




# Destination ANDACOLLO

**SERNATUR Coquimbo Region**  
Matta 461, off. 108, La Serena, Chile  
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National Tourism Service | Chile



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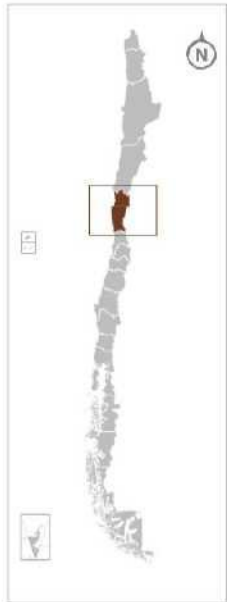
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Foto: J. Serrano



## COQUIMBO REGION AND ITS DISTRICTS



### Districts

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



## Must-sees

### Coquimbo Region

#### Collowara Observatory



Located at the top of Cerro El Churqui, this tourist observatory features modern equipment and excellent infrastructure. It invites visitors to explore the stars and unravel the mysteries of the cosmos.

#### Temples



In addition to being historic architectural landmarks, the Andacollo temples are an integral part of local culture and religious tradition. This is reflected in the Basilica and the Templo Chico, located in the main square in Andacollo. The latter is where the most important religious festival in the region is held each year in honor of the Virgen del Rosario.

#### Andacollo

The district of Andacollo is 54 km from La Serena. It can be accessed via Ruta D-43 (Ovalle—La Serena), which connects with Ruta D-51 at the El Peñón junction.

#### Boundaries

To the west, it borders the district of Coquimbo; to the north, the district of La Serena; to the east, the districts of Vicuña and Río Hurtado; and to the south, the district of Ovalle.

## USEFUL INFORMATION

### Emergencies

|  |                               |                 |
|--|-------------------------------|-----------------|
|  | Ambulance                     | 131             |
|  | Carabineros (Chilean Police)  | 133             |
|  | Firefighters                  | <b>132</b>      |
|  | Andean Rescue Corps           | 134             |
|  | CITUC (Toxicology Center)     | (56-2) 635 6800 |
|  | Denuncia Seguro (Safe Report) | <b>4242</b>     |

### Dialing Phone Numbers

From Chile to abroad:

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

To another city within Chile:

*area code + phone number*

From landline to mobile

**9 + phone number**

From mobile to landline

**0 + area code + phone number**

### Transportation Phones

|  |                            |                   |
|--|----------------------------|-------------------|
|  | International Airport      |                   |
|  | International Airport      | (+56 2) 2690 1796 |
|  | La Serena's                |                   |
|  | La Florida Airport         | (+56 51) 2270353  |
|  | Bus Terminal,              |                   |
|  | La Serena                  | (5n 51) 222 45 73 |
|  | Rodoviario de Coquimbo Bus | (56 51) 231 43 40 |
|  | Terminal                   |                   |

### Information Contacts

Sernatur, Tourist Information Office  
Matta 461, La Serena.  
+ Info.: [www.turismoregiondecoquimbo.cl](http://www.turismoregiondecoquimbo.cl)

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## INTRODUCTION

This mining center, located near the cities of La Serena and Coquimbo, is closely linked to the figure of the *pirquinero* (artisanal miner), a deeply rooted regional character who, for centuries, pioneered this activity that today defines Chile on a global scale.

Nestled at 1,100 meters above sea level, it is also known for its inhabitants' deep religiosity and devotion to the Virgen of Andacollo. Her festivities attract tens of thousands of pilgrims, who arrive on foot or by vehicle to its majestic temples, especially in October and December each year. The establishment of a tourist astronomical observatory has further boosted visitor numbers to this district, which offers some of the region's best skies for stargazing.

### ANDACOLLO

Visit the grotto of the Virgen del Rosario de Andacollo, the starting point for pilgrimages made by devotees each year in gratitude for granted favors. The Ruta del Peregrino (Pilgrim's Route) is a 27 km journey marked by stations representing the joyful mysteries of Jesus' life. It passes through El Peñón, Maitencillo, El Manzano, and Cuesta San Antonio villages. Andacollo also has an extensive rural area home to agricultural communities such as Caldera y Damas, La Jarilla y El Azogue, Cuesta El Manzano, and Comité Campesino La Cortadera.



## ATRATIVOS TURÍSTICOS

**Basilica or Templo Mayor.** Inaugurated in 1893 after 20 years of construction, this Roman-Byzantine-style church was designed by architect Eusebio Chelly and declared a National Monument in 1981. Its proportions are truly remarkable: 70 meters long, 30 meters wide, and featuring twin towers rising 45 meters high. With a standing capacity of 10,000 people, its main altar was crafted in Paris. Viewed from above, the basilica forms a perfect cross.

**Templo Menor.** Built in 1772, this church houses the image of the Virgen del Rosario on a beautiful altar adorned with floral arrangements and a silver arch.

