



LAKES & VOLCANOES

SCENIC ROUTE

CHILE

Route Guide

Chile 

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SCENIC ROUTE

CHILE



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CHILE: LAKES & VOLCANOES SCENIC ROUTE

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A trip to the origin

Conceived of over 20 years under the name Interlagos Network, the Lakes & Volcanoes Scenic Route is a system of tourist trails that border the foothills of the Southern Andes in Chile's Lakes and Volcanoes district. It is an unparalleled journey through a territory that surprises travelers over and over again with its natural and cultural heritage, in addition to a remarkable availability of tourist services and activities.

With six circuits in three of the country's regions and over 2,000 kilometers of roads, the Scenic Route is in itself an experience that transports us to the origin through a crazy geography shaped by the implacable force of volcanic activity, bathed by great lakes and lined with the green of the world's oldest forests, protected in two Biosphere Reserves.

Whether by motorhome, motorcycle, car or bike, the route offers some of the most spectacular roads in South America and the world, a good number of them paved. We invite you to start along a journey of learning and emotion, on one of the world's most amazing tours.

Come and discover an unmissable destination.

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Recommendations for a safe trip

Whether by car, motorhome, motorcycle or bicycle, taking the Lakes & Volcanoes Scenic Route can be a memorable experience. To make sure this is how it is, follow the advice that we give below.

Follow the signs

A large part of the Lakes & Volcanoes Scenic Route has its own signage in green and yellow. Don't be confused, they are labeled under the name Red Interlagos, but they fit perfectly with the layout of the Scenic Route. Follow and respect it.

The best time

The Scenic Route can be explored all year round and you do not need a 4x4 vehicle to do so, except to reach places like mountain resorts. Some roads are cut off by snow in the winter and spring. The best time to visit is in autumn when it is full of colors and there is less traffic. The climate in the summer is fantastic, though some roads can truly collapse.

Plan your trip and check your vehicle

Before you start the tour, check the route on the map and that your vehicle is in optimal conditions. Remember to carry enough fuel and, if you have any doubts, consult Carabineros de Chile (National Police) on the state roads are in. You will find diverse filling stations and "vulcanizaciones" (tire repair businesses) along the entire route.

Drive with care

All of the Route's roads are single track and they receive traffic from both light as well as heavy vehicles, in addition to bicycles. In rural areas with gravel roads it is common to come across people on horseback, carts and animals walking free. Rain is always present in the south and roads can become more slippery than usual. Driving with care is a wise decision.

Respect traffic laws

You must always drive on the right in Chile and to do so legally you must have a Class B or international driver's license, in the case of foreigners. It is mandatory to switch on the lights, wear safety belts and to use a reflective vest when getting out of the vehicle. Never attempt to bribe a Carabinero; it will get you into serious trouble.

Stops

It isn't worth risking your life for a good snapshot. The route has over 30 Established viewpoints and places to stop and enjoy the great views. If there isn't one available, only stop on straight sections with enough room to park and with the vehicle's doors closed.

Prepared cyclist

Even though the route has an intermittent network of bike paths, a large number of the roads are for all vehicles. If you are a cyclist you must travel with caution and in a straight line. Wear reflective clothing, a helmet and protections.

LAKES & VOLCANOES

SCENIC ROUTE

CHILE

OCEANO PACIFICO



Best experiences on the route

Hot springs in the winter

Bathing in a hot spring in the cold of winter, under the rain and even in the snow can be a sublime experience.



Symphony of colors

To walk among the autumnal forest colors, to photograph them or simply to admire them is a gift to behold.



Climbing Villarrica

Climbing to the crater of Volcán Villarrica with its open lava pit is a memorable experience. The view from the summit is simply amazing.



White water rafting

Going down the rapids of one of the great rivers is a must for those who want to shake off the routine and get the adrenaline pumping.



Navigating the great lakes

whether you do so by ferry, kayak or aboard tourist boats, this is an activity that allows you to understand the magnitude of the geography surrounding the Scenic Route.



Enjoy the volcanoes

Skiing down the slopes of an active volcano or snow-shoeing amid the great forests are experiences that bring us closer to the immensity of nature.



Experience Mapuche culture

Getting to know the world view, history and traditions, in addition to sharing a good meal, is the perfect chance to learn about this native culture.





PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Where is the Scenic Route?

The Lakes & Volcanoes Scenic Route begins in the city of Victoria in the north, 611 km south of Santiago de Chile, and it ends in the small town of Cochamó, another 600 km to the south.

How to get there?

There is excellent connectivity from Santiago, both by air as well as by land.

FROM SANTIAGO TO:		
Temuco	1:20 h	8 h
Osorno	1:35 h	10 h
Puerto Montt	1:50 h	12 h

Currency* \$ € R\$

Dollar/Euro/Real	1.00	1	1
Chilean peso	645	770	199

* Exchange rate in December 2017

Time zone

-4 GMT

+ 1 hour in summer daylight savings time

Language

 Spanish
Official language

 Mapudungún
Native Mapuche language

Electricity

220 V
Voltage



50 Hz
Frequency



C/L
Type Plugs

CHILE, a crazy geography



Chile begins at parallel 17°30'S, and it ends at 56°30'S, stretching along a length of 4,300 km. It is known to be the world's longest and thinnest country, flanked by the Pacific Ocean to the west and the Andes Mountains to the east. The main geographic units of the territory (coast, Coastal Range, intermediate depression and the Andes Mountains) rise and fall along the length of this long strip of land, determining different climates, ecosystems and life forms that have evolved over millions of years.

It is a territory shaped by the implacable force of nature, modeling to our days by plate tectonics and volcanism in constant tension, which has given way to one of the most special and unique landscapes in the world. Chile is always accompanied by the Andes Mountains, whose over 8,000 km in length offer active and dynamic mountains, as they are home to a large number of volcanoes, many of which are active.

After Mount Aconcagua - the highest peak in South America with 6,962 masl - in the central region, the mountains toward the south maintain their volcanic regime between 2,000 and 3,000 masl, which disappear to give way to the great glaciers that act as a coastal mountain range in the southern region of fjords and archipelagos.

The Pacific Ocean is the main moderator of the climate in Chile. It exerts its influence over throughout the territory through a high pressure system of known as the anticyclone, causing good weather, clear skies and occasionally fog or mist.

The Humboldt Current deserves special mention, as in addition to providing our country's coast with great wealth, it is a major temperature moderator for our coasts.

The Lakes & Volcanoes Scenic Route allows us to get to know a privileged part of this geography and to explore how the territory has been shaped over the course of the centuries, bequeathing to us landscapes unique in this world. Welcome to this crazy geography.

Climate & Seasons

of the scenic route

Due to the wide range of latitudes that it covers, Chile's climate shows remarkable diversity. In the north a desert climate prevails in the vast expanses of the **Atacama Desert**, the driest desert in the world. In the center, a Mediterranean climate offers a good balance of temperatures and rainfall, being influenced by the **Humboldt Current** and ultimately retained by the great wall of the Andes Mountains. The temperate rainy climate begins in the region of the Scenic Route, after 38° south, giving life to an exuberant nature (the temperate rainforest) and very sharply marked seasons. The area of the mountain foothills stands out with average temperatures of 8.4°C and average rainfall of 1,850 mm.

EXPERIENCES ALL YEAR ROUND

The Lakes & Volcanoes Scenic Route is a destination to be discovered all year round. In the summer (Dec-Mar), lakes and rivers invite visitors to enjoy their crystalline waters and dozens of beaches, present along the length of the entire route, especially between the

Araucanía Lacustre and Lago Llanquihue circuits. Diverse options for nautical activities are the perfect complement to beach life.

In the autumn, (Apr-Jun) southern forests explode in color and are dyed red and ochre. The **lengas** (yellow), **ñirres** (orange) and **oaks** and **raulies** (red) deserve special attention. The Conguillío, Villarrica, Huerquehue and Puyehue National Parks are the best places to contemplate this wonder. It is a good time to enjoy the scenery so more slowly and quietly. In **winter** (Jul-Sep), the cold is enjoyed in the snow and hot springs. The ski and mountain resorts, all located on the slopes of volcanoes, open their doors to receive visitors with incredible landscapes and multiple activities. To continue enjoying yourself, the dozens of hot springs that exist (51% of Chile's hot springs) offer an unparalleled and healthy chance to relax.

Once in **spring** (Oct-Dec), everything blooms and outdoor activities become the standard: trekking, biking and observation of flora and fauna are among those preferred. It's an excellent time to go and admire the breathtaking beauty of this natural environment.



Lakes & Volcanoes

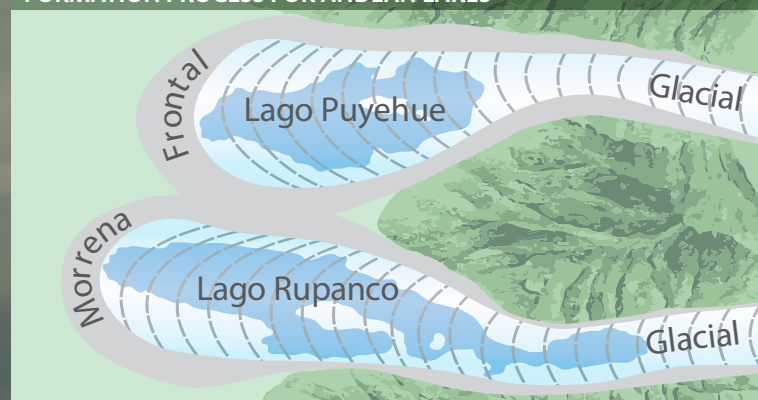
The Andes Mountains, which run along the entire length of Chilean territory, have close to 3,000 volcanoes, from small cinder cones to enormous craters several kilometers in diameter.

There are **17 active volcanoes** in the region of the Scenic Route, including two of the most active ones in South America: **Llaima** and **Villarrica**. These giants are continually present and as you travel the route you can see how their shapes and silhouettes change radically and how many of them have large glaciers at their summits. To better understand geological phenomena of the territory the route offers various *points of interpretation* that allow you to learn about the value and the characteristics of the volcanoes and their various associated *geo-sites*.

FORMATION OF THE GREAT LAKES

Toward the end of the ice age about 10,000 years ago, enormous tongues of ice they descen-

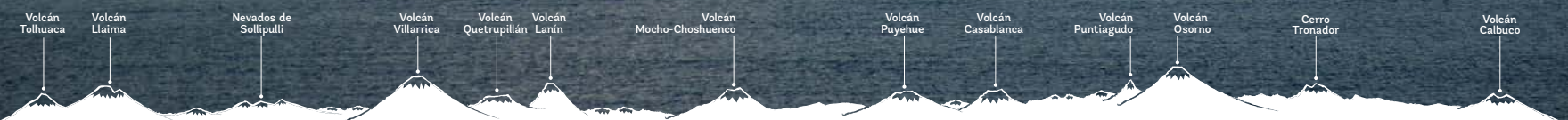
FORMATION PROCESS FOR ANDEAN LAKES



ded from the heights of the Andes toward the sea, digging out great valleys in the shape of a "U." The mountains of material pushed along during this process ended up creating veritable plugs (*frontal moraine*) at the heads of the valleys they descended. Water accumulated with the increase in temperatures and thawing ice, thus creating the great lakes of southern Chile (*see illustration*).

Many of these lakes are interconnected by a great hydrological system consisting in 26 important rivers and hundreds of smaller ones. These massive sources of water are what help to preserve the rich biodiversity and the existence of a matchless scenic beauty.

PROFILE OF THE GREAT VOLCANOES OF THE SCENIC ROUTE



Simulated view from the west

Plant world:

the oldest forests in the planet

Nalca

Myrtle leaf

Copihue

Lenga leaf

The climate along the entire Lakes & Volcanoes Scenic Route gives way to one of the richest, unique and diverse ecosystems in the world: the **temperate rainforest** present in the Biosphere Reserve *Temperate Rainforests of the Southern Andes*. These forests adapted to extreme temperatures are home to 12 forest types with over 50 species. These types of forests include evergreen and *deciduous* forests. The latter of these fill the landscape with colors in the autumn.

The **Valdivian Forest** represents the exuberance of diversity and is home to tree species like **lingue** (*Persea lingue*), **olivillo** (*Aextoxican Punctatum*), **ulmo** (*Eucryphia cordifolia*), **arrayán** (*Luma apiculata*), **avellano** (*Gevuina avellana*) and **canelo** (*Drymis winteri*). One tree that stands out in this forest is the one known as **lahuén** or **alerce** (*Fitzroya cupressoides*) the second longest-living tree in the world. It is also the favorite place for mosses, **nalcas** (*Gunnera tinctoria*), **tepu** (*Tepualia stipularis*) and the national flower of Chile: the **copihue** (*Lapageria rosea*).

Of the *deciduous* type, the genus *Nothofagus*

stands out with endemic species from the southern Andes such as **oak** (*Nothofagus obliqua*), **rauli** (*Nothofagus alpina*), **coigue** (*Nothofagus dombeyi*), **ñirre** (*Nothofagus Betuloides*) and **lenga** (*Nothofagus pumilio*), who share their origins with similar species in Australia and New Zealand, dating back to the time of Gondwana. In the spring it is common to see people with long poles harvesting **digüeños** (*Cyttaria espinosae*), an edible mushroom endemic to southern Chile that grows exclusively on oaks.

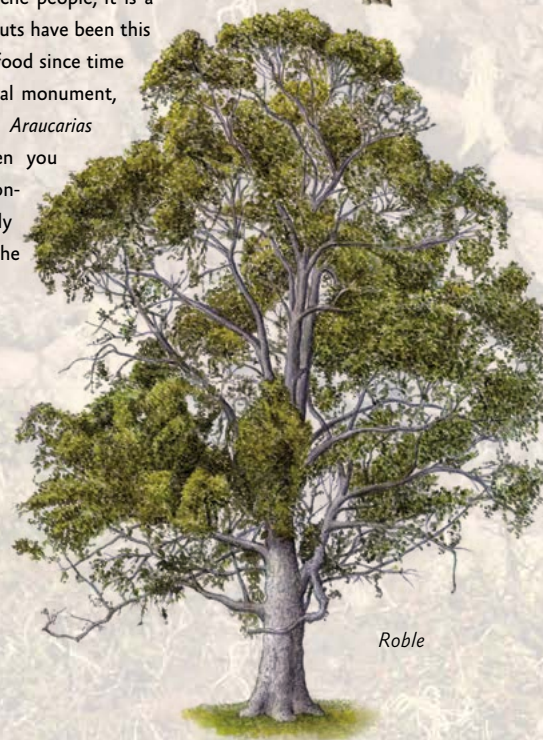
In the Andes Mountains, between 37°S and 42°S and at altitudes of between 900 and 1400 masl, is where the emblematic **Araucaria** (*Araucaria araucana*) is found, a veritable living fossil whose presence dates back to the Jurassic era 180 million years ago. It is endemic to Chile and Argentina. Called the *Pehuén* by the Mapuche people, it is a sacred tree whose pine nuts have been this people's main source of food since time immemorial. It is a natural monument, mainly protected in the *Araucarias Biosphere Reserve*. When you stand before one and contemplate it you can really feel the greatness of the natural world.



Coigüe



Lingue



Roble

Araucaria
(Monkey
Puzzle)

Raulí



Canelo



Condor



Chucao



Bandurria



Queltehue

Animal world:

under the shelter of the temperate rainforest

While they are elusive species, the fauna of southern Chile is truly fascinating. To see it, we recommend that you go into the diverse protected areas and await their appearance in quiet places, forests and wetlands.

Among the most emblematic bird species is the **condor** (*Vultur gryphus*), king of the Andes and the largest flying bird in the world. Other species, such as the wonderful **kingfisher** (*Ceryle torquata*), the black **woodpecker** (*Campephilus magellanicus*), the funny **chucao** (*Scelorchilus rubecula*) and the **caiquén** (**upland goose**, *Chloephaga rubidiceps*) are frequently spotted in natural spaces.

Always present, the **bandurria** (*Theristicus melanopis*), the **tiuque** (*Milvago chimango*) and the **queltehue** (**southern lapwing**, *Vanelillus chilensis*) are faithful companions along the entire route.

Remarkable mammals include the **puma** (*Puma concolor*), **fox** (*Lycalopex culpaeus*) and the elusive **puquí** (*Pudu pudu*) the smallest deer in the world. Marsupials are rare among our fauna and to spot one is a privilege few have, though on occasion the **monito del monte** (*Dromiciops gliroides*) and the **long-nosed shrew opossum** (*Rhyncholestes raphanurus*) show themselves in the depths of the forest.

Diverse amphibians reside in the habitats of the temperate rainforest, among which **Darwin's frog** (*Rhiniderma Darwinii*) stands



Cantabria



Darwin's Frog



Pudú

out, a species that is endemic to Chile and Argentina and whose triangular head gives it the appearance of a leaf. Among the insects the **great cantabria or flying deer beetle** (*Chiasognathus grantii*), Chile's largest beetle, stands out, growing to up to 10 centimeters in length.



Kingfisher



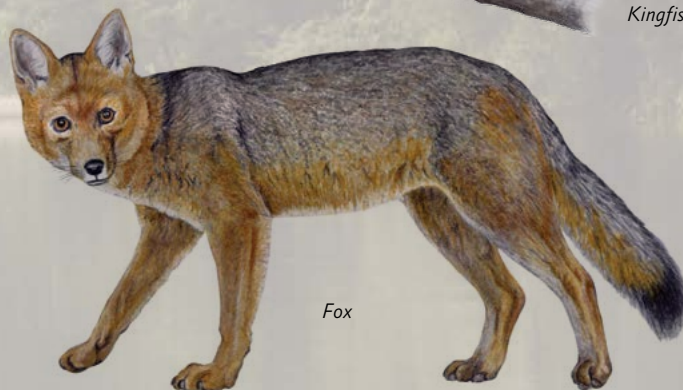
Woodpecker



Tiuque



Monito del monte



Fox



Mapuche tourism, Curarrehue



Chilean huaso, Melipeuco

Blend of cultures

E The territory that the scenic route crosses is a fascinating mosaic of cultures: native, “criollo” and colonial. Its presence clearly adds a special charm to the trip, which is reflected in diverse attractions of interest to the travelers. Native culture is marked by the

historical presence of the **Mapuche** people (People of the land), fierce defenders of their territory against the arrival of the Spanish conquistadors, who they kept at bay to the north of the *Biobío* River for over two centuries. The Mapuches in the territory are divided into two groups: the **Pehuenche**



German house

(People of the pehuén or araucaria tree), located mainly in the Araucanía region, and the **Huilliche** (People of the South), located in the Los Ríos and Los Lagos Regions. Today they open their doors to visitors who are authentic and respectful to share their history, their worldview and some of their customs. The **criollos** of southern Chile are friendly by nature, always willing to help visitors. In many rural areas it is possible to experience the *huaso* traditions of the Chilean countryside, including agricultural work, gastronomy and folklore.

The **European settlers**, who began arriving in the area of Lago Llanquihue in 1852, have made diverse and valuable contributions to the area. The epic colonization by these hard-working immigrants keeps a precious legacy alive to our days, the most visible manifestation of which is the beautiful architecture of the large manor houses, warehouses and churches, some of which have now become attractive boutique hotels. German gastronomy is also present in the form of emblematic pastries such as the *kuchen* and the tasty apple *strudel*.



Mapuche family, Curacautín

Winter pleasures

S The route offers many pleasures throughout the year, but there is no doubt that the snow and hot springs form an exceptional duo.

Skiing down the slopes of a volcano with spectacular views of the lakes and volcanoes of southern Chile or walking among ancient forests in snow shoes can be a memorable experience, along with climbing active volcanoes and their glaciers. This territory is one of the most attractive destinations in the southern hemisphere for skiers and mountaineers. **Seven equipped ski resorts** open their slopes every winter to delight the lovers of the snow sports and mountain activities. Depending on weather conditions, the season can last between July and late October.

Any given day can begin or end immersed in a thermal pool or hot spring, always a rewarding experience, especially in the winter, under the rain or snow. There are many hot springs, thanks to the tectonic movement and volcanic activity in the area, in particular the existence of the Liquiñe Ofqui fault line. There are over 40 centers for all tastes and budgets along the route, concentrated mainly along the Araucanía Lacustre and Sietelagos circuits.



Volcán Quinquilil, Villarrica National Park



Off-trail skiing

Rustic baths, Huilo Huilo



Geometric baths



Randonée skiing



Adventures

If you want to swap routine for a bit of excitement, the route invites you. Each circuit has destinations that offer active tourism experiences in water, on land and in the air.

With *Class III to V* rapids, the rivers **Cautín**, **Trancura**, **Fuy** and **Petrohué** offer intense *rafting* and *kayaking* experiences.

Qualified local operators can be found in all of them. These and other rivers, such as the **Calcarrupe** and **Gol Gol**, are also mandatory destinations for sport fishing and are frequented by both Chilean and foreign fishermen.

Some of the best trekking trails in Chile, such as Villarrica Traverse and




for all

the Vuriloche Pass, both long, can be found mostly in the midst of the territory's Protected Wilderness areas. There are multiple and no less spectacular options for the day. Thus, the **Conguillio**, **Huerquehue**, **Villarrica**, **Puyehue** and **Vicente Pérez Rosales** national parks have over 40 trails of diverse lengths and difficulty.

Exploring the route by bicycle can be a real pleasure. To the rhythm of the pedals, it is possible to enjoy every detail, especially in autumn when the colors of the forest explode and the road is not as busy. Chile's longest bike path stands out. It circles all of Lago Llanquihue, a *Bike Friendly* destination. This route offers adventure for all!



Top 5 for trekking

TRAILS	 Distance [km]	 Duration	 Difficulty
Sierra Nevada, Conguillío NP	10	2 hrs	medium
Los Lagos, Huerquehue NP	8.8	2.5 hrs	medium
Climb Vn Villarrica, Villarrica NP	5	6 hrs	high
Climb Vn Osorno, Vicente Pérez Rosales NP	6	5 hrs	high
Valle de Cochamó ascent	10	6 hrs	medium

* Check trail status at CONAF



Top 5 bike tourism routes

ROUTES	 Distance [km]	 Duration	 Start	 Finish
Pehuenche	127	2 - 3 days	Curacautín	Pino Hachado
Sietelagos	54	2 - 4 days	Lican Ray	Panguipulli
Ride around Lago Ranco	119	2 - 4 days	Futrono	Futrono
Ride around Lago Llanquihue	184	2 - 5 days	Pto. Varas	Pto. Varas
Reloncaví estuary	122	1 - 2 days	Pto. Varas	Puelo

Handicraft: the magic of the hands

The abundance of natural materials in the territory is doubtlessly one of the aspects that it explains its exquisitely rich handicraft, on display in diverse points along the scenic route, especially Malalcahuello, Lonquimay, Liqueñe and Futrono. **Wood, wool, clay, fiber** and **silver**, among other raw materials, have been used by the Mapuche culture for centuries

to manufacture utilitarian and ornamental items. These materials are still used, either or traditional crafts or modern designs. Buying 100% local handicrafts contributes to the local economy and identity.

Food: a great gourmet experience

The confluence of three cultures and a rich supply of **local products** make the food of southern Chile a gift for the soul. From authentically Mapuche preparations to refined cuisine, the aromas and tastes along the route can also seduce you with German cuisine, fish and seafood, and spectacular meats from the green fields. Whether at a small roadside stand or in a refined restaurant, the exquisite flavors of the route are always present.

CIRCUIT

Araucanía Andina

amid volcanoes and araucarias





Araucanía Andina amid volcanoes and araucarias

The northernmost circuit of the Lakes & Volcanoes Scenic Route is located one of the areas with the greatest tourist potential in Chile. Its main feature is the significant concentration of volcanic centers and formations, with high levels of very recent activity. This makes Araucanía Andina a privileged site for those who want to see and learn hands-on about the different volcanic processes and their impressive consequences on the landscape.

But its geothermal activity is not the only attraction of this area. Araucanía Andina also stands out for its extensive forests of araucaria trees, authentic “botanical dinosaur.”

In fact, these are considered to be the world’s oldest forests, as their origin dates back 180 million years. This natural environment, formed by towering snow-capped mountains, lakes and rivers of pristine waters and stylized araucarias, is the spectacular backdrop of all trails that can be taken in this area.

HOW TO DO IT

The logical base for this circuit is the city of Curacautín, 83 kilometers northeast of Temuco in the Araucanía Region. If you are coming by Route 5 from the north, you can reach Curacautín by taking the Victoria exit and then the International Route CH-181 (54 km of asphalt). If you are coming from the south, access is via Lautaro, taking Route S-11-R (74 km of asphalt).

Sierra Nevada trail, Conguillio National Park

SUGGESTED ROUTES FROM CURACAUTÍN

- **To Malleco Hot Springs and Tolhuaca National Park, via the road R-755**
Distance: 43 kilometers.
Surface: mostly gravel.
 - **To the Malalcahuello National Reserve and Lonquimay via Cuesta Las Raíces**
Distance: 67 kilometers.
Surface: asphalt and gravel.
 - **To Lago Icalma via Cuesta la Fusta**
Distance: 101 kilometers.
Surface: gravel
 - **To Cunco, via the sector Los Paraguas and Cherquenco**
Distance: 100 kilometers.
Surface: gravel.
 - **To Malalcahuello, Lonquimay and Pino Hachado Pass, via the road CH-181**
Distance: 122 kilometers.
Surface: asphalt
- RS Suggested route**

Cycle tourism, Curacautín



Unmissable attractions

CONGUILLÍO NATIONAL PARK

With Volcán Llaima playing the lead role, it is the big star of this circuit. Its natural attractions include Laguna Captrén, Lago Conguillío and the Cañadón del Truful-Truful. You can travel it by car, bicycle or by foot, visiting well-marked trails of great beauty such as Sierra Nevada or Los Carpinteros. There are good accommodation and camping services.

SKI RESORTS

There are four ski and mountain resorts on this circuit: Corralco, Las Araucarias, Arenales Geopark and Nevados de Vilcún. The first, located on the slopes of Volcán Lonquimay, is the one with the most infrastructure, with 26 pistes, ski lifts, hotel and luxury facilities. For its part, Las Araucarias is smaller and lower-profile: it is in the Los Paraguas sector on the west slope of Mount Llaima. Geopark Los Arenales, located in the Los Raíces Range, is oriented toward snowboarding, while Nevados de Vilcún, very close to Las Araucarias, caters to randonée fans and snow-shoeing.

Navidad Crater, Volcán Lonquimay.

MALALCAHUELLO NALCAS NATIONAL RESERVE

Another natural treasure of the area, with several hiking trails. The main one leads to the Navidad (Christmas) crater, a volcanic cone that formed after an eruption on 25 December 1988. It is an adventure that you can even have with children.

THERMAL SPAS

Given the high geothermal activity in the region, this circuit has several thermal spas of diverse sizes, infrastructure and services. Of the main ones, the Malleco, Manzanar, Cañon del Blanco and Malalcahuello baths stand out.

