

Lined area for taking notes.



PORT EXPLORER

Puerto Montt CHILE

GENERAL INFORMATION Puerto Montt is located on the north shore of the Reloncavi Sound that opens up to the Gulf of Ancud and out to the Pacific Ocean. Set in northern Patagonia, Puerto Montt is the end of the road (and rail) when heading south in Chile. To go any further visitors and locals must take a ferry or a flight.

Puerto Montt is in the heart of Chile's stunningly beautiful Lake Region (Los Lagos), the ancestral home of the proud Mapuche people. The town was founded on February 12, 1853 by Vicente Perez Rosales (a leading Chilean diplomat) together with German immigrants from Bavaria who had been invited by the government of Chile to settle the area. The new settlers named their town in honor of the president of Chile, Manuel Montt. The entire region, from its cuisine to its architecture, has been influenced by the culture of Germany's Black Forest. Today Puerto Montt has a population over 150,000 and is the fastest growing town in the southern part of Chile.

The town is the most important center for salmon fishing (wild and farm raised) in all of Chile. It is the combination of the land, the gulf, the mountains, rivers, lakes and forests that make this region not only one of the most beautiful areas in Chile but one of the most spectacularly breathtaking places on earth. Tourism, forestry and agriculture share in the economy.

The region's beauty comes at a price, however. The majestic snow capped Andes Mountains were formed by the movement of two major plates of the earth's crust. The Lake Region has many of Chile's most dramatic volcanoes and it makes up part of what is known as the Pacific Ring of Fire. Seismic activity is not uncommon. On May 22, 1960 "The Great Chilean Quake" hit the region and destroyed the port

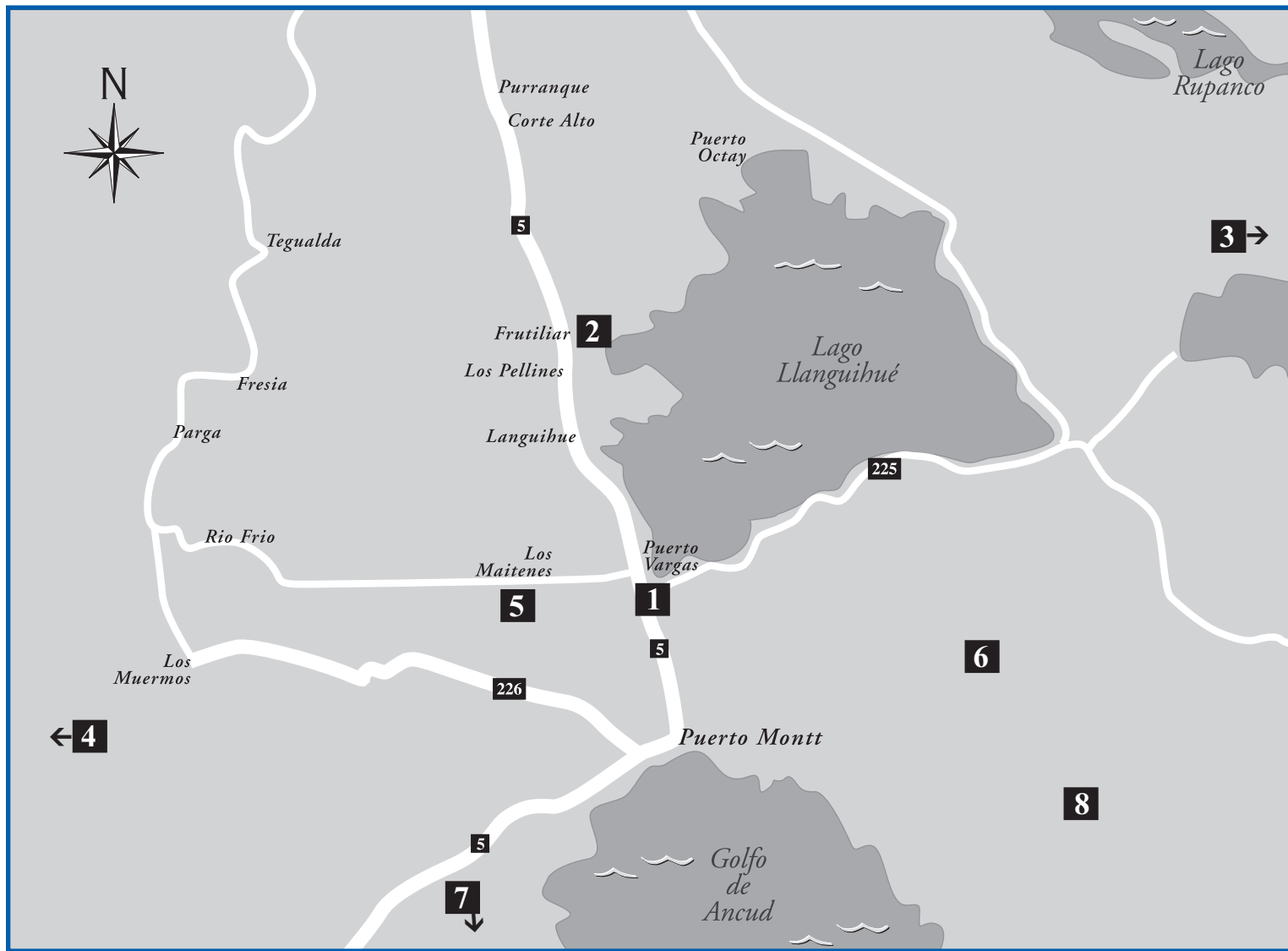
areas and seafront streets of Puerto Montt and leveled the nearby city of Valdivia. It was the largest earthquake ever recorded by modern instruments (9.5). The quake, with a force of 100 billion tons of TNT was so powerful that seismologists were able to record the earth as it literally vibrated like a bell for days afterward. The resulting tsunami raced 10,000 miles across the Pacific Ocean at over 200 mph slamming a day later into Onagawa, Japan and leaving Hilo, Hawai'i (6,600 miles from Southern Chile) devastated in its infamous wake.

