




Destination LOS VILOS

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National Tourism Service | Chile



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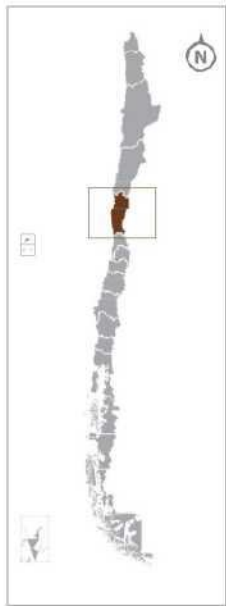
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COQUIMBO REGION AND ITS DISTRICTS



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



Must-sees

Coquimbo Region

Maritime Vocation



A visit to Muelle Prat is essential to appreciate the remnants of a past that made it the main port in the area in the 19th century.

Nature Sanctuary Laguna Conchalí



A coastal wetland with unique characteristics that make it a highly diverse ecosystem. It is one of Chile's Ramsar sites. The area features a lookout, a pedestrian promenade, and a picnic area. More than 100 species of birds from the Northern Hemisphere rest and nest here.

Los Vilos

It is located 244 km south of La Serena and 226 km north of Santiago via Ruta 5 Norte.

Boundaries

To the north with the Canela district, the south with La Ligua, the east with Salamanca, and the west with the Pacific Ocean.

USEFUL INFORMATION

Emergencies

	Ambulance	131
	Carabineros (Chilean Police)	133
	Firefighters	132
	Andean Rescue Corps	136
	CITUC (Toxicology Center)	(56-2) 635 6800
	Denuncia Seguro (Safe Report)	4242

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

	Arturo Merino Benítez International Airport	(+56 2) 2690 1796
	La Florida Airport, La Serena	(+56 51) 2270353
	Bus Terminal, La Serena	(56 51) 222 45 73
	Rodoviario de Coquimbo Buses	(56 51) 231 43 40

Information Contacts

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INTRODUCTION

The district of Los Vilos is the southern gateway to the Coquimbo Region. It is the principal city, renowned for its beach and local cuisine. Visitors can delight in fresh seafood straight from the Pacific Ocean.

In Los Vilos, you will find Pichidangui beach, a destination for relaxation and connection with nature. This charming coastal town offers exquisite cuisine and trails through a Valdivian-style forest, immersing visitors in an atmosphere reminiscent of southern Chile. This unique and unparalleled experience reveals hidden treasures along its beach, allowing visitors to connect with the beauty of the ocean. The perfect symbiosis between land and sea is reflected in stunning natural pools surrounding the magnificent Iglesia Santa Teresa (Santa Teresa Church).

The Valle de Pupío developed industrially thanks to the railroad, which today offers breathtaking panoramic views and culinary and cultural traditions that survive—and thrive—in our memories. Along its route, visitors can admire historic tunnels that connect the journey to the center of Caimanes, the oldest settlement in the valley, evoking the legacy of Diego de Almagro. “Caimanes, in the footsteps of Almagro” is a must-see for travelers.

The Valle de Quilimarí, meanwhile, connects local gastronomy and traditions with Indigenous ancestors through stunning petroglyphs that transport visitors back in time. Quilimarí is a valley full of energy and connection, making it a perfect place for meditation and harmonizing energies on quartz beds—an experience like no other. Los Vilos is a district waiting to be discovered and enjoyed.



Top: Surfing in Chigualoco. Photo: Jhon Cordero Leiva. **Center:** Caleta Las Conchas, Los Vilos. **Bottom:** Los Vilos Coastal Border (Photo: Ilustre Municipalidad de Los Vilos).

LOS VILOS

Along its coast, you will find stunning beaches such as Los Vilos and Playa Ñague, along with various attractions like the Humedal Laguna Conchalí, the Bosque Relictual de Quereo, Isla de Huevos, and Isla de Lobos, among others. Facing the sea, the coastal promenade stands out, running along the main beach. It is known for its diverse gastronomy, featuring seafood-based dishes, with the *loco* (Chilean abalone) as a signature local delicacy.

