Valparaíso

**Valparaíso** ([/ˌvælpəˈraɪzoʊ, -soʊ/](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:IPA/English); Spanish: [[balpaɾaˈiso]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:IPA/Spanish)) is a major city, [commune](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Communes_of_Chile), seaport, [naval base](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Naval_base), and educational centre in the [Valparaíso Region](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valpara%C3%ADso_Region), [Chile](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chile).

"[Greater Valparaíso](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greater_Valpara%C3%ADso)" is the second largest metropolitan area in the country. Despite only being the second largest city in the metropolitan area of Greater Valparaíso, with the first being [Viña del Mar](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vi%C3%B1a_del_Mar), Valparaíso serves as the namesake for the region due to its historical and cultural significance. Valparaíso is located about 120 km (75 mi) northwest of [Santiago](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Santiago) by road and is one of the [Pacific Ocean](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pacific_Ocean)'s most important seaports. Valparaíso is the [capital](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Capital_city) of Chile's second most populated administrative region and has been the headquarters for the [Chilean Navy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chilean_Navy) since 1817 and the seat of the [Chilean National Congress](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Congress_of_Chile) since 1990.

Valparaíso played an important geopolitical role in the second half of the 19th century when it served as a major stopover for ships traveling between the [Atlantic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atlantic) and [Pacific](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pacific) oceans by crossing the [Straits of Magellan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Straits_of_Magellan). Valparaíso experienced rapid growth during its golden age, as a magnet for European immigrants, when the city was known by international sailors as "Little [San Francisco](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/San_Francisco)" and "The Jewel of the [Pacific](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pacific)".[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valpara%C3%ADso#cite_note-3) Notable inheritances from its golden age include [Latin America](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Latin_America)'s oldest [stock exchange](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stock_exchange), the continent's first volunteer [fire department](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fire_department), Chile's first [public library](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Public_library), and the oldest [Spanish language](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spanish_language) newspaper in continuous publication in the world, [*El Mercurio de Valparaíso*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/El_Mercurio_de_Valpara%C3%ADso). In 2003, the historic quarter of Valparaíso was declared a [UNESCO](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UNESCO) [World Heritage Site](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Heritage_Site).

The twentieth century was unfavorable to Valparaíso, as many wealthy families abandoned the city. The opening of the [Panama Canal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Panama_Canal) in 1914 and the associated reduction in ship traffic dealt a serious blow to Valparaíso's port-based economy. In the 21st century the port of [San Antonio](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/San_Antonio,_Chile) has surpassed Valparaíso in trade volume ([TEU](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twenty-foot_equivalent_unit)) handled,[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valpara%C3%ADso#cite_note-4) leading to the questioning of its traditional moniker *Puerto Principal* ("Main Port" of Chile).[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valpara%C3%ADso#cite_note-5)

Over the first 15 years of the twenty-first century, the city reached a recovery, attracting artists and cultural entrepreneurs who have set up in the city's hillside historic districts. Today, many thousands of tourists visit Valparaíso from around the world to enjoy the city's labyrinth of cobbled alleys and colorful buildings. The port of Valparaíso continues to be a major distribution center for container traffic, copper, and fruit exports. Valparaíso also receives growing attention from cruise ships that visit during the South American summer. Most significantly, Valparaíso has transformed itself into a major educational center with four large [traditional universities](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chilean_Traditional_Universities) and several large vocational colleges. The city is known for its [bohemian culture](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bohemianism),[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valpara%C3%ADso#cite_note-6) with festivals every year and street artists and musicians.

History[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Valpara%C3%ADso&action=edit&section=1)]

Some older works starting with [Benjamín Vicuña Mackenna](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Benjam%C3%ADn_Vicu%C3%B1a_Mackenna) (1869) claim that Valparaíso was within the range of the [Chango people](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chango_people), but clear evidence for this is lacking.[[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valpara%C3%ADso#cite_note-7)

The Bay of Valparaíso's first ethnically identifiable population were [Picunche](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Picunche" \o "Picunche) natives, known for their agriculture. [Spanish](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spanish_people) explorers, considered the first European discoverers of Chile, arrived in 1536, aboard the *Santiaguillo*, a supply ship sent by [Diego de Almagro](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diego_de_Almagro). The *Santiaguillo* carried men and supplies for Almagro's expedition, under the command of [Juan de Saavedra](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Juan_de_Saavedra), who named the town after his native village of [Valparaíso de Arriba](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valpara%C3%ADso_de_Arriba) in [Cuenca Province](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cuenca_Province_(Spain)), Spain.

