



tierrachiloé
THE SPIRIT OF THE ISLAND

Excursions



HALF DAY TRIPS – BY LAND

EXCURSION	LEVEL	DESCRIPTION
1. Backyard Pullao	Easy	This tour is ideal for exploring the area around the hotel, our greenhouse and sustainable kitchen garden that includes a plant nursery, stables and a compost area. Here we can also see the Pullao Wetlands, part of the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN). Depending on the time of year, we might spot scientifically-important migratory birds such as godwits, Chilean flamingos, cormorants, ducks and gulls. There are also salmon farms, mussel farms and seaweed collectors.
2. Rilan Peninsula	Easy	Discover the beauty of Rilan Peninsula with its cultural wealth and rural life in this excursion which takes us past the patrimonial church of Santa Maria de Rilan, built in the neo-gothic style with a shingled exterior typical of the area. Following a visit to the village of Rilan, with its beaches north and south, we return to the hotel via a scenic route overlooking the Castro Fjord.
3. Historic Castro	Easy	This tour follows the tides to show you the traditional palafitos (stilt houses) of the island's capital. We visit the picturesque Yumbel Market selling typical regional products such as Chiloé potatoes, giant garlic, baskets, weavings and a wide variety of seafood. We see the inspiration for Chiloé's classic postcard: the colorful stilt homes and charming downtown with small craft shops and wood-shingled stores. We continue on our way to the catholic church of San Francisco which is the capital's main one, declared a National Monument and UNESCO World Heritage Site. We also visit the shipyard, birthplace of our boat "Williche," and see local boats being built. Finally, we visit Nercon church, which nicely represents the Chiloé Wooden Architecture School.



FULL DAY TRIPS – BY LAND

EXCURSION	LEVEL	DESCRIPTION
4. Bosquepiedra – Land of Myrtle	Easy	We start the day by visiting Huillinco Lake, Chiloé's biggest and part of the watershed system so important to island life. Then, we take a magical path through an evergreen native forest with cinnamon, coigüe, hazelnut and maño trees, and wide variety of ferns and lichen. After lunch, on the way back to the hotel we meet a local farmer who shows us her myrtle crop and invites us to enjoy a typical Chiloé bonfire around which she shares her stories.
5. Sunken Forest - Guabil Beach - Bridge of Light	Easy	We travel by van until we reach Chepu, where we sail downriver until we meet the sea. Here we walk to the south of the river, through native forests and low lying trees blown by the wind until we reach Guabil Beach, with its green rolling hills, characteristic of the western coast of Chiloé, which fall suddenly into the ocean. After we see an old beached ship, we return to the river mouth and ride to the Muelle de la Luz (Bridge of Light) where old people say that at night many lights can be seen in the sky, on the horizon and in the ocean; lights from a witch or from a Caleuche (mythical ghost ship) or from other planets. We head back to our boat and make our return upriver through a beautiful area of submerged forests. We lunch in the area before returning to the hotel.



