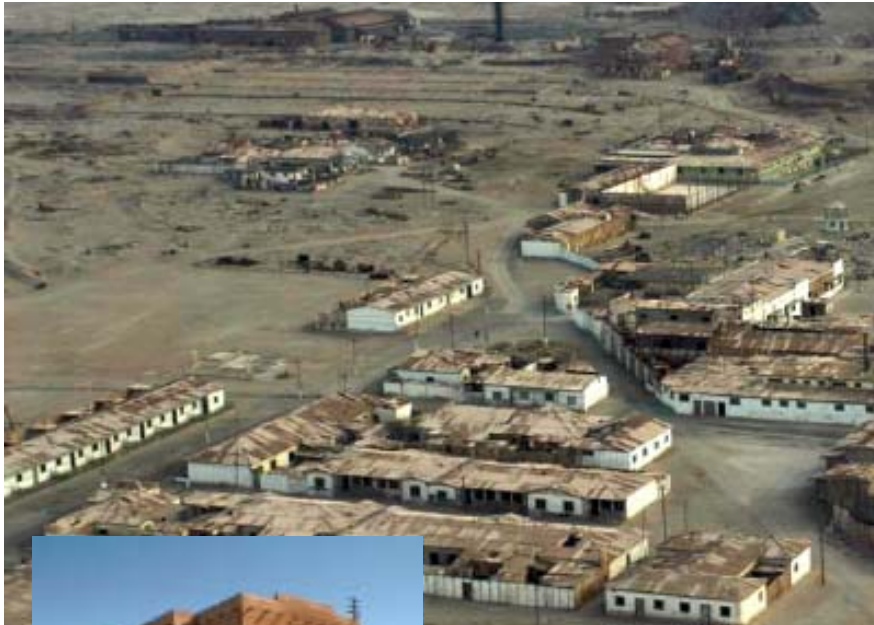




Chile's Heritage



The Humberstone and Santa Laura Salt peter Mining Works.

Protecting the country's natural and cultural heritage has been an important concern for the Concertación administrations. During the past 15 years, new legislation has been considered and enacted to protect the nation's resources and promote the restoration of its cultural assets.

On July 15, UNESCO added the Humberstone and Santa Laura salt peter mining works to its World Heritage List, a step which Foreign Minister Ignacio Walker called "a triumph for Chile and for all Chileans."

The decision was made in South Africa, where the World Heritage Committee was holding a meeting. The site, placed in the industrial archaeology category, was also included on the list of endangered historic places due to the damage caused by the earthquake which struck northern Chile in June, measuring 7.8 on the Richter scale.

The salt peter works at Humberstone and Santa Laura consist of two *oficinas* or mining camps located 1.5 kilometers apart. Constructed in 1872 in the middle of the Atacama Desert (on the Pampa del Tamarugal) by the Peruvian Nitrate Company, they include some 200 extraction points for the mineral.

Located in Chile's Norte Grande, nearly 2,000 kilometers from Santiago, Humberstone and Santa Laura became the fourth Chilean site to receive this distinction, after Easter Island's Rapa Nui National Park, 16 wooden churches on Chiloé Island and the historic center of the port of Valparaíso.

"It is a place of great cultural richness, which witnessed historic moments for our country from both the social and political points of view, and we would like to share this richness with the world," stated Foreign Minister Walker.

FACTS

In 2004, Chile had 639 official historical monuments, 89 "characteristic zones" and 30 natural sanctuaries.

The country has 32 national parks, 48 national reserves and 15 natural monuments.

More than two million historic objects or artifacts are estimated to exist in Chile, most of them in State museums, archives and libraries.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Humberstone and Santa Laura Saltpeter Mining Works

- ★ Constructed to exploit deposits of the so-called “Chilean nitrate,” used in agriculture throughout the world up to the 1950s, they offer exceptional testimony of a unique industry in the history of humanity.
- ★ At the height of their operations, they were home to some 3,700 mine workers from Chile, Peru and Bolivia. They also became the birthplace of the Chilean workers’ movement.
- ★ Closed in 1958, they were auctioned off for scrap materials in 1961. After partial dismantling, they were declared a National Monument in 1970 for their value as representative sites of the saltpeter industry, a designation which prevented their complete destruction but not their gradual deterioration.