HISTORY For thousands of years, well before the arrival of the first Europeans, Chile's long narrow coast was populated by several strong tribes. The Mapuche tribe (called Araucanos by the Spaniards) lived in the central and southern area of Chile, while the Quechua tribe and Aymara people lived in the Highlands and Midlands of northern Chile and Peru. The Mapuche withstood invasions by northern Incas and Spanish colonizers until 1550 when Pedro de Valdivia conquered the entire region. Even after the victory for the Spanish Crown, Mapuche resistance against the Spanish continued into the nineteenth century.

During the colonial period from 1550 to 1759, Chile provided agricultural resources for the Spanish empire and answered to the Viceroyalty of Peru. As the colony grew in size and importance, Chile also gained autonomy from the Spanish crown. The chaos that ensued after Napoleon Bonaparte's brother deposed the Spanish king in 1808 led a group of Chilean leaders to declare self-rule on September 18, 1810. Battles between loyalist and separatist Chileans during this "Reconquista" period lasted for eight years. In 1818, Bernardo O'Higgins, an Irish-born



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patriot who became Chile's first president, and Jose de San Martin, the Argentine patriot, joined together in April 1818 to finally defeat the Spanish.

After the War of the Pacific with Peru and Bolivia (1879 - 1883), Chile gained mineral-rich territories to the north in the Atacama Desert. This region, rich in nitrate deposits, became a critical source of wealth for the Chilean economy. Nitrate excavation, copper mining, industrial development, and immigration prompted growth in the early twentieth century. This growth also made the cities in Chile the primary theaters for political debates between conservative and liberal parties. The 1970 election of Salvador Allende gave Chile its first socialist president. On September 11, 1973, the Chilean military, led by General Augusto Pinochet, toppled the Allende government.

During the seventeen years of the Pinochet regime Chile transformed into a market economy. Since the return to democracy in 1990, Chile's political climate has stabilized, and its economic status has improved. In 2003, Chile signed a free trade agreement with the United States.

PLACES OF INTEREST

Puerto Montt is a charming town, the center and capital of Chile's Lake Region. It is nice to stroll along the waterfront or Plaza de Armas, the main square. From Puerto Montt visitors from around the world fan out to all the wonderful sites in the area.

1 **Puerto Varas** is just a few miles north of Puerto Montt. The beautiful little town looks out over Lake Llanquihue, one of the largest lakes in South America. With its German influenced architecture and the snowcapped volcanoes of Calbuco and Osorno in the distance the entire setting is truly stunning.