ATTRACTIONS OF THE AREA

Playa de Los Vilos. Avenida Salvador Allende is the main coastal road, perfect for a scenic walk and sunset viewing. Playa de Los Vilos stretches for 2.8 kilometers (km) and is suitable for swimming, bodyboarding, and surfing. You will find Las Conchas and San Pedro fishing coves to the south of the beach.

Laguna Conchalí. Due to its delicate ecosystem, the coastal wetland Laguna Conchalí is designated as a Nature Sanctuary and Ramsar Site. Spanning 34 hectares, it hosts terrestrial and aquatic flora and fauna, focusing on native and endemic species. It is an ideal location for birdwatching, serving as a refuge for over 100 resident and migratory bird species. The site features a trail for a short trek and a picnic area.

9 Access by Punta Chungo port, km 227, Panamericana Norte, Los Vilos.

Andrónico Luksic Abaroa Center. It is a center dedicated to disseminating copper mining and sustainable development. It showcases the Choapa Province's production processes, the current uses of the mineral, and its history in the region. The center offers free guided tours for visitors, both for the exhibition and to provide information about Laguna Conchalí.

Tuesday to Saturday: 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

Sunday and holidays: 11:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

9 Access by Punta Chungo port, km 227 Panamericana Norte, Los Vilos.

Playa Chigualoco. This open beach with strong waves stretches over a kilometer and a half. It offers favorable conditions for shore fishing, surfing, and bodyboarding.

Playa Ñague. It is located about 8 km north of Los Vilos, in the Conchalí bay. The beach has a horseshoe-shaped geography, offering calm waves and protection from the wind. It can be accessed on foot via a path adjacent to the Pan-American Highway, with free and open access after entering through a wooden stairway walkway. From this point, visitors can enjoy a panoramic view of the entire bay, which is home to a wide variety of flora and islets inhabited by seabirds.

Avenida Salvador Allende. The main urban promenade of Los Vilos stands out for its presence of the Main Beach, fishing coves, a food market, an aquarium, cultural spaces, and a collection of sculptures and anchors that tell part of the history of the town. It is an ideal place to enjoy a walk and take in the sunsets, whether on foot or by bike.

Bodegón Cultural de Los Vilos. The Bodegón Cultural de Los Vilos Corporation is dedicated to disseminating and preserving the Choapa Province's cultural heritage. It hosts various workshops, exhibitions, and national-level artistic events. The building preserves Los Vilos's historic port warehouse. At present, it features its own ceramics production line, aimed at promoting and building values for developing a local identity.

Summer Hours:

Tuesday to Saturday: 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM.

Sunday: 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

Winter Hours (March to December):

Monday to Friday: 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

Saturday and Public Holidays: 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

Free admission.

Mastodonte de Quereo Sculpture. It is an important sculpture commemorating the discovery of the Quereo archaeological site, located 2 km south of Los Vilos. There, remains of a mastodon and other species were

found, dating back 12,000 years, making it one of the most significant sites in American prehistory. The local sculptor Rodolfo Bucherenick created this artwork.

9 Located on Avenida Salvador Allende, between the Aquarium and the Casa de la Cultura.

Impulso Vital Sculpture. It is a work by the renowned sculptor Federico Assler Brown, winner of the 2009 National Prize for Plastic Arts. A pioneer in concrete sculpture, Assler created an abstract piece whose shape resembles a large wave. It is associated with the bow of a ship or the initials of the town of Los Vilos.

9 It is located on Avenida Salvador Allende, next to the Muelle Arturo Prat.

Acuario Municipal Hatchery. It is a renovated center designed to learn about and familiarize oneself with marine life, making it ideal for young children to interact with the species and, in doing so, promote the care and protection of marine ecosystems through play.

