (the tower-fronted facade and the neoclassical style adapted to local materials).

Finally, **contemporary heritage preservation** led to the emergence of the concept of the "Chilote school of religious architecture in wood," along with restoration efforts and the creation of study programs, among other initiatives. The culmination of this process occurred in 2000 when UNESCO declared 16 churches of Chiloé as a World Heritage Site (WHS). Additionally, several temples from the 152 churches of the "Chilote School," cataloged in 2019 by the Ministry of Cultures, Arts, and Heritage, have been declared Historical Monuments or designated as Typical Zones in Chile.

**This circuit offers a route through ten chapels that expand the understanding of the Chilote School in the territory, as it includes temples not recognized by UNESCO but highly valued both for their architectural attributes and for the devotional strength of their communities, which are linked to sacred images and religious festivities.**

Duration	It is possible to do the circuit in two days, however, it is recommended to extend your stay to enjoy the locations around the churches and immerse yourself in the history of the Chilote School	
Circuit length	Vehicular route	417.4 km
	Complementary vehicular route	14.8 km
Season	All year	
Universal access	No	
Recommended age	All públicos	



**Cemetery and church in Teupa architectural detail**

Chonchi

## MILESTONE 12

## SAN JOSÉ DE CAULÍN CHAPEL

### Ancud

 Circular Jesuit mission

 Cemetery

 Esplanade

 Chapel warden (Fiscales)

 Religious holiday

 Council party

 Religious parade

 Patron

Coordinates  
(latitude / longitude) -41,82166 / -73,61361

Distance / time to the next milestone 77 km / 80 min

Accumulated distance 0 km

The route begins in the northern part of Isla Grande. From Chacao, take Route W-120 along the northern side of the local church and travel 9 kilometers to the Caulín area.

In front of the bay stands the current San José de Caulín Chapel, fully covered with larch shingles on its facades, tower, and roof. This chapel has shown remarkable resilience in the face of climatic challenges, earthquakes, and other factors, standing strong despite suffering partial damage in a fire in 2017. There was also a failed attempt to have it declared a National Historic Monument, a designation that could potentially promote public investment for interventions such as conservation or restoration.

Both the material and immaterial values of the chapel have endured: its architectural elements and surrounding environment are integrated into the devotional practices and Catholic rituals of the community, reflecting a deep commitment to preserving its religious heritage. Although the current chapel dates back to the late 19th century, Caulín was part of the Jesuit mission, having a chapel at least as early as the 17th century.

**The building is distinguished by its conical spire<sup>8</sup> atop the tower, its closed main facade, which features a chiflonera<sup>9</sup> (a small vestibule or windbreak) as the entrance, and the use of native woods such as larch, tepa, coihue, and canelo.**

Locals recall that the structure is supported by wooden dowels, much like the iconic church of Achao.

**Were you able to identify any of them?**

<sup>8</sup> Spire: an element that tops a tower; in the churches of Chiloé, it's where the cross is placed.

<sup>9</sup> Chiflonera: Also known as a sluice or vestibule, it is an essential feature in southern Chile, serving as an intermediary space between the exterior and interior of a building.



**San José de  
Caulín Chapel,  
2019**

Milestone 12



## SAN PEDRO DE QUICAVÍ CHAPEL

### Quemchi

≈ Circular Jesuit mission

† Cemetery

■ Esplanade

● Chapel warden

▲ Religious holiday

◇ Council party

🎵 Religious parade

🏠 Patron



**San Pedro de Quicaví Chapel, 2019**

Milestone 13

Coordinates (latitude / longitude) -42,27185 / -73,35206

Distance / time to the next milestone 30.1 km / 30 min

Accumulated distance 77 km

Returning towards Chacao by car, approximately 5.1 kilometers from the previous milestone, you will come to an intersection where you can take Route W-106, which turns into Route W-135 for the first stretch, and then into Route W-21. Continuing through Quemchi, and following the coastal Route W-21, there is a detour to the east that leads to Quicaví.

The San Pedro Chapel of Quicaví is easily located in front of the town square, which faces the Chauques Islands.



**Its construction dates back to 1859, with a previous temple that was part of the Jesuit missions in the 18th century.**

**One of its unique features is the pre-**





**sence of a 'cola de pato' (curved ridge) on the rear ridge, breaking the two-slope roof.** Several interventions have modified the current chapel, such as in 1973, when the tower was lowered, and with the restoration at the end of the 20th century.

Inside, it houses religious images of Saint Peter, after whom the chapel is named, and of the Virgin of Carmen. Both religious images also have *patrones*<sup>10</sup>.

The University of Chile has initiated a process to request the chapel's designation as a Historic Monument, based on its material and immaterial attributes. The latter are linked to its use in devotional manifestations and Catholic rites, which gives it high heritage value supported by its extensive history.

Its facade features a portico with pillars and arches, a design that offers protection from the rain.

**Were you able to identify the 'cola de pato'?**



<sup>10</sup> A tradition, usually family-based, that takes care of a religious image. There are also key keepers, chapel wardens and prayer leaders. The chapel wardens (*fiscales*) are chosen by the parish priest to gather the community for prayer in his absence, administer baptisms, oversee the cemetery, ring the bell, and, in collaboration with the patron, maintain the church (in the file for the SIGPA record approved by SERPAT, 2018).



## MILESTONE 14

## NUESTRA SEÑORA DEL CARMEN DE QUETALCO CHAPEL

*Dalcahue*

≈ Circular Jesuit mission

† Cemetery

■ Esplanade

● Chapel warden

▲ Religious holiday

◇ Council party

🎵 Religious parade

🏠 Patron

Coordinates  
(latitude / longitude) -42,33506 / -73,54983

Distance / time to the next milestone 26.2 km / 30 min

Accumulated distance 107.1 km

Continuing along Route W-21, between Quiquel and San Juan, there are several detours southward leading to Quetalco. Upon reaching the village, right behind the cemetery, stands the Nuestra Señora del Carmen de Quetalco Chapel, named in honor of the image of the Virgin of Carmen.

Every July 16th, this Marian devotion is celebrated with a traditional religious parade of *pasacalle* (a type of procession with music and singing that passes through the streets,



involving several communities from nearby chapels). The Quetalco Chapel, built around 1900, has stood for over a century, serving as an example of the community efforts dedicated to its maintenance, such as the repair of its tower in 2017.

**It stands out for the use of larch shingles for its entire exterior cladding and the stones used as foundations or footings, with which several chapels withstood the 1960 earthquake.**



After being declared a Historical Monument in 2021, recognizing its attributes related to the Chiloe School and its evident cultural syncretism, structural reinforcement works were carried out in 2024, with a full restoration planned for repairing the rest of its materials.

**Did you manage to identify the stone bases under the chapel?**



**Nuestra Señora  
del Carmen  
de Quetalco  
Chapel**  
Milestone 14



## MILESTONE 15

## NUESTRA SEÑORA DE LOURDES DE HUYAR ALTO CHAPEL

*Curaco de Vélez*

 Circular Jesuit mission

 Cemetery

 Esplanade

 Chapel warden

 Religious holiday

 Council party

 Religious parade

 Patron

Coordinates (latitude / longitude) -42,40186 / -73,5661

Distance / time to the next milestone 34 km / 40 min

Accumulated distance 133.3 km

Crossing by ferry to Quinchao Island from Dalcahue, travel 6 kilometers on Route W-59 by car until you reach the turnoff to the left heading towards Route W-569. After another 3.6 kilometers, between the Health Center and the Huyar Alto School, you will find the Nuestra Señora de Lourdes de Huyar Alto Chapel, built in 1985 on a hill.

After the novena, every February 11th, the feast in honor of the Virgin of Lourdes is



Grotto, 2019





celebrated, as well as the religious feast of the Virgin of Carmen on July 16th. Both festivities include religious parade. Dozens of pilgrims begin arriving the day before to actively participate in the Mass, which concludes with a large procession and celebration.

Despite its relatively recent construction date, compared to other chapels, **the Huyar Alto Chapel follows the canons and styles associated with the Chiloé School, and uses native woods such as cypress, tepa, and shingles of larch for its cladding.**

**Its slender tower stands out, with two sections called 'cañas,' upon which the spire and cross rest,** crafted by Clodomiro Soto, a renowned carpenter and restorer from the commune of Curaco de Vélez



**Nuestra Señora  
de Lourdes  
de Huyar Alto  
Chapel, 2019**  
Milestone 15





## MILESTONE 16

## NUESTRA SEÑORA DE AMPARO DE MATAO CHAPEL *Quinchao*

 Circular Jesuit mission

 Cemetery

 Esplanade

 Chapel warden

 Religious holiday

 Council party

 Religious parade

 Patron



**Nuestra Señora  
de Amparo de  
Matao Chapel,  
2019**

Milestone 16

Coordinates (latitude / longitude)	-42,5709 / -73,44211
Distance / time to the next milestone	50.2 km / 60 min
Accumulated distance	167.3 km

To reach this milestone, it is necessary to return to Route W-59, heading south, and take the right fork towards Route W-559, which leads to Matao. Upon entering the town, the beach is visible behind the Nuestra Señora de Amparo de Matao Chapel, a building dating from 1936, with activity records dating back to 1762.

Today, the chapel features a large open area. Its facade is austere, but all of its facades and roof are covered with larch shingles. It also has a chiflonera, possibly due to its exposure to intense rain and strong southern



winds. The community is constantly identifying and repairing significant damage and wear, some of which are structural, as the chapel nears its centennial.

**Notable are the diagonal braces on its sides, which help counteract the structural forces produced by hurricane-force winds and earthquakes.**



The procession of the Virgins of Matao and Achao, which passes through Quinchao on January 1st, the celebration of the Cua-simodo festival on the Sunday after Easter, the Jesús de Nazareno procession on August 15th, and the Nuestra Señora de Amparo feast on December 15th, are some of the key events held here. These celebrations are accompanied by religious parade (*pasacalle* bands) and outdoor activities on the open area, next to the cemetery.

**Did you identify the diagonal braces<sup>11</sup> on the chapel's exterior sides?**

<sup>11</sup> Braces: structural diagonals to withstand wind forces and earthquakes.



## MILESTONE 17

## NUESTRA SEÑORA DE LOURDES DE LLAU LLAO CHAPEL

Castro

≈ Circular Jesuit mission

† Cemetery

■ Esplanade

○ Chapel warden

▲ Religious holiday

◆ Council party

♪ Religious parade

🏠 Patron

Coordinates  
(latitude / longitude) -42,43639 / -73,76761

Distance / time to the next milestone 45.5 km / 50 min

Accumulated distance 217.5 km

Returning to Isla Grande, passing through Dalcahue and reaching Route 5 from Putemán, to the north of Castro, you should take a left onto Route W-433, which leads directly to the Nuestra Señora de Lourdes de Llau Llau Chapel. This chapel is easily identifiable in the center of the village of Llau Llau, located 1.2 kilometers from the coast.



This chapel, which is part of the Chiloé School of wooden religious architecture, was most likely built in 1883. However, historical documentation shows that there was an earlier chapel that was part of the Jesuit circular mission in the 18th century.

Given all its features, materials, and history—along with its continued maintenance by the local community and its intangible cultural heritage associated with religious practices—it was declared a National Historic Monument in 2021.

Its square has been highly urbanized, with benches, children's play areas, and recreational public use of the surrounding space.

**Were you able to identify the different types of arches in its porch?**



**Nuestra Señora  
de Lourdes de  
Llao Llao Chapel**  
Milestone 17



## MILESTONE 18

## VIRGEN DE LA CANDELARIA DE PUCHILCO CHAPEL

*Puqueldón*

 Circular Jesuit mission

 Cemetery

 Esplanade

 Chapel warden

 Religious holiday

 Council party

 Religious parade

 Patron

Coordinates (latitude / longitude) -42,60755 / -73,57344

Distance / time to the next milestone 48.7 km / 50 min

Accumulated distance 263 km

The route continues south, passing through the city of Chonchi, reaching the Huicha area, and crossing to Lemuy Island by ferry. On the eastern side of the island, you must head towards San Agustín to approach the rural settlement of Puchilco. At the end of Route W-629, avoiding all detours, stands the Virgen de la Candelaria chapel, commonly known as Iglesia de Puchilco (Church of Puchilco), located right in front of the Lemuy Channel.



**It was erected in 1854 by a minga (community construction effort), and the ceiling of the church's central nave<sup>12</sup> was**





**beautifully painted in 1927 by Peruvian painter and musician Miguel Gamarra. The church was also community-renovated in 1973.** The religious festival of the Virgen de la Candelaria, held every February 2, is one of the most important processions on Lemuy Island.

Until the 20th century, communication between the Chiloé settlements was primarily by sea, as evidenced by the orientation of the houses and chapels toward the sea, such as the one in Puchilco, which has served as a beacon for sailors for centuries.

When sailing from Castro to Chelín or Quehui, the church can be seen nestled in the green hills of Lemuy Island, which stands out for the colorful features of the Chiloe School: pillars and roof in shades of blue, a white portico, window and door frames, and reddish facades.

**Did you manage to identify the church from its colors?**

<sup>12</sup> The nave is the longitudinal division of the religious interior space. In Chiloé, it is commonly divided into three, separated by rows of columns and varying degrees of ornamentation. The central nave is the main one and ends with the altar and the altarpiece.



**Virgen de la Candelaria de Puchilco Chapel, 2019**

Milestone 18



## MILESTONE 19

## NUESTRA SEÑORA DE LA CANDELARIA DE TERAO CHAPEL

Chonchi

 Circular Jesuit mission

 Cemetery

 Esplanade

 Chapel warden

 Religious holiday

 Council party

 Religious parade

 Patron

Coordinates (latitude / longitude) -42,701767 / -73,647591

Distance / time to the next milestone 30.5 km / 35 min

Accumulated distance 311.7 km

Returning to Chulchuy and crossing by ferry to Isla Grande, you should take Route W-853 heading south to Queilen. After traveling 15 kilometers, take the left turn onto Route W-855, passing the rural health center of Terao, and continue until you reach the beach, at the end of the road. There stands the Nuestra Señora de la Candelaria de Terao Chapel, facing the Yal Channel. It is believed to date back to 1850, while the earlier chapel was built in 1696.

According to its architecture, integrity, age, and location, it is part of the Chiloe School.



**In its austere interior, you can still see ancient wooden planks of about 8 inches (approximately 20 centimeters) in width.**

On its exterior, in addition to the open space parallel to the beach line, there is a grotto in honor of Saint Peter, the patron saint of fishermen, and **a cemetery built with a particular architecture, resembling mausoleums, to protect families visiting their deceased from the wind and rain. These have been called "traditional Chiloé cemeteries," which can also be seen in places such as Teupa, Huillinco, and Chelín, among others.**



The main religious festival in Terao is held every February 2, on the day of the Candelaria. The celebration begins the night before and includes a procession and mass on the day itself.

**Were you able to identify the ancient wooden planks on the interior walls of the chapel?**



Nuestra Señora de la Candelaria de Terao Chapel, 2019

Milestone 19



## MILESTONE 20

## NUESTRA SEÑORA DEL PATROCINIO DE LELBUN CHAPEL

### Queilen

 Circular Jesuit mission

 Cemetery

 Esplanade

 Chapel warden

 Religious holiday

 Council party

 Religious parade

 Patron



**Nuestra Señora del Patrocinio de Lelbun Chapel, 2019**

Milestone 20

Coordinates (latitude / longitude)	-42,78074 / -73,51508
Distance / time to the next milestone	38 km / 45 min
Accumulated distance	342.2 km

Returning to Route W-853, heading towards Queilen for 15 kilometers, then taking a left turn onto Route W-817, you will reach Lelbun Beach.

Upon reaching the town, the Nuestra Señora del Patrocinio de Lelbun Chapel stands out: it is entirely painted light blue and is located in the middle of a large open area where the *Via Crucis* is held every Good Friday, along with the procession on the feast day of the Virgen del Patrocinio, on October 12.

**The chapel is also notable for an image of the patroness painted on an interior wall by Guillermo Grez, Regional Art and**





**Culture Award of Los Lagos in 2013. The image of the patroness of Leibun, Nuestra Señora del Patrocinio, or as the locals call her, "La Patrocinia," is a miraculous Virgin given to the chapel by a former teacher from the area, Clariza González de Sánchez.**



Gerak Millalonco wrote the story of Leibun's origins in his book "Leibun en la memoria", which recounts the history of the foundation of its church and cemetery when it emancipated from Agoní. The current chapel was built during the first half of the 20th century, possibly between 1930 and 1940.

At that time, it was decided to place the tower in a particular location on the facade, to the right side. Only three churches out of the 152 belonging to the Chilote School of Architecture feature this characteristic: Leibun, Queilen, and Quilquico (all contemporary with one another).

**Were you able to identify Grez's painting on one of the sides of the altarpiece, next to the main altar?**



**Chapel interior,  
2019**

Milestone 20





## MILESTONE 21

## NUESTRA SEÑORA DEL CARMEN DE COMPU CHAPEL

*Quellón*

≈ Circular Jesuit mission

† Cemetery

■ Esplanade

● Chapel warden

▲ Religious holiday

◇ Council party

♪ Religious parade

▣ Patron

Coordinates (latitude / longitude) -42.871191 / -73.701368

Distance / time to the next milestone 0 km / 0 min

Accumulated distance 380,2 km

Returning to Chonchi to join Route 5 again, after 31 kilometers, on the left, you will see the Compu Estuary. A sign directs you to the exit for the Nuestra Señora del Carmen de Compu Chapel.