TOLHUACA NATIONAL PARK

Far less visited than Conguillío, this park has beautiful and solidary trails in the middle of the forest, like the one leading to the Salto del Malleco waterfall. The trademark of this place is that it allows you to observe native flora, with species such as coigüe, lenga and araucaria trees, in addition to animals like the gray fox, the monito del monte, woodpecker and chucaco, among others. The Malleco Hot Springs are adjacent to the park and stand out for having a natural geyser.

MANZANAR - MALALCAHUELLO BIKE PATH

A beautiful 12-kilometer low-difficulty route along an old railway branch line with views of Volcán Lonquimay. The experience is marked by the crossing of two former railway tunnels: "El Naranjito" and "Piedra Cortada". A recommended outing for the entire family.

VOLCÁN SOLLIPULLI

Along with Llaima, Lonquimay and Tolhuaca, this volcano is another geological icon of the region. Located within the Villarrica National Reserve, stands out for its huge glacier on the volcano's crater, which can be reached on foot or on horseback, on excursions lasting one to three days. This circuit is reached via its north access.

HANDICRAFT FROM LONQUIMAY AND MALALCAHUELLO

This Andean town has a network of artisans of Pehuenche origin, who create beautiful work in chuchin (picoyo), a product which in its natural state has the shape of a wood cone and is a reddish amber color on the inside. It is found buried in the ground of ancient forests or nearby streams. They also produce diverse woolen fabrics and attractive leather products.

PEHUENCHE ROUTES

In the vicinity of Lonquimay, in the Alto Biobío Reserve - birthplace of this river - and the lakes Galletué and Icalma, some Pehuenche communities organize different guided walking and riding tours in the area. A classic excursion is to Batea Mahuida, a mountain located right on the Argentine border.

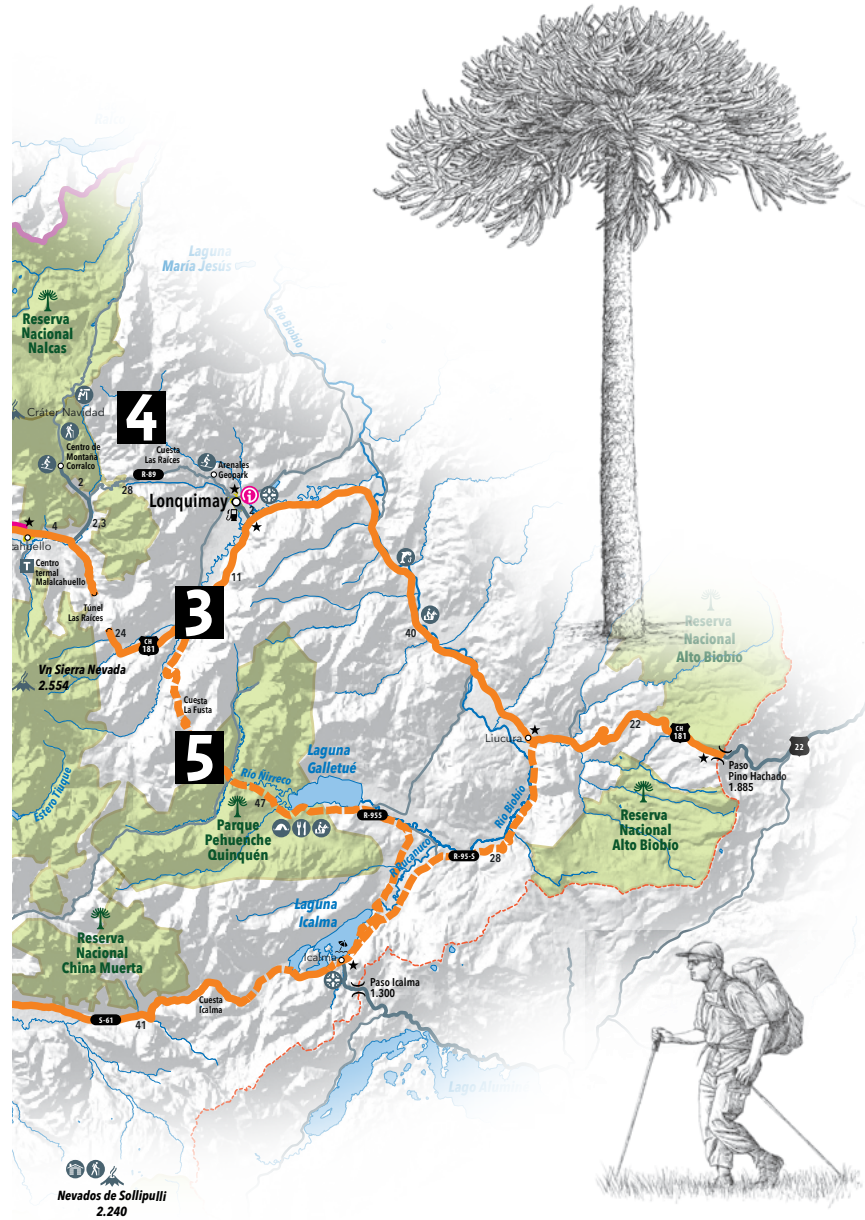
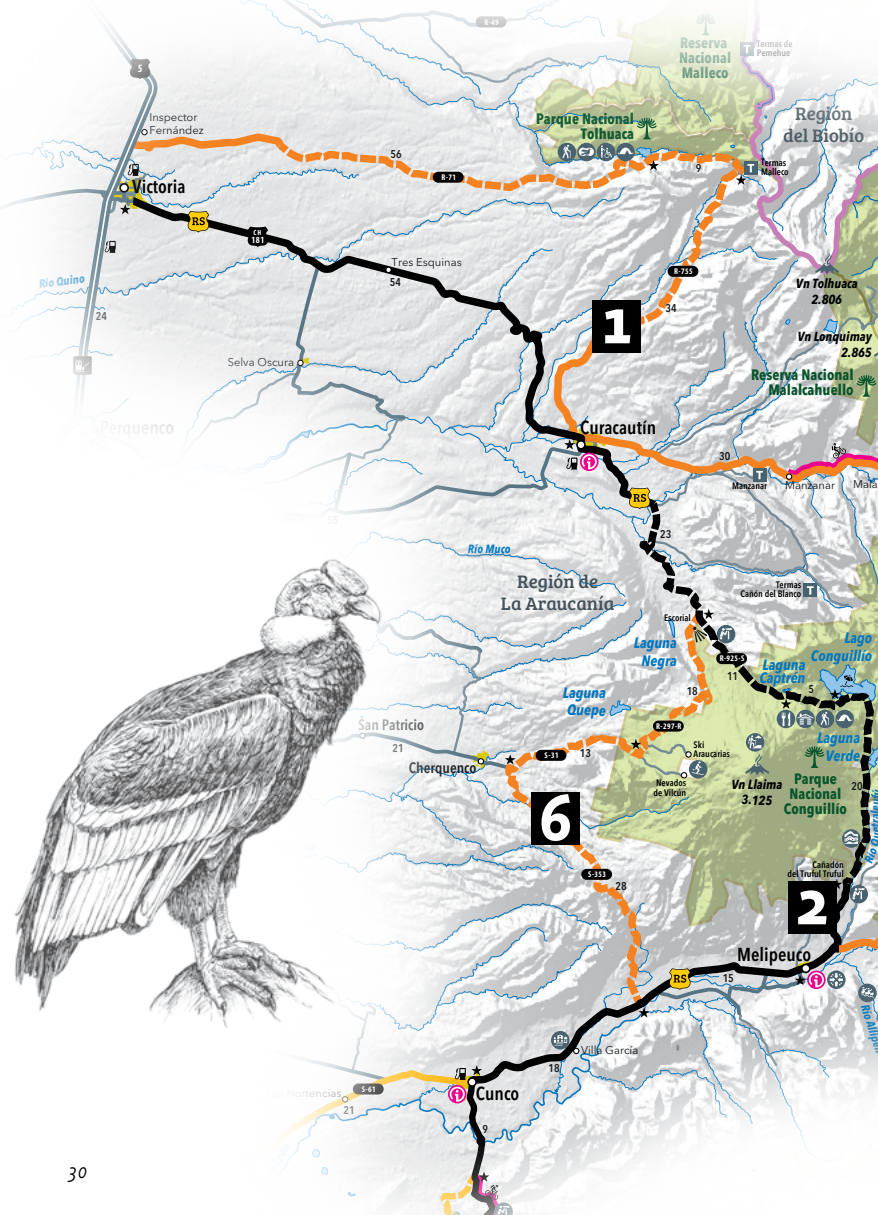
KÜTRALKURA GEO PARK

More than a park to visit, this is the name of a territory spanning over 8,000 km² that groups together six protected areas in the region located in the municipalities of Lonquimay, Curacautin, Vilcún and Melipeuco. One of the objectives is to highlight the mostly volcanic, tectonic and glacial geological features of this area.



Map - Araucanía Andina Circuit

- 1 To Malleco Hot Springs and Tolhuaca National Park, via the road R-755
- 2 To Melipeuco and Cunco through the Conguillío National Park, via the road R-925-S
- 3 To Malalcahuello, Lonquimay and Pino Hachado Pass, via the road CH-181
- 4 To the Malalcahuello National Reserve and Lonquimay via Cuesta Las Raíces
- 5 To Lago Icalma via Cuesta la Fusta
- 6 To Cunco, via the sector Los Paraguas and Cherquenco



The circuit

This territory comprises two major mountain regions: that of Volcán Lonquimay and that of Volcán Llaima, which to a great degree correspond to major watersheds: the **Cautín** and **Biobio** rivers, whose waters descend from the Andes and cross the Araucanía region on their way to the sea.

In addition to sharing common elements in terms of geography - with the Araucaria araucana as a fundamental symbol - and exhibiting significant volcanic activity, this

area also has a marked historical-cultural identity linked to the Pehuenche native people.

The approximate limits of the Araucanía Andina Circuit are the Tolhuaca National Park to the north, the cities of Curacautín and Cunco to the west, the Argentine border to the east and the lakes Colico and Caburgua in the south.

THE BASE: CURACAUTÍN

The ancestral territory of the Pehuenche

people, whose inhabitants lived on both sides of the mountains and dedicated themselves to the collection of araucaria pine nuts, Curacautín (*Meeting Stone*) was founded in 1882 by the Spanish general José Aravena, precisely to control the indigenous people of the area.

For a long time, its economy was based on the exploitation of timber, but in the last few years it has shifted sharply toward tourism.

Today, with around 16,000 inhabitants,

Curacautín brings together a variety of options for accommodation and restaurants, though the most sophisticated ones are along the road that connects this city with Malalcahuello. The **Plaza de Armas** stands out among the places to visit, which is where the stone that gives the city its name and the Portal del Artesano, with Mapuche and local crafts, stand out. *More information at the Municipality of Curacautín Tourism Office. O'Higgins 796. Ph. (45) 237 4519 and 237 4500.*

Suggested Routes

1 To Malleco Hot Springs and Tolhuaca National Park, via the road R-755

Northeast of Curacautín, this first tour allows you to discover a region of wild and exuberant nature that still feels like a secret.

Leave Curacautín in the direction of Victoria, turn right and take the road R-755, a gravel road in good conditions. The road rises up the valley and is enclosed little by little. **The Malleco Hot Springs** (ex Tolhuaca) are at km 33, in a beautiful mountain valley surrounded by Araucaria trees on the banks of the Río Dillo. This place, discovered in 1898, has accommodation, picnic areas and swimming pools, but without doubt its thermal grotto is the most spectacular attraction, where a geyser emerges at 86 degrees Celsius. A steam bath in an unforgettable setting (www.termasmalleco.cl). Passing the hot

springs, in another 8 kilometers you come to the access to the **Tolhuaca National Park**, which protects 6,000 ha of forests, lagoons and waterfalls.

At the feet of the volcano with the same name, it is a place that receives few visitors, perfect for remaining in silence and in contact with nature, in a setting that includes forests of raulí, coigüe, tepa and araucarias. It is also home to an interesting and valuable diversity of amphibian and bird species. The park administration is beside the beautiful **Laguna Malleco**, where several interpretive trails begin. One of the most visited is the one to the **Salto del Malleco**, a waterfall with a 50-meter drop. There are also others to the **Salto de la Culebra** and **Laguna Verde**. There is even an inclusive 500-meter wheelchair accessible trail bordering Laguna Malleco. The park has 25 camp sites, community barbecue areas, bathrooms and hot water at established times (*More information at Conaf Araucanía, ph. 45 / 229 8114*).

2 To Melipeuco and Cunco through the Conguillio National Park, via the road R-925-S

Conguillio National Park is the great tourist attraction of Araucanía Andina. Its 60,000 hectares are home to large part of the territory's geological and biological heritage. One of the park's main accesses is via Laguna Captrén, which has a solitary beach and is flanked by forests of great beauty.

From Curacautín, take the road R-925-S, the initial stretch of which is paved. The road crosses the bridge over Río Trahuilco - where the municipal resort by the same name is located, with a swimming pool and camping - after which it crosses the bridges over the rivers Cautín and Colorado. A detour to the **Los Paraguas Sector** appears in kilometer 23, but on this stretch the idea is to continue toward Captrén, bordering the river. The greenhouse is at kilometer 34 from the start.

After passing **Laguna Captrén**, the road starts to cross the park

and the next milestone is the beautiful **Lago Conguillio** (km 39), framed by **Volcán Sierra Nevada**, covered in araucarias and deciduous forests that take on spectacular shades of yellow, orange and red in the autumn. A trail by the same name as the lake starts there and allows you to explore this place in an ascent that takes 2:30 hours. Another trail, called **Los Carpinteros**, is 7 km long and leads to Laguna Captrén. Both are musts.

In addition, Lago Conguillio offers unforgettable views of **Volcán Llaima**. Recognizable for its double cone, this is a highly active volcano - considered among the most active in South America - whose last eruption was in 2008.

The next major milestone in the route is the **Cañadón del Truful Truful** (km 59), a volcanic sequence of great geological relevance, as its layers - very visible in the ravine - register over 13,000 years of the Volcán Llaima's eruptive history. A unique place of spectacular beauty, where you can also appreciate the impressive effects of volcanic slag, which formed a rock plateau that is crossed by the **Río Truful Truful** and created a spectacular waterfall with a 20-meter drop. There is a viewpoint to admire these waterfalls.

The Cañadón del Truful Truful is an essential part of the so-called Kutralcura Geo Park, which brings together 6 protected areas throughout the region.

After passing this sector you leave Conguillio Park. At this point you could either re-



Malalcahuello-Nalcas National Reserve

turn by the same road to Curacautín, or - as we suggested in the description of this guide - continue to the town of **Melipeuco**, an ancient settlement of Pehuenche communities that in the last few years has developed a growing supply of tourism services.

Its location is privileged, as it is adjacent to the Conguillío Park, the Icalma border crossing and the north access to **Volcán Solipulli**, which is part of the Villarrica National Reserve (and where there is a private tourist enterprise that organizes diverse excursions to the crater of this volcano).

After leaving the park, the pavement returns precisely in Melipeuco. Heading east, the next stop is in 21.3 km: **Villa García**. Declared a Traditional Zone in 2015, this town stands out for its urban planning, which was designed in 1960 by the Capuchin monk of Swiss origin Barnabe Gutknecht. He arranged the concession over a 70-hectare property with the intention of forming an autonomous agricultural community, where 24 homes were built with their respective warehouses, a chapel declared a National Monument, school, boarding school and medical center.

This suggested route ends in the small town

of **Cunco** which is 11 km from Villa García. Founded in 1918, it currently has basic services such as a supermarket, banks, filling stations and also a few handicraft shops. An incipient supply of rural and ethnic tourism in the surrounding areas has also developed over the last few years.

B To Malalcahuello, Lonquimay and Pino Hachado Pass, via the road CH-181

This route reveals the strong growth in tourism that Araucanía Andina has experienced. The International Route CH-181, which guides the entire tour, is completely paved and has very good signage. In addition, along a stretch of about 30 kilometers it offers a great variety of accommodation and tourist services, some luxury, which serve as an excellent base for exploring the region.

The first milestone along the road - which is flanked by beautiful native forests - is at kilometer 12. The gravel road leading to the **Cañón del Blanco** hot springs starts from the Manchuria bridge and it later connects to the Curacautín-Conguillío road described in the previous route (www.canondelblanco.cl). The **Salto del Indio**, a 35-meter waterfall, is located at kilometer 14. Next, at kilometer 18 you will find the **Manzanar Hot Springs**,

a traditional hotel and thermal baths that has been remodeled, and is built on the banks of the Río Cautín (www.termasdemanzanar.cl). Immediately after the hot springs is the village of **Manzanar**, which is home to valuable railway heritage: the Manzanar Station, an alpine style construction clad in stone that was declared a National Monument. Manzanar is also the starting point of the new **Manzanar-Malalcahuello bike path**, a 12-km low difficulty journey along an old railway branch line with views of Volcán Lonquimay. The experience is marked by the crossing of two former railway tunnels: "El Naranjito" and "Piedra Cortada". The bike path ends in the town of **Malalcahuello**, specifically at the former train station, now converted into a library.

But returning to the road, after passing Manzanar there is a small detour to the **Salto de la Princesa**, another 40-meter waterfall alongside an ancient coigüe forest. You reach Malalcahuello at kilometer 30. It is a small village founded in 1953 together with the installation of the railway and the road to Argentina. Its name means "horse corral" in Pehuenche.

Today, Malalcahuello is a picturesque mountain village with some food and lodging services, which serves as a base for activities such as horseback riding, cycling, trekking and skiing in the nearby **Malalcahuello-Nalcas National Reserve** (see section 4).

The village's big attraction is the **Malalcahuello Hot Springs**, a modern spa located on a 270 ha property with a luxury hotel, spa and a large indoor pool covering 1,300 m² (www.malalcahuello.cl).

Continuing along the International Road, in 9 km you reach the impressive **Las Raíces tunnel**, the longest one in Chile with 4.5 km. Built in 1939 for train traffic to Argentina, today it is a highway tunnel that crosses the Las Raíces Range and which owes its name to the fact that the roots of trees used to hand down on the inside. Its construction was a great epic feat that lasted 10 years and cost the lives of many people. The detour to **Lonquimay**, a mountain town with good urbanization, appears at kilometer 34 and is also a base for visiting the Malalcahuello-Nalcas National Reserve (see route 4). This city has interesting rural enterprises run by Pehuenche communities that offer activities such as horseback riding and trekking in the area. Another trademark of Lonquimay is its handicraft, especially work made of chuchín (picoyo), a product which in its natural state has the shape of a wood cone and is a reddish amber color on the inside. They also produce diverse woolen fabrics and leather products like saddles. Returning to the International Road and going up toward the Argentine border the landscape opens up with high Andean steppe vegetation. The next stop on the way is the **Alto Biobío National Reserve**, where the Río Biobío is born. It is a solidary place, without facilities, that has a number of trails for excursions that offer views of the volcanoes Lonquimay and Tolhuaca, in addition to the unique plateau of Cerro Batea Mahuida.

The **Pino Hachado International Pass** is at the end of this route and operates all year long (*More information at ph. 2 / 229 48817; www.pasosfronterizos.gov.cl*). The route also allows you to continue to **Lago Icalma**, Melipeuco and the south access to the Conguillío Park, always by gravel road.



Las Raíces Tunnel



Manzanar train station

4 To the Malalcahuello-Nalcas National Reserve and Lonquimay via Cuesta Las Raíces

This is an alternative to the previous route, which allows you to get to know one of the great attractions of the circuit: the Malalcahuello-Nalcas National Reserve, where you will find the Corralco Ski Resort and the Navidad crater.

After passing the village of Malalcahuello and before reaching the Las Raíces Tunnel there is a sign indicating an exit to the reserve, a 31,305 ha wilderness area that protects volcanic ecosystems and forests of araucaria trees, coigües and oaks. The main road leads to the modern facilities of the **Corralco ski resort** on the slopes of Volcán Lonquimay (www.corralco.com). Shortly before you reach it is a turn off to the right that brings you closer to the Navidad (Christmas) crater, which was formed after an eruption on 25 December 1988. From there you can take a trail to the crater, which is of medium difficulty because there is a section with loose volcanic rocks. Similar to a lunar landscape, from here you can appreciate and get a measure of the marks that a recent volcanic eruption has left behind.

The other alternative, instead of reaching Corralco, is to continue right as far as kilometer 4 and to go up the spectacular **Cuesta Las Raíces** toward Lonquimay. It is a gravel road of great beauty, full of ancient araucaria trees. It is a silent and memorable area; a landscape that dates back to the Jurassic era. The small ski resort **Geopark Los Arenales** is on the way up the slope and mostly caters to snowboarding. It has a shelter for 32 people. From the center, along an

8-km stretch with spectacular views of the valley, you reach the village of Lonquimay, the end of this route.

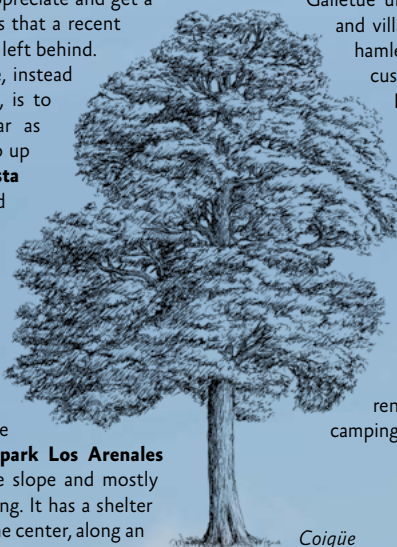
5 To lago Icalma via Cuesta La Fusta

This is a spectacular alternative for reaching Lago Icalma and Melipeuco without having to follow the International Road.

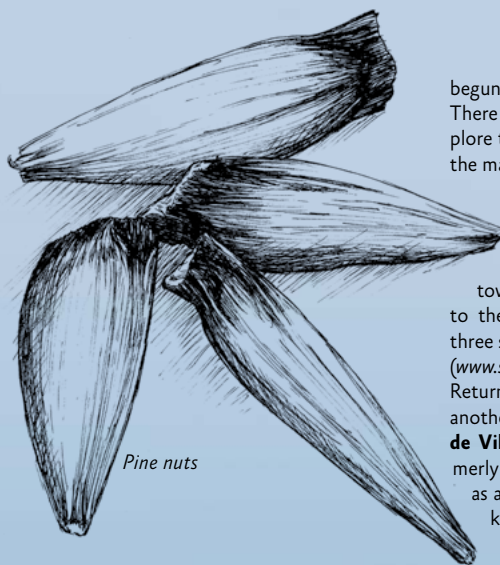
Coming from Malalcahuello and after passing the Las Raíces tunnel is a sign indicating the exit to the **Cuesta la Fusta**, a winding gravel road amid mountains and forests of araucaria trees. In the spring, when there is still a certain amount of snow on the trees, the landscape will force you to continuously stop to take pictures.

As you continue road this path you will begin to make out **Laguna Galletué**. This lagoon can only be accessed by crossing the lands of Pehuenche communities: in fact, there is an exit that leads to the Quinquén sector, where the local community developed the **Quinquén Park** project, which together with offering services and ethno-tourism, has created an exploitation model for resources like pine nuts (*More information at www.araucaniasinfronteras.cl*).

If you do not take the exit, the road will continue to flank the south side of Laguna Galletué until reaching the lake and village of Icalma, a small hamlet where the Chilean customs office of the **Icalma Pass**, which connects to Villa Pehuenia in Argentina, is located (*More information at ph. 45 / 246 6554; www.pasosfronterizos.gov.cl*). The lake has beaches of gray sand, with Araucaria trees and ñirres. There are cabins for rent and private sites for camping.



Coigüe



Pine nuts

6 To Cunco, via the Sector Los Paraguas and Cherquenco

This stretch is a geological treasure, as it allows you to appreciate the impact of Volcán Llaima's multiple eruptions close up: the idea is to flank it on the west, always following the gravel road. **Warning: in the winter, following major snowfall, this stretch tends to be closed to vehicles.**

You have to leave Curacautín heading south along the road R-925-S, passing Trahuilco and the bridge over the Río Cautín. Instead of continuing to Laguna Captrén, at kilometer 23 take the indicated detour to the Red Interlagos. After a kilometer you come to the **Llaima Escorial Captrén Viewpoint**, which is located on the lava from the 1957 eruption. It is an impressive 12 km lava flow that came down the Río Captrén valley. Today you can see how mosses and lichens have

begun to populate the volcanic rock. There is a small path that allows you to explore the side of the lava bed. Only walk on the marked path.

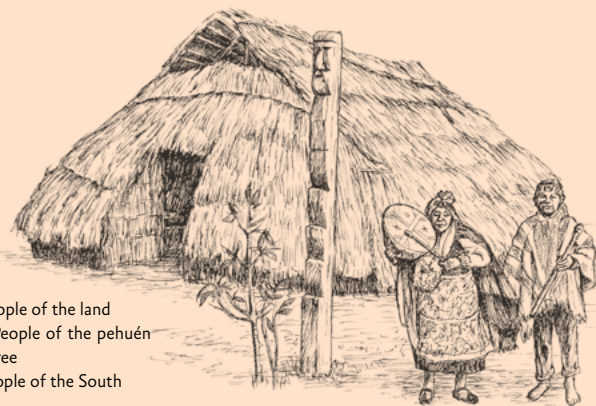
At kilometer 35 a sign announces the **Los Paraguas Sector** of the Conguillío Park. At a crossroads 5 km later, a turn right leads to the town of **Cherquenco**. To the left leads to the **Araucarias Ski Resort**, which has three shelters, a chairlift and three t-bar lifts (www.skiaraucarias.cl).

Returning to the road, at kilometer 52 another right turn takes you to the **Nevedos de Vilcún Ski and Mountain Resort** (formerly Llaima Shelter), which today operates as a center for activities in the snow, trekking and mountain biking in the summer, catering to a younger audience.

It has a cafeteria, equipment rental, a small ski lift and a shelter with 37 beds, for which you need to bring a sleeping bag (www.nevadosdevilcun.com). The road back continues toward the sectors of **Cherquenco** and **Vilcún**, but instead of reaching them, you have to turn left at the junction and veer more to the south. The journey offers remarkable views of the Volcán Llaima. It connects to the paved road S-61 at kilometer 94. Turning right takes you to **Cunco**. To the left goes up to **Melipeuco**.



Trekking



Mapuche: People of the land
Pehuenche: People of the pehuén
 or araucaria tree
Huilliche: People of the South

Words with identity

Many of the place names you will see along the length of the Scenic Route are of Mapudungun origin, the Mapuche people's unwritten language. The majority of them are compound words whose meaning is interesting to know. Let's start by understanding the words used most frequently:

Antu: sun	Lafquen: lake or sea	Picún: north	One: quiñe
Ayún: love	Lemu: forest	Pillán: spirit	Two: epu
Buca: big	Leufu: river	Piren: snow	Three: quila
Calfu: blue	Lonco: head	Quetru: demon	Four: meli
Che: people, person	Malal: corral	Rayén: flower	Five: quechu
Co: water	Mapu: land	Ruka: house	Six: cayu
Cura: stone	Nahuel: large cat	Tripantu: year	Seven: regle
Huapi: island	Newén: strength	We: new	Eight: purra
Hue: place	Panguí: cougar		Nine: aillia
Huilli: south	Peñi: brother		Ten: mari
Kütral: fire	Pichi: small		

The name of each place, lake or volcano reveals something about their origin and history to us. Below is a list of the meaning of the names of the main milestones that you will come across in your travels along the route, organized from north to south.