2 **Frutillar** is located north along the lake shore from Puerto Varas. The town was founded by German immigrants in the mid 1800.

3 The **Vicente Perez Rosales National Park** is northeast of Puerto Montt. The park is another spectacular setting in the Lake Region. The views from the Osorno Volcano up the Petrohue Valley are marvelous. The park has old-growth forests, beautiful waterfalls and exciting rafting along the Rio Petrohue River.

4 The **Lahuen nadi Park**, west of Puerto Montt, is the forest home to some of the oldest trees in the world. With such beautiful surroundings, this is an exceptional spot to hike. "Lahuen" is the indigenous Mapuche people's name for the giant pine trees that are a rare and protected species in Chile.

5 **Nueva Braunau**, west of Puerto Montt, is another of the quaint towns that was founded by German settlers in the late 1800. The small town has a museum dedicated to German settlers.

6 The **Llanquihue National Reserve** is east of Puerto Montt. Mountain climbing and hiking through the forest are very popular. This is also a great site for bird-watching.

7 **Chiloe Island** is a half hour ferry ride southwest of Puerto Montt. The island developed its own culture and lifestyle after early settlers were cut off from the Spanish colonial mainland for hundreds of years. It is a beautiful island and a great place to explore.

8 The **Alerce Andino National Park** is a stunning mountain forest overlooking the Reloncavi Sound and estuary. There are seemingly countless tree lined lagoons and inlets in the park. Beautiful scenery abounds.

SHORE EXCURSIONS To make the most of your visit to Puerto Montt and surrounding areas we suggest you take one of our organized Shore Excursions. For information concerning tour content and pricing, consult your Shore Excursion Brochure, Shore Excursion TV Channel or contact the Shore Excursion Desk. When going ashore, guests are advised to take with them only the items they need and to secure any valuables.

LOCAL CUSTOMS **Bargaining:** Though prices are fixed in restaurants and stores, bargaining at open-air markets is common.

Tipping: A 10% tip is customary at restaurants, but tipping is not necessary in taxis.

Local Cuisine: This is one of the most productive salmon fishing regions in the world and the local seafood is unsurpassed. German immigrants have had a big influence on the local cuisine. Here are a few regional favorites. Curanto has been passed down from the indigenous Mapuche people. It is a combination of seafood, meats, potatoes and vegetables covered with rhubarb leaves and wet sacks then steamed in a hot pit in the ground. Parillada de Mariscos is a combination of fresh seafood grilled over an open flame and served with potatoes or rice. Cancato is a fish that has been stuffed with sausage and vegetables then grilled over an open flame. Kuchen is the German for "cake". They can be found almost everywhere and are always made with fruit.

Local drink: Pisco Sour is Chile's national drink but it is no surprise that with the German influence in the Lake Region, there should be at least one good Bavarian beer. Kunstmann is

authentically brewed according to the 1516 German purity law known as "Reinheitsgebot".

SHOPPING FACILITIES The Feria Artesanal, a handicraft market, is located immediately west of Puerto Montt in the small fishing port of Angelmo. Beautiful blue lapis lazuli, (found only in Chile and Afghanistan) decorative shells, wood work and leather goods are some of the items that can be found there.

LOCAL CURRENCY The local currency is the Chilean peso (CL\$). Foreign currency is not widely accepted in Chile. ATM's are usually available, especially in heavily trafficked tourist areas.

POST OFFICE AND TELEPHONE FACILITIES There is a Post Office located at Antonio Varas Ave. and Rancagua St., 1 block from the main plaza.

Dial the following access numbers to use a personal calling card:

AT&T: 800.225.288

MCI: 800.207.300

TRANSPORTATION Taxis are widely available.

TOURIST INFORMATION The Tourist information Office is located at Antonio Varas Ave., in front of the main plaza

USEFUL WORDS AND PHRASES Chileans speak Spanish very quickly with a unique accent and chilenismos (Chilean sayings), creating a distinct Castellano chileno.

"Po" Usually added at the end of a sentence for emphasis, this is slang for por supuesto, meaning "of course."

¡Chao! Rather than say adios, Chileans part ways in Italian.