

= Pichilemu =

Pichilemu (Mapudungun : Small forest , pronounced : [pitʰiʎlemu]) , originally known as Pichilemo , is a beach resort city and commune in central Chile , and capital of Cardenal Caro Province . The commune comprises an urban centre and twenty @-@ two villages , such as Ciruelos , Cahuil , and Espinillo . It is located southwest of Santiago , the capital of Chile . Pichilemu had over 13 @, @ 000 residents as of 2012 .

The Pichilemu area was long populated by the indigenous Promaucaes . European @-@ Chilean development began in the mid @-@ sixteenth century , as conquistador Pedro de Valdivia gave Juan Gómez de Almagro the Topocalma encomienda (which included the current territory of Pichilemu) in January 1541 . Pichilemu was established as an " autonomous commune " on 22 December 1891 , by decree of the President Jorge Montt and Interior Minister Manuel José Irarrázabal . Agustín Ross Edwards , a Chilean politician and member of the Ross Edwards family , planned to develop it as a beach resort on the Pacific Ocean for upper @-@ class Chileans .

Pichilemu is home to five of the National Monuments of Chile : Agustín Ross Cultural Centre and Park ; the wooden railway station , Estación Pichilemu ; El Árbol tunnel ; and the Caballo de Agua . Part of the city was declared a Zona Típica (" Traditional Area " or " Heritage Site ") by the National Monuments Council , in 2004 .

The city is part of District No. 35 and is in the ninth senatorial constituency of O 'Higgins Region electoral division . Pichilemu is home to the main beach in O 'Higgins Region . It is a tourist destination for surfing , windsurfing and funboarding .

Tourism is the main industry of the city , but forestry and handicrafts are also important . Pichilemu has many expansive dark sand beaches . Several surf championships take place in the city each year at Punta de Lobos , which according to Fodor 's is " widely considered the best surfing in South America all year @-@ round . "

= = History = =

Pichilemu was inhabited by Promaucaes , a pre @-@ Columbian tribal group , until the Spanish conquest of Chile . They were hunter @-@ gatherers and fishermen who lived primarily along the Cachapoal and Maule rivers . The remaining Promaucaes were assimilated into Chilean society through a process of hispanicisation and mestisation after the conquest of Chile .

Aureliano Oyarzún , professor of pathology at University of Chile , investigated pre @-@ Ceramic middens from Pichilemu and Cahuil . His book Crónicas de Pichilemu ? Cahuil (Chronicles of Pichilemu ? Cahuil) was published posthumously , in 1957 . Tomás Guevara published two volumes of Historia de Chile , Chile Prehispánico (History of Chile , Pre @-@ Hispanic Chile) in 1929 , which discusses the indigenous centre of Apalta , the Pichilemu middens , the Malloa petroglyphs , a stone cup from Nancagua , and pottery finds in Peralillo .

José Toribio Medina (1852 ? 1930) , who was a writer and historiographer , spent most of his life in Colchagua Province , and completed his first archeological investigations in Pichilemu . In 1908 , he published Los Restos Indígenas de Pichilemu (English : The Indigenous Remains of Pichilemu) , in which he stated that the Indians that were inhabiting Pichilemu when the Spaniards arrived at Chile were Promaucaes , part of the Topocalma encomienda , given on 24 January 1544 , by Pedro de Valdivia to Juan Gómez de Almagro , therefore establishing Pichilemu .

During the colonial and Republican periods , agriculture was promoted by the government . Many Chilean haciendas (estates) were successful during this time , including the Pichileminian Hacienda San Antonio de Petrel . Part of the land where San Antonio de Petrel was created was given by the Captaincy General of Chile to Bartolomé de Rojas y Puebla in 1611 , who later acquired more lands in order to establish it . San Antonio de Petrel produced leather , jerky , soles , tallow , and cordovan , as well as other products which would later be exported to Peru , or sold in Santiago and Valparaíso . San Antonio de Petrel was bordered by properties of Lauriano Gaete and Ninfa Vargas , and Pedro Pavez Polanco .

