

## INTRODUCTION

Coquimbo, a port and beach resort, the capital of the province of Elqui, is 462 kilometers (km) north of Santiago. With its 1,429.3 km<sup>2</sup>, the city concentrates the largest number of establishments and hotels in the Coquimbo Region, with excellent accommodation and recreational facilities. Its attractions include places with stories of corsairs and pirates in the bays of La Herradura and Coquimbo, as well as the practice of ecotourism in coastal wetlands, such as in the El Culebrón sector and Tongoy.

The extensive coastline of the district begins at the northern border with La Serena and extends south of Tongoy, with a wide variety of beaches, fishermen's coves, and resorts.

Along Avenida Costanera (Costanera Avenue), which begins at Peñuelas beach, it is possible to enjoy attractions such as the casino, a 4 km bike path, gyms, and free outdoor games. Other attractions are its varied gastronomic offer based on sea food products; trips around the bay in boats or catamarans; the Typical Zone of the Guayacán Village; the fishermen's coves; the shows at the Francisco Sánchez Rumoroso World Cup stadium; the bohemian Barrio Inglés; the Cruz del Tercer Milenio (Third Millennium Cross); with a spectacular 360° viewpoint, and the Mohammed VI Center for the Dialogue of Civilizations, the only mosque in the region.



Coquimbo nautical trips.



Lambert Fort of Coquimbo.



Sunset at the Coquimbo waterfront.

## A BIT OF HISTORY

There are several interpretations about the origin of the name Coquimbo, some more accepted than others. It is an Indigenous toponym, which would come from the Quechua Cullquitampu or “silver lodging”; a Moluche voice which would allude to a “place of calm waters”; or it would come from the Mapuche people, which would mean “trickle.”

With the arrival of the Spaniards, the current territory of Coquimbo was administered by the Governorate of the Kingdom of Chile, militarily known as the Captaincy General. This period began with the appointment of Governor Francisco de Villagra Velásquez.

In 1578, the English navigator and explorer Sir Francis Drake, aboard the ship “Golden Hind,” recorded in his log that the site should be called La Herradura because of its shape.

During Chilean independence in 1811, Coquimbo was declared a major port, free for all flags of trade and maritime houses. That same year, in the first National Congress, the creation of the Coquimbo Province, the third after Santiago and Concepción, was signed.

In 1850, during Manuel Bulnes's administration, the city's maps were approved. In the government of José Joaquín Pérez, on September 24<sup>th</sup>, 1867, the Department of Coquimbo was created. The Municipality of Coquimbo was founded on May 5<sup>th</sup> of that year, with José Joaquín Edwards Ossandón as its first mayor. During the government of Aníbal Pinto, Coquimbo was awarded the title of city on September 4<sup>th</sup>, 1879.

## COQUIMBO

The district of Coquimbo offers visitors and tourists a wide range of tourist services and various alternatives to occupy their free time, where it is possible to live a unique experience in which history, nature, culture, cuisine, entertainment, and adventure can be mixed.

Whoever visits the district must visit the English neighborhood—or Barrio Inglés in Spanish— where the cultural and bohemian activity is centered, with gastronomic venues, pubs, and cafes. The obligatory walks are the Barrio Puerto sector, La Pampilla, Fuerte Coquimbo, and the Dome, which transformed into a site museum that exhibits vestiges of the Ánimas culture.

Sailing enthusiasts can take entertaining trips off the coast of the city to observe birds and marine fauna. To the south, the coastline is privileged by its extensive beaches and bays of soft sand.

The beaches of Peñuelas, La Herradura, Totalillo, Las Tacas, Morrillos, Las Mostazas, and Playa Blanca, as well as the coastal towns of Guanaqueros and Tongoy, invite visitors to enjoy the sun, warm water, soft sands, and first-class services.

Coquimbo is an ideal city to rest and stroll around any time of the year, learn about its history, and discover its geography and the genesis of its entertaining stories, myths, and legends.




Los Navegantes viewpoint.

## CALM WATER BEACHES

The district of Coquimbo dhas 56 km of coastline, with the beaches of Peñuelas, La Herradura, Totoralillo, Las Tacas, Morrillos, Las Mostazas, Playa Blanca, and Playa Socos, as well as the towns of Guanaqueros and Tongoy.

