

WEST OF SANTIAGO CENTRO

The sprawling area west of Santiago Centro encompasses the city's oldest neighborhoods, including Barrio Brasil, Barrio Concha y Toro, Barrio Yungay, and Barrio Dieciocho. These districts were home to the city's elite before they took flight northeast toward the Andean foothills. Few early Colonial buildings remain, but

there are plenty of handsome and well-preserved examples of early 20th-century Neo-Classical and French architecture. Some of the capital's most interesting museums and galleries can also be found here, especially around the verdant Parque Quinta Normal, the cultural nucleus of this area.

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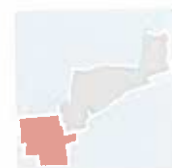
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● Parque Quinta Normal

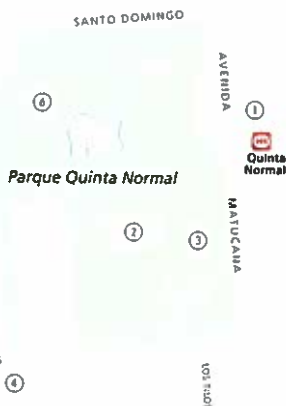
Set up in 1842 to propagate foreign plants, Parque Quinta Normal is famous for its wide variety of tree species. Many of these were planted by French naturalist Claudio Gay, whose extensive pioneering studies of Chilean flora and fauna gave birth to the city's Museo Nacional de Historia Natural and to the park itself. In its early years, Quinta Normal was also used for agricultural studies and in 1928 it was incorporated into the University of Chile as the School of Agronomy and Veterinary Sciences. Today, the park is only a fraction of its earlier size, but it remains popular owing to its large lawns and mature trees. The park is also home to a handful of scientific museums, picnic areas, and an artificial lake.

Parque Quinta Normal

- ① Museo de la Memoria y los Derechos Humanos
- ② Museo Nacional de Historia Natural
- ③ MAC Espacio Quinta Normal
- ④ Museo Artequín
- ⑤ Museo Ferroviario
- ⑥ Museo de Ciencia y Tecnología

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AVENIDA PORTALES



Museo de la Memoria y los Derechos Humanos

Matucana 501. Tel (02) 2597 9600.
 ☎ Quinta Normal. Open 10am–6pm Tue–Sun. Closed public holidays.
 ☎ voluntary donations ☎ ☎ P
 & W museodelamemoria.cl

The Museum of Memory and Human Rights opened in 2010 as a memorial to the victims of Chile's military dictatorship (1973–90).

Among the items on display are personal letters, official documents, and government propaganda, alongside information on torture methods and some of the implements used, offering vivid and grisly testimony to the horrors of the time, as well as the historical background that led to the rise of the dictatorship.

For keys to symbols see back flap

The building is vast and spacious, utilizing its interior for multimedia exhibits of the notorious regime and its survivors, with the objective of encouraging reflection and debate on human rights.

Although a visit here is a sobering experience, it is also valuable in understanding Chile's past and present.



Mature trees in the popular Parque Quinta Normal

Museo Nacional de Historia Natural

Parque Quinta Normal. Tel (02) 2680 4615. ☎ Quinta Normal. Open 10am–5:30pm Tue–Sat, 11am–5:30pm Sun & hols (exc Mon). ☎ ☎ W mnhn.cl

Santiago's museum of natural history is housed in a stately Neo-Classical edifice that was built in 1875 for the city's first International Exposition. The building was handed over to the museum in 1876. The lofty main hall, near the entrance, is dominated by the skeleton of a juvenile fin whale. Displays are divided into 12 categories, including insects, flora, and cultural anthropology. There is also a salon dedicated to the native forests of Chile, with wood slabs showing the age of such giants as alerce, the world's second-oldest tree. The building is open but undergoing repair work after being damaged in the 2010 earthquake (see p23).

MAC Espacio Quinta Normal

Avenida Matucana 464. Tel (02) 2681 7813. ☎ Quinta Normal. Open 11am–7pm Tue–Sun (to 6pm Sun). ☎ ☎ ☎ W macuchile.cl

Housed in a Neo-Classical palace built in the early 1900s and called the Palacio Versailles, this museum is a branch of the Museo de Arte Contemporáneo (see p75). In 2005, MAC briefly relocated here while its salons in the Palacio de Bellas Artes were renovated. Since then, this building has been retained by MAC for shows. With 12 spacious salons surrounding a central plaza, the museum hosts large exhibitions of up-and-coming national artists and large international exhibitions such as Germany's Fluxus and



The eye-catching glass-and-metal exterior of Museo Artequín

the São Paulo Biennial. The palace is awaiting designation as a national monument.