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6. Quinchao Island	Easy	We drive to Dalcahue, which is still a “place of dalcas,” (canoes in the indigenous Williche language). We catch the ferry to Quinchao Island and head to the capital, Achao, which is also a meeting point for the inhabitants of the smaller surrounding islands. This is home to one of the oldest churches in the archipelago, also a World Heritage Site, assembled with wooden dowels. Then we head to Curaco de Velez, a town of seafaring people and home to 100+ year-old houses with colorful tiled exteriors. We stroll through the streets and visit the beach known for oysters, visit the small museum and watch black necked swans. We visit a local organic farm in order to learn about Chiloé’s farmers and their famous native potato and giant garlic crops. We take a break at a hidden natural lookout, while we snack on foods from the farm. On the return trip, we pass by Dalcahue, where artisans from surrounding islands travel each week to sell their weavings, baskets and wood work at a must-see craft market with centuries of history.
7. Churches Route	Easy - medium	We drive from the hotel towards the north of the island. In Quemchi, we visit Francisco Coloane’s home/museum. He was a writer and one of Chilean literature’s best narrators. We visit Aucar Island, christened by Coloane as the island of sailors’ spirits. We cross a long bridge to the chapel and cemetery and can also take the path that circles the island to appreciate the flora of the area. Additionally, we visit three churches that are National Heritage Sites: Colo, Tenaún and Dalcahue. This route can also be done by bicycle.
8. Bridge of Souls	Medium	Driving across the island, along the shore of Huillinco Lake with its lush vegetation dominated by large ferns and native trees, we come to the open sea, and wild Pacific coast of the island. Here we hike through low forests, stunted by the wind, until we reach the cliffs at the edge of the island. We arrive at a place where a local sculptor has paid homage to the legend of the boatman Tempilcahue and his “Bridge of Souls” with a special wooden sculpture. From the highest point on the cliffs, you can see a colony of sea lions below and a great variety of ocean birds. On the way back to the hotel in the van, we stop along the way to visit a Chilote woman, who is renowned for her fresh empanadas. Here we can taste typical flavors of the island before returning to the hotel.
9. Duhatao - Chepu	High	We take the Pan-American Highway towards the north end of the island. We start our hike at sea level in the Bay of Duhatao, climbing up to natural lookout points to view our surroundings and the magnificent Pacific Ocean. With each step, we enter deeper into the heart of the mountains and forest. As the sound of the sea fades, birdsong takes its place. After ascending the mountain by way of a route which is part of the Sendero de Chile (Path of Chile), we descend to a little-known beach. We walk along this beach until we arrive at the mouth of the Chepu, one of Chiloé’s biggest rivers, where we take a boat upriver. Near the end of our excursion, we enjoy the view of Chepu’s Bosque Hundido (Sunken Forest) from the boat.
10. Cole Cole Beach, Chiloé National Park	High	We drive to Cucao, on the western coast of the island, the starting point for our adventure. We drive northward along the beach for 12 km (7 1/2 miles) and witness one of the Chilotes’ typical activities: foraging for razor clams from the sea. We arrive at a small stream toward the end of the beach in the Huentemó Sector, where we begin our 8 km (5 miles) hike. The walk takes us through some of the island’s best forests and cliffs, following the coastline with spectacular views, until we arrive at the lovely, remote Cole-Cole Beach with its white sands, the ideal place to enjoy a Tierra Hotels-style picnic.



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11. Chonchi - Lemuy Island – Pindal Forest	Easy	<p>We travel to Chonchi, a traditional fishing town, situated upon three natural terraces that conserve its identity and tradition. We visit the historic church whose vaulted roof is painted blue, sprinkled with white stars. We head towards the coastroad, walking down the town's most typical street, declared a National Monument for its traditional large wooden houses, which reflect the wealth generated by an increase in cypress exploitation. We visit the local "Chonchina Traditions Museum," founded by the villagers to preserve their own history and show how the first inhabitants lived. We visit the charming Chilote accordion museum, born of folklorist and local music legend Sergio Colivoro's passion for the instrument. Continuing towards the coast road, we pass by the local craft market where you can also buy traditional Chonchina doughnuts and typical Chiloé "golden liquor."</p> <p>We cross Lemuy Island to visit three churches that are World Heritage sites: Ichuac, Detif and Aldachildo. We enjoy various panoramic views before arriving at the Pindal Reserve, a native forest with coigües, arrayanes and cinnamon trees. The song of the chucao bird transports us to the deepest depths of Chiloé's wilderness.</p>
12. Ahuenco Park	High	<p>We drive to Chepu, a small town along the island's biggest river, to begin our trip toward Ahuenco Park. To get there, we cross the Chepu River by motorboat, where we visit the sunken forest. We then dock and begin a hike through native forests with viewpoints out towards the Pacific Ocean. From October to April, we will be able to see the island's two major penguin species: Magellanic and Humboldt, who arrive to reproduce and raise their young. We return by the same path to cross back over the river, to return to the hotel.</p>
13. Penguin Watching	Easy	<p>We will travel to the north of the island to the Puñihuil Islands, a Chilean natural monument, also known as pingüineras de Chiloé and one of the few places in the world that is home to nesting and mating colonies of both Humboldt and Magallanes penguins. Its great biodiversity is also reflected in the number of coastal birds such as cormorants, carancas and shearwaters, as well as the world's smallest marine mammal: the chungungo or sea otter.</p> <p>This wilderness area is protected and the best time to see penguins is between September and March. We will navigate the waters around the island along with local authorized fishermen. In this way, we can see the natural treasure up close, but we are not allowed to disembark so as not to disturb the wildlife. Before returning to the hotel, we will walk along the beach and enjoy the lovely, scenic Puñihuil surroundings, whose name means "calm waters" in the Mapuche language, Mapudungun.</p>
14. Tricolor	High	<p>This Pacific Ocean beach takes its name from the colors of the forest, sand and sea. To reach it, we will pass sand dunes, pampas and native forest with privileged views of the stunning cliffs, in an excursion that features a variety of different Chiloé landscapes and wildlife. We will also stop by the abandoned Quilán Estate, an old gold washing plant that became one of the largest sheep farming businesses in the area, which disappeared in 1960 after the big earthquake. This hike will connect us with the island's indigenous ancestors who left traces of their time in the area.</p>
15. Tantauco Park and Yaldad River	Medium	<p>We will travel by land to southern Chiloé to see the wilder side of the island. We will arrive at the entrance to Tantauco Park, one of the 35 key sites of biodiversity on Earth. This private reserve seeks to conserve 118,000 hectares of impressive peatlands that date from the last glacial period, large lakes and rivers, millennial cypress groves and their characteristic evergreen forests, along with unique fauna like the pudú, black woodpecker, Chilote fox and Darwin's frog. We will walk the path from the Yaldad gatehouse to the Environmental Interpretation Center through tepa, mañío and coigüe forests full of ferns and mosses, where we will find the "Grandfather Mañío," a tree that is over 500 years old.</p>