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**Peñuelas.** Famous beach of calm and warm waters. In its surroundings, there is the Enjoy Coquimbo Casino, the Peñuelas Fishing Cove, and a wide range of restaurants and “picadas” (cheap eats) to enjoy clams with Parmesan cheese and other gastronomic specialties made with seafood. In addition, there are lodging and entertainment services.


 Located 9 km north of Coquimbo, bordering Avenida del Mar in La Serena.



Avenida Costanera.

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**La Herradura.** Attractive tourist beach with camping areas, a yacht club, hotels, cabins, and other tourist services. It is characterized by its warm and calm waters, which are suitable for bathing and water sports such as windsurfing and diving, among others. It is 2 km long. On the north side of the beach is the Guayacán Port. You can visit the church of La Herradura and the Yacht Club during your visit.

 Located 2 km south of downtown Coquimbo.

**Las Tacas.** It is a 1,000-meter-long beach, with fine white sand, which descends gently into the sea. It offers favorable conditions for doing a wide variety of nautical sports, such as sailing, surfing, and diving, among others. On this beach is a real estate complex of Mediterranean inspiration, which combines the magic of semi-arid nature with the modernity of the facilities and includes several apartments overlooking the sea, residential hotels, swimming pools, and a restaurant of international level.

📍 Located 15 km from downtown Coquimbo.

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**Totalillo.** Beach with “natural charm.” It has an extension of 2 km with a small peninsula and rocky landscape. It is characterized for its clear and transparent waters, suitable for bathing and especially for fishing, diving, underwater hunting, surfing, and bodyboarding. It also has rock formations in excellent conditions for Boulder climbing. It has a set of Polynesian-style cabins and a high-level restaurant.

📍 Located 13 km from downtown Coquimbo.



Totalillo beach

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**Morrillos.** A 6.km-long beach of ochre sands and crystalline waters. It is possible to do nautical sports, such as diving and fishing, sandboarding in its dune fields, and the contemplation of more than 110 types of migratory and endemic birds in Humedal Lagunillas, out of which the coscoroba swan stands out. It has a campsite and cabins.

📍 Located 14 km from downtown Coquimbo.

**Guaqueros.** It is a beautiful and quiet beach, ideal for rest. It is characterized for its cove of artisanal fishers, located in an extensive bay. It offers a tourist offering of marine cuisine. It also has several lodging alternatives, including parking for motorhomes, camping sites, cabins, hostels, and hotels.

Its beach is over 7 km long and has warm and calm waters. It is ideal for family fun and doing nautical sports, fishing, and diving. The area also has beautiful landscapes for activities such as trekking, cycling, and running, among others.

In its fisherman's cove, it is possible to go on fishing tours or nautical trips, where you can observe marine birds of temporary presence, such as Humboldt penguins, sea lions, and dolphins. Guided tours through the center and surroundings of the town complement its offer, highlighting the archaeological heritage of this ancient settlement of the Diaguita, Ánimas, and Chango cultures, as well as astronomical and astrophotography tours.

📍 Located 34 km from downtown Coquimbo.



View of Guaqueros beach.

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**Playa Blanca.** It is a small bay with about 500 m of extension, with a beach of white sands and transparent waters. It has good conditions for diving, shore fishing, and nautical sports. It has apartments, cabins, camping, and a restaurant. It is accessed from Ruta 5, towards the inland road between Guaqueros and Tongoy.

📍 Located 45 km south of Coquimbo.



Playa Blanca beach

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**Tongoy.** Traditional beach that stands on a small peninsula, nestled in the mountain range of Lengua de Vaca. It has attractive hotel facilities, cabins, and restaurants.

In Tongoy, you can visit the heritage house of the writer Víctor Domingo Silva, the viewpoint of Cerro La Virgen, wetlands, and the Tangué estate. This coastal town invites you to take a walk and enjoy the cuisine and a beautiful panoramic view of the bay. Its 800-meter route also has vehicle parking areas, bicycle lanes, and a sector for massive events. It is also remarkable for its accessibility and facilities for people with disabilities. It is in Playa Grande de Tongoy.

📍 Located 48 km south of Coquimbo and 14 km south of Guanaqueros.



Tongoy beach



**Playa Grande of Tongoy.** It is an extensive beach of approximately 14 km, suitable for bathing and shore and boat fishing. It concentrates on Tongoy's cuisine, and oysters can be enjoyed.




## CULTURAL AND ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE

**Guayacán.** Historical and patrimonial district declared Typical Zone in 2005. Its fame dates back to colonial times when it was the scene of raids by pirates and privateers, aspects collected in various legends that include stories of possible treasures buried in the area.

