

Destination OVALLE



SERNATUR Coquimbo Region
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National Tourism Service | Chile



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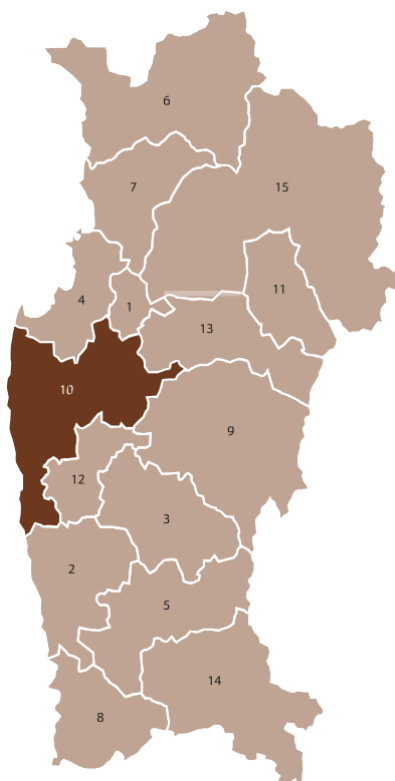


COQUIMBO REGION AND ITS PROVINCES



Provinces

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. Paihuano
12. Punitaqui
13. Río Hurtado
14. Salamanca
15. Vicuña



Must-sees

Coquimbo Region

Fray Jorge National Park



Live and watch nature in this beautiful National Park declared World Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO and the first Starlight Reserve of Chile.

Valle del Encanto



National Monument since 1973. Antique indigenous settlement with important archaeological vestiges.

Barraza



It is one of the oldest towns in the north of Chile. Declared Typical Area in 2001. Its Fiesta Costumbrista (Custom Festival) is celebrated in February.

Ovalle

Located in the heart of the Coquimbo Region, it has a nexus of trails in good condition and signage to access to its multiple tourism resources.

Limits

To the north with the provinces of Coquimbo and Andacollo, to the east with the provinces of Río Hurtado and Monte Patria, to the south with the provinces of Punitaqui and Canela, and to the west with the Pacific

USEFUL DATA

Emergencies

	Ambulance	131
	Police	133
	Firefighters	132
	Andean Emergency Corps	136
	CITUC Intoxications	(56-2) 635 6800
	Denounce Safe	4242

Phone number dial

From Chile to abroad:

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

Another city in Chile:

Area code + phone number

From landline to cellphone:

9 + phone number

From cellphone to landline:

0 + area code + phone number

Transportation phone numbers

	Arturo Merino Benítez International Airport	(+56) 226901796
	La Florida Airport at La Serena	(+56) 51 2270353
	Media Luna Terminal of Ovalle	(56 53) 262 66 12

Information

Sernatur, Tourism Information Office
Matta #461, La Serena
+Info.: www.turismoregiondecoquimbo.cl

Ovalle Town Hall, Tourism Information Office
Open Plaza Ovalle, Benavente #12075, Of. 1380, (56 53) 259 54 85
turismo@municipalidaddeovalle.cl

INTRODUCTION

Known as “the Limarí pearl”, its weather and territory are favorable for the cultivation of various horticultural products. During the summer Los Peñones is the favorite tourism attraction for the residents, that seek in its waters refreshment on warm afternoons. Ovalle is known for the dynamism of its rurality, the traditional festivals that keep the traditions alive, and celebrations linked to the cuisine such as Fiesta del Cabrito and Harvest Festival during the summer months. Within the city you can visit San Vicente Ferrer church, Feria Modelo, and Limarí Archeological Museum, that has ceramics and utensils from the Diaguita, Ánimas and El Molle cultures. It has a Railway Museum, a Pedagogical Museum, and its Plaza de Armas is considered one of the most beautiful in the country. It is possible from there to get to Fray Jorge National Park and to Tongoy and its surroundings.



Above Horseback ride through Limarí river's mouth. **Center** Fray Jorge National Park Viewpoint. **Below** Valle del Encanto.

