



## National Tourism Service

### Region of Coquimbo

Matta 461, of. 108, La Serena, Chile

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## National Tourism Service of Chile



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## INTRODUCTION

Nestled on the eastern side of Elqui Valley, Paihuano is considered a true paradise for nature lovers, spiritual seekers, and anyone looking to meditate. It is also the gateway to the Cochiguaz and Alcohuaz Valleys, where a wide array of tourist offerings await. Nearby is the gorge that lends its name to the town, playing out to the east in the foothills of the mountains, with unique conditions for ecotourism and sky-watching. Paihuano is also home to the zone's major public services, and the district is equipped for camping. You'll also find riverside resorts, lodges, and restaurants.

### **Vicuña**

Located 62 km to the East of La Serena, it is accessed by the route CH-41 Gabriela Mistral.

#### **Borders**

To the north with the commune of La Higuera and the Huasco province, to the east with Los Andes mountain range and the Argentinian border, to the south with the communes of Andacollo, Río Hurtado and Paihuano, in the west with Andacollo and La Serena.

#### **Do not miss**

**Astronomical Observatories.** Enjoy of the astronomy in the Cerro Mamalluca and Pangué observatories.

**Heritage.** Walk through its streets with old and noble colonial constructions such as its beautiful parochial church, the Casa de la Cultura, the traditional Bauer Tower among others.

**Culture.** Amaze you with the history of this city set deep in the heart of the Elqui Valley, visiting its different museums of the historical, natural and pisquero kind.

### **PAIHUANO**

Pure air, fresh and crystalline water, blue skies, flowing energy, and welcoming people are just some of the natural virtues of this district, which stands out thanks to its contrasts, colorful mountains, vegetation—a counterpoint to the dryness—, and skies considered some of the clearest on the planet. This natural attraction affords incomparable tranquility, giving it a global reputation as an ideal getaway to relax and meditate, mainly in the Cochiguaz Valley, whose mystical fame transcends the Chilean borders.

## VICUÑA

The San Isidro Village of Vicuña is the largest commune of the Coquimbo Region. Besides the natural and historical attractions that surround it, Vicuña is one of the places in the world where the astronomical observation is highly developed, in a scientific and dissemination level. It is not a coincidence that today Google develop in the Cerro Pachon a project that will put these skies at the disposal of every internet user.

The city is set in the riverbed of the valley, excavated by the river for thousands of years. The reason for being of this commune is the river Elqui, which born in the locality of Rivadavia when the two tributaries that give rise to it join: the river Claro and the river Turbio, those that form in the distant buttresses of the mountain range. The Elqui meanders through the valley for 240 kilometers to empty into the sea, in La Serena, shaping life in a fragile semi-arid environment.

Vicuña hosts the Gabriela Mistral International Route that connects it with the city of San Juan, Argentina, through the Paso de Agua Negra. This will be the future bioceanic corridor, tunnel and headquarters of the first neutrino laboratory in the hemisphere. Beautiful mountainous landscapes go this route.

Soak up the land of the famous poet Gabriela Mistral, a famous valley favored by its extraordinary climate, its clean skies, little humidity and pleasant temperatures. The imposing hills form a narrow landscape, in a symphony of colors that spring from the vineyards, crops and native vegetation, the wild land and that sky always blue.

Vicuña, a picturesque town that is the communal head, concentrates the main services in the Elqui valley as lodging, food, supermarket and handicrafts, being the last place where it is possible to access ATM and fuel supply.

From here you can walk through the valley or marvel at the mysteries of the universe that show us the five astronomical observatories of this area, two of which are for tourism purposes.



**Arriba** Práctica de deportes náuticos en embalse Puclaro. **Centro** Panorámica del Observatorio Cerro Tololo. **Abajo** Observatorio Cerro Mamalluca.

## VICUÑA

**El Molle.** Place where the first vestiges of the pre-Hispanic culture of the same name were discovered. It has restaurants and accommodation services varied and quality. Interesting is to know its church, to taste its famous Chilean sweets, next to a gastronomy based on pork.

It is located 34 km from La Serena, Route CH-41.

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**New Gulliguaica.** It is a town recently eradicated by the construction of the reservoir. It is, therefore, the first village of this valley founded in the XXI century. It is accessed by the CH-4i Route from La Serena to Vicuña at the height of the town of San Carlos, crossing the Elqui River and bordering the waters of Puclaro. Its waterfront is the ideal place to observe in its totality the reservoir and part of the old Gulliguaica, now submerged under the waters of this artificial dam. It has an old church of 1757, an interesting museum with the history of the town and the building of the old train station erected in 1897.

Located just 13 km before reaching Vicuña, on the banks of the Puclaro reservoir.