In this chapel, you can clearly identify the huilliche worldview in the development of the Chiloe School, already present in the Jesuit circular missions of the 18th century.

The patronal festival, which has been celebrated in this locality for 200 years, takes place between July 13 and 16, with Mass, a procession, traditional Chilote dances, and a chapel choir. The religious parades are accompanied by indigenous instruments such as the trutruka and the kultrun, as well as decorating the Virgin with branches of laurel, the sacred tree of the huilliche people.



This chapel is particularly noteworthy for its intangible heritage: the organization of the cabildo (church council), fiscalá (churchwarden), sota fiscalá (deputy churchwarden), patronas (female patrons), supremos (supreme leaders), and other roles involved in the various religious manifestations. However, the material attributes of the chapel are also remarkable.

**The church features a distinctive portico with walls instead of columns, an optimal way to protect against the harsh climate in one of the southernmost areas of the archipelago; a slender realization of the geometric proportions of the facade tower, as few have been able to maintain over time due to the wind and earthquakes; and an elaborate altarpiece that highlights the altar, the resting place for religious images, in this case, the Virgin of Carmen dressed in traditional Chilote attire.**

**Were you able to identify the "duck-tail" roof, covered in shingles, the stone foundations, the old 8-inch wide boards, and the arches of varying widths on the portico?**



Nuestra Señora  
del Carmen de  
Compu Chapel,  
2019

Milestone 21





**Churches of Chiloé illustration**

Note: FIP, 2024.



**San Francisco de Castro Parish Church**

To access the Route of the Churches, scan the following QR code:



Alternative circuit

## THE ROUTE OF THE CHURCHES SPM · UNESCO

*Chiloé Heritage Churches Foundation*

The undeniable prominence of churches in the Chiloé landscape and their value as material evidence of the cultural syncretism between indigenous traditions and Catholicism led Monsignor Juan Luis Ysern de Arce to spearhead the proposal for the churches of Chiloé to be recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This was achieved in 2000 with 14 chapels, with two more added in 2001. Additionally, more recent missions, such as that of Father Mariano Puga, who served as parish priest of Colo for a decade, traveling through the islands of the inner sea up to Desertores, continue to keep the history of this heritage alive. His ashes were taken to the Colo chapel in 2020 as a tribute.

**The Patrimonial Route, organized by the Chiloé Heritage Churches Foundation, can also be explored. This route covers the group of churches recognized as a World Heritage site, with the Chiloé Churches Museum in Ancud as its starting point.**





# LIVING HERITAGE CIRCUIT OFT CHILOÉ

**This route offers an opportunity to experience the living heritage of Chiloé, as it encompasses arts, crafts, and practices, taking visitors through eight milestones such as fairs, ramps, and shipyards, where one can observe or acquire the results of a wide variety of local techniques and knowledge along rural roads. What is observed along this circuit is directly linked to the time of year in which it is undertaken.**

In the third week of June, the winter solstice, We Tripanu, marks the beginning of the annual cycle. The rains intensify, and the nights slowly begin to shorten. From late June to late August, one can observe soil preparation for planting and fallow fields.

By the end of July, the pampas start to fill with newly born lambs, and the "first potatoes" are planted. The "reitimientos" (pig slaughtering), also linked to winter, provide meat, sausages, and lard for the year.

With the arrival of spring, the flowering season begins, and people turn to outdoor tasks, intensifying work in vegetable gardens using traditional practices, today known as agroecological methods, which are globally recognized as sustainable food systems. As hot days with high humidity arrive, one can see farmers spraying potato crops to prevent blight.

From October, sheep are sheared, and most lambs are slaughtered to supply the local market during the year-end holidays. Cattle farming, on the other hand, is more closely linked to livestock fairs and subsistence farming.



Duration	It is possible to do the circuit in two days, however, it is recommended to extend your stay to peacefully enjoy the places offered by the routes between each of the milestones	
Route length	Vehicular route	320.7 km
	Complementary vehicular route	1 km
Season	All year	
Universal access	No	
Recommended age	All public	



**Basket of potatoes or "Llolle de patatas" made of vegetable fiber and green plastic woven from Tabón Island**  
Ancud Regional Museum

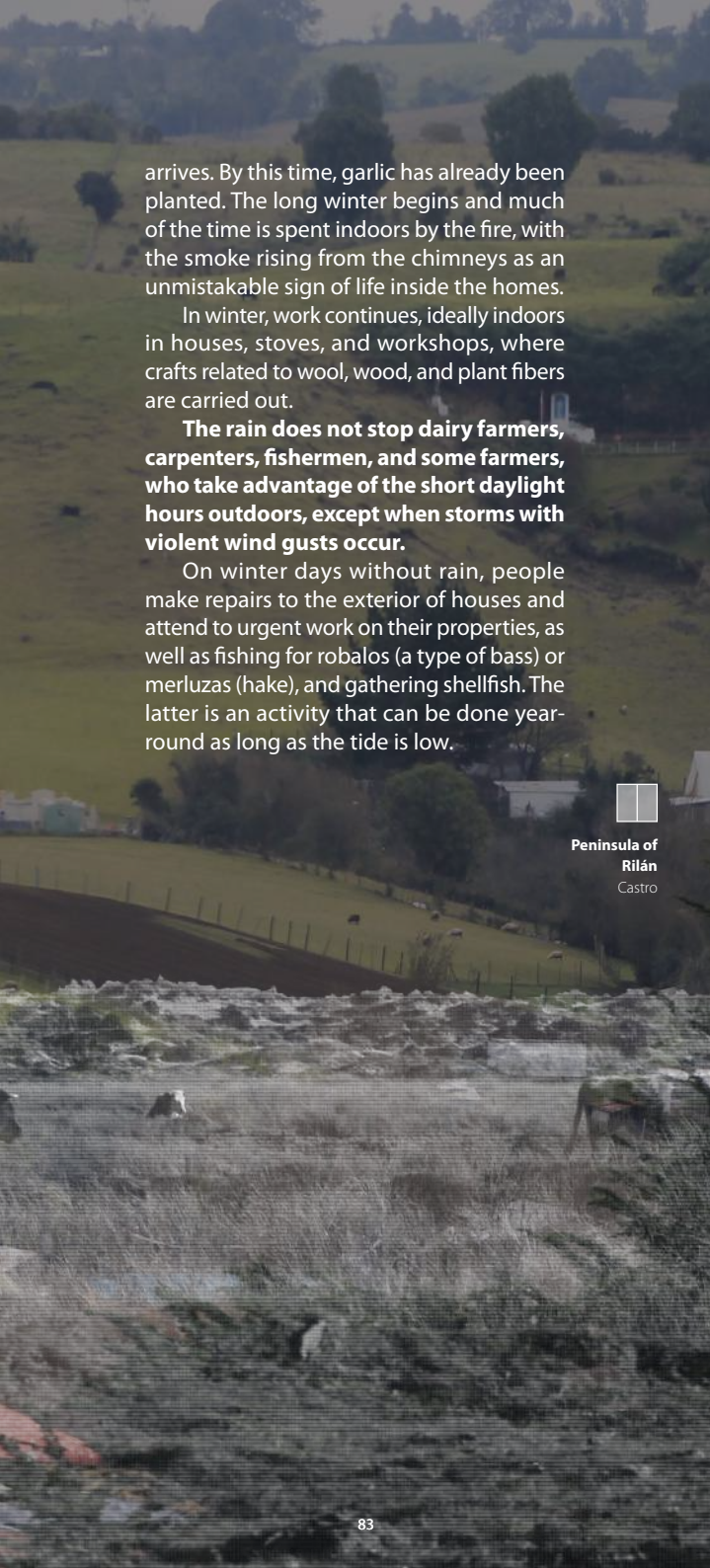
By December, fresh potatoes and garlic can be found in the markets, although it is during February that the rural landscape fills with harvest activities, particularly potato harvesting, followed by other crops in March. During these months, one can find a wide variety of local products at markets and fairs. Also, during the summer, it is common to see people working in the collection of pelillo and luga, high-value commercial seaweeds gathered from boats or the shore. These are sun-dried on asphalt berms, beaches, or in specially constructed structures made of wooden poles and nets, as the product fetches a higher price when dried.

From late March through April, most apple varieties ripen, and the traditional maja (a Chilote term for the process of making apple cider) is still practiced. During the summer months, firewood scattered in the sun is a common sight in the landscape, and it is stored indoors before the rainy season



**Cows in front of  
Pacific Ocean**

Mar Brava



arrives. By this time, garlic has already been planted. The long winter begins and much of the time is spent indoors by the fire, with the smoke rising from the chimneys as an unmistakable sign of life inside the homes.

In winter, work continues, ideally indoors in houses, stoves, and workshops, where crafts related to wool, wood, and plant fibers are carried out.

**The rain does not stop dairy farmers, carpenters, fishermen, and some farmers, who take advantage of the short daylight hours outdoors, except when storms with violent wind gusts occur.**

On winter days without rain, people make repairs to the exterior of houses and attend to urgent work on their properties, as well as fishing for robalos (a type of bass) or merluzas (hake), and gathering shellfish. The latter is an activity that can be done year-round as long as the tide is low.



Peninsula of  
Rilán  
Castro



## ECMPO AND COVES

### *Living heritage in marine territory*

Chilean legislation and the demands of various stakeholders for the use of the coastal zone have shaped this area of Chiloé. On the beaches, fjords, channels, and bays, several uses coexist: ports, shipyards, mooring areas for fishing vessels (both artisanal and industrial), benthic resource management areas, marine parks and reserves, recreation, aquaculture, water sports, tourism, navigation tracks, coves, and coastal spaces of Indigenous communities (ECMPO).

For its part, the **"caleta artesanal" (artisanal cove), also known simply as "caleta", constitutes a productive, economic, social, and cultural unit located in a defined geographical area, where activities related to artisanal fishing and other directly or indirectly associated tasks are carried out.**<sup>13</sup> There are 63 regulated coves in Chiloé.

Meanwhile, the ECMPO (Coastal and Marine Spaces of Indigenous Peoples) were established in 2008 through the well-known Lafkenche Law, which emerged from the organized mobilization of the coastal Indigenous peoples of southern Chile. Its aim is to protect the customary uses of coastal and marine areas and preserve traditions and the use of natural resources by the communities connected to them.

According to the Law, **ECMPOs are delimited areas whose management is entrusted to Indigenous communities or associations that have historically exercised customary use of the space, a practice confirmed by CONADI (National Corporation for Indigenous Development).**<sup>14</sup> As of 2024, there are 20 ECMPOs in Chiloé with official decrees, and 51 more are in the process of obtaining or requesting one.

The establishment of coves and ECMPOs involves developing management and governance plans that contribute to safeguarding local ways of life and, therefore, to the living heritage of Chiloé.

<sup>13</sup> According to the Law N° 21.027.

<sup>14</sup> According to the Law N° 20.249 or Lafkenche Law.



● Cove  
■ Declared ECMPO

ECMPOs

- ① Caulín
- ② Huentenique
- ③ Buta Lauquen Mapu
- ④ Quetalmahue
- ⑤ Rauco
- ⑥ Pucatue
- ⑦ Paildad
- ⑧ Chaullín
- ⑨ Koldita
- ⑩ al 20 Trincao





## MILESTONE 22

## LAS HUACHAS ROAD

## Ancud

Coordinates (latitude / longitude)	-41,96596 / -73,9842
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Distance / time to the next milestone	60.5 km / 70 min
---------------------------------------	------------------

Accumulated distance	0 km
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This circuit begins in Chacao, a town in Ancud, on Route W-120, which passes through Caulín, and continues until reaching Ancud. Once in the city, take the waterfront, which becomes the road to Lechagua. Continue for approximately 12 kilometers, then take the road towards Puñihuil for another 10 kilometers, reaching the intersection at the Piedra Run viewpoint. From this intersection, head south to explore the first landmark of the circuit, Las Huachas Road (Camino Huachas), which is Route W-252.



**This is a winding 16-kilometer gravel road that passes through forests, mountains, and meadows, offering views of Chiloé's deep rural landscape, as well as local lifestyles and small-scale farming, which is characteristic of traditional rural settlements.**

In 1823, the Freire Law was passed, a key moment in shaping the current landscape of Chiloé, as it encouraged the division of land into plots of 1 to 10 "cuadras" (equivalent to 1.5 to 15 hectares). This gave rise to the traditional self-sustaining unit, the minifundio, which consists of a house, stove, garden, apple orchard, pastures, barns, pigpens, chicken coops, fences, and native forest areas.

Originally, Chiloé had no meadows, and the landscape was dominated by native forests. In fact, Charles Darwin described Chiloé as a land covered by an immense jungle. Over the last two centuries, this jungle has been shaped by the Chilotes to meet their needs for heating, construction, and wood, as well as supplying other regions of Chile and Latin America.

From Las Huachas Road, this ongoing process is still visible. According to oral tradition, the name "Las Huachas" refers to a

<sup>15</sup> Almonacid, Cárcamo y Montaña (2023).



large meadow where young cattle, known as "huachas" (possibly derived from the Mapuche word wakas for cows), were once grazed.

**The name serves as a reminder that it is common to encounter cattle, ox teams, or horseback riders along this road, so it is recommended to drive with caution and respect.**



**It is advised to carefully follow the directions on the map to avoid unmarked detours that could lead to muddy areas. Additionally, it is recommended to use a reliable vehicle, and at least in winter, one with four-wheel drive.**



## MILESTONE 23

## WATERFRONT OF QUEMCHI

### *Quemchi*

Coordinates (latitude / longitude)	-42,14476 / -73,47291
Distance / time to the next milestone	32.8 km / 35 min
Accumulated distance	60.5 km

From the end of Camino Las Huachas (Las Huachas Road), take Route W-300 east towards Route 5.

On Route 5, continue south for 30 kilometers until reaching Route W-35 towards Quemchi. This same route then turns into Yungay and leads to the next milestone in the circuit, the Waterfront of Quemchi.

The waterfront stretches for 450 meters and borders the Caucahué channel, which separates Isla Grande from Caucahué Island.



**This area offers an excellent route to experience the dynamics of island life, such as the arrival and departure of boats from islands in the inner sea, artisanal and**



**industrial fishing boats, the Bibliolancha Felipe Navegante, recreational boating, and other activities related to the Quemchi ramp, a hub for island connectivity and a busy fishing point.**

In February 2024, the new public infrastructure was officially inaugurated, solidifying the Quemchi Waterfront as an unmissable landmark in the circuit. It serves as a platform for various cultural events, including buildings where local gastronomic and artisanal traditions are showcased.

**The Feria y Mercado de los Mil Paisajes (Fair and Market of a Thousand Landscapes) is located here, a long-awaited space created by the local artisan group to display and sell their handcrafted works made with local materials such as sheep wool, manila, various woods, and more.**

In this area, there is also a pedestrian promenade that connects with the Municipal Library and the city's museum.

It is recommended to take a walk along this landmark and enjoy the local cuisine offered by the city of Quemchi.



**Quemchi waterfront ramp**  
Milestone 23



## FELIPE NAVEGANTE LIBRARY-BOAT

### *Floating literature culture*

The floating library known as Felipe Navegante Library-boat is a unique project in Chile, and quite rare worldwide. Francisco Díaz, the cultural manager and person in charge of its navigation, explains that "it is a project created by Teolinda Higuera in 1995," with the aim of promoting reading among the inhabitants of the most isolated areas of the commune, acknowledging that "we are an archipelago commune, we have 9 islands."

On the other hand, he mentions, "The number of islands we visit is growing. Initially, it was only the commune [Quemchi], but today we visit most of the islands of Chiloé, from Achao, from Castro. We go to some ports on Isla Grande, to rural areas, to Calén, to Huite, to Huillinco by car, and to the last community of Piuchén in the mountains, mainly in winter when navigation is not possible."

The current boat is called Felipe Navegante, a vessel built by the boatbuilder from Quinchao, Patricio Subiabre.

**"The Library-boat works just like everything here. There are boats that operate as hardware stores, ambulanchas (boast used as ambulances). Some go to remote areas and function as small shops with groceries, refrigerators, PVC windows... Everything here is a boat,"** Francisco concludes. This is similar to what Nelson Bahamonde explains, noting that "the settlement pattern has always been the same, from pre-Columbian times. The eastern sector was always inhabited, and the path was the beach, the path was the channel [...]. The body of water was not an obstacle to reach the other side; it was the way to get there."

**The contribution of the Library-boat has also been to highlight the tradition of navigation as a response to issues of island connectivity, but also to social, economic, educational, and cultural access problems. Quemchi is a commune proud of its contribution to the country's literary heritage.**

Thematic appendix · Chiloé



Felipe  
Navegante  
Library-boat





## MILESTONE 24

## SHIPYARD IN SAN JUAN

### *Dalcahue*

Coordinates (latitude / longitude)	-42,33471 / -73,50382
Distance / time to the next milestone	34.6 km / 40 min
Accumulated distance	93.3 km

From the town of Quemchi, heading 2 kilometers south, you will reach the intersection with Route W-21 towards Colo, Tenaún, and Dalcahue. After 30 kilometers, the intersection towards San Juan will lead to the next milestone.



**The village of San Juan is known for its tradition and excellence in boat building. The shipyards are located along the coastline of the town's wetland.** Until the mid-20th century, boats were the primary—and often the only—means of local transportation.