OVALLE

It is characterized for having huge reservoirs, such as Recoleta or La Paloma. In tourism, you can visit Valle del Encanto Historical Monument, Fray Jorge National Park, (declared World Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO and Starlight Reserve) and, in the month of January, it is possible to go to the famous Niño Dios de Sotaquí Religious Festival.

TOURISM ATTRACTIONS

Fray Jorge National Park. Declared World Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO in 1977, due to its Valdivian rain forest (as experts call this dense vegetation), which is odd considering that it is located in the Norte Chico of the country. Its singularity and extraordinary beauty, make this park an ideal place for wildlife observation and ecotourism activities such as hiking and horseback riding. The park is located in the region of the Andean-coastal mountainous complex called Altos de Talinay. The highest altitudes above sea level are the Mozambique Hill (560 m.a.s.l), the Centinela Hill (556 m.a.s.l), and the El Viento hill (667 m.a.s.l). Its microclimate allows for the development of olivillos, canelos, arrayanes, ferns and vines (medallita), in addition to varilla brava, guayacán, capers, cactus, uvillos, maitenes, rosemaries and huiganes. In spring añañucas, azulillos, lilies of the field, and scallions can be seen. The fauna in the park is represented mainly by birds such as partridges, quails, long-tailed meadowlarks, thrushes, diucas, hummingbirds, and tencas. Eagles, tucúqueres, and owls can also be seen, as well as foxes in every sector of the park. This Park is a Starlight Reserve since 2013, the first of its kind in Chile, due to its transparent skies of great quality for astronomic observation.

📍 **Access through a country road, kilometer 387, Ruta 5 Norte. Located 90 km west of Ovalle. From December to March, it opens every day, except on December 25th and January 1st. Buy tickets at aspticket.cl.**

Mouth of the Limarí river. In the proximities of Fray Jorge Park, the Limarí river flows into the sea creating a lagoon, a true natural pool of crystal-clear waters and white sand in front of a 750-meter beach where wild ducks are seen. In the southern area is the Caleta El Toro which is the most known and where visitors can see large “conchales” (shell middens) produced by the slaughter of Chilean abalones and other mollusks.

It is important to respect the quietness of the birds and do not get close to their nesting areas for any reason whatsoever so the mouth of the Limarí river can maintain its health and keep its important ecosystem functions that benefit us all.

Las Punillas. Access to Fray Jorge National Park is exclusively through the villages: Lorenzo Peralta, Buenos Aires, Valdivia, and Peral Ojo de Agua (all at Punilla), which are spread in a 46 km section west towards the province and surrounding Fray Jorge National Park.

Panulcillo. A green creek that stays in a similar status to how the first inhabitants of this area knew it. Petroglyphs and cupstones can be appreciated in this place that, in its origins, housed the Molle culture (a group that lived in this area approximately a thousand years ago). A large ore deposit exists there, and it is believed that it was exploited by the indigenous. In the XIX century it became an important mining center in the hands of a British company. As testimony to that period, we can see the guest house built by the mining company.

San Julián. Small town of one single street with typical adobe houses that border the foothill of the southern hillside that gave origin to the Limarí Valley. Eminently agricultural, it produces avocados. Vegetables such as artichokes and paprika peppers also stand out.

📍 **Located 15 km southwest of Ovalle.**

Peñablanca. A quiet community with climate and environmental characteristics idyllic for quality products. In this village craft beer is brewed with water from fog-catching systems hence its fantasy name.

📍 **Located 60 km southwest of Ovalle, Ruta D-45.**

Cerrillos de Tamaya. Agricultural and mining community witness of the copper exploitation in the XIX century, that inspired the construction of one of the first railways of South America to Tongoy port, where the mineral was processed and loaded in ships. In operations until 1900, it has a heritage cemetery. In Ovalle rural buses depart from the Municipal Market on Independencia street that connect the city to the outside world.

