



National Tourism Service

Region of Coquimbo

Matta 461, of. 108, La Serena, Chile

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National Tourism Service of Chile



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Fotografía: J. Municipalidad de Coquimbo.

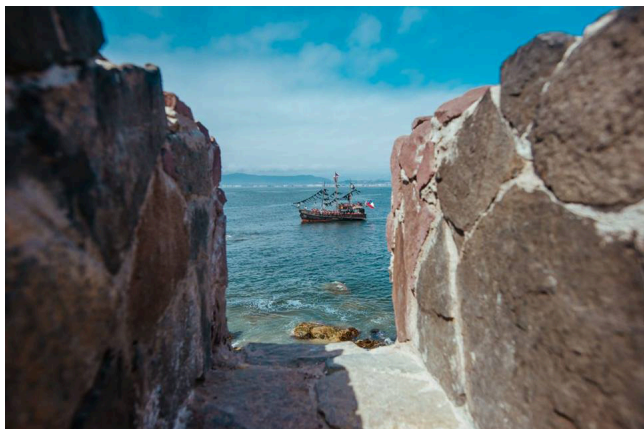


INTRODUCTION

Port city and resort, capital of the Elqui province. Located 462 kilometers to the north of Santiago. In its 1,429.3 km², concentrates the largest number of establishments and hotels of the Coquimbo Region, with optimal facilities for the lodging and the recreational activities. Its attractions range from places with stories of pirates and corsairs in the Bay of La Herradura to the practice of ecological tourism in wetlands such as Tongoy and El Culebrón.

The extensive coastline of the commune of Coquimbo begins at the north borderline with La Serena and it extends to the south of Tongoy with a wide range of beaches, coves and resorts.

Along the Costanera Avenue, which starts in Peñuelas beach, it is possible to enjoy attractions as the Casino of Coquimbo, a 4 km cycle path, gyms and a free use outdoor play area. Other attractions are varied cuisine based on seafood, trips around the bay in boats or catamaran, the typical area of the town of Guayacán, the cove of fishermen, shows at the World Cup stadium, the bohemian English Neighborhood, the Third Millennium Cross with a spectacular 360° viewpoint and the cultural center of the unique Mosque of the region.



Top: Coquimbo nautical activities. **Middle:** Fort Coquimbo. **Bottom:** Peñuelas beach.

A BIT OF HISTORY

There are several interpretations about the origin of the name Coquimbo, some which are more accepted than others. It is an indigenous toponym, it could come from Quechua *cullquitampu* or “silver lodging”; a voice from *moluche* which means “place of calm waters”; or could be a Mapuche etymology that would mean “trickle”.

After the arrival of the Spanish, Coquimbo becomes territory of the Government of the Kingdom of Chile, militarily it is known as the Captaincy General, which begins with the appointment of governor Francisco de Villagra Velásquez.

In 1578 the English navigator and explorer Sir Francis Drake with his ship “Golden Hind” records in his logbook that the Bay, by its form, should bear the name of “La Herradura”.

In 1811, during the Chilean Independence, Coquimbo is recognized as major port. This creates an opening to trade all the flags of the free world. That same year in the first National Congress was signed the creation of the province of Coquimbo, the third after Santiago and Concepción.

In 1850, during the Manuel Bulnes administration, plans for the city was approved. On September 24, 1864 in the government of José Joaquín Pérez through a law was created the Department of Coquimbo. The Municipality/City Hall of Coquimbo was founded on May 5, 1867 and José Joaquín Edwards Ossandón was the first mayor. During the government of Aníbal Pinto, Coquimbo is granted the title of city on September 4, 1879.

COQUIMBO

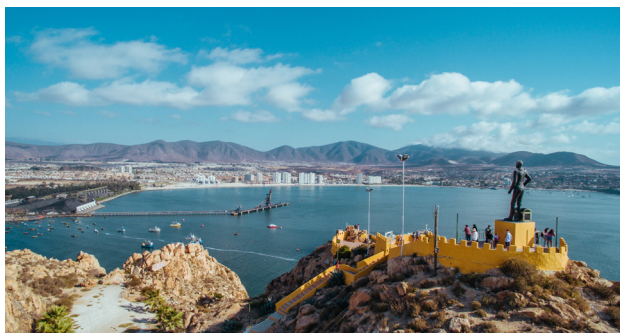
The commune of Coquimbo offers visitors a wide range of tourist services and many alternatives to spend free time. In one destination is possible to live a unique experience mixing history, nature, culture, gastronomy and adventure.

