

## INTRODUCTION

Territories with vineyards and villages that have combined agriculture with tourism. The Elqui is one of the most visited destinations that you can visit if you are a nature lover and are looking for a unique experience. All this is located between Panguel and Paihuano.

Paihuano is located in the eastern part of the region and is considered a true paradise for nature lovers, spiritual search, and meditation. It is also the gateway to the Cochiguaz and Alcohuaz valleys, where a rich experience is offered to the visitor. Nearby is the ravine that gave its name to the town and that unfolds in the foreground to the east, bringing together special conditions for recreation and observation of the skies.

## PAIHUANO

The pure air, fresh and crystalline water, flowing energy, and warm people are some of the natural virtues of this district. The area is striking in its contrasts, with colorful hills, vegetation that contrasts with the aridity, and a sky that is considered the most transparent on the planet. This natural beauty offers an incomparable tranquility which is widely recognized worldwide as an ideal place for relaxation and meditation activities, mainly concentrated in the valley of Cochiguaz, whose mystical fame reaches our borders.

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## ATTRACTIONS OF THE AREA

**Paihuano.** This quiet town next to the Claro River has a good network of tourist services such as hotels, restaurants, and stores, among others, which provide the necessary comfort to enjoy a peaceful life in the area and at any time of the year.

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**Pueblo Hundido.** It is a hamlet that on the top of the outcrop shows a statue of Gabriela Mistral on a rock. It is a short distance from the Montegrande ravines, with restaurants, rustic cabins, and agro-camping.

 **Located 5 km south of Paihuano.**

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**Quebrada de Paihuano.** A pre-cordillera area with special conditions for ecotourism and observation of the skies. It is accessed from the Paihuano main square, which is a road lined



cabins, hostels, inns, alternative therapies, swimming pools, and camping sites. On one square is the Solar de Pisco Mistral, with a hundred years old machinery for making this liquor.

📍 **Located 13 km south of Paihuano.**

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**Pisco Elqui Church.** In the town of Pisco is the famous Nuestra Señora del Rosario church, built between 1910 and 1922. The temple has the design of the time and is built with materials from the old continent. It has a tower 30 m high, a central nave, and two lateral ones with images from France.

📍 **It is located on O'Higgins and Centenario Streets.**

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**Pisco Valley.** The district is famous for its liquor. It can be seen in the number of distilleries that exist. In the Montegrande sector, there is a plant of the Cooperativa Agrícola Pisquera de Elqui (CAPEL); in Pisco Elqui there is the Pisco plant, belonging to Compañía Pisquera de Chile. In the Los Nichos sector, on the road to the town of Pisco, is one of the last artisanal distilleries in the region, the Fundo Los Nichos distillery.

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**Tres Cruces.** A small town, gateway to the valleys, it is the ideal place to observe the Pisco Claro River and appreciate its fresh and crystal water. It is enchanted by the prevailing nature and tranquility of the sector.

📍 **Located 5 km north of Paihuano.**

**Cerro Cancana Observatory.** A private observatory offers various alternatives for observing the sky during guided sessions. Its facilities include two 10-inch telescopes.

📍 **Located 11 km east of Montegrande and 1,500 meters above sea level, on the road to Cochiguato.**  
**Booking is required.**

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**Los Nichos.** Famous for its pisco production, this winery cellar, renowned for its distillates, and now innovating with its nectar wines. You can visit the cellar, known as "the niches", where bottles of liquor of great antiquity are preserved. There is an exhibition of traditional handmade products such as nectar wines, liqueurs, and pisco. Near this winery, there is lodging in rustic dome-shaped cabins, which are equipped with beds and removable roofs, allowing for stargazing observation. There is also a gourmet restaurant in the middle of vineyards and grapevines, located in the Pisco winery.

📍 **Located 16 km south of Paihuano.**

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**Horcón.** A picturesque place located at an altitude of 1,500 meters above sea level, where there is an attractive village with workshops and a sales room, traditional agriculture in small farms, and simple houses made of stone, reeds, cane, coirón, wheat straw, willow, and carob tree. In its surroundings, it is possible to find a good place for astronomical observation.

📍 **Located 23 km south of Paihuano.**

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## MONTEGRANDE AND GABRIELA

9 km south of Paihuano and at a latitude of 1, sea level, is Montegrande, an area that was de Typical Zone in 1990. It houses the Casa Escuela tomb of the poet Gabriela Mistral, both recognized national monuments (a magnificent sculpture commemorates her). Also of interest is the old 1879 restored in 1999, crowned by a tall wooden tower from the nineteenth century. Other attractions include an auditorium named after the neuroscientist Elquinas roots Francisco Varela, the Zen art gallery Artesanos del Cochiguaz pisque plant, and a natural perfume factory. In addition, in the area, it is possible to find cabins, some stores, restaurants, and alternative therapies.

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## MONTEGRANDE AND GABRIELA

**Montegrande Typical Zone.** Since 1990, the area between the Casa Escuela and Gabriela Mistral, including the church, the small square, and the neighboring farmhouse, has been officially designated as a Typical Zone.

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**Montegrande Church.** This temple of inspiration was built in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and dedicated to the community on November 29<sup>th</sup>, 1870. It is the heart of the community. In 1896 Gabriela Mistral took communion in it. The images are made of native wood. The Christ of Quiteña wood from the region dates from 1889.