**The most characteristic traditional boats of the archipelago are the lanchón chilote, chalupón, the chilote sailing boat, and the two- or three-masted schooner.**

Nelson Bahamonde, originally from San Juan, explains that "every boat, large or small, has the same elements: the 'rayo Júpiter' joint, the cut for mounting the stem, it's all the same principle," and adds that the key in boatbuilding is the symmetry between



the manga (beam) and the quilla (keel), the main central line or backbone. Only when the boat is in the water will it be known if the symmetry is perfect, and if its flotation is stable, as there are no flotation tests or trials during the construction process.

This tradition reflects the deep knowledge that master boatbuilders have of native woods such as ulmo and tenío, both durable and resistant, as well as coigüe, hazel, quiaca, cypress, mañío, and even larch.

An interesting aspect of this craft, which was included in the Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Chile in 2020 and whose safeguarding plan was implemented in 2021, is that "each master recognizes their own boats and those of other boatbuilders because each one gives their own style to the deck, which distinguishes the boats from others," concludes Nelson.

**The boatbuilders are custodians of inherited knowledge that delves into the nature of wood, its transformation, resistance, and buoyancy.**

Related to ancient and distant naval practices, in Chiloé it continues to be relevant in everyday boat construction and navigation, including industrial uses, despite the possible neglect these practices may have suffered in their places of origin.



**Boat in San Juan**  
Milestone 24



## MILESTONE 25

**COOKHOUSES AND ARTISAN FAIR**  
*Dalcahue*

Address	Pedro Montt 105
Coordinates (latitude / longitude)	-42,38105 / -73,64852
Distance / time to the next milestone	20.9 km / 25 min
Accumulated distance	127.9 km

From San Juan, continue along Route W-21 towards Dalcahue, where the historical relationships that the inhabitants of Chiloé have built over centuries with their coastal and marine ecosystem are prominently condensed, blending traditional and modern elements.

To reach the next milestone, enter Dalcahue via Mocopulli Street. At the corner of the fire station, turn left onto Freire Street, and immediately turn right onto O'Higgins Street. After a few meters, you will reach the waterfront. Under a roof made of native wood,


**Cookhouses and  
Fair from Dalca-  
hue Channel**

Milestone 25



artisans from various parts of the archipelago display their works.

**The crafts are made with local Chiloé materials. Here, you can observe and purchase everything from the classic wool hat to innovative designs made with wool, plant fibers, wood, and shells.**



Behind the ponchos and baskets at the fair, you will find the typical cocinerías (traditional eateries) of Dalcahue, located in a modern and spacious stilt house. They are a must-visit spot for anyone wanting to experience Chiloé.

It's an unmissable place where the traditional expressions of Chilote cuisine are presented in a welcoming format for visitors: variety, abundance, beauty, and affordability.

**Along the waterfront of Dalcahue, you can also observe maritime transport vessels and the boats of local fishermen.** It is a clear example of the Chilote urban environment, where land and sea spaces intersect.





## MILESTONE 26

## RAMP OF ACHAO

### Quinchao

Coordinates (latitude / longitude)	-42,46901 / -73,49072
Distance / time to the next milestone	38.3 km / 45 min
Accumulated distance	148.8 km

Continuing the journey from Dalcahue, head west on Freire Street, where you'll find the ferry ramp that crosses to Quinchao Island. Once across, continue along Route W-59, the access road to the island, for 19 kilometers until you reach Achao, the capital of the Quinchao commune. Once there, turn left onto Serrano Street, which leads directly to Achao's maritime ramp, milestone No. 26 of the route.



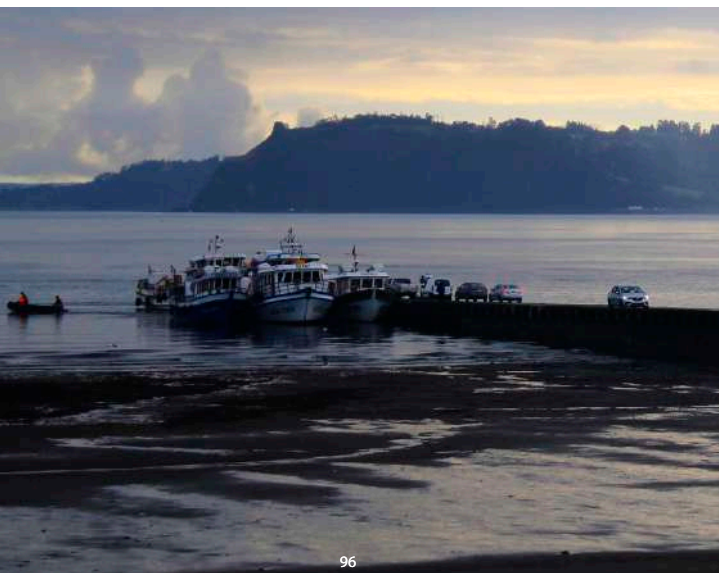
**At the ramp, you can observe a constant flow of vessels transporting the inhabitants of the islands in the inner sea.** They travel to the commune's capital to trade, stock up on various goods, and carry out their business at the public services and banks located there.

Along the city's waterfront, next to the dock, is the Achao Market, where the exchange of all kinds of products between the islanders has traditionally taken place, including handicrafts.



**Boats arriving  
from inner sea  
islands**

Milestone 26



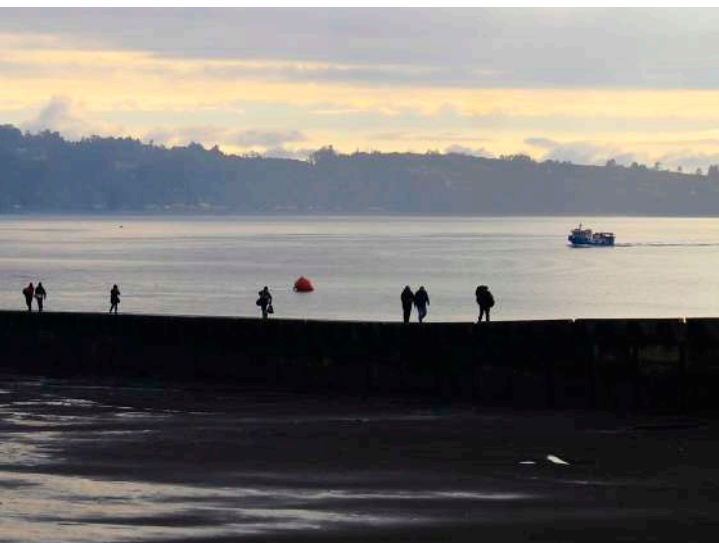
On the other hand, **the Achao Artisan Fair, open every day, is the ideal place for visitors to purchase local crafts.** Since 2023, this fair has been named the "Juanita Gallegos Fair," in tribute to a longtime artisan from Caucahué, who has lived in Achao for over three decades and was a leader among the local renowned basket weavers.



The dock itself is also the meeting point for the "Mares de Quinchao" Fishermen's Union, who maintain the island's connectivity.

Point of interest · Curaco de Vélez

At the other end of Quinchao Island, it is recommended to visit Curaco de Vélez. Around the town square, you will find the **Municipal Market**, which was inaugurated in November 2023. Here, artisans from the **Manos Ancestrales Association** display and sell their works. On the opposite side, there is the open space where the **Curaco de Vélez Artisans' Association Fair** takes place during the summer months. In both spaces, you will find authentic handmade works created using local materials.



## MILESTONE 27

## MUNICIPAL MARKET FORMER YUMBEL FAIR

*Castro*

Address	Alcalde Manuel Muñoz 611
Coordinates (latitude / longitude)	-42,4737 / -73,77111
Distance / time to the next milestone	44.6 km / 50 min
Accumulated distance	187.1 km

Leaving Quinchao Island, follow Route W-55 for 17 kilometers towards Castro. After crossing the first bridge in Castro, turn west onto Ignacio Carrera Pinto Street. Then, turn left onto Piloto Samuel Ulloa Street, right onto Argomedo Street, and left onto Juan Martínez de Rozas Street.

Here you will find the former Yumbel Fair, also known as Feria Campesina Yumbel, Municipal Market of Castro, and officially, Mayor José Sandoval Fair.

The fair was founded in the 19th century and was originally located near the port as a trading point for rural and island products from various areas of the inland sea.



Over time, with the rise of land transportation, the fair moved to its current location at the corner of Yumbel Street and Alcalde Manuel Muñoz Street.

**This iconic two-story building, with an area of 4,350 square meters, features laminated wood structure, metal fittings, tensioners, and some reinforced concrete walls. It is the largest laminated wood construction in Chiloé.** Since the construction of the San Francisco Church of Castro in 1910, there had been no significant use of wood in large urban buildings.



The fair operates daily from 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM, offering a wide variety of seafood, fish, cheeses, crafts, jams, Chiloé garlic, native potatoes, and other local products on the first floor.

The central space also hosts cultural activities, with live music available. Meanwhile, the second floor features food stalls where visitors can enjoy Chilote cuisine along with craft and handmade goods stands.



**Market central space**

Milestone 27



## MILESTONE 28

## MANUEL MANSILLA ROADSIDE MEMORIAL

*Puqueldón*

Coordinates (latitude / longitude)	-42,61336 / -73,60629
Distance / time to the next milestone	89 km / 90 min
Accumulated distance	231.7 km

Starting the journey from Castro towards Lemuy Island, take Route 5, and after 17 kilometers, turn onto Route W-853 heading toward the Huicha dock to cross Lemuy Island. Continue on the same route (W-635) for 14 kilometers until reaching the San Agustín Church. Turn left and follow the road for 1.5 kilometers until reaching the signposted "Animita de Manuel Mansilla" (Manuel Mansilla roadside memorial) on the left.

This milestone is one of the devotional emblems of Lemuy Island and a reflection of contemporary popular religiosity surrounding the soul of Manuel Mansilla.



**The refuge of this miraculous spirit is the size of a house, and locals say it is always lit.**

The story goes that many years ago, two brothers lived in the same house: one was married, and the other was Manuel Mansilla.





The jealousy the married brother had towards Manuel was so intense that one night, while Manuel was sleeping, the brother killed him with a hatchet. He then transported his body, dressed, to the woods and buried it beside a tree. Whenever a neighbor asked about Manuel, his brother would reply, "He went traveling."

The perpetrator was arrested, and the neighbors built a small house at the site where Manuel's body was found. People began to visit, as they discovered that the spirit of Manuel Mansilla was miraculous, listening to prayers and requests.

This devotion has been ongoing since 1912, remaining loyal and unconditional for its faithful, and a mystery for those who visit—just to see it.

**The multiple expansions of the shrine, which houses various offerings and candles that are almost always lit, demonstrate the popular devotion to Manuel Mansilla.**



**Offerings in the shelter of the soul of Manuel Mansilla**

Hito 28



## MILESTONE 29

## LLAUQUIL, KECHAWUE AND YENEHUEN MARKETS

### Quellón

Address	Gómez García corner Ladrillos
Coordinates (latitude / longitude)	-43,11735 / -73,62105
Distance / time to the next milestone	0 km / 0 min
Accumulated distance	320.7 km

At the end of this circuit, continuing towards the commune of Quellón from the Huicha pier to the south, take the Díaz Liras road for 19 kilometers, then join Route 5 heading towards Quellón.

On the city's main avenue, Juan Ladrillos, at the intersection with Gómez García Street, you will find: the Kechawe Market, featuring rural vegetable growers; the Yene-



#### Yenehuen artisan market

Milestone 29



huen Artisan Market; and the Llauquil Artisan Market, re-inaugurated in 2024.

This corner is crossed by a ravine where some of the market stalls are located.

**It is a vibrant and eclectic space in the heart of the city, surrounded by commerce and streets with high vehicular traffic, offering not only an opportunity to engage with agro-food heritage and local craftsmanship, but also with the character of a port and the flow of daily life in the southernmost city of Chiloé.**

In particular, the commercial space of the Kechawe Market was a great achievement of the organized community and is a true representation of women's work, both in collecting products along the coastline and in agriculture. The markets are open from Monday to Saturday, from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.



**Textiles works in  
Llauquil Fair**  
Milestone 29



## FESTIVALS OF CHILOÉ

### *Inmaterial Heritage, living community*

Festivals in Chiloé are rooted in indigenous heritage, religious traditions, local customs, and the commemoration of historical events. However, they all reflect the local way of life.

**Through food, songs, rituals, and other associated activities, the festivals offer an opportunity to experience Chiloé's living heritage.**

Carlos Oyarzún, from the SIPAM Territorial Council, explains that "local luche (a type of seaweed) is highly sought after. You can find it at folk festivals, in cazuela (a traditional stew), and in innovations like empanada de luche (seaweed-filled turnovers), which are great because they change the format, but the cultural essence is not lost."

There is a dense annual calendar of festivities, with some of the most notable being the Gran Festival Costumbrista de Chiloé in mid-February in Castro; the Fiesta Criolla or Festival Costumbrista de Chonchi on the second weekend of February; the Festival de la Molienda (Grinding Festival) in Curaco de Vélez at the beginning of February, along with the Fiesta de la Virgen de la Candelaria in Ichuac, Puchilco, San Javier, and Huyar Alto; the reitimiento (or carneo – slaughter) of pigs in Queilen in mid-July; the Gran Yoco Chilote in Llicaldad; the Fiesta de San Juan on June 23; and the Fiesta del Nazareno on Caguach Island on August 30, which is probably the most popular.

Regarding the latter, Brayan Delgado, a resident of Coñab in the commune of Quinchao, shares that "a lot of people attend, it's chaotic. People started going the day before, or on Friday. The line of boats is impressive, it's like at the Sanctuary of Los Andes, but here you travel by boat."



Religious parade during the procession of the Virgin in the chapel of Quetalco







# BIOCULTURA DIVERSITY CIRCUIT OF CHILOÉ

Early on, it became clear why the rugged cultural landscape of Chiloé supported several thousand inhabitants along its coasts before the conquest: connectivity, an abundance of marine food, and, nearby, timber resources and plant fibers sufficient for the construction of settlements, craftsmanship, and fuel. From this point onward, it became evident why the majority of the villages, towns, and cities of Chiloé are located along the sea, a feature that was recognized and continued during the Spanish conquest.

**It is precisely at the boundary between two entirely different environments—water and land—that a concept must be understood as the foundation of life: the "wetland."** Lakes, rivers, streams, coastal edges, and various other sites where this conjunction of ecosystems can be observed in one view, embody the concept of a **wetland: a space where water temporarily or permanently meets the land at the surface.**

The traditional knowledge of the Chiloé people has combined with advances in science and technology to provide new insights into the history of migratory birds, seasonal inhabitants of the Archipelago's coastal wetlands. This growing understanding reveals the long journeys of migratory birds, which even travel back and forth between the two hemispheres of the world, with Chiloé as their exclusive destination.

The Chiloé way of life has been deeply rooted in the culture and traditions of coastal living. Understanding the significance of this is crucial not only for the preservation of Chiloé's culture, but also for the conservation of its wetlands, which sustain life in Chiloé, along with its ceremonies, tools, constructions, cuisine, and more. It is a complex scenario of forms and interactions that must always be seen as a whole, a fusion and ownership of the culture within the vastness of Chiloé's biocultural diversity.

This circuit offers this vision through spaces with significant ecosystem values that deserve a respectful attitude and awareness of care.

Duration	It is possible to do the circuit in two days, however, there is the possibility of extending the stay if alternative circuits within the Chiloé National Park or between Duhatao and Chepu are considered	
Route length	<b>Vehicular route</b>	412.3 km
	<b>Alternative circuit NP Chiloé</b>	103.3 km
	<b>Alternative circuit Duhatao - Chepu</b>	16.5 km
Season	<b>All year</b>	
Universal access	<b>No</b>	
Recommended age	<b>All publics</b>	



## PUÑIHUIL ISLETS

More information:



*Point of interest · Ancud*

A must-see before starting this circuit are the Puñihuil islets, declared Natural Monument in 1999. From Chacao, take the W-216 route west, passing through Ancud, to reach **this unique spot, offering a distinctive Chiloé landscape. Facing the open sea, there is a chance to observe marine mammals, such as the blue whale, during the summer months.** Local tour operators at the site offer boat trips for birdwatching, featuring Magellanic (*Spheniscus magellanicus*) and Humboldt (*Spheniscus humboldti*) penguins, as well as marine life, such as the chungungo or sea otter (*Lontra felina*).



## HIKING IN DUHATAO · CHEPU PATH

**For hiking, this alternative circuit offers a journey through valuable ecosystems located along the Pacific coast of Chiloé, with the opportunity to observe the ocean from natural viewpoints.** The trail's difficulty varies, with the ascents and descents of the cliffs being the most demanding, while the stretches along the beaches are flatter.

This circuit begins in the bay of Duhatao, passing through the dunes of Aulén, the wetlands of the Chepu River basin, winding coastal cliffs, and beaches. Before heading into Duhatao, and if the tide is low, it is possible to approach the basalt stones to the north of Mar Brava, in the Polocue area, a unique geomorphology created by the slow cooling and solidification of lava approximately 28 million years ago.

The area is surrounded by a dense forest, home to a great diversity of birds and wildlife, such as the pudú, güiña cat, and Chiloé fox, among others. In the flora, the presence of copihues, the national flower, and coastal olivillo stands out.