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**Puclaro reservoir.** Built to regulate the course of the river Elqui downstream of it prey. It has a capacity of 200 million cubic meters and can be visited by requesting passage in the control barrier. Various water sports are practiced and its viewpoints give a panoramic view of the Elqui valley. Another perspective is achieved by entering the town of Nueva Gulliguaica, where are the wharves for nautical sports.

Located in Km 40 of Route CH-41, near the town of El Molle.

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**Tololo Mountain Observatory.** Located at km 50 of Route Ch-41, 38 km towards an interior gorge, at 2,200 altitude. This scientific observatory has telescopes and instruments of advanced technological level.

It opens its doors to the visitors every Saturday of the year, previous reservation with at least one month in advance.

Telephone: (56 51) 220 52 00.

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**Mamalluca Mountain Observatory.** Belonging to the municipality of Vicuña, it is at 1,100 meters of altitude and at a distance of 9 km from the city center. It offers a wonderful trip to enjoy the cleanest skies in the world using telescopes of 12 and 16 inches.

Tours are offered from 20:30 in summer and from 18:30 in winter. Telephone: (56 51) 267 03 30 +56 9 8259 9313.  
Email: mamalluca@municipalidadvicuna.cl

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**Pangue Tourist Observatory.** Located 17 km southeast of Vicuña, along Route D-445 that connects with the municipality of Río Hurtado, is a private center that offers various alternatives to observe the skies, with guided sessions of two hours to complete nights. Among its facilities stands the most powerful telescope in Chile serving tourists. Guided tours by astronomer, in Spanish, English and French

Attends previous reservation to (56 51) 241 25 84. Email: astronomicasur@gmail.com

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**Inti Runa.** Astronomical observation service in the center of Vicuña, has 5 telescopes. It also offers solar observation.

Attention from the 15th of December to the 28th of February. Chacabuco 240, Vicuña

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VICUÑA AND ITS ATTRACTIONS

**Main Square of Vicuña.** Dedicated to the distinguished poetess and Nobel Prize for Literature Gabriela Mistral, it was remodeled by the School of Canteros de Chile in 1972, with designs, sculptures and motifs inspired by the writer and her work.

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**Tower Bauer.** Built on the old municipality building - in 1905 - by the mayor Adolfo Bauer, inspired by similar towers of Germany. It conserves an authentic hall of the Town Hall of 1816. Here the Municipal Office of Tourist Information works.

Located in Calle San Martin corner of Gabriela Mistral.  
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**Old Town Hall.** It was the first meeting room that had the municipality. Built in 1826, there the mayor and the regidores sat. Today it is a small museum that exhibits a gallery of portraits of illustrious figures of the area, old photographs and furniture of the time.

Located inside the Bauer Tower.

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**Inmaculada Concepción Temple.** Inaugurated in 1909, it was built in the same place where the ancient temple of La Merced was located. It has an image of the Virgin of the Carmen that accompanied the Chilean troops during the War of the Pacific, donated by the bishop Florencio Fontecilla. It preserves the baptismal font where it was baptized Gabriela Mistral in 1889 and it has a small religious museum and impressive frescoes in the sky of its main ship.

It is located at Gabriela Mistral 615.

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**Obelisk of Peace.** Located in front of the Bauer Tower, it is a monument donated by the Japanese foundation The Word Peace Project Society.

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**Pueblito de los Artesanos.** Local artisans offer typical works and beautiful souvenirs of the area.

It is located in Gabriela Mistral Street, next to Immaculate Conception Church.

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**Historical Museum of Elqui.** Collection of antiques of the Vicuña of yesteryear and other points of the country. There is also a sample of diaguite pottery and objects from the 19th and 20th centuries, old photographs and historical elements of the valley.

Located in Calle Arturo Prat 90, O'Higgins corner.

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**House of Culture and Public Library.** It offers exhibitions, talks and cultural forums throughout the year, as well as library and internet services for its users. y que en 1945 recibiera el Premio Nobel de Literatura. Guarda objetos personales, premios, fotografías y libros entre otros, y exhibe una réplica de su casa natal.

Located in Chacabuco 334.

**Entomological Museum and Natural History.** Chile's largest private collection of insects. Fossils, butterflies, beetles, conches, birds of the valley and tropical and Latin American.

Located in Chacabuco street 334, next to the House of Culture.

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**Gabriela Mistral Museum.** Built in 1971 by the architect Oscar Mc Clure and the muralist Elías Castro in the place where Gabriela was born. Architectural work in 1889, and in 1945 received the Nobel Prize for Literature. He keeps some of his personal belongings and displays a replica of his home. It has animation rooms where allusive audiovisuals are projected.