Excursions



FULL DAY TRIPS – BY SEA

EXCURSION	LEVEL	DESCRIPTION
16. Mechuque	Easy	This excursion is one of our best. It allows for full immersion in Chiloé culture and nature as we sail through the waterways between the islands of the archipelago. We start at the hotel and travel by car to the magical town of Tenaun, land of witches and legends, to see the only heritage church on the island. Then we board our private boat, the “Williche,” and head towards Mechuque Island to view its original palafitos (stilt houses), the school which is a National Monument and a private collection of antiques typical of the area. We visit the Don Checo Museum, where we experience life firsthand on Chiloé and the strong relationship between Chilotes and their surroundings. Possible activities include kayaking in the channels enjoying the tranquility of the water; a Zodiac ride through the waterways whilst looking out for birds; and hiking up to Mechuque lookout with its privileged view of the Andes.
17. Chelin- Quehui	Easy	We board our boat the “Williche” and sail southwest, moving away from the Rilán Peninsula to the island of Chelín. Here, we stroll through rustic streets past traditional homes until we reach the World Heritage Site church and witness the work of artisans and architects who seek to preserve local history through its neoclassical style and imitation marble. Next, we discover the Chilote cemetery that still has niches imitating the traditional wood-shingled homes of the village – a miniature ghost town, lost in time. After visiting a lookout with a view of neighboring islands, we walk through a small wood and take the boat over to the island of Quehui. This area’s unique geography allows us to sail to the heart of the island by way of the Pindo Estuary’s calm waters. Here, we can try our hand at kayaking, sail the shoreline in our Zodiac or bicycle on nearby trails to cliffs with gorgeous views. We can also walk in the picturesque streets of Quehui, which receives many visitors for the annual “Ocean Festival.” This traditional gathering keeps alive the cuisine, folklore and customs of the archipelago. On board, we lunch and head back to the hotel.
18. The Dalca Route	High	The island’s beauty along this trajectory will captivate you and allow you to connect authentically with the culture. We will kayak through the interior channels, exploring every nook and cranny and transporting you to the past and to imagine how the indigenous people traveled in their dalcas - canoes with three connected planks - which today are known for their unique design and structure. From the kayak, we can take in a different view of nature, enjoying the Chilean dolphins, flamingos, birds and clam colonies along the way. Rowing among larger boats, we will arrive to the town of Dalcahue, explore its market, try local delicacies and, finally, begin our return to the hotel.