## Gabriela Mistral School-House Site Museum

Adapted to the style of the time and open since 1990, this building has been a Historic Monument since 2000. It is the place where Gabriela Mistral lived from 1907 to 1914. The deep marks of those experiences permeate all of Mistral's work to such an extent that in later years, she says bitterly: "I was happy in Montegrande, from then on I was never happy." The building is a very simple one-story Adobe building, like many others that still exist in the area.

📍 Located on Calle Principal s/n in Montegrande

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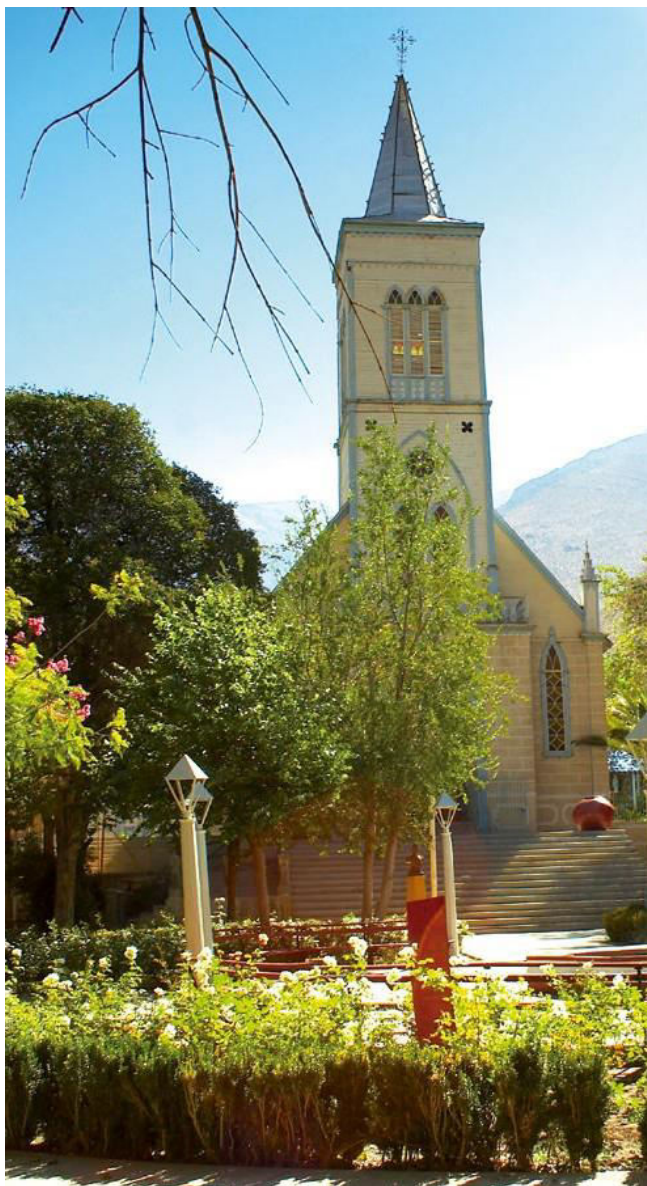


Frontis Pisco Los Nichos.









## NATIONAL PATRIMONY

In the communal environment, diverse natural spaces have been identified in mountainous environments and in the valleys, each with its characteristics. The commune is bordered by the towns of Tres Cruces, Paihuano, Quebrada de Pinto, Paihuano, Quebrada de Pinto, Montegrande, Pisco Elqui, Horcón, and Alcohuaz.

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**Mountain.** The most accessible mountains are Gabriela Mistral (3,940 m), La Coipa (4,105 m), La Embarradita (4,105 m), and Cancana. Different mountain trails can be used as routes through the mountain range sectors, the only one with a shelter to provide lodging for hikers. The El Chañar and El Samo shelters belong to the Estero Derecho Community, for their use authorization must be requested.

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**Valleys.** There are two important valleys, the Coipalí and Alcohuaz, which give rise to two streams and crystalline waters that are home to diverse fauna. One of the riverbeds is called the Coipalí River and the other is the Estero Derecho River. The way to the Alcohuaz valley, irrigated by the Coipalí River, the towns of Pisco Elqui, Horcón, and Alcohuaz unfold. In the valley of the Coipalí, you can find a varied offer of tourist lodgings, including places for camping and day trips. There is the possibility of accessing alternatives for

**Rivers.** The Claro River is formed by the River and the Estero Derecho River. Its water is crystal clear and during the intense summer it is very refreshing for both residents and tourists. In winter they become really cold due to the high flows; very reduced if we compare them with the sources of the south zone. The main activities are sport fishing and bathing, as well as the observation of the varied flora and fauna that inhabit the basins. In the Cepo ravine, in Cochiguazu, Verde and Amarilla lagoons, places difficult to access but ideal for observing nature and sport fishing.

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**Flora and fauna.** It has a vegetation characteristic of semi-arid environments, with water resources used to feed typical chañares, carob trees, hawthorn and various minor species. There are also fruit trees such as apricots, fig-trees, avocado trees, orange trees, peaches, and vegetable crops. The landscape is intensely cultivated with grapevines that grow in the intense sun and dry air, giving rise to the production of wine. In fauna, the most common species are condors, viscachas, foxes, Chilean pumas, among others. The access roads to the different localities make up the ideal scenery for the observation of the landscape and flora and fauna.

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**Advice.** Prefer the registered tourism providers which are certified by SERNATUR. Registration for lodging and adventure services is mandatory, according to Tourism Law No. 20,423.

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