**Before visiting this place, it is important to check the condition of the trails and prepare with appropriate gear: footwear, clothing, water, and snacks.**

The circuit lasts approximately 5 hours and 30 minutes for a round trip, though it is possible to complete just an 8.3-kilometer stretch by arranging transportation for pick-up at the end of the hike. Lastly, it is very likely that there will be no mobile phone signal for most of the circuit.

Alternative circuit · Ancud



## MILESTONE 30

## WETLANDS OF THE CHEPU RIVER BASIN

*Ancud and Dalcahue*

Coordinates (latitude / longitude)	-42,04895 / -73,9735
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Distance / time to the next milestone	54.4 km / 60 min
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Accumulated distance	0 km
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Traveling along Route W-300 by car from Chacao on Route 5 westward, you will reach the Anguay dock, located by the Chepu River. Alternatively, if coming from the Puñihuil islets, take the Camino Las Guachas or Route W-252, which will lead you to the same destination.



**From the dock, you will face the Wetlands of the Chepu River Basin, declared a Nature Sanctuary in 2020. The wetlands cover nearly 3,000 hectares and are located in the communes of Ancud and Dalcahue.** The proposal for this declaration came from the local community, reflecting the recognition of the ecosystem values of this network of rivers and continental wetlands.





These wetlands provide a habitat for various species of native mammals, birds, and amphibians, stretching from the Piuchén mountain range—home to large peat bogs that give rise to the basin and serve as reservoirs for freshwater sources—down to the Chepu River's mouth at the Pacific Ocean.

**This hydrological system gives rise to a forested landscape with 257 identified plant species today, adding complexity to the habitat system and creating areas suitable for nesting.**



Due to its characteristics, this wetland served as a buffer zone during the 1960 tsunami, protecting populated areas. While the tsunami had catastrophic effects in many parts of southern Chile, the massive waves in this area were largely absorbed by these wetlands, contributing to the resilience of nearby settlements in the face of such natural phenomena.

**Don't we have enough reasons to protect these areas?** To continue to the next milestone, head east to the farthest point of the island, in the commune of Quemchi.



**Wetlands of the  
Chepu River  
Basin**  
Milestone 30



## MILESTONE 31

## WETLAND AROUND THE AUCAR RIVER *Quemchi*

Coordinates (latitude / longitude)	-42.16593 / -73.48243
Distance / time to the next milestone	49,5 km / 60 min
Accumulated distance	54,4 km

From the city of Quemchi, take the southern exit on Route W-21 by car for 2.2 kilometers, and you will reach the milestone via the signposted "Aucar Island Access."

This well-known site features a surrounding wetland with ecosystem benefits linked to bird nesting and visitation, such as flocks of black-necked swans, kingfishers, Chilean flamingos, and many others.



**The "Island of the Navigating Souls," as Francisco Coloane called it, along with the surrounding wetland, was declared a Typical Zone in 2024. It is a significant context for the conservation of the landscape, which includes the Chapel of Our Lady**



of Mercy of Aucar dating back to the 18th century. This chapel is part of the Chiloé School, with its esplanade, gardens, and cemetery still used by the community, as well as a 500-meter-long boardwalk built in 1974 that crosses the wetland and provides access to the 1.5-hectare island.

**Aucar Island itself serves as a natural viewpoint of the wetland, offering open access. It is recommended to visit when the tide is high to enjoy a more vibrant environment, particularly on September 23 and 24, when the festivals honoring Jesus of Nazareth and Our Lady of Mercy are celebrated, respectively.**

The wetland context also includes what are popularly known as "barallones" or shallows, common in the inner sea. Whether natural or man-made, they are traditionally used by Chiloé fishermen to run aground in more sheltered areas.



<sup>16</sup> See tide calendar by scanning the following QR code:



**Aucar Island**  
Milestone 31



## MILESTONE 32

## WETLAND OF ASTILLEROS

### *Dalcahue*

Coordinates (latitude / longitude)	-42,3902 / -73,66689
Distance / time to the next milestone	12.5 km / 20 min
Accumulated distance	103.9 km

Continuing along the coastal W-21 Route by car, and leaving Dalcahue heading west for 1.5 kilometers along the W-55 Route, you will find on the left-hand side the road that leads directly to the Astilleros Wetland. It is necessary to walk a short stretch of beach, where there is parking with universal accessibility.



**This wetland, also known as Hueñocoihue, faces the Dalcahue Channel, offering a panoramic view of Quinchao Island and the abundant birdlife inhabiting this intertidal area, which can be observed from a 50-meter-long coihue wooden walkway that ends in a birdwatching platform de-**





**signed to allow visitors to observe without being seen by the birds.** This infrastructure is the result of a collaboration between the Undersecretary of Regional and Administrative Development and the Municipality of Dalcahue, after securing the maritime concession for the space. It aims to promote the conservation of the wetland, its biodiversity, and the bird nesting and resting areas, while allowing visitors to remain unnoticed by the birds, such as the straight-billed curlew, a migratory shorebird that arrives every year during the summer from North America.

**It is located in one of the oldest communities of Dalcahue, a place historically known for boatbuilding, which is how it got its name.**

Also notable in this area is the Astilleros Church, originally from the Tey area, which was moved by a community work effort in 1999 with the help of the entire community, oxen teams, machinery, and carpenters.



**Ornithological  
view point**  
Milestone 32





## MILESTONE 33

## BAY WETLAND OF CURACO DE VÉLEZ

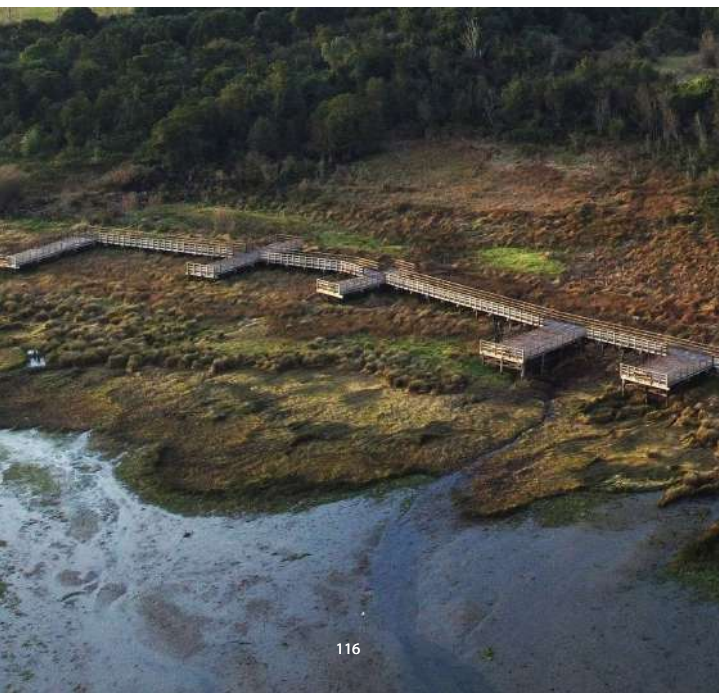
*Curaco de Vélez*

Address	Avenida del Mar
Coordinates (latitude / longitude)	-42,44062 / -73,60367
Distance / time to the next milestone	23.1 km / 30 min
Accumulated distance	116.4 km



Crossing by ferry to the city of Curaco de Vélez on the Quinchao Island, on Del Mar Avenue (the coastal road), you will find the Bay Wetland of Curaco de Vélez, declared a Nature Sanctuary in 2021. **This 59.7-hectare sanctuary is one of the last water refuges at the end of the flow from the Dalcahue Channel, before it widens and merges with the waters from the Castro Fjord, the Lemuy Channel, and the beginnings of the Yal Channel.**

The wetland has a large intertidal zone, and one of the key factors that differentiates this area, along with the Chullec wetland, from other important sites for birds, is the anthropogenic pressure that occurs along the coastline. It is impossible to ignore the strong human impact that causes changes and alters



the behavior of the local wildlife; however, its presence also influences the prevalence of some species and the movement of others.

**Migratory species, such as the straight-billed curlew, common curlew, Baird's sandpiper, black-necked swan, and both large and small whimbrels, can be found in abundance in this area during low tide when they feed.**



Additionally, two species of birds that altitudinally migrate from the Andes Mountains, across Chiloé, to the shores of this island, are commonly observed in winter: the black-faced ibis and the cinnamon-throated woodcreeper. These lesser-known birds live in the supralittoral zone and marshes, feeding on insects they catch in the air or among the seaweed deposited on the shore.

The city offers a recently inaugurated waterfront that faces the bay and connects visitors to the wetland through wooden walkways and viewpoints that promote the conservation of this valuable space.

**How many species of birds were you able to spot?**



**Wooden walkway**

Milestone 33



## MILESTONE 34

## BAY WETLAND OF QUINCHAO

### Quinchao

Coordinates (latitude / longitude)	-42.54029 / -73.42378
Distance / time to the next milestone	47,5 km / 45 min
Accumulated distance	139,5 km

To the south of Quinchao Island, take Route W-59, passing through the town of Achao and continuing to the village of Quinchao, which is 11.3 kilometers away via Route W-689. Located within the namesake fjord, the Bay Wetland of Quinchao is found in this area, a place with the geographical characteristics of a sheltered port.



**The wetland, declared a Nature Sanctuary in 2021, is situated on the southwestern coastal sector of the island and encompasses vast intertidal areas within its 102.8 hectares of protected land.**

This environment is surrounded by small-scale agricultural areas, from which small streams flow into expansive marshes, forming the primary refuge for aquatic and marine fauna. The sanctuary is also an important



site for the feeding and resting of migratory birds. **Among the most notable species is the Chilean flamingo, which—in groups of up to 90 individuals—remains in the area from April to June before returning to its native Patagonia.**



**The village of Quinchao consists of about fifteen houses located on a small plain, where the imposing Church of Nuestra Señora de Gracia stands out among the churches of Chiloé for its size: nearly 53 meters long, 18.5 meters wide, and with an 18.3-meter high tower. Its original construction dates back to 1880, using wood from Guaitecas cypress, cinnamon, and hazelnut trees.**

The wetland features a marsh environment approximately 1 kilometer long along the coast, ending at the so-called Punta Cuchuguape, where there is a viewpoint that offers an excellent view of the expanse of this important sanctuary, the visiting birdlife, and the landscapes of Quinchao Island—an unmissable stop before returning to Isla Grande.



**Viewpoint  
and portected  
area of nesting**  
Milestone 34



## MILESTONE 35

## COASTAL WETLAND OF PUNTEMÚN

### Castro

Coordinates (latitude / longitude)	-42.42523 / -73.73968
Distance / time to the next milestone	40,4 km / 40 min
Accumulated distance	187 km

Back on Isla Grande, 9.4 kilometers west of Dalcahue and before reaching Route 5, there is a direct turnoff to the Coastal Wetland of Putemún. **A 250-meter walk will take you to the high viewpoint.**



This coastal and marine wetland covers an area of 615.8 hectares, of which 149 hectares were declared a Nature Sanctuary in 2022.



**The large number of birds observed in this wetland is due to its relative tranquility, expansive intertidal zones, and the brackish swampy environment created by the confluence of rivers, where fresh and saltwater mix.** The silty, waterlogged soil provides a fragile and soft substrate, where species like the becassine and pidén find food and shelter among the vegetation. In ecotonal areas, some brackish meadows grow, providing refuge for hundreds of birds during





high tide, where they rest while awaiting the next low tide. These marshes are also crucial for the reproduction of waterfowl, as various species of ducks, chercán de las vegas, nuco, colegal, and bailarín chico, among others, build their nests here.

**A characteristic species of Putemún is the Chilean flamingo, which migrates from the lagoons of the Patagonian plains in April and May to the north in search of better climatic conditions. Its pink color adorns the autumn and winter months in these wetlands of Chiloé, where it stays until August and September.**



The area also contains genetic banks of choro zapato (a type of Chilean mussel), one of three marine reserves in Chile established to protect native species. Created in 1981, with a surface area of 753 hectares, it is managed by the National Fisheries Service and the Institute of Fisheries Development (IFOP) for the conservation of this species.

**Did you manage to spot the Chilean flamingos?**



**Flamingos and  
black necked  
swans**

Milestone 35



## MILESTONE 36

## HUILLINCO AND CUCAO LAKES

### Chonchi

Coordinates (latitude / longitude)	-42.67391 / -73.89739
Distance / time to the next milestone	22,8 km / 25 min
Accumulated distance	227,4 km

Heading south on Route 5, 3.8 kilometers from the northern entrance to Chonchi, take the exit toward Huillinco, passing through Notuco via Route W-800.



**Near the local church, there is a wooden pier, an ideal spot to appreciate the Lagos Huillinco y Cucao Nature Sanctuary, declared in 2021.** The 3,030.6 protected hectares are clearly visible from Route W-800 toward Cucao, which runs along the southern shore of both lakes, offering panoramic views.

The Cucao basin contains the largest lakes in the Chiloé Archipelago, connected by the narrow "Contento" channel. This area is strongly influenced by the Pacific Ocean, generating brackish waters that provide a unique habitat for a wide variety of species.



**Within the sanctuary, various plant species can be found, including the alerce (chilean larch), the mañío with pointed leaves, the coihue of Chiloé, the tepú, and the hazelnut. Mammals such as the huillín, coipo, pudú, monito del monte, quique, Chiloé fox, and guiña cat also inhabit the area, so extra caution is recommended when traveling by vehicle.**



The sanctuary is home to a rich avifauna, with more than 80 species, including some endemic subspecies like the diuca, diucón, concón, and rayadito, all native to Isla Grande.

Regarding the ecosystem services provided by the sanctuary, it supplies freshwater and food to nearby communities, as well as recreation and tourism opportunities. This unique environment borders Chiloé National Park, the next milestone in this circuit.



**Pier on the  
Huillinco Lake**  
Milestone 36



## MILESTONE 37

## CHILOÉ NATIONAL PARK

### Ancud, Dalcahue, Castro y Chonchi

Coordinates (latitude / longitude)	-42.62553 / -74.10831
Distance / time to the next milestone	45 km / 45 min
Accumulated distance	250,2 km

Following Route W-800 until reaching the town of Cucao, turn right heading north, crossing the Cucao Bridge. This road leads directly to the entrance of Chiloé National Park, established in 1982.

The park covers an area of 42,567 hectares, divided into two main sectors: Chepu, in the Ancud commune, and Abtao, which spans parts of the communes of Castro, Chonchi, and Dalcahue. **The main entrance is in Cucao, and it offers high standards of universal accessibility and infrastructure for interpreting the park's flora, fauna, and culture.**



Neighboring the park are **Huilliche communities, which keep their traditions alive while being integrated into its management. They provide complementary services that showcase their cultural heritage.**

It is considered one of the richest parks in the region in terms of cultural heritage, where historical, ethnographic, and archaeological elements coexist, along with interesting paleontological sites, such as the one at Rahue Beach.



#### Interior Park Path

Milestone 37

Reserve your entry by scanning the following QR code:



[www.pasesparques.cl/](http://www.pasesparques.cl/)  
or in cash directly at the access.

- Open Monday to Sunday from 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM.
- Information phone: +65-2-486115.
- The best time to visit the trails of the park is between November and March. Always consider bringing appropriate equipment, as there may be rain even in summer.
- Pacific Ocean beaches throughout the coastal sector are not suitable for swimming.
- Register your entrance with the park rangers, indicating your planned return time and date.





## MILESTONE 38

## WETLAND OF ICHUAC

### *Puqueldón*

Coordinates (latitude / longitude)	-42.61694 / -73.72002
Distance / time to the next milestone	42 km / 45 min
Accumulated distance	295,2 km

Returning to Chonchi via Notuco, and heading south on Route W-853, which leads to Huicha, you board the ferry to Lemuy Island. After disembarking at Chulchuy, and traveling 3.5 kilometers, you reach the Ichuac sector, a small bay with shallow waters where the Ichuac creek flows into the sea.



**This was probably the route taken by the Jesuit missionaries during the evangelization process, traveling from Castro to "Ichoac" to continue their circular mission through the rest of the chapels in the archipelago.** In this very locality stands one of the churches that is part of the World Heritage Site, also declared a Historic Monument: the Nativity of Mary Church in Ichuac, which



dates back to the 19th century. However, it is known that an earlier chapel dating back to the 18th century once stood in its place.

**Since 2015, the surrounding area has been protected as a Typical Zone, with part of the Wetland of Ichuac included in the protected area.**



Due to the historical significance of this locality, the **400-meter-long waterfront promenade with community facilities and a wooden pedestrian walkway along the coastline was promoted.**



**This promenade, inaugurated in 2024, frames the bay, which is considered an unmissable corner of the Chiloé Archipelago, aiming to recover its connection to the sea, which was diminished after the consolidation of the main paved road on Lemuy Island and the agricultural impacts caused by the 1960 earthquake.**

**Could you imagine the Jesuit navigators arriving at the local church through the wetland?**



**Waterfront and gangway in Wetland of Ichuac**

Milestone 38





*Point of interest · Puqueldón*

## EL CORTAO

**At the southernmost tip of Lemuy Island lies Detif, a sector that begins at "El Cortao", the narrowest part of the island. It is technically referred to as an isthmus.<sup>17</sup>**

It is believed that one of its names, "El Sostenido", comes from the fact that this stretch of land appears to "hold up" the rest of Lemuy Island. Until the 1980s, Detif was separated



by no more than 20 meters, which were later artificially connected.