HALF DAY TRIPS – BY SEA

EXCURSION	LEVEL	DESCRIPTION
19. Low Tide	Easy	At low tide, which depends on the cycle of the moon, we will head down to the beach to gather seafood. Coastal women have traditionally been the keepers of this trade. In our rubber boats, we will carry our artisanal tool along the beach hunting for many types of seafood, especially clams, which we will later cook at the hotel. This experience connects us with Chilote traditions and the way the people lived off the sea.
20. The Missionaries	Medium - High	From our dock, we will head toward the south of the island by a water way and experience the island’s culture from a different point of view. Using the same routes as the Jesuit missionaries did long ago to evangelize the archipelago inhabitants, we will row eight kilometers to Rilán, where we will walk around the small town and visit its World Heritage Site church. This route features views of birds and Chilean dolphins, a wonderful way to take in the great biodiversity of the island.
21. Pullao Marsh	Easy	From our dock, we will head toward Pullao Marsh, rowing through the calm waters of the interior sea, where we will see migratory birds, flamingos and dolphins. Keeping our distance and silence, we will observe how this ecosystem, which depends on the tides, transforms the landscape. We will learn about the area’s traditional clam cultivation and Chilean dolphins that usually play along the shore. While it depends on the season, it is also possible to observe the dance of birds in flight, a marvel that when seen from a kayak is all the more impressive.



Excursions



HORSEBACK

EXCURSION	LEVEL	DESCRIPTION
<p>You can enjoy a variety of horseback rides perfect for close-up exploration of the island and hotel surroundings, in the company of the hotel's horseman. Our smaller Chilote horses are the perfect ride for the island's geography.</p>		
22. Village of San Jose	Easy	After a brief explanation of safety rules and how to ride a horse, we head out from the stables toward the heart of the village of San Jose. This tour allows for connection with the surroundings through its wonderful places, diverse wild plants and flowers and unique views of the Andes Mountains, making it not-to-be-missed.
23. Shipyard	Medium	We leaving the stables accompanied by our horseman and guide, who know the best parts of the island. We begin our horseback ride on the beach heading towards the village of San Jose, depending on the tides. If we are lucky, we may see dolphins. We pass through fields and farmland and enjoy the countryside characteristic of the area which enables us to get better acquainted with local life.
24. Pellul – Quento Beach	High	Moving west from the stables, we pass by fields, towns and churches until we reach our destination: Quento Beach. There we have a panoramic view toward Castro, the capital of Chiloé. Depending on the tides, we start our horseback ride along the beach. According to the time of year, it is possible to see and taste the island's wild fruit. We lunch in the area.



BICYCLE

EXCURSION

There are many different trails with levels varying from medium-easy to difficult. We can make recommendations regarding the desired level before you set out so that you have the best experience and get to know the most attractive areas near the hotel. The rides begin from the hotel toward the village of San Jose where you can see local life close up, riding through woods and open fields, and past the church and cemetery. The entire path is unpaved with privileged view of the coastal mountains.



SPECIAL INTEREST

EXCURSION

Sport Fishing

Additional cost.

Must be reserved at time of booking subject to availability of local supplier

Length: Half or full day.

Fishing in Chiloé is an unforgettable experience. The excursions take place in the most beautiful part of the archipelago and are designed for expert fishermen, amateurs and all who are interested in trying their hand at fishing. The excursions take you to beaches, rivers and lakes in the southern part of Chiloé National Park (Huillinco-Cucao), where local guides who know the area accompany you. In these surroundings of unparalleled beauty, you can enjoy lake and river-fishing of fario and brown trout (dominant species), rainbow trout and even salt water fish such as red snapper and silver smelt. On the Pacific beaches, we can take pleasure in fishing sea bass, red snapper and even flounder. Salmon fishing is only allowed in Chiloé between the months of November and May.

There are no limits for fishing in the sea.

Excursions

Our excursions are led by qualified and experienced guides who will join guests in a variety of activities such as hikes, horse rides, scenic journeys or bike rides in order to discover the most interesting parts of the archipelago.

Activities are divided into three different levels;

- Easy: Apt for all ages and capabilities.
- Medium: Requires a reasonable level of physical condition and some experience.
- High: Requires excellent physical condition, experience and ability.

Every day you can choose 2 half day excursions or one full day activity.

- Half Day; takes place in the morning or afternoon, with lunch in the hotel.
- Full Day; Starts in the morning and includes a box lunch. Return to the hotel is in the afternoon, generally speaking after 18.00 hrs.

If you would like to arrange a massage or therapy and enjoy some time in Uma Wellness, we recommend you check the return time of the excursions with the guides, and pre-book treatment times.

*** Weather conditions permitting, we can offer at least one navigation during your stay (minimum 3 night stays) Our water based excursions are subject to availability, ask in the hotel if it is possible to participate in additional sailings.**

**** All our activities are subject to weather conditions.**



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