📍 **Located 25 km west of Ovalle.**

Barraza. One of the oldest villages in the north of Chile, over 440 years old. A National Monument in the category of Typical Area since 2011. Founded as San Antonio del Mar in 1680, its old church was built by Joaquín Toesca in 1861 and since 1977 it is recognized as a Historical Monument.

📍 **Located around 30 km southwest of Ovalle.**

Valle del Encanto. Antique indigenous settlement with important archeological vestiges such as petroglyphs, pictographs, cupstones or mortars. It was archeologically discovered in 1946 and declared National Historical Monument in 1973. Its name comes from legends that say the place is enchanted because it lets you step back in time and participate in the offerings that Los Molles gave to its gods.

📍 **It is located 24 km west of Ovalle, Ruta D-45.**

Valle del Encanto Petroglyphs. The main decorative element of the drawings are human figures that are found, usually, in attitude of movement. The facial features are signaled with circles and lines for the eyes, nose, and eyebrows. The mouth is not drawn. The archeologist called this rock “Limarí Style” art.

Valle del Encanto Pictographs. The pictographs are the color red and found in scarce number. They present a geometrical theme with wavy or broken lines, disconnected from the typical anthropomorphic figures that are found in petroglyphs.

Cupstones or mortars. There is a great variety and abundance of these elements in the Valle del Encanto. It is believed that these are contemporaries of petroglyphs and pictographs, and that they belonged to El Molle Cultural Complex.

Recoleta Reservoir. Artificial dam that dates from 1934 and holds the waters of Hurtado River. The Ruta D-595 passes by the curtain of the reservoir. Windsurfing, sailing, laser, and fishing are done here.

📍 **Located 17 km northeast of Ovalle and access is through a paved road.**

Sotaquí. Small village known for the Niño Dios de Sotaquí Religious Festival, an image that dates from the XIX century and ever since its origins congregates Catholics from the area.

📍 **Located 11 km from Ovalle, by the paved road that leads to La Paloma and Monte Patria, Ruta D-55.**

Los Peñones. Recreational place to enjoy a day out, with picnic facilities along the waters of the Limarí river, with a sand beach, horseback rides, and pedal boats.