In 1846, Guayacán was founded as a maritime and mining establishment developed by Robert Edward Alison. At the same time, José Tomás Urmeneta set up his copper smelter, for which he built, in 1862, a railroad line to the Tamaya deposit in Ovalle and a shipping dock on the coast, making Chile the first copper exporter in the world in 1876.

A must-see is its Gothic-style metal church, prefabricated in Europe in the mid-19th century and built in Guayacán in 1886. Another outstanding construction is the Administration House of the Guayacán establishment, dating from 1840. Both buildings were declared National Monuments in 1977.

The English Cemetery–Cementerio Inglés– created in 1874, the port of Guayacán, the picturesque fisherman's cove with an offer of “picadas” and local crafts are of interest. The religious celebration of the Virgen del Rosario of Guayacán

 **The town of Guayacán is located 2 km south of downtown Coquimbo.**

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is celebrated on the last Sunday of January.

**Barrio Inglés.** Old neighborhood recovered and completely remodeled, which stands out for the architecture of the nineteenth century and where much of Coquimbo's cultural and bohemian life is concentrated. Pubs and cafes offer a wide variety of artistic and cultural shows. Theater, dance, and music unite in places like the Palace Cultural Center and the House of Arts and Culture House.

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**La Pampilla.** Place of celebration of the Fiestas Patrias (national holidays) celebrated on September 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup> of each year, becoming an important tradition for the Coquimbo Region, even being recognized as “the biggest party in Chile.”

### **Francisco Sánchez Rumoroso Bicentenary Stadium.**

Inaugurated in 1970, it is the official home of Coquimbo Unido Sports Club, a team in the Chilean soccer league. It was rebuilt for the U-20 Women's World Cup championship in 2018.

📍 Located at Santiago Trigo Street s/n.

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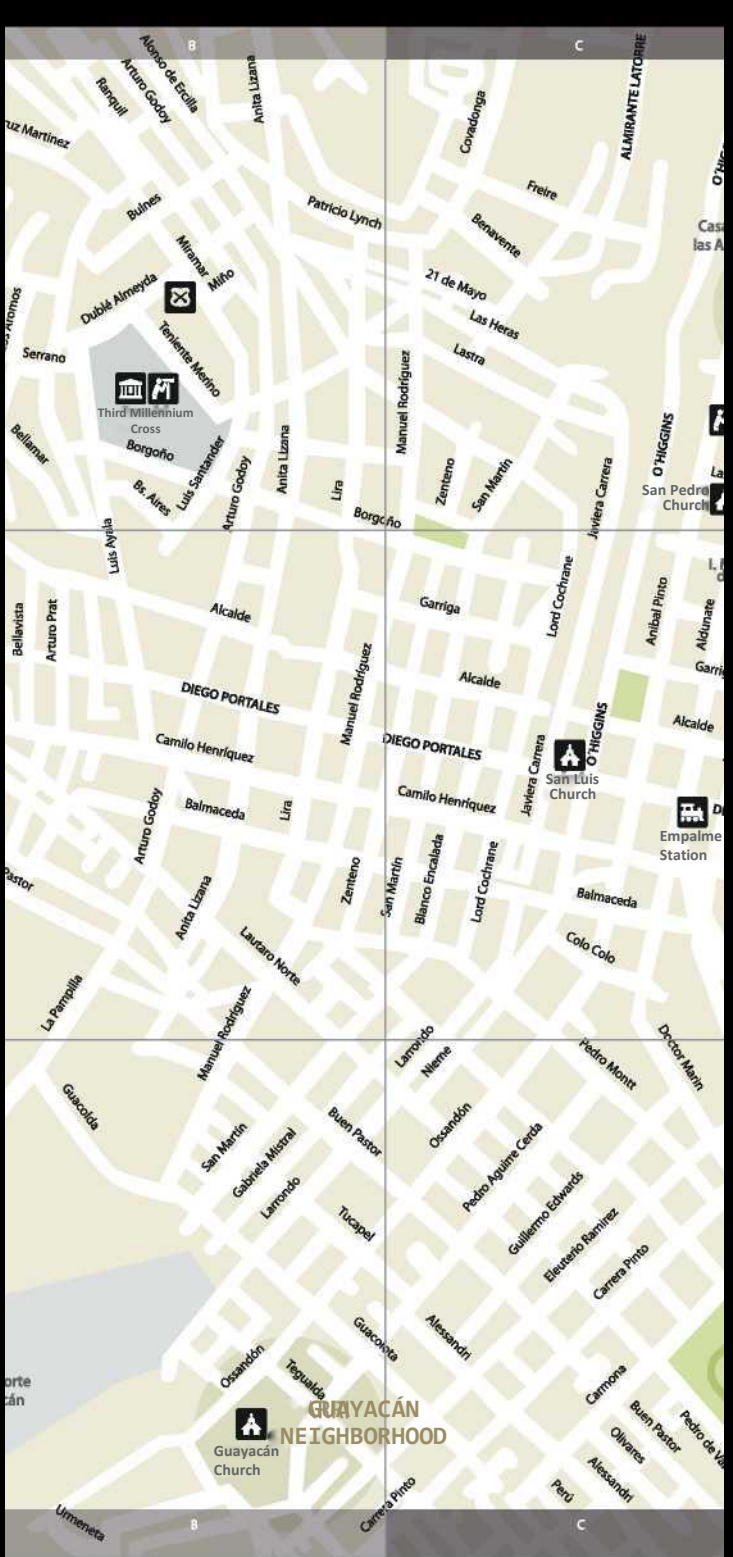
**Dome Site Museum Las Ánimas Culture.** In 1981, 36 graves were discovered corresponding to the pre-Hispanic Las Ánimas cultural complex (800 to 1,000 years A.D.). The remains, known as the Ánimas Culture, show offerings of mourners buried with their camelids in a ceremonial relationship with the surrounding world. In addition, visual pictorial samples of regional artists can be appreciated.