Located in Gabriela Mistral street 759. Telephone: (56 51) 241 12 23. Email: museo.vicuna@museochile.gob.cl

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**La Virgen mountain and natural viewpoint.** Dedicated to the Virgin of the Immaculate Conception, protector of the city. Place of pilgrimage and prayer, it is a natural viewpoint that dominates great part of Vicuña. It has a vehicular and pedestrian road.

Located only 2 km from Vicuña, it is accessed by the town of Hierro Viejo.

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**Aldea Elquina.** It operates all year round with artisans and local producers offering crafts and souvenirs from the valley.

Located 1 km from Vicuña on route CH-41.

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**Supply market.** Cook with the typical dishes of the area.

Located 2 km from Vicuña by Route CH-41.

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**Los Pimientos Park.** Place of recreation and rest offering 90 quinchos, 3 swimming pools and beautiful green areas. It works all year round.

Located 2 km from Vicuña by Route CH-41.

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**Capel Tourist Center and Pisco Museum.** Here is the famous Pisco Capel, which in its many varieties has given fame to the valley. It offers a tour of the plant, knowing the entire process of elaboration, tastings, product sales room and souvenirs, as well as a Pisco Museum that displays the history of this activity so old. There is also a room for cultural activities.

Located on the way to Peralillo 2 km from Vicuña. Half hour visits throughout the year in the time zone from 10:00 a.m.

to 6:00 p.m. Phones (56 51) 255 43 37 - 255 43 98. Email:

contacto@centroturisticocapel.cl [www.centroturisticocapel.cl](http://www.centroturisticocapel.cl)



Arriba Frontis museo Gabriela Mistral.

Abajo Interior antiguo Cabildo Municipal.

**Handmade storehouse of Pisco.** In the town of El Arenal is a plant and artisanal distiller of Pisco Aba destined for export. The facilities can be visited throughout the year.

Located 8 km from Vikcuña, Fundo San Carlos, El Arenal.

Telephone: (56 51) 241 10 39 +56 9 8782 2774.

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**Papayas Industry.** In the town of San Carlos there is a factory called Olivier that offers for sale many products derived from this fruit.

Route CH-41 km 50. Open all year.

Telephone: (56 51) 241 10 74.

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**Vineyard.** A winery of wines Falernia in the locality is. San Carlos offers the possibility of touring its facilities.

Visits prior cordinación. Telephone: (56 51) 241 22 60.

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## RURAL TOWNS

**San Isidro.** Beautiful village of old houses with fruit orchards, it owns one of the oldest churches of the valley, whose floor is made with statues of algarrobo, in the old Spanish way. In its north margin are the town of Calíngasta and the way to the observatory Mamalluca.

**Access from Vicuña by a diversion in the sector Hierro Viejo.**

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**Peralillo.** It is an old agricultural town par excellence, famous in its time for the production of exquisite vegetable vegetables such as chili, tomato, table grape, papayas, peaches and apricots, among others. Its beautiful church gives a suitable frame to its traditional square with big trees and palm trees.

**It is accessed by the Route CH-41 from Vicuña in km 69.**

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**Villaseca.** Small village located 8 km from Vicuña, between slopes of very arid hills. Its inhabitants use the energy of the sun to make cooks and solar ovens, elaborating with them delicious dishes. There are two restaurants with this peculiar technology that attend the tourists all year round.

**From Vicuña you can access the interior road that leads to the Capel fishery, the INIA and the town of Peralillo.**

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**Diaguitas.** Picturesque locality - declared typical zone - that is characterized by old houses that maintain a uniform construction, almost unique in the valley. Here are creative craftsmen, standing out those who cultivate the pottery of pre-Columbian origin. Its beautiful square is the ideal setting for the church of Our Lady of the Rosary dating from 1867 and where the Virgin is celebrated the first week of January. There are restaurants, cabins with swimming pools and camping.

**Access from Vicuña via Route CH-41, until km 72, passing the Peralillo bridge to the left.**

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**Andacollito.** Located in front of Diaguitas, it has an extensive street that crosses the village, amidst beautiful landscapes.



**Arriba** Embalse La Laguna. **Centro** Escultura Inmaculada Concepción cerro La Virgen. **Abajo** Telar de Chapilca.

**Rivadavia.** Typical village of the valley, nestled in an environment of imposing mountains. It is here that the Elqui River is born, when its tributaries Turbio and Claro. Its strategic location is a nerve center where valleys, ravines and different roads converge. In its surroundings there are restaurants, campsites, cabins. Here you can also practice night observation of the privileged skies.

Located 13 km east of Vicuña.