Whoever visits Coquimbo must tour around the streets of the English neighborhood, where all the cultural activities and the main restaurants, pubs and cafes are concentrated. The must-visit points in the city include the fishing port, the Pampilla area, Coquimbo fort and the Domo museum area, where the vestiges of the Ánimas culture are displayed.

Lovers of navigation may go on amusing rides off the city shores, where birdwatching and sea fauna observation are enjoyed. To the south, the coastline of Coquimbo is blessed with long beaches and bays of soft sand.

The beaches of Peñuelas, La Herradura, Totalillo, Las Tacas, Morrillos, Las Mostazas, Guanaqueros, Playa Blanca and Tongoy, among the most important, invite visitors to sunbathe and enjoy the white sands, the temperatura cristal-clear Waters and a first-class service.

Coquimbo is ideal for walking at any time of the year and taking a few days to increase your knowledge about it culture and history discovering the geography in which lie his funny myths and legends.



Mirador de Los Navegantes.

BALNEARIOS DE AGUAS TRANQUILAS

In Coquimbo you can find 56 km of coastline in which stand out the beaches of Peñuelas, La Herradura, Totalillo, Las Tacas, Morrillos, Las Mostazas, Guanaqueros, Playa Blanca and Tongoy.

Peñuelas. Famous beach of calm and warm waters. In this place you can find Enjoy Coquimbo Casino and Resort, the fishing cove and his famous “picadas” (cheap eats) to enjoy the clams with Parmesan cheese and a host of other specialties with seafood. It has excellent lodging facilities, besides places to eat and have fun.

Located 6 km to the north of Coquimbo, bordering Avenida Del Mar of La Serena.

La Herradura. Attractive tourist resort where you can find campsites, a yacht club, hotels, huts and other tourist services. It is characterized by its warm and gentle waters suitable for bathing and practice water sports such as windsurfing and diving, among others. It has an extension of 2 km long. To the north side is the Guayacán Port, you can visit the church of La Herradura and the yacht club.

Located 2 km to the south of Coquimbo center.

Totalillo. Beach with “natural charm”. It has an extension of 2 km with a small peninsula and a rocky landscape. It is characterized by clear and transparent waters, suitable for bathing, fishing, diving and submarine hunting, as well as surfing. It has several Polynesian style huts and a high standard restaurant.

Located 17 km to the south of Coquimbo and 2 km from Las Tacas.

Las Tacas. With an extension of 1 km, it is a beach of fine white sand with a gentle slope towards the ocean. It provides favorable conditions to practice water sports such as sailing, surfing and diving. It has a building complex of Mediterranean inspiration where the magic of the semi-arid nature of the place is combined with the modernity of the facilities, this includes apartments at the seaside, apart hotel, pools and an international restaurant.

Located 15 km to the south of Coquimbo.

Morrillos. It has an extension of 6 km with ocher sand beach and crystalline waters. It is possible practice water sports such as diving and fishing. It has camping and huts.

Located 24 km to the south of Coquimbo.

Guaqueros. Typical place and one of the main tourist centers of the region. It has a wide variety of lodging, mainly huts and camping. Famous for its gastronomy. It has an extension of 7 km with fine sand and warm water, perfect for practice water sports and boat and shore fishing of sole and corvina. In the fishing cove you can negotiate a good price for a boat ride or for fishing in the morning.

Located 34 km to the south of Coquimbo.



Top: Playa Blanca beach. **Middle:** Vicuña Mackena square, English Neighborhood. **Bottom:** Playa Grande of Tongoy.

Playa Blanca. Is a small bay of white sand and clear waters with an extension of 500 meters. It has favorable conditions for shore fishing and water sports as diving. It has apartments, huts, camping and restaurant. You may access from Route 5 towards inner path between Guanaqueros and Tongoy.

Located 45 km to the south of Coquimbo.

Tongoy. Traditional beach that rises on a small peninsula of the large bay and form the Lengua de Vaca mountainous range into uncharted sea. It has attractive hotel facilities, huts and restaurants. You cannot miss visiting the patrimonial house of the writer Victor Domingo Silva, Cerro La Virgen viewpoint, wetlands and The Tangué Finance.

Located 48 km to the south of Coquimbo and 14 km to the south of Guanaqueros.

