



SSAFR 2019

GUIDE TO

PUERTO VARAS



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PUERTO VARAS
CHILE

about puerto varas

Located on the shore of Lago Llanquihue, Puerto Varas is one of Chile's most charming cities. It is an adventure travel hub, and it is also the gateway to the Parque Nacional Vicente Pérez Rosales. Unlike its neighbor Puerto Montt, 20 minutes away, it is a spruce and compact little city, with wood-shingled homes, a rose-encircled plaza, a handsomely designed casino, and an excellent tourism infrastructure that provides all the necessary services for visitors without seeming touristy. The city was built by the sweat and tenacity of German immigrants, and later it became a port for goods being shipped from the Lago Llanquihue area to Puerto Montt (mostly timber). Today most of the area's middle- and upper-middle-class residents call Puerto Varas home and commute to Puerto Montt and other surrounding places for work.

getting there

The nearest airport to Puerto Varas is Puerto Montt's 'El Tepual', which at 16 miles is equidistant from Puerto Montt and Puerto Varas. A taxi from the airport costs between US\$15 US\$22, or you can arrange a shared transfer with transport company ETM who have a desk inside the airport. There are several daily flights connecting Santiago and Puerto Montt operated by **LATAM** (www.latam.com) and **Sky** (www.skyairline.com). Both airlines offer competitive rates and excellent frequency.

highlights

Puerto Varas is compact enough to explore by foot, which is the best way to view the wooden colonial homes built by German immigrants from 1910 until the 1940s. Eight of these homes have been declared national monuments, yet there is at least a dozen more constructed during the period of expansion that began with the installation of the railroad connecting Puerto Varas with Puerto Montt. Much of the city's charm is found in its quaint stores, selling everything from adventure gear to homemade preserves and chocolates. For more active pursuits, the lakeshore makes for an excellent spot to walk or run.

nearby attractions

Chile's southern region is a multitude of lakes and volcanoes and some of the country's finest outdoors activities, with places such as the **Vicente Pérez Rosales National Park**. Highlights of the park include the white-water **River Petrohué** and the Osorno Volcano itself with its stunning views of the surrounding volcanoes, mountains, and lakes. **Lake Llanquihue** is South America's third largest lake, with some of the most scenic areas of the Lake District. The surrounding hills and volcanoes provide spectacular views and activities on the lake include all water sports, fishing, swimming and cruising. You will also find picturesque towns and villages such as **Puerto Octay**, which is perhaps the most Germanic of all the lakeside towns. Another highlight on the lake is **Frutillar**. This enchanting lakeside retreat received a world-class performing-arts center in 2010 that single-handedly put the town on the world map; then, in 2017, it was named Chile's first Unesco Creative City of Music. There is an attractive pier, a long, drawn-out lakeside beach and, above all, quaint German architecture and küchen aplenty. If you are looking for a more earthy urban experience, try the region's capital **Puerto Montt**. Despite its negative image (locals often call it "Muerto Montt", meaning 'Dead Montt'), the city is the region's commercial and transportation hub and is a good place for shopping and a good meal. Try the Angelmó seafood market to sample the heady curanto broth, a heady mixture of shellfish, chicken, pork, and dumplings.

restaurants

Local cuisine in this area is hearty, often with a German influence, with beef, salmon and trout being local specialties. Puerto Varas offers a wide variety of excellent restaurants including the following:

upscale

- ❖ **Mercado 605** is Puerto Varas's best fine-dining restaurant. The presentation of the food is beautiful; there is a pleasant ambience; and the service is friendly. This is both a place to eat lightly from a wide selection of appetizers and tapas, or choose a main course served in generous portions like ravioli stuffed with boar meat or red wine braised short ribs.
- ❖ **Casavaldés** is mostly known for its seafood, but there are several other options on the menu. The cooking style is influenced in part by Basque cuisine, with its fish and other plates often accompanied by peppers, beans, and potatoes.
- ❖ With a distinctly rustic charm and mainly local crowd, **La Marca** specializes in high quality meat and traditional recipes of southern Chile. The rich and varied menu covers all the classics, and each dish has a distinctly 'home-cooked' style. A particularly good option for dinner.