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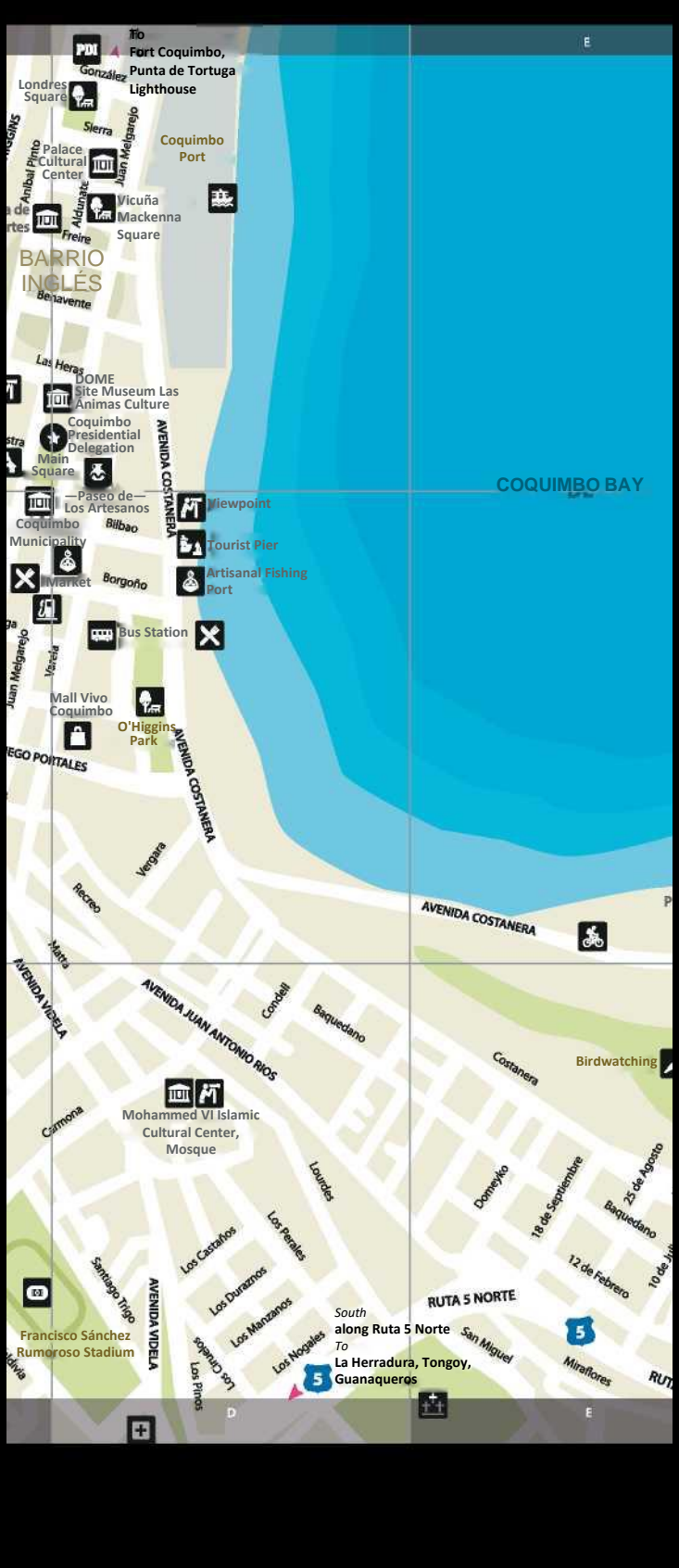
**Third Millennium Cross.** It is a must-see attraction because, at 93 m high, it surpasses the famous Christ the Redeemer in Brazil. It has a 360° viewpoint, unique in the region, with views of the city and an impressive panoramic view of Coquimbo and La Serena. It also has a chapel, a museum of religious art, and an artistic collection of bronze busts of Chilean cardinals and pontiffs, such as John Paul II, among other facilities.

