



SSAFR 2019

SYMPOSIUM

TRAVEL GUIDE



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PUERTO VARAS
CHILE

introduction

There are three ways to get to Puerto Varas, by air, bus, or self-drive. This well-connected town is located on the shores of Lake Llanquihue, just 30 minutes from the main transport hub of Puerto Montt. The town is also the perfect starting point for adventures to nearby highlights such as national parks, pristine lakes, and charming towns. For those wishing to head further afield, Puerto Varas is a gateway to the legendary Carretera Austral and also Argentina.

arrival to santiago

The arrival process at Santiago's international airport is as follows:

- Incoming passengers who hold an Australian, Mexican, or Albanian passport must pay a Reciprocity Tax before going through the International Police security checkpoint, and then continue to Immigration Control.
- People of all other nationalities will head directly to Immigration. Travelers will hand over their passport, which will be duly stamped and the Tourist Card (normally provided during the flight). Please be sure to keep hold of your copy of this document as it will be requested when you leave the country.
- From Immigration you will then pass through a small Duty Free area to the luggage carousels.
- Once you have picked up your luggage you must then pass through Agricultural Control, where your bags will be scanned and you will hand over the S.A.G. document, declaring any items in your luggage.
- From here you will then exit out into the terminal. The arrival to Santiago airport can be quite overwhelming, as there is often a large crowd waiting for arriving travelers.
- If you choose to have a stopover in Santiago, there are two ways to get into the city. As you pass through the S.A.G. (Agricultural Department) area, you will find two companies who offer a transfer service from the airport to the hotel of your choice; TransVip and Delfos. These transfers can be private or shared. The tickets are purchased at the booth, and instructions will be given regarding where to find your vehicle upon leaving the terminal building. A private transfer will cost around \$20.000 (US\$ 30) per vehicle, while a shared will cost \$7.000 (US\$ 10) per person.
- The cheapest way to get to downtown is by taking a Centropuerto bus that leaves every 10 minutes between 6.00am and 11.30pm. This service, which takes about 30-40 minutes and costs 1,800 pesos one-way (3,200 return) drops you off at Los Heroes metro station in the heart of Santiago. You will need cash in Chilean pesos to pay for this service. For further info, please visit their website at: <https://www.centropuerto.cl/>
- **Do not under any circumstances arrange a transfer with the unofficial taxi companies, many of whom will be waiting outside the Arrivals Hall, holding signs. These drivers charge way over the official prices. If you do find yourself without a transfer after exiting the Arrivals Hall, please bear in mind that no transfer from the airport into town should cost more than \$20.000 (US\$ 30) per vehicle.**

air travel to puerto montt

The nearest airport to Puerto Varas is Puerto Montt's 'El Tepual' (PMC), some 14 miles (22 km.) from Puerto Varas. At present, three airlines offer daily services from Santiago to Puerto Montt: LATAM Airlines (www.latam.com), SKY Airline (www.skyairline.com), and the low-cost airline JetSMART (www.jetSMART.com). These airlines also have daily flights to the far south of the country, which would open up post-Symposium options to Patagonia.

to puerto varas from the airport

The official transfer company at Puerto Montt airport is Andrés Tour. The company has a service counter inside the arrivals hall right next to luggage carousels 1 & 2. They also have a ticket office outside the airport, located next to the bus stops. While prices may vary from the time of writing to the date of the Symposium, the cost of a one-way transfer from the airport to Puerto Varas is \$20,000 (28 USD) and is ideal for 1-2 people.