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**Chapilca.** Since pre-Columbian times a handicraft of rustic loom has been developed here, with moons stained with natural pigments, it has a small church of patrimonial value.

Located 29 km east of Vicuña, along the Route CH-41 that leads to Paso de Agua Negra

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**Huanta.** Considered an oasis in the aridity of the high mountain landscape. It has old houses, orchards and vineyards, joins the river Turbio and is the gateway to the mountain range.

Located 50 km east of Vicuña by the same route that leads to Chapilca.

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**Agua Negra Border Complex.** At 2,100 altitude, here the asphaltting is currently completed. It is operational in summer and until mid-May according to climatic conditions. On the way to the limit (by dirt road) is the reservoir La Laguna. The crossing is at 4,765 meters of altitude.

Located about 90 km east of Vicuña.

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**Reservoir La Laguna.** Leaving the border complex towards the border with Argentina, 3,150 meters of altitude, is this wonderful place. Walking or horseback excursions are permitted.

Located 125 km southeast of Vicuña.



**Arriba** Calle principal pueblo Diaguitas. **Abajo** Embalse Puclaro



**Arriba** Iglesia de Vicuña y Torre Bauer, Vicuña. **Abajo** pisco

## FESTIVALS AND ACTIVITIES

**Summer Program.** Each year, the municipality of Vicuña organizes a program of cultural, artistic, recreational, sports and social activities during the high tourist season and the anniversary of the city.

**Date: December - January - February**

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**Elquino Carnival.** For more than 100 years, it has been chosen as a queen, artistic shows, cultural activities, popular dances and a large corso of flowers with a parade of floats and costumes.

**Date: January - February**

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**Anniversary of Vicuña.** It is celebrated with a mass of thanksgiving, civic military act, recognition of personalities, parade of honor and fireworks.

**Date: February 22**

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**Birth of Gabriela Mistral.** Celebration of the birth of the poetess and teacher. This date is preceded by the Month of Poetry, with literary contests, of painting, drawing and literary gatherings, besides official acts. This day is usually convened to the literary contest Games Florals de Vicuña.

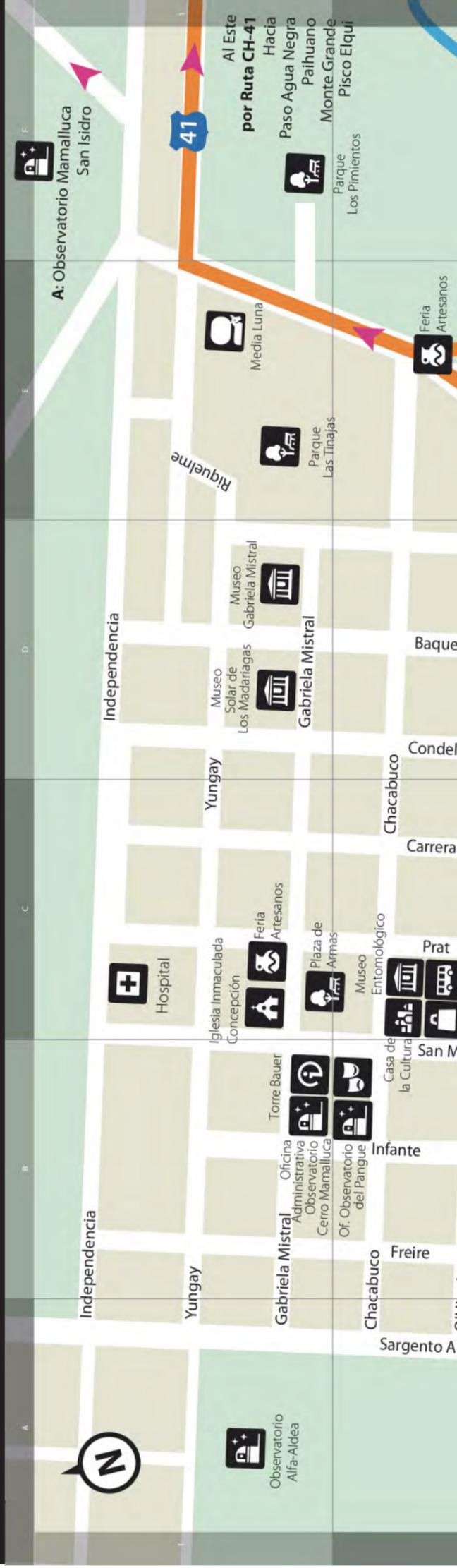
**Date: April 7**

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**Planetario Natural Alfa Aldea, La Viñita.**

# Plano Vicuña







**Arriba** Observatorio del Pangué. **Abajo** Observación solar en La Viñita.



Observatorio Gemini

## PAIHUANO

Pure air, fresh and crystalline water, blue skies, flowing energy, and welcoming people are just some of the natural virtues of this district, which stands out thanks to its contrasts, colorful mountains, vegetation—a counterpoint to the dryness—, and skies considered some of the clearest on the planet. This natural attraction affords incomparable tranquility, giving it a global reputation as an ideal getaway to relax and meditate, mainly in the Cochiguaz Valley, whose mystical fame transcends the Chilean borders.