Playa Grande of Tongoy. It has an extension of about 14 km, suitable for bathing and boat and shore fishing. It concentrates the gastronomic offer of Tongoy and is possible to enjoy oysters and scallops.

Guayacán. Historic and patrimonial quarter declared typical area in 2005. Its fame dates back to colonial times where it was scene of incursions of pirates and corsairs, issues collected in diverse legends of possible buried treasures in the sector. In 1846 the Guayacán town was born as a maritime and mining establishment developed by Robert Edward Alison. At that time in 1862 José Tomás Urmeneta installs his copper smelter for which a railway is built to the Tamaya deposit in Ovalle and a boarding pier on the coast, placing Chile into the first exporter of copper in the world in 1876. A must-see is its metal church of Gothic style prefabricated in Europe in the mid-nineteenth century and settled in Guayacán in 1886. Another prominent building is the Administration House of Guayacán Establishment, building dating 1840. Both constructions were declared National Monument in 1977. You can also visit the English Cemetery created in 1874, the Port of Guayacán, the picturesque cove with picadas (cheap eats) and local crafts. Very celebrated is the religious festival to the Virgen del Rosario of Guayacán the last Sunday in January.

Guayacán town is located 2 km to the south of the Coquimbo center.

English Neighborhood. Old Quarter recovered and completely remodeled that stands out for the architecture of the nineteenth century where much of the cultural and bohemian life of Coquimbo is concentrated. Pubs and cafes offer a wide range of artistic and cultural shows. Theater, dance and music are combined in places such as House of Arts, Culture House and the Palace Cultural Center.



Top: Square and church of Guayacan. **Middle:** Restaurants in the English Neighborhood. **Bottom:** Casino and Resort Enjoy Coquimbo.

Pampilla Area. Place of celebration of the Independence Day of our country that is celebrated each year on September 18, 19 and 20, becoming an important tradition for the Coquimbo region and being recognized as the largest National Party in Chile.

Francisco Sánchez Rumoroso Bicentenary Stadium. Inaugurated in 1970, is the official seat of Coquimbo Unido Sports Club, a team of the Chilean football league. It was rebuilt for the 2008 FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup Championship.

Located in Santiago Trigo street.

Dome Site Museum Las Ánimas Culture. In 1981, 36 graves were discovered, corresponding to the Prehispanic cultural complex Las Ánimas (800 to 1000 A.C.). The vestiges called Ánimas Culture show offerings to bereaved with their camelids, in a ceremonial relationship with the surrounding world. In addition, you can appreciate pictorial visual samples of regional artists.

Located in Las Heras street, Gabriela Mistral Square.

Hours Monday to Friday to 8:30 a.m. from 5:30 p.m.

