

City walk

Start at the (1) Plaza de Armas. On the opposite side of the Plaza de Armas is the (2) museum of Ancud, a blue building in concrete and wood with sandstone towers. Things to see in the museum are a life like replica of a wooden sailboat that took the Magellan strait for Chile, the bones of a Blue Whale that beached in April 2005, photos of the old Ancud before and after the earthquake of 1960, a display of the circular mission, tools of the indigenous people and different artefacts of life on the island. The museum is closed on Mondays.

The Plaza de Armas has a nice bandstand and sculptures of different mythological figures.

Cross the Plaza and pass the new (3) Catedral to your right. The modern tower was finished in January 2013. Follow street Ramírez and turn right into street Monseñor Aguilera. There are some beautiful houses made with typical wooden shingles in this street.

Turn left at street Errázuriz and cross the street. At your right side is the (4) Fundación de amigos de las Iglesias de Chiloé. This foundation organises the restoration of the UNESCO protected churches and has an interesting exhibition. Open every day of the year. Continue up hill on street Errázuriz. This is one of the oldest streets in the centre and at your left and right sides are shingled wooden houses. Most houses here were not affected by the earthquake in 1960. Pass streets Chacabuco, Las Heras, Maipú, Mocopulli, Los Carrera, Goycolea and Yerbas Buenas. At your right almost at the top of the hill is the (5) church of San Francisco. The church was built in the early 1900's and is a good example of the 'escuela Chilota' or Chiloe's carpenter school. From San Francisco church you have an overview of the city centre of Ancud.

Opposite the church is street San Carlos. Enter this street and directly at your left is street Ramírez. Turn left and follow street Ramírez down for three blocks and then take a right at street Maipú. Cross street Pudeto and continue in what changes from street Maipú into street Pedro Montt. Follow Pedro Montt until you arrive at a busy intersection with street Arturo Prat. At your right is the (6) Feria Rural Municipal. Farmers and fishermen sell their products here. The Feria is the real heart of the city. You will see what local people eat, produce and catch from the sea. These products can't be found in the supermarket.

Take a left at Arturo Prat and follow for two blocks. At your left hand side is the new handicraft market (7) with also a small display of local vegetables, fish and shellfish. Walk a little bit back, cross the street and climb street Baquedano.

Before the intersection with street O'Higgins at your right is the (8) Police station or Carabineros. An old building from the late 1800's it is worth a visit if you can find a friendly 'Carabinero' to take you around. Cross O'Higgins and continue along Baquedano. A few meters after the intersection with street Antonio Burr is the (9) Polvorín. The Spaniards used this underground building to provide the fortress with arms. At the end of Baquedano is a steep road to your left that will take you to the quiet city beach of (10) Arena Gruesa. An amphitheatre carved out of the rocks is the set up for music, dance and folklore events in summer. Take the same way back along street Baquedano and at the 5-road intersection take street San Antonio to your right. A few meters past the big wooden hotel is the (11) Fuerte San Antonio. The remains of this fortress were once the main defence point for the Spanish on the island of Chiloé. You will get splendid views over the bay of Ancud. It is an ideal place also to see the sunset.

Go down along street Cochrane to arrive at the (12) Puerto or harbour and watch the fishermen unload their goods or set out to sail. Street Cochrane turns into street Arturo Prat. Follow Arturo Prat till the intersection and take a right into the (13) Costanera or Avenida Salvador Allende. A leisurely stroll takes you along the seaside. Just

behind the big yellow hotel take a left and left again into street Libertad to arrive at the Plaza de Armas where the walk started.