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## NEARBY ATTRACTIONS

**Paihuano.** This peaceful village next to Claro River boasts a good network of tourist services, including cottages, restaurants, shops, and more, which offer the necessary comforts to enjoy a laidback lifestyle in every corner and all year long.

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**Pueblo Hundido.** This little hamlet atop a crag displays a bust of Gabriela Mistral carved into the rock. Just a short distance away from the Pinto and Montegrando gorges, with restaurants, rural lodging, cottages, and agri-camping.

**Located five kilometers south of Paihuano.**

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**Paihuano Ravine.** A place at the foothills of the mountains with conditions ideal for ecotourism and stargazing. Enter on the side of Paihuano square on a road lined with trees and a stone fence, a journey recommended for anyone who likes remote places away from the hustle and bustle.

**Located six kilometers east of Paihuano.**

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**Pisco Elqui.** A gathering place for visitors and craftspeople at 1,247 meters of altitude. A pleasant and picturesque town that invites visitors to rest and enjoy the beautiful landscapes. It has a variety of hotel services, cottages, hostels, inns, alternative therapies, restaurants, pools, and campsites on offer. Next to the square, you'll find the Solar



**Top** Panoramic view of Cochiguaz. **Center** View of Pisco Elqui.  
**Bottom** Cochiguaz River.

de Pisco Mistral, with a museum home to old pieces of machinery used to brew this liquor.

**Located 13 kilometers south of Paihuano.**

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**Pisco Elqui Church.** The town of Pisco Elqui is home to the famous Our Lady of the Rosary church, built between 1910 and 1922. The temple was designed in the European fashion of the age with materials brought from the Old Continent. Its steeple is 30 meters tall, with a central nave and two side naves with images brought from France.

**Located on O'Higgins with Centenario.**

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**Pisco Valley.** This district is famous for its liquor, evident in the number of distilleries around. In Montegrande, you'll find a plant run by the Elqui Pisco Agricultural Cooperative Ltda. (CAPEL); Pisco Elqui is home to the Mistral Pisco plant, belonging to the Chilean Compañía Pisquera. In Los Nichos, on the road to the town of Horcón, you'll find one of the last boutique distilleries in the region: Fundo Los Nichos.

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**Tres Cruces.** A small town, it's the way in to the inner valleys and is an ideal place to observe the Claro River waterway and appreciate its fresh and crystalline waters. Let yourself be enchanted by the commanding nature and rural beauty of the area.

**Located five kilometers north of Paihuano.**

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**Cochiguaz Valley.** Known as a center for meditation and retreat, you get there by scaling steep hillsides that offer a beautiful mountain landscape ideal for ecotourism and sky-watching. It offers basic tourist services like cottages, campsites, and restaurants.

**Located 18 kilometers east of Montegrande, 1,500 meters of altitude.**

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**Cerro Cancana Observatory.** A private center with a range of stargazing alternatives and guided observation sessions. Its facilities include two 14-inch telescopes.

Located 11 kilometers east of Montegrande and at 1,560 meters of altitude on the road to Cochiguaz. Reservations required in advance.

Telephone: (9) 90473859 - (9) 90473862

E-mail: [refugiocochiguaz@gmail.com](mailto:refugiocochiguaz@gmail.com) - [www.cancana.cl](http://www.cancana.cl)

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**Los Nichosr.** Famous for pisco production and the underground aging room, and renowned for its distillates, the place is now innovating with nectar wines. You can visit the cellars, known as “niches,” where they keep the oldest liquor bottles. On display and for sale are artisan products like nectar wines, liqueurs, and pisco. Nearby the brewery is lodging in dome-shaped cabins, outfitted with telescopes and removable roofs for stargazing. You’ll also run into a gourmet restaurant in the midst of the vineyards and vines, housed in an old pisco brewery.

Located 16 kilometers south of Paihuano.

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**Horcón.** Picturesque spot at 1,400 meters of altitude where there is an attractive Artisan Town run by 30 micro-entrepreneurs, with workshops and a sales floor. The premises also house a restaurant, exhibition room, amphitheater, picnic area, parking, and river access. Traditional agriculture lives on here on small plots of land, with simple homes made of adobe, stone, reed, cane, coirón brush, wheat straw, and willow and Chilean mesquite timber. You’ll find more than one good spot for stargazing in the vicinity.