**When visiting, from the road between the cliffs, one can see the inland sea on both sides of the path and enjoy a privileged view of the Michimahuida, Corcovado, and Chaitén volcanoes, as well as the village of Detif.**

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<sup>17</sup>Geographical feature that forms a narrow strip of land with shores on both sides.

## MILESTONE 39

## WETLAND OF AITUY AND LELBUN

### Queilen

Coordinates (latitude / longitude)	-42.82606 / -73.4809
Distance / time to the next milestone	75,1 km / 75 min
Accumulated distance	337,2 km

Returning to Isla Grande, and traveling south for 30.8 kilometers from Huicha along Route W-853, you will find the turnoff to the town of Aituy.



**From the eponymous bridge, the Wetland of Aituy and Lelbun can already be seen, separated from the inland sea by the mouth of the creek and a plain where the Aituy Chapel and cemetery are located.**

From this plain, you can see the intertidal zone, with large areas of brackish meadows that are home to a wide variety of birds, which find food and shelter here. However, the vegetation changes as the road moves further from the inland sea and closer to the town of Lelbun, where pomponales (salt marsh meadows) appear, followed by arrayán





forests (a type of tree native to the area) with abundant ferns and other species, such as conifers, aquatic, and marsh plants.

The oral testimony of the local people still recounts the transformations caused by the 1960 earthquake and tsunami in this area.

Silvio Galaz, a resident of Lelbun, recalls: "This area is flat, Lelbun means plain. Before the tsunami, Lelbun was connected to the wetland, and with the tides, they would join. This sector was called Poe Island." This area plays an important role as a habitat for marine fauna, and there is a close relationship between the sea and the communities, as it provides food and fertilizer. Silvio also describes: "The dolphins sleep standing up among the sargassum [which] are forests. Between Aituy and Lelbun, there are many of these algal forests. When storms come, they appear on the beach, like cutting grass, and they are collected and used as natural fertilizer, just like luga and pelillo."

Exploring the beaches in these areas is a must-see in Queilen. **Did you manage to see dolphins?**



**Wetland. Poe Island to the right**

Milestone 39





*Point of interest · Queilen*

## **PAILDAD ESTUARY**

To continue to the next milestone, take Díaz Lira Route or Route W-883. It is properly signposted and runs along the perimeter — to the north — of the Paildad Estuary, offering views from different perspectives of this large body of water, which changes dramatically with the high and low tides.

**Its calm waters historically allowed the settlement of various communities, which**



**can be visited, including: Apeche, Paildad, Contuy, Pilke, and San Miguel.**

The area has also undergone economic transformations, from pre-Hispanic times to the present day. Today, visitors can find a range of tourist ventures along its banks, as well as navigators with a special interest in tourism and water sports.

## MILESTONE 40

## URBAN WETLAND OF QUELLÓN ESTUARY

*Quellón*

Coordinates (latitude / longitude)	-43.11774/ -73.63159
Distance / time to the next milestone	0 km / 0 min
Accumulated distance	412,3 km

The same Díaz Lira Route leads to Route 5, where you must turn left and continue on to Quellón.

Between the city center and Punta Lapa, arriving by vehicle along the coastal road heading west, is the Urban Wetland Quellón Estuary, the ecotonal mouth of the estuary of the same name.



**From the western coastal road of the city, it is possible to observe an urban wetland of 5.1 hectares where diverse birdlife coexists with economic and cultural acti-**



## vities related to artisanal fishing, marine industries, and shipyards.

Alexis Bórquez recounts: "The Quellón Urban Wetland is a great place for birdwatching. I believe it's possible to see 18 or 20 different species here, which is important given its proximity to the city." The urban context of this wetland highlights the industrial origins of Quellón, a port city with significant and ongoing activity in its bay. This also brings with it increased risks associated with the presence of solid waste, invasive exotic species, and liquid industrial waste. For this reason, the community and municipal recovery of this space is so important, along with its designation as an Urban Wetland in 2022.

**Did you manage to see the shipyards at the port?** This circuit ends at one of the urban wetlands currently found in Chiloé, including the wetlands of Pudeto in Ancud, and Ten Ten and Gamboa in Castro.



**Wetland and shipyard in Quellón Bay**  
Milestone 40





## WETLANDS OF CHILOÉ

### *Ecotonal spaces*

Wetlands are ecosystems that act as a transition between terrestrial and aquatic environments, a space known as an "ecotone".

The rich estuaries that stretch along this Route are temporarily or permanently flooded, depending on various climatic factors, and are in constant interaction with the living beings that inhabit them.

**Wetlands offer unique conditions and qualities that support the presence of a wide variety of plant, animal, and other interdependent organisms.** Whether they are natural or artificial, permanent or temporary, with stagnant or flowing waters, fresh, brackish, or saline, or even marine areas with depths of less than six meters at low tide, wetlands can be classified as: lakes, ponds, rivers, estuaries, streams, swamps, bogs, salt marshes, ñadis, hualves, swamp forests, marshes, estuaries, gulfs, channels, intertidal zones, muddy and sandy plains, beaches, and coastal edges.

Marine-coastal wetlands are located on unconsolidated materials deposited by glaciers and glacial meltwater rivers, typical of the entire eastern coast of Chiloé, whose current geomorphological configuration is the result of Quaternary glaciations.

Hermes Vera, manager of the Pulpito Bogs Nature Sanctuary in the Chonchi district, states, "The wetland is not just an interesting, diverse, and unique landscape. It is our duty

Thematic appendix · Chiloé



**Wetland of Quilo**  
Ancud

#### **Continental Wetlands**

Lacustrine: lakes and interior lagoons.  
Riparians: river and stream wetlands.  
Marshes: peat bogs, swamps, mudflats, etc.

Marsh •

Sweet water

to protect them, not only because they are a source of water supply, but also to understand the relationship with the environment, nature, and the culture related to water and the forest."

**Wetlands are among the most productive environments in the world, serving as a refuge for biodiversity and sources of water and primary productivity, on which countless plant and animal species depend to survive. They are even vital for human survival, as with proper, sustainable, and timely planning, it is possible — just to mention a few benefits — to obtain drinking water for human consumption.**

A group of 10 wetlands in Chiloé, called the "Eastern Wetlands of Chiloé," have been officially nominated as Sites/Landscapes of Hemispheric Importance in the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHS-RN). Another group of 5 wetlands has been declared as Nature Sanctuaries, for example: the bogs of Aucar, Punta Lapa, and Pulpito, which serve as exemplary spaces for the bio-cultural relationship of heritage linked to the wetlands of Chiloé, dedicated to scientific research, environmental education, and water supply for nearby communities.

For more information  
scan the following  
QR code:



#### **Marine and coastal Wetlands**

Marines: coastal wetlands,  
rocky coasts, submareal and  
intertidal.

Coastals: estuaries, marshes and  
delta.

• Highest tide

• Lowest tide



Sea

# INSULAR HERITAGE CIRCUIT OF CHILOÉ

In Chiloé, there is a network of islands surrounding the inner sea, of which 26 are inhabited. **This circuit offers a flexible itinerary to visit all or some of the islands in the inner sea of Chiloé, located in the communes of Quemchi, Quinchao, Castro, Queilen, and Quellón, where small coastal villages are found.** Both Quinchao Island (shared by the communes of Quinchao and Curaco de Vélez) and Lemuy Island (entirely within the commune of Puqueldón) are part of this group of islands. However, they are also included in the historical, churches, living heritage, and biocultural diversity circuits, and can be visited through these routes.

This insular geographical space is connected by channels, estuaries, depths, and shallows, and its visual horizon is marked by coastal towns, piers, beaches, headlands, cliffs, and volcanoes. In this archipelago, traditional agricultural and extractive practices coexist with other economic activities such as aquaculture, artisanal fishing, and tourism, with notable attractions and services related to customary practices, archaeological heritage, and whale watching.

Duration	<b>It is not possible to estimate the total duration of the entire circuit, since the climate and island mobility is highly unpredictable, especially in the winter months</b>
Season	<b>All year, recommended in summer</b>
Universal access	<b>No</b>
Recommended age	<b>All publics</b>

**The islands of the inner sea abound with and preserve sites and practices of great heritage value, as well as cultural expressions that have tended to disappear on the Chiloé island.**

The Archipelago is rich in birdlife, both migratory and native, sea lion colonies, and marshes, and is also visited by cetaceans, which can be seen in channels ideal for sports navigation. Additionally, almost all of the islands feature chapels belonging to the Chilote school of wooden religious architecture, religious festivals, traditional crafts, fishing corrals, shell middens, lighthouses, and, primarily in the summer, folk festivals.

Subsidized maritime boats operate on routes that connect all these islands with the Chiloé island, with different schedules in winter and summer. These routes are designed to facilitate the connectivity of the islanders, allowing them to obtain goods and services from the main towns, rather than for tourist excursions.

**Therefore, due to the unpredictable weather, exploring the Archipelago on your own will require time, though it is possible to choose some islands and spend less travel time.** Most of them can be explored on foot or by bicycle, both of which are safe travel modes via the gravel road network. Accommodation is mostly in family-run lodgings and cabins, often accompanied by expressions of the local food heritage.



Quellón Bay

## QUINCHAO ISLAND

### *Curaco de Vélez y Quinchao*

Population	8.576 inhabitants
Area	12.930 hectares
Mirror town(s)	Dalcahue

#### Quinchao Island Milestones:

- 4
- 5
- 6
- 15
- 16
- 26
- 33
- 34

Quinchao Island is the largest in the entire Archipelago. It serves as an important meeting point between the Huilliche culture, Spanish colonization, and the missionary evangelizing efforts. The island is renowned for its cultural expressions, folkloric activities, gastronomy, and handicrafts made from wool, wood, and plant fibers, as well as its religious architectural heritage. **Both the Santa María de Loreto Church in Achao, the oldest in the Archipelago, and the Church of Quinchao, the largest after the Church of Castro, are part of the Chiloé Churches World Heritage Site.** Access to the island is available by car and public buses, with ferry service departing from the Dalcahue ramp.

## LEMUY ISLAND

### *Puqueldón*

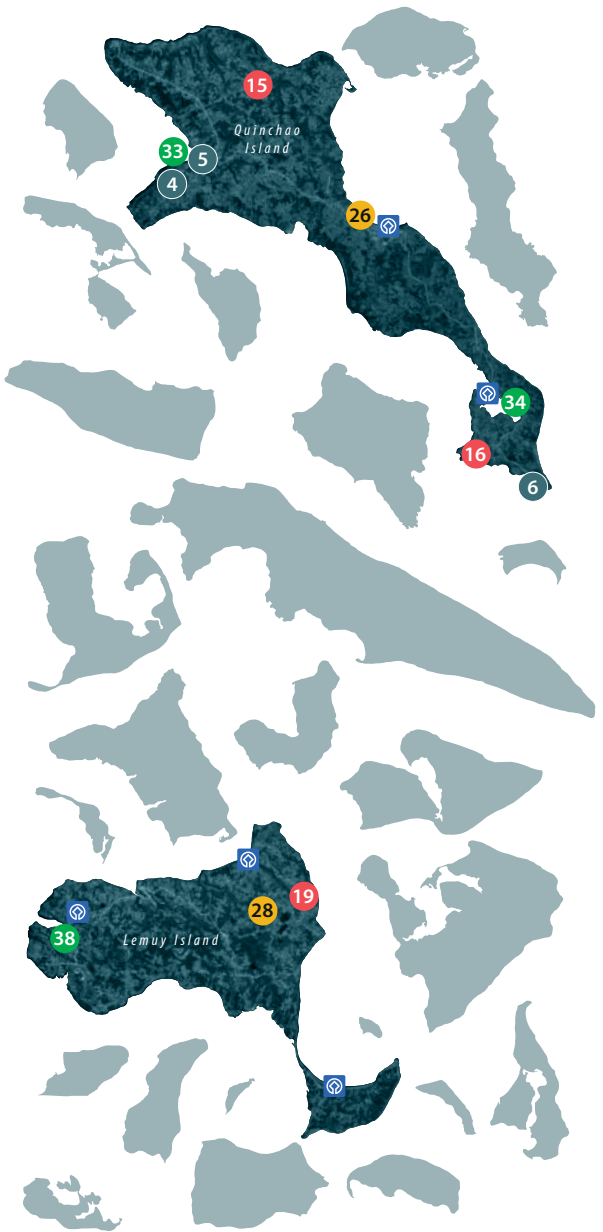
Population	3.921 inhabitants
Area	9.700 hectares
Mirror town(s)	Huicha

#### Lemuy Island Milestones:

- 19
- 28
- 38

The main areas of Lemuy Island are: Puqueldón, Aldachildo, San Agustín, Liucura, Ichuac, Lincay, and Detif. **Notable churches include: Natividad de María in Ichuac, Jesús Nazareno in Detif, and Jesús Nazareno in Aldachildo, all part of the Chiloé Churches World Heritage Site,** although there are five more chapels on the island. The island's cultural heritage is celebrated through traditional festivals, religious events, and the customary minga (community work). Access is by ferry from the Huicha dock, located 4 kilometers south of Chonchi. Vehicles and pedestrians cross the Yal Channel in a 10-minute ferry ride to Chulchuy. **The island was awarded the Best Tourism Village label by the UN World Tourism Organization in 2022.**





 World Heritage Site - Chiloé Churches



  
26 inner sea islands

## MIRROR TOWNS

Insular connectivity has taken on a very different form and lesser density compared to the historical mobility network between islands. Currently, inter-island connections have weakened, while "mirror towns" have consolidated on the Isla Grande, from which —like a mirror— maritime routes connect to several islands in the Inner Sea. There are 8 mirror towns from which ferries and boats depart, carrying inhabitants and their cargo to the 24 inhabited islands. This dynamic is part of Chiloé's heritage, a flow of coming and going, bringing and taking, between the Isla Grande and the rest of the Archipelago.

<sup>18</sup> According to Álvarez e Hidalgo, 2019.

Mirror towns

Quemchi

Quicaví

Dalcahue

Achao

Chequián

Alternative mirror town of Achao due to weather conditions

Castro

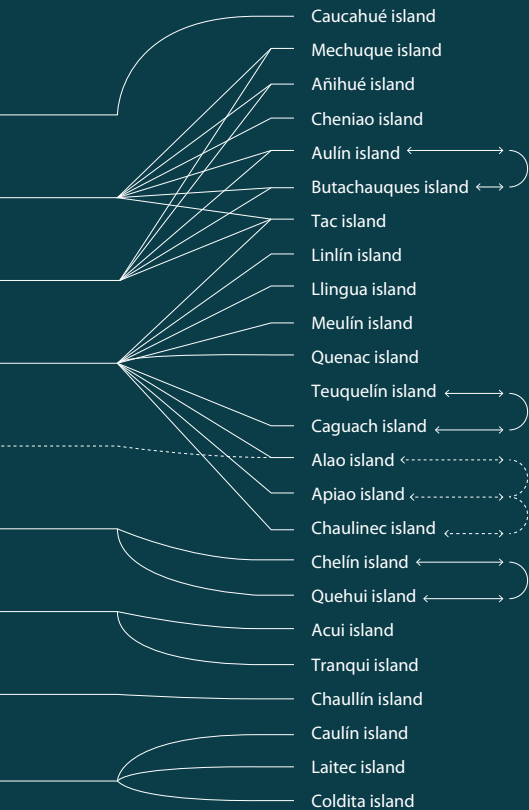
Queilen

Auchac

Quellón



Achao Ramp



**Straight-billed  
Curlew**

## MILESTONE 41

## CAUCAHUÉ ISLAND

### Quemchi

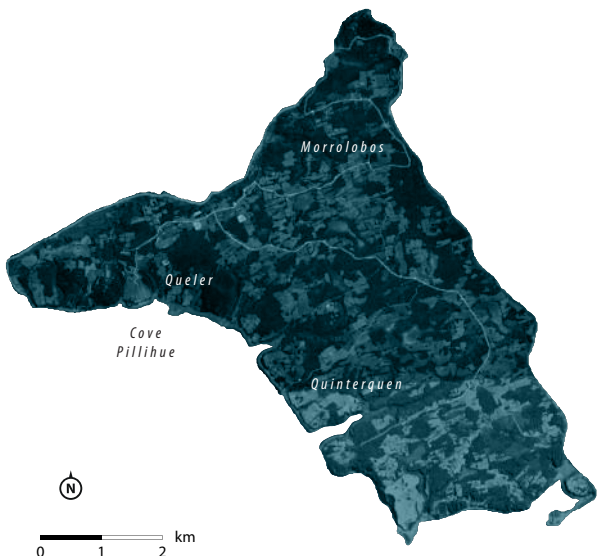
Coordinates (latitude / longitude)	-42,14726 / -73,43568
Population	354 inhabitants
Area	3,136 hectares
Mirror town(s)	Quemchi

It is said that the first inhabitants of Caucahué Island were four Huilliche families who settled in the areas of Queler, just a few minutes by boat from Quemchi; Quinterquén, home to an important chapel dating back to 1880; Morrolobo; and Punta Pescuezo.

Its development has been closely linked to the Chiloé island, mainly due to its proximity, especially during the 19th and 20th centuries, when it reached its peak as a supplier to Quemchi, with large wheat crops and the operation of several water mills. **Today, it is home to renowned artisans who are recommended to visit.**



**Caucahué Island**  
Milestone 41





**MECHUQUE ISLAND**  
*Quemchi*

**MILESTONE 42**

Coordinates (latitude / longitude)	-42,31591 / -73,26843
Population	318 inhabitants
Area	1,567 hectares
Mirror town(s)	Quicavi and Dalcahue



**Mechuque Island**  
Milestone 42

One of the most popular tourist areas in the Inner Sea is Mechuque Island, known for its natural beauty and its inner channels, which have earned it the nickname "Chilean Venice."