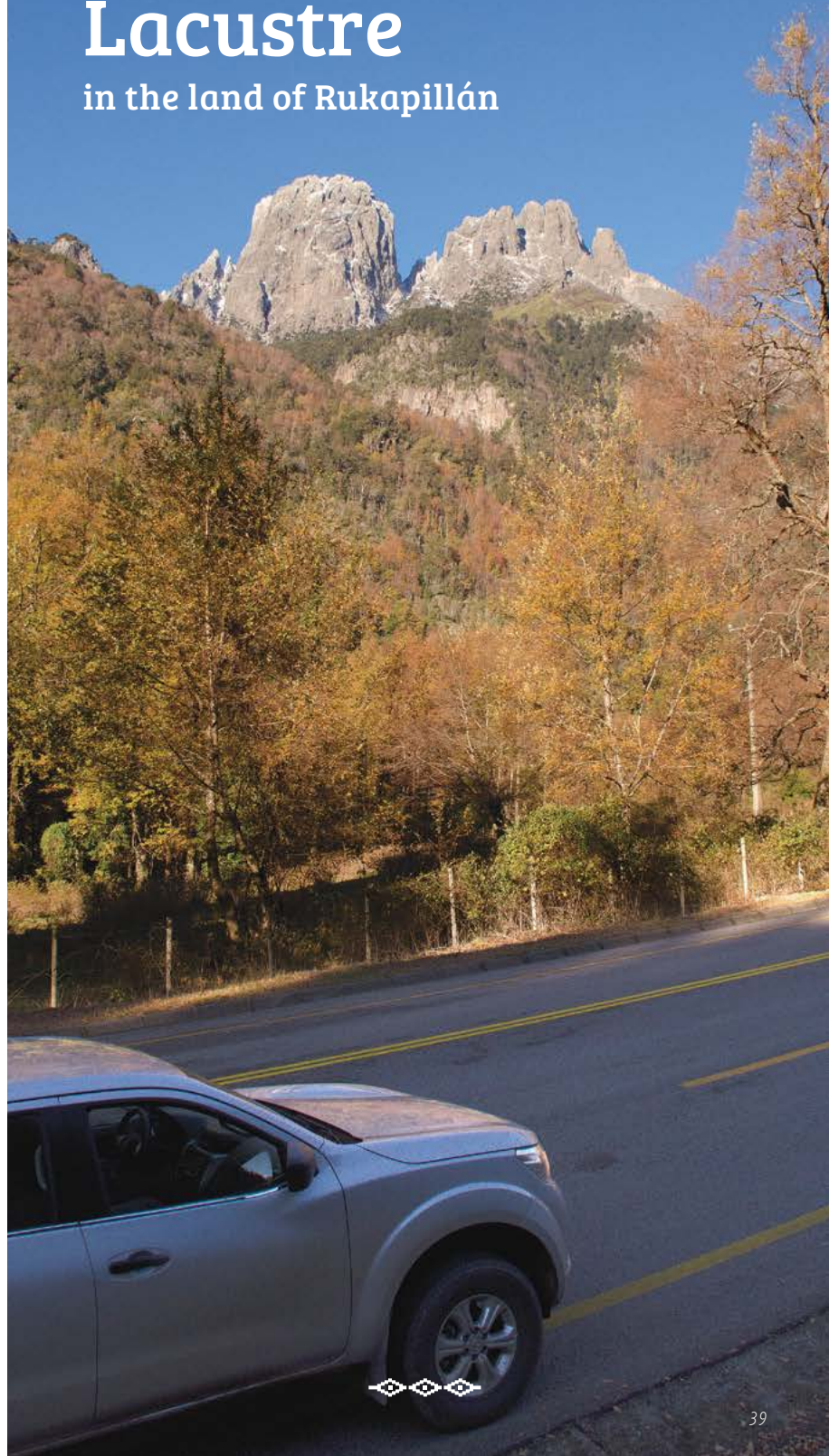
Curacautín: Meeting stone	Llifén: Beautiful dawn
Malleco: Chalky water	Calcarrupe: Witches' path
Conguillío: Among pine nuts	Maihue: Wood cup
Malalcahuello: Horse corral	Auquenco: Water that resonates
Lonquimay: Bushy head	Nilahue: Place of reeds
Icalma: Water mirror	Illahuapi: Almost Island
Melipeuco: Meeting of four waters	Huishue: Bad place to live
Cunco: Brown water	Puyehue: Place of puyes
Colico: Red water	Anticura: Sun stone
Malalco: Water corral	Antillanca: Jewel of the sun
Pucón: Entrance to the mountain	Rupanco: Water that flows
Rukapillán: House of the spirit	Llanquihue: Hidden place
Quetrupillán: Headless spirit	Petrohué: Place of mosquitoes
Curarrehue: Land of stone	Ralún: Closed valley
Liucura: White stone	Cochamó: Where the waters meet
Peumayén: Dreamed place	Reloncaví: United valleys
Quimey-Co: Good waters	
Caburgua: Spoon or carved by a spoon	
Palguín: Matico	
Coñaripe: Path of the warrior	
Calafquén: Other lake	
Lican Ray: Stone flower	
Pullinque: Place of frogs	
Pellaifa: Frost	
Liquiñe: Teary eyes	
Panguipulli: Land of pumas	
Pirehueico: Snow lagoon	
Choshuenco: Yellow waters	
Riñihue: Coligue forest or reed bed	
Ranco: Rough waters	
Futrono: Place of smoke	



CIRCUIT

Araucanía Lacustre

in the land of Rukapillán



Araucanía Lacustre

in the land of Rukapillán

The beautiful and omnipresent figure of Volcán Villarrica or Rukapillán (“home of the Pillán” in Mapudungun, where the spirits of the past that protect us live) is without doubt the great natural landmark of this circuit. Its two biggest cities have developed around it: Villarrica and Pucón, with the latter considered to be “the adventure tourism capital of Chile.” With a wide variety of services and a seemingly endless supply of activities, Araucanía Lacustre emerges as an international tourist destination, from where you can explore crystalline lakes and rivers, follow trails on foot or horseback surrounded by ancient forests, climb active volcanoes, relax in natural hot springs and have direct contact with Mapuche culture, one of native peoples of Chile whose presence is very visible throughout this region.

THE BASE: VILLARRICA

As described in this guide, the base for this circuit is the city of Villarrica, which is 80 km southeast of Temuco, taking Route 5 South and then the exit to International Road CH-199 in the town of Freire. You can also reach it from Pucón, the region’s tourism capital, which is 24 km from Villarrica on the same route CH-199.

Lago Quillehue, Villarrica National Park

SUGGESTED ROUTES FROM VILLARRICA

RS From Cunco to Curarrehue, via Reigolil

Distance: 122 kilometers
Surface: Gravel

● From Cunco to Villarrica

Distance: 64 kilometers
Surface: Gravel

RS From Villarrica to the Mamuil Malal Pass, via Pucón and Curarrehue

Distance: 99 kilometers
Surface: Asphalt

● From Villarrica to Lago Caburgua and Huerquehue National Park

Recorrido: 59 kilometers
Surface: Asphalt and gravel

● From Villarrica to the Río Liucura hot springs

Distance: 45 kilometers
Surface: Asphalt

RS From Palguín to Coñaripe

Distance: 45 kilometers
Surface: Gravel

RS From Villarrica to Lago Calafquén

Distance: 24 kilometers
Surface: Asphalt

RS Suggested route

Rafting on río Trancura



Unmissable attractions

CLIMBING VOLCÁN VILLARRICA

The Villarrica National Park condenses the greatest natural and tourist attractions of this area. The symbol is Volcán Villarrica and you can climb to its active crater in guided day excursions, a simply memorable experience. The park also has the Pucón Ski Resort and trails like the Villarrica Traverse, a great adventure lasting at least 5 days that crosses the volcano and ends in the sector of Puesco, almost on the Argentine border.

VILLARRICA AND PUCÓN

Neighboring cities on the shores of the great Lago Villarrica, they have seen major growth in tourism over recent decades, especially Pucón. With a great number of services available, that is where the main agencies that organize sightseeing tours of the region are located. Pucón's Playa Grande beach boils over in the summer. For its part, Villarrica preserves a historic and Mapuche past of great heritage value.

RAFTING ON THE RÍO TRANCURA

This is the most emblematic activity of this area, together with climbing Volcán Villarrica. The Río Trancura is the main one in Pucón and is divided into two sections: Trancura Bajo, with level 3 rapids, and Trancura Alto, with some level 4 rapids (the highest classification in rafting is 5). Several agencies offer this excursion, which can also be done in other rivers in the region, such as the Liucura. Prefer SERNATUR certified agencies.

THERMAL SPAS

This region is considered to be the epicenter of thermal tourism in Chile, thanks its large number of volcanoes. There are around 20 hot springs of all types, from brand-new roofed swimming pools to rustic pools on the river bank. The main ones are on the road from Pucón to Hui-fe, bordering the Río Liucura. Ideal places after a day of outdoor activities.

LAGO CABURGUA

One of Chile's most beautiful and exclusive lakeside towns, about 20 km from Pucon. On the way you will come to the Ojos del Caburgua (Caburgua's eyes), two beautiful natural pools surrounded by three waterfalls of between 15 and 20 meters in height, formed by the underground drainage of the lake by the same name.

VILLARRICA NATIONAL RESERVE

From this circuit you can access crater of Volcán Sollipulli from the south in the Hualalafquén sector of this little-known reserve. Excursions leave from the village of Reigolil and are guided by Mapuche communities. Another of the natural landmarks is the beautiful Laguna Huesquefilo, a mirror of water about 1,000 meters long by 300 wide and located at an altitude of 1,295 meters. It is flanked by araucaria trees.

HUERQUEHUE NATIONAL PARK

Located 37 km northeast of Pucon, on the road to Lago Caburgua, this park offers absolutely silent LANDSCAPES and a number of Andean lagoons to discover along well-marked trails. A natural place that still remains a secret.

CURARREHUE

A small town located 38 km east of Pucón on the international road, which over recent years has seen an interesting supply of indigenous-related tourism emerge, together with the revival of local cuisine, handicraft and products.

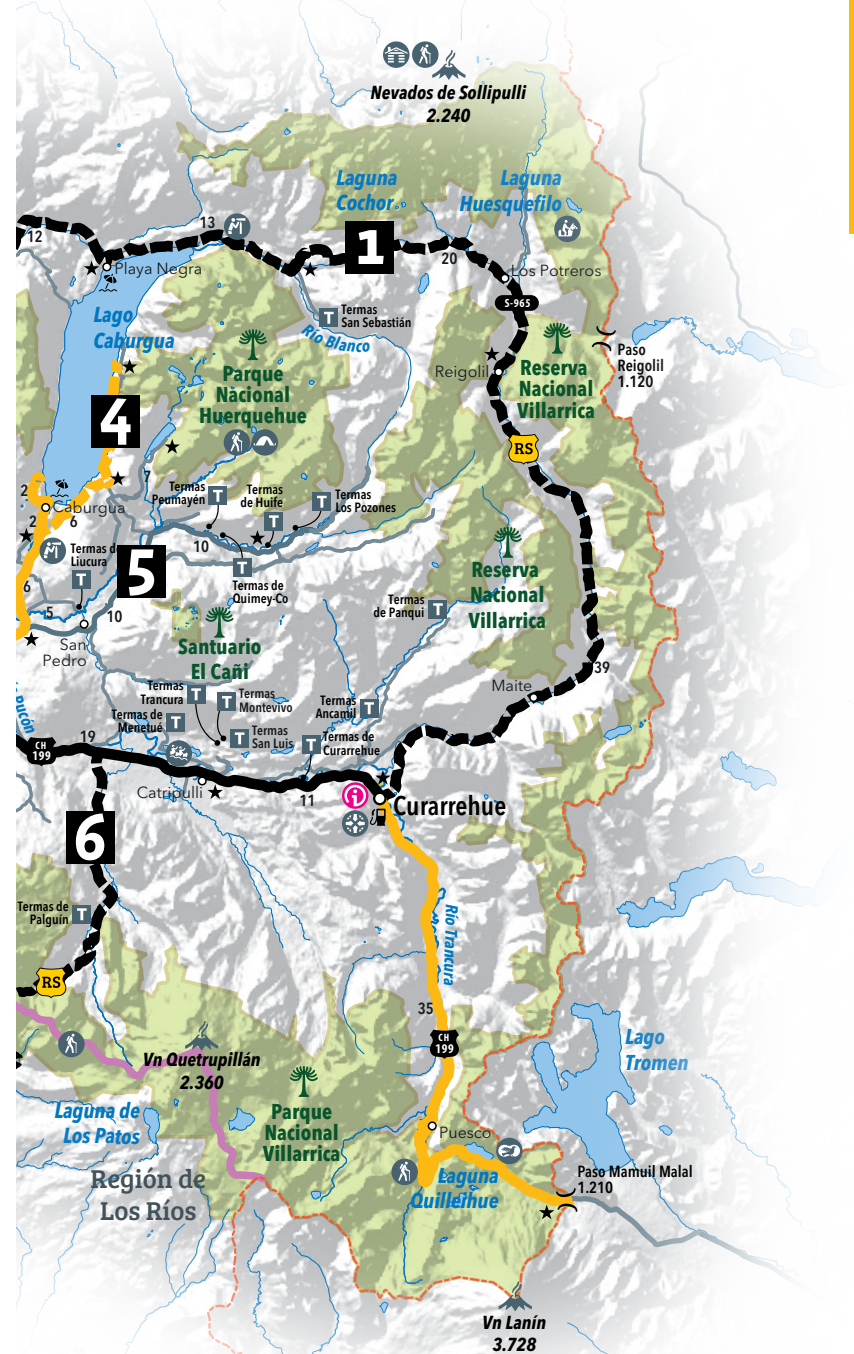
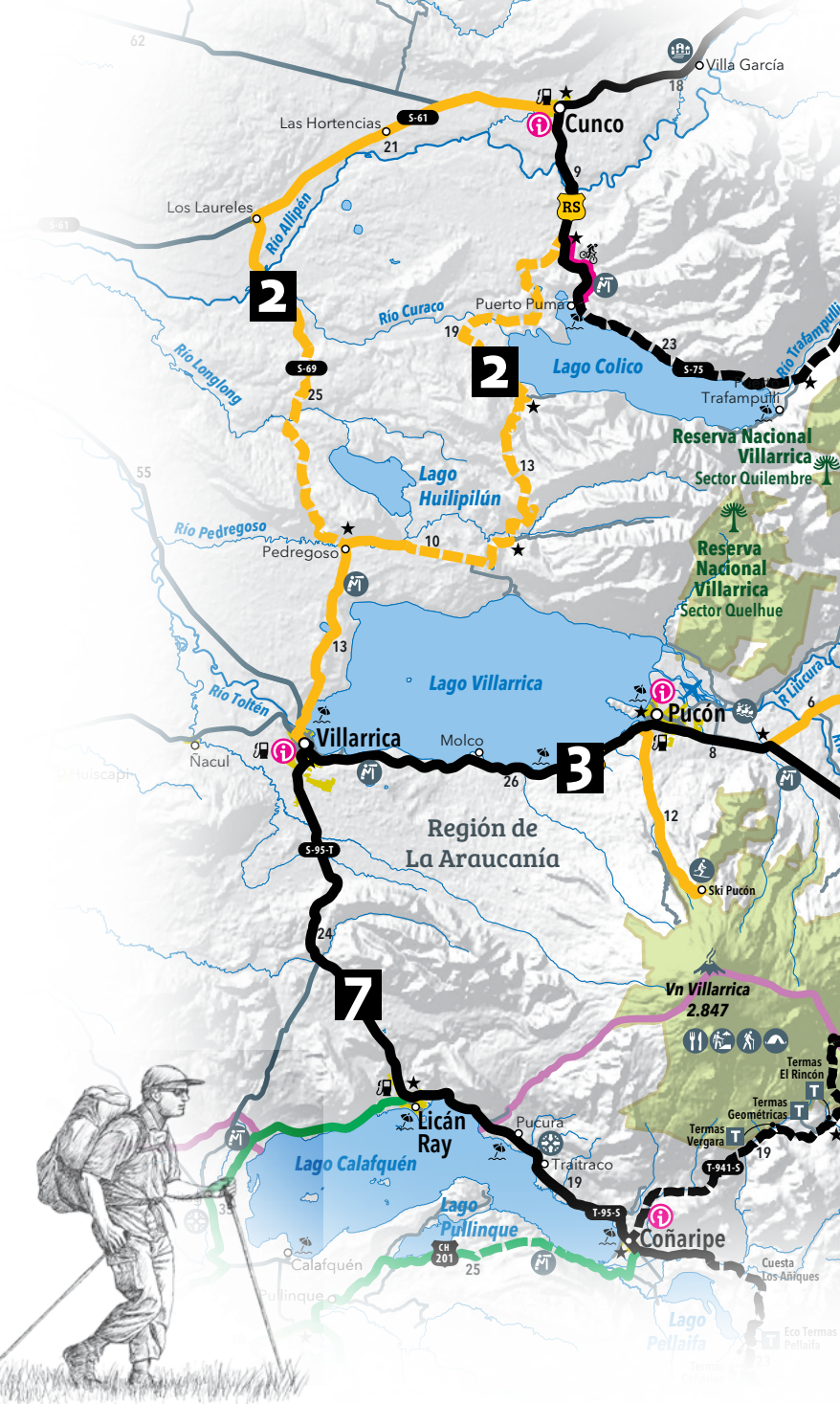
PALGUÍN COÑARIPE ROUTE

In terms of views, it is one of the most spectacular stretches of the circuit and the Scenic Route. It is a gravel road that crosses the heart of the Villarrica National Park and passes impressive waterfalls, coigües and araucaria forests, hot springs, picnic areas and access to the hiking trails to the Pichillancahue glacier. Though it is occasionally improved, there is a short stretch past Palguín that is recommended only for 4x4 vehicles.



Map - Araucanía Andina Circuit

- 1 From Cunco to Curarrehue, via Reigolil
- 2 From Cunco to Villarrica
- 3 From Villarrica to Mamuil Malal Pass, via Pucón and Curarrehue
- 4 From Villarrica to Lago Caburgua and Huerquehue National Park
- 5 From Villarrica to the Río Liucura hot springs
- 6 From Palguín to Coñaripe
- 7 From Villarrica to Lago Calafquén



The circuit

The Andean zone and the foothills of the Andes in the Araucanía Region offer a landscape characterized by diverse lakes and lagoons of glacial origin and many rivers connecting these bodies of water. With a temperate rainy climate, Araucanía Lacustre includes the municipalities of Villarrica, Pucón and Curarrehue, while a significant portion of the latter two form part of the Villarrica National Park and the Villarrica National Reserve. Its approximate borders, as part of the Scenic Route, are: Nevados de Sollipulli to the north, Volcán Lanín to the south, Lago Villarrica to the west and the Argentine border to the east.

There is also significant volcanic activity in this area, with the largest natural landmark being **Volcán Villarrica or Rukapillán**, which is part of a volcanic range that also

includes the volcanoes **Lanín and Quetru-pillán**.

Araucanía Lacustre has a rich ethnic and sociocultural mix, product of the long-standing Mapuche and Spanish presence, in addition to the arrival of Chilean and European settlers in the late 19th century.

THE BASE: VILLARRICA

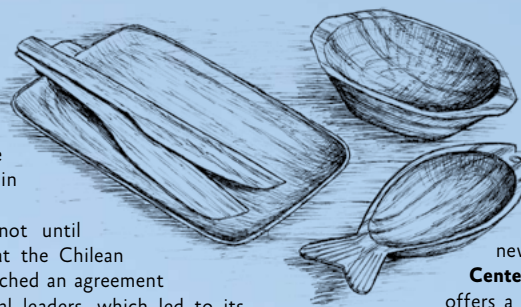
Located on the shores of the imposing **Lago Villarrica** and under the omnipresent silhouette of the volcano by the same name, for many years it was considered to be just a city that provided services to neighboring Pucón, the tourism capital of the region just 24 km away, and also an excellent base for visiting this entire circuit. But that is changing.

With around 50,000 inhabitants, Villarrica is a city full of history: it was founded by the Spanish in 1552 but then razed to the

ground by a Mapuche uprising in 1599.

It was not until 1883 that the Chilean state reached an agreement with local leaders, which led to its official foundation as a Chilean city in 1897.

It is famous for its handicrafts and wood furniture and has seen its supply of tourist services grow little by little. Among its heritage attractions is **The Leandro Penschulef Museum** (Bernardo O'Higgins 501), which operates on the Villarrica Campus of the Catholic University and has an interesting display of the lake district Mapuche culture; the **Municipal Historical and Archaeological Museum** (Pedro de Valdivia 1050),



which also covers native culture and the history of its foundation; and the new **Liquen Cultural Center** (Prat 738), which offers a varied program of artistic events. Another unmissable attraction in the city is the **Wenteche Mapu Mapuche Cultural Center** (Pedro de Valdivia, corner of Julio Zegers), with all sorts of products based on ancestral knowledge and numerous shops selling authentic local crafts. The place is recognizable for its replica of a ruka (Mapuche house). Quality wood crafts and various gourmet products also are to be found at the **Fritz Market in Villarrica** (Aviador Acevedo 612, corner of Pedro de Valdivia).



Torre Cochor,
Villarrica National Reserve

Suggested Routes

1 From Cunco to Curarrehue, via Reigolil

If you are coming down from the north, from the Araucanía Andina Circuit, the city of Cunco is the entrance to this route, which you can also take from Villarrica, starting in the south. The route reflects the adventurous essence of the Scenic Route, taking rougher roads that reward you with spectacular landscapes: crystal clear lakes, snow-capped peaks and lush forests that remain hidden from mass tourism.

Leave Cunco along Route S-75, cross Río Allipén (km 5.5) and then, instead of taking the exit to Pedregoso (km 8.3), continue on to Puerto Puma, at the northwest end of Lago Colico, one of the least visited of this circuit. An old lumber port, a popular camping and lakeside facility operate here. The road continues to border the north side of the lake, with very nice views. At kilometer 29 you cross the bridge over **Río Trafanpulli**, where after 4 km there is an exit to the beach by the same name. There you will find one of the few campgrounds equipped to receive mobile homes (www.campingtrafanpulli.cl).

Returning to the road, the next milestone comes when you reach the north shore of Lago Caburgua and the **Playa Negra** beach with its rocky sand and abundant shade. The view here is spectacular: it covers the entire lake and with Volcán

Villarrica's silhouette in the background. At kilometer 60, there is a turn off to the right that takes you to the **San Sebastián hot springs** in three kilometers, following a gravel road that borders the Río Blanco. It has an open-air swimming pool, individual tubs carved out of logs and hot tubs; in addition to a campsite and cabins. The forest environment that surrounds this place is awesome (www.termassansebastian.cl). Continuing along Route S-75, at kilometer 69 there is another remarkable view of **Volcán Sollipulli** in the sector known as **Torre Cochor**, an authentic mountain tower with a flat top and covered in forests. There is a lagoon surrounded by araucaria trees at the top. There is a private pedestrian trail to access this unknown part of Araucanía Lacustre.

Once you reach **Reigolil** (km 80) - a small and remote village almost on top of the Ar-

gentine border with some basic services - with the idea being to head south along the bottom of the valley, following the border. Reigolil is also the starting point for horseback excursions to Volcán Sollipulli or the unknown **Laguna Huesquefilo**, both part of the **Villarrica National Reserve**, which guided by Mapuche communities.

Along the way small hamlets appear, as well as diverse walkways across the **Río Maichin** every certain distance, the connection for the communities that live on the other side of the road. An essential stop is at kilometer 96: the **Salto de Malalco**, a spectacular waterfall that runs off of a basalt cornice and forms a great pool 90 meters below. It can be accessed on foot after consulting with the locals.

The proposed end of this route is the village of Curarrehue, which will be described in route 3 of this guide.

2 From Cunco to Villarrica

This stretch is the direct link connecting the Araucanía Andina and Lacustre circuits, through beautiful cattle farmlands.

From Cunco take Route S-75 and then the Route R-662 to the south as far as the area of San Pedro and Pitrunco, where there are incipient Mapuche-run agro-camping projects.

You then cross the **Río Curaco** and have to decide: turning left takes you south along Route S-507 via the area of Quelhue, while turning right along the same road takes you alongside the Río Curaco until meeting with Route S-69. Both are gravel roads through a rural landscape with few travelers and take you to the village of **Pedregoso**. Certain sectors, only a few, offer views of **Lago Huilipilún**.

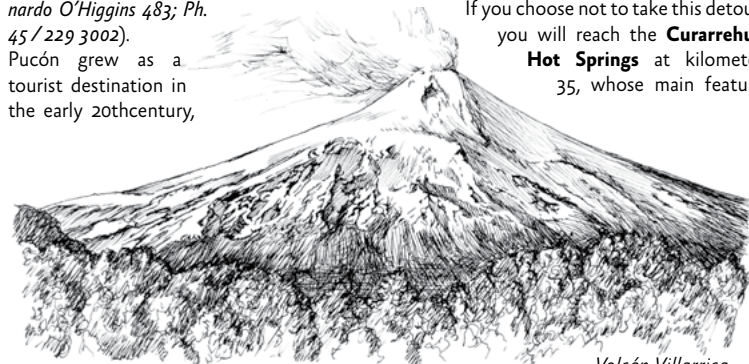
It is 55 km from Pedregoso to the city of Villarrica, taking S-69 south.

3 From Villarrica to Mamuil Malal Pass, via Pucón and Curarrehue

This is the main route that articulates Araucanía Lacustre. From Villarrica, the first part is the International Route CH-199, which after 24 km takes you to Pucón along the edge of Lago Villarrica (though there are few views along the way, as it is covered by shrubs, hotels and private properties).

Pucón is the epicenter of tourism for this entire area. Here there is a truly large variety of accommodation, restaurants and tourist services is really great (More information at the Pucón Municipal Tourism Office. Av. Bernardo O'Higgins 483; Ph. 45 / 229 3002).

Pucón grew as a tourist destination in the early 20th century,



Volcán Villarrica

when the state built the Gran Hotel Pucón in 1934. The coastal road from Villarrica was built in 1940 and in the 1970s connections to the areas of Lago Caburgua, Huife, Curarrehue and Lican Ray were improved. Pucón has experienced explosive growth, which continues to this day.

The most emblematic places are to visit are Lago Villarrica's **La Poza**, where the motorboat marina is, and the **Playa Grande**, a beach with fine dark sand that is very busy in the summer. **The Casino** is also famous, operating in the Hotel Enjoy (ex Gran Hotel Pucón). The hotel is opposite the beautiful **Plaza de Armas**, recently redesigned in a modern style with well-kept gardens and wooden statues of iconic figures from Mapuche culture.