Located 23 kilometers south of Paihuano.

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**Valle de Alcohuz.** Nestled in the foothills, this place invites visitors to contemplate its flora and fauna in a natural environment located at 1,740 meters of altitude. It has hotel facilities, including an old manor house refurbished as lodging, and a restaurant.

Located 29 kilometers south of Paihuano.

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**Top** Panoramic view of Pisco Elqui church. **Bottom** Sculpture of Gabriela Mistral, Montegrande.

## MONTEGRANDE AND GABRIELA MISTRAL

Nine kilometers south of Paihuano at a height of 1,100 meters, we find Montegrande, declared a Typical Zone in 1990. It is home to the School House and tomb of the poet Gabriela Mistral, both of which are recognized as national monuments (a magnificent sculpture commemorates her, as well). Also of interest is the old church from 1879, restored in 1999, topped off by a tall wooden bell dating from the nineteenth century. Another attraction is the auditorium, bearing the name of the neuroscientist Francisco Varela, of Elquian heritage, the Zen art gallery, the pisco brewery Artesanos del Cochiguaz, and a natural perfume factory. Moreover, you'll find cottages, several shops, restaurants, and alternative therapy providers.

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## MONTEGRANDE AND GABRIELA MISTRAL

**Typical Zone in Montegrande.** Since 1990, the entire area between the School House and Gabriela Mistral's tomb, including the church, the small square, and a neighboring manor-estate, has been officially declared a Typical Zone.

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**Montegrande Church.** This neoclassically-inspired temple was erected in the nineteenth century and delivered to the community on November 29, 1870, making it the oldest in the district. In 1896, Gabriela Mistral took her first communion there. The images are built from polychrome wood. The Quito wooden Christ on the Main Altar dates to 1889.

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**Gabriela Mistral Mausoleum.** There are two major national monuments in Montegrande in honor of the author of "Tropic Sun." One of them is the Gabriela Mistral Mausoleum, where the remains of the poet have rested since 1961, in fulfillment of her wishes. The Literature Nobel Prize winner now rests in the hills of the El Pozo estate, which has been a historical monument since 1969. In October 2005, the remains of her dear nephew Juan Godoy (Yin-Yin) were brought here.

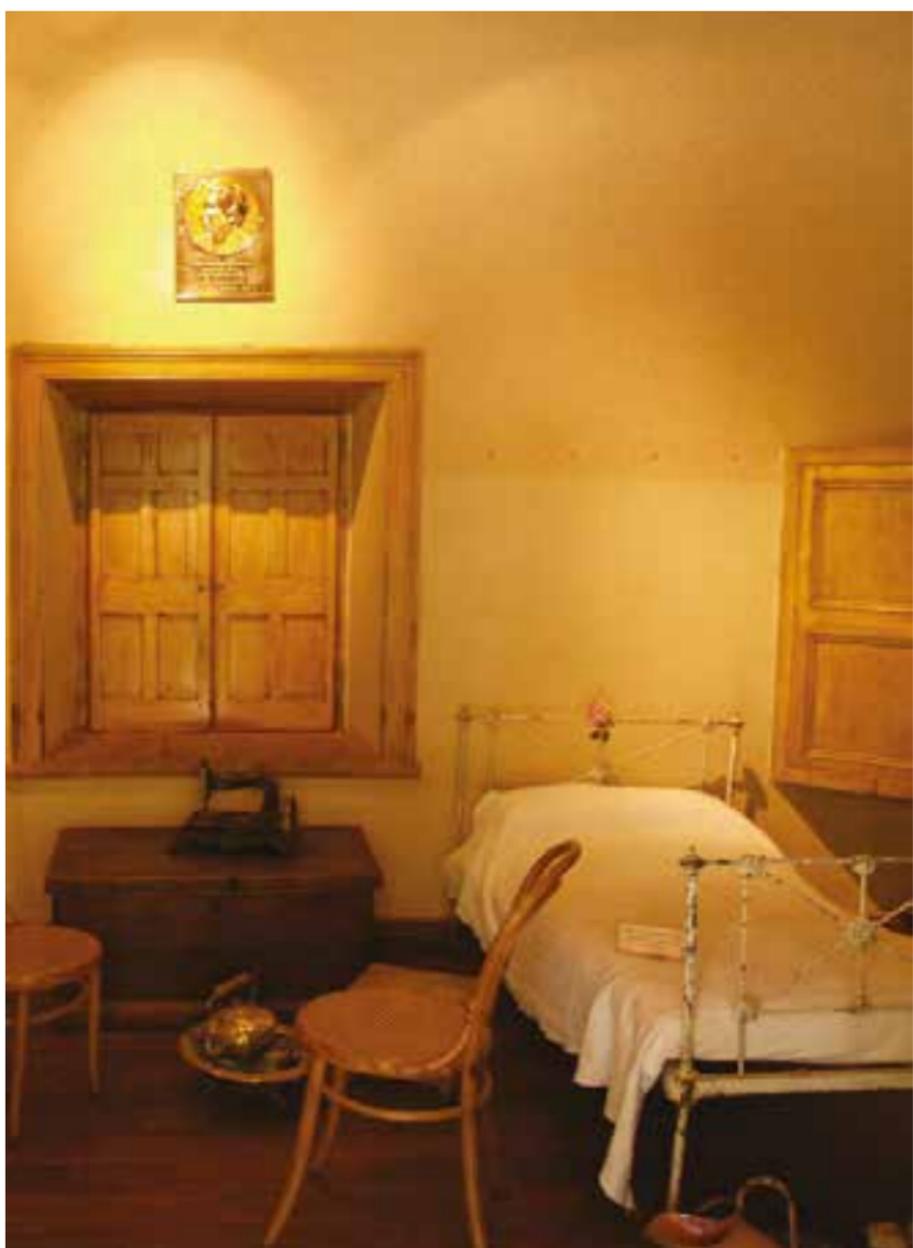
**Gabriela Mistral School House Site Museum.** Adapted to the customs of the age and open since 1980, this building has been a Historical Monument since 1979. It was where Gabriela Mistral lived from age 3 to 9 years old. The profound mark these childhood experiences left on her impregnate all of her works, to such an extent that in her later years, she would say bitterly: “I was lucky until I left Montegrande. After that, I was never lucky again.” It is a simply-built abode, a one-story adobe house, like many others in the area.