**The island also stands out for the cultural heritage value of its stilt buildings, particularly the former school and now Mechuque Library, declared a Historic Monument in 2004, the Don Paulino Historical Museum, and the Pier of The Islands.**



**Mechuque School**  
Mechuque Island





## MILESTONE 43

## AÑIHUÉ ISLAND

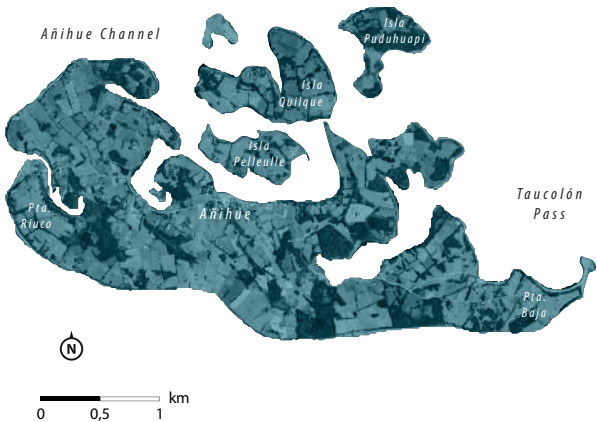
### Quemchi

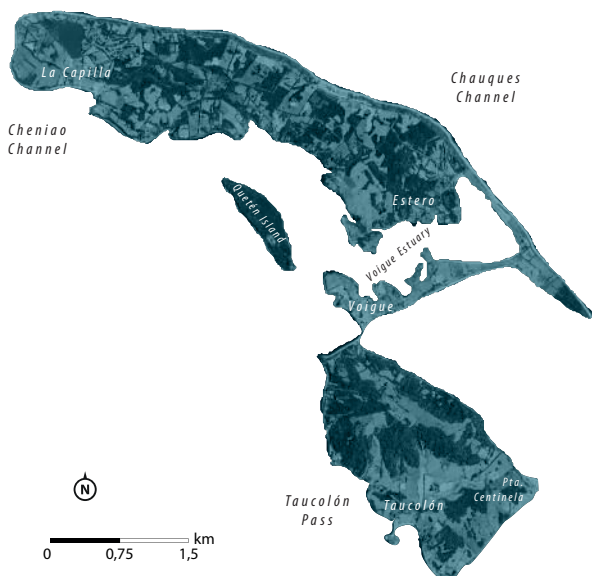
Coordinates (latitude / longitude)	-42,32961 / -73,25043
Population	161 inhabitants
Area	613 hectares
Mirror town(s)	Quicaví and Dalcahue

Like many other islands in the Archipela-  
go, Añihué Island is easily walkable. The sub-  
sidized boat crosses from Mechuque, enter-  
ing the narrow Añihué Channel and landing  
just a few steps from the chapel and school.  
There are two vehicular tracks that run from  
north to south across the island, reaching a  
**beach called "La Otra Mar" due to its views  
of the northern part of the Quinchao Ar-  
chipelago. It is a must-visit destination  
for those traveling by sea, particularly for  
those interested in navigation,** as its sur-  
rounding smaller islands create a complex  
network of channels and estuaries that can  
even be explored in bad weather. The island  
is known for its sale of Chilean oysters, also  
called green oysters.



**Añihué Island,  
and its estuary**  
Milestone 43





**CHENIAO ISLAND**  
*Quemchi*

**MILESTONE 44**

Coordinates (latitude / longitude)	-42,27779 / -73,25409
Population	174 inhabitants
Area	681 hectares
Mirror town(s)	Quicaví and Dalcahue

Chenioa Island consists of different sectors spread across two intertidal islands connected by a tombolo.<sup>19</sup> On Cheniao Island, the sectors of Cheniao, Voigue Chapel, and Voigue Estuary are connected at high tide to Taucolón Island, which has a population of 42 and an area of 338 hectares.

**At the northern tip lies the Los Cuervos Lagoon and the Voigue Estero marsh.** This landmark features an extensive beach and marsh area on its eastern side, from which it is possible to enjoy brightly lit sunsets, as this area can be explored on foot along the existing tracks and trails.

<sup>19</sup> Tombolo: a sedimentary geographic feature that, at low tide, isolates a territory into two islands; a phenomenon that is common in the Chiloé Archipelago.



**Chenioa Island**  
Milestone 44

## MILESTONE 45

## AULÍN ISLAND

### Quemchi

Coordinates (latitude / longitude)	-42,26486 / -73,15522
Population	76 inhabitants
Area	293 hectares
Mirror town(s)	Quicaví and Dalcahue



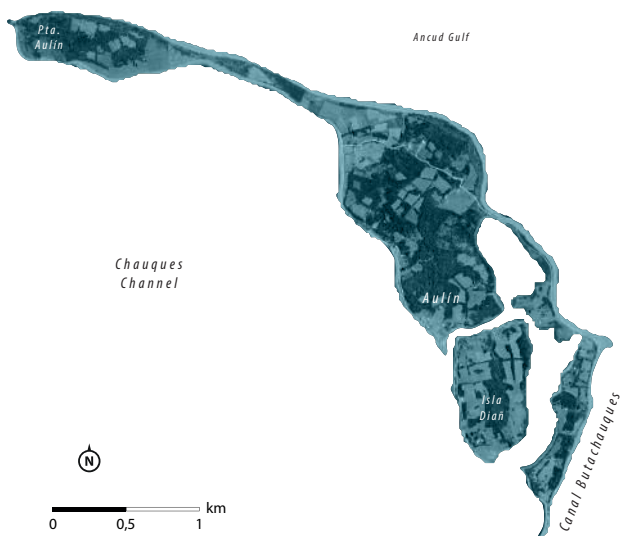
Aulín Island is rich in archaeological heritage, likely due to its location surrounded by shallow waters. **Notable features include fishing corrals, shell middens, and a range of tourist services that complement its attractions: beaches, viewpoints, marshlands, and Diañ Island.**

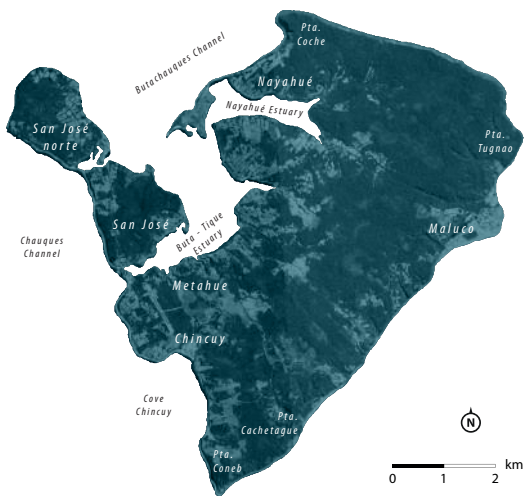
Aulín Island is closely connected to the neighboring Butachauques Island, as it is almost fully immersed in the eponymous estuary, allowing inter-island navigation even in bad weather.



**Aulín Island and erratic stones on the beach**

Hito 45





**BUTACHAUQUES ISLAND**  
*Quemchi*

**MILESTONE 46**

Coordinates (latitude / longitude)	-42,30297 / -73,15008
Population	506 inhabitants
Area	4.328 hectares
Mirror town(s)	Quicaví and Dalcahue

On the Butachauques island, there are five settlements: San José, Metahue, Coneb, Nayahué, and Maluco. During high tide, some areas become temporary islands due to the tombolos.

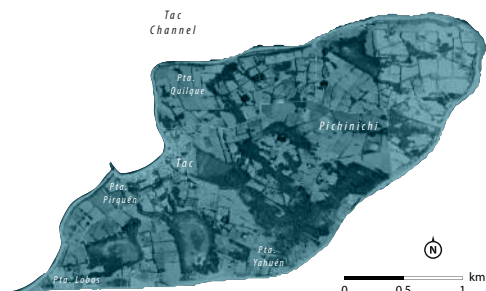
Seventy percent of the surface of Butachauques Island is covered by native forest, with the main species being canelo, arrayán, luma, and meli. **The island also features cliffs and beaches, framing a valuable heritage linked to its culture and history, including an old shipyard, a chapel, and a water mill. Its eastern coast offers privileged views of the Andes mountain range, facing Caleta Gonzalo.**



The island has 60 kilometers of internal roads and ramps in Metahue, Nayahué, and San Pedro, from which boats depart for extensive routes to other sectors and islands such as Taulcolón, Cheniao, Voigue, Añihué, Mechuque, Achao, Quicaví, and Dalcahue.



**Butachauques Island**  
Milestone 46



## MILESTONE 47

## TAC ISLAND

### Quemchi

Coordinates (latitude / longitude)	-42,38537 / -73,13865
Population	291 inhabitants
Area	656 hectares
Mirror town(s)	Quicaví, Dalcahue and Achao



**Tac Island**  
Milestone 49

Tac Island is one of the most isolated in the Archipelago, with only a few inhabitants still residing there. However, many people who once "came from Tac" recall how difficult life was there until recently. Frequently, family members would "disappear at sea," whether it was while fishing or going to the Calto rock, also known as Nihuel Islet.



**The connection to Nihuel Islet, a geo-site of high cultural value located to the north of the Desertores Group, is linked to traditional agroecological practices, particularly the collection of guano from the numerous seabirds that visit it. This guano was transported back to the islands of the inner sea to be used as fertilizer.**





## LINLÍN ISLAND

### Quinchao

MILESTONE 48

Coordinates (latitude / longitude)	-42,40086 / -73,42609
Population	379 inhabitants
Area	959 hectares
Mirror town(s)	Achao

The inhabitants of Linlín Island are spread across the localities of Curaco de Linlín, Los Pinos, and Punta Tane. The island's terrain is characterized by slopes, with the ramps at Los Pinos and Curaco standing out, along with a floating ramp in Curaco and nearly 18 kilometers of interior roads. In the Curaco area, two chapels play an important role in the island's community life. The island still has a rural school with 52 students, and a teaching staff of 7 educators for both primary and preschool levels. It also has a rural health center and is visited every two months by the Cirujano Videla ship, which also serves the Desertores Group.

**Seventy-four percent of the community identifies as indigenous, with three established indigenous communities that have preserved traditional practices, such as the collection of pelillo (seaweed) and textile crafts.**



**Linlín Island**  
Milestone 50



**Curaco de Linlín**  
Linlín Island



## MILESTONE 49

## LLINGUA ISLAND

### Quinchao

Coordinates (latitude / longitude)	-42,4334 / -73,45269
Population	250 inhabitants
Area	343 hectares
Mirror town(s)	Achao



**Home to artisanal fishermen, boat owners, and a chapel over 100 years old,** Llingua Island is the closest island to the port of Achao, and its shape has earned it the nickname “The Sleeping Whale,” the same name as its nationally recognized group of basket-weaving artisans.

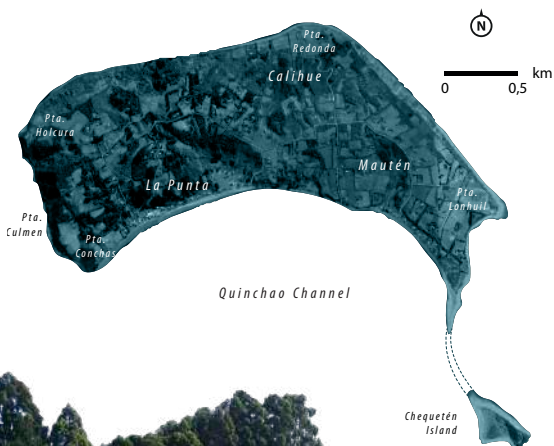


**The whale’s tail, at high tide, transforms into Chequetén Island, a place whose history is deeply ingrained in the local memory.** During times of contagious diseases such as smallpox, Chequetén was used to leave infected family members (it is not specified whether they were alive or not). Later, during the military dictatorship, it was used to deposit the bodies of disappeared detainees, and is now identified as a Site of Memory for Human Rights by the local community.



#### Ramp of Llingua Island

Milestone 49





## MEULÍN ISLAND

### Quinchao

## MILESTONE 50

Coordinates (latitude / longitude)	-42,43874 / -73,30136
Population	595 inhabitants
Area	1.329 hectares
Mirror town(s)	Achao

Meulín Island has a horseshoe shape, defined by a river that divides it into two main sectors: El Tránsito and San Francisco.

The landscape is quite flat, with gentle hills in the interior of the island. The settlements are located near access ramps, easily recognizable by the presence of a church, a school with its football field, a building that hosts medical rounds, sports club facilities, and community centers. In San Francisco, you'll find the Meulín Island Family Health Center, where residents can access services such as medical consultations, midwifery, nursing, nutrition, and assistance from three paramedical aides.

**In the interior of the island, there are 30 kilometers of internal roads and a bridge to cross the river. Some roads become impassable by vehicle during rainy periods.**



Meulín Island  
Milestone 50

## MILESTONE 51

## QUENAC ISLAND

## Quinchao

Coordinates (latitude / longitude)	-42,45664 / -73,33033
Population	324 inhabitants
Area	2.130 hectares
Mirror town(s)	Achao

In 1598, the well-known destruction of the seven cities of La Araucanía took place as a result of the great Mapuche uprising. Many of the inhabitants of Osorno migrated to Chiloé. The indigenous people, allies of the Spanish, settled in Calbuco, while several Spaniards settled on the Quenac island. In 1785, there were 508 people living on this island, all of them Spanish. Between 1891 and 1928, it was the head of the homonymous municipality, which included several islands and even a continental area to the north of Chaitén. For decades, it had a Civil Registry office and was a voting station.



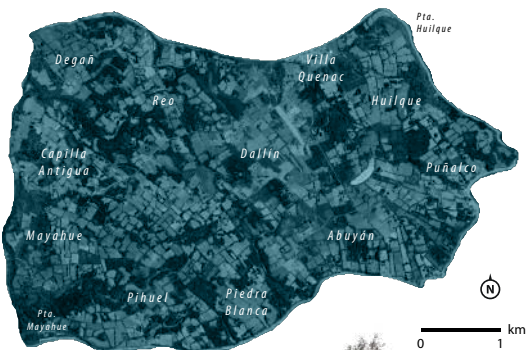
**A distinctive feature of the town of Quenac is its grid-like street layout, with a central square, sidewalks, and front gardens—likely a legacy of the Spanish settlers from Osorno who colonized it early on.**

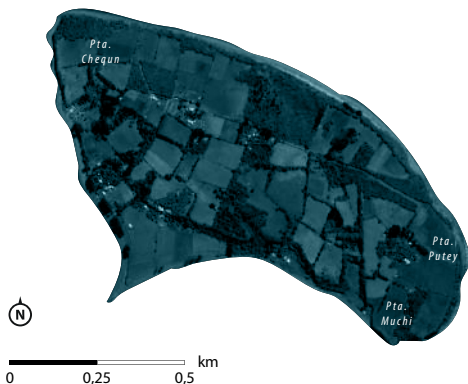
In 1952, the last "Fiesta de Moros y Cristianos" was held, a didactic-religious theatrical play dating back to around 1900, in which Moors and Christians fought over a cross, followed by a symbolic embrace. The event was accompanied by music and songs in honor of the Virgin of Socorro, the patron saint of the chapel.



**Quenac Island,  
and its cemetery**

Milestone 51





## TEUQUELÍN ISLAND

### Quinchao

## MILESTONE 52

Coordinates (latitude / longitude)	-42,46193 / -73,24929
Population	32 inhabitants
Area	67 hectares
Mirror town(s)	Achao

Teuquelín Island is the smallest in both size and population in the commune of Quinchao. It is located 20 kilometers in a straight line from Achao, which takes about an hour and a half by boat. Its inhabitants travel on state-subsidized boats that depart to and from Achao three times a week.

**Teuquelín is home to a single family. Since 2012, the island has had electricity thanks to the installation of a motor that powers the tourist services for both residents and visitors** arriving at its ramp located on the western side of the island.



**Teuquelín Island**  
Milestone 52





## MILESTONE 53

## CAGUACH ISLAND

## Quinchao

Coordinates (latitude / longitude)	-42,51088 / -73,26664
Population	309 inhabitants
Area	974 hectares
Mirror town(s)	Achao

This island is known for the Feast of the Nazarene, the patron saint of the Church of Jesús Nazareno in Caguach. The original church, built in 1778, was destroyed by a fire in 1919 and was rebuilt by the community in 1925.



**During the last 10 days of August, events such as street parades and the traditional flag procession take place, culminating on August 30 with Mass and a procession for the patron saint.**

According to history, "five towns" embraced the missionary proposal of Fray Hilario Martínez, the priest who brought the image of the Nazarene to the Archipelago. Apiao, Alao, Chaulinec, Tac, and Caguach all wanted to have the image in their church, and to resolve the conflict, a rowing competition (in traditional chalupa boats or sailboats) was held, known as "**La Preba**," where the five islands competed for its possession. This competition has since become a tradition.