FACTS

Eight Biosphere Reserves have been recognized by UNESCO in Chile: Fray Jorge Park (1977); Juan Fernández (1977); Torres del Paine (1978); Laguna San Rafael (1979); Laguna del Lauca (1981); Las Araucarias Park (1983); La Campana–Peñuelas Park (1984); and Cape Horn (2005).

The Cape Horn Biosphere Reserve covers 4.9 million hectares, of which 3 million are maritime and 1.9 million terrestrial, including the Alberto de Agostini and Cape Horn National Parks.

More than 2,000 *Pampinos*, as the inhabitants of the zone are called, celebrated UNESCO’s decision with an official ceremony and a parade featuring typical clothing from the saltpeter mining era.

With the designation, a long process involving a large number of public and private institutions came to an end, and another began, aimed at restoring this industrial complex of unique value to humanity. Its reconstruction is expected to cost more than six million dollars, which the government hopes to collect from international financing sources and contributions from mining companies in the zone.

Education Minister Sergio Bitar, who attended the South African gathering in his capacity as president of the National Monuments Council and founder of the Saltpeter Museum Corporation, urged Chileans to “celebrate this great news and prepare ourselves for continued efforts in the future, preserving what we have, advancing our history, our homeland and our national identity, recognizing what we have.”

Without a doubt, the designation represents a success for the policies aimed at recovering and conserving the country’s national heritage, which regained force with the return to democracy in 1990. Since that time, intensive efforts have been carried out, not only to achieve international recognition of significant sites within the country, but above all to inspire Chileans to take on the challenge of conserving their natural and cultural assets and those of the world.

Initiatives pursued within these efforts include new national heritage laws, the designation of additional places and structures as natural and cultural monuments, the submission of a list of potential World Heritage sites, the reconstruction of historic buildings, and the designation of the last Sunday of May as Cultural Heritage Day.

Preserving the country’s assets

The creation of the National Monuments Council (Consejo de Monumentos Nacionales, CMN) in 1925 marked the initiation of State efforts to preserve Chile’s natural and cultural assets. However, during the 65 years between that time and 1970, when the National Monuments Law (N°17,288) was passed, the CMN undertook only limited activity within its area of action: historical and public monuments, archeological excavations and the official registration of museums. During this period, it was only able to protect 50 historical monuments, the great majority of them churches, public buildings and the remains of Spanish forts.

The 1970 law considerably increased the number and nature of the country’s protected assets. The Council, defined as a technical organization, was expanded to 19 members and 7 advisors, representing a range of public and private institutions. Its main objective: to join forces with the community and other entities to make optimal use of resources and establish monument preservation as a foundation for the harmonious development of society.

The Council’s work began in earnest only in 1994, however, with the creation of its Executive Secretariat. “The first step was to raise awareness among the



Chile and Unesco

The Chilean government signed UNESCO's 1972 Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage in the same year, ratifying it in 1980.

In October 2003, Chile was elected for the first time (by a broad majority) as a Full Member of UNESCO's Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, for the 2004-2007 period. This Committee, comprising 21 members, is tasked with maintaining a World Cultural and Natural Heritage List of assets possessing exceptional universal value.

population and the authorities," notes CMN executive secretary Angel Cabeza. The idea was to communicate the importance of protecting national assets, not only because of their historical value, but also because they form part of the nation's identity. In 1995, the Council reached its first international achievement: UNESCO placed Easter Island's Rapa Nui National Park on the World Heritage List.

From that time on, many government institutions became involved. At the same time, the country's rising openness to the world called for a corresponding reinforcement of Chile's identity, providing the country with a distinct trademark to distinguish itself within an increasingly globalized world.

Another important factor considered by the authorities was the number of jobs created by preservation and restoration efforts, along with the income generated by the tourist industry. Within this framework, national heritage preservation became a national task in which all Chileans were expected to participate.

These efforts included the review of laws and public policies: some have

The Chilean heritage

A nation's heritage is composed of the territory it occupies, its flora and fauna, and all of the creations and expressions of the people who have lived within it, including its social, legal and religious institutions; its languages; and its material culture, starting from the earliest times. Chile is rich in all of these categories.

Centuries-old structures built by indigenous peoples; colonial buildings; breathtaking landscapes; endemic animal species; the languages of native peoples; unique culinary recipes; priceless paintings and the poetry of Gabriela Mistral and Pablo Neruda – all of these form part of Chile's heritage and must be protected for future generations.