📍 Located at Juan Pablo II Street s/n, Parte Alta de Coquimbo.





**GUAYACÁN NEIGHBORHOOD**



Fort Coquimbo,  
Punta de Tortuga  
Lighthouse

Coquimbo  
Port

BARRIO  
INGLÉS

COQUIMBO BAY

Coquimbo  
Presidential  
Delegation

Coquimbo  
Municipality

Market

Bus Station

Mall Vivo  
Coquimbo

O'Higgins  
Park

AVENIDA COSTANERA

AVENIDA COSTANERA

AVENIDA VIDELA

AVENIDA JUAN ANTONIO RÍOS

Mohammed VI Islamic  
Cultural Center,  
Mosque

AVENIDA VIDELA

Los Castaños

Los Duraznos

Los Manzanos

Los Nogales

Los Cereales

Francisco Sánchez  
Rumoroso Stadium

Viewpoint

Tourist Pier

Artisanal Fishing  
Port

Burgoño

Bilbao

Burgoño

Burgoño

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South  
along Ruta 5 Norte  
To  
La Herradura, Tongoy,  
Guanaqueros

5

RUTA 5 NORTE

5

San Miguel

Miraflores

5

5

5

**Empalme Station of Coquimbo.** It corresponds to a replica of the old railroad station, which manages to rescue part of the architecture and its details. In addition, this sector serves as a meeting place for its inhabitants, as it did in the 1940s and 50s when the public gathered to wait for the train to arrive. The recovery of this place has allowed for the development of musical and cultural events.

📍 **Located in Aldunate and Henríquez streets, downtown Coquimbo.**

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**San Pedro Church.** It dates back to 1862 and was the site of the city's first parish, founded in 1857. It has witnessed the dawn of Coquimbo, since in 1844 it was already performing sacramental services.

📍 **Located on Aldunate and Lastra streets, in front of Coquimbo's main square, the heart of downtown.**

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**The Mohammed VI Islamic Cultural Center, Mosque.** It is a scale replica of the Kutubia Mosque in Marrakech (Morocco), built in stone masonry, gray, white and pink marble, and a minaret 36 meters high. It has prayer rooms, library, museum, and square.

📍 **Located on Los Granados Street, Villa Dominante.**



**Los Navegantes Viewpoint.** It offers a beautiful panoramic view of La Herradura Bay, the Guayacán pier, and the immensity of the Pacific Ocean. Its construction is a tribute to the people of Coquimbo and the many sailors who have visited its coasts in past centuries.

📍 **Located around La Pampilla.**

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**Coquimbo Fort Lambert.** To visit this place is to go back to past centuries and directly learn a piece of the history of Chile. Erroneously, it is associated as a place of defense against pirates. However, in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, it became a fortification. Today, the Fort is a recreational place, landscaped in front of the Pelican Rock and the wonderful view of the bay of Coquimbo.

📍 **Located a short distance from Coquimbo, it is accessed through Regimiento Coquimbo Street towards the area known as Punta Pelicanos.**



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**Patrimonial House Social Club.** Beautiful neoclassical style building dating from 1924. It was once home to the Coquimbo Social Club. Currently, it belongs to the local municipality and is destined to be used in the community, culture, and protocol acts.