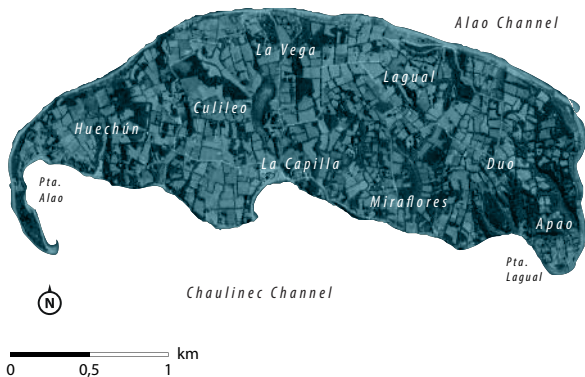
There are many versions of the story. Bryan Cortés recounts, "The first agreement was that the winner would keep the Nazarene. The initial race was won by a community other than Caguach, which went to fetch it. But there was a storm, and they were never able to bring it back. There is much mythology around the attempts to retrieve the Nazarene."



## Caguach Island

Milestone 53





**ALAO ISLAND**  
*Quinchao*

**MILESTONE 54**

Coordinates (latitude / longitude)	-42,60495 / -73,30059
Population	334 inhabitants
Area	880 hectares
Mirror town(s)	Achao and Chequián

Alao Island is located 28 kilometers from Achao, a two-hour boat ride across the inner sea. **The island's population is supported by local agriculture, with notable crops such as potatoes, fava beans, peas, and carrots, which are also sold commercially. The collection of seaweed, especially luga and pelillo, provides an important source of income, particularly during the summer months when it becomes the main livelihood for locals.**

The island is made up of sectors whose toponyms reflect its indigenous Huilliche and Chono past: Huechun, Cumblelo, Lagual, Duo, and Apao. The La Capilla sector opens to a small, sheltered port, inhabited since 1760.



**Alao Island**  
Milestone 54



**Beach**  
Alao Island



## MILESTONE 55

## APIAO ISLAND

### Quinchao

Coordinates (latitude / longitude)	-42,61468 / -73,23323
Population	621 inhabitants
Area	1,196 hectares
Mirror town(s)	Achao and Chequián

Apiao Island is located 25 kilometers southeast of Achao, or two hours of navigation. The island is organized around a main road that connects its four settlements: Metahue, Apiao Norte, Ostricultura, and La Vega.

**It is an island crossed by a creek that allows the sectors of Metahue, Ostricultura, and La Vega to be connected by frequent boat trips.**

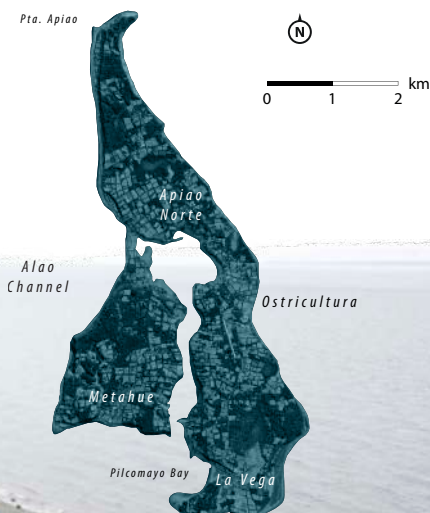


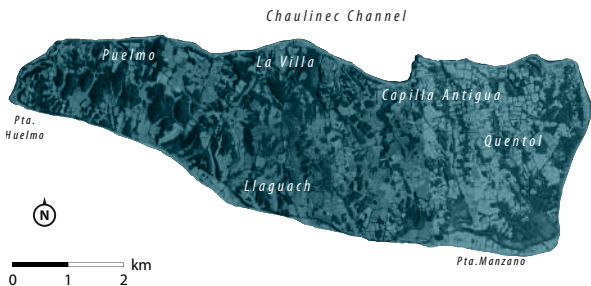
In 2023, a commemorative plaque was unveiled at Punta Rabe to honor the shipwreck of the wooden boat "Juan Rabe," which arrived in 1885 from Germany to join the National Merchant Marine. When it set sail from Ancud heading for Queilen, it was caught by a severe storm and dragged towards Apiao. The shipwrecked passengers were rescued by the locals, preventing fatalities. This event has generated stories and legends, becoming part of Apiao's local culture and identity.



#### Apiao Island, and its beach

Milestone 55





**CHAULINEC ISLAND**  
*Quinchao*

**MILESTONE 56**

Coordinates (latitude / longitude)	-42,6261 / -73,29833
Population	497 inhabitants
Area	2,684 hectares
Mirror town(s)	Achao and Chequián

Chaulinec Island, located 29.5 kilometers from Achao, is divided into the sectors of Capilla Antigua, La Villa, Huelmo, Llaguach, and Quentol.

The island's ancient inhabitants were Chono people, who ate sea lion meat and traded hides and oil from these animals, as well as whale baleen. After their nomadic lifestyle, they settled on Huar Island and later moved to Chaulinec. Although they established themselves there, they navigated the inner sea, practicing their knowledge and culture, and were also known for their exceptional swimming abilities.

**As with most islands in the inner sea, hiking is a popular activity here, and visitors can also observe a variety of local bird species.**



## MILESTONE 57

## CHELÍN ISLAND

Castro

Coordinates (latitude / longitude)	-42,60175 / -73,5166
Population	242 inhabitants
Area	1.174 hectares
Mirror town(s)	Castro



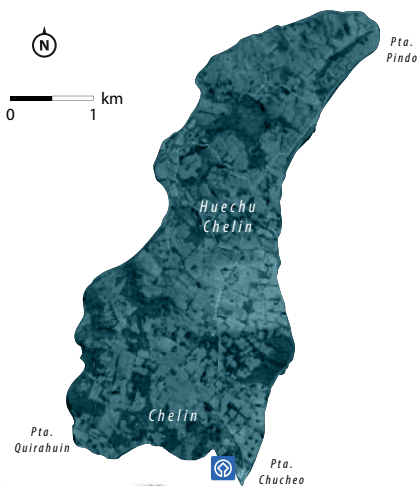
Chelín Island is one of the two islands belonging to the commune of Castro, known for the **Nuestra Señora del Rosario Church, dating back to 1888, which has received several heritage recognitions providing legal protection. It is a Historical Monument and has been part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site, Churches of Chiloé since 2000. In 2016, its surrounding area was declared a Typical Zone.** The festival associated with the patron saint of this church takes place on August 30th. Regarding the history of the locality of Chelín, according to parish records, its settlement dates back to 1734, and since then, its residents were referred to as "a village of Indians with a chapel."

Today, the inhabitants of this area, located in the sectors of Chelín and Huechu Chelín, sustain themselves through agriculture, livestock farming, algae and shellfish harvesting, and artisanal fishing.



Chelín Island

Milestone 57







## QUEHUI ISLAND

### Castro

## MILESTONE 58

Coordinates (latitude / longitude)	-42,61628 / -73,4995
Population	699 inhabitants
Area	2.705 hectares
Mirror town(s)	Castro

Quehui Island is the second of the two islands belonging to the Commune of Castro. The shape of the island is defined by the Pindo Estuary, which gives it its characteristic "crab claw" shape.

**The island is known for its "Fiesta del Mar" (Festival of the Sea), a traditional celebration that is part of the summer calendar of the Municipality of Castro, held during the last week of January. It is a festivity that showcases traditional folk activities, local gastronomy, and a display of arts and crafts, offering visitors a chance to experience and enjoy the rich cultural and culinary heritage of the island. In this way, the event has become a living testament to Chilote culture and an essential visit during the summer season.**

Due to its proximity, travel between Quehui and Chelín is easy.



Quehui Island  
Milestone 58



Nuestra Señora  
de Los Angeles  
Chapel

Quehui Island



## MILESTONE 59

## ACUI ISLAND

### Queilen

Coordinates (latitude / longitude)	-42,60175 / -73,5166
Population	95 inhabitants
Area	81 hectares
Mirror town(s)	Queilen

Acui Island, with an approximate perimeter of 6 km, hosts a small settlement with a sparse population of around 20 families.

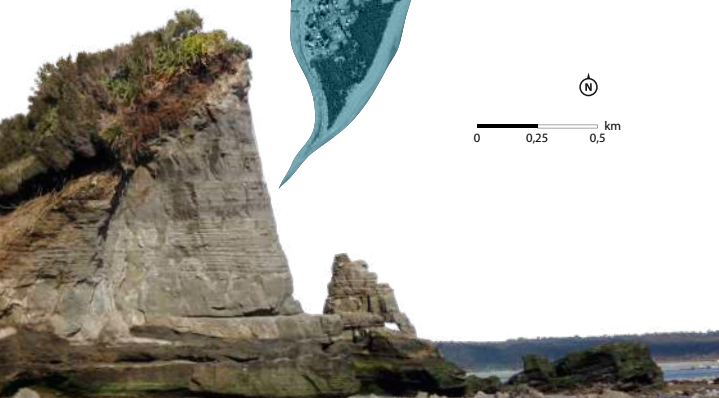
Although not well-known, tourist trips are organized from Queilen to visit the island, along with 4 to 6 weekly public maritime transport trips from the same location to access the island.

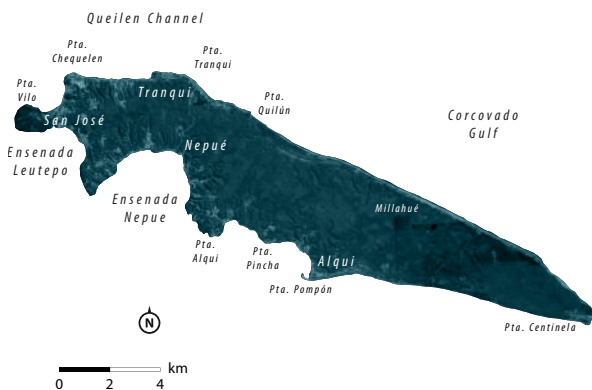


**Acui Island is easily walkable, and in addition to its photogenic coastal formations, it offers one of the most expansive panoramic views in the Archipelago, from the Paildad Estuary to the south of the Corcovado Volcano, passing by Queilen, Lemuy, Chaulinec, and the Desertores Islands group.**



Acui Island  
Milestone 59





## TRANQUI ISLAND

### Queilen

## MILESTONE 60

Coordinates (latitude / longitude)	-42,61628 / -73,4995
Population	339 inhabitants
Area	7,887 hectares
Mirror town(s)	Queilen

Tranqui Island, part of the commune of Queilen, is the fifth-largest island in the Chiloé Archipelago. **Divided into seven sparsely populated sectors, it preserves extensive forests that protect native flora and fauna.**



Its main cultural heritage is located in the Centinela sector, which holds historical significance as a colonial defensive lookout point, alongside several traditional Chilote churches found throughout the island.

The island is served by three subsidized maritime transport services, boats connecting Queilen to the Tranqui ramp and the San José dock several times a week, and a ferry that transports vehicles and passengers between Tranqui and Queilen.

**Due to its size, a longer stay is recommended to fully explore its attractions, beaches, and forests.**



Tranqui Island  
Milestone 60

## MILESTONE 61

## CHAULLÍN ISLAND

### Quellón

Coordinates (latitude / longitude)	-43,04092 / -73,46215
Population	69 inhabitants
Area	215 hectares
Mirror town(s)	Auchac

Chaulín Island is located approximately 6 kilometers from the access ramp in the locality of Auchac, in the commune of Quellón, being the only mirror community with a single destination.

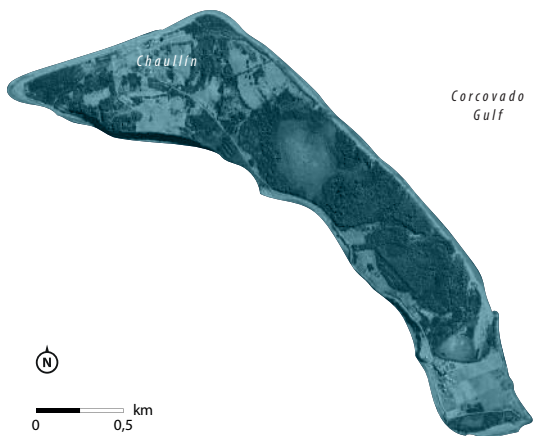


**The island is known for its rural fishing cove and its historical and traditional trade of products with Isla Grande, as well as its proximity to the old ramps of Huidad.**

The island is home to families dedicated to agriculture and the extraction of marine products, and it still has a school offering education from first to sixth grade.



**Chaulín Island**  
Milestone 61





**CAILÍN ISLAND**  
Quellón

**MILESTONE 62**

Coordinates (latitude / longitude)	-43,18349 / -73,56758
Population	262 inhabitants
Area	2.569 hectares
Mirror town(s)	Quellón

Cailín Island is the closest to the port of Quellón. It features a large bay to the north that practically divides it into two areas. Its name is believed to come from the Chono language, as it contains "lin," meaning "hill" in that language. **The territory of Cailín holds significant historical heritage value, as its first inhabitants were the Chono people. In 1764, missionaries built the "Mission of Caylin" to evangelize them.** During the colonial era, the island was known as the "Edge of Christendom," because it was the southernmost Christian settlement in all of the Americas. Charles Darwin visited it during his voyage around the world, recording its name as "Caylen."

**Tourist services are available, offering navigation to the island and providing dining options for visitors.**



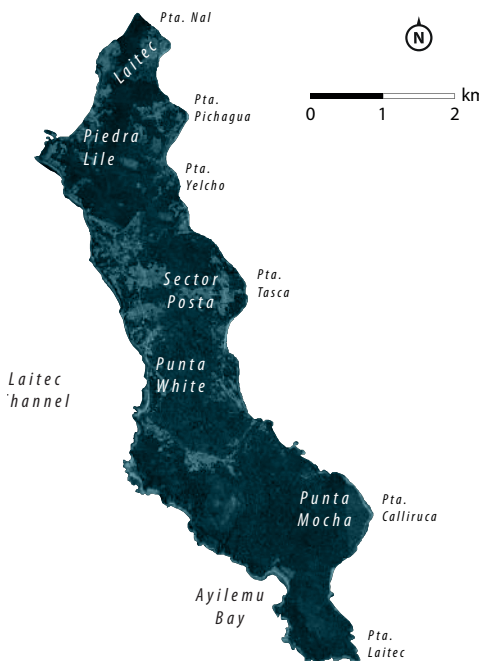
**Cailín Island**  
Milestone 62



**Butachauques Bay**







## MILESTONE 63

**LAITEC ISLAND**  
*Quellón*

Coordinates (latitude / longitude)	-43.21847 / -73.62323
Population	411 inhabitants
Area	2.386 hectares
Mirror town(s)	Quellón

Laitec Island is located 4.7 kilometers south of the city of Quellón, with a total territorial length of approximately 12 kilometers.

It is separated from Coldita Island to the west by the Laitec Channel, while to the east lies Cailín Island, separated by the Yelcho Channel. Its main sectors are: Lile Stone, Chapel, Posta, and Punta White.



**The island is known for its beaches, viewpoints, native flora and fauna, as well as its traditional festivals featuring local cuisine.** In fact, due to its unique biological characteristics, it was one of the insular territories visited by the scientist Charles Darwin during his expedition.



**Laitec Island**  
 Milestone 63

## COLDITA ISLAND

Quellón

MILESTONE 64

Coordinates (latitude / longitude)	-43.18836 / -73.69307
Population	117 inhabitants
Area	2.844 hectares
Mirror town(s)	Quellón

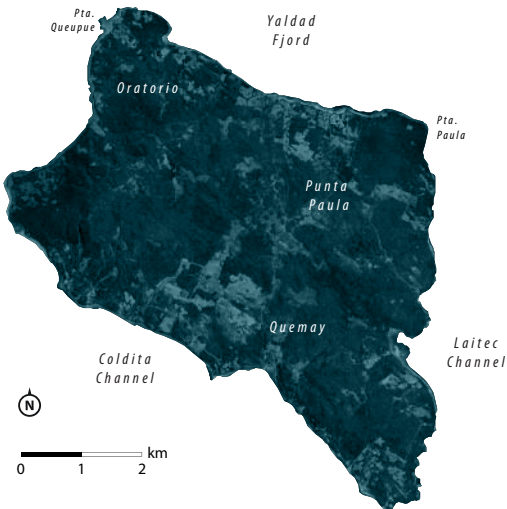
Coldita Island is the most remote from the communal capital, Quellón. Its inhabitants are located in the sectors of Punta Paula, La Mora, and Quemay. It is separated from Isla Grande by the Coldita channel, and can be accessed from the Quellón dock. **Additionally, it has direct connection with the huilliche territory of Piedra Blanca.**



**The island is home to a diverse range of native flora and fauna, which supports tourism services focused on navigation and expeditions into the island, which is easily walkable.** There is also a kayak route that allows visitors to navigate by sea from La Mora to Paula Point.



Coldita Island  
Milestone 64



# TOPONYMS OF CHILOÉ

NOTE: The Chono language is considered extinct, with very few recorded words. However, through inductive reasoning, authors such as Ibar Bruce (1960) interpreted some particles in toponymy, an exercise that the author has expanded upon, leading to an understanding of the meaning of the particles (or words) au (ao): beach, sandy bay; dad (lad, ldad, tad): estuary bottom, estuary (in the Spanish and Chilote sense of river, estuary); lin: hill, mound, promontory; and yal: emerging rock or small island. Additionally, Ibar Bruce's interpretation of the particles ac and ec as points (of peninsulas) is accepted. The untranslated particles of the Chono language correspond to those whose meaning has not been proposed or whose interpretation is not convincing. Lin is also equated with llin as a probable variant, though unproven, which may be influenced (or not) by the linguistic filter of Mapudungun. Abbreviations: m. Mapudungun; ch. Chono.