Considered "the Chilean capital of adventure tourism," some 30 travel agencies in the city offer different activities in the area: trekking, horseback riding, rock climbing, diving, rafting in the Trancura and Liucura rivers and climbs up Volcán Villarrica, among many other options. Pucón is the gateway to the **Villarrica National Park**: the access control to the **Rucapillán Sector**, the main one to the park, is just 9 km away, from which you can reach the **Pucón Ski Resort**, with 6 lifts and the chance to ski with a view of Lago Villarrica (www.skipucon.cl), as well as the **Volcanic Caves Park**, where you can explore the volcano's underground caverns on guided tours (www.cuevasvolcancas.cl). Beyond these visits, **climbing Volcán Villarrica** is without doubt an unmissable experience: it is a sustained 6-hour climb to the crater itself at 2,847 meters above sea level. You have to use crampons to cross the areas with snow that are on the way. For safety reasons, the tour can only be done with specialized guides.

Leaving Pucón along the Route CH-199, after 19 km there is a turn right that leads to the **Palguín and Coñaripe hot springs** (described in Route 7). There is another turn to the left at kilometer 27, which leads to the **Trancura** (www.termastrancura.com) and **San Luis** (www.termasdesanluis.cl) hot springs. Another signposted road in this area leads to the hot springs of **Montevivo** (www.montevivo.cl) and **Menetúe** (www.menetue.com). All of them have good infrastructure.

If you choose not to take this detour, you will reach the **Curarrehue Hot Springs** at kilometer 35, whose main feature

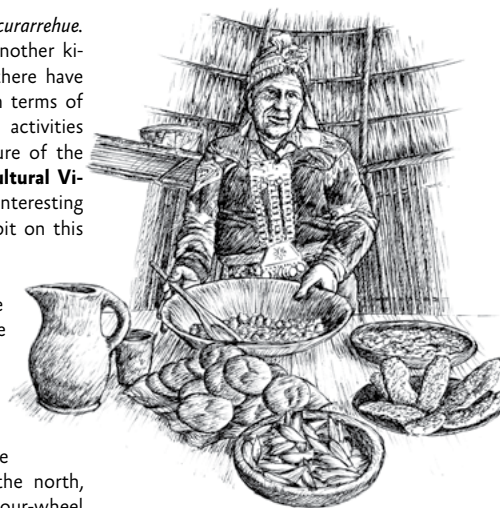


Araucanía Lacustre

Pucón

is its ionized waters (www.termascurarrehue.cl). The town of Curarrehue is another kilometer down the road, where there have been interesting developments in terms of accommodation, restaurants and activities that enhance the Mapuche culture of the region. **The Trawupeyüm Intercultural Village** stands out here with its interesting historical and photographic exhibit on this native people. From this town you can also reach the simple **Ancamil Hot Springs** with its 8 pools, one of them in a natural cave; and the **Panqui Hot Springs** (www.panqui.cl), which has 4 open-air swimming pools and unique Sioux-type tents as rustic accommodation. They are 17 km from Curarrehue along the road that leaves to the north, which is recommended only for four-wheel drive vehicles, especially after rain.

Leaving Curarrehue along the International Road, the landscape becomes a natural spectacle, giving up views of mountains like **Las Peinetas** (1,400 m), easily recognizable for its jagged rock formation, and the **Volcán Quinquilil**, also known as **Colmillo del Diablo** (Devil's Fang, 2,052 m). There is a path



Mapuche Cuisine

that allows you to approach its base. At kilometer 58 from Pucón you come to the **Puesco Sector** of the **Villarrica National Park**, where there is a small environmental information center. It is, without doubt, one

of the most beautiful and wildest areas in the park. Several trails start in this sector, such as the **Puesco Trail**, a short and flat route that follows the south bank of the Río Puesco, with the chance to see birds like chucao and kingfishers.

At kilometer 68 you come to the beautiful **Lago Quilleihue**, which is a spectacle especially in the autumn when the deciduous forests that surround it are dyed red, yellow and orange. There is a low-difficulty interpretive trail and, at the other end of the lake, is the spectacular **Lagos Andinos trail**, which allows you to access the beautiful high Andean lagoons formed by volcanic eruptions and the thaws of the ice age, with remarkable views of **Volcán Lanín** (3,747 m). The silhouette of Lanín, one part of which is in Chile and the other in Argentina, accompanies the final stretch of this tour. At kilometer 74 you reach the **Mamuil Malal Border Crossing** to San Martín de Los Andes, Argentina (*More information at ph. 45 / 296 8126; www.pasosfronterizos.gov.cl*).

4 From Villarrica to Lago Caburgua and Huerquehue National Park

The goal on this route is to get to know to of the biggest attractions of Araucanía Lacustre: first, Lago Caburgua, which has one of the best beaches in the area and is famous for being the place where certain well-known members of the Chilean elite; second, is Huerquehue National Park, a diamond in the rough for trekking fans, as it hides trails leading to high-mountain lagoons, forests of araucaria trees and viewpoints of great beauty.

From Villarrica you have to get to Pucón (already described in route 3) and then continue on the international road. After crossing the bridge over Río Trancura, continue to the left to Lago Caburgua (Route S-905), as the international road bears right to Curarrehue (everything is very well signposted).

Next, continue in the same direction (without taking the road to the Huife Hot Springs, see Route 5). At kilometer 21 a fork will appear in the road: the road to left takes you to Lago Caburgua. The one to the right takes you to the Paillaco sector of the **Huerquehue National Park**.

Continuing to the left you reach the Quetroleufu sector, where the exit to the **Liucura Hot Springs** is located, with its roofed swimming pool on the river bank, camping area and cabins (*cel. 9 / 9788 4637; termas-liucura.webnode.cl*). Further along is the signposted access to **Ojos del Caburgua**, a place of great beauty and an unmissable tourist attraction. It is a series of deep blue pools of water immersed in a wooded setting and formed by the underground drainage of **Lago Caburgua**. There are walkways and viewpoints to admire the view in an excursion that is perfect for doing with children.

Returning to the road you finally reach Lago Caburgua, one of the most photogenic lakeside towns in the region. With a surface area of 5,700 ha, it has a white sand beach and a small recently refurbished urban center, with a waterfront promenade and bike path. In fact, you can reach Caburgua by bicycle from Pucón, an attractive and recommended outing.

Returning to the kilometer 21, if you take the turn to the right, a gravel road in good conditions leads uphill to the Huerquehue National Park, whose great attraction is its Andean lagoons surrounded by forests of coigües and araucaria trees. The entrance is via **Lago Tinquico**, a beautiful day outing from Pucón. There are numerous well-marked trails, some of which take as much as two days. The 8.8 km **Los Lagos trail** is one of the main ones. (*More information at cel. (9) 6157 4089; Conaf.cl*)

5 To the Río Liucura hot springs

The Río Liucura hot springs are one of the biggest tourist attractions of Araucanía Lacustre. It is a series of thermal baths with different infrastructures, which are accessed by taking the turn to Route S-907 (Road to Huife).

From Villarrica or Pucón, take the road to Caburgua and then follow signposted road to Huife. Villa San Pedro appears after you cross the Coilaco Bridge. Another kilometer later takes you to Pichares, which is where the main access to the **El Cañi Sanctuary** is, a small 500-ha private reserve dedicated to the conservation of araucaria tree forests.

In this area there are self-guided paths and trails lasting up to two days, in addition to camping areas (www.santuariocani.cl). Route S-907 goes into the valley of the Río Liucura and leads to the **Peumayén hot springs** (www.termaspeumayen.cl), an ecological park with a good restaurant, accommodation and collective pool; after which come the **Quimey-co Hot Springs** (www.termasquimeyco.com), with three swimming pools- roofed, semi-enclosed and outdoor - cafeteria services and spa; further on come the **Huife Hot Springs** (www.termashuife.cl), with more infrastructure and a modern spa; and finally the **Los Pozones Hot Springs**, far more rustic with pools at different temperatures designed with quarry stone rocks. In all of these hot springs it is recommended that you alternate hot water baths with cold water, which can be in the Río Liucura River itself, which can always be heard running in the background.

6 From Palguín to Coñaripe

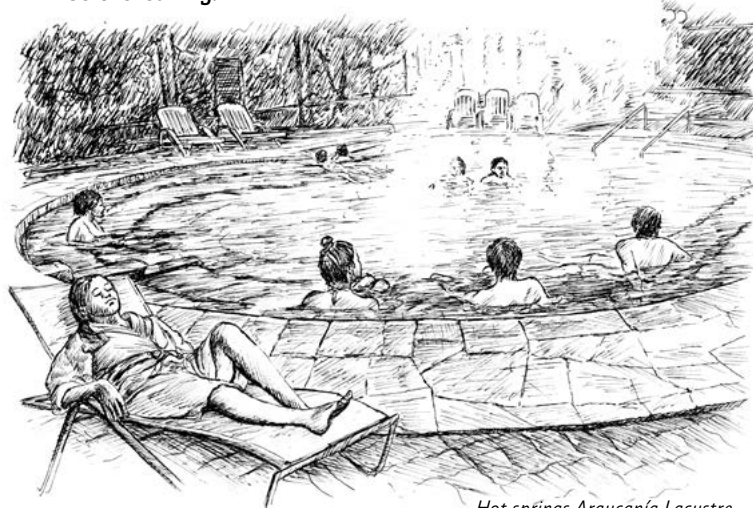
RS

A spectacular stretch that crosses the Villarrica National Park, passing forests of coigües and araucaria trees, beautiful waterfalls and hot springs. It is a possible connection between the Araucanía Lacustre and Sietelagos circuits. There is a picnic area on the way, as well as Conaf nurseries and access to the trail that takes you to the Pichillancahue Glacier, on Volcán Villarrica. **Warning:** though sometimes it presents improvements, there is a brief stretch after the Palguín hot springs that is only recommended for 4x4 vehicles. Inform yourself before leaving.



Hot springs in the Liucura Valley

Leaving Pucón along the Route CH-199, after 19 km there is a turn right that leads to the **Palguín Hot Springs**. The gravel road is in good conditions as far as the hot springs. Two great waterfalls appear at kilometer 9: the **Salto de la China**, with a 73-meter drop, and the **Salto del León**, approximately 90 meters high. The place is surrounded by lush native vegetation, with species such as oak, raulí, cypresses and ulmos. You can also see the Chilean national flower, the **copihue**.



Hot springs Araucanía Lacustre



Liucura Valley



Palguín-Coñaripe Route

The entrance to the Palguín Hot Springs appears after the waterfalls (*ph. 45 / 244 1968*), a hot springs with history, whose waters of volcanic origin fluctuate between 36 and 52 degrees Celsius. It has an outdoor swimming pool, 15 thermal pools in wood and cement huts, five tubs of water at 35 degrees and a hotel.

At kilometer 17 you come to the CONAF's **Quetripillán nursery** in the Villarrica National Park. There is a permanent presence of park rangers and there are public toilets. The great **Villarrica Traverse trail**, a remarkable 5-day adventure that crosses this entire protected area and remains one of the region's best-kept secrets, passes through this sector.

Kilometer 23 of the route stands out for the presence of an Araucaria araucana tree that stands over 40 meters high. There are benches at its feet especially installed there to contemplate its magnitude and the unique ridges of its bark, which resemble a large elephant leg. There is also a picnic table, in a very pleasant setting for a stop. In another 500 meters you reach the Villarrica National Park's **Chinay nursery**, the last park ranger station before reaching **Coñaripe**. Here you also cross the border between the Araucanía and Los Ríos Regions (and therefore, officially into the Sietelagos Circuit).

There are toilets, a map of the park and a beautiful and spacious picnic area in the shade of the trees. You also have the possibility to take the **Werken trail**, a brief 20-minute tour through the forest to the banks of Río Pichillancahue, whose crystalline waters come from the glacier by the same name.

The **El Rincón Hot Springs** (www.termas-el-rincon.cl) are at kilometer 27.7, surrounded by Valdivian forest. It has cypress tubs and natural pools, alternative therapies, a café and picnic area. Another kilometer to the south takes you to the unique **Geometric Baths** (www.termasgeometricas.cl) It consists in 20 stone pools built in geometric shapes and connected by wooden walkways, all in a ravine surrounded by native forests where the thermal waters that fill the pools emerge. It has changing rooms and a roofed hut that functions as a café.

The **Vergara Hot Springs** (www.termas-vergara.cl) are at kilometer 31, in a sector known as Los Cajones, with six swimming pools (two roofed and four outdoor), accommodation, restaurant, and excursion service.

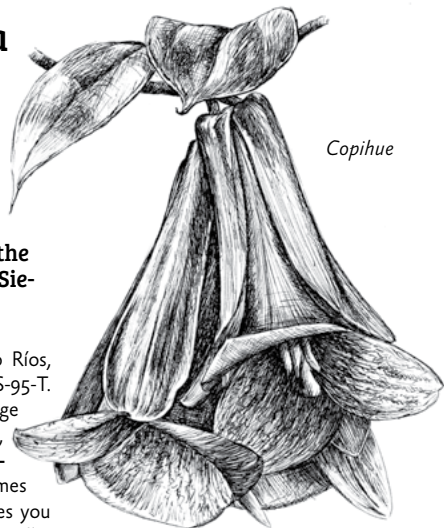
Heading south, this route ends at kilometer 45, in the lakeside town of Coñaripe, on the eastern shore of **Lago Calafquén**, which is described in the next circuit of this guide, Sietelagos.

7 From Villarrica to Lago Calafquén

RS

This stretch is completely paved and it is the most direct and simplest way to connect the Araucanía Lacustre and Sietelagos Circuits.

Leave Villarrica via Av. Juan Antonio Ríos, which then becomes known as Route S-95-T. Right after crossing the Llao Llao bridge and before reaching the aerodrome, there is an exit to the village of **Huinacarcara**, following a gravel road that becomes gradually narrower and in 25 km takes you to one of the least known accesses to Villarrica National Park. There is a trail that starts there and takes you to the viewpoint of the Voipir glacier on Volcán Villarrica, though it is not signposted. Returning to Route S-95-T, on both sides of the road flanked by fields and forests you will see a number of workshops that make furniture and other objects made with native wood.



Copihue

At kilometer 20 there is a turn left that takes you to the **Pino Huacho** area, where activities like zip lining and hiking are offered. The city of **Lican Ray** is at the end of this route, a developed lakeside town on the shores of **Lago Calafquén**, the gateway to the Sietelagos Circuit, which follows.



Villarrica



CIRCUIT

Sietelagos

discover the Valdivian forest

Sietelagos

discover the Valdivian forest

As its name suggests, this circuit is structured around seven lakes of extraordinary beauty: Calafquén, Panguipulli, Riñihue, Pullinque, Pellaifa, Neltume and Pirehueico. The landscape is characterized by its lush woods of Valdivian forest, with the volcano Mocho Choshuenco as its main landmark, and where you can enjoy diverse winter activities. With a strong Mapuche cultural identity, a history tied to old lumber ports and a great variety of hot springs, this region has also been developed as a new great tourist destination in southern Chile, thanks to natural attractions like the Huilo-Huilo Biological Reserve, an important center of biodiversity and endemism.

THE BASE: LICAN RAY

If you are coming from the north, the main entrance to this circuit is the city of Lican Ray, 26.5 km south of Villarrica along Route S-95-T. It can also be reached from Panguipulli, which is 146 km south of Temuco along Route 5 South and then the Route CH-203 to the east.



Trail in Huilo Huilo

SUGGESTED ROUTES, FROM LICAN RAY

RS From Lican Ray to Coñaripe and Liquiñe

Distance: 49 kilometers
Surface: Asphalt and gravel

RS From Lican Ray to nearby hot springs

Distance: 33 kilometers (as far as El Rincón Hot Springs)
Surface: Mostly gravel

● From Lican Ray to Panguipulli and Lago Riñihue

Distance: 54 kilometers
Surface: Asphalt

RS From Panguipulli to Puerto Fuy

Distance: 64 kilometers
Surface: Asphalt

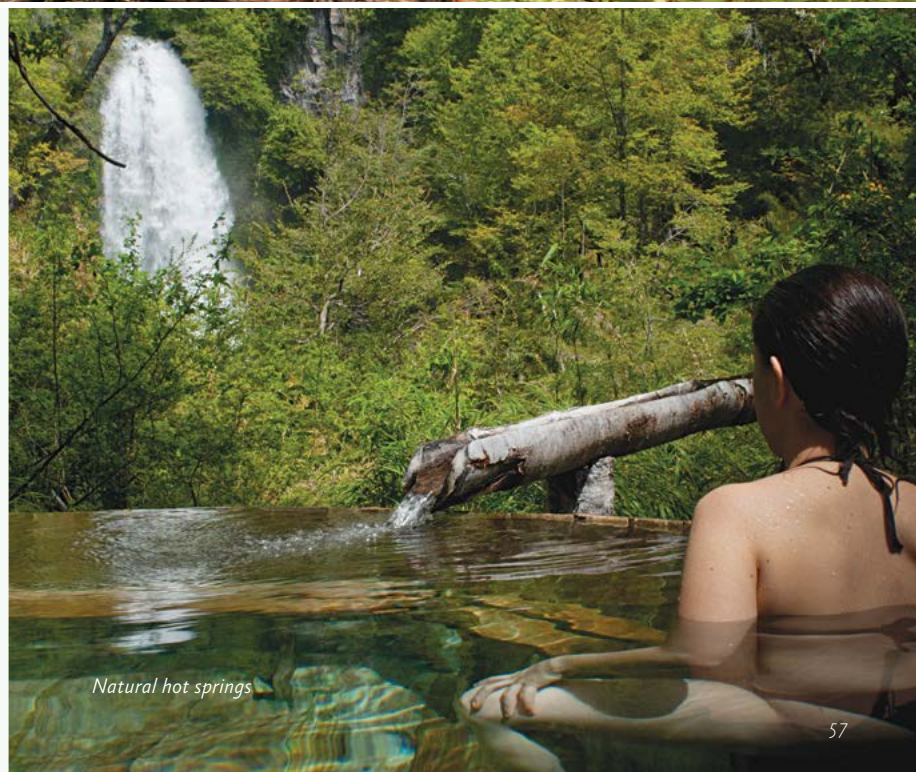
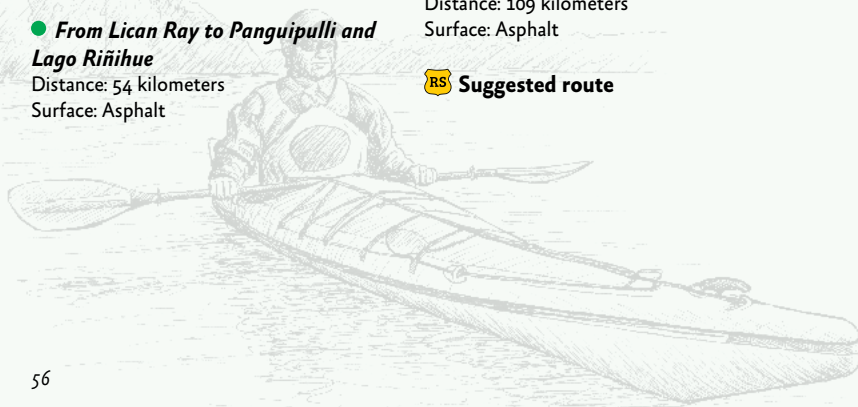
● Of Panguipulli to the Mocho Choshuenco National

Distance: 76 kilometers.
Surface: Asphalt and gravel

● From Panguipulli to Futrono

Distance: 109 kilometers
Surface: Asphalt

RS Suggested route



Natural hot springs

Unmissable attractions

BEACHES OF LAGO CALAFQUÉN

With a surface area of 120.6 km², this lake of glacial origin has blue-green transparent waters and is surrounded by forests. It has seven islands, among which Trailafquén, Balboa, Los Monos and Las Cuevas stand out. The lakeside towns of Lican Ray and Coñaripe, the two main ones in the region with the largest variety of services, have developed on its shores.

PANGUIPULLI

An old port town, this city is the municipal seat of a vast area covering the south of Lago Calafquén and the lakes Panguipulli, Pellaifa, Neltume and Pirehueico, and little by little it has been transformed into one of the new epicenters for tourism on the Sietelagos Circuit thanks to the appearance of new hotels and services, mostly dedicated to rescuing the strong Mapuche culture in the region. The coastal road that circles Lago Panguipulli has four tourist viewpoints with great views of the lake, its islands and the volcano Mocho Choshuenco.

QUILMIO - LAGO NELTUME ROAD

Route T-29 is of great scenic attraction and starts in the village of Quilmio, in the middle of a broad and beautiful valley. The road crosses the Valdivian forest and offers some of the most spectacular views of the Sietelagos circuit, especially of Volcán Villarrica, the adjacent river valley and Lago Neltume, with Volcán Mocho Choshuenco as a backdrop.

RIO LIQUIÑE HOT SPRINGS

To the east of the town of Coñaripe, following the Río Liquiñe is the so-called "Health Route," a road leading to a series of hot springs with different infrastructure, including the Coñaripe hot springs, the Pellaifa Eco hot springs and the Liquiñe hot springs. ON the way you can also get to know two small lakes on this circuit: Pellaifa and Neltume.

CHOSHUENCO

A small and beautiful town surrounded by well-kept cattle farmlands. It has excellent beaches, which are very busy in the summer, in addition to having developed an interesting variety of accommodation, cuisine and excursions, where sports fishing stands out. Here you will find the beached steam ship Enco, an old metal ship that served in the German Navy during World War One and which was brought to Lago Riñihue in 1940 to work as a lumber and livestock freighter. Today it is a historic monument.

CUESTA LOS AÑIQUES

Located 6 km east of Coñaripe, it is one of the most photogenic stretches in the circuit. It is a steep and winding road that crosses lush forests like a beautiful and thick natural gallery that plays with the curves and switchbacks and which gives up spectacular views of Volcán Villarrica along the way and Lago Pellaifa at the end.

HUILO HUILO BIOLOGICAL RESERVE

Located 55 km east of Panguipulli, this is a private initiative that protects 60,000 ha of Valdivian forest, where there are waterfalls, natural hot springs, unexplored lakes and direct access to Volcán Mocho Choshuenco. It has luxury hotel facilities, a small ski resort that operates from July to September and offers excursion services in the region. Its lands are part of a world biodiversity reserve, the habitat of endemic species such as the huemul, Darwin's fox, pudú, monito del monte and the black woodpecker, among many others.

VOLCÁN MOCHO CHOSHUENCO

The region's big natural landmark, which is characterized by having two volcanic cones, hence the name: Mocho (2,422 m and Choshuenco (2,415 m). It is part of the national reserve by the same name and you can engage in diverse mountain activities there, from skiing and randonnée, to climbing to the glacier at the peak. The quickest way there is from the Huilo Huilo Biological Reserve, though you can also get there from Enco, following a road with very steep slopes that is mostly be usable in the summer season.

HUA HUM PASS

One of Chile's most unique and photogenic border crossings, as it entails taking a ferry across the beautiful Lago Pirehueico, surrounded by native forests of species such as ulmo, mañío, coigue and notro that grow right up to the very edge. It is a spectacular adventure that begins in the small village of Puerto Fuy, where the impetuous, crystalline and turbulent waters of the Río Fuy flow. The pass is open all year long, regardless of the weather conditions.

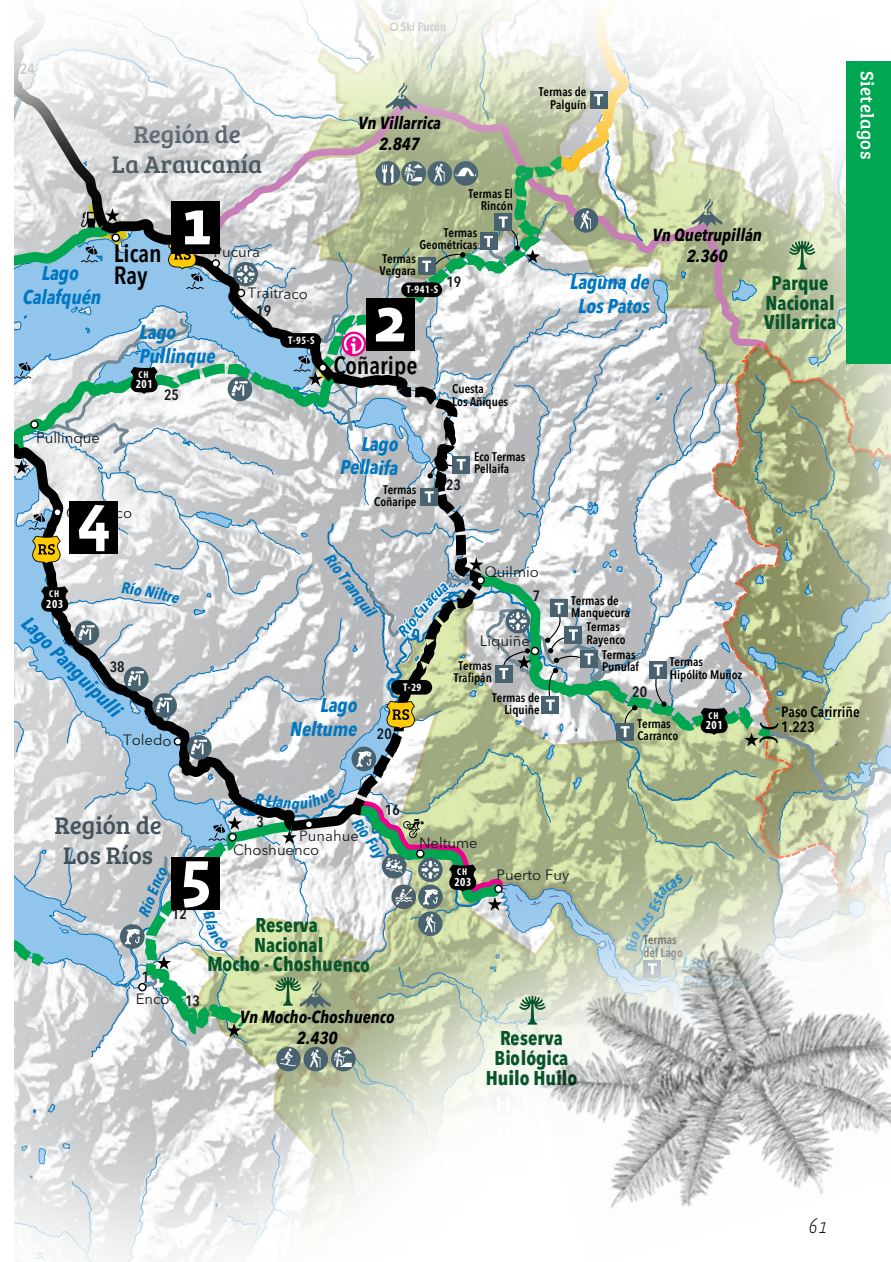
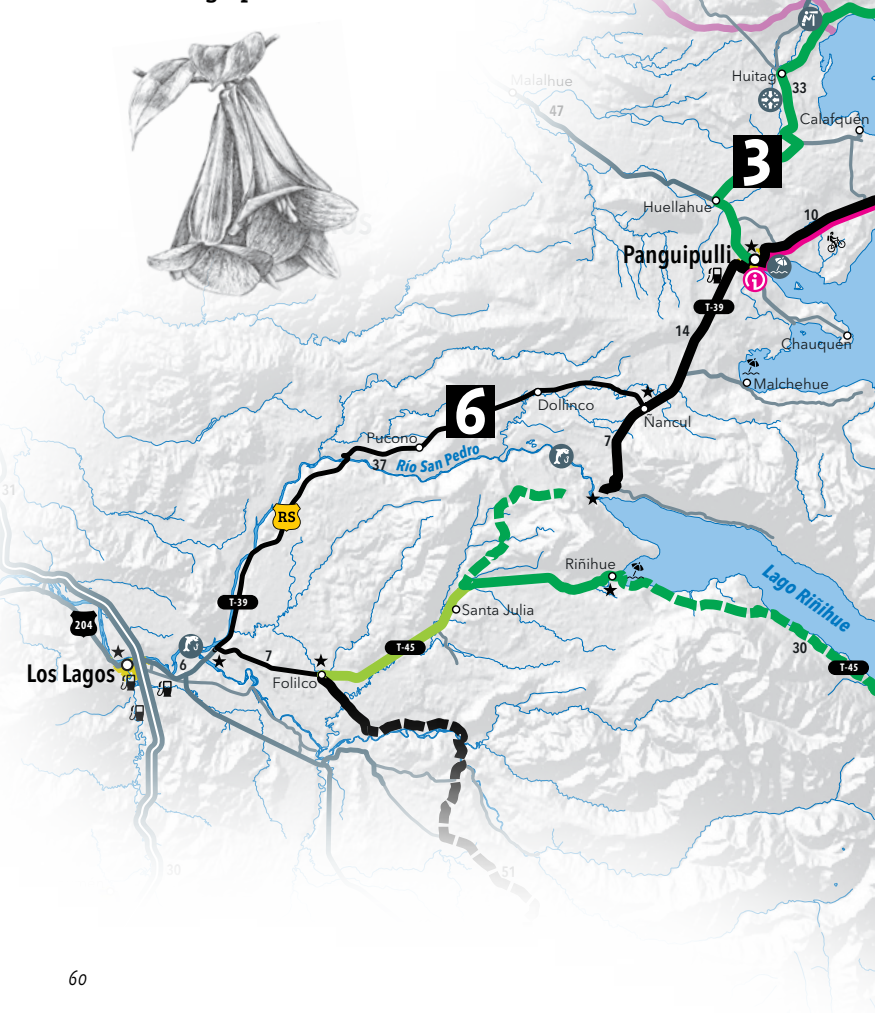
HANDICRAFT IN LIQUIÑE AND NELTUME

These two villages, located no more than 60 km east of Panguipulli, stand out for the work of their local craftspeople. Liquiñe is a small Mapuche country town where tableware made of raulí wood is made, which is carved following ancestral techniques using a tool called an adze. For its part, Neltume also stands out for its woodwork: in fact, the town is decorated with attractive sculptures made of coigüe logs.