The area around Pichilemu was very densely populated , especially in Cahuil , where there are salt

deposits that were exploited by natives . Pichilemu has had censuses taken since the 17th century .

In 1872 , President of Chile Aníbal Pinto commissioned the corvette captain Francisco Vidal Gormaz to perform a survey of the coast between Tumán Creek and Boca del Mataquito . He concluded that Pichilemu was the best place to construct a ferry . The family of Daniel Ortúzar , inheritors of the hacienda San Antonio de Petrel , constructed a dock in 1875 , which served as a fishing port for a few years , and would be decreed as a " minor dock " by President José Manuel Balmaceda in 1887 . Homes were built along the dock on what currently is the Daniel Ortúzar Avenue (Avenida Daniel Ortúzar) . The name Pichilemu comes from the Mapudungún words pichi (little) and lemu (forest) .

During the 1891 Chilean Civil War , Daniel Ortúzar and the priest of Alcones were transferred as prisoners from Pichilemu to Valparaíso via the dock , which was later burned . The dock was later reconstructed and used until 1912 , but it never reached " port " status .

The inheritors of Lauriano Gaete and Ninfa Vargas , who were proprietors of the land which is currently Central Pichilemu , founded the town in late 1891 after conceiving the design of the city with engineer Emilio Nichón . By decree of President Jorge Montt and his Interior Minister , Manuel José Irarrázabal , the city was officially established as an " autonomous commune " on 22 December 1891 . José María Caro Martínez became the first mayor of the city in 1894 , and regularised and improved the design of the city the same year . Caro Martínez held the mayor office until 1905 .

Agustín Ross Edwards , a Chilean writer , Member of Parliament , minister , and politician , bought a 300 @-@ hectare (740 @-@ acre) tract of land , and named it La Posada , in 1885 . At the time , it was merely a set of thick @-@ walled barracks .

Agustín Ross turned Pichilemu into a summer resort town for affluent people from Santiago . He designed an urban setting that included a park and a forest of over 10 hectares (25 acres) . He transformed La Posada into a hotel , named Gran Hotel Pichilemu , which has since been renamed to Hotel Agustín Ross . He built the Ross Casino (currently a cultural centre) , several chalets , terraces , embankments , stone walls , a balcony facing the beach , and several large homes with building materials and furniture imported from France and England . However , Ross was not able to build the dock he had planned for the city . He died in 1926 in Viña del Mar. Agustín Ross ' inheritors donated all of his construction (streets , avenues , squares , seven hectares of forests , the park in front of the hotel , the perrons , the balcony , and the terraces) to the Municipality of Pichilemu , on the condition that the municipality would hold them for recreation and public access . The Agustín Ross Casino , constructed in 1905 , and the Agustín Ross Park , constructed in 1885 , have since become an important part of the city , and have been declared Monumentos Históricos (Historic Monuments) by the National Monuments Council .

After the creation of the Cardenal Caro Province , by decree of General Augusto Pinochet on 3 October 1979 , Pichilemu became its capital . The province is named after the first Chilean Catholic Cardinal , José María Caro Rodríguez , who was born in Pichilemu .

Pichilemu was severely affected by the 2010 Chile earthquake and its subsequent tsunami , which caused massive destruction in the coastal zone . On 11 March 2010 , at 11 : 39 : 41 (14 : 39 : 41 UTC) , a magnitude 6 @. @ 9 earthquake occurred 15 kilometres (9 mi) northwest of Pichilemu , killing one person .

= = Geography = =

Pichilemu is located 126 kilometres (78 mi) west of San Fernando , in the westernmost area of the O 'Higgins Region , on the coast of the Pacific Ocean . It is within a three @-@ hour drive of the Andes Mountains . It is near the Cordillera de la Costa (Coastal Mountain Range) which rises to 2 @, @ 000 metres (6 @, @ 562 ft) in elevation .

The city is bordered by Litueche to the north , Paredones to the south , and Marchigüe and Pumanque to the east . To the west lies the Pacific Ocean . Pichilemu covers an area of 749 @. @ 1 square kilometres (289 @. @ 2 sq mi) .