Written by David Núñez, Anthropologist.

## Notes:

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<sup>1</sup> kawkaw is the kelp gull, *Larus dominicanus*.

<sup>2</sup> the chonos people planted myrtles (arrayanes) over the bodies they buried.

<sup>3</sup> see entries hervir and chuluchulutun in the dictionary by Augusta (2016).

Toponyms	Language of origin and clarification	Meaning
Achao	ch. <i>Ach-aw</i>	<i>au</i> : beach, sandy bay
Acui	ch. <i>a-cu-i</i>	-
Agoní	ch. <i>au-on-i</i>	<i>au</i> : beach, sandy bay
Ahui	ch. <i>au-i</i>	<i>au</i> : beach, sandy bay
Alao	ch. <i>al-au</i>	<i>au</i> : beach, sandy bay
Ancud	indeterminado, probablemente m. <i>angkü-l'</i>	probably from <i>angkü</i> : dry, and <i>l'ewfü</i> : river; dry river.
Añihué	m. <i>üñi-we</i>	Place where murta is collected
Aucar	ch. <i>au-kar</i> (o <i>au-ka-ar</i> )	<i>au</i> : beach, sandy bay
Aulén	ch. <i>au-len</i>	<i>au</i> : beach, sandy bay
Aulín	ch. <i>au-lin</i>	<i>au</i> : beach, sandy bay; <i>lin</i> : hill
Balcacura	m. probablemente de <i>walka kura</i> o de <i>dalka kura</i>	<i>walka-n</i> : to surround, and <i>kura</i> : stones. Stone surrounded, or a circle of stones surrounding something. <i>dalka</i> : boat; <i>dalka kura</i> : stone of the boat.
Butachauques	híbrido. m. <i>Buta</i> ; ch. <i>Cha-uk</i>	<i>Buta</i> → <i>Füta</i> : m. big; <i>cha-uk</i> : ch. unknown. (Island) Chau Grande.
Caicumeo	m. <i>kayu ko mew</i>	<i>kayu</i> : six; <i>ko</i> : water; <i>mew</i> : by, from, toward, to, for. By the six water (six lagoons or six river crossings).
Cailín	ch. <i>kai-lin</i>	<i>lin</i> : hill
Caremapu	m. <i>karel mapu</i>	<i>karel</i> : green, to green; <i>mapu</i> : earth, place. Green or revitalized place.
Cucahué	m. <i>kawkaw-we</i>	Place where seagulls are hunted. <sup>1</sup>
Caulín	ch. <i>kau-lin</i>	<i>lin</i> : hill
Chacao	<i>chak-au</i>	<i>au</i> : beach, sandy bay
Chaicura	m. <i>chay-kura</i>	<i>chay</i> , prob. from <i>tray</i> (which fell) y <i>kura</i> : stone. Fallen stone. or from <i>chay kura</i> : washed stone.
Chaulinec	ch. <i>chau-lin-ec</i>	<i>lin</i> : hill; <i>ec</i> : point
Chauillín	ch. <i>chau-llin</i>	<i>llin</i> → <i>lin</i> : hill
Chelín	ch. <i>che-lin</i>	<i>lin</i> : hill
Chenioa	ch. <i>che-ni-au</i>	<i>au</i> : beach, sandy bay
Chepu	prob. m. <i>trüpu</i>	prob. from <i>trüpun</i> : to lash, to whip; or from <i>trüpuwe</i> : whip, rope.
Chequetén	m. <i>che ketrün</i>	from <i>che</i> : people, human being, and <i>ketrün</i> : arrayán (tree): arrayán with the shape of a person, or arrayán associated with a buried person. <sup>2</sup>
Chequián	ch. <i>chek-i-an</i>	-
Chonchi	prob. m. <i>chon che</i>	<i>Chon</i> : chono, canoeist; and <i>che</i> : people: chono people.
Chulchuy	prob. m. (por morfología) pero indeterminado.	Could be from <i>chuluchulu-n</i> : to bouble, to boil. <sup>3</sup>
Chullec	ch. <i>chull-ec</i>	<i>ec</i> : point.
Coinco	m. podría venir de <i>kuyüm ko</i> o de <i>ko ingko</i>	<i>kuyüm</i> : sand; <i>ko</i> : water: Sandy water. or from <i>ko</i> : water, and <i>ingko</i> : cypress de of the Guaitecas. Cypress in the water.
Coldita	ch. <i>kol-i-tad</i>	<i>tad</i> : estuary or estuary bottom.
Colo	m. <i>kolo</i> o <i>kol'ü</i>	<i>kolo</i> : name of the <i>güiña</i> cat in Chiloé.
Coneb	ch. <i>kon-eb</i>	<i>kol'ü</i> : brown color.
Coquiao	ch. <i>ko-ki-au</i> o <i>kok-i-au</i>	-
Cucao	ch. <i>kuk-au</i>	<i>au</i> : beach, sandy bay

Cuchuhuape	m. <i>kuchu o kushü wapi</i>	<i>au</i> : beach, sandy bay prob. from <i>kurü</i> → <i>kushü</i> : black, little black; and <i>wapi</i> : island. Black island.
Curaco	m. <i>kura ko</i>	<i>kura</i> : stone; <i>ko</i> : water
Curanue	m. <i>kuran-we</i>	Stone water, water of the stone. From <i>ku-ranün</i> : to make food in curantos, and <i>we</i> : place where the action is performed.
Dalcahue	m. <i>dalka-we</i>	Place where curantos are made. From <i>dalka-n</i> : to build dalcas (boat); or from <i>dalka-n</i> : to raft: place where dalcas are built, or place for rafting in dalcas.
Duhatao	ch. <i>du-at-au</i>	<i>au</i> : beach, sandy bay
Guabún	ch. <i>ua-on</i>	-
Huar	ch. <i>ua-ar</i>	-
Huechu	m. <i>wechu</i>	prob. from <i>wechun</i> : point, or to end and activity.
Huelmo	prob. híbrido ch.- m. o esp.-m. <i>wel mo</i>	<i>wel</i> : ch. unknown; and <i>mo</i> : m. in, where. Where "wel".
Huenao	ch. <i>u-en-ao</i>	<i>au</i> : beach, sandy bay
Huentemó	m. <i>wente mo</i>	<i>wente</i> : up, the high; <i>mo</i> : in, where: in the high.
Hueñocoihue	m. <i>wüño koywe</i>	from <i>wüño</i> : to return, to twist; and <i>koywe</i> : coigüe tree. Twisted coigüe.
Huicha	m. <i>wicha - uficha</i>	from <i>wicha</i> or <i>uficha</i> : shepp, ovine.
Huicidad	ch. <i>wil-dad</i>	<i>dad</i> : estuary or estuary bottom
Huillinco	m. <i>williñ ko</i>	from <i>williñ</i> : the huillin (Lontra provocax), and <i>ko</i> : water. Water of the huillin.
Huyar	ch. <i>u-i-ar</i>	-
Ichuac	ch. <i>ich-u-ac</i>	-
Lacuy	ch. <i>lac-ui</i>	-
Laitec	ch. <i>la-it-ek</i>	<i>ek</i> : point.
Lechagua	indeterminado, probablemente ch. <i>lech-au</i>	<i>au</i> : beach, sandy bay
Lelbun	m. <i>lelbun</i>	from <i>lelfün</i> : open flat field, plain.
Lemuy	m. <i>lemuy</i>	prob. from anthroponym (person's name) <i>Lemuy</i> , or from <i>lemun</i> : to cover with forest; and conjugation in third person: covered with forest ( <i>lemuy wapi</i> : island that was covered with forest)
Linlín	ch. <i>lin-lin</i>	two hills
Llau Llao	m. <i>llawllaw</i>	coigüe mushrooms
Llingua	ch. <i>llin-ua</i>	<i>llin</i> : hill
Maluco	m. <i>mal'ü ko</i>	from <i>mal'ün</i> : to taste, drink a little, and <i>ko</i> : water. Drinkable water.
Matao	ch. <i>mat-au</i>	<i>au</i> : beach, sandy bay
Mechuque	ch. <i>me-chuk</i>	-
Meulín	ch. <i>me-u-lin</i>	<i>lin</i> : hill
Mocopulli	m. <i>mongko pülli</i>	<i>mongko</i> : prob. from <i>mongkol</i> : circular or round. and <i>pülli</i> : ground, place. Circular place.
Nayahué	m. <i>naya we</i>	from <i>naya-n</i> : to collect <i>naya</i> (plant used for basketry); and <i>we</i> : place where <i>naya</i> is collected.
Notuco	m. <i>notu ko</i>	from <i>notru</i> : notro or ciruelillo tree, and <i>ko</i> : water. Water of the notros. or maybe from <i>n'otun</i> : to cross a water current. Water that is crossed, rafting.
Paildad	ch. <i>pa-il-dad</i>	<i>dad</i> : estuary or estuary bottom.
Pid Pid	m. <i>pidpid</i>	the striped bird of Chiloé or raspatorillas ( <i>Aphrastura spinicauda fulva</i> ).
Pirulil	m. <i>piru lil</i>	from <i>piru</i> : warm, and <i>lil</i> : cliff, rock, ravine. Wormy cliff.



Pirquinina	m. <i>piru kūna</i>	from <i>piru</i> : worm, and <i>kūna</i> : fibers for thatching. However, it refers to a "mythical" being called by this name. Worm of the pajonales.
Piuché	m. <i>piwūche</i> o <i>piwūchen</i>	Bat, or mythical animal.
Polocué	m. <i>pu loko we</i>	Place where locos (abalone) are collected. Abalone collection sites.
Puchilco	m. <i>pu chillko</i>	<i>Chillko</i> : the silver called chilco (fuchsia magellanica). The Chilcos
Pudeto	m. <i>pu deto</i>	<i>pu</i> : pluralizer; <i>deto</i> : unknown word, probably a variation of <i>dūcho</i> : thatched roof ( <i>Eryngium paniculatum</i> ): The Chupallas.
Pugueñun	m. <i>pu ngeñun</i> (?)	<i>pu</i> : pluralizer; <i>ngeñun</i> : unknown noun.
Puñihuil	m. <i>pu ñihuil</i>	<i>pu</i> : pluralizer; <i>ñihuil</i> : unknown noun
Pupelde	m. <i>pu pel'e</i>	<i>pu</i> : pluralizer; <i>pel'e</i> : mud. The muddy areas.
Puqueldón	m. <i>pu kül'on</i>	<i>pu</i> : pluralizer; <i>kül'on</i> : maqui ( <i>Aristotelia chilensis</i> ): The Maquis.
Putemun	m. <i>pu trewmun</i>	<i>pu</i> : pluralizer; <i>trewmun</i> : ciruelillo or notro: The Notros.
Quehui	ch. <i>kew-i</i>	-
Queilen	ch. <i>ke-il-en</i> o <i>ke-il-len</i>	-
Quellón	ch. <i>ke-i-on</i>	-
Quemchi	indeterminado, probablemente m. <i>kimche</i>	<i>kim</i> : knowledge; <i>che</i> : persona, people. Wise person.
Quenac	ch. <i>ken-ak</i>	-
Quentol	indeterminado, probablemente ch. <i>ken-to-ol</i> ; o m. de <i>küntro</i> .	probably from <i>küntro</i> : lame.
Quetalco	m. <i>kūtral-ko</i>	<i>kūtral</i> : fire; <i>ko</i> : water: Water of fire.
Quicaví	Probablemente híbrida ch. y m.	<i>ki</i> : unknown word, probably ch. <i>kafi</i> : m. community or social group. Community of the place Ki.
Quinchao	ch. <i>kin-cha-au</i>	<i>au</i> : beach, sandy bay
Quinterquén	m. <i>küntreken</i> o <i>küntrekeñ</i>	<i>küntre</i> : adj. thin waist; or from <i>küntre</i> : black belt on the skin of animals. The ending <i>-keñ</i> o <i>-ken</i> , suggest it may be the name of a bird or other animal.
Tantaucó	m. <i>tantau ko</i> o de <i>tran trawko</i>	probably from <i>Trawtraw</i> : the tree also called black thorn ( <i>Rhaphithamnus spinosus</i> ); and <i>ko</i> : water. Water of the thorn tree. or from <i>Tran</i> : fallen, and <i>Trawko</i> : mythical beeing. Fallen Trauco.
Tauco	m. <i>Tau ko</i> o <i>Trawko</i>	from <i>Traw</i> : encounter, and <i>ko</i> : water: meeting of two water. or from <i>trawko</i> : mythical beeing.
Tenten	m. <i>treng-treng</i>	<i>Treng-treng</i> : mythical snake. Hill that grew due to the snake's actions.
Terao	ch. <i>ter-au</i>	<i>au</i> : beach, sandy bay
Teuquelín	ch. <i>Teuk-e-lin</i> (?)	<i>lin</i> : hill
Voigue	m. <i>Voyge</i>	from <i>Foye</i> → <i>Voigue</i> : canelo tree ( <i>Drymis Winteri</i> )
Yal	ch. <i>Yal</i>	<i>yal</i> : rock that emerges or small island
Yaldad	ch. <i>Yal-dad</i>	from <i>yal</i> : rock that emerges or small island; and <i>dad</i> : estuary or estuary bottom.

# MUSEUMS OF CHILOÉ



## **Regional Museum of Ancud.**

Address: Libertad 370.

Phone: +5652504780

Opening: Thursday to Thursday 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. + Friday 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. + Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Free entry.

## **Potato Museum of Quiquel.**

Address: Rural Quiquel, Dalcahue.

Phone: +5699462172

Summer hours (December - February): Monday to Sunday 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Rest of the year hours: Friday to Sunday 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Free entry.

## **Francisco Coloane Museum House.**

Address: Yungay Street, 22, Quemchi.

Phone: +652691413

General hours: Monday to Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. + Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., closed for lunch from 1:30 p.m. to 2:15 p.m.

Special hours: Saturday and Sunday 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. (December to March, July and September).

Free entry with voluntary contribution.

## **Historical and ethnological Museum of Dalcahue.**

Address: Pedro Montt 40.

Phone: +56652642379

Summer hours (January and February): Monday to Friday 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. + Saturday and Sunday 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Regular hours: Monday to Thursday 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. + Friday 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Free entry.

## **Museum of Amador Cárdenas.**

Address: La Paz Avenue, 307, Quellón.

Phone: +56956308359

Hours: Monday to Saturday from 12:00 to 19:00 hrs.

Free entry.

## **Municipal Museum of Curaco de Vélez and Bicentennial Cultural Centre.**

Address: 21 de mayo Street.

Phone: +652667317

Hours: Monday to Friday 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. + Sunday 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Free entry.

**Archeological and ethnographic Museum of Achao.**

Address: Delicias corner Amunátegui.  
Phone: +56652661471  
Hours: Monday to Thursday 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. + Friday 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.  
Free entry.

**Museum of the evangelism of Achao.**

Address: Pedro Montt 01.  
Winter hours: Monday to Sunday 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.  
Summer hours: Monday to Sunday 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
Free entry.

**Municipal Museum of Castro.**

Address: Esmeralda 255.  
General hours: Monday to Friday 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. + Saturday 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
Summer hours (January and February): Monday to Friday 9:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. + Saturday 9:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. + Sunday 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
Free entry.

**Museum of Chiloé Churches in Ancud.**

Address: Federico Errázuriz 227.  
Phone: +652621046  
Hours: Tuesday to Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.  
Admission: general \$1500 + students and seniors \$500.

**Tola House.**

Address: Rural Aucho, Quemchi.  
Phone: +56982062967  
Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.  
Free entry.

**Museum of Fire Department in Ancud.**

Address: Ramírez 210.  
Phone: +56968478223  
Hours: Monday to Friday 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. + Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Free entry.

**Museum of accordion of Chonchi.**

Address: Pedro José Andrade 181.  
Phone: +56994730364  
Hours: Monday to Sunday 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
Free entry with voluntary contribution.

**Museum of chonchinas traditions.**

Address: Centenario 116, Chonchi.  
Phone: +652672802  
Winter hours (April to November): Tuesday to Friday 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. + Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
Summer hours (December to March): Monday to Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. + Sunday 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
Admission: general \$1,000 + students and children \$0 + seniors \$500 + delegations \$700.

**Luisa Chijani Cardenas Museum House.**

Address: Rural Mechaico 13 km., Ancud.  
Phone: +56962916534  
Hours: Saturday and Sunday 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
Free entry.

**Prehistorical Museum of Quilo Bridge.**

Dirección: 17 km. road to Corona lighthouse, Ancud.  
Phone: +56992450490  
Hours: Monday to Sunday 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.  
Admission: general \$1,000 + child \$500.

**Museum of Modern Art of Castro.**

Address: Municipal Park of Castro.  
Phone: +652635454  
Hours: Tuesday to Sunday 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Free entry.

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## COMMUNAL INFORMATION



Various municipal platforms or tourism boards offer supplementary information to enhance the experience of this Heritage Route. Tourist services, maps, other local attractions, and contact details are some of the content available via the QR codes on the right.

I. Municipality de  
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I. Municipality de  
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I. Municipality de  
**Dalcahue**



I. Municipalidad de  
**Castro**



I. Municipalidad de  
**Curaco de Vélez**



I. Municipality de  
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I. Municipality de  
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I. Municipality de  
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Chamber of Tourism  
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I. Municipality de  
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