Morro de Arica



Casa Colorada



San Marcos's Church



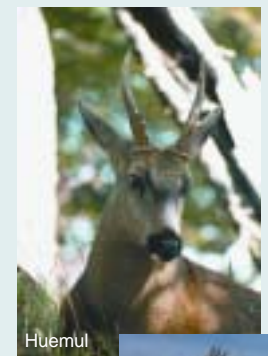
Gabriela Mistral



Selknam people



San Pedro de Atacama



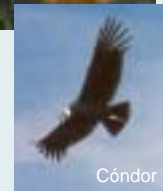
Huemul



Bulnes Fort



Tejidos de Chiloé



Cóndor



Locomotora Copiapó



Jarropato



Salto del Laja

already been modified, while others are still under deliberation. In the case of the country's national monuments, "the protection policy was extended from the traditional realm of buildings and residences to areas and neighborhoods of historical interest, both within large cities



Caleta Tortel

and small towns," notes Cabeza. Some localities, such as Caleta Tortel, Lolol and Putaendo, have been declared monuments in their entirety.

In 1998, the CMN intensified its efforts on the international level to add more Chilean sites to the World Heritage List, creating, in response to a UNESCO request, a Tentative List of sites to be proposed by the country in the coming years. This first list included 18 sites that reflect the country's richness and diversity. By 2003, two of them had already been accepted by UNESCO (the Chiloé churches and Valparaíso), and two more were added: the Camino Andino and Monte Verde.

In late July, the people of the Lota mining town began collecting signatures to petition for their community's inclusion on Chile's list of candidate sites.



Lota

National heritage laws

In addition to the National Monuments Law, the country has enacted a range of laws and public programs aimed at heritage preservation.



Lolol

The **Cultural Donations Law** is a legal mechanism which stimulates the participation of private



Putaendo

entities (companies or individuals) in financing artistic and cultural projects, permitting donors to deduct 50% of their donations from their taxes. Congress is currently studying modifications to this law.

In May 2005, the **National Monuments Law** was modified to increase the penalties for damaging national heritage sites, which now range up to 10 years in prison. It also includes penalties for unauthorized archaeological excavations and places sanctions on individuals who modify historic monuments on their property without permission from the authorities. Damaging a national monument is punished with up to five years' imprisonment. Under the new rules, "stricter penalties are established than before. Judges are given more tools to punish those who do not respect our national heritage," stated Minister Bitar.

The continuing decay of the historical centers of many of the country's cities motivated the creation of the **National Urban Heritage Recovery Program** in 2002. The

program offers innovative options to the municipalities, real estate firms, youth groups and the community to help them restore the value of historic neighborhoods.

The program has four components: the **Heritage Rehabilitation Subsidy**, which provides up to US\$7,700 for the purchase of new housing resulting from the remodeling of existing buildings in historic areas. Aimed at young professionals and couples, it promotes increased population density in city centers. To date, 241 of these subsidies have been granted in Valparaíso and Santiago, involving direct State spending of US\$1,800,000 and stimulating approximately 10.5 million dollars of private investment.



The **Competitive Fund for Public Spaces**, designed specifically for proposals presented by municipalities, promotes the enhancement of green areas, sidewalks, urban buildings and other public spaces. Selected projects receive funding of 65% to 92% of their total cost at the design or implementation stage, depending on



FACTS

Since 1997, the CMN has presented an annual National Monument Conservation Award to individuals, social organizations, businesses or public or private institutions which have made significant contributions to conserving the country's cultural heritage.

the proposal. More than 70 projects have already been carried out under this program, and an additional 25 are in process for this year, involving an investment of nearly 30 million dollars. In all, 68 townships have benefited from the program, especially Valparaíso.

The **Heritage Scouts** (Vigías del Patrimonio) are a network of volunteers, mainly children and young people, who undertake small educational projects aimed at raising public awareness in this area. This year, some 600 volunteers in two regions of the country have presented and carried out various projects.

Finally, the **Workshop Schools** are designed to train construction workers in the use of state-of-the-art techniques for the restoration of historic buildings.



