



Chiloé

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Best Places to Eat

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- ➔ Hostalomera (p295)
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Best Places to Sleep

- ➔ EcoLodge Chepu Adventures (p288)
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- ➔ Isla Bruja Lodge (p296)

Why Go?

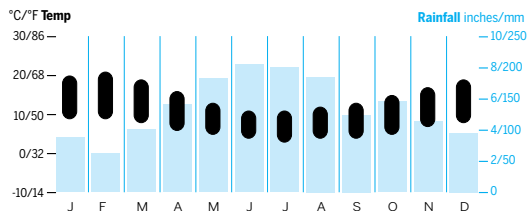
When the early-morning fog shrouds misty-eyed and misunderstood Chiloé, it's immediately apparent something different this way comes. Isla Grande de Chiloé, the continent's fifth-largest island, is home to a fiercely independent, seafaring people who developed culturally and historically in defiance of Santiago.

Immediately apparent are changes in architecture and cuisine: *tejuelas*, the famous Chilote wood shingles; *palafitos* (houses mounted on stilts along the water's edge); the iconic wooden churches (16 of which are Unesco World Heritage sites); and the renowned meat, potato and seafood stew, *curanto*. A closer look reveals a rich spiritual culture that is based on a distinctive mythology of witchcraft, ghost ships and forest gnomes.

All of the above is weaved among landscapes that are wet, windswept and lush, with undulating hills, wild and remote national parks, and dense forests, giving Chiloé a distinct flavor unique in South America.

When to Go

Ancud



Feb The clearest skies of the year in Chiloé, but you'll still need a poncho.

Sep–Mar Magellanic and Humboldt penguins breed in Monumento Natural Islotes de Puñihuil.

Dec–May Best time of year to catch endangered blue whales off Chiloé's northwest coast.



Chiloé Highlights

- 1 Genuflect in awe at the interiors of Chiloé's Unesco-listed wooden churches, especially in **Achao** (p291) and **Castro** (p292).
- 2 Wake up with the sun on a kayak trip in misty **Chepu** (p288).
- 3 Spy Magellanic and Humboldt penguins at the

wild and rugged **Monumento Natural Islotes de Puñihuil** (p287).

- 4 Hike along the raging and wild west coast in **Parque Nacional Chiloé** (p298).
- 5 Wander the picturesque roads of **Isla Mechuque** (p289), an idyllic microcosm of Chiloé on a mini-island.

6 Hit the outdoor hot tub with wine in hand in one of Chiloé's **remote lodges** (p296).

7 Lose yourself on a hut-to-hut trek through **Parque Tantauco** (p299).

8 Tear into a bowl of *curanto*, Chiloé's most traditional dish, in restaurants such as **Kuranton** (p286) and **El Chejo** (p288).