Map - Sietelagos Circuit

- 1 From Lican Ray to Coñaripe and Liquiñe
- 2 From Lican Ray to the hot springs of Volcán Villarrica
- 3 From Lican Ray to Panguipulli and Lago Riñihue
- 4 From Panguipulli to Puerto Fuy
- 5 From Panguipulli to the Mocho Choshuenco National Reserve
- 6 From Panguipulli to Futrono



The circuit

This beautiful circuit which does in fact pass seven lakes (Sietelagos), coincides with the start of the entrance to the Los Ríos Region, a territory formed by a tight set of rivers and lakes that are interconnected and form an intricate watershed. One unique feature is that it is born partially in Argentina, in the Lago Lácar basin, whose waters do not flow east, as is usual with the rivers that are born in Argentina, but rather drain to the west and enter Chile via Lago Pirehueico.

The Sietelagos circuit also has lush Valdivian forests, where the Andean deciduous forest predominates and accompanies you throughout the entire trip. Regarding its location, it covers the greater municipality of Panguipulli and some sectors of Villarrica and the Los Lagos Region, passing through towns that developed in the early 20th century thanks to the exploitation and trade in lumber. Its approximate borders are: the city of Lican Ray and Lago Calafquén to the north; the Huilo Huilo Reserve to the south; the city of Panguipulli and Lago Riñihue to the west and the Argentine border to the east, via the Carirriñe and Hua Hum Passes.

THE BASE: LICAN RAY

A classic lakeside town on the north shore of Lago Calafquén, whose origin dates back to the 1940s, when it began to be built as a supply and services village for the Mapuche communities

living in the area.

The state expropriated the village in 1958 and the houses were flooded by the construction of the Pullinque hydroelectric dam. After the 1960 earthquake, which was devastating for the region, the lands not flooded by the dam became the base for creating a small lakeside settlement of small cabins, which only gained strength in 1986 with the arrival of drinking water supplies.

Today Lican Ray is a summertime hub, thanks to its black sand beaches surrounded by vegetation, which are suitable for swimming and where you can engage in a great variety of water activities and rural tourism. The **Cacique Manquel waterfront**, which borders the bay, is among its places of interest. This is where the **Playa Chica** is, a beach that is perfect for swimming. This walk along the coast takes you to the **El Promontorio peninsula**, a natural park covered with forest, with conifers and native trees and two viewpoints with sweeping views of the village, Lago Calafquén and its islands. There is a heritage trail that allows you to visit it on foot. The **Cacique Punulef waterfront** is on the other side of the peninsula, where the big landmark is the tree-flanked **Playa Grande** beach.

The city has a good variety of accommodation, restaurants (concentrated mostly on Av. General Urrutia) and other tourist services



Suggested Routes

1 From Lican Ray to Coñaripe and Liquiñe



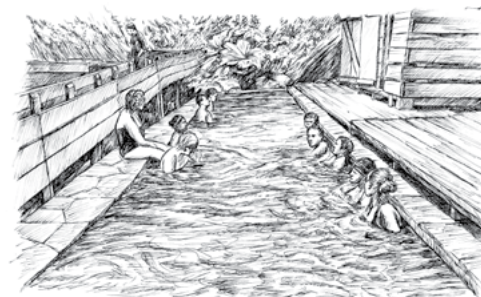
This route runs behind the volcanoes Villarica and Quetrupillán, with superb views of mountains, lakes and volcanoes. It is known as the “Health Route” because you can visit a series of hot springs with medicinal properties along the way.

Leaving Lican Ray via Route T-95-S, follow the edge of the beautiful Lago Calafquén, with a surface area of 120.6 km², volcanic sand beaches and blue-green waters with temperatures of 9.6 degrees Celsius in the winter and 22 degrees Celsius in the summer.

Always paved, the road follows the river and reaches the town of Coñaripe at kilometer 19, a pleasant lakeside town with a waterfront flanked by conifers and a growing supply of tourist services. This is where one of the region’s main lumber ports operated in the early

20th century, the production of which was transported across these lakes aboard small steam ships.

The village was destroyed following an eruption by Volcán Villarica, which caused snow to melt and estuaries and rivers to flood their banks, damaging roads, bridges and homes. However, Coñaripe managed to be rebuilt, though a kilometer away from its original location. A monument commemorates the victims of the tragedy at the old site. From Coñaripe you can continue to the north, taking the signposted road to the Villarica National Park, where there are three hot springs and you can reach the trail that leads to the Pichillancahue Glacier (see route 2). But the idea for this stretch consists in passing Coñaripe and continuing along paved road as far as the crossroads with Route CH-



Hot springs in Sietelagos

Hua Hum ferry on Lago Pirehueico

201, at the south end of Lago Calafquén. This is the start of the so-called "Health Route." From here on the road is gravel, in good conditions.

Continuing eastward, the next milestone is **Lago Pellaifa**, a small lake of glacial origin with a surface area of 7.2 km². Pay attention to the tips of the trees that stick out of the water: they are the remains of what used to be an inhabited area and forest but was buried after the May 1960 earthquake, the largest ever registered in human history (9.6 on the Richter scale).

At kilometer 6.3 from Coñaripe is where the impressive **Cuesta Los Añiques** begins, a steep road that crosses lush forests and gives up spectacular views of Volcán Villarrica and the Lago Pellaifa. Be careful on the curves.

Once you reach the top of the slope you will come to the **Coñaripe Hot Springs** (www.termasconaripe.cl), a thermal spa inaugurated on swampy terrain in 1991 and which has roofed and outdoor swimming pools, mud baths, hotel, spa and a restaurant. The complex is a good base for exploring Lago Pellaifa and the vicinity. From there you can take a short road to the **Pellaifa Eco Hot Springs** (www.ecotermaspellaifa.cl), which has two swimming pools, one outdoor and another roofed, in addition to another with thermal mud. They also have accommodation and organize activities in the area, such as trekking and horseback riding.

Returning to route CH-201, in 45 km you come to the junction with Route T-29, which heads to the south. It begins in the small village of **Quilmio** and continues through the lush Valdivian forest. It is one of the circuit's most photogenic stretches, as you get spectacular views of Volcán Villarrica, the adjacent river valley and finally of Lago Neltume, with its 890 ha and a pretty beach, camping area and a few cabins, with views of Volcán Mocho Choshuenco in the background. If you don't take this detour, the road continues up to **Liquiñe**, a small

Mapuche town that stands out for its handicrafts, especially tableware made of raulí wood, carved with a tool called an **adze**.

The **Río Liquiñe Hot Springs** (www.termasrioliquine.cl), with a big thermal swimming pool at 45 degrees Celsius and cabins with hot tub spa, among other services, are on the outskirts of town. They also organize excursions to the surrounding area.

On this same road to the border you can reach other small thermal baths with less infrastructure, such as the Manquecura, Rayenco, Punulaf, Trafipan, Carranco and Don Hipólito Muñoz hot springs.

One possible end of this route is the **Cariñe Pass**, which is 20 km from the village of Liquiñe. This pass connects to the Argentine cities of Junin de los Andes and San Martín de Los Andes. Operation is subject to the weather conditions. When operational it is recommended that you circulate in all-terrain vehicles (*More information at ph. 63 / 233 3063; www.pasosfronterizos.gov.cl*).

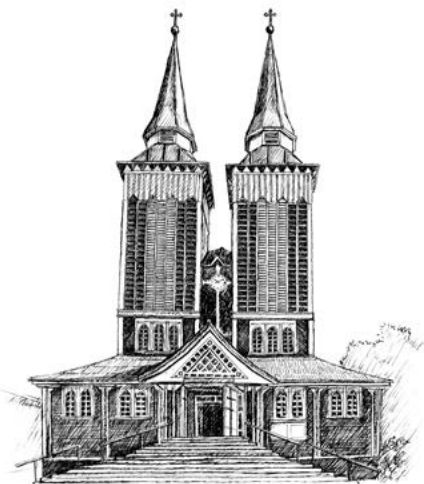
2 From Lican Ray to the hot springs of Volcán Villarrica

This is an alternative stretch that breaks off of the previous route and takes you to four hot springs of great natural beauty, nestled in a lush mountain valley on the southeast slope of Volcán Villarrica. It connects with the Palguín sector of the Araucanía Lacustre Circuit to the north.

You have to leave Lican Ray and head toward Coñaripe. There you must take the road northward (well marked), which leads to the Villarrica National Park. It is a gravel road in good conditions, though there are several switchbacks on the way up. Drive with care if it is raining.

The attractions on this route were already described in the Araucanía Lacustre Circuit, from north to south (see Route 6, page 52. From south to north, the **Vergara Hot Springs** (www.termasvergara.cl) appear first. Next comes one of the unmissable attractions of the Sietelagos Circuit: the unique **Geometric Baths** (www.termasgeometricas.cl), nestled in a narrow mountain valley of great beauty, and further up are the **El Rincón Hot Springs** (www.termaselrincon.cl).

If you continue to follow this road you will reach the Villarrica National Park's Chinay Nursery and, further on, the Quetrupillán sector, where the trail to the **Pichillancahue glacier**, one of Volcán Villarrica's most accessible ones, begins. Finally, this route ends in the **Palguín** sector, where the hot springs by the same name and the remarkable Salto del Leon and Salto la China waterfalls are located.



Iglesia Parroquial de Panguipulli (MN)

3 From Lican Ray to Panguipulli and Lago Riñihue

This route leads to the biggest city in the Sietelagos Circuit, crossing beautiful southern fields with remarkable views of the Lago Panguipulli and its islands.

Leave Lican Ray via the coastal road that borders Lago Calafquén on the west and then head south.

The hamlet of Chaura is at kilometer 22. From there you can take a 5 km road to the lakeside town of **Calafquén**, on the south shore of the lake, where there are private holiday homes.

Past Chaura the road meets Route T-225, which in 14.5 km takes you to the Huellahue sector, where the junction with Route CH-203 to the city of **Panguipulli** is.

Seat of the greater municipality by the same name, Panguipulli has about 32,000 inhabitants and is known as the "City of Roses" for the abundance of these flowers in its streets and squares. In the past it was the end of the railway branch line that came from Lanco. Panguipulli was the base that a large proportion of the lumber produced in the inner valleys departed from, which was transported across the lakes by wood-fired steam ships. Today, its location has made it an important center of tourist activity, commerce and services.

The city is on the shores of **Lago Panguipulli**, which empties into Lago Riñihue via Río Enco, and has a surface area of 116 km². As with the other lakes that are on this circuit, it is part of the Río Valdivia water basin, which runs from the Corral Bay to San Martín de Los Andes (Argentina).

Among the places to visit in Panguipulli its waterfront stands out, where you will find the Monument to the Forgers and Founders of Panguipulli, which represents a Mapuche, a capuchin missionary cappuccino and a pioneer. The beautiful Swiss-style Parish Church is also on the square, built in 1947 by the capuchin monk Bernabé of Lucerne, who is also the author of the city's hospital and the town hall.



Rafting on Río Fuy

4 From Panguipulli to Puerto Fuy

RS This is one of the most spectacular and representative routes in the entire Lakes and Volcanoes Scenic Route, as in addition to giving up amazing views of the Lake District landscape, it has very good road infrastructure, signage and viewpoints.

The Capuchins were fundamental to the city's development, as in the early 20th century they built the first formal settlement in this territory after those of the native Mapuche people.

Panguipulli's main street descends gently to the lake, where the **municipal beach** resort, very popular in the summer, is located. Another famous beach resort is **Playa Chauquén**, on the peninsula, which you can reach by following the south side of the lake. It has cabins and campsites available. A bit further to the south is the attractive **Playa Monje**, a beach with an interesting supply of houses and holiday villas to rent. Returning to the road heading south away from Panguipulli, now along Route T-39, in 18 km you reach the hamlet of Ñancul. Take the turn to the south (Route T-415), which in 7 km takes you to the **Lago Riñihue** runoff (the exact point of which is only accessible by foot). This is where the Río San Pedro is born, which is ultimately the great watercourse that drains the great water basin of this circuit. For its part, the San Pedro empties into the Río Calle-Calle, in Valdivia, which flows into the Pacific Ocean. There is a small public beach on the lakeside in the runoff sector, from which there is a spectacular sweeping view of Lago Riñihue and the Andes Mountains.

The road borders the north shore of Lago Panguipulli. The first possible detour emerges at kilometer 10: to the left is the start of Route CH-201, which leads to Lago Pullinque. It is a small lake, with several islets, whose level was artificially boosted for use by the hydroelectric power station by the same name. CH-201 leads to the town of Coñaripe, from where you can take the "Health Route" (see Route 1) or go on to the hot springs behind of Volcán (see Route 2). The Pullinque valley has odd mounds of stone and clay, deposited in the rivers that ran beneath the glaciers.

If you don't take the exit, you will continue along route CH-203, always paved, which is a spectacle in itself. The views of Lago Panguipulli and Volcán Mocho Choshuenco are astounding. In addition, there are four viewpoints specially set up for a stop to take snapshots or have a picnic. They also have information panels on the route. These viewpoints are: Rucatrehua (km 20), Isla Gabriela (km 22), Puñir (km 23) and Toledo (km 27), the most well-equipped of all.

This part of route CH-203 is surrounded by dense evergreen forests, which accompany you practically the entire way until reaching the bridge over Río Llanquihue.

Further on a junction indicates two options: to the right leads to the village of Choshuenco (see description in Route); to the left takes you to Puerto Fuy and Pirehueico.

Continuing to the left you have to pass the bridge over the Río Fuy, which runs through a narrow valley. In 400 meters you will see a sign indicating the exit to **Lago Neltume** (see description of Route 1). But the goal here is to continue along CH-203. Thus, the next major natural landmark is the **Salto del Huilo Huilo**. There is a sign indicating a turn to the right that leads to a small bridge over the Río Fuy. You have to pay to visit these beautiful waterfalls: Salto del Huilo Huilo is 37 meters high but there is another one, the Salto del Puma, which you can reach after a 15-minute walk along wooden walk ways. The falls are part of the **Huilo Huilo Biological Reserve** (www.huilohuilo.com), a private area that preserves 60,000 hectares in a combination of conservation work and real estate projects that has become a magnet for international tourism. With luxury services, it stands out for its four hotel complexes of unique design and also has cabins, apartments, campsites and restaurants. The reserve is the base for exploring this entire region, engaging in activities such as trekking, horseback riding, rafting, zip lining and excursions to Volcán Mocho Choshuenco, where it even has a small mountain and ski resort. It also has a Volcano Museum and a microbrewery. Returning to Route CH-203, after another kilometer you will reach **Neltume**, a small mountain town that was born as a logging camp in the late 19th century. It has a privileged location in the Río Fuy Valley and, thanks to its proximity to Huilo



Crafts of Liqueñe and Neltume

Huilo, its tourism sector has seen an incipient development over recent years, with diverse cabins, hostels and campgrounds emerging. It is a town of woodwork craftspeople, who have made the attractive sculptures of coigüe logs, that decorate the village. It has a large park called "Raíces del Neltume" that has diverse facilities, such as a playground, tourist information booths and stalls selling honey and jams.

Another interesting feature of Neltume is its unique political and guerrilla history, dating back to the 1980s, when the Augusto Pinochet's military government privatized the old timber plantation that the Salvador Allende government had brought together under a single state company years before.

At the time, residents of Neltume created a guerrilla cell aimed



Panguipulli - Puerto Fuy Route



Lago Panguipulli Viewpoint

at overthrowing the regime but they were killed by Army Black Berets and intelligence agencies. A monolith in town recalls these fallen combatants and there is also the **Neltume Museum and Memory**, which tells this story.

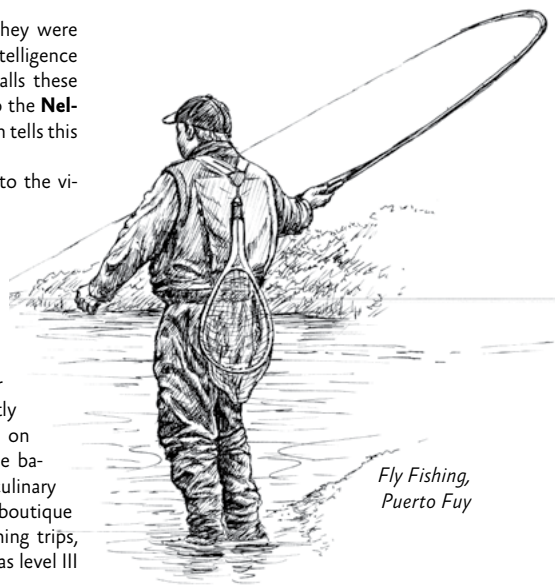
Past Neltume, in 6 km you come to the village of **Puerto Fuy**, at the north end of the beautiful **Lago Pirehueico**, surrounded by native forests with species such as coigüe, mañío, notro and ulmo, which grow up to the edge (a feature that other lakes in the region, such as Calafquén or Panguipulli, do not have: you mostly see pines and eucalyptus growing on their shores). Puerto Fuy has some basic options accommodation and culinary options, as well as a sophisticated boutique hotel. The region's strength is fishing trips, rafting and kayaking, as the river has level III and IV rapids.

From Puerto Fuy you can cross to Argentina via the **Hua Hum Pass**, which means taking the ferry across Lago Pirehueico to the tiny village of Puerto Pirehueico, on the eastern shore of the lake, where barely a dozen people live. It is without doubt one of Chile's most beautiful border crossings and also remains open all year long, regardless of the weather conditions. The ferry trip takes an hour and a half and is certainly an unmissable experience. *More information at www.barcazahuahum.com*

5 From Panguipulli to the Mocho Choshuenco National Reserve

This is an alternative to Route 4 and follows the Same Route CH-203 along the north shore of Lago Panguipulli.

The difference with Route 4 is that, once you have passed the bridge over Río Llan-



Fly Fishing, Puerto Fuy

quihue, instead of continuing on to Puerto Fuy, you have to follow the sign to the right, which leads to **Choshuenco**, a small and beautiful town surrounded by well-kept cattle ranches. It is 47 km from Panguipulli to Choshuenco.

Very busy in the summer because of its beaches, Choshuenco has a good supply of accommodation, restaurants, and excursions to the surrounding areas, especially for sport fishing. Once the point of departure for the lumber that came from the inner valleys and was taken to Panguipulli, Choshuenco still preserves a valuable witness of that era: the beached historic steam ship Enco, showing clear signs of deterioration as it awaits a conservation project. Its story is comparable to the famous story of Fitzcarraldo, but in southern Chile. Built in a metallic structure in 1908 in Bremen, Germany, it served the German Navy during World War One. The Chilean company Transandina bought it in 1940 and brought it to Valdivia, from where it was taken to Riñihue by rail, divided into three parts (which were later reassembled). It worked as a lumber freighter on Lago Ri-



Lago Riñihue from the Mocho Choshuenco National Reserve



Beach and steam ship Enco, Choshuenco

ñihue for 10 years and in 1950 was bought by another company and moved to Lago Panguipulli. This task was a herculean feat, as it not only required waiting for the Río Enco, which connects the two lakes, to flood to its maximum height, but also then dragging it 3 km across land following a trail through the woods, as there were no roads at the time.

In fact, after the Panguipulli-Neltume road was built, demand for the ship's service declined so much that it ended up making minor trips and finally shut its boilers down in 1986.

A road leaves Choshuenco to the south and follows the course of the Río Enco, the runoff of Lago Panguipulli, for 15 km. It is a winding road flanked by forests, which offers nice views of Volcán Mocho Choshuenco, though unfortunately it does not reach the east shore of Lago Riñihue. Two kilometers before the end of this road is the turnoff that leads to the volcano, the largest landmark in the **Mocho Choshuenco National Reserve**, with a surface area of 7,357 ha. It can be traveled by any vehicle as far as kilometer 4, where there are views of Lago Riñihue. However, if you want to go any further it is recommended

you do so in a four-wheel drive vehicle.

In another five kilometers you come to the Río Blanco and a hanging bridge that leads to the reserve's administration.

6 From Panguipulli to Futrono

This is the connection between the Sietelagos Circuit and the Lago Ranco Circuit. While there are several alternatives, one possibility for doing this one is to leave Panguipulli and take Route T-39 toward the Lago Riñihue runoff (see description of Route 2).

Upon arriving at the hamlet of Ñancul, you have to follow the turn to the right, which heads toward Dollinco. Following Route T-39 (in the direction of the city of Los Lagos, on Route 5 South), at kilometer 37, in the Quinchilca sector, the road connects with Route T-45 to the left, which leads to the town of Folilco and the **town of Riñihue** on the east shore of this lake. The town has certain basic services, accommodation and places to eat and is a base for going horse-back riding, sport fishing and for engaging in water sports. There is a dirt road that flanks Lago Riñihue for about 30 km. It is impossible to go any further.

If you don't take the exit the town of Riñihue, the other option is to pass Quinchilca and, before reaching Los Lagos, turn to the left (south) along Route T-55, which in another 60 km will take you to the city of Futrono and the next circuit in the Lakes & Volcanoes Scenic Route.



Sport fishing in Choshuenco



CIRCUIT

Lago Ranco

around the great lake and its islands

Lago Ranco

around the great lake and its islands

The adventure of completely circumnavigating Chile's third-largest lake is certainly a memorable experience: here you can discover some of the country's most exclusive lakeside resorts, beautiful cattle ranches, lush Valdivian forest, cliffs and viewpoints of islands, waterfalls and snow-capped mountains. All of this along a totally paved road that crosses villages and corners full of history referring to its rich railway heritage and the famous poet Pablo Neruda's passage through the region.

THE BASE: FUTRONO

From the north, the suggested entrance is the city of Futrono, which is 54.8 km southeast of Los Lagos, taking Route T-55 from Route 5 South. Futrono can also be reached from Reumén, a village south of Los Lagos, by taking Route T-625. Lastly, if you are coming down via the Lakes & Volcanoes Scenic Route, you can also reach Futrono by taking back roads from Panguipulli (as described in this guide).

From the south you can reach this circuit from the city of Rio Bueno, which is 38.2 km north of Osorno on Route 5 South. From Rio Bueno take Route T-85, which leads to the town of Lago Ranco on the lake's southeast shore.



Futrono-Llifén Route

SUGGESTED ROUTES, FROM FUTRONO

From Futrono to Llifén

Distance: 20 kilometers
Surface: Paved

From Llifén to Lago Maihue and Chihuío hot springs

Distance: 41 kilometers
Surface: Pavement and gravel

From Llifén to the town of Lago Ranco

Distance: 46 kilometers
Surface: Paved

From the town of Lago Ranco to Puerto Nuevo and Futrono

Distance: 53 kilometers
Surface: Paved

From Futrono to Lago Puyehue

Distance: 114 kilometers
Surface: Paved

Suggested route



Fishing in Río Calcurrupe

Unmissable attractions

LAGO RANCO

The heart of this circuit. Covering 442 km², with a depth of 199 meters and 13 islands, it is Chile's third-largest lake. It has two main settlements: Futrono, in the north, and Lago Ranco, in the south. Its shores are home to some of the region's most beautiful lakeside resorts, such as Bahía Coique.

ISLA HUAPI

Of Lago Ranco's 13 islands, Huapi with its 800 hectares is one of the few inhabited islands in the lakes of southern Chile, with around 900 inhabitants. It can be reached by ferry from Futrono every day, in a trip that allows you to interact with the Huilliche community, dedicated to diverse agricultural activities and which has developed interesting ethnic tourism products. The island can be explored by foot, on horseback or by cart.

HANDICRAFTS OF FUTRONO

The tourism hub of Lago Ranco's north shore, with a wide variety of services available, the city of Futrono also stands out for its fine craftwork, mostly wool and wood. The summer fairs in particular offer the greatest variety of these products.

FUTANGUE PARK

On the southeast shore of Lago Ranco, 42 km from Futrono, is this private 13,500 hectare park immersed in Valdivian forest, which protects sites such as the Laguna Pichi, a favorite spot for fly-fishing. It offers accommodation, very well-marked hiking trails, horseback riding and kayaking, among other activities.

LLIFÉN AND CHIHIUÍO HOT SPRINGS

Volcanoes are also present in the area - among them the Caille Range and the Carrán-Los Venados network - which explains the existence of several hot springs, such as Llifén, in the town by the same name, on the eastern shore of Lago Ranco; and the far more rustic Chihuío Hot Springs, near Lago Maihue.

LAGO MAIHUE

This is the other lake on this circuit. With an elongated shape and a surface area of 49 km², its north shore is flanked by hills covered in forests, while on the south side cliffs alternate with pastures that reach up to the shore. The Maqueo beach on the northeastern shore is one of the most beautiful in the region.