Free admission. Telephone (56 51) 2317006

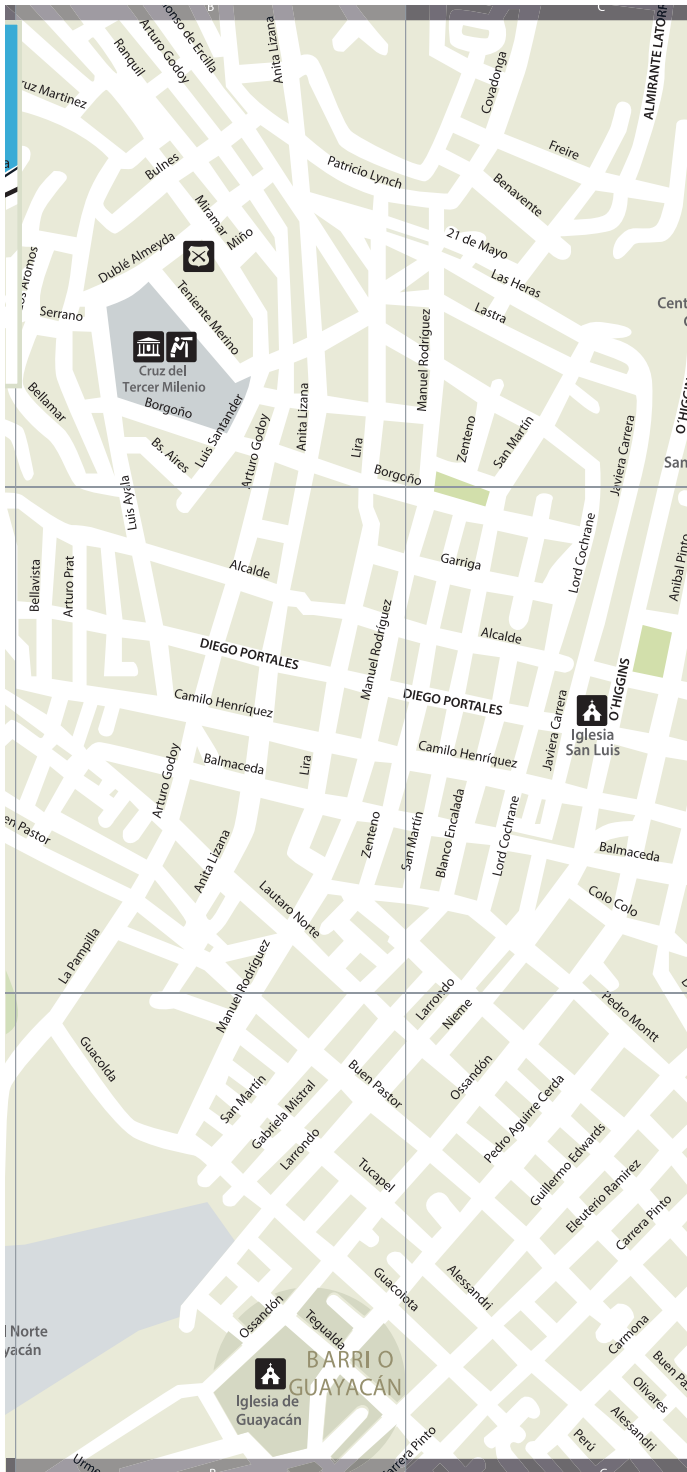
Third Millennium Cross. A must-see attraction of 93 m of height which surpasses even the famous Christ the Redeemer of Brazil. It has a 360 ° viewpoint unique in the region with city view and panoramic view of the cities of Coquimbo and La Serena. Also has a chapel, a religious art museum, an artistic collection of bronze busts of Chilean cardinals and pontificates such as John Paul II, among others.

Located in Juan Pablo II street, Parte Alta Coquimbo

Telephones: (56 51) 2327935 – 2320125

E-mail: cruzdeltercermilenio@municoquimbo.cl

www.cruzdeltercermilenio.cl



Plano Coquimbo



Fuerte Coquimbo,
Faro Punta de Tortuga

González

Plaza Londres
Sierra

Puerto
de Coquimbo

Plaza Vicuña
Mackenna

**BARRIO
INGLÉS**
Benavente

Casa de
la Cultura

Casa de
las Artes

Centro Cultural
Gran Palace

DOMO
Museo de Sitio Cultura
Las Ánimas

Gobernación
Provincial
de Elqui

Plaza
de Armas

Paseo de
Los Artesanos

I. Municipalidad
de Coquimbo

Mirador

Embarcaquero
Turístico

Puerto Pesquero
Artesanal

Mercado

Terminal
Rodoviario

Parque
O'Higgins

DIEGO PORTALES

Estación
Empalme

AVENIDA COSTANERA

BAHÍA DE COQUIMBO

AVENIDA COSTANERA

AVENIDA JUAN ANTONIO RÍOS

Centro Cultural
Islámico Mohammed VI,
Mezquita

AVENIDA VIDELA

AVENIDA VIDELA

Estadio Francisco
Sánchez Rumoroso

Al Sur
por Ruta 5 Norte
Hacia
La Herradura, Tongoy,
Guanaqueros

AVENIDA VIDELA

RUTA 5 NORTE

San Miguel

5

Empalme Station of Coquimbo. It is a replica of the old railway station, it rescues architecture and its details, as well revives this sector as a meeting place, as happened during 40 and 50 decades, where the public gathered awaiting the arrival of the train. The recovery of this place has allowed the development of musical and cultural events.

Located in Aldunate with Henriquez street,
Coquimbo center.

San Pedro Church. Dates from 1862, here was established the first parish of the city, founded in 1857. It was witnessed the dawn of Coquimbo because in 1844 it was already serving sacramental services.

Located in 999 Aldunate with Lastra street,
opposite to the Plaza de Armas.

Mohamed VI Cultural Center. It is a scale replica of Kutubia Mosque of Marrakech, Morocco, built in stone masonry, marble gray, white and pink and a minaret of 36 meters height. It has prayer rooms, library, museum and square.