**Located on the Montegrande Main Street, no number.**

**The School House and Mail are open from Tuesday to Sunday.**



Frontis Pisco Los Nichos



**Top** Inside of the Gabriela Mistral School House Museum.  
**Center** Inside the Gabriela Mistral School House Museum.



**Top** Montegrando Church. **Bottom** Alternative therapy, widely available in the valley.

## NATURAL HERITAGE

The district is home to a diverse array of natural spaces, mountainous environments, and interior valleys, each with its own features. The district is criss-crossed by the towns of Tres Cruces, Paihuano, Paihuano Ravine, Pinto Ravine, Montegrande, Cochiguaz, Pisco Elqui, Horcón, and Alcohuaz.

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**Mountains.** The most accessible mountains for anyone looking to do medium- to high-mountain sports are Gabriela Mistral (3,940 m), La Coipa (4,040 m), La Embarradita (4,105 m), and Cancana (4,109 m). Various mountain trails can be used as hiking circuits. The only area on the mountains equipped with lodging for visitors is Alcohuaz. The El Chañar and El Samo retreats belong to the Estero Derecho Community, so authorization must be requested from them.

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**Valleys.** There are two major valleys: Cochiguaz and Alcohuaz, from which spring forth two currents of crystalline and pure waters that sustain a variety of fauna. One of the channels goes by the name of Cochiguaz River and the other Estero Derecho River. Along the road in the Alcohuaz Valley, irrigated by Estero Derecho River, you'll find the villages of Pisco Elqui, Horcón, and Alcohuaz. Cochiguaz Valley is also home to a wide array of tourist lodging choices, as well as places to camp and go on day trips. Moreover, you'll find options for meditation, relaxation, and wellness. The access road from Montegrande is a dirt road, but public transportation has been running on it since February 2011. In both valleys, you can hike the trails, climb the mountains and high peaks, take bicycle trips, or go mountain-biking.

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**Rivers.** Claro River is the confluence of the Cochiguaz and Estero Derecho Rivers. Its waters are crystalline, and in the intense summer heat, can be very refreshing for both residents and visitors. In wintertime, the waters are truly cold. Due to low flows, especially as compared to the flows in the southern zone, the main activities you can do here are sport fishing or a dip in the river. You can also watch the varied flora and fauna in these river basins. The Cepo Ravine in Cochiguaz is home to the Verde and Amarilla Lagoons, which are hard to access, but are ideal spots to observe nature and go sport fishing.

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**Flora and fauna.** The vegetation is characteristic of semi-arid environments, with enough water to feed the typical chañares—Chilean palo verde—, algarrobos—Chilean mesquite—, espinos—Roman cassie—, and other minor species; there are also fruit trees, including apricot, fig, avocado, orange, and peach varieties, as well as vegetable crops. The landscape is swathed in grapevines that thrive in the intense heat and dry air, growing the best grapes. When it comes to the fauna, the most common species are the guanaco—a South American camelid—, condor, southern viscacha, fox, Chilean puma, tapaculo bird, and more. Access roads run from several villages and are the perfect opportunity to get a good look at the landscapes and flora and fauna.