THE NERUDA ROUTE

This is a tourism project based on the "passage to freedom" of the great Chilean poet Pablo Neruda, who was forced to flee Chile in 1940 after the so-called Defense of Democracy Act was passed, banning the Communist Party. He made his escape from Futrono and headed to Lago Maihue, Chihuío and the Iilpela Pass, combining all possible means of transport. Today some of the operators in the region have incorporated elements of that story, pointing out the places where Neruda stayed or in the form of culinary preparations that are reminiscent of the poet's tastes.

CHIRRE BRIDGE

Located in the region where this circuit connects with the next one, 12 km from the village of Mantilhue, is an impressive piece of architecture built in 1925 to connect the cities of Rio Bueno and Entre Lagos to the railway network. Declared a National Monument in 2017, it is considered one of the highest bridges in Chile, at 104 meters.

The circuit

Lago Ranco is part of a system of Andean lakes of glacial origin. Its waters come from an extensive water basin that is born mainly on Andean slopes and peaks, fed by its main rivers: Nilahue, Caunahue and Calcurrupe. The latter of these carries the waters of Lago Maihue, located further inland in the mountains. Lago Ranco ultimately drains into the sea via the turbulent Río Bueno, after a long journey across the central valley. The Ranco basin was inhabited since pre-Hispanic times by the Huilliche people, which in Mapudungun means “people of the south.” Their long-standing residence in the area, dating back at least 2,000 years, is expressed in the diverse and interesting place names that all of the towns and sectors of the lake have: Ranco, Llifén, Futrono, Rupumeica, Carrán and Riñinahue, among others (see dictionary on page 38).

This region began to develop in 1928, when the railway line between Cocule (La Unión) and Lago Ranco was built, an initiative of the first German colonists who settled in the region. Since then, the population has mostly been dedicated to timber extraction, which was not just transported via railway,

but also via steamships that would tow barges carrying lumber from different points to the town of Lago Ranco, where it would ultimately be loaded on a train and sent to the center and south of the country.

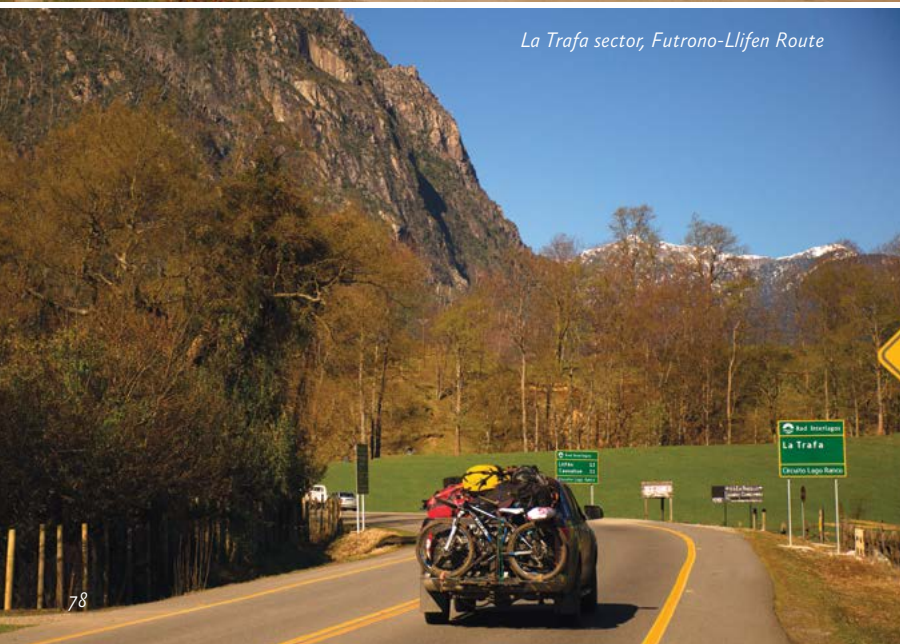
THE BASE: FUTRONO

Located on the north shore of Lago Ranco, it is the tourism hub for visiting the entire basin. Ancestral Mapuche territory and an old port for the shipment of wood products, today it is a picturesque town of about 14,000 inhabitants with a good variety of accommodation and restaurants, in addition to being renowned for the manufacture of designer furniture and various handicrafts in wool and wood, which are offered especially during the folk fairs of January and February. With a nice view of the lake, the daily ferry to Isla Huapi, inhabited by Huilliche communities, sails from here. The island's attractions include visits to the so-called Piedra Bruja (Witch's Rock), the caves of Weichafe and Cerro Tren Treng, among others. *More information at the Futrono Tourist Information Office, ph. (63) 248 2636.*



Lago Ranco viewpoint, entrance to Futrono

La Trafa sector, Futrono-Llifén Route



Suggested Routes

1 From Futrono to Llifén



In addition to the views, one of the nice things about the road around Lago Ranco is that it is completely paved. This first route is only 22 km long and offers diverse accesses to small beaches and detours to places that are worth a visit.

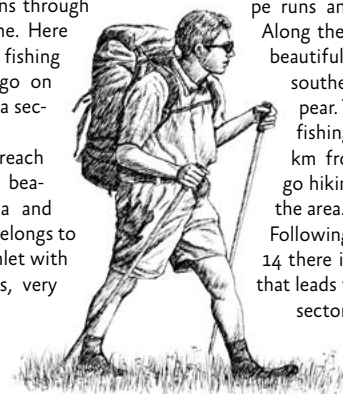
At kilometer 6 you come to the small bay of **Quimán**, with a narrow beach where a folk festival is held every February. Another kilometer later you get a nice view of the Viña Casa Silva vineyards, though it does not offer tourist services. At kilometer 12 there is an exit that takes you to the **El Paraíso Hot Springs** (also known as Cerrillos) in 10 km. It has three individual tubs and an indoor swimming pool with thermal water based on sulfur, sodium and calcium. At kilometer 18 is the bridge over **Río Caunahue**, which runs through a narrow mountain ravine. Here you can engage in sport fishing for rainbow trout and go on walks along the banks in a sector known as Golfo Azul. At kilometer 22 you reach **Huequecura**, a beautiful beach with a camping area and kayak rental. The beach belongs to the town of **Llifén**, a hamlet with small shops and services, very quiet and rural. Llifén's attractions include **Playa Bonita**, a

beach with fine sands and ancient boldos that offer shade; and the **Llifén Hot Springs** (www.termasllifen.cl), which has three indoor swimming pools and one outdoor pool, accommodation, restaurant and spa with treatments such as mud therapy. All in the middle of well-kept green areas, surrounded by mountains and native forests.

2 From Llifén to Lago Maihue and Chihuío hot springs

While this route is an extension of the road around Lago Ranco, as it entails a detour there, it is nevertheless one of the circuit's unmissable attractions.

The route starts in Llifén, where you have to follow the sign to Lago Maihue, along the canyon where the Río Calcurrupe runs and the Chollinco Valley. Along the way, some of the most beautiful and best-kept fields of southern Chile begin to appear. There are some exclusive fishing lodges in Chollinco, 3 km from Llifén. You can also go hiking or horseback riding in the area. Following this road, at kilometer 14 there is a turn off to the right that leads to the **Puerto los Llollés** sector where the runoff of Lago Maihue is.



Río Calcurrupe and Lago Ranco



If you don't take the detour, the route continues and crosses the bridges over the rivers Curringue and Blanco. The pavement ends here and the route continues along a gravel road that leads to the small village of **Curriñe** (kilometer 27). Here you will find a fork in the road: the road to the left is rougher and leads to the **Chihuío Hot Springs**, passing the village of Chabranco first, whose residents live scattered among the steep slopes of the hills. Surrounded by native vegetation, the Chihuío Hot Springs has five cabins with wood tubs made of logs and two swimming pools. A visit to the source of the thermal waters is recommended, located on the hill and where the water emerges at 82 degrees Celsius. There are a couple of cabins in the vicinity.

Returning to Curriñe, the other alternative at the fork leads to the north short of Lago of Maihue, which covers 4,600 ha and is surrounded by hills covered in forests. Ideal for sport fishing, this lake welcomed Pablo Neruda and facilitated his escape in 1940, as he fled to Argentina.

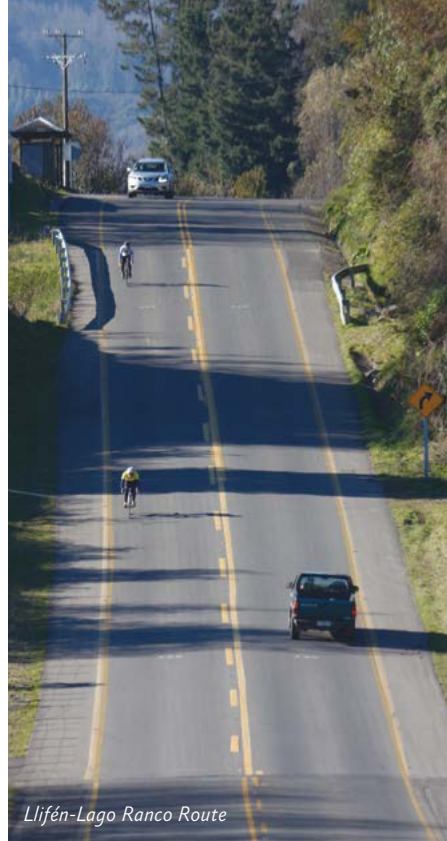
Continuing along the road that skirts the lake toward the mountains, with a beautiful views, in 4 km you reach the beautiful **Maqueo beach**, with its fine sands. A folk festival is held here in early February, with traditional foods and loom-woven crafts. In Maqueo you can find products made with maqui, a local fruit.

Here you will also find ferry to **Rupumeica**, a beautiful sector at the far south end of the lake with a beautiful beach accessed through the woods and where there is a Huilliche community dedicated to agriculture. There is a campground on the south bank of Río Hueinahue. From here you can take a ferry connecting the different communities on the lake. West of the community of Rupumeica is Volcán Carrán, which is part of a broad and little known volcanic system known as Carrán-Los Venados and comprising approximately 70 eruptive centers, where the Riñinahue *maar* (347 m), a ring-shaped volcanic crater, the Carrán maar crater (276 m) and Volcán Mirador (700 m) stand out, with their most recent eruptions in 1907, 1955 and 1979, respectively.

B From Llifén to the town of Lago Ranco



This section begins to close the road around Lago Ranco and is one of the most attractive parts because of its imposing landscapes and the various attractions and activities for visitors. There are also numerous viewpoints on the side of the road along the way.



Llifén-Lago Ranco Route



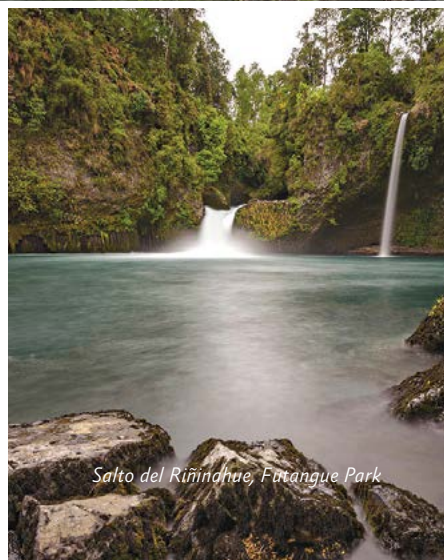
Lago Maihue



Salto del Nilahue

Heading south out of Llifén and passing the hot springs, you come to the **Río Calcurrupe** in 3 kilometers, a place renowned for its sport fishing, in particular fly fishing. You can take a boat down the river and cast your lines from there. There is also a trail that leads to three viewpoints of the lake and its islands.

A road to the left takes you to **Auquinco** a small hamlet nestled amid towering rock walls where these services are offered. Continuing to the south, the road follows the edge of Laguna Verde and then descends through the broad Río Nilahue Valley. The next landmark is at kilometer 13, just before the bridge, where there is an improvised viewpoint over the cliff to admire the **Salto del Nilahue**, a spectacular waterfall



Salto del Riñinahue, Fatangue Park

with two consecutive falls.

The place it stands out for its basalt walls eroded by water and its wild forests, with species such as coigüe, oak and boldo, among others.

Past the bridge, a right turn takes you to the Illahuapi peninsula, passing the well-kept fields of local families. A rural road takes you to the **Arenales beach**, with about 800 meters of dark volcanic sands. There is a campground at far south end. The place stands out for its mountain cypresses, a local conifer.

If you don't go to the peninsula and continue along the main road, the next milestone is the village of **Riñinahue**. From there a 35 km gravel road leads to the village of Rupumeica Alto and then to the **Ojos del**

Wool products
from Lago
Ranco



4 From the town of Lago Ranco to Puerto Nuevo and Futrono



This stretch, which completes the road around Lago Ranco, crosses the lake's runoff, also the source of the great Río Bueno, crossing orderly farms and cattle pastures.

Huishue, the most attractive of all of the waterfalls in the Lago Ranco basin.

This is where Lago Huishue drains underground, springing from the sides of a hill. Its waters fall about 15 meters. You have to pay an entrance fee. Guided tours are offered in Riñinahue.

The Riñinahue Bridge is at kilometer 21. To the right, a 2 km detour takes you to **Salto de Riñinahue**, two waterfalls with different sources.

If you continue, at kilometer 22 there is a turn to the left that leads to the entrance to the **Futangue Park** (www.parquefutangue.com), a tremendous private conservation area covering 13,500 hectares that has become one of the area's biggest tourist attractions. It offers accommodation, diverse trails with excellent signage that lead to viewpoints, lakes for fishing and activities like kayaking, mountain biking and rock climbing, all in surrounded by lush native forests.

Past Riñinahue, the road follows the southern shore of Lago Ranco and has four viewpoints with ample parking, all well marked. The **Pollaihue viewpoint** allows you to climb down to a small rock beach. For their part, the **Los Mellizos** and **Illahuapi viewpoints** offer spectacular panoramic views of the lake, especially the Illahuapi peninsula. Lastly, the **Pitreño viewpoint** offers a broad view of the lake and the cliffs and mountains that surround it. It also has picnic tables and a tourist map of the area.

This route ends in the town of Lago Ranco.

It starts in the town of Lago Ranco. Founded in 1930, after the state bought 50 ha, this town was born with the purpose of installing a railway terminal that would allow the lumber that arrived from the lake's different ports to be freighted out. In 1947 activity on the lake reached a peak, with several steam ships plying its waters vapors with lumber and passengers. Today Lago Ranco has several hotels, bed and breakfasts and houses for rent. It has two good beaches, a marina and a modern and beautiful waterfront where there is a crafts fair offering diverse local products, such as woven goods, woodcrafts, and traditional jams.

One of the attractions to visit in Lago Ranco is the **Tringlo Museum**, with an important collection of Mapuche-Huilliche red pottery. The tours are guided (*call the municipality at ph. 63 / 249 1348*). There is also the **Alfonso Brandt Park**, which is reached by following a 3-km gravel road. Surrounded by native forest, the park has a trail leading to a viewpoint from atop a rock known as **Piedra Mesa**, which has the best panoramic view of the lake and its 13 islands.

Leaving behind the town of Lago Ranco along the waterfront, the road reaches the Quillaco junction (kilometer 6). Turning right and heading in the direction of Puerto Lapi, in another 4 km you reach the **Quillin Forests**, a small but spectacular 300-year-old piece of native forest that has been declared a Natural Reserve where ancient olivillos grow. It has a small pedestrian walkway that allows this unique relict to be admired.

The next landmark comes at kilometer 14: a



Cycle tourism in Lago Ranco

comfortable viewpoint with ample parking that faces the **Lago Ranco runoff**, which is the source of the Río Bueno. It is right before the new bridge that replaced the raft in **Puerto Lapi**, which was used to cross the river until 2016. The raft was towed across by hand, one of the last totally manual ones used to cross the big rivers in areas without bridges. Several adventure tourism companies offer rafting down the Río Bueno, starting from the lake itself.

The bridge is at kilometer 20. You hit the road from La Unión in another kilometer. Turn right there and continue to the village of **Puerto Nuevo**. The road is surrounded by fruit tree orchards. There are a number of hotels in the area, as well as fishing services.

After Puerto Nuevo the road moves away from the lake a bit, though always crossing well-tended farmland. Lakeside accommodation and agro-tourism options appear every now and then along the way. You reach **Bahía Coique** 19 km after leaving Puerto Nuevo, an old dairy estate with a German-influenced rural architecture. At the edge of a broad bay with the best beach on Lago Ranco with its fine white sand, this beach is perfect for water sports. There is a luxury resort and real estate development offering a variety of accommodation options, a restaurant and even a golf course. Finally, in another 10 km you reach Futrono, thus completing the great road around Lago Ranco and its islands.



Kayaking on Lago Ranco



Source of the Río Bueno, Lago Ranco

5 From Futrono to Lago Puyehue, via Crucero

This route is your connection to the next circuit in the Lakes & Volcanoes Scenic Route: Norpatagonia.

Starting from Futrono, head south, past Puerto Nuevo, as far as the town of Lago Ranco. Go to Quillaco and at the junction turn left toward **Trapi** and **Crucero**. In the latter of these, an old train station with a town that was built along the length of the rails, you can take Route T-941 south toward Entre Lagos. With very little traffic, this road follows the old railroad tracks and crosses two bridges.

The most important one is the narrow **bridge over Río Chirre**, where the

train used to run. Built in 1925, it was recently declared a National Monument and is considered one of the highest bridges in Chile. Its great arches are truly impressive, just as incredible as those of the famous Malleco Viaduct. Rappelling is one of the activities that a local adventure tourism company based in Puerto Nuevo offers on the bridge.

Another 8 km after crossing the bridge is a turn to the left that takes you to the hamlet of **Mantihue**, on the north shore of Lago Puyehue. The best public beach on the lake is to be found here, with a sweeping view of the volcanoes Osorno and Puntia-gudo. There are different accommodation and camping options, in addition to rural tourism, which is especially active in the summer. Returning to the main road, in another 4 km you finally reach the city of Entre Lagos, at the start of the next circuit in the guide.

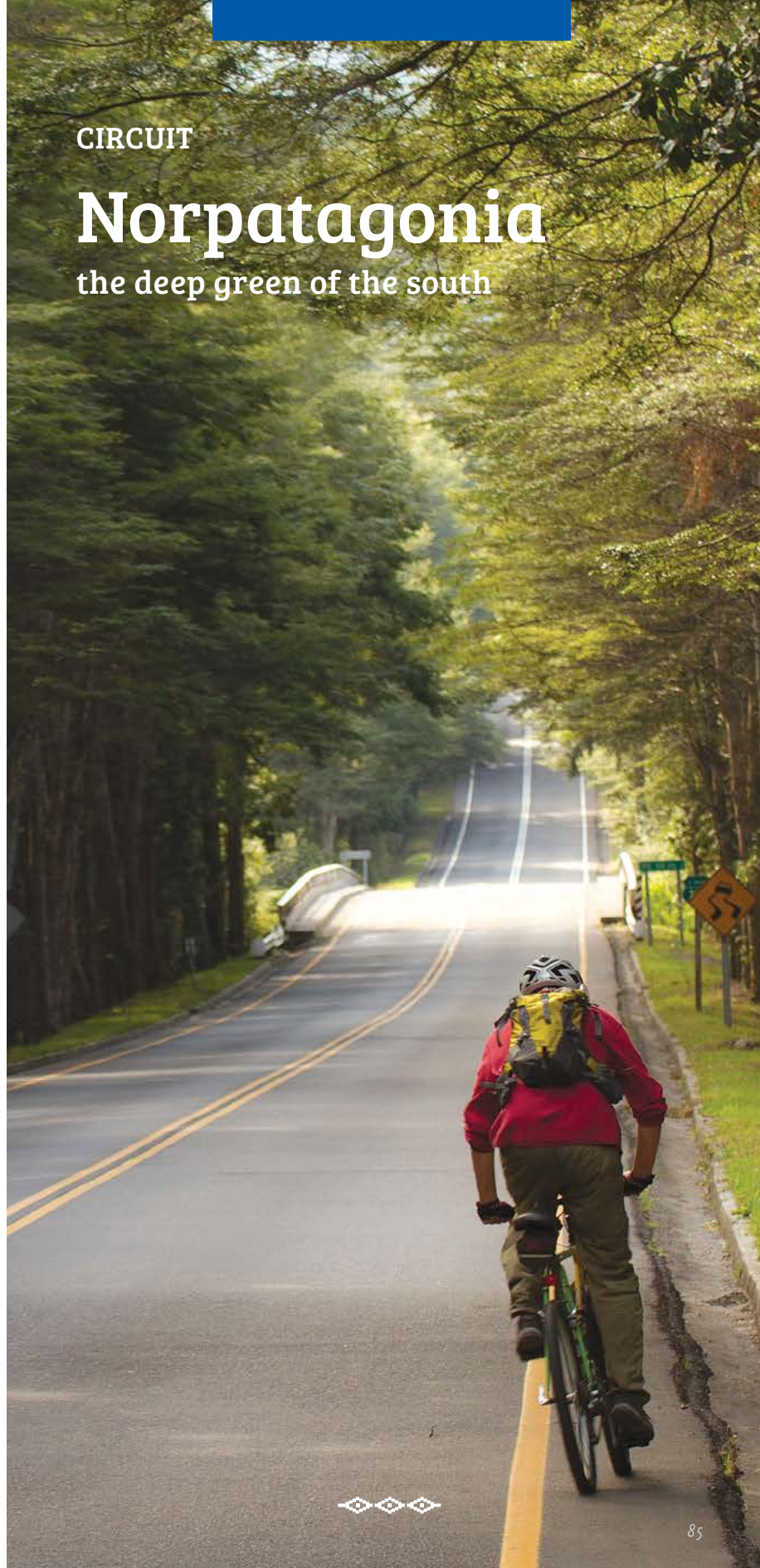


Chirre Bridge, National Monument.

CIRCUIT

Norpatagonia

the deep green of the south



Norpatagonia

the deep green of the south

The big stars of the shortest and narrowest circuit in the Lakes & Volcanoes Scenic Route are the Puyehue National Park and the lake by the same name. The main tourist attractions and services in the area are concentrated around them and include hot springs, ski resorts, lush evergreen forests and recently active volcanoes - such as the Puyehue-Caulle range system - as well as amazing trekking trails that have been rated as among the wildest in Chile. The route is also one of the main points of connection with Bariloche, Argentina, through the spectacular Cardenal Samoré Pass.

THE BASE: ENTRE LAGOS

The small town of Entre Lagos is the base for getting your bearings on this circuit. It is located 48.3 km east of Osorno on the international highway, Route CH-215. Its two main "arms" branch out from there along the shores of Lago Puyehue and Lago Rupanco, respectively, to the south.

If coming down via the Scenic Route, you reach Entre Lagos from Lago Ranco via Route T-941, which passes through the village of Crucero and across the Río Chirre.

Crucero-Entre Lagos Route

SUGGESTED ROUTES, FROM ENTRE LAGOS

RS From Entre Lagos to the Cardenal Samoré Pass, via the sector of Anticura

Distance: 73 kilometers
Surface: Paved

● From Entre Lagos to Lago Rupanco and the Las Gaviotas area

Distance: 62 kilometers
Surface: Pavement and gravel

● From Entre Lagos to the hot springs and Antillanca ski resort

Distance: 49 kilometers
Surface: Pavement and gravel

RS From Entre Lagos to Puerto Octay, via Route U-775

Distance: 60 kilometers
Surface: Paved

RS Suggested route

Sport Fishing



Unmissable attractions

LAGO PUYEHUE

Covering almost 16,000 hectares, its name in Mapudungun ("place of puyes") refers to the abundance of these small fish that live in shoals in Chile's southern rivers and lakes. With a deep blue and surrounded by forests, curiously enough it does not have many beach areas except places like Mantihue, on the north shore. The island of Cui Cui, covered in forests, stands out.

PUYEHUE NATIONAL PARK

The big star of the region. Created in 1941, it covers 107,000 ha and is part of the Southern Andes Temperate Rainforest Biosphere Preserve, thanks to its lush evergreen forest, with species such as coigüe, mañío, lenga, tepa and ulmo. The park has three sectors: Aguas Calientes, which is where the hot springs are: Antillanca, with a traditional ski resort, and Anticura, based on outdoor activities.

ANTICURA SECTOR

A separate unmissable attraction in the far eastern end of the Puyehue National Park. This is where the main services to explore this natural area are concentrated, with cabins, campgrounds, a store, restaurant and active tourism activities. Diverse well-marked trails start here and lead to beautiful waterfalls and viewpoints. The longest one (22 km) is the one to Pampa Frutilla, one of the most beautiful trekking and wildest trekking trails in Chile.

ANTILLANCA SKI RESORT

Located on the slopes of Volcán Casablanca, this traditional ski resort stands out for its forests of lenga, ñirres, myrtles, nalcas and ferns. Its ski slopes offer views of the lakes Puyehue and Ranco, in addition to having to the volcanoes Calbuco, Puntagudo and Tronador. There are also randonée and snowshoe excursions to the Raihuén crater.

LAGO RUPANCO

Much less known and quieter than Puyehue, this beautiful 23,000-hectare lake is at the foot of Volcán Puntagudo (2,493 m), which owes its name to its characteristic pointy shape and which is quite a challenge within the national mountaineering options thanks to its steep slopes. Surrounded by fields and estates, the south shore has private summer homes and a few lodges offering activities such as fishing and hiking.