Located in 500 Los Granados street, Villa Dominante
Free admission. Telephone (56 51) 2310440

Los Navegantes Viewpoint. It shows a beautiful panoramic view of The Herradura Bay and The Guayacán dock and also the immensity of the Pacific Ocean. Its building is a honor of the Coquimbo people to several sailors who visited our coasts centuries ago.

Located in La Pampilla area.

Coquimbo Fort. Visit this place is to go back to past centuries, is directly know a piece of history of our country. It is associated erroneously as a place of defense against pirates, however only in the nineteenth century the place became a fortification. Today the Fort is a recreational place, of landscaping in front of the Pelicano rock and to the wonderful view of the bay of Coquimbo.

Located a short distance from Coquimbo. The access is by Regimiento Coquimbo street to the sector called Punta Pelicanos.

Patrimonial House Social Club. Beautiful neoclassic building dating from 1924. In it worked the Social Club of Coquimbo. Currently it belongs to the local municipality and is intended for community use, culture and protocol events.



Photograph: Mosque of Coquimbo.

GASTRONOMY AND PORT LIFE

Coquimbo has a gastronomic profile molded by the fishing influence of the Changos, which continues today with the consume of dishes based on seafood.

The “Sandwich de pescado” also known as “Churrasco marino” is one of the most characteristic exponents of the local gastronomy, becoming a new alternative in the menus of the different restaurants of the commune.

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

Tasting of seafood products can be complemented with the fruits of a generous land in products of excellence such as papayas, custard apples, lucumas, goat cheese, wines, grapes and strawberries.

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Cruises. Coquimbo has positioned itself as one of the most important ports of Chile in the luxury cruise landings. Every year receives ships from November to April, during which passengers down to enjoy the attractions of both the city and elsewhere in the region.

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Picadas of Peñuelas. astronomic centers with tradition and well-known trajectory, specialty seafood.

Located in Costanera Avenue between Peñuelas Sur and Peñuelas Norte street.

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Port area. Opened in 1959, it concentrates the maritime movement of commercial ships and international luxury cruises arriving in Coquimbo.

Artisan Fishing Port. Sector which facilitates extraction activities, handling, operation, distribution and marketing of seafood and provides a great tourist flow to the sector, is a window on the coastal edge, next to the environment of places, parks and bus station. Near to the port, trips can be taken in catamarans ships, which conducted tours since the Coquimbo bay until Los Lobos island.

Costanera Avenue. It is a work by more than five kilometers long, that connects Coquimbo with Avenida Del Mar of La Serena, whose objective is oriented to commercial and tourist area. The Costanera Avenue connects, from north to south, “Enjoy Coquimbo”, Artisan Fishing Port, Peñuelas and Changa beach, Port area, English Neighborhood, among other touristic attractions.

Casino Enjoy Coquimbo. Casino and Resort, it owns the only 5-star hotel in the region, spa, restaurants and convention center.

Located in Costanera Avenue (Peñuelas area)

REGION OF CLEAN SKIES

Enjoy the cleanest skies on the planet and eleven astronomical observatories, including scientific and tourist. This infrastructure is distributed in the communes of Coquimbo Region.

Coquimbo is privileged for its proximity to the tourist astronomical observatories. They include "Collowara" to 50 km in Andacollo; "Cruz del Sur" located in Combarbalá and "Mamalluca" in Vicuña at 83 km.

GABRIELA MISTRAL IN COQUIMBO

The distinguished poetess and Nobel Prize worked as a teacher in La Cantera 2 km from Coquimbo. In 1908, with 19 years she was the director of that school. "Of my three villages, La Cantera is the one in which I lived together ..." she wrote. Here was where Lucila Godoy published her poem "Rimes", using for first time the pseudonym which it would be known internationally. A few years later, in Cerrillos, in the estate with the same name she would write his famous "Sonnets of Death".

COQUIMBO RURAL "COUNTRY LIFE"

In the rural coast is El Tangué estate, located about 10 km south of Tongoy. Activities such as shearing and roast lamb keep alive the traditional sheep farming. In October sheep shearing is practiced in the totora houses.

In the mountain range sector is Pan de Azúcar, known for cultivation of flowers and vegetables. The peasants produce olive oil and goat cheese. Tasty sauces are prepared with products derived from vegetables such as tomato, carrot, onion and aromatic herbs.