Children are an especially important target group for the authorities. For this reason, topics related to natural and cultural heritage have been incorporated into the country's educational curricula. In addition, in conjunction with UNESCO's regional headquarters, the **Educational Heritage Program** was created in May 2004 to assess and conserve the material and historical legacy of Chile's schools. "It is important that the educational community is enthusiastic, and in this context we will emphasize the importance of a range of educational establishments as part of our national heritage. One of these is Temuco's Pablo Neruda Secondary School, where the poet and Nobel Prize winner studied," stated Minister Bitar.



"The State generates policies, regulatory instruments and incentives to promote investment, executing projects that lead to renovation; the citizens help to define the heritage and identity we wish to preserve for future generations; and the private sector invests in real estate projects which increase the value of our urban and architectural patrimony."

Sonia Tschorne
Minister of Housing and Urbanism

FACTS

At the website

www.artesanasdechile.cl, visitors can admire typical Chilean crafts, including textiles, basketry, fine metalwork, ceramics and wooden creations.

The site www.nuestro.cl was chosen as one of the world's five best in the area of culture, out of 130 countries, at the World Summit Awards, a competition organized by the United Nations' World Summit on the Information Society, headquartered in Geneva.

The website provides insight into diverse aspects of Chile's cultural identity, including information about monuments, museums, historical sites and structures, traditions, public events, ideas and beliefs, as well as important cultural figures.

Cultural Heritage Day

It was warm and sunny on Sunday, May 29, when thousands of inhabitants of Chile's capital, Santiago, came out into the streets to celebrate Cultural Heritage Day. Created by President Lagos soon after taking office in 2000, and coordinated and organized by the National Monuments Council, the event seeks to enrich and strengthen the country's national identity, involve Chileans more closely with their history and motivate them to protect the assets making up their cultural and natural inheritance.

On this one day of the year, many public and private buildings to which many people would never otherwise gain access are opened to the public. Some 150,000 enthusiastic visitors toured the presidential palace – which proved to be the highlight of the day and had to extend its visiting hours – as well as the Courts of Justice, Foreign Ministry, Central Bank, Military Institute, Cousiño Palace and Museum of Fine Arts, among other locations.

200 years of La Moneda Palace

From May 29 to June 2, nearly 25,000 people participated in celebrations for the 200-year anniversary of Chile's seat of government, touring its halls and retracing the history forged within its walls, starting from the time when it served as the Royal Mint. One of the most important events was the production of the new Bicentennial Coin, which President Lagos – who acted as host and guide – personally handed out to many of the visitors.

The current edifice, declared a National Monument in 1951, was inaugurated in 1805, 35 years after its Italian architect, Joaquín Toesca, prepared the original plans. The present-day structure has an area of 21,089 square meters. The Palace suffered its most significant modification after the bombardment of September 11, 1973, when the Armed Forces toppled the government of President Salvador



Allende, seriously damaging several sections of the building in the process. The image of La Moneda engulfed in flames circled the globe.

In 2000, President Lagos ordered La Moneda to be opened to the public. Today, visitors can cross the Patio de Armas, which contains the never-fired cannons *Relámpago* and



Furioso, carried from Peru in 1772. The venerable fountain in the center of the Patio de los Naranjos (Courtyard of the Orange Trees) receives hundreds of visitors' coins, which are regularly donated to a range of charitable organizations.

The Carabineros took advantage of the opportunity to unveil the Palace Guard's new uniform, which preserves the traditional olive green color while incorporating elements from earlier designs.



The same scene was repeated throughout the country. In the north, sunny skies greeted the visitors who investigated archeological sites and museums or toured the Lluta and Azapa Valleys by train. Farther south, rainy and windy weather did not deter the thousands who came to visit museums, train stations, churches, military installations and colonial houses and forts, or to follow some of the country's new Heritage Routes such as the Corregidor Trail of Colchagua (Camino Corregimiento de Colchagua) in the Sixth Region and the Tenth Region's "Castles at the End of the World."

Each year, the festivities attract more participants, especially children. Meanwhile, more buildings open their doors to visitors, more cultural figures interact with the public, and a growing audience fills the plazas and historic sites, supplied with informational documents and brochures.

The Heritage of Humanity Tradition, culture and mystery characterize the first three Chilean World Heritage sites protected by UNESCO: Easter Island's Rapa Nui National Park (1995), the centuries-old wooden churches of Chiloé (2000) and the historic center of the port of Valparaíso (2003).