9 Located on Avenida Salvador Allende, on the left side of the Capitanía de Puerto de Los Vilos.

Casa de la Cultura. It is the largest cultural center in the district and offers all kinds of artistic and cultural expressions. Workshops, courses, seminars, exhibitions, concerts, films, and more are held there. It is an open space for the community and tourists visiting the city.

9 It is located at Avenida Salvador Allende 1413. Open Monday to Friday from 08:30 AM to 2:00 PM and from 3:00 PM to 5:45 PM.

Free admission.

Muelle Arturo Prat. An old 19th-century port building used for loading and unloading goods. It was the main export and import hub in the district until the mid-20th century. At that time, it was part of an architectural heritage found in the city's historical center, which included old warehouses and administrative buildings such as the Bodegón Cultural, the municipal warehouses, and Casa Streeter. It is located on Avenida Salvador Allende and is a typical attraction of the coastal promenade.

Plaza Los Lobos. It is the main green area in the city, located between Colo Colo, Elicura, Lincoyán, and Galvarino streets. At its center, it features a unique fountain symbolizing Lobos Island, and on its southern side, there is a small amphitheater. The park's flora includes palm trees, pines, and native species such as

cacti and puyas. Surrounding it are the Nuestra Señora del Carmen church, the Chile Deportes stadium, and the former Los Vilos boys' school.

Caleta San Pedro. It is the oldest cove in Playa de Los Vilos, with its first buildings dating back to 1952. It offers a variety of seafood products, such as fish, shellfish, seafood stews, and smoked products. It also has its own restaurant. Every June 29th, the Fiesta de San Pedro, patron saint of fishers and seafarers, is celebrated on its premises.

9 It is located on Avenida Salvador Allende, on the southern side of Los Vilos's main beach.

Caleta Las Conchas. It is located at the southern end of Avenida Salvador Allende. It has a restaurant and vendor stalls where visitors can taste seafood products. From this point, you can enjoy a view of Isla de Huevos.

Isla de Huevos. It is located about 800 meters west of Los Vilos. With an area of 7 km, it is the largest island in the district and gets its name from a significant population of seabirds, primarily seagulls, that nest there. This nature reserve also hosts other species such as penguins and sea lions. It can be observed through boat tours that depart from the San Pedro cove.

Isla de Huevos. Located 3 km south of Los Vilos, it is a small islet that houses a population of 1,500 sea lions (*Otaria flavescens*). This species can grow up to 2.5 meters (m) long and weigh up to 300 kilograms (kg). It can be easily observed in its natural habitat from the shore, as the island lies about 200 meters from the coastline. Access is via a dirt road from the Quereo ravine, which later becomes sandy before reaching the island.

