

# HISTORICAL TOMÉ

Where the Past weaves stories in front of the Sea



## GET TO KNOW THE HISTORY OF TOMÉ

Tomé grew between the sea and the looms, becoming an important textile center in the 19th century, with the Bellavista factory as a symbol of working-class labor. Its port, railway, and coastal life shaped generations. Today, Tomé invites you to explore its history, enjoy its beaches, and discover the strength of a city that never forgets its roots.

## OVEJAS TOMÉ (FORMER TEXTILE FACTORY)

The Bellavista Oveja Tomé Textile Factory was founded in 1865 by Guillermo Gibson Délano. Over time, it grew to supply nearly 77% of Chile's wool demand, even producing military uniforms during the War of the Pacific (1879–1884). In 1970, the factory was expropriated by the government. In the early 1980s, it merged and became Bellavista Oveja Tomé under a private ownership. The factory closed in 2007/2008 due to financial difficulties but reopened in 2010 on a limited scale, and in 2017 it was declared a National Historic Monument for its architectural and social importance in the Biobío region and to enter the facility, you must speak with the guard at the entrance, who will then contact the owner of the factory to arrange the tour.



## PLAZA DE ARMAS AND HISTORIC CENTER

Since the 19th century, Tomé's main square has served as the city's historical and social heart. It is surrounded by historic houses, shops, and buildings that reflect the town's textile and industrial heritage. The plaza showcases traditional working-class and port-life architecture, being a crossroad where history, culture, and community merge. Visitors are welcome to explore and stroll through the plaza at any time. It also features a tourism office that organizes guided tours on certain dates.

## SAN CARLOS BORROMEO CHURCH

On La Pampa hill stands a chapel that was blessed on 1951 under the name of San Carlos Borromeo, although it is more commonly known as "Nuestra Señora de los Rayos" (Our Lady of the Rays) because the chapel is part of the Parish of Our Lady of Candelaria. Nearby is the Carlos Mahns viewpoint, featuring a bust honoring this man who was the promoter and founder of the community now known as the Carlos Mahns neighborhood—originally built to house workers from the local textile company.

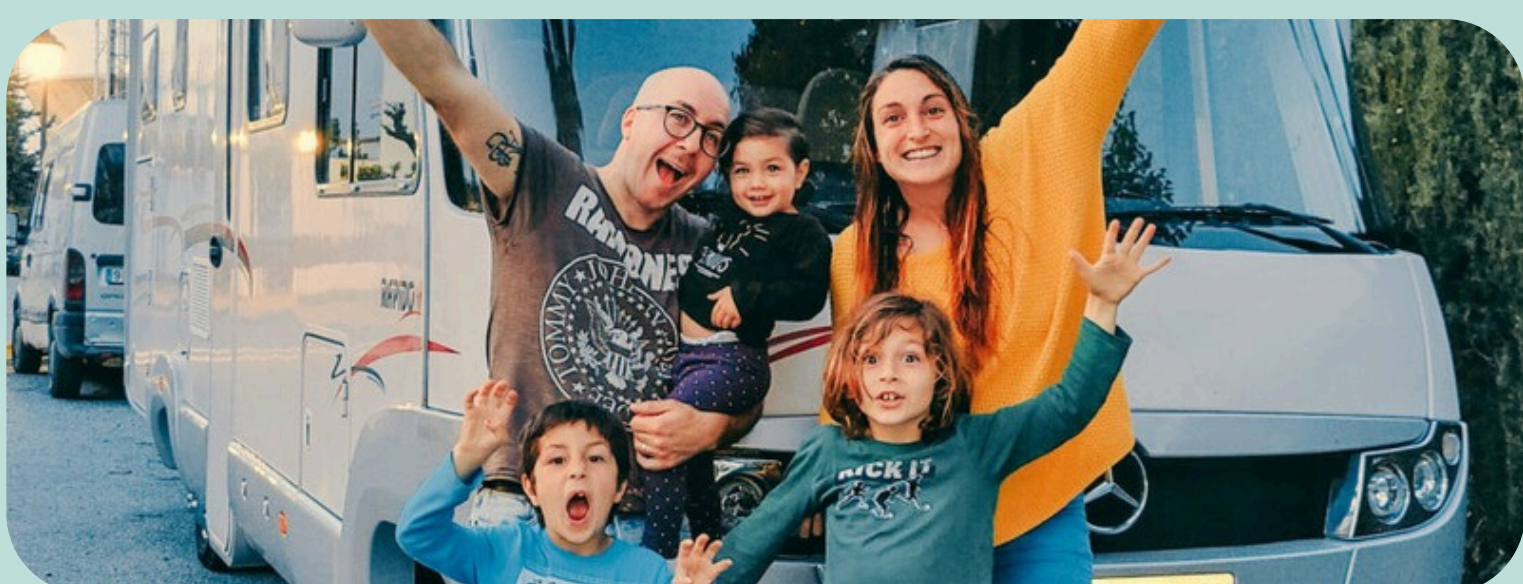


## A CENTER FOR EVERYONE!

It was built between 1942 by the Bellavista Oveja Tomé factory for its workers. The building uniquely combines a cinema and a gymnasium serving as a social and cultural center for decades. Although it is no longer in operation, in 2013 it was declared a National Historic Monument. It has been preserved and can be viewed from the outside, occasionally opening for special events. It stands as a symbol of Tomé's industrial past.

## HOW CAN I GET THERE?

To get to Tomé from Concepción by bus, you must go to Chacabuco street with colocolo and take a direct bus to Tomé, the trip takes between 50 minutes and 1 hour, depending on traffic, buses leave frequently and will leave you near the center of Tomé. (As a tip, use Google Maps or Waze for navigation, and pair it with a translation app to communicate with locals.)



## ACCESSIBILITY FOR DESTINATIONS

In Tomé, the Main square is a welcoming and inclusive space for everyone, but the old textile factory, the sports center or the church are not suitable for people with disabilities, nor can you go with animals, but all destinations are suitable for children, adults and families.