Pichilemu is located close to a geological fault (Pichilemu Fault) , which is according to reports

between the city and Vichuquén at 15 km depth , 40 km in length and 20 km wide . It is not known whether the fault was formed during the March 2010 earthquake or if it was just reactivated .

Although the majority of the forest areas around Pichilemu are covered with pine and eucalyptus plantations , a native forest (now the Municipal Forest) remains . It contains species such as Litres , Quillayes , Boldos , Espinos , and Peumos .

The city consists of an urban centre and twenty @-@ two rural villages : Alto Colorado , Alto Ramírez , Barrancas , Cáhuil , Cardonal de Panilonco , Ciruelos , Cóguil , El Maqui , El Guindo , Espinillo , Estación Larraín Alcalde , La Aguada , La Palmilla , La Villa , La Plaza , Las Comillas , Pueblo de Viudas , Quebrada del Nuevo Reino , Pañul , Rodeillo , San Antonio de Petrel , and Tanumé .

Nearby bodies of water (apart from the Pacific Ocean) include the Nilahue Estuary , which flows to Cáhuil Lagoon , Petrel Estuary , which flows to Petrel Lagoon , and El Barro , El Bajel , and El Ancho lagoons , the latter of which provides the city with drinking water .

Pichilemu experiences a Mediterranean climate , with winter rains which reach 700 millimetres (28 in) . The rest of the year is dry , often windy , and sometimes with coastal fog . Occasionally the city receives winds as high as 150 kilometres per hour (93 mph) .

= = Demographics = =

By the 17th century , Pichilemu had 1 @,@ 468 inhabitants . In 1787 , Pichilemu held 1 @,@ 688 inhabitants , and the population rose to 11 @,@ 829 by 1895 . From there onward , the city 's population progressively decreased : 7 @,@ 787 inhabitants in 1907 ; 7 @,@ 424 in 1920 ; 6 @,@ 929 in 1930 ; and 6 @,@ 570 in 1940 . In 1952 , the city 's population increased to 7 @,@ 150 inhabitants ; however , the 1960 census showed it decreased to 5 @,@ 724 inhabitants , and to 5 @,@ 459 in 1970 . The number of people in Pichilemu reached 8 @,@ 844 in 1982 , and in 1992 , 10 @,@ 510 . As of the 2002 census , the population comprised 12 @,@ 392 people , and 6 @,@ 228 households .

The 2002 census classified 9 @,@ 459 people (76 @.@ 3 %) as living in an urban area and 2 @,@ 933 people (23 @.@ 7 %) as living in a rural area , with 6 @,@ 440 men (52 @.@ 0 %) and 5 @,@ 952 women (48 @.@ 0 %) . According to the 2002 Casen survey , 544 inhabitants (4 @.@ 4 %) of the population live in extreme poverty compared to the average in the greater O 'Higgins Region of 4 @.@ 5 % , and 1 @,@ 946 inhabitants (15 @.@ 7 %) live in mild poverty , compared to the regional average of 16 @.@ 1 % .

The National Statistics Institute of Chile has estimated that , as of 2010 , 78 @.@ 96 % of the inhabitants in the city were living in an urban area and 21 @.@ 04 % were living in a rural area , with 52 @.@ 4 % men and 47 @.@ 5 % women ; the population density was estimated as 19 @.@ 09 per square mile . In the 2012 census , the population of Pichilemu was 13 @,@ 916 inhabitants ; although earlier estimates put it higher .

Most of the people from Pichilemu are Catholic , as of the 2002 census , 7 @,@ 611 persons (83 @.@ 44 %) , well above the national and regional average (69 @.@ 96 % and 79 @.@ 08 % , respectively) ; the evangelical population is considerably lower , at only 689 people (7 @.@ 55 %) ; 361 (3 @.@ 96 %) said they were Atheists or Agnostic individuals , while the remaining 460 (5 @.@ 04 %) are part of other religions . Based on information from the Casen survey , twenty @-@ four persons living in Pichilemu declared themselves as Aymaras in 2006 , and in 2009 , 390 people said they were part of the Mapuche indigenous ethnic group ; the survey revealed no one living in Pichilemu claimed to be either of the Atacameños or of the Rapa Nui indigenous peoples .