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View of Valparaíso Bay (1830)

During Spanish colonial times, Valparaíso remained a small village, with only a few houses and a church. On some occasions she was attacked by English pirates and privateers, such as [Francis Drake](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Francis_Drake) with his ship [*Golden Hind*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Golden_Hind) in 1578[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valpara%C3%ADso#cite_note-8) and later his cousin [Richard Hawkins](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_Hawkins) with his ship [*Dainty*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/English_ship_Dainty_(1588)) in 1594. Drake's sack of Valparaíso gave origin to the legend about [Cueva del Pirata](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cueva_del_Pirata).[[9]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valpara%C3%ADso#cite_note-Sonia2015-9)

In 1810, a wealthy merchant built the first pier in the [history of Chile](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Chile) and the first during the colonial era. In its place today, stands the building of El Mercurio de Valparaíso. The ocean then rose to this point. Reclamation of land from the sea moved the coastline five blocks away. Between 1810 and 1830, he built much of the existing port of the city, including much of the land reclamation work that now provides the city's commercial centre.[[*citation needed*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Citation_needed)]

In 1814, the naval [Battle of Valparaíso](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Valpara%C3%ADso) was fought offshore of the town, between American and British ships involved in the [War of 1812](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/War_of_1812).

After Chile's independence from Spain (1818), beginning the [Republican Era](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Republican_Chile), Valparaíso became the main harbour for the nascent Chilean navy, and opened international trade opportunities that had been formerly limited to Spain and its other colonies.

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Valparaíso (c. 1863)

Valparaíso soon became a desired stopover for ships rounding South America via the [Straits of Magellan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Straits_of_Magellan) and [Cape Horn](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cape_Horn). It gained particular importance supporting and supplying the [California Gold Rush](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/California_Gold_Rush) (1848–1858). As a major seaport, Valparaíso received immigrants from many European countries, mainly from [Britain](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_people), [Germany](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German_Chilean), [France](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/French_people), [Switzerland](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Swiss_people) and [Italy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Italian_Chilean). German, French, Italian and English were commonly spoken among its citizens, who founded and published newspapers in these languages.

Valparaíso found maritime competition with Callao (Perú). Both cities sought to be the dominant port on the Pacific Coast of South America during the period of time known as the High Trade (1880-1930). [[10]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valpara%C3%ADso#cite_note-10)

The [British community](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Chilean), *La Colonia Britanica*, prospered in Valparaíso between the 1820s and 1920s. Firms such as [Antony Gibbs & Sons](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antony_Gibbs_%26_Sons), Duncan Fox, and [Williamson-Balfour Company](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Williamson-Balfour_Company) were doing business in the town, which had become a significant trading center by 1840, with 166 British ships, out of a total of 287, anchored in its port. The British settled on Cerro Alegre (Mount Pleasant) and Cerro Concepción. The Association of Voluntary Firemen was created in 1851, a telegraph service to Santiago was operating by 1852, and Chile's first telephone service was set up in 1880. The British Hospital was founded in 1897, and the British Arch, *Arco Británico*, was erected in 1911. However, by 1895, Italian immigrants exceeded the British, and both the Italians and Germans were in larger numbers by 1907. By 1920, both the Italians and Spanish outnumbered the British, and the primary British community within Chile resided in Santiago.[[11]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valpara%C3%ADso#cite_note-11)

[A picture containing text, building, outdoor, sketch

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[1906 Valparaíso earthquake](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1906_Valpara%C3%ADso_earthquake)

International immigration transformed the local culture from Spanish origins and Amerindian origins, in ways that included the construction of the first non-Catholic cemetery of [Chile](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chile), the [Dissidents' Cemetery](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dissidents_Cemetery). [Football (soccer)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Association_football) was introduced to Chile by [English immigrants](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/English_Chilean); and the first private Catholic school in Chile (*Le Collège des Sacrés Cœurs,* "The College of the Sacred Hearts"), [French immigrants in Valparaíso](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/French_Chilean); which has been operating for about 170 years. Immigrants from Scotland and Germany founded the first private secular schools, ([The Mackay School](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Mackay_School), and *Die Deutsche Schule,* respectively). Immigrants formed the first volunteer fire-fighting units (still a volunteer activity in Chile). Their buildings reflected a variety of European styles, making Valparaíso more varied than some other Chilean cities.

On August 18, 1906, a major earthquake struck Valparaíso; there was extensive property damage and thousands of deaths. The Chilean doctor, Carlos Van Buren, of [U.S.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_Americans_in_Chile) descent, was involved in the medical care of earthquake victims. He later established a modern hospital [Carlos Van Buren Hospital](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Carlos_Van_Buren_Hospital&action=edit&redlink=1) in 1912.[[*citation needed*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Citation_needed)]

The golden age of Valparaíso's commerce ended after the opening of the [Panama Canal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Panama_Canal) in 1914. Shipping shifted to the canal as captains sought to avoid the risks of the Strait of Magellan. The port's use and traffic declined significantly, causing a decline in the city's economy. The opening of the Panama Canal was one of the most critical events in the shaping of Valparaío's economy.[[12]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valpara%C3%ADso#cite_note-12) Since the turn of the 21st century, shipping has increased in the last few decades with fruit exports, increasing opening of the [Chilean economy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chilean_economy) to world commerce, and larger-scale, [Post-Panamax](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Post-Panamax) ships that do not fit the Panama Canal.

**19th century**[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Valpara%C3%ADso&action=edit&section=2)]

[A picture containing outdoor, sky, building, house

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Daguerreotype of Valparaíso about 1852

[A picture