



Chiloé

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Best Places to Eat

- » Hostal Omera Comedor (p299)
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- » El Chejo (p292)
- » Retro's Pub (p289)
- » Mar y Canela (p299)

Best Places to Sleep

- » EcoLodge Chepu Adventures (p292)
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Why Go?

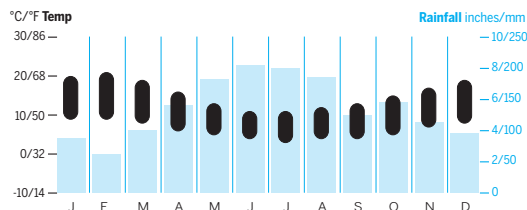
When the early-morning fog shrouds misty-eyed and misunderstood Chiloé, it's immediately apparent something different this way comes. Isla Grande de Chiloé is the continent's second-largest island and is home to a fiercely independent, seafaring people who developed culturally and historically in defiance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

On the surface you will see changes in architecture and cuisine: *tejuelas*, the famous Chilote wood shingles; *palafitos* (houses mounted on stilts along the water's edge); more than 150 iconic wooden churches (14 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 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 north-west coast.



Chiloé Highlights

- 1 Genuflect in awe upon seeing the interiors of Chiloé's UNESCO-listed wooden churches in **Achao** (p295), **Castro** (p297) and **Aldachildo** (p287)
- 2 Wake up with the sun on a kayak at dawn on a river trip in misty **Chepu** (p291)
- 3 Spy Magellanic and Humboldt penguins or blue

whales at the wild and rugged **Monumento Natural Islotes de Puñihuil** (p291)

- 4 Tear into a bowl of *curanto* (meat, potato and seafood stew), Chiloé's most traditional dish, in local restaurants such as Kuranton in **Ancud** (p289) and El Chejo in **Quemchi** (p292)

- 5 Hike along the raging and wild west coast in **Parque Nacional Chiloé** (p301)
- 6 Wander the picturesque roads of **Isla Tancoque** (p292), an idyllic microcosm of Chiloé on a mini-island
- 7 Lose yourself on a hut-to-hut trek through **Parque Tantauco** (p303)