

Punta Arenas, Chile

Chile's windswept gateway to Patagonia and the Strait of Magellan — a frontier city of grand wool-era mansions, penguin islands, and the raw end of the Americas.

Tender or dock

Typical call: 8–10 hrs

Chilean Peso (CLP)

Spanish · some English

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: Arrive: All aboard:

Excursion: Notes:

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Tender or Mardones pier

To center: Short tender/walk

Best For: History · Penguins

Don't Miss: Magdalena Island

Getting around: Taxi CLP 6,000–9,000 (~\$6–10 USD) · Rideshare Uber

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Magdalena Island Penguin Colony** — A boat trip across the Strait to an island home to ~120,000 Magellanic penguins, where a marked path winds right through the rookery.
 - Otway Sound Penguin Reserve** — A land-based alternative penguin colony reached by road, with boardwalks and hides — a good option when sea conditions rule out Magdalena Island.
- City & Wool-Era Mansions** — Punta Arenas grew rich on sheep and shipping.
 - Fort Bulnes & Strait of Magellan** — Drive south to the reconstructed fort at the spot where Chile claimed the Strait, with sweeping views over the waterway Magellan first sailed in 1520.

BEST WALKS

- Plaza de Armas & mansions loop** ~2 km · 1.5 hrs · easy — From the pier to the Plaza Muñoz Gamero with its Magellan monument (rub the toe for luck), past the Sara Braun Palace and the ornate facades of the wool barons.
- Cerro de la Cruz viewpoint** ~2 km · 1 hr · moderate — A short uphill walk to the hilltop cross for a colorful panorama over the city's tin roofs and the Strait of Magellan beyond.
- Municipal Cemetery** ~1.5 km · 1 hr · easy — One of South America's most striking cemeteries — manicured cypress avenues and elaborate mausoleums telling the story of Patagonia's immigrant pioneers.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

	Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr		48°	40°	15d
Jun		40°	34°	14d
Aug		41°	34°	15d
Sep		45°	36°	11d
Oct		48°	38°	14d

DAYLIGHT & MONEY

Apr 8:32AM–6:53PM · Jun 9:57AM–5:30PM · Aug 8:59AM–6:37PM · Sep 7:48AM–7:29PM · Oct 6:36AM–8:22PM

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Respect the wind. Patagonian gusts can be ferocious — hold the harbor handrails, mind hats and loose items, and know tendering can be affected.
- Book penguins ahead. Magdalena Island trips are limited and weather-dependent; reserve early and have Otway Sound as a backup.
- Dress for four seasons. Even in summer it's cold, bright, and blustery. Windproof shell, warm layers, sunglasses, and sunblock are all essential.
- Check penguin season. Colonies are active roughly November to March; outside that window, lean into the city's history and viewpoints instead.
- Have some pesos. Chilean pesos are best for taxis, market stalls, and small cafés; cards work in larger shops and museums.

Punta Arenas, 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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|---|------------------------------------|---|---|--|---|
| 1 | Remembrance Museum | Museum about German and Croatian immigration to Patagonia. | 2 | Club Andino punta arenas | Ski resort and mountain club near the city. |
| 3 | Museo Maggiorino Borgatello | Regional museum of natural history, ethnography, and local culture. | 4 | La Galería, tienda de arte y diseño | Local art and design shop featuring regional artists. |
| 5 | Lord Lonsdale | Historic shipwreck visible from the coast of Punta Arenas. | 6 | Museo Nao Victoria | Museum with full-scale replicas of historic Magellanic ships. |
| 7 | Cemetery of Punta Arenas | Historic and beautifully landscaped cemetery with notable mausoleums. | P | Cruise port / terminal | |