HOT SPRINGS

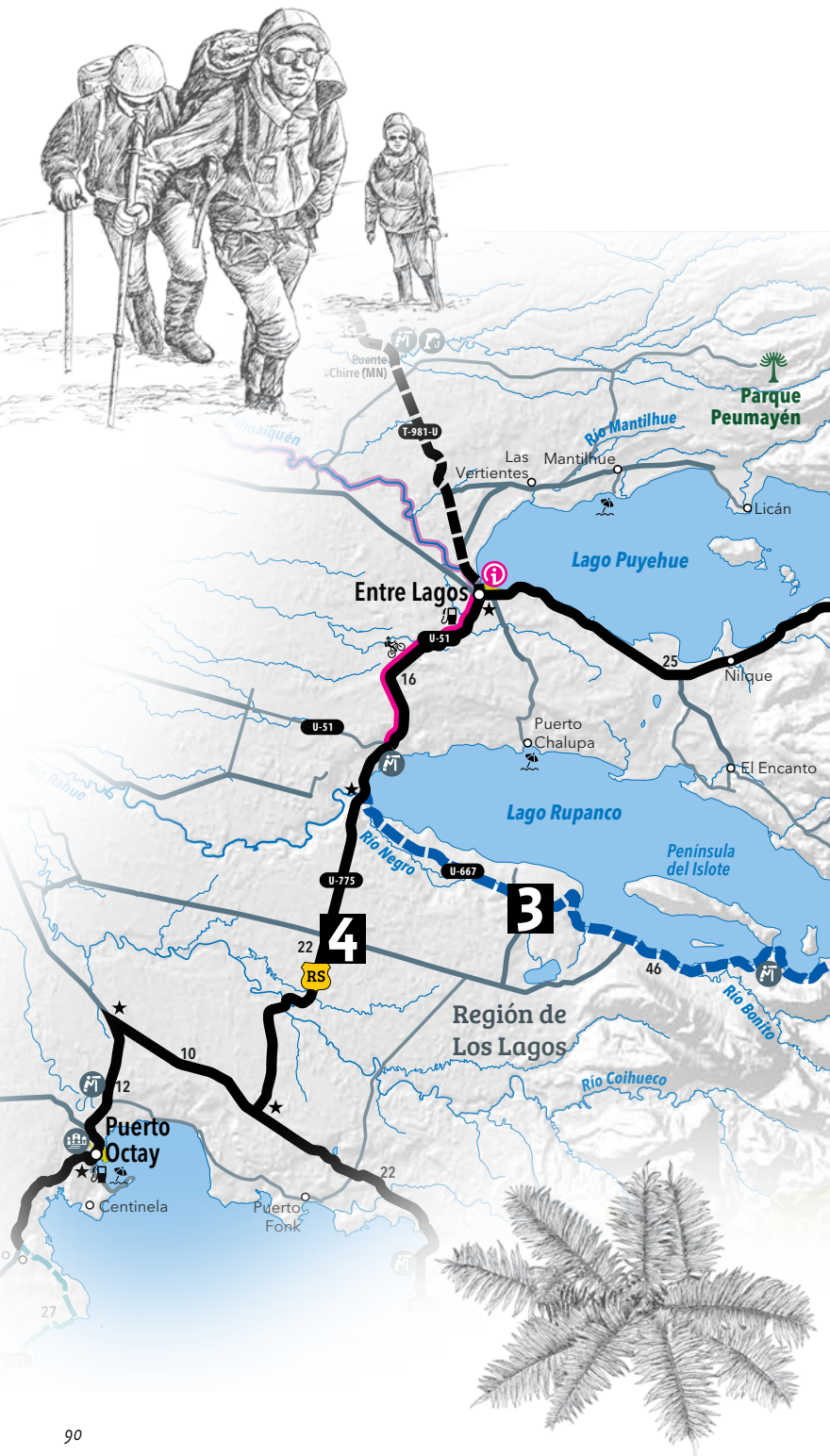
As in all of southern Chile, there is also significant volcanic activity, with very recent eruptions. Thus, there are several hot springs, ranging from the exclusive Hotel Termas de Puyehue to the more family-oriented hot springs of Aguas Calientes, in the same sector. There are also natural hot springs on the southeast shore of Lago Rupanco, which emerge when you dig a hole in the sand.

MONCOPULLI CAR MUSEUM

Located 25 km from Osorno along the international road Route CH-215, or 21 km from Entre Lagos to the west, this is one of the highly recommended alternative attractions on this circuit. It is home to the largest collection of Studebaker cars in the world outside of the United States, which were brought here by their owner, an old dairy entrepreneur from the region, who turned this place into an exciting journey into the past. It also has other legendary models, such as Ford Mustangs and "Citronetas" (Citroen 2CV).

Map - Norpatagonia Circuit

- 1 From Entre Lagos to the Cardenal Samoré Pass, via the sector of Anticura
- 2 From Entre Lagos to the hot springs and Antillanca ski resort
- 3 From Entre Lagos to Lago Rupanco and the Las Gaviotas area
- 4 From Entre Lagos to Puerto Octay, via Route U-775



The circuit

The Norpatagonia Circuit covers a territory formed by two major water basins: Lago Puyehue to the north and Lago Rupanco to the south.

The silhouettes of the volcanoes Puyehue and Puntiagudo stand out in this beautiful Andean landscape, with their foothills co-

vered in typical Valdivian forest.

To the west, the end of this circuit is in the town of Entre Lagos; in the east the Andean sectors bordering Argentina in the Puyehue National Park. The northern border is the north shore of Lago Puyehue, while it is the start of Lago Llanquihue in the south.

THE BASE: ENTRE LAGOS

An old lumber port and services town, this is where the railway that took the production from Lago Puyehue and Lago Rupanco out; hence the name "Entre Lagos" (Between Lakes).

It currently has all the basic supply services, some accommodation and restaurants, making it the logical base for exploring this entire region, thanks to its strategic location on the west end of Lago Puyehue, alongside the international road to Argentina.

Suggested routes

1 From Entre Lagos to the Cardenal Samoré Pass, via the Anticura sector

RS

This is an easy route to cover: the idea is to head toward the Argentine border along the international road Route CH-215, following the south shore of Lago Puyehue.

Before starting on this tour, here is another suggestion: take Route CH-215, but to the west, in the direction of Osorno. The objective? Getting to know the surprising **Moncopulli Car Museum**, which is just 25 km away. Founded in 1995, this museum has the largest Studebaker collection in South America, along with other vehicles, which form a total collection of around 140 cars. There is also an exhibit of cameras and diverse period items like radios, washing machines and toys. A veritable journey to the past (www.moncopulli.cl).

After this visit, the time has come to get into

the Norpatagonia Circuit proper. From Entre Lagos the road heads into the mountains and as it does so it offers views of **Lago Puyehue**, with its beaches, soft rolling hills and peninsulas that stick out into the water. There are a variety of different tourism businesses and summer homes along the road. Covering 157 hectares, Lago Puyehue is of moraine glacial lake that was formed about 10,000 years ago after the undermining and creation of valleys by caused by ice descending from the mountains. The Spanish conquistador Francisco de Villagra saw the lake for the first time in 1553. There is little information on the Mapuche population in the region, though everything suggests that this area was always scantily populated. The first settlers only arrived in around 1900, when the exploitation of the area's forests for timber production began.

A kilometer after Entre Lagos is a road to the right that takes you to the sector of **Puerto Chalupa**, very rural, on the north shore of Lago Rupanco, where there are holiday homes and the houses of local re-

sidents. There is a small beach, suitable for fishing. Another 12 km along the road is another detour, this time to the left, which in 3 km takes you to the sector of Las Juntas, one of the peninsulas of Lago Puyehue, where there is a tourism project with cabins and an eco-lodge.

Returning to the international road, a third crossing appears 25,8 km from Entre Lagos near the village of Futacullín. This is Route U-475, which leads to the **Bahía El Encanto** development on the north shore of Lago Rupanco, where there is also tourist accommodation, a small village and even a church. Pay attention to the spectacular view of the lake with Volcán Puntiagudo in the background. Returning to the original road, now close to the end of Lago Puyehue, the road follows a cliff that offers beautiful sweeping views

of the Río Gol-Gol valley, which descends from the mountains of the National Park; of Volcán Puyehue and of the lake, where you can see the green island of Cui Cui.

The next milestone is 28,5 km from Entre Lagos. There is a fork in the road there: a turn to the right takes you to the **Hotel Termas de Puyehue, Aguas Calientes and the Antillanca Ski Resort** (the route is described in the next section). But if you continue straight, toward the border, you reach the Anticura sector of the Puyehue National Park at kilometer 45, an operations center for outdoor excursions with accommodation, camping, a store and active tourism activities (www.anticura.com).

Ideal for families, from here you can take short, medium-length and long trails that allow you to enjoy the Valdivian forest, its flora and fauna and its beautiful waterfalls. The simplest ones include the trail to the **Salto del Indio** (30 minutes round trip), where the white waters of the Río Gol-Gol descend along black rock basalt rock slides; the **Salto de la Princesa** (25 minutes), which forms a beautiful natural pool carved into the rock and also has a beach of white pumice stone, product of eruption in the Caille Range; the **Salto del Pudú** (one hour), which leads to a



prairie where, if you're very lucky, it is possible to spot Chile's smallest deer, and the **El Puma Viewpoint Trail** (two hours), which crosses the Río Anticura via a hanging bridge. Longer expeditions are also organized from Anticura, such as the one to **Pampa Frutilla** (one or two days), a sector near the Argentine border and known by this name because wild strawberries grow there in the summer; or a recently developed route that allows you to explore the Caille Range, which has had recent eruptions. For logistical and safety reasons, these hikes must be made with the company of local guides who know the area. After passing Anticura, the international road continues to wind up through the forests and the mountains until a few lagoons suddenly emerge. **The Cardenal Samoré Pass**, which leads to Villa La Angostura and Bariloche, is at the end of this route. Fully paved, is one of the Chile's most photogenic border crossings and is operational all year long (*More information at ph. 64 / 231 1563; www.pasosfronterizos.gov.cl*).

2 From Entre Lagos to the hot springs and Antillanca ski resort

This route is a detour from the international road Route CH-215 that leads to the most important hot springs and ski resorts in the area.

You will see a turn off to the right 25 km after leaving Entre Lagos. This is where the **Hotel Termas de Puyehue**, an emblematic hot springs originally built in 1910, with luxury facilities, a large indoor pool, other outdoor pools, a spa, restaurant and diverse excursions through the region. The hotel operates with the all-inclusive system (www.puyehue.cl).

Past this facility, and continuing up this road to the right along a pavement for 4 km, surrounded by lush native vegetation, you reach the **Agua Calientes Hot Springs**, which operate on the banks of the Río Chanleufú, inside the Puyehue National Park (www.termasaguascalientes.cl). It is family-oriented, with an indoor pool and another one outdoors, with a view of the river and cabins, massage rooms and therapies, and excursion services like zip lining and hiking. Its waters emerge at 75 degrees Celsius and are then cooled down to 40 degrees.

From Agua Calientes you can take a number of trails of diverse extension, among which the **El Bertín Trail** (8 km; five hours round trip), which leads to the lake by the same name, the short **El Recodo Interpretive Trail** (380 meters) and the **Rápidos del Chanele-**



Salto del Indio, Puyehue National Park

fú Interpretive Trail (1.2 km, about 1 hour), which leads to the waterfalls and rapids of the river by the same name, stand out.

After passing Agua Calientes the road crosses one of the park's most beautiful areas, where the Laguna Espejo and the lakes El Encanto and El Toro stand out. In the end it leads to the traditional **Antillanca Ski resort**, which is open all year round. It has 20 slopes of varying difficulties on 500 hectares of skiable slopes on Volcán Casablanca, or Antillanca, (1,990 m), surrounded by native forests. There is a hotel with 167 rooms, apartments and a good supply of culinary and entertainment services (www.antillanca.cl). There are beautiful trails that start here, such as the one to **Cerro Mirador**, about 4 km uphill. In the summer, when there is no snow, part of these routes can be done by car, as far as the Gaviota viewpoint, located above the Raihuén crater, which was formed by an explosion at the foot of Volcán Casablanca.



Antillanca Ski Resort

Lago Rupanco runoff and source of Río Rahue.

3 From Entre Lagos to Lago Rupanco and the Las Gaviotas

This route runs amid farms along the south shore of Lago Rupanco, with impressive views of the lake and volcanoes. With a distinctively rural character, as you head to the east the lake begins to show its most amazing and almost unknown corners.

After leaving Entre Lagos, head south along route U-51, which after 16.5 km of pavement leads to the **bridge over Río Rahue**, the runoff of Lago Rupanco. This stretch has an excellent **bike path**, recently designed.

The lands of the 45,000 hectare Hacienda Coihueco (formerly Hacienda Rupanco) also start in this sector, located between the rivers Coihueco and Rahue. It runs along 45 km

of the lake's shore as far as the El Isote peninsula.

Covering 23,000 ha, **Lago Rupanco** is fed by the rivers Bonito and Gaviotas, the Nalcas estuary and the rivers Coihue, El Judío and El Refugio. Its intense blue waters reflect the volcanoes Puntiaquedo (2,493 m) and Osorno (2,652 m) and it is surrounded by trees like olivillos, lumas, myrtle, chilcas and ferns.



Volcán Puntiaquedo



Sport fishing in Lago Rupanco

As far as fauna is concerned, you can see emblematic birds like quetro ducks, taguas, kingfishers and cormorants, among others.

All in all it is an essentially quiet and rural place with far fewer tourists than Lago Puyehue. It is a place that is best known by locals and families who have spent years taking holidays in the area.

Along the south shore, a gravel road (Route U-667 and then Route U-675) follows the shore of Lago Rupanco from its runoff, the Río Rahue, to its far eastern end in the Las Gaviotas sector. A number of points of interest are passed along the way, such as **La Pellinada**, a beach surrounded by native forests where there is good fishing; the beautiful **Laguna Bonita**, flanked by forests; and the **Piedras Negras** sector, where there is a simple hostel, beach and provisions.

The lake's landscape becomes more spectacular from here on, as the mountains come up to the lakeside. The sector of the **El Isote Peninsula and Beach** is among the most beautiful places. The latter of these

has a hostel, restaurant, campgrounds and a boat launch ramp, surrounded by a beautiful natural environment.

The road continues to the far eastern end of the lake, through beautiful virgin natural landscapes. It then narrows considerably and further on there are breathtaking views of the **Salto del Calzoncillo**, on the opposite shore, which falls 280 in two stages from the plateau in a sheer drop. The snapshot is mandatory.

Finally, the road passes **Puerto El Poncho** and reaches the **Las Gaviotas** sector at the far eastern end of the lake, where a group of families, the descendants of Chilean settlers, offer rural tourism services. In addition, a trail connecting Antillanca with Lago Todos Los Santos to the south, in the Los Lagos Region, begins here, passing lagoons, alerce forests, the wild hot springs of El Callao and other places that tourists have not explored much. One stretch of it was part of the old Route of the Jesuits and, it is said, was used to search for the mythical City of the Caesars in the 17th and 18th centuries.



Zip-lining

4 From Entre Lagos to Puerto Octay, Via Route U-775

RS

This 57 km route connects the Norpatagonia Circuit with the southernmost part of the Scenic Route: the Lago Llanquihue Circuit.

From Entre Lagos, head south along route U-51, to the bridge over **Río Rahue**, the runoff of Lago Rupanco. Then continue along Route U-775, a gravel road in good conditions across traditional southern fields and rural landscapes.

The road connects with Route U-99-V, now paved, after crossing the bridge over **Río Coihueco**.

Turn right and continue as far as the junction with Route U-55-V. Turning left will finally take you to **Puerto Octay**, on the north shore of Lago Llanquihue.

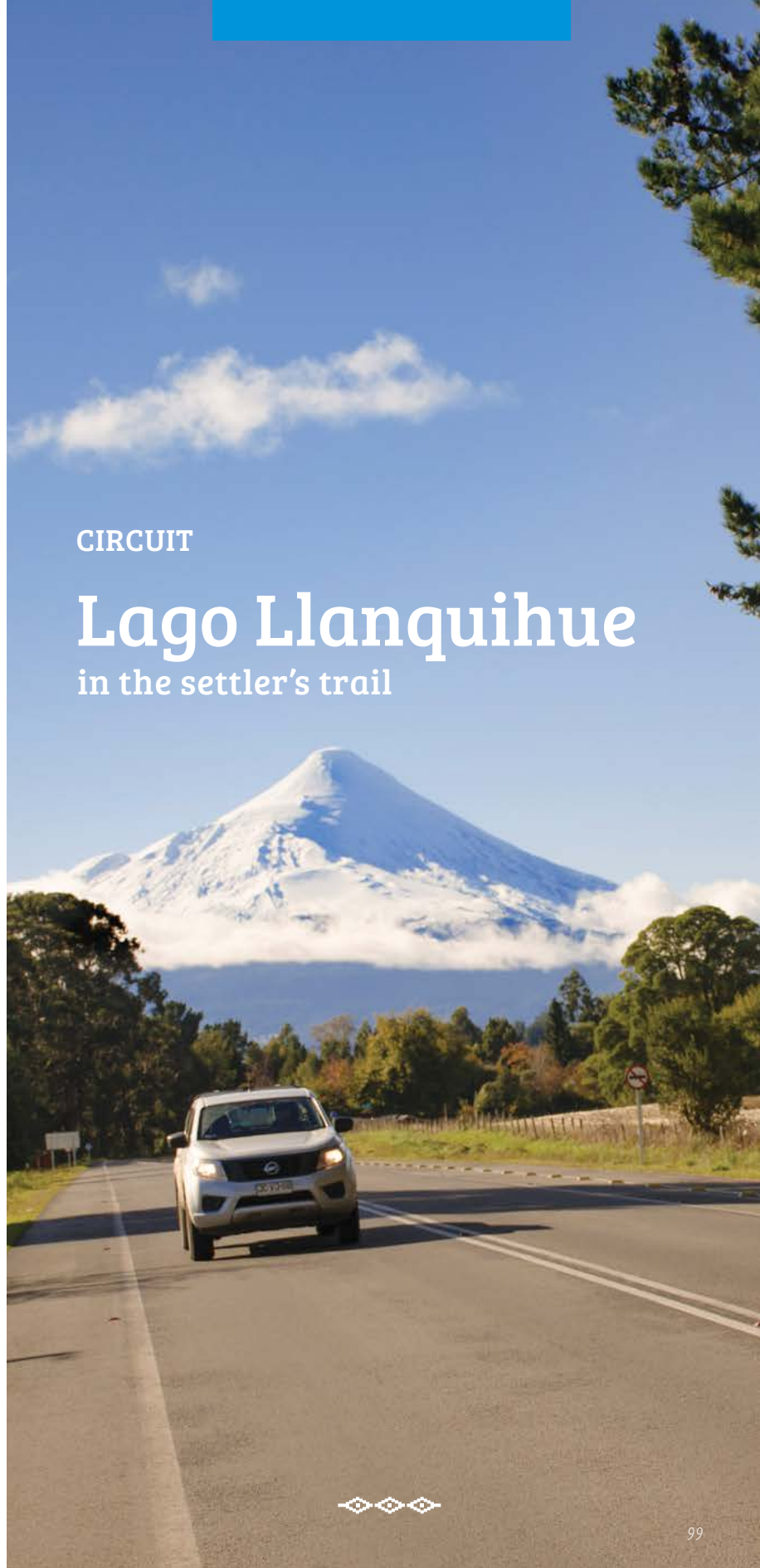


Culpeo Fox

CIRCUIT

Lago Llanquihue

in the settler's trail



Lago Llanquihue

in the settler's trail

Quite simply, the perfect finish to Lakes & Volcanoes Scenic Route. This is how you could describe this circuit, which completely surrounds the second-largest lake in Chile after Lago General Carrera in the Aysén Region. It is a tour that crosses some of the most beautiful landscapes in the south, overshadowed by the imposing volcanoes Osorno, Calbuco, Puntagudo and Tronador. Some of the biggest attractions are the Vicente Pérez Rosales National Park, the crystalline Río Petrohué, Lago Todos Los Santos and the country's longest bike lane, which runs around Lago Llanquihue. But its cities also stand out, especially Puerto Varas, with its heavy German influence and one of the cities with the strongest architectural identity in Chile, and Frutillar, which continues to win praise for the energetic cultural agenda it offers,

earning it the distinction of being named a UNESCO Creative City of Music.

THE BASE: PUERTO VARAS

Puerto Varas, the tourism capital of southern Chile, is the base for this circuit. It is just 22 km from Puerto Montt, where the airport is. With excellent tourist services, from here you can organize all of your outings through the Llanquihue basin. If you are coming from the north, the most direct way is to arrive via Route 5 South. If you have been following the Scenic Route, you can reach this circuit from the city of Entre Lagos. From there, Puerto Octay would be the closest town on the route, on the north shore of Lago Llanquihue.

SUGGESTED ROUTES, FROM PUERTO VARAS

RS *From Puerto Varas to Ensenada, Frutillar, Puerto Octay and Las Cascadas*

Distance: 134 kilometers
Surface: Paved

RS *From Puerto Varas to Peulla, via Ensenada and Lago Todos Los Santos*

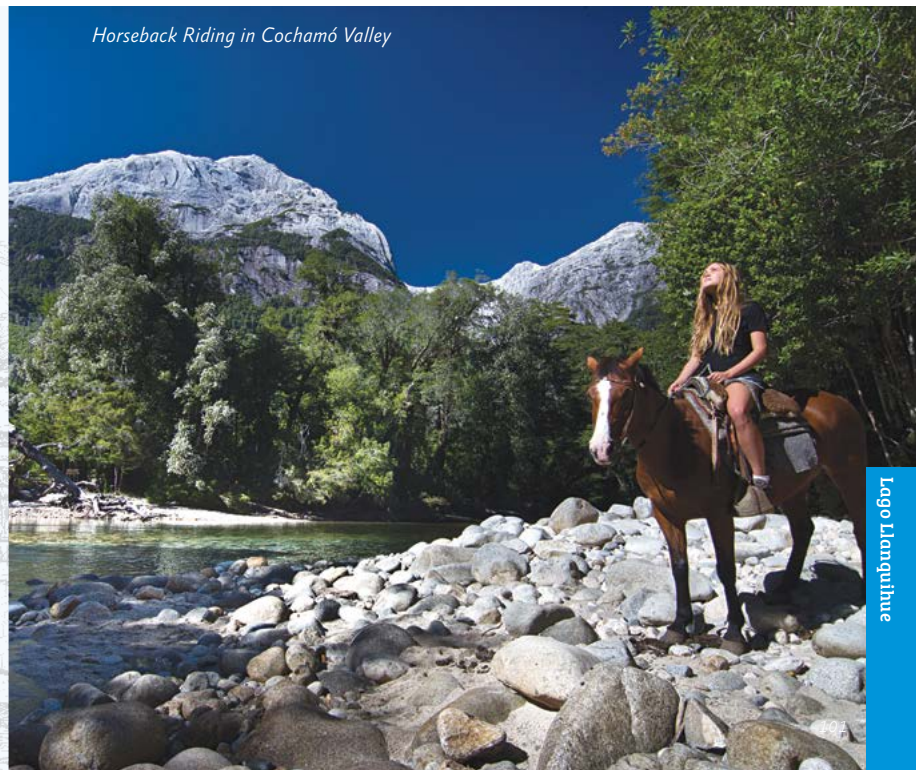
Distance: 65 kilometers
Surface: Pavement, gravel road and navigation.

RS *From Ensenada to Lago Tagua Tagua, via Cochamó*

Distance: 86 kilometers
Surface: Pavement and gravel

RS Suggested routes

Horseback Riding in Cochamó Valley



Unmissable attractions

PUERTO VARAS

On the shores of Lago Llanquihue, this is the tourism capital of southern Chile, along with Pucón, and one of the most beautiful cities in the country. Its architecture is a blend of German and Chilote influence, a sign of the settlement process that took place in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. It has a wide range of hotel infrastructure and restaurants - and in fact is considered to be the main gastronomic center in the south - in addition to offering excellent tourist services. Its waterfront is a postcard, with remarkable views of the lake and Volcán Osorno.

FRUTILLAR

Located 45 km from Puerto Varas on the east shore of Lago Llanquihue, this city stands out for its German-style architecture and the settlers' culinary heritage, who left famous traditional kuchen and jams recipes. Here you will also find the unmissable German Settlers' Museum, an exciting exhibit on the feat of settlement, in addition to the Teatro del Lago (Lakeside Theater), where the famous Frutillar Music Weeks are held every summer. Frutillar was named a UNESCO Creative City of Music in 2017.

Volcán Puntiaquedo

VICENTE PÉREZ ROSALES NATIONAL PARK

Chile's oldest park - founded in 1926 - and one of the most visited in the country, is 64 km from Puerto Varas. The biggest attractions are the waterfalls on the Río Petrohué and Lago Todos los Santos, where you can go trekking, mountain biking, kayaking, horseback riding and fishing, as well as engaging in other outdoor activities. This is an essential outing to be made from Puerto Varas.

VOLCÁN OSORNO

At 2,652 masl, its beautiful conical shape is an omnipresent figure throughout the Llanquihue basin. There are diverse trails that allow you to explore the foothills and even reach its summit, whose crater holds a glacier. There is also a small ski resort with slopes that allow you to ski with spectacular views of Lago Llanquihue.

PUERTO OCTAY

Declared a Traditional Zone in 2010, it is one of the most picturesque and best preserved towns in the Llanquihue basin. It is opposite the Centinela Peninsula, on the far northern end of the lake, and has beaches that are very busy in the summer. To walk its streets and admire its large houses is like taking a trip back to the early 1900s, when this was a port on Lago Llanquihue.

FLY FISHING

The Llanquihue basin with its nearby rivers and lakes are a paradise for lovers of sport fishing because of the abundance of trout and salmon. The most prominent rivers are the Maullín, in the town of Llanquihue; the crystalline Río Petrohué, in the vicinity of the Vicente Pérez Rosales National Park, and the Río Puelo, in the eastern part of this circuit. There is a wide range of lodges and tour operators to guide these excursions.

LLANQUIHUE BIKE LANE

This circuit includes Chile's longest bike lane, with 82 uninterrupted kilometers from Puerto Varas to Las Cascadas, on the southeast shore of Lago Llanquihue. In addition to this, there is a secondary stretch that connects Ensenada and Petrohué. Lago Llanquihue stands out for its "Bike Friendly" trademark.

RAFTING ON THE RÍO PETROHUÉ

Another of the star activities in the region. The Río Petrohué has level III rapids, suitable for all types of public. You can see four volcanoes on the descent: Osorno, Puntiaquedo, Calbuco and Yates. The starting point is in a sector between Ensenada and the road to Petrohué and it ends near Huiñe Huiñe, on the road to Ralún.

LAGO TODOS LOS SANTOS

The natural jewel of this circuit, it covers 175 km² and is surrounded by evergreen forests, with views of the snow-capped volcanoes Osorno, Puntiaquedo and Troador. With its emerald green waters, it is without doubt one of the most beautiful lakes in the country. Diverse boats offer tours of it from Petrohué.

COCHAMÓ VALLEY

Located 90 km from Puerto Varas along the road to the town by the same name, this spectacular valley has become one of the world's latest rock climbing paradises, thanks to its huge granite walls that reach up to 1,200 meters above sea level. A handful of lodges operate in the area and serve as a base for expeditions.

