

Chiloé Island, Los Lagos, Chile

Chiloé is a world apart — a misty island of rainbow palafito stilt houses, hand-built wooden churches recognized by UNESCO, and a seafood culture rooted in centuries of Chilote tradition. Ships anchor offshore and tender into Castro's downtown waterfront, putting you within walking distance of the island's best.

Tender port

Typical call: 8–10 hrs

Chilean Peso (CLP)

Spanish

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: _____ Arrive: _____ All aboard: _____

Excursion: _____ Notes: _____

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Tender — ships anchor offshore; small boats land at Castro's downtown pier

Best For: UNESCO architecture, palafito stilt houses, Chilote food & handicrafts

Walk to center: Immediate — tender dock is steps from Plaza de Armas

Don't Miss: Iglesia San Francisco de Castro and the Gamboa palafito waterfront

Getting around: Taxi \$3–8 USD (short rides) · Rideshare Uber

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Palafitos & Iglesia San Francisco** — Walk the Gamboa and Pedro Montt waterfront to photograph the iconic colorful stilt houses, then climb to Plaza de Armas and the UNESCO-listed...
- UNESCO Wooden Churches Circuit** — Chiloé has 16 UNESCO World Heritage wooden churches across the archipelago.
- Puñihuil Penguin Colony** — The islets of Puñihuil are the only place on Earth where Humboldt and Magellanic penguins nest together.
- Chiloé National Park** — On the island's wild Pacific coast, this park protects ancient evergreen Valdivian rainforest, peat bogs, and coastal dunes.
- Castro Food & Market Tour** — Taste Chilote specialties — curanto, milcao, chupe de jaiba, seafood empanadas — at the Mercado Municipal and waterfront restaurants.

BEST WALKS

- Waterfront Palafitos to Plaza de Armas** 1.5 km · 30–45 min · Easy (some uphill) — Start at the tender pier at the Feria Artesanal, walk south along Ernesto Riquelme street to view the Gamboa palafito stilt houses from the water's edge, then loop...
- Pedro Montt Palafito Strip** 1 km · 20 min · Easy — Head north from the tender dock along Avenida Pedro Montt for a longer stretch of palafitos with direct water reflections — best light in the morning.
- Waterfront to Palafitos** ~2 km · 1 hr · easy — From the tender dock, walk north along the Costanera waterfront past the Feria Artesanal to the Gamboa palafito neighborhood.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

	Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr		73°	57°	8d
Jun		66°	50°	8d
Aug		69°	50°	8d
Sep		73°	54°	10d
Oct		74°	57°	16d

DAYLIGHT & MONEY

Apr 6:35AM–6:04PM · Jun 7:02AM–5:38PM · Aug 6:47AM–6:02PM · Sep 6:17AM–6:13PM · Oct 5:46AM–6:25PM