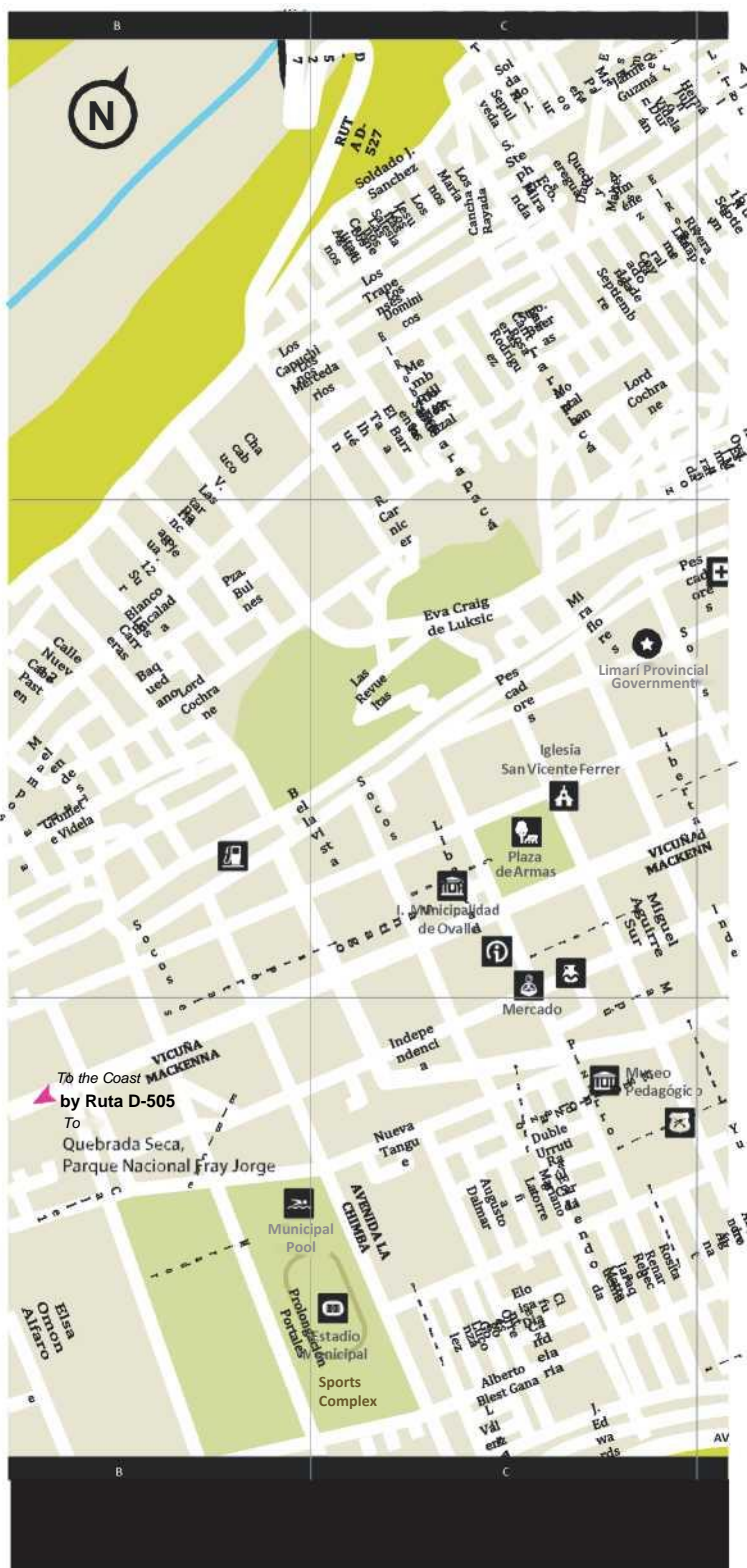
📍 **Located on the road to Sotaquí, Ruta D-55, near the city of Ovalle.**

