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Port Information Iquique, Chile



General information:

Iquique is a coastal city in northern Chile, to the west of the Atacama Desert. A prosperous saltpeter mining town in the 19th century, today it's a popular holiday destination with a tax-free port area, Pacific beaches and a seafront casino. In its historic district, an iconic 19th-century clock tower stands in Arturo Prat Square, the city's main plaza.

Although the city was founded in the 16th century, there is evidence of habitation in the area by the Chango people as early as 7,000 BC. During colonial times, Iquique was part of the Viceroyalty of Peru as much of South America was at the time, and remained part of Peruvian territory until the end of the 19th century. Iquique's early development was due in large part to the discovery of mineral riches, particularly the presence of large deposits of sodium nitrate in the Atacama Desert (then part of Peruvian territory).

Address of port: Empresa Portuaria Iquique, Jorge Barrera 62, Iquique, Región de Tarapacá

Currency: The local currency in Iquique is the Chilean Peso. Most places will accept credit card. US Dollars are not accepted. There are many ATMs downtown and at the zona franca.

Language: The language spoken in Iquique is Chilean Spanish. English is widely spoken within the tourism industry.

Local representative: A local representative from the port of Iquique will be available at the Seabourn Square on Deck 7 from 8:00am to 12:00pm.

Getting Around:

Taxi information: Taxis will be available outside the port gate. Most of them will accept credit cards.

Shuttle bus: There will be a shuttle bus to Serrano corner of Luis Uribe, 150 meters from the main square, running every 30 minutes until 12:30pm and every hours until 3:30pm. The last shuttle coming back from town is at 4:15.

Kindly note that this is for your reading pleasure only.

All printed information has been provided by local tourist operators, information centers and the internet.

Places of interest:

Plaza Arturo Prat and the Clock Tower

The city's 19th-century swagger is hard to miss on Iquique's central square. Pride of place goes to the 1877 Torre Reloj clock tower, seemingly baked and sugar-frosted rather than built. Jumping fountains line the walkway south to the marble-stepped Teatro Municipal and a nicely restored tram sits outside.

Address: Plaza Arturo Prat

Distance from pier: 0.6 Kms/ 0.37 Miles

Edificio de la Aduana

Edificio de la Aduana is a grand old colonial building dating to 1876. The ex-customs house was ravaged by fire in early 2015. Please note the Edificio can only be seen from outside and is closed for visit.

Address: Av. Arturo Prat Chacón 5

Distance from pier: 0.35 Kms/ 0.22 Miles

Casino Español

The showiest building in Iquique is this Moorish-style place from 1904, on the plaza's northeast corner. The gaudily tiled creation is now a club and restaurant. Go at meal times for a look at the interior with its dazzling tile work, coffered ceilings and fanciful murals.

Address: Tarapacá 201

Distance from pier: 0.65 Kms/ 0.40 Miles

Opening hours: 12:30pm – 4:00pm

Museo Corbeta Esmeralda

This replica of sunken Esmeralda, a plucky little Chilean corvette that challenged ironclad Peruvian warships in the War of the Pacific, is Iquique's new pride and glory. The original ship was captained by Arturo Prat (1848–79), whose name now graces a hundred street maps, plazas and institutions.

Address: Avenida Arturo Prat

Distance from pier: 0.35 Kms/ 0.22 Miles

Opening hours: 10:00am – 12:15pm / 2:00pm – 5:00pm

Please note, most monuments and museums will be closed as we are in Iquique on a Sunday.

Beaches:

Playa Cavancha

Playa Cavancha is a popular beach for swimming and offers water sports and a roomy strip of sand for sunbathers.

Address: Avenida Arturo Prat Chacón

Distance from pier: 3 Kms/ 1.86 Miles

Shopping:

Zofri

Iquique has one of the largest duty-free commercial port centers of South America, the Zona Franca of Iquique (free zone of Iquique) which has been traditionally called Zofri. There are around 2.4 square kilometers (0.93 sq mi) of warehouses, banking branches, and restaurants.

Address: Oficina Salitrera Victoria

Distance from pier: 3.1 Kms/ 1.92 Miles

Opening hours: 11:00am – 7:00pm

We wish you a wonderful day ashore in Iquique

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