## CUISINE AND PORT LIFE

Coquimbo has a gastronomic profile shaped by the seafood influence of the Indigenous Changos on the coast, which is maintained today with the consumption of dishes based on seafood and fish.

The “fish sandwich,” also known as “Churrasco Marino,” is one of the most characteristic exponents of the local cuisine, becoming a consolidated alternative in the menus of the different restaurants in the district.

Due to the Humboldt current, the supply of marine species is very varied, both fish and abalones, lobsters, oysters, prawns, sea urchins, clams, crabs, shrimp, oysters, giant barnacles, and even eels.

The tasting of seafood products can be complemented with the fruits of a land generous in food of excellence, such as papayas, cherimoyas, lucumas, goat cheese, grapes, and strawberries, which join the offer of piscos and wines from the Elqui, Limarí, and Choapa valleys.



Oysters from Tongoy


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**Cruises.** Coquimbo is one of the most important ports in Chile of call for luxury cruise ships. Year after year, it receives vessels from October to April, during which passengers come to enjoy the attractions of the city and other places in the region.

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**Picadas of Peñuelas.** Cuisine centers with tradition and recognized trajectory. Specialties in fish and seafood.

 **Located on Avenida Costanera between Peñuelas Sur and Peñuelas Norte streets.**

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**Port precinct.** Inaugurated in 1959, it concentrates on the maritime movement of commercial ships and international luxury cruise ships that arrive in Coquimbo between October and April.

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**Artisan fishing port.** Sector that facilitates the activities of extraction, handling, operation, distribution, and marketing of marine products and provides a large tourist flow to the sector. It is a window to the coastal edge, next to the environment of squares, parks, and the Rodoviario terminal. Near the port, you can take trips on catamarans that take tours of the Bay of Coquimbo and the island of Los Lobos.

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**Avenida Costanera.** Works more than 5 km long that connects the district of Coquimbo with the Avenida del Mar of La Serena, and whose infrastructure is directed to the tourist and commercial area. Avenida Costanera connects, from north to south, the casino, the artisanal fishing port, the beaches of Peñuelas and Changa, the port area, and the Barrio Inglés, among other places of interest.

**Casino.** Casino and Resort owns the only 5-star hotel in the region, as well as a spa, restaurants, and a convention center.

📍 **Strategically located on Avenida Costanera, n the beach of Peñuelas.**



**Peñuelas Town.** This is a new development pole for the exhibition and sale of regional products. In the Pueblito de Peñuelas, you can find playgrounds for children, as well as the work of local artisans and manufacturers, food trucks, and cafes.



## THE CLEAR SKIES IN THE REGION

Enjoy the cleanest sky on the planet and a network of more than 15 observatories, including scientific and tourist observatories. This infrastructure is distributed in the various districts of the Coquimbo Region.

The district of Coquimbo is privileged for its proximity to tourist astronomical observatories. The most important are "Collowara" in the district of Andacollo, only 50 km away; "Cruz del Sur" in the district of Combarbalá and "Mamalluca" in the district of Vicuña, 83 km away.

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## GABRIELA MISTRAL IN COQUIMBO

The distinguished poetess and Nobel Prize winner worked as a teacher in La Cantera, 2 km from Coquimbo. In 1908, when she was only 19 years old, she was the local school's principal. "Of my three villages, La Cantera is the one where I lived in the best company (...)", she once wrote. Here, the young Lucila Godoy published her poem "Rimas," using the pseudonym for the first time, under which she would become internationally known. A few years later, in the town of Cerrillos, on the estate of the same name, she would write her famous "Sonetos de la muerte" (Sonnets of Death)."

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## RURAL COQUIMBO "LIFE IN THE COUNTRY"

El Tangué estate is in the rural coastal sector of Coquimbo, about 10 kilometers south of the beach of Tongoy. Activities such as shearing and lamb barbecues keep traditional sheep farming alive, which is done in October.

In the rural sector of Coquimbo is Tambillos, a locality where Diaguitas communities revive and rescue ancestral customs and carry out cultural activities that they seek to transmit to visitors and tourists.

You can participate in sporadic handicraft exhibitions, go trekking along trails, and participate in other activities organized by the community in this place.

**Pan de Azúcar.** Attractive place known for cultivating flowers and vegetables, in addition to the threshing, olive trees, and goat cheese, among other agricultural products. It is characterized by a climate influenced by coastal cloudiness, a singularity that, along with its people's friendliness, enhances rural tourism development.