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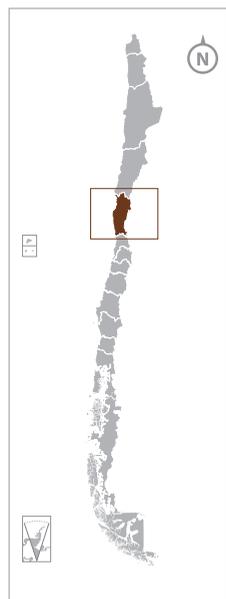


**Top** Artisan town of Horcón. **Bottom** Cerro Cancana de Cochiquaz Observatory.

**Tip.** Choose tourist operators that are registered and certified with Sernatur. Registering lodging and adventure tourism services is mandatory, pursuant to the Tourism Act N° 20.423.

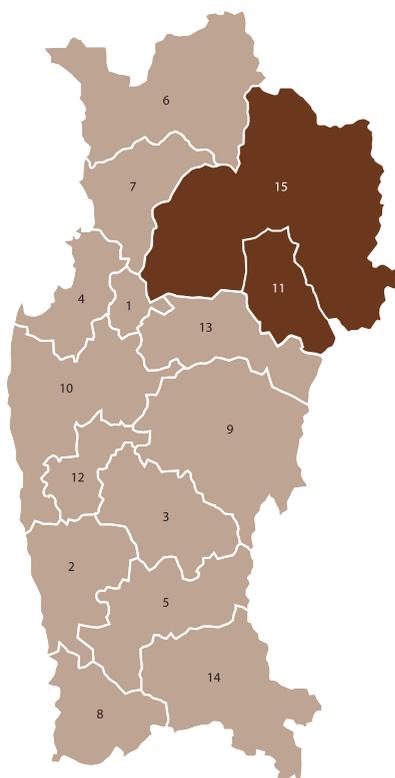
**Visit:** [serviciosturisticos.sernatur.cl](http://serviciosturisticos.sernatur.cl)

NOTAS



**Communes**

1. Andacollo
2. Canela
3. Combarbalá
4. Coquimbo
5. Illapel
6. La Higuera
7. La Serena
8. Los Vilos
9. Monte Patria
10. Ovalle
11. Pailhuano
12. Punitaqui
13. Río Hurtado
14. Salamanca
15. Vicuña



**Elqui Valley**

The Elqui Valley is located to the east of La Serena city. The access is through Gabriela Mistral CH 41 route.

**Borderlines**

The commune of La Higuera and the province of Huasco to the north. The Andes mountain and the Argentina border to the east. The Andacollo and Río Hurtado communes to the south, Andacollo and La Serena to the west.

**Not to be missed**

**Observatories.** Enjoy the astrotourism in the Tololo, Gemini, Mamalluca, El Pangue, Alfa Aldea, Astroelqui, Cancana, Chakana, Cielo Sur and Elqui Domos observatories.

The Elqui Valley, an authentic journey through our rural traditions and a reencounter with Gabriela Mistral.

The traces and the spirit of our Nobel Prize are everywhere in the area.

**Emergencies**

	Emergencies	131
	Police (Carabineros de Chile)	133
	Firefighters	132
	Cuerpo de Socorro Andino (Andean rescue corps)	136
	CITUC Intoxications	(56 2) 2635 68 00

**Phone numbers dialing**

From Chile to abroad

**Carrier + 0 + country code + city code + phone number**

Other cities within Chile

**Areal code + phone number**

From desk phone to cell Phone

**9 + phone number**

From cell Phone to desk phone

**Areal core + 2 + phone number**

**Transportation phone numbers**

	Arturo Merino Benítez International Airport	(56 2) 2789 00 92
	La Florida Airport of La Serena de La Serena	(56 51) 227 26 62
	La Serena Bus Station	(56 51) 222 45 73
	Rodoviario Bus Station of Coquimbo	(56 51) 231 43 40

**Information**

Sernatur, Tourist information Office  
 Matta 461, La Serena, (56 51) 2225199  
[Infocoquimbo@sernatur.cl](mailto:Infocoquimbo@sernatur.cl)  
 + info.: [www.turismoregiondecoquimbo.cl](http://www.turismoregiondecoquimbo.cl)  
 Tourism information office, tourism coordination and P.R. Vicuña Municipality  
 Bauer Tower building, at the corner of San Martín and Gabriela Mistral St., Vicuña.  
 (56 51) 2670308, Of. turismo@municipicuna.cl