Museo Artequín

Avenida Portales 3530. Tel (02) 2682 5304. ☎ Quinta Normal. Open 9am–6pm Tue–Fri, 11am–6pm Sat & Sun. Closed Feb. ☎ ☎ W artequin.cl

An offbeat museum featuring reproductions of the world's greatest painters, the Museo Artequín is located in the gorgeous Pabellón Paris that was designed to represent Chile at the 1889 Universal Exposition in Paris. The Pabellón's Art Nouveau façade and interiors are the work of French architect Henri Picq. The structure was built using iron, steel, and zinc, in a clear reference to the Industrial Revolution. Also featured were works by contemporary figures such as writer and artist Pedro Lira (1845–1912). The Pabellón was built in Paris, taken apart, and later reassembled at Parque Quinta Normal, where it housed a museum on minerals and metallurgy. In 1992, the Pabellón was renovated and reopened as the present-day Museo Artequín.

The purpose of the museum is to inspire and educate children and adults alike about art through a 'real' version of the world's best paintings. On display are prints of some of the world's greatest artists, each represented by a piece for which he is best known. Among the most recognizable international names are Goya, Dalí, Kahlo, and Kandinsky.

Museo Ferroviario

Parque Quinta Normal. Tel (02) 2681 4627. ☎ Quinta Normal. Open 10am–5:30pm Tue–Fri, 11am–5:30pm Sat & Sun. ☎ ☎ W corpdicyt.cl

Housing one of the most important collections of steam locomotives in Latin America, the Museo Ferroviario is spread across 5 acres (2 ha) in the southwest corner of the Quinta Normal. On display are 16 locomotives and three wagons, the oldest of which is a Rogers locomotive type 22 built in 1893. Locomotive type 20, made by the now defunct Sociedad de Maestranza y Glavanizaciones from Caleta Abarca, is a pristine example of a locally built machine. Also on display is a Kitson Meyer locomotive built in 1909 in Leeds, UK. This served the Ferrocarril Transandino (Transandine Railway) that, until 1971, connected Los Andes (see p138) in Chile with Mendoza in Argentina – a distance of 154 miles (248 km) across the precarious peaks of the Andes. In all, there were nine locomotives used for the Andean passage, of which only two remain.

Visitors can also view the restored 1923 presidential carriage used by former presidents Arturo Alessandri (1868–1950) and Carlos Ibáñez del Campo (1877–1960).

Museo de Ciencia y Tecnología

Parque Quinta Normal. Tel (02) 2681 6022. ☎ Quinta Normal. Open 10am–6pm Tue–Fri, 11am–6pm Sat & Sun. ☎ ☎ W museodeciencia.cl

Set up in 1985, the Museo de Ciencia y Tecnología was the first interactive

VISITORS' CHECKLIST

Practical Information

Avenida Matucana 520.
 City Map 1 A2. Tel (02) 2689 0119. ☎ Quinta Normal.
 Open 9am–7pm daily



Interactive displays for children at the Museo de Ciencia y Tecnología

museum in the country designed to engage children in science and technology. The museum is housed in a building called the Parthenon, a Greek-Roman style edifice built in 1881 by Naples-born artist Alejandro Cicarelli and inaugurated by Chilean painter Pedro Lira, who sought to create a permanent exhibition hall for art. Interactive displays are offered on astronomy, geology, mechanics, technology, and many more. Although interesting, it has been overshadowed by the Museo Interactivo Mirador (see p105). In 1887, the Unión de Arte opened the city's first Fine Arts Museum here. It later became the Museo de Arte Contemporáneo (MAC), then in 1974 it was transferred to its current location in Parque Forestal, in central Santiago.



The 1909 Kitson-Meyer engine at Museo Ferroviario

For hotels and restaurants in this area see p276 and pp290–91

① Museo Pedagógico Gabriela Mistral

Chacabuco 365 **City Map** 1 A2.
Tel (02) 2681-8169. ☎ Quinta Normal.
Open 10am-5pm Mon-Fri,
10am-4pm Sat. ☎ ☎
☎ museodelaeducacion.cl

Housed in the Escuela Normal Brigada Walker, the Museo Pedagógico Gabriela Mistral tracks the history and development of education in Chile. The building, originally from 1886, underwent a two-decade renovation and reopened in 2006. The museum is named for Nobel laureate and literary artist Gabriela Mistral (see p30), who was an educator throughout most of her life in spite of having left school at the age of 12. Self-taught and born with a natural verbal dexterity, Mistral became an advocate for education in response to the lack of opportunities for schooling in Chile.