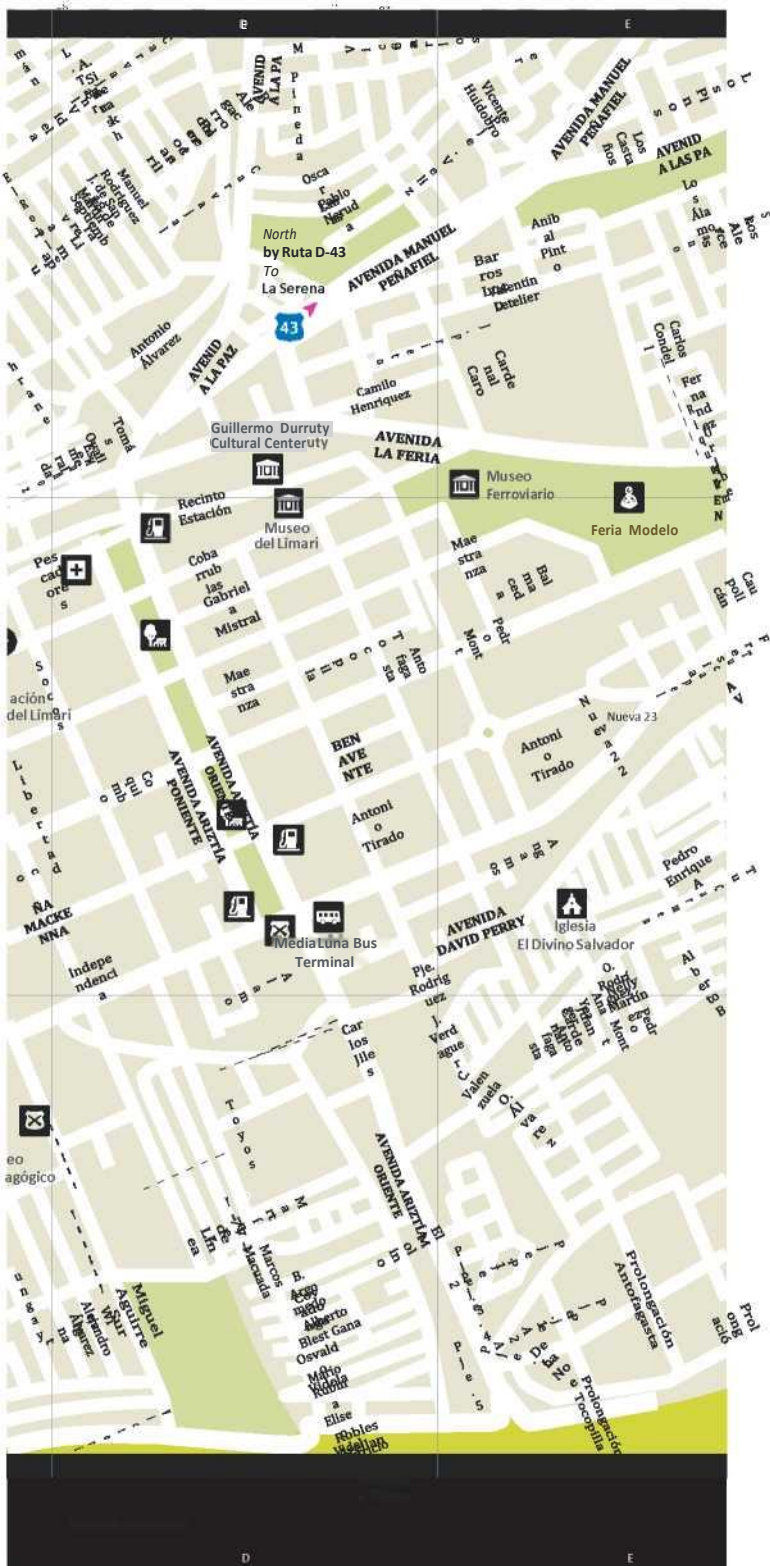
Cerro Grande Ecological Reserve. It is one of the most important places for collection of fog water in Chile. It is the property of the Peña Blanca Agricultural Community and has 100 hectares of extension. It has a series of trails designed for a public that wants an outdoor experience closer to protected flora and fauna.

Tamelcura Park. It is one of the traditional places in Ovalle, and it is remembered for its recreational and leisure days for the public. It has facilities and large grills, where you can enjoy a barbecue with family and friends. It is located in the surroundings of La Paloma Reservoir.

Vineyards, distilleries and pisqueras. The Limarí Valley is known as “green north of Chile”, which has unique character wines and gourmet piscos, some have been awarded worldwide.

Goat cheese. The Limarí Valley is one of the greatest producers of goat cheese in the Coquimbo Region. The Spaniards, in times of the Conquer, introduced this caprine to the country. Nowadays there are many kinds of artisanal cheese, as well as a variety of spiced cheeses.





HERITAGE

Municipal Market. The market is where typical and traditional products from the Ovalle province and the Limarí Valley concentrate. It is located one block from the Plaza de Armas of Ovalle. Varied wooden handicrafts, lapis lazuli, combarbalita, juices, and fresh fruits are offered in the place, as well as a varied offer of typical restaurants.

📍 **Located between Victoria and Independencia streets.**

San Vicente Ferrer Church. The temple is 48-meter high. Its wooden tower has two bodies and a cone. Its clock has been working since 1888 and was donated by Rafael Errázuriz Urmeneta. There is a pine wood altar imitating baroque American marble. It keeps the images of Saint Vicente Ferrer, Saint José and of the Virgin of the Rosary. Historical Monument since 1981. It was refurbished in 2002.

📍 **Located on Miguel Aguirre Street on the corner with Libertad.**

Plaza de Armas. Pleasant public walkway surrounded by leafy jacarandas that gives peace to body and soul. Located in the heart of the city, between Libertad, Vicuña Mackenna, Victoria, and Miguel Aguirre streets. Its design was done by the landscaper Gastón Cea and the eye-catching water mirror, by the architect Marcelo Bachelet.