= = Governance = =

Pichilemu , along with the communes of Placilla , Nancagua , Chépica , Santa Cruz , Pumanque , Palmilla , Peralillo , Navidad , Lolol , Litueche , La Estrella , Marchihue , and Paredones , is part of Electoral District No. 35 and belongs to the 9th Senatorial Constituency (O 'Higgins) of the electoral divisions of Chile .

Pichilemu is governed by the mayor (alcalde), who manages the executive function . The City Council (concejo municipal) manages the legislative function . The mayors and the councilors are elected popularly every four years , with possibility of re @-@ election . Marcelo Cabrera Martínez was elected in 2008 as the new mayor with 42 @.@ 08 percent of the vote ; he served from May to August 2009 , when he was permanently banned from holding public office after being convicted for adulterating tickets . Then , the municipal council elected Roberto Córdova as new mayor on 9 September 2009 . Between 2007 and 2009 , Pichilemu had seven mayors , after Jorge Vargas González was removed from the office for committing the crime of bribery ; he was mayor for over 10 years , from 1996 to 2007 . Vargas was succeeded by Victor Rojas , who was later accused of the same crime and eventually removed from the office too . Roberto Córdova was popularly elected mayor for the first time in 2012 with 47 @.@ 9 percent . The current councilors of Pichilemu are Aldo Polanco Contreras , Andrea Aranda Escudero , Marta Urzúa Púa , Mario Morales Cárceles , Felipe Bustamante Olivares , and Hugo Toro Galaz . Both the mayor and the councilors took office on 6 December 2012 , and their term will expire on 6 December 2016 .

The Pichilemu Police , known in Spanish as Carabineros de Pichilemu , and officially Tercera Comisaría de Carabineros de Pichilemu , are commanded by Tomás Molina Meza . The police station is located in front of the former Pichilemu post office building , in Daniel Ortúzar avenue .

= = Economy = =

Tourism is the main industry of Pichilemu , especially in the urban centre and some rural areas such as Cahuil and Ciruelos . Forestry , mainly pine and eucalyptus , is another major industry . The area is also known for handicrafts . Although fishing is not very important to O 'Higgins Region , due to unsuitable coastlines , it is common in Pichilemu , Bucalemu , and Navidad .

Pichilemu has a clay deposit in the Pañul area . According to archaeological investigations , pottery was first manufactured in the area around 300 BCE . It is still a stalwart today ? Ciruelos and El Copao are well known for the pottery created there .

= = Landmarks = =

The Bosque Municipal (Municipal Forest) was donated by the Ross family in 1935 . The main access to the forest is in front of Ross Casino , near Paseo el Sol ; or by a road near the Colegio Preciosa Sangre . The forest has a footpath surrounded by palms , pines , and many other varieties of trees .

Conchal Indígena (Indigenous Midden) is an archaeological site of pre @-@ Hispanic times . It is located on the site of an ancient fishing village 1 kilometre (0 @.@ 62 mi) from Punta de Lobos and 0 @.@ 3 kilometres (0 @.@ 19 mi) south of Los Curas Lagoon . Laguna Los Curas (Los Curas Lagoon) is a natural area used for eco @-@ tourist activities such as fishing located 7 kilometres (4 @.@ 3 mi) south of Pichilemu . Another lagoon , the Laguna del Perro (The Dog 's Lagoon) is located 8 @.@ 5 kilometres (5 @.@ 3 mi) south of Pichilemu . It is used for recreational activities .

Laguna El Alto (El Alto Lagoon) is a small , rain @-@ fed lagoon located at Chorrillos Beach that is often used for camping and picnics . The lagoon is an hour and a half drive from Pichilemu , traveling to the north by Chorrillos beach . Poza del Encanto is a lagoon located 30 kilometres (19 mi) from Pichilemu . It is home to a large variety of native fauna . The Estero Nilahue (Nilahue Lagoon) is located 15 kilometres (9 @.@ 3 mi) from Pichilemu . It has several beaches , including El Bronce , El Maquí , and Laguna El Vado .