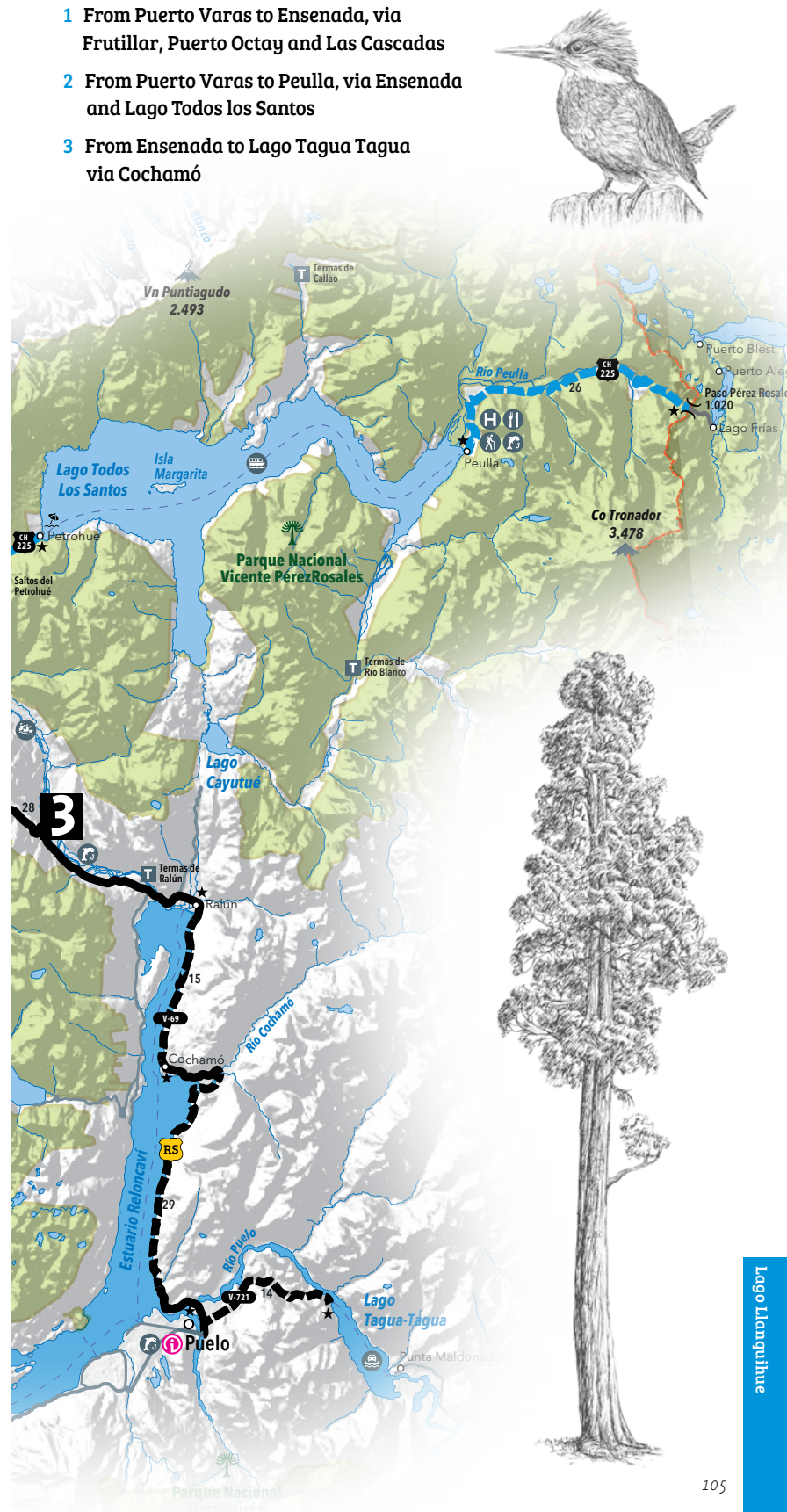
ANDEAN LAKES CROSSING

This route takes you from Puerto Varas to Bariloche, Argentina, via to so-called "lakes crossing." The route entails sailing across three lakes: Todos Los Santos, Lago Frías and Lago Nahuel Huapi, in addition to making some connections by land. This route passes through beautiful villages like Peulla and Puerto Frías and follows the same routes that the Jesuits used in the late 17th century in their attempt to evangelize the Puelche and Poya communities in the region. In fact, you make this entire trip by foot, crossing the Vuriloche pass, in a longer lasting adventure.



Map - Lago Llanquihue Circuit

- 1 From Puerto Varas to Ensenada, via Frutillar, Puerto Octay and Las Cascadas
- 2 From Puerto Varas to Peulla, via Ensenada and Lago Todos los Santos
- 3 From Ensenada to Lago Tagua Tagua via Cochamó



The circuit

This circuit takes you all the way around Lago Llanquihue, the second largest lake in Chile with a surface area of 87,000 hectares. Its landscapes present some of the most famous postcards in the country, especially thanks to the imposing Volcán Osorno (2,652 m), whose conical shape appears to emerge directly from the lake's very waters. It is also surrounded by the intense green of the southern forest, especially in the eastern sector, where the Vicente Pérez Rosales National Park is located, in addition to the famous Saltos del Petrohué waterfalls and Lago Todos Los Santos, the beautiful lake route that allows you to cross over

to Bariloche, in Argentina. But the nature is not everything to be seen. This circuit also has an unmistakably cultural aspect as every corner is dotted with mansions, churches and warehouses that reflect the passage of the German settlers who arrived to work these lands in the mid-19th century. Their cultural and culinary heritage endures to this day. This circuit has routes, roads and signage of the highest standards, making it an outstanding adventure that can even be made by bicycle or motorcycle. In fact, new "Bike Friendly" projects equipped to support cyclists are beginning to emerge and foreshadow a promising future for this discipline.

THE BASE: PUERTO VARAS

Lago Llanquihue's capital city and the biggest tourist destination in the entire area, Puerto Varas emerged in the mid-19th century as part of the first wave of German settlers, promoted by the Chilean state to incorporate new lands and exercise national sovereignty on the south. The settlers' influence in the region is not just reflected in the city's architecture, but in the diverse economic activities that characterize it, such as the agricultural products, sausages and beer.

Puerto Varas has been a tourist attraction since its inception, as it was a mandatory stop on the way to Bariloche, Argentina, via

the Andean lakes.

In 1934 the State Railway Company built the Gran Hotel in Puerto Varas, the most luxurious one in southern Chile at the time. Today, with 40,000 residents, Puerto Varas is one of the main tourist destinations in Chile, with a wide variety of hotels, restaurants, shops, a famous gambling casino and activities throughout the year.

More information at the Municipality of Puerto Varas Tourism Office (Ph. 65 / 236 1100; Pto-varas.cl) and at the Puerto Varas Tourist and Cultural Development Corporation (Ph. 65 / 223 7956; Puertovarvas.org).

Puerto Octay

Suggested Routes

1 To Ensenada, via Frutillar, Puerto Octay and Las Cascadas

In addition to the views, one of the nice things about the road around Lago Ranco is that it is completely paved. This first route is only 22 km long and offers diverse accesses to small beaches and detours to places that are worth a visit.

The city of Puerto Varas, the start of this circuit, is perfect for exploring by foot or bicycle. **The Sacred Heart of Jesus Church**, built in a neo-romantic style between 1915 and 1918, is among its top attractions. It is built atop a promontory that makes it visible from different parts of the city. There is also a **pedestrian circuit** that passes the main historical homes, built between 1910 and 1941, many of them declared National Monuments, such as Casa Kuschel, Casa

Gotslich and Casa Yungel.

The waterfront promenade is also a must. This is where the city's tourist activity is concentrated, with a wide variety of bars and restaurants, tourist information points and fishing and navigation options. The **Cerro Phillippi Park** is another landmark, which can be climbed by car, foot or bicycle. Surrounded by ancient forests, you get one of the best views of the city from the top. There is also an 800-meter zip line circuit. Lastly, another highly recommended visit is the **Antonio Felmer Museum**, in the neighboring village of Nueva Braunau, 9 km west of Puerto Varas along Route V-50. It is home to a remarkable collection of objects used by settlers in the past.

To enter the Lago Llanquihue circuit proper, leave Puerto Varas and take a small stretch along Route 5 South, before turning right at the marked exit to the **town of Llanquihue**, 7 km away. An urban and industrial center, Llanquihue was born with the arrival of the first German settlers in the mid-19th century, though it developed the most after 1911, when the railway arrived.

Today it is mainly dedicated to agro-industry and the production of sausages. In fact,

there is the so-called "Sausage Route," a tour of the factory and estate belonging to the emblematic company Cecinas Llanquihue. There is also a small selection of restaurants and accommodation, some of which operate in old German mansions reconverted into boutique hotels.

Llanquihue is the point where the lake runoff and the source of the Río Maullín are located. One of the attractions associated with the river is the **Ornithological Park**, which has a network of trails for bird watching: the Río Maullín has 96 recorded species.

It is also considered one of the best rivers for fly fishing in southern Chile.

The road winds along the edge of the lake and approaches a few small beaches, flanked by large trees, well-worked fields, small churches and old ports amid a totally bucolic landscape.

You reach the beautiful city of **Frutillar** in 20 km. With close to 18,000 inhabitants, it is Lago Llanquihue's other tourism hub, together with Puerto Varas, also known for its well-preserved German-style houses. Frutillar emerged as a loading harbor in 1856, thanks to the German immigrants who arrived in the region. They built their houses in the vicinity and devoted themselves to agricultural and livestock related activities, setting up dairies, mills, distilleries, tanneries and a number of stores selling food and general supplies.

This whole story can be seen in one of the biggest cultural attractions in the city, the **German Settlers' Museum** (www.museo-saustoral.cl), in the Frutillar Bajo district, where tourist services are concentrated. It exhibits the furniture and machinery illustrating the lifestyle of the time; an essential visit to understand the scale of the settlers' feat.





Puerto Varas

Another one of Frutillar's main landmarks is the **Teatro del Lago**, a cultural center inaugurated in 2005 and which for 10 days every summer hosts Chile's most important classical music festival: the **Frutillar Music Weeks**. The Teatro del Lago has large concert halls, a shop, restaurant and a beautiful outdoor amphitheater. Frutillar's intense musical agenda was the reason that the Unesco designated it a Creative City for music in October 2017, thus including it in a network made up of another 180 cities around the world.

Continuing through Frutillar along a route that alternates pavement and gravel, the next stop is the sector of the **Los Bajos**, where there is a good beach and another remarkable sample of German architecture. Continuing along the edge of Lago Llanquihue, the road passes through various gastronomic enterprises ranging from elegant tea houses and to farm-style restaurants, which have another big attraction in the region.

You reach **Puerto Octay** 27 km from Frutillar, the most picturesque and best preserved village in the entire area. Declared a

Traditional Zone in 2010, it is opposite the Centinela Peninsula, on the far northern end of the lake, with beaches that are very busy in the summer. To walk its streets and admire its large houses is like taking a trip back to the early 1900s, when this was a port on Lago Llanquihue. The place was settled between 1880 and 1890 as a point of connection with Osorno and it went through a certain economic boom. This explains the appearance of large and beautiful wood buildings, which are still kept in good conditions. These include the Parish Church, the old nuns' school, the Emilio Held Winkler Cultural Center, where the Settler's Museum is located, and the old Catholic cemetery, which has an astounding sweeping view of Volcán Osorno. Puerto Octay Octay also has an exquisite local cheese shop that is worth a visit and, at the northern entrance, there is a great viewpoint of the town, the peninsula and the lake.

Leaving Puerto Octay, after 5 km you come to a gravel road to the right that leads to the beach **Playa El Maitén**, which has a picnic area, campgrounds and views of the lake.



Teatro del Lago, Frutillar



Puerto Octay-Ensenada Route

This is where the first 21 German families settled on Lago Llanquihue, such as the Siebert, Wulf, Appel, Hess and Klager families, among others. A beautiful chapel built on a hill in 1867, reminds you of these pioneers. You come to **Puerto Fonck** in another few kilometers, another postcard setting, where you will find another two beautiful chapels, one Lutheran and another Catholic. There is a quiet beach, with one of Lago Llanquihue's few remaining old piers that are still standing.

The gravel road then rises to meet the paved Route U-99-V, where you have to head right, passing the rural areas of Puerto Klocker and Río Blanco before arriving in **Las Cascadas**, a lakeside town with a fine sand beach that was the last sector of the lake to receive German immigrants, between 1870 and 1880. Today it offers a good variety of accommodation, some of it in large old settlers' houses.

It is named after its waterfalls, immersed in an environment of abundant nature where diverse recreational activities have developed, including the longest zip line circuit in the area.

In addition, this is the starting point for the **longest bike lane in the Lakes & Volcanoes Scenic Route**, an 82 km route that runs from this sector to Puerto Varas, with another secondary stretch that connects Ensenada and Petrohué.

There is a junction 20 km from Las Cascadas, along a road flanked by forests that sometimes cover the view of the lake, which in 13 winding kilometers takes you up - on pavement, and gravel at the end - as far as the **Volcán Osorno Mountain Resort** (www.volcanosorno.com). It has 8 slopes, two ski lifts and a few off-piste routes. Because of the abundant rainfall in the area, the ski season usually begins later than in other resorts and can even last through November. The views of Lago Llanquihue on the descent are spectacular. It has a restaurant, shop and offers activities like zip lining or snow-shoeing excursions. The chairlifts continue to operate in the summer to go up the volcano and to the glacier at its summit. There are also diverse mountain bike trails. Before you reach the ski resort you will come across the interesting **Pirepillán interpretation center**, which tells the story



Strudel

of the volcano's history and the Mapuche legend of its origin through illustrated contents.

This sector is also one of the entrances to the Vicente Pérez Rosales National Park. In fact, this is where the entrance to the El Solitario Trail is located, a well-marked 6 km route that takes about four hours round trip and passes volcanic soils and native forests, ending in the international road Route CH-225, which heads toward Petrohué and Lago Todos los Santos.

Finally, the last part of this fundamental stretch of the Lago Llanquihue circuit takes you along the same Route U-99-V to Ensenada. This stretch is an intricate road with very sharp curves (drive with care), bridges with amazing views of the lake and cliffs. There are 3 viewpoints that follow one after the other: **Quitralpi**, **Licarayén** and **Pi-repillán**. Though they do not have shelters or tables to stay for a while, they do have ample room for parking to admire the lake, the dense predominant forests, and Volcán Calbuco.

Before reaching Ensenada you come to another of the entrances to the Vicente Pérez Rosales National Park. There are two low difficulty walks that start here: **Laguna Verde** (200 m), which goes through the forest to the lagoon by the same name and which is even wheelchair accessible; and **Los Pilleyos** (1,200 m), which borders Lago Llanquihue.

2 From Puerto Varas to Peulla, via Ensenada and Lago Todos los Santos



This route follows the south shore of Lago Llanquihue and gives up the best views of the lake and the volcanoes Osorno and Calbuco from the diverse viewpoints along the road.

Along the way you can get to know the best beaches on the lake, shops with gourmet products, diverse restaurants and countryside tea houses.

The famous **Salto del Petrohué** and **Lago Todos los Santos** are at the end, or for those who continue on to Argentina, the quaint village of Peulla

Leaving Puerto Varas along Route CH225 to the east, the idea is to follow the 47 km of paved road as far as Ensenada. You can make a number of detours along the way. For example, at kilometers 9 and 10 you can go town to the beaches **Niklitschek** and **Hermosa**, the best in the area, though access is paid. At kilometer 13 you come to **Isla Loreley**, a piece of land in the middle of La Poza, a curious eye of water in the middle of the forest, where fishing trips are offered during the season. At kilometer 16 is the beach **Playa Venado**, which is municipal and with free access, in addition to having a campgrounds. The Fundo Playa Venado is also here,



Peulla, lago Todos los Santos

where they produce manjar (dulce de leche) and offer agro-tourism activities in the summer. **Río Pescado**, a good place for fishing, is at kilometer 18.

The Scenic Route offers three viewpoints from the north side of the road between kilometer 25 and Ensenada.

Take the utmost care when stopping at them if you are coming from Puerto Varas, as it is a two-way road. The view is truly spectacular. Continuing toward Ensenada, on the right you will begin to see the silhouette of **Volcán Calbuco** (2,015 m), whose most recent eruption was in April 2015.

You finally reach Ensenada 47 kilometers after leaving Puerto Varas. It is a strategically important town, as it is the connection to diverse tourist destinations. Its history dates back to 1894, when Chilean Corvette Captain Benjamin Muñoz Gamero arrived here to make a geographical survey of the area of Lago Llanquihue as far as

Lago Nahuel Huapi, in Argentina. Today, Ensenada is a tourist center with cabins, restaurants, campgrounds and a fine sand beach 2.5 km away. It is also supply point to continue the route.

Various local operators offer activities from here, such as trekking, rafting on the Río Petrohué, kayaking in Lago Todos los Santos, fishing in the nearby rivers and horseback rides along the slopes of Volcán Calbuco, among others.

Ensenada is on the southeast end of Lago Llanquihue. Past the town, the road continues to the east through the forest and mountains. In 2 km there is a marked exit leading to Ralún, Cochamó and Puelo (described in Route 3). But, continuing along Route CH-225, in 6 km you come to the main entrance to the **Vicente Pérez Rosales National Park**, which was founded in 1926 and is the oldest one in Chile. Covering 253,780 ha, it is one of the most visited wilderness areas in Chile. Considered a Biosphere Reserve, the

Salto del Petrohué,
Vicente Pérez Rosales National Park

majority of its forests are evergreens, with species such as coigüe, ulmo, olivillo, canelo and myrtle. Its fauna also includes the pudú, mountain cats, pumas, river otters, monito del monte and birds such as the black woodpecker, kingfishers and torrent ducks, among many others.

Its major attractions include the **Salto del Petrohué**, formed by the river by the same name, with its crystalline waters. Its waters run amid large masses of hardened lava that were formed about 600 years ago after an eruption by Volcán Osorno. There is a low-difficulty trail to the waterfalls, which can be seen from several platforms with amazing views of the volcano. Other very simple, but highly attractive trails are **Los Enamorados** (600 m), **Los Patos** (just over a kilometer) and **Carilemu** (45 minutes). A visitors' center at the entrance offers the main excursions in the park, in addition to crafts and souvenirs.

The international road Route CH-225 takes you to Petrohué in 11 km, a beautiful mountain village at the foot of Volcán Osorno. It has a long beach of black volcanic sand surrounded by forests. There are diverse facilities such as campgrounds, cabins, a hotel and adventure tourism activities like trekking, rafting, kayaking and fishing.

Petrohué is the gateway to the majestic **Lago Todos Los Santos**, with its surprisingly emerald green waters. It covers 175 km² and is surrounded by evergreen forests, with views of the snow-capped peaks of the volcanoes Osorno, Puntagüedo and Tronador, the latter of which straddles the border between Chile and Argentina. It is without doubt one of the most beautiful lakes in the country. Diverse boats offer tours of it from the pier.

But there is another way to cross it from end to end, from Petrohué to the port of Peulla, at the eastern end of the lake, though it can only be done by foot, not by vehicle. It is the so-called **Andean Lakes Crossing**, a tourist product that integrates Chile and Argentina, joining Puerto Varas with Bariloche by following the old trade route that communicated to the inhabitants of both countries. The crossing currently consists in taking a tourist catamaran across Lago Todos los Santos, from Petrohué to **Peulla**, a small and beautiful village nestled in the heart of the



Lago Tagua Tagua

Vicente Pérez Rosales National Park, with views of Volcán Tronador, and which has two hotels, a restaurant, hiking trails and a zip line, among other excursions in the summer.

From Peulla, the crossing continues by bus to Puerto Frías, Argentina. There you resume navigation on Lago Frías as far as Puerto Blest, where you take a bus for another stretch until reaching Puerto Alegre. This is where you take the final stretch by boat, this time on Lago Nahuel Huapi to Puerto Pañuelo, from which you finally reach Bariloche by land (*More information at www.cruceandino.com*). Some of these routes follow same as trails taken by Jesuit missionaries to evangelize the Poya and Puelche indigenous peoples in the region. According to some Spanish chronicles, the mythical City of the Caesars, a city of extraordinary magnificence, was said to be hidden in this region.

Currently the Route of the Jesuits or the Vuriloches Trail - the name first used by the Mapuche people to refer to a mysterious cannibalistic tribe that lived in the region, and then by the Spanish, who referred to those who made expeditions in search of slaves in this way - has become a new and wild adventure. It is a long hike that connects the Lago Todos los Santos with Bariloche (or vice versa), across pristine forests and lakes, always in the shadow of the imposing Volcán Tronador.



Viewpoint, south shore of Lago Llanquihue

B To Lago Tagua Tagua, via Cochamó

Leaving Lago Llanquihue behind, the final stretch of the Lakes & Volcanoes Scenic Route follows the Río Petrohué Valley and the Reloncaví Estuary, amid intense green forests and fjords. Passing the towns of Cochamó and Puelo, the journey ends at the Lago Tagua Tagua, with a surprising turquoise color.

From Ensenada, instead of continue along Route CH-225, take follow the sign to Route V-69 on the right, toward **Ralún**. The road skirts the **Llanquihue National Reserve**, which covers 33,972 ha and has been part of the Southern Temperate Rainforests Biosphere Reserve since 2007. It is the habitat of flora like tepa, mañío, ulmo and luma. There are alerces and lengas in the higher parts, where they are mixed with canelos. When it comes to fauna, you can see condors, chilla and culpeo foxes, southern peregrine falcons, chucao and huet huet, among other species. Until the recent eruption of Volcán Calbuco in 2015, one of its biggest attractions was the Río Blanco trail, which allowed you to climb up to the crater, but today the reserve is closed due to the effects of the volcanic matter that was ejected.

After 30 km of paved road you reach Ralún, a hamlet with Chiloe origins that offers accommodation, camping, fishing trips and rustic hot springs. Past Ralún, the road becomes a winding gravel road that gives up beautiful views of the Reloncaví estuary.

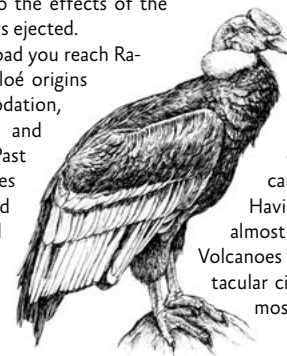
Pay attention to the rising and falling tides, which fill and dry up the estuary. The nearby green hills are a postcard southern landscape.

In another 15 km you will see a gateway welcoming you to **Cochamó**, the main town on the estuary. It has a beautiful Chiloe style parish church and a refurbished waterfront that allows you to admire the estuary's landscape. In the summer there are stalls selling handicraft and traditional food. Tourism has also been developing: today there are cabins, campgrounds, two good restaurants and a number of excursion operators offering activities like trekking or kayaking on the estuary. Cochamó is also the starting point for hiking or horseback tours to La Junta, the base of the Cochamó valley and a world rock-climbing paradise, with fabulous granite walls that have earned it the nickname of the "Chilean Yosemite."

Returning to Route V-69, the last stop is 31 km to the east. It is the town of **Puelo**, where the source of the river by the same name is located, with green waters surrounded by reeds, famous for its trout and salmon fishing. There are a few exclusive fishing lodges operating in this area.

Past the town, the road takes you to the shores of **Lago Tagua Tagua**, whose waters are of a surprising turquoise color that contrasts with the green of the hills. This is where the pier for the public ferry that crosses over to the Punta Maldonado sector twice a day is located, after which you follow a rural road to the village of **Llanada Grande**. After that the road is interrupted by several lakes before reaching the Puelo Pass, on the Argentine border, which cannot be reached by vehicle.

Having begun in the city of Victoria, almost 600 km to the north, the Lakes & Volcanoes Scenic Route completes its spectacular circuits in this, its most southern-most point.



Scenic Route

distance chart

	Cunco	Curacautín	Curarrehue	Entre Lagos	Futrono	Lago Ranco	Llanquihue	Lonquimay
Cunco	-	149	155	324	249	295	357	139
Curacautín	149	-	234	385	311	357	419	66
Curarrehue	155	234	-	317	243	288	351	300
Entre Lagos	324	385	317	-	142	126	127	451
Freire	56	118	116	268	193	239	301	183
Futrono	249	311	243	142	-	65	175	377
Gorbea	74	136	129	250	175	221	283	201
Lago Ranco	295	357	288	126	65	-	159	423
Lanco	135	196	128	196	121	167	229	262
Lautaro	94	55	179	330	256	302	364	121
Llanquihue	357	419	351	127	175	159	-	485
Loncoche	109	171	103	214	140	186	248	237
Lonquimay	139	66	300	451	377	423	485	-
Los Lagos	190	252	183	135	60	106	168	317
Máfil	161	223	155	164	90	136	198	289
Melipeuco	33	182	187	356	281	327	389	105
Osorno	282	344	276	52	101	84	83	410
Padre Las Casas	56	96	141	292	218	264	326	162
Paillaco	219	281	213	108	54	80	142	347
Panguipulli	143	243	112	191	116	162	224	309
Perquenco	103	69	187	339	264	310	372	135
Pitrufquén	60	121	120	264	189	235	298	187
Pucón	119	198	36	281	207	253	315	264
Puerto Montt	383	445	376	152	201	185	26	510
Puerto Octay	328	389	321	57	146	130	42	455
Puerto Varas	366	428	360	136	184	168	10	494
Purranque	317	378	310	86	135	119	43	444
Río Bueno	250	312	243	79	68	46	113	377
Río Negro Osorno	310	371	303	79	128	112	60	437
San José de la Mariquina	152	214	145	179	105	151	213	280
Temuco	62	102	145	296	222	268	330	168
Victoria	123	57	208	359	285	331	393	122
Vilcún	94	106	178	329	255	301	363	172
Villarrica	93	172	62	255	181	227	289	238

Melipeuco	Panguipulli	Pucón	Puerto Octay	Puerto Varas	Río Bueno	Victoria	Vilcún	Villarrica
33	143	119	328	366	250	123	94	93
182	243	198	389	428	312	57	106	172
187	112	36	321	360	243	208	178	62
356	191	281	57	136	79	359	329	255
88	125	81	272	310	194	92	62	55
281	116	207	146	184	68	285	255	181
106	107	93	254	292	176	109	80	67
327	162	253	130	168	46	331	301	227
167	47	92	200	238	122	170	140	66
126	188	143	334	373	256	38	51	117
389	224	315	42	10	113	393	363	289
141	72	67	218	257	141	145	115	41
105	309	264	455	494	377	122	172	238
222	57	148	139	177	61	226	196	122
194	80	119	168	207	91	197	167	93
-	175	151	360	398	282	155	126	125
314	149	240	53	92	38	318	288	214
88	150	105	296	335	218	70	41	79
252	86	177	112	151	34	255	225	151
175	-	76	195	233	117	217	187	50
135	196	151	343	381	265	24	59	125
92	121	84	268	307	190	95	65	58
151	76	-	285	324	208	172	142	26
415	250	341	68	19	139	419	389	315
360	195	285	-	51	83	363	333	259
398	233	324	51	-	122	402	372	298
349	184	274	29	52	72	352	322	248
282	117	208	83	122	-	285	256	182
342	177	267	45	69	66	345	315	241
184	71	110	183	222	106	188	158	84
94	154	109	301	339	223	76	46	83
155	217	172	363	402	285	-	80	146
126	187	142	333	372	256	80	-	116
125	50	26	259	298	182	146	116	-

Sustainable traveler

Chile is a country that is committed to a more sustainable tourism. To achieve this, the attitude that each of us takes matters. Help us by following these principles, which will make your trip a better experience and at the same time contribute to the destination.

HALT FOREST FIRES

Only light fires in places that have been set up for that and always with extreme caution.



TRASH DOES NOT COME BACK BY ITSELF

Never leave trash in natural areas. Always take it to the nearest trash can and, if possible, help recycle

BUY LOCAL

By buying 100% local handicrafts, good and products you will be helping to add dynamism to the local economy and to preserve the identity of the destination.



RESPECT OTHERS

Being a curious and interactive traveler is positive, when it is with respect. Ask people for permission to take photos of them and avoid being noisy in natural spaces, as others will appreciate it.

TAKE CARE OF THE FLORA AND FAUNA

Do not pick plants, flowers or take any other sort of "trophy" from the ecosystem. If you like observing wildlife, do so from a prudent distance, without feeding it or disturbing it.



PETS

Pets are strictly forbidden in natural parks, reserves and monuments.

BUILDINGS AND NATIONAL MONUMENTS

Do not draw graffiti or damage buildings and cultural spaces that represent our history and identity.



STOP DIDYMO

Follow instructions on control of Didymo.



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