**Museo de Ofrendas.** Dating back to the 16<sup>th</sup> century, this building is filled with offerings and testimonies from pilgrims to the Virgen del Rosario. It marks the exact spot where the image of Virgen Morena was found in the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

**Handicrafts.** Traditional crafts include items made from Andacollita stone and ornamental mineral stones, decorated with bronze miniatures replicating mining tools. Religious prints from the Andacollo festival are also popular.



Fiesta Grande Nuestra Señora de Andacollo.

**Yahuín Museum Room.** Exhibition of archaeological samples from the district, representing the Huentelauquén, Molle, Diaguita, and Inca cultures. Located at Urmeneta Street, on the corner of Quiteria Varas, in Andacollo's historic center.

**Gold Circuit.** This mining tradition in the district invites visitors to explore old facilities still used by small-scale miners and pirquineros to extract the natural wealth in the region. You can visit the Trapiche El Salitre (milling plant), where pirquineros demonstrate the gold extraction process using historical tools such as the *trapiche* (a 19<sup>th</sup>-century mechanical mill) and the *maray* (a pre-Columbian stone mill).

**9** Located on El Salitre Street at the entrance of

Andacollo and in the Los Caletones sector, accessible via Subida Las Catanas.

**Collowara Astronomical Observatory.** Its name means "Land of Stars" in Aymara. This facility features four high-quality telescopes with exceptional resolution. Visitors can also access a videoconference room equipped with multimedia projection systems and comfortable seating. Additionally, the observatory offers an elevator, accessibility for people with disabilities, a souvenir shop, and a cafeteria.

**9** The tourist observatory is located on El

Churqui Hill, 7 km from the urban area, at an altitude of 1,300 m.







**Top:** Collowara Astronomical Observatory. **Center:** Interior of the Yahuín Museum Room. **Bottom:** Trapiche El Salitre.



**Chepiquilla.** A place of myths and legends. It is where the ancestral Antakari route begins, connecting the district of Andacollo with Río Hurtado and Vicuña.

**9** Located just 2 km south of Andacollo.

**Antakari Ancestral Route.** This is an excellent option for those who enjoy rugged landscapes and rural life. The itinerary includes the districts of Vicuña, Río Hurtado, and Andacollo. It spans 20 towns and over 270 km, retracing the path once traveled by Indigenous peoples of the Diaguita, Molle, and Inca cultures.

**Indigenous Terraces.** This cultural tourist attraction highlights works created by our ancestors related to agriculture. They are located in the Chincolco area, within the property of Hernán Gallardo, about 5 minutes from the Ruta D-51 in the Las Arenillas area.

**Gold Washery.** Located in the Los Negrito area, the gold washery is part of our mining heritage, featuring old tools used in the trade, a craft that forms part of our historical district legacy.

Andacollo is also home to various agricultural communities, including Caldera y Damas, La Jarilla y El Azogue, Cuesta El Manzano, and the Comité Campesino de la Cortadera. These areas offer a different landscape, characterized by small fruit plantations and goat farming. There are also family-run cheese dairies, tanneries, fruit dehydration facilities, and the production of jams and sweets.

## FESTIVALS & CELEBRATIONS

### **Transfer of the replica image of the Virgen del Rosario.**

First Sunday of each month.

### **Trilla a yegua suelta (Traditional Mare Treshing)**

First weekend of February.

### **Festival de la Voz de la Montaña.**

Second weekend of February.

### **Fiesta Patronal N. S. de Lourdes.**

February 11th, La Caldera area, 27 km from Andacollo.

### **Easter Week.**

March or April, according to the calendar.

### **Fiesta patronal San José Obrero.**

May 1st. Chepiquilla area, 2 km from Andacollo.

### **Fiesta Patronal Cruz de Mayo.**

May 9th (celebrated on the closest Sunday). El Toro area, 5 km from Andacollo.

### **Fiesta Patronal San Isidro.**

May 15th (celebrated on the closest Sunday). La Jarilla area, 14 km from Andacollo.

### **Fiesta Patronal San Antonio.**

June 13th (celebrated on the closest Sunday). Los Caletones area, 3 km from Andacollo.

### **Fiesta patronal San Antonio de Padua\***

June 13<sup>th</sup> (celebrated on the closest Sunday). Maitencillo area, 20 km from Andacollo.

### **Fiesta Patronal N.S. del Carmen.**

July 16<sup>th</sup> in Andacollo (celebrated on the closest Sunday).

### **Fiesta Patronal San Lorenzo.**

August 10<sup>th</sup> (celebrated on the closest Sunday). El Manzano sector, 27 km from Andacollo.

### **Fiesta chica de la Virgen del Rosario de Andacollo.**

First Sunday of each month.

### **Rosario de la Aurora.**

December 8<sup>th</sup>.

### **Procesión de la Purísima.**

December 8<sup>th</sup>.

### **Fiesta grande de la Virgen del Rosario de Andacollo.**

December 23<sup>rd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Advice.** Prefer providers of tourism services registered and certified by SERNATUR. Registration is mandatory for accommodation and adventure tourism services, according to Tourism Law No. 20.423.

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