St. Andrew Church is located in Ciruelos , 13 kilometres (8 @.@ 1 mi) from Pichilemu . It was constructed in 1779 , and its altar was built in the 1940s . It has a harmonium , confessional boxes , and ancient images of saints . Its original image of St. Andrew was made of papier mache . The old parish was created by Archbishop Rafael Valentín Valdivieso in 1864 . Cardinal José María Caro Rodríguez was baptized there . The feast day of St. Andrew is celebrated every November 30 at the church .

The Museo del Niño Rural (the Rural Kid Museum) was created as an initiative of teacher Carlos Leyton and his students . It is a modern building that utilises traditional architecture . Three rooms contain a collection of stone tools , arrowheads , and clay tools made by the indigenous people of the region . Also on display are domestic tools from early colonists .

El Copao is a hamlet located 14 kilometres (8 @. @ 7 mi) east of Pichilemu . Its main industry is domestic pottery production , using clay as a raw material . Pañul is a settlement located 17 kilometres (11 mi) from Pichilemu . Its name in Mapudungun means " medicinal herb . " Pañul produces pottery made with locally obtained clay . Cáhuil is a small settlement located 13 kilometres (8 @. @ 1 mi) south of Pichilemu . Its name in Mapudungun means " parrot place " . Cahuil lagoon is used for fishing , swimming , and kayaking ; kiteboarding lessons are offered on the lagoon . The Cáhuil Bridge is open to motor traffic , and has a view of the Cahuil zone . The bridge provides access to Curicó , Lolol , Bucalemu , and other nearby places .

Pichilemu was declared a Typical Zone by the National Monuments Council of Chile , by decree No. 1097 on 22 December 2004 .

The city is home to five other National Monuments : Ross Park , Ross Casino , El Árbol Tunnel , the wooden railway station , Estación Pichilemu , and Caballo de Agua .

= = = Agustín Ross Cultural Centre = = =

The current Cultural Centre , in front of Ross Park , is a three @-@ floor casino constructed with imported materials in the early 1900s by Agustín Ross . It originally housed a mail and telegraph service , with a large store . The first casino in Chile was opened in this building on 20 January 1906 . It operated until 1932 , when the Viña del Mar Casino was opened .

The building was renovated and reopened in 2009 as a cultural arts center . It currently houses several gallery spaces and the public library . During its restoration , workers found many historical artifacts , including a copy of Las Últimas Noticias from February 1941 when Ross Casino served as a hotel ; an American telephone battery dating from the period of 1909 to 1915 ; and a tile from the casino 's ceiling signed by workers during the building 's construction in 1914 .

Ross Park , created by Agustín Ross in 1885 , contains hundred @-@ year @-@ old native Chilean palms (Phoenix canariensis) and many green spaces . It was restored in December 1987 , and is now a popular walking destination . The former casino was named National Monuments in 1988 .

Ross hotel was created by Agustín Ross in 1885 , and originally named Great Hotel Pichilemu (Gran Hotel Pichilemu) . It is one of the oldest hotels in Chile . Although it is still partially open to guests , it is in a state of disrepair .

= = = Railway station = = =

The old wooden railway station , Estación Pichilemu , constructed around 1925 , is one of the National Monuments of Chile . In the O 'Higgins Region , 357 kilometres (222 mi) of railway lines were constructed , but only 161 kilometres (100 mi) still exist . The 119 kilometres (74 mi) San Fernando ? Pichilemu section was constructed between 1869 and 1926 . Passenger services operated on the line until 1986 and freight services were operational until 1995 . In 2006 , the Peralillo ? Pichilemu section was removed completely .

It remained in operation until the 1990s , and became a National Monument on 16 September 1994 . It has since become an arts and culture centre and tourism information office . It exhibits decorative and practical objects from the 1920s , and features many old clothes .

= = = Beaches = = =

Pichilemu has several expansive dark sand beaches . The water is cool all year @-@ round , and many tourists choose to swim at the shore break during the summer months . Common activities include bodyboarding , surfing , windsurfing , and kitesurfing .