transfer arrangements

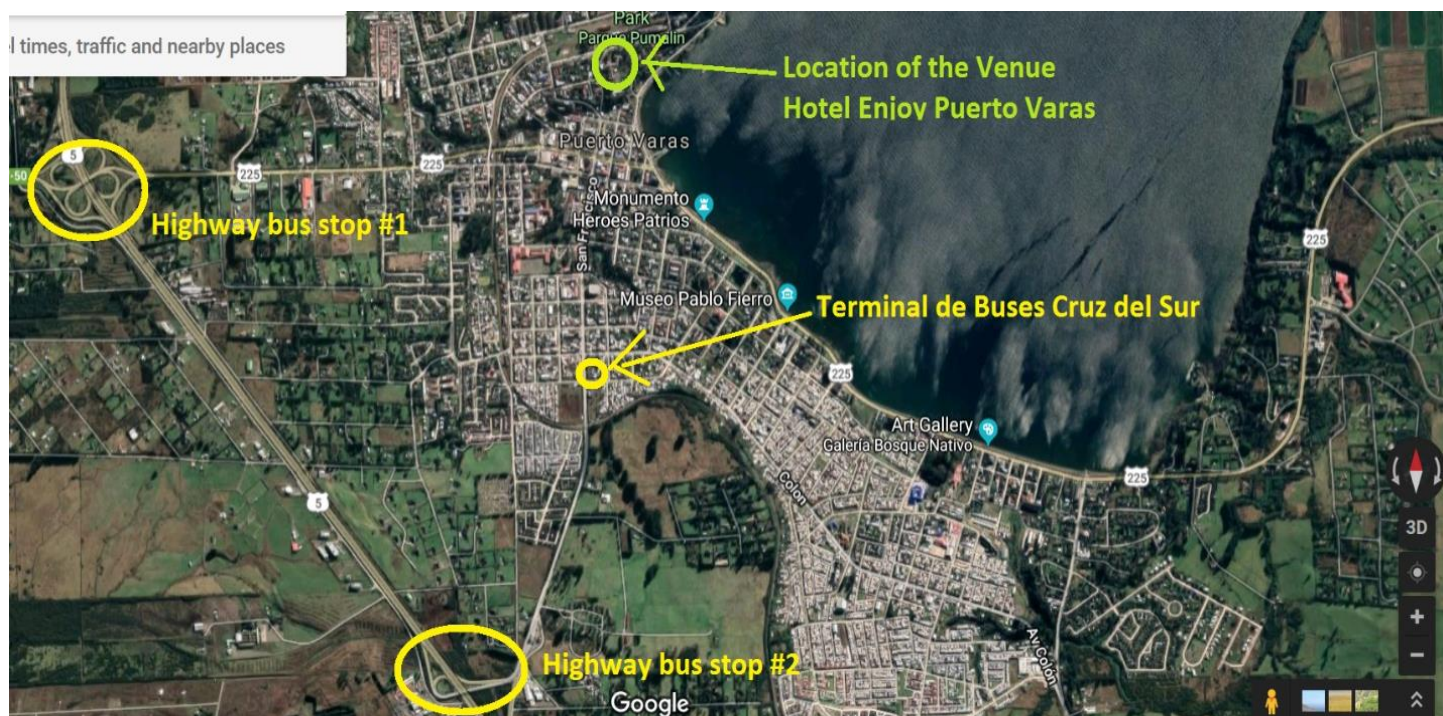
We will be happy to arrange your transfer from the airport to your hotel in Puerto Varas. In order to make these arrangements, we would require the following details.

- Your arrival flight details to Puerto Montt (Airline and flight number and arrival time).
- Your full name and number of passengers.
- Your destination in Puerto Varas (hotel or other).

Shared transfers can be arranged for up to 12 passengers and will be dispatched according to flight arrival times. It is important to point out that all shared transfers will end at the Symposium venue, from where you will receive assistance to get you to your final destination. It is also important to mention that shared transfers (of 3 or more passengers) cannot be guaranteed, depending entirely on the arrival times of other Symposium attendees. In order to request your transfers, please contact Gary James at contact@sensechile.com.

buses

Puerto Varas is well-served by daily bus services from Santiago, operated by companies such as TurBus, Pullman, and Cruz del Sur. You can take an overnight bus to Puerto Varas from Terminal Sur in the capital. This is a 12-hour journey, so we would certainly recommend booking the “Salon Cama” or “Premium 180” options. To make reservations, visit <https://www.recorrido.cl/en>. One-way tickets cost around 15,000 Chilean Pesos (22 USD) for Salon Cama and 20,000 (28 USD) for the Premium 180 option. The bus station in Puerto Varas is just a few blocks from the Symposium venue and is indicated as ‘Terminal de Buses Cruz del Sur’ on the map below. If you take a bus that heads directly to Puerto Montt (this is a more frequent service), then it might drop you off at one of two highway stops (also shown below).



self-drive

This area of Chile is very easy to navigate if you choose to hire a car for the duration of their stay. There are several rent-a-car companies located at Puerto Montt airport. Reservations can be made in advance with companies such as Avis, Budget, SixT, and Europcar. The airport's website offers a full list of these companies, with links to their websites: <http://www.aeropuertodepuertomontt.cl/en/rent-a-cart/>.

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 Perez 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.

further afield

For those wishing to explore further afield either prior to or after the Symposium, recommended journeys include the 600-mile Carretera Austral, which winds its way south into the heart of Patagonia. It is important to point out that here are many unpaved sections along the way, and several ferry crossings to negotiate. The journey, however, is simply sublime.

Another option is to venture into Argentina to visit the beautiful towns of San Carlos de Bariloche and Villa La Angostura, among others, and there are three crossing points less than two hours from Puerto Varas. **Important: Anyone wishing to selfdrive in Argentina must request an official document from the car hire company, giving them permission to cross the border. This document takes 72 hours to obtain, which means this service should be requested at the time of booking.**

FOR TRANSPORT & TRAVEL ENQUIRIES

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