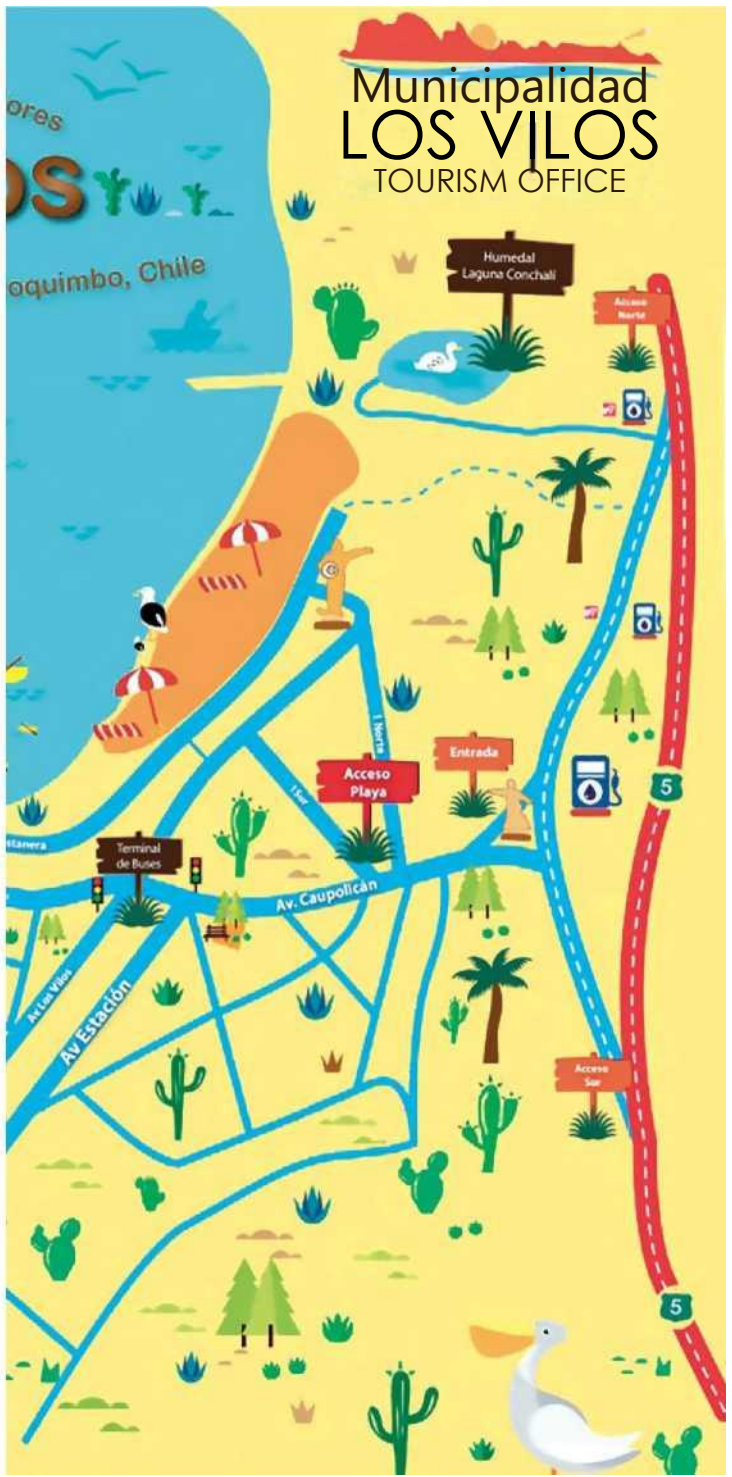
Buzo Escafandra Sculpture. It is a tribute to the work of the seafarers, who ventured into the depths wearing heavy and dangerous gear used in the past century. This is one of the works by sculptor Rodolfo Bucherenick Zuñiga.

9 It is located on Avenida Salvador Allende, adjacent to Avenida Los Vilos.



Top: Mastodonte Sculpture, author Rodolfo Bucherenick. **Center:** Seafood gastronomy. Campaign #voyalosvilos. **Bottom:** Quartz beds. Photo: Municipalidad de Los Vilos.

Municipalidad LOS VILOS TOURISM OFFICE



VALLE DEL PUIPIO

Monte Aranda Rock Art Park. Monte Aranda is the largest rock art park in Chile, located 45 km from Los Vilos, near the town of Caimanes. Its 25-hectare area preserves and displays an interesting collection of art from the Diaguita culture, ancient inhabitants in the area, dating back to around 900 AD.

The park features three educational heritage circuits, where 250 lithic blocks with petroglyphs were installed as part of the archaeological rescue conducted by the company Minera Los Pelambres during the construction of the El Mauro reservoir.

Plaza de Caimanes. If you are looking for a heritage and typical destination, the district of Los Vilos has a very significant location that speaks to the beginnings of the railway in Chile. The Plaza de Caimanes features the Olla de Almagro, a landmark that marks the presence of the conquistador during his passage through the valleys of our district.

Iglesia San Antonio de Padua. Regarding heritage, the Iglesia San Antonio de Padua is a tourist attraction that, despite its age, remains standing to welcome visitors and the local community for mass. The church structure is made of adobe, and over the years, efforts have been made to maintain and rebuild it. Without a doubt, it is a must-see attraction when visiting the town of Caimanes.