This education museum was launched in 1941 as an exposition by the Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes (see p75) to celebrate Santiago's 400th anniversary. Its exhibitions explored the history of education from the Colonial period onward. Following the popular success of the exposition, director Carlos Stuardo combed through grade schools and even industrial and mining schools in search of material and furniture to establish a permanent collection. Today, the collection consists of more than 6,500 historical pieces, including antique maps, school desks, and skills-based teaching apparatus such as sewing



Redbrick façade of the Museo Pedagógico Gabriela Mistral

machines, abacuses, and more. There is also an extensive library of some 40,000 texts covering education, as well as a photo library of 6,000 digitalized images that track the history of education in the country.

① Biblioteca de Santiago

Avenida Matucana 151 **City Map** 1 A3. Tel (02) 2328-2000. ☎ Quinta Normal. **Open** 11am-8:30pm Tue-Fri, 11am-5pm Sat & Sun. ☎ ☎
☎ bibliotecasantiago.cl

Opened in 2005, this was Chile's first major public library. It was built near Quinta Normal (see pp80-81) in an effort to create a center of cultural and educational development. Housed in a former government supply warehouse built in the 1930s, it has given the people of Santiago access to a vast range of literature, audiovisual and research materials, computer centers, auditoriums, conference rooms, ongoing lectures, and a children's section.



The children's reading room at Biblioteca de Santiago

For hotels and restaurants in this area see p276 and pp290-91

① Matucana 100

Avenida Matucana 100, Estación Central. **City Map** 1 A3. Tel (02) 2964-9240. ☎ Quinta Normal. **Open** 11am-3pm & 4-8pm Mon-Wed, 11am-3pm & 4-9pm Thu & Fri, 5-9pm Sat & Sun. ☎ ☎ m100.cl

Another gallery founded near Parque Quinta Normal, Matucana 100 is set in a mammoth brick warehouse built in 1911 for the state railway company. The gallery was designed in 2001 to create a space in which a variety of art forms could participate simultaneously – whether cinema, theater, artwork, photography, or music. Over the past decade, the center has grown to include a large art gallery and a concert hall. It now focuses solely on contemporary works principally by national artists.

① Planetario USACH

Avenida Alameda 3349, Estación Central. **City Map** 1 A4. Tel (02) 2718-2900. ☎ Estación Central. **Open** from 2pm Sat, Sun & hols. ☎ ☎
☎ planetariochile.cl

The University of Santiago's planetarium is one of Latin America's most prominent astronomy education centers. Its projection dome, the Sala Albert Einstein, has an unusual conical design. Made of copper, it is 72 ft (22 m) in diameter, and has a Carl Zeiss model VI projector that uses 160 lenses, allowing visitors to observe the moon and the solar system, and over 5,000 stars in both hemispheres. Of particular interest are the special exhibitions that highlight discoveries by Chile's top astronomical observatories. The planetarium offers workshops, audiovisual salons, and exhibitions for both children and adults.

① Barrio Brasil

City Map 1 C2. ☎ Los Héroes, Santa Ana.

During the early 20th century, Barrio Brasil was a posh residential neighborhood.



International Freedom of the Press Fountain at Plazoleta de la Libertad de Prensa, Barrio Concha y Toro

By the 1940s, wealthy residents began migrating eastward, toward the Andes. Later, the construction of the Norte-Sur Highway severed the neighborhood from the rest of the city, and Barrio Brasil was by and large forgotten. Thanks to this, the area escaped development and many of its grand early 20th-century Gothic and Neo-Classical mansions have been left intact. As a result, Barrio Brasil is now one of the most picturesque areas in Santiago. It has also experienced a cultural and architectural resurgence, due to the presence of many universities nearby. Artists and musicians have moved in, drawn by Barrio Brasil's eclectic ambience. Today, trendy lofts and funky restaurants sit alongside traditional *picadas* and bars. The streets of nearby **Barrio Yungay** are especially well preserved, the most beautiful being **Pasaje Adriana Cousiño** between Huérfanos



A typical house from the early 1900s in Barrio Brasil

and Maipú, and **Pasaje Lucrecia Valdés** off Compañía between Esperanza and Maipú. Both are cobblestone walkways that exude a strong European feel. Other vestiges of Barrio Yungay's past can be seen at the restaurant Boulevard Lavaud (see p290).