 **Located 5 km east of Coquimbo, on the road to the Valley, Ruta - 43.**

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**Rural sector services.** Pan de Azúcar has establishments where you will find barbecues, baby soccer fields, volleyball courts, event rooms, and educational farms with animals which are endemic to Chile.

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**El Tangué estate.** Created at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, it currently has some 45,635 hectares and 250 inhabitants dedicated to livestock farming, specifically the extraction of milk, meat, leather, and sheep wool.

 **Located 58 km south of the city of Coquimbo and km from Tongoy.**

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**Venus estate.** Created in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century when the Bellavista Canal was built. It was one of the main dairies to produce butter in Chile. The poet Gabriela Mistral used to go there to receive her salary for her work as a rural teacher in the Cerrillos sector. It is currently owned by one of the descendants of the founder of this farm.

 **Located in the Pan de Azúcar sector.**

**El Retiro estate.** It dates from the late nineteenth century, and its construction lasted more than ten years. It has an imposing structure that stands out to anyone, with a dome in its upper part where a viewpoint is inserted. Belonging in its beginnings to the Ripamonti family, it is said that Gabriela Mistral, before receiving the Nobel Prize for Literature, taught at the school that this family created on their land to educate the children of their workers and ended up forging a great friendship with her.

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 **Located in Pan de Azúcar sector.**

## AIRPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

The airport infrastructure consists mainly of La Florida airport, located in La Serena, 6 km from that city. It has a paved runway 1,938 meters long and 45 meters wide, and the airport's apron can handle three Boeing 737s and four twin-engine aircraft daily. In addition, there is a network of 17 airfields, out of which three belong to the public network and fourteen to the private network.

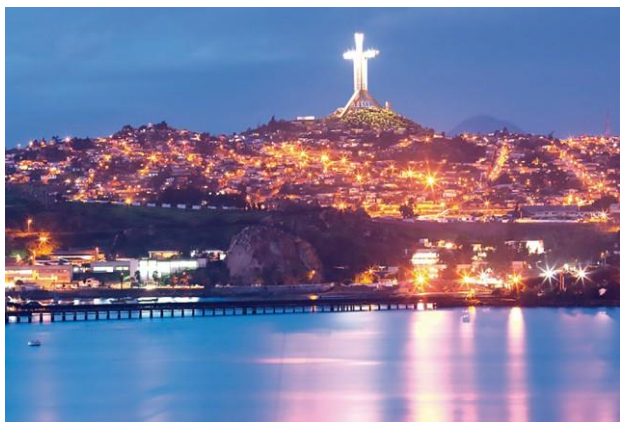
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## PORT INFRASTRUCTURE

It is the main port in the Coquimbo region and the only multipurpose port. It has approximately 55 hectares, two sites 378 m long, and a storage area of 54,200 m<sup>2</sup>. The authorized draft is 9.37 m maximum. The covered port areas are 6,250 m<sup>2</sup>. Due to the fruit export activity, its cargo movement has a marked seasonality, concentrated in December, January, and February. The other port is in Guayacán and is owned by Compañía Minera del Pacífico, an iron ore producer. It has one berth and has a more stable movement during the annual period, which exceeds 4,000,000 tons.



Barrio Inglés.



View from La Herradura



Fishermen's Cove

## COMMUNAL AXES

**Interregional axis.** This axis is made up of the Ruta 5 Norte longitudinal highway, a dual carriageway from Coquimbo to Santiago, the capital of Chile. This route considerably reduces travel times to and from Santiago. The main accesses to this region are located around this route.

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**Intraregional axis.** This is an axis of connection between the different points within the region. The main roads are Ruta CH 41, which joins La Serena-Vicuña-Pisco Elqui; Ruta D 43, which links La Serena-Ovalle; and Ruta D 45, which links Ovalle-Socos.

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**International axis.** This axis consists of the Gabriela Mistral international road, Ruta CH 41, which connects the city of La Serena with the Agua Negra International Pass, the primary access to San Juan, Argentinean province.



La Herradura Beach



**Top:** Francisco Sánchez Rumoroso Stadium.

**Bottom:** Local handicrafts in Tongoy.

**Advice.** Prefer tourism service providers registered and certified with Sernatur. Registration for lodging and adventure tourism services is mandatory, according to Law No. 20,423.

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