Alameda. It is located between Ariztía Oriente and Ariztía Poniente streets. It is the main public walkway and extends for four blocks from Socos street to David Perry. It has palm trees and gardens, a water mirror, and a monument by the national sculptor Galvarino Ponce.

Feria Modelo. It was inaugurated on April 21st, 1986, and built where the Train Maestranza of the State used to be. It is an icon from the city of Ovalle and the largest agricultural fair from the north. It is a meeting point for farmers of over 200 small villages in the area.

📍 **Located on Maestranza Street without number.**

Limarí Museum and Municipal Library. The former train station is now the Guillermo Durruty Cultural Center, where the Ovalle Public Library is located. It has an exhibition and conference hall, and a museum that has the most complete diaguia ceramic exhibit of the country. The Limarí Museum was created by the Ovalle Archeological Society on September 17th, 1963.

📍 **Located on Covarrubias Street on the corner with Antofagasta.**

Ovalle Pedagogical Museum. Located at the former boarding school from Alejandro Álvarez Jofré Lyceum, it has a central hall and three rooms that include a photographic panel in honor of the teachers and a photographic exhibition from the past and present of the establishments in the province.

📍 **Located at Victoria Street # 150.**

Railway Museum. A rail wagon at the main entrance of the Feria Modelo, where the former Ovalle Maestranza used to be, is today the Railway Museum. The car is in a reconstructed and decorated square for this purpose.

📍 **Located in the little square at the main entrance of Feria Modelo.**



Above View of Feria Modelo. **Center** Ovalle Plaza de Armas (Photo: Ovalle Town Hall). **Below** Limarí Museum.



Above Sotaquí Church. **Below** Storage cellar in Limarí.

FESTIVALS AND CELEBRATIONS

Niño Dios de Sotaquí Festival. Festival in honor of the Niño Dios symbolized by an image found in the XIX century. The “Chinese dances” or cofradías that express the popular religiosity, typical of the area stand out. Each year around 40,000 people gather.

Fiesta del Cabrito. Celebrated in Los Peñones, Ruta D-55, located 2 km east of Ovalle. It is an authentic gastronomical celebration around products related with caprine livestock of great tradition in the area.

Ovalle Book Fair. The most traditional cultural fair in Ovalle, a moment where literature gets in touch with other arts.

Barraza Custom Fair. At this fair the smells, colors, and flavors of this land’s traditions are revealed, such as cuisine, handicrafts, music, folklore, cultural expressions from Norte Chico, domaduras, and carreras a la chilena, among others.

Harvest Festival. For this occasion, stands are assembled in the Ovalle Plaza de Armas with handicrafts, gastronomical samples, cultural events, and folkloric groups, accompanied with tastings of the best wines and piscos from the area.

Ovalle Pisco Festival. It is an event for the whole community, where tributes are paid to a province that produces around 80% of the total grapes used for distillates, sufficient reason for the limarina capital to be the center of this celebration. A worktable to discuss the best pisco sour preparation, massive tasting, local bartender competition, and the installation of bars in the Plaza de Armas, are part of the activities.



Above Harvest Festival, (Photo: Municipality of Ovalle). **Above** Barraza Custom Fair.

Ovalle Observatory. Come see the magic of the skies in Limarí Valley in the large observatory at Ovalle Casino & Resort. Here you can live the experience of gazing at the stars, constellations, planets, nebulae, and much more. The modern computerized telescope of 9"1/4 diameter allows you to appreciate wonderful images of one of the clearest skies in Chile.

Game Casino. Ovalle Casino Resort, has hotel, restaurant, cinema, convention center, spa services, and the Tourism Astronomical Observatory. Located at the northern entrance of the city of Ovalle.



Game Casino.



Ovalle Observatory.

Tip. Prefer tourism service providers registered and certified with Sernatur. The register for accommodation and adventure tourism services is mandatory, according to Tourism Law N° 20.423.

Visit: serviciosturisticos.sernatur.cl