① Barrio Concha y Toro

City Map 1 C3. ☎ República.

Dating from the 1920s, Barrio Concha y Toro is one of Santiago's best-preserved neighborhoods, comprising mansions built by the flourishing upper class in the early 20th century. The area was initially owned by engineer-entrepreneur Enrique Concha y Toro and his wife Teresa Cazotte, who reaped a fortune in mining in the late 1800s. They sought to replicate European towns with sinuous cobblestone streets, closely grouped buildings behind a continual façade, and a tiny plaza. The best Chilean architects of the time – Larraín Bravo, Siegel, González Cortés, Machiaco, and Bianchi – were entrusted with the design. They created a cohesive style incorporating influences such as Neo-Gothic, Neo-Classical, Baroque, and even Bauhaus. Highlights include the **Teatro Carrera**, built in 1926 by Gustavo Monckeberg and modeled after the *Teatre des Présidents* in Paris. The former

home of poet Vicente Huidobro is now the popular Zully restaurant (see p291). The picturesque **Plazoleta de la Libertad de Prensa**, often used as a set for television productions, was named in 1994 in honor of the World Press Freedom Day.

① Museo de la Solidaridad

República 475 **City Map** 1 C4. Tel (02) 2689-8761. ☎ República. **Open** 10am-6pm Tue-Sun. ☎ Sun free. ☎ ☎ mssa.cl

Set in the former headquarters of DINA, the secret police during the Pinochet military dictatorship (see p52), the Museo de la Solidaridad is the only museum in Latin America consisting entirely of works donated by artists. In an act of solidarity with the government of Salvador Allende (see p51), artists in 1971 founded this museum with a collection of more than 400 pieces by such names as Joan Miró, Alexander Calder, Victor Vasarely, and Roberto Matta. After Salvador Allende's overthrow, the works were hidden in the Museo de Arte Contemporáneo (see p75). The museum's administration moved to Paris, where artists continued to donate until the collection reached some 1,500 pieces. The works date from 1950 to 1980, and many of them evoke the social struggle of Latin Americans.



The 19th-century facade of the renowned Confeitería Torres

Barrio Dieciocho

City Map 2 D4 Los Héroes.

During the turn of the 20th century Santiago's posh neighborhood was centered around Calle Dieciocho. Wealthy families erected opulent mansions here, as a means of flaunting their newfound fortune from shipping and mining. The constructions reflect the influence of European styles, principally French. Santiago's elite has since moved uptown, yet the architectural gems they built can still be seen, in spite of the fact that the neighborhood looks a little worse for wear. Among its best are the Subercaseaux Mansion at No. 190, Residencia Eguiguren at No. 102, and the Palacio Astoreca at No. 121. The grand buildings are now occupied by university groups, libraries, and other associations.



Rich furnishings in the central hall of Palacio Cousiño

For hotels and restaurants in this area see pp276 and pp290-91

Confeitería Torres

Avenida Alameda 1570. City Map 2 D3. Tel (02) 2688 0751. Los Héroes. Open 10:30am-midnight Mon-Sat. confeiteriatorres.cl

Opened in 1879, the Confeitería Torres is Santiago's oldest café. It served Santiago's politicians, intellectuals, and elite society when the Barrio Dieciocho area was still considered fashionable. Renovations in 2004 salvaged the old red leather booths, French doors, and long oak bar, and the café's antique ambience is still quite palpable. The Confeitería is steeped in history and has produced several emblematic elements of Chile's culinary repertoire. The *barros luco*, a beef sandwich with melted cheese, is named for former president Barros Luco, who ordered one every time he came. The *cola de mono aperitif de aguardiente*, milk and coffee, was also invented here.

Palacio Cousiño

Calle Dieciocho 438. City Map 2 D4. Tel (02) 2386 7448. Toesca. Open 9:30am-4:30pm Mon-Fri. palaciocousino.co.cl

Built between 1870 and 1878, the Palacio Cousiño was the most extravagant mansion of its day. It was designed by French architect Paul Lathoud for the Cousiño family, who had made a fortune in mining and shipping. From Europe, the Cousiños imported walnut and mahogany parquet floors,

brocade tapestries, Italian marble, and French embroidered curtains, along with European artisans to install these fineries. The mansion also housed the country's first elevator. The palace was auctioned off to Santiago's mayor in 1940, who donated it to the city. Subsequently, it was used to house visiting dignitaries such as Golda Meir, Charles de Gaulle, and Belgian king Balduino. In 1968, the mansion was converted into a museum that preserved the house as it was during the 19th century. Palacio Cousiño suffered major damage during the 2010 earthquake, but the garden is open for tours.