midrange

- ❖ **La Olla** has been around since the dawn of time, and this is without a doubt the place to go for those seeking fish and seafood dishes.
- ❖ The legendary **Café Hausmann** serves the must-try steak tartares, along with a wide range of classics and excellent draft beers.
- ❖ At **La Jardinera Gastropub** you will be served by the owners. Very comfortable atmosphere, delicious food, and a very nice executive lunch.

informal

- ❖ Simple foods inspired by local, seasonal ingredients and a strong sense of community. That's what **La Gringa** is about. Flavorful soups, sandwiches, quiches, and salads.
- ❖ **Onces Bellavista** is the place to go for high tea. An unbeatable list of gateaux, tarts, and pies of all descriptions, each one created on-site with care, love, and tradition.
- ❖ **Café Danés** is a nice place for lunch, with a focus on comfort foods. The food is great, and the daily menu is a bargain at just US\$8.
- ❖ **Mesa Tropera** is a wildly popular brewery/pizzeria transplant merges a jovial mix of families and hopheads. It's majestically located, jutting out over Lago Llanquihue, framing three volcanoes on a clear day.
- ❖ **Bless Yuz** serves Vegan-friendly, American cuisine, with a juice bar. Serves vegetarian and vegan sandwiches and pastries, including falafel, soups, veggie burgers, and vegan ice cream. Also has a food truck.
- ❖ Beer lovers will adore **Mesa Tropera**. The focus is very much on its twelve craft beers, but they also serve superb comfort food and bar favorites. A great choice for a late night.

the venue

The venue for the Symposium is **Enjoy Puerto Varas**. The hotel has a privileged location on the shores of Lake Llanquihue, with a wonderful view of the Osorno volcano. Its 91 rooms offer a modern decoration that is complemented by artisan touches to create a warm and welcoming atmosphere for its guests. Hotel services include the outstanding Kalül Spa, which offers therapeutic and relaxation massages, as well as aromatherapy, a sauna and a jacuzzi among other things. Visit the pools and indulge yourself with the highest level of gastronomy at the Tiznao Restaurant or the Kütral Bar.

accommodation

Puerto Varas is a popular destination for both Chilean and international travelers and boasts one of the most complete hotel infrastructures in the country. The venue for the Symposium is the excellent **Enjoy Puerto Varas**, arguably the city's best hotel. For those preferring to stay in a different property to the Symposium venue, Puerto Varas offers a wide range of alternatives from luxury hotels to hostels. Here is a selection of highly recommended properties, which for the sake of convenience are all within walking distance of the Symposium venue.

	Property	Rooms	Category	Average Room Rate in USD	Website
1	Enjoy Puerto Varas (Symposium Venue)	91	Luxury	130	LINK
2	Hotel Cabaña del Lago	157	Luxury	150	LINK
3	Cumbres Puerto Varas	90	Luxury	140	LINK
4	Hotel Solace	62	Luxury	125	LINK
5	Hotel de los Volcanes	50	Luxury	130	LINK
6	Radisson Puerto Varas	98	Luxury	120	LINK

	Property	Rooms	Category	Average Room Rate in USD	Website
1	Casa Kalfu Hotel Boutique	19	Midrange	95	LINK
2	Dein Haus	21	Midrange	90	LINK
3	Hotel Puelche	21	Midrange	95	LINK
4	Gran Hotel Germania	40	Midrange	95	LINK
5	Park Inn by Radisson Puerto Varas	86	Midrange	90	LINK

	Property	Rooms	Category	Average Room Rate in USD	Website
1	Hostal Chancerel	15	Budget	75	LINK
2	Hotel Boutique El Greco	36	Budget	80	LINK
3	Hotel Guest House Puerto Varas	11	Budget	65	LINK
4	Estancia 440 Hotel Boutique	7	Budget	75	LINK
5	Galpon Aire Puro	8	Budget	60	LINK

	Property	Dorms	Rooms	Category	Average Room Rate in USD	Website
1	Casa Azul Hostel	■	■	Hostel	15/60	LINK
2	Compass del Sur		■	Hostel	40	LINK
3	Hostal Puerto Varas		■	Hostel	40	LINK
4	Margouya Patagonia	■	■	Hostel	13/30	LINK
5	Ruca Hostel	■	■	Hostel	14/40	LINK