The designation in 1995 of **Rapa Nui National Park**, on Easter Island, was inspired by the uniqueness of this cultural phenomenon, which combines valuable historical resources and a distinctive ancestral culture. Around the world, Easter Island is one of Chile's most recognizable places. The park, created in 1966 and covering more than 7,000 hectares, includes the majority of the 270 altars (*ahu*) and nearly 900 of the island's statues or *moai*, in addition to the ceremonial center of Orongo. In addition, 4,000 petroglyphs and

rupestrian paintings have been documented. In 1888, Chile incorporated Easter Island into its sovereign territory. Today, approximately 3,000 people live on the island.



In December 2000, UNESCO honored the Chilean people with an additional designation: 16 churches on the island of Chiloé (1,000 kilometers south of Santiago) were placed under protection in the Cultural Heritage category.

Chiloé's wooden churches are unique in the world for the beauty of their interior and exterior architecture, which represent a style of their own, known as the "Chiloé School of Religious Architecture." Considered architectural jewels, they were constructed completely from valuable native timber such as larch, cypress and mañío wood.

In addition to their beauty, their numbers are impressive: not more than ten kilometers separates one from the next. Included on the World Heritage List are the churches of Detif, Ichuac, Nercón, Quinchao, Rilán, San Juan, Tenaún, Vilupulli, Achao, Aldachildo, San Francisco de Castro, Chonchi, Colo and Dalcahue.

In July 2003, UNESCO placed the historic center of the port of Valparaíso on the World Heritage List. "Valparaíso no longer belongs solely to its inhabitants; it is a contribution to the entire world," President Lagos stated in his message to the city's residents after receiving the news.

The designation marked the culmination of a technical and diplomatic process initiated in January 2002, when the Chilean government presented the zone's candidacy. According to the technical report commissioned by UNESCO, "Valparaíso is an exceptional testimony to the early phase of globalization in the late 19th century, when it became the leading merchant port on the sea routes of the Pacific coast of South America."



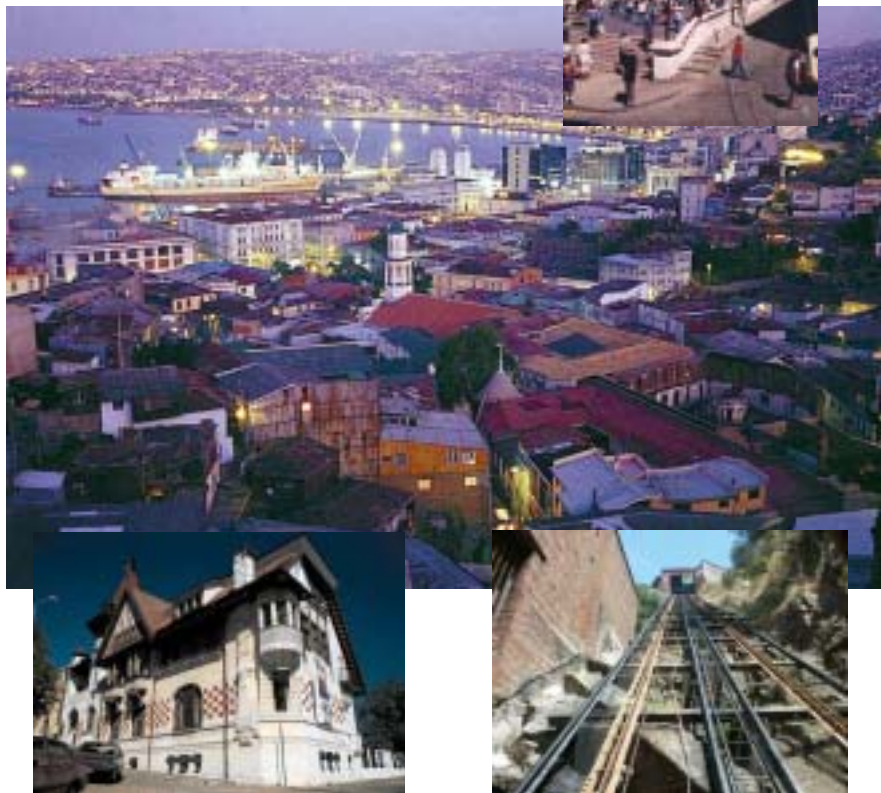
FACTS

The church of Santa María de Achao, constructed in 1690, is the oldest of the Chiloé churches which remains standing. It was built from larch and cypress wood, using wooden pegs instead of nails. The structure consists of three naves, and the vaulted chamber of the central nave is considered its most attractive element.