Distinctive cupola of Santiago's Basilica de los Sacramentinos

Basilica de los Sacramentinos

Arturo Prat 471. City Map 2 E4. Tel (02) 2638 3169. Toesca. Open 10am-12:30pm & 4-7pm Tue-Fri.

Designed by architect Ricardo Larraín Bravo, the Basilica de los Sacramentinos was built as an imitation of the Sacré-Coeur of Paris, between 1919 and 1931. The church is notable for its Roman Byzantine architecture and the crypt, a 4,925 ft (1,500-m) long burial chamber that runs underneath. The parquet floors are the first of their kind to be made in Chile. The wooden pulpit, confessionals, and seats were all hand-carved by Salesians, a Roman Catholic order. Also of interest are the French stained glass and the

organ imported from Germany. The church suffered significant damage in the 2010 earthquake, but it is once again open to the public. The exterior is also lovely, and made more pleasant by Parque Almagro, which lies stretched out before it.

Parque Bernardo O'Higgins

Between Avenida Beauchef & Azupardá Central. City Map 2 D5. Parque O'Higgins. Open 6am-8pm daily. fiestaspatias.cl (Sep 18 & 19).

The capital's second-largest park is a popular recreation area for families and a major staging area for the Fiestas Patrias celebrations (see pp30-7). Named for one of Chile's founding fathers, Bernardo O'Higgins, the park is home to tennis courts, soccer fields, an artificial lake, Santiago's largest indoor music stadium, and a public pool. A curious aspect of the park is the **Campo de Marte**, a gigantic strip of concrete that resembles a landing strip. Military parades take place here every September 19, drawing thousands of spectators.

Among the park's attractions is **El Pueblito**, a mock Colonial village with simple restaurants serving traditional cuisine. Located here are two museums. The **Museo de Huaso** depicts the culture and history of the cowboys of the Central Valley (see p27), while the **Museo de Insectos y Caracolas** houses a collection of butterfly and insect displays. There are also artisan



Spectators following a horse race at Club Hípico



Entrance to Fantasilandia, Chile's largest amusement park

workshops and fairs at the **Plaza de las Artesanías**. During the Fiestas Patrias, the grounds are bloated to capacity with revelers who come for the *fondas*, or festival centers in tents – a hallmark of this popular park. For days, a veritable patriotic bacchanal takes over the park with nonstop *cueca* music, smoking barbecues, and excessive drinking. The Lollapalooza Chile music festival takes place in late March or early April.

Fantasilandia

Beauchef 938. City Map 2 D5. Tel (02) 2476 8600. Parque O'Higgins. Open Jan & Feb: noon-9pm daily; Mar-Nov: noon-7pm Sat & Sun. fantasilandia.cl

The second-largest amusement park in South America, Fantasilandia is often dubbed the Chilean Disneyland. It opened in 1978 as the brainchild of entrepreneur Gerardo Arteaga, who felt that Santiago had grown insufferably boring for families who were seeking amusement during their spare time. The park offers plenty of knee-trembling rollercoasters and stomach-churning rides

such as Xtreme Fall, Raptor, and Boomerang. There are also more tranquil attractions for younger children including a carousel, the Kids' Zone, and Villa Mágica, with music jamborees and magic acts.

Club Hípico

Avenida Almirante Blanco Encalada 2540. City Map 1 C5. Tel (02) 2693 9600. Union Latinoamericana. Open for races; schedules vary. clubhipico.cl

Founded in 1870, Club Hípico is Chile's preeminent racetrack and home to South America's oldest stakes race, El Ensayo (see p38), which takes place in late October/early November. It is part of the Triple Corona together with Hipódromo Chile and Valparaíso Derby.

The current racetrack was designed by architect Josué Smith and opened in 1923, the previous track house having succumbed to fire in 1892. The club building is a fine example of early 20th-century architectural grandeur, a result of Chile's economic boom during the late 1800s. Club Hípico features stylish terraces and viewing platforms, restaurants, formal gardens, and a picnic area, set amid the faded elegance of the old Republica neighborhood.

In total, there are about 1,500 races annually, including the famed Alberto Vial Infante and the Arturo Lyon Peña. The club also hosts major music concerts such as the 2009 Chilean Rock Summit, and international acts such as Elton John and Iron Maiden. Despite the racetrack's roots as an elite social club, it is now frequented by people from all backgrounds.