Pan de Azúcar area. Attractive place known for flower crops, vegetables, in addition to threshing, oils and goat cheeses, among other agricultural products. Is characterized for having a climate influenced by the coastal clouds along with the kindness of its people enhances rural tourism development.

Located 5 km to the east of Coquimbo, road to Ovalle, D-43 route.

Rural Sector Services. Pan de Azúcar has establishments whose facilities you will find barbecue, baby soccer fields, volleyball courts, meeting rooms and educational farms with Chilean animals.

El Tangué estate. It was built in the early twentieth century, at present has around 45,635 hectares and around 250 inhabitants which are principally engaged in farming specifically the removal of milk, meat, leather and wool sheep.

Located 58 km to the south of Coquimbo and 10 km of Tongoy.

Venus estate. It was built in the mid-nineteenth century when the Bellavista canal was created. It was one of the main milk producers for butter production at the national level at that time. There the poetess Gabriela mistral attended to receive its salary by its work as rural teacher of Cerrillos. Today, this estate is owned by some of the descendants of Domingo Illanes Cisternas.

Located in Pan de Azúcar area.

El Retiro estate. This estate dates from the end of the nineteenth century and its construction lasted more than ten years. It has an imposing structure that stands out in view of anyone with a dome at the top in which this put a lookout. It belongs to the Ripamonti family in their beginnings, it is said that Gabriela Mistral before being Nobel Prize gave classes at school that Mr. Ripamonti created on their land to educate the children of their workers and she ended forged a great friendship with family.

Located in Pan de Azúcar area.



Top: Venus state, Pan de Azúcar. **Middle:** Threshing in Pan de Azúcar. **Bottom:** El Retiro estate, Pan de Azúcar.

AIRPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

The airport infrastructure is comprised mainly by La Florida Airport, located 6 km from La Serena. It has a paved runway of 1.938 meters long and 45 meters wide. Daily, airport platform allows to attend three Boeing 737 and four twin-engine planes. In addition, there is a network of 17 airports, of which three belong to the public network and fourteen to the private one.

PORT INFRASTRUCTURE

The principal is the Port located in Coquimbo. It has approximately 55 hectares and two sites of 378 meters length and covers an area of 54.200 m². The maximum draught authorized is 9.37 meters, areas of the port covered are 6.250 m². Its cargo turnover has a strong seasonality, concentrated in the months of December, January and February, given by the fruit export activity.

The second port is Guayacán, it is mechanized producing iron and the Pacific Mining Company is the owner. It has a mooring site and has a more stable movement during the annual period, which exceeds 4 million tons.

HOW TO GO THERE?

Coquimbo has excellent connectivity, which allows arriving from different parts of Chile.

By plane. To embark you must travel to La Florida airport, 5 km from La Serena and 17 km from Coquimbo.

By car. From the north or south you must travel along Route 5 towards Coquimbo or La Serena. From Copiapó are 344 km and 1397 km from Iquique. By the south, from Santiago are 462 km and 231 km from Los Vilos.



Top: Cruiser. **Bottom:** Zig zag stairs connecting with the downtown of the city.

By bus. There are continuous departures from La Serena and beaches bordering Coquimbo. From Santiago, Valparaíso, Viña del Mar and the north there are departures every day. Ask the respective bus station.

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By ship. Access by ships is limited to international cruises that arrive at the Coquimbo Port.

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COMMUNAL AXIS

Interregional Axis. This axis consists of the longitudinal road Route 5 North in its journey La Serena-Santiago is two-way, which significantly reduces the travel time to and from Santiago, capital of Chile. Around this route, the main entrances are in this region.

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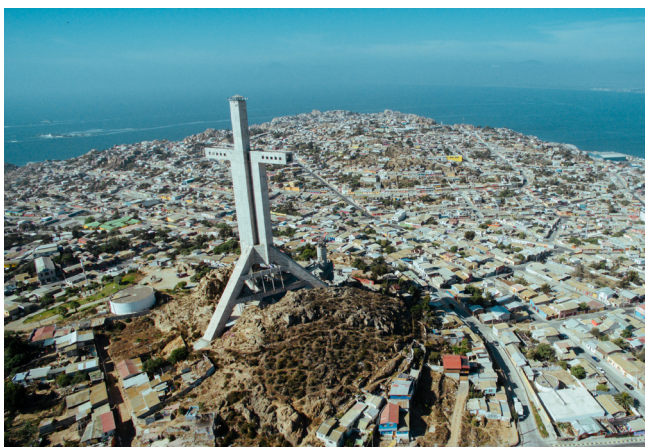
Intraregional Axis. This is a linking axis between various points within the region. The main routes are Route CH-41 which La Serena-Vicuña-Pisco Elqui areas are connected, Route D-43 which connects La Serena-Ovalle areas and Route D-45 that connects Ovalle-Socos areas.