The northernmost of the beaches is Playa Las Terrazas or Playa Principal (The Terraces Beach or Main Beach) , which is in front of Ross Park . It is popular for surfing . Near the beach and at Ross Park , there are balustrades and long stairs dating from the early 1900s . There is a balcony over the rocks at the southern end of the beach . It is the busiest during the summer months . Several surf schools , such as La Ola Perfecta , and Lobos del Pacífico , are located nearby , as is the fish market at Fishermen Creek .

Located south of the town and around the other side of the Puntilla , Playa Infiernillo (Little Hell Beach) is rocky and has tide @-@ pools . This area is used for fishing . South of Infiernillo is Playa Hermosa (Beautiful Beach) , which is popular for walking and fishing .

Further south , 6 kilometres (3 @. @ 7 mi) from Pichilemu , Punta de Lobos has a beach sheltered from the southern winds . It is an increasingly popular destination for tourists and surfers . Several surf contests are held there every year . The size of waves varies throughout the year . Large swells in fall and winter can reach heights of up to 15 metres (49 ft) . It is widely considered one of the best beaches for surfing worldwide . In 2012 , it was named one of the " 50 most thrilling surf destinations " .

Pichilemu is regarded as the prime location for surfing in Chile , particularly at Punta de Lobos . Every October and December , an International Championship of Surf is held at La Puntilla Beach . Punta de Lobos hosts the Campeonato Nacional de Surf (National Surfing Championship) every summer .

= = Media = =

There are three local newspapers : El Expreso de la Costa (" The Express of the Coast ") is a monthly newspaper directed by Félix Calderón Vargas , first published on 30 June 2000 ; El Faro del Secano (" The Dryland 's Lighthouse ") was founded in November 2013 by local journalist Óscar Rojas Connell , and is distributed throughout the Cardenal Caro Province ; and La Voz de la Región (" The Voice of the Region ") , published every two weeks , first appeared on 2 January 2014 , and is directed by Patricio Flores Retamales .

Radio services come from Radio Entreolas , Radio Atardecer , Radio Somos Pichilemu (directed by former Mayor Jorge Vargas González and his wife and current Councilor Andrea Aranda) , Radio Isla , and Radio Corporación . A television channel , Canal 3 Pichilemu , also broadcasts in the area .

= = Education = =

Education establishments in Pichilemu include Liceo Agustín Ross Edwards (Agustín Ross Edwards High School) ; a secondary school in El Llano ; the primary and secondary school named Charly 's School , and the primary school Escuela Digna Camilo Aguilar (Digna Camilo Aguilar School) , both also located in El Llano ; Colegio Libertadores (Liberators School) , a primary school in Infiernillo ; Colegio de la Preciosa Sangre (Precious Blood School) , a primary and secondary school located near El Llano ; Colegio Divino Maestro (Divine Master School) , a primary school located near Cahuil Avenue ; Escuela Pueblo de Viudas (Pueblo de Viudas School) , a primary school in Pueblo de Viudas ; and Jardín Amanecer (Dawn Garden) , a kindergarten school in El Llano .

Higher education first arrived at Pichilemu in 1970 , when the Centro Medio Profesional de Pichilemu (Pichilemu Secondary @-@ Professional Centre) was created ; however , it was discontinued the next year . In 2002 , thirty @-@ one years after the Centro Medio Profesional was discontinued , the Universidad Academia de Humanismo Cristiano (Academy of Christian Humanism University) began to give classes of Engineering in Public Gesture Management , and Engineering in Environment Gesture Management . The university worked at the dependencies of Liceo Agustín Ross Edwards until 2008 . At least ten people obtained their professional titles , while other ten are still in the process of obtaining their titles , as of December 2011 . In November 2011 , Governor of Cardenal Caro Province Julio Ibarra announced that an institute of higher education

would be brought to the province , whose name , Instituto Profesional IPG (IPG Professional Institute) , was disclosed one month later . During the inauguration of the 2012 school year in Pichilemu , Education Regional Secretary Minister (Seremi) Pedro Larraín said IPEGE would work in the dependencies of Colegio de la Preciosa Sangre of Pichilemu .