



The first to cross the Pacific, on the morning of April 27, 1521 Magellan was mortally wounded in a battle with native Philip-pine warriors. He died face down in the island surf after watching his vastly outnumbered men obey his orders to leave him and retreat to their ship. Today, as a visitor stands at the water's edge in Punta Arenas and looks out over the Straits of Magellan, keep in mind the brave men who first sailed here...keep in mind that on September 6, 1522, three years and one month after the fleet of five ships left Spain, Magellan's faithful navigator, Juan Sebastian Elcano piloted "Victoria", the only remaining ship, back into the port of Sanlúcar de Barrameda. Ragged and starving, of the 270 who began the voyage, Elcano and his crew of 17 were the only men to have survived ... they were ... in the name of their Captain, Ferdinand Magellan ... the first to use the stars in the heavens to sail around the world ... a world they changed forever.

PLACES OF INTEREST

1 La Cruz Hill rises above Punta Arenas and offers a great view of the town and the Straits of Magellan.

2 The Plaza de Armas is a beautiful square filled with trees and surrounded by stately buildings. In the center of the plaza is a statue dedicated to Admiral Ferdinand Magellan. The base has a reclining Fuegian native. Tradition holds that visitors who kiss the statue's big toe will one day return to Punta Arenas. From the looks of it there have been many who hope to have the opportunity to come back someday.

3 The Salesian Churches in Punta Arenas were established by the nineteenth century Catholic charitable religious order named for St. Francis de Sales. The churches include the Sanctuary María Auxiliadora and the Sacred Heart Cathedral.

4 The Historical Museum of Magallanes is a Chilean National Monument. The museum is housed in the Braun-Menéndez mansion, two influential families in the city. The museum tells, through artifacts, documents and photographs the history of region.

5 The Patagonian Institute welcomes visitors with a botanical garden and museum. There is an interesting series of exhibits from the colonial period of Punta Arenas.

Beyond Punta Arenas

Otway Bay is a sanctuary for Magellan Penguins. The famous penguins use the protected shoreline to make their nests and raise their young. The penguin colony is located 75 miles north of Punta Arenas

Magdalena Island is a two hour ferry ride north of Punta Arenas through the straits. It is home to one of the largest penguin colonies in Chile.

Fort Bulnes is on the shore of the strait about 90 miles south of Punta Arenas. The fort is the recreation of the original that was built by the Chileans in 1843. It is a reminder of the harsh conditions under which the first settlers to the region toiled.

Puerto de Hambre (Port Famine) is not far from Fort Bulnes. The Spanish settlement was founded in 1584 as a defense against English pirates who were attacking Spanish colonial towns and treasure galleons. Again, due to the incredibly harsh conditions, the colony failed as all but one of the unfortunate settlers starved to death. In an ironic twist of fate the sole survivor was rescued by Captain Thomas Cavendish...a notorious English pirate.

The **Magallanes National Reserve** is just a few miles west of Punta Arenas. This beautiful park has great hiking and biking trails. From atop the highest point visitors have a fantastic view of the Straits of Magellan and the famous island of Tierra del Fuego.

The **Laguna Parrillar Forest Reserve** is located about 75 miles south of Punta Arenas. This is another protected area that is great for hiking and trout fishing.

SHORE EXCURSIONS To make the most of your visit to Punta Arenas 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. Clouds and rain often move in quickly. It is suggested that guests dress in layers and bring a waterproof jacket.

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: Patagonian Lamb Chops, Magellan Spider Crab and Smoked Salmon are among the local favorites. Chupe is a hearty and thick fish and potato stew. Ostiones Parmesanos are fresh oysters baked in a parmesan coating.

Local drink: The wines of Chile are among the very best in the world. Pisco Sour is Chile's national drink.

SHOPPING FACILITIES The Duty Free Zone is located a little over a mile north of the downtown area. At the Artesanías Rama Chile (799 Independencia Street) crafts, carvings and woolen clothing are available. At Chile Típico (1015 Ignacio Carrera Pinto) lapis lazuli and other semiprecious stones as well as bronze and copper and metal work are available.

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 The Post Office is located at 911 Bories, downtown near the 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 in a kiosk at the main Plaza, or at 950 Hernando de Magallanes Avenue (1 block from the 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.