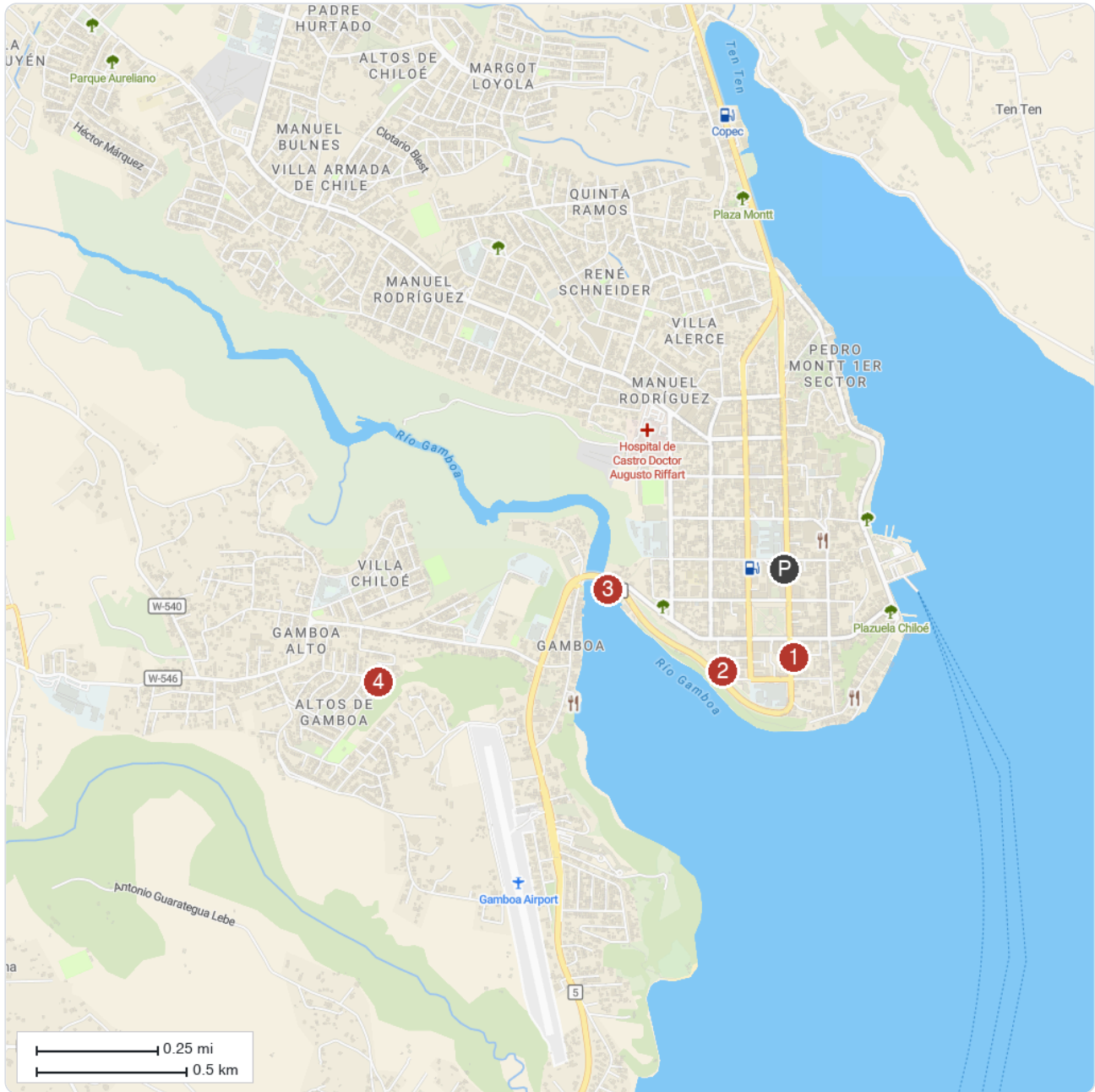
KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Tender timing: Lines for last tenders back to ship can build up fast — check your ship's last tender time and aim to be at the pier 30 min early.
- Expect rain: Chiloé is one of Chile's wettest regions year-round. Pack a waterproof jacket and wear waterproof shoes — cobblestones and palafito walkways get slippery.
- Cash in pesos: ATMs are available in Castro. USD is rarely accepted; pay in Chilean pesos. Some restaurants add a surcharge for card payments.
- Try curanto: Chiloé's signature dish — shellfish, meats, and potato dumplings slow-cooked in an earth oven. The Mercado Municipal and Pedro Montt waterfront restaurants are reliable spots.
- Taxis from the pier: Agree on fares before getting in. Collective taxis (shared) run fixed routes cheaply. Many drivers near the pier speak some English and cater to cruise passengers.
- Penguin tours are seasonal: Puñihuil penguin colonies are only active October–March. If your visit is April–September, skip this and focus on the churches circuit or national park instead.

Chiloé Island, Los Lagos, Chile — Port Map

cruiseports.org

Red = walkable sights · Amber = excursions farther out · P = cruise terminal. Numbers match the order you'd typically visit.



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| <p>1 Municipal Museum Castro</p> <p>3 Mirador Gamboa</p> <p>P Cruise port / terminal</p> | <p>Castro's museum showcases local history, culture, and traditional crafts.</p> <p>Gamboa viewpoint provides stunning vistas of Castro's stilt houses.</p> | <p>2 Mirador Chacabuco</p> <p>4 Cabañas el Isleño Castro Chiloe.</p> | <p>Chacabuco viewpoint offers panoramic views of Castro and the bay.</p> <p>This is a lodging complex with traditional Chiloe-style cabins.</p> |
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