Top: Iglesia San Antonio de Padua, Caimanes. Campaign #voyalosvilos. **Bottom:** Monte Aranda Rock Art Park, Caimanes. Campaign #voyalosvilos.

PICHIDANGUI

Its name means "small raft" and is derived from the Mapudungun: "Pichi," which means small, and "dangui," which means raft. Located 30 km south of Los Vilos, the resort welcomes visitors from the south. It features a beautiful beach with calm, shallow waters where water sports such as windsurfing and kayaking can be done, along with underwater activities like diving and sport fishing. In its bay, yachts are moored around Isla de Locos, a reserve for seabirds, penguins, and chungungos. Along its coastline, you will find a pedestrian promenade with an artisan fair, the Pichidangui cove, and further south, the Iglesia de La Roca, notable for its unique architecture. It can be accessed via two routes from Ruta 5 Norte at km 196 and 199. Accommodation options include camping, cabins, inns, motels, and hotels.



Pedestrian Promenade. It is adjacent to the Caleta de Pescadores (Fishermen's Cove) and has an open area with access for people with disabilities and green spaces with local flora. During the summer, it hosts an artisan

fair showcasing products made from fish leather, minerals, textiles, and wooden crafts.

9 It can be accessed from Avenida Costanera.

Caleta de Pescadores. A beautiful cove that becomes a very popular spot in the summer, offering the opportunity to take boat trips to Isla de Locos to observe Humboldt penguins. It is also possible to buy fresh seafood, ceviches, shellfish platters, and empanadas.

9 It can be accessed via the Pichidangui Pedestrian Promenade or Avenida Costanera.

Isla de Locos. The island is home to many local wildlife, where it is possible to observe sea lions and chungungos (the smallest otter in the world). The presence of Humboldt penguins, herons, and albatrosses is also notable. During the summer season and long weekends, boat tours are offered, inviting tourists to observe the way of life of these species.

Iglesia Santa Teresa. It is located on a rocky outcrop in Avenida Costanera, south of Pichidangui. Its foundations are made solely of stones and cement, and its sides feature large windows that offer panoramic views of the rocky coastline. It is open on Sundays.

9 Located on Avenida Costanera, south of Pichidangui.

Cerro Santa Inés. Covering 713.8 hectares, it is considered a nature sanctuary. It is home to a Valdivian olivillo forest sustained by a microclimate created by a water compensation regime influenced by coastal fog and the local topography. It is ideal for a moderate-level trekking experience or bike descents for the more adventurous.



Las Palmas-El Quelón Tunnel. Photo: Municipalidad Los Vilos.



Cristales La Esperanza, Tilama. Tourist promotion campaign #voyalosvilos.

Cueva de La Quintrala. It is a natural cave 100 meters long with an opening to the sea, located on the Punta Quelén peninsula, north of Pichidangui. Its name comes from a legend that dates back to colonial times, when the territory of Pichidangui belonged to the Hacienda de Longotoma, owned by Doña Catalina de Los Ríos y Lisperguer, better known as "La Quintrala." According to the legend, this woman, known for her strong character and exceptional beauty, captivated numerous lovers who succumbed to her charms to obtain what she needed. She would then take them to the cave to torture them and throw them into the sea.

VALLE DEL QUILIMARÍ

In front of Pichidangui, facing the mountains, lies the magical Valle de Quilimarí, a land of strong rural traditions and remarkable mineral, archaeological, and railway treasures. Along the river that gives it its name flows a route of well-being and health linked to quartz, a mineral that attracts special interest tourism and is increasingly popular and in demand.