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International Axis. This axis is composed by Gabriela Mistral International Road, Route CH-41 linking La Serena city with the Agua Negra border crossing, the main access to San Juan, Argentina.



La Herradura beach.



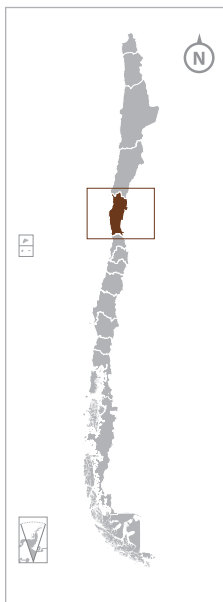
Top: Francisco Sánchez Rumoroso Stadium.

Bottom: Third Millennium Cross.

Advice. Prefer touristic services providers who are registered and certified by Sernatur. The registration for lodging and adventure tourism services is obligatory, according to the N° 20.423 Tourism Law.

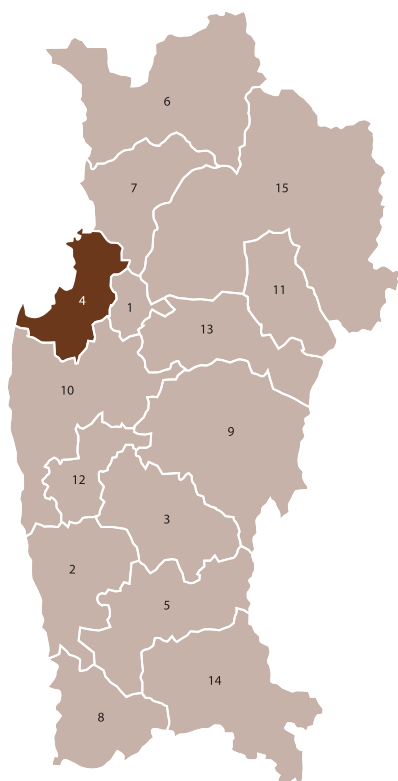
Visit: serviciosturisticos.sernatur.cl

COMMUNES OF COQUIMBO REGION



Comunes:

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



COQUIMBO REGION

Coquimbo

Capital of the Elqui province, it is located 12 km to the south of La Serena and 462 km to the north of Santiago.

Borderlines

To the north with La Serena, to the south with Ovalle, to the east with Andacollo and to the west with Pacific Ocean.

Not to be missed




Beaches. Peñuelas, La Herradura, Totalillo, Las Tacas, Morrillos, Guanaqueros, Playa Blanca y Tongoy, famous names to choose within its 56 km of coastline.

Wetlands. Be amazed with the large wetlands that you can find along its coast, fragile ecosystems to observe the passage of wonderful migratory birds.

Gastronomy and Customs. Live the spontaneity of its people on the busy streets and enjoy fresh fish and seafood in its coves, restaurants and picadas (cheap eats).

USEFUL DATA

Emergencies

 Ambulance	131
 Uniformed Police Service	133
 Fire Department	132
Andean rescue corps	136
CITUC intoxications	(56 2) 2635 68 00

Phone numbers dialing

From Chile to abroad:

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

Other cities within Chile:

Area code + phone number




From desk phone to cell phone

9 + teléfono

De teléfono móvil a fijo

Areal core + 2 + phone number

Transportation phone numbers

 Arturo Merino Benitez	International Airport	(56 2) 2789 00 92
 La Florida airport	of La Serena	(56 51) 227 26 62
 Rodoviario of Coquimbo	Bus Terminal	(56 51) 231 43 40

Information

Sernatur, Tourist Information Office

Matta 461, La Serena, (56 51) 222 51 99

infocoquimbo@sernatur.cl

+ Info.: www.turismoregiondecoquimbo.cl

Municipal Corporation of Tourism Coquimbo

Aldunate 739, Barrio Inglés, Coquimbo

(56 51) 231 06 55 / 2313037, contacto@coquimboturismo.cl