According to experts, it represents a synthesis of all of the Chiloé churches.



The portion of Valparaíso placed on the World Heritage List includes the Alegre and Concepción hills, the La Matriz Church, the Prat Wharf, the Echaurren, Sotomayor and Justicia Plazas, and the Turri Square and its surroundings, among other locations.



“Everyone’s Land”

The country’s nearly 800 national monuments reflect its rich historical tradition as well as its diverse geography with much to offer visitors.

With this idea in mind, the Ministry of National Assets created the **Heritage Routes**, an innovative program aimed at developing and conserving government lands with significant natural or cultural value. The objective is to offer attractive recreational opportunities in beautiful and out-of-the-way places of the national territory. The tours can be undertaken on foot, by bicycle, on horseback or by car. Each Heritage Route features low-impact signs and a “topoguía” or informational guide, containing the most important facts about the route, nearby towns and local points of interest.

The program encourages community participation. This year, the Heritage Scouts will focus their efforts on new initiatives to open up their areas to visitors and develop new heritage routes.

By Chile’s Bicentennial of Independence in 2010, the network is expected to include more than 60 routes distributed among the country’s regions, including wilderness hiking trails, automobile routes highlighting the landscape and local culture, and walking tours of historical sites and urban centers.

There are currently 20 active routes throughout the country, two virtual routes on the Internet and eight under development.



Seventeen sites in Chile have been proposed for the World Heritage List



Sewell

Early this year, the government delivered candidacy documents to petition UNESCO for the placement of the former mining camp at Sewell on the World Heritage List.

For more than 60 years, Sewell served as the home of hundreds of miners working at El Teniente, the world’s largest underground copper mine.

Perched within the mountains, some 135 kilometers southeast of Santiago, it was a city of ascending and descending stairways. Sewell was declared a National Monument in 1988, and Codelco, the Chilean national copper company, has been working for four years to restore the buildings and include them on a tourist itinerary.



Churches of the Altiplano (Tarapacá zone, Norte Grande). Some 50 small churches constructed starting in the 16th century by Spanish missionaries.



The Qhapaq Ñan or Camino Andino, the main route through the Andes (submitted jointly with Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru).



The Cerro El Plomo ceremonial site (in the Andes Mountains above Santiago). In 1954, the intact, frozen body of a boy who had been sacrificed by the Incas was discovered here.



Baquedano Street (Port of Iquique). A notable example of urban and architectural expression.



San Pedro de Atacama (in Calama). Illustrates the development of the Atacama culture.



San Francisco Church and Convent (Santiago). Constructed by the Franciscan Order, it was dedicated in 1618.



Archaeological sites of the Chinchorro culture (Chile's far north). This society developed a mummification process 7,000 years before the Egyptians.



The villages of Ayquina and Toconce (near Calama). Traditional Andean settlements whose economy is based on strong ties of exchange and reciprocity.



La Moneda Palace (Santiago)



Houses of the San José del Carmen El Huique *hacienda* (in Colchagua). A typical country estate in rural Chile, dating from the 17th century, which – like many of its kind – was gradually expanded.



Rupestrian art in Patagonia. The oldest in South America, its best-known representations include human hands, scenes with guanacos and geometric designs.



The Valdivia Defensive Complex (on Corral Bay). Constructed by the Spanish to defend against France and England as well as the privateers who plagued the Chilean coast, it includes the Mancera, Corral, Amargos and Niebla forts.



Monte Verde archaeological site (near Puerto Montt). Provides evidence of the presence of humans approximately 14,800 years ago.



The Malleco Viaduct (in La Araucanía). Inaugurated in 1890, it is one of Chile's most outstanding examples of metal engineering. Its frame was constructed in France from 1886 to 1888, and it is 347. It is 2 meters long and 102 meters high.



The Temuco train station (on Barros Arana Avenue, Temuco). Railway complex which contains 34 tracks, a locomotive repair shop, offices and a coal depository.



The Fell and Pali Aike Caves (in Magallanes). Used as seasonal encampments by hunter-gatherers in the Paleoindian period.

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