9 It is accessed from kilometer 200 of the Ruta 5 Norte, which connects to Ruta D-875.

Poblado de Quilimarí. Its name is a variation of the Mapudungun "Küla" meaning three and "Mari" meaning ten, which together make thirty. Located 25 km south of Los Vilos, it is a historic town and the gateway to the Valle del Quilimarí. In this town, cultural remnants date back to the colonial era, such as traditional customs of threshing, rodeo, and "*canto a lo divino y a lo humano*," a religious expression that has endured for over 400 years. The town has a church dating from 1789, where books with ecclesiastical records from the 18th century are kept. Every July 16th, the feast of the Virgen del Carmen de Palo Colorado is celebrated at this church.

9 It is accessed from Ruta 5 Norte, at Km 169.

Poblado de Guangualí. Its name derives from a variation of Mapudungun: "Wawan," meaning poor quality wheat, and "Lif," meaning empty, a toponym that may be attributed to the presence of indigenous grinding centers using "tacitas" stones found in the area. Located 14 km east of Quilimarí, it is a small farming community known for its avocado production, stoneware ceramics, and wood handicrafts, focusing on figures of domestic and wild animals.

9 It is accessed by the Valle del Quilimarí route.

Wellness and Health Route. Quartz is a mineral known for its energetic properties and is abundant in this valley. Hot water tubs and quartz beds, sound therapy with quartz bowls, and quartz shops are some offerings throughout the valley. Specialized holistic centers exist, among which the renowned Casa Guangualí stands out. This facility offers accommodation and comprehensive treatments for healing the body and soul. The route includes accommodation services, food, and camping, along

with scheduled visits to petroglyph and rock art trails.

Embalse Culimo. An artificial lagoon that collects the waters from the river flowing down the Valle de Quilimarí. It is an excellent place for nature photography and, under favorable conditions, sport fishing.

9 **Bordering its northern side, you can access the Culimo petroglyphs.**

Petroglifos de Tilama. Petroglyphs are expressions of rock art created by the Molle, Diaguita, and Diaguita-Inca cultures, dating from 5,000 to 470 years before the present. They specifically include masks, anthropomorphic, zoomorphic, and abstract designs. The petroglyphs of Tilama, Pangalillo, and Culimo are located near their homonymous localities in the Valle de Quilimarí. Once in the localities, they can be accessed on foot via short trails.

Mujer Diaguita Sculpture. A work by the local sculptor Rodolfo Bucherenick, located near the town of Tilama. The sculpture honors the work of the women of the valley and is the centerpiece of a viewpoint ideal for panoramic photographs.

Museo de Lo Muñoz. The only museum in the district is located at the Rancho de Los Almendros, 5 km east of Guangualí. It has a private collection with archaeological, paleontological, natural, rural, and religious heritage pieces that tell the story of the Valle de Quilimarí. Notable items include ammonoids, minerals, indigenous jars, stuffed animals, and rural antiques. Adjacent to the museum is a store selling crafts, souvenirs, honey, medicinal herbs, a restaurant, and quartz beds.

Fundo Palo Colorado. On this estate, which extends on both sides of the Pan-American Highway, the figure of the Virgen de Palo Colorado was found in a tree, giving rise to the most fervent religious legend in the area. A chapel in her honor stands at the site. The estate offers various tourist services, such as sea water tubs and excursions to a native forest. It also has a craft shop, greenhouse, and restaurant.

Stoneware ceramic handicrafts. Along the Valle de Quilimarí route, various workshops are dedicated to

designing and crafting stoneware pieces, characterized by their colors and designs inspired by the local flora and fauna. These pieces are primarily made by artisans specializing in this sandy clay technique, fired in a kiln at temperatures between 1,200 and 1,400 degrees Celsius.

El Quelón-Tilama-Caimanes Heritage Route. This route highlights the magnificent engineering work of the old railway line, which between Quelón and Caimanes, showcases nine National Monuments, including stone and metal tunnels and bridges. It begins south at the Las Palmas tunnel and extends along Ruta D-27-E, crossing Tilama and reaching Caimanes.



Advice. Prefer service providers that are registered and certified with SERNATUR. Registration for accommodation and adventure tourism services is mandatory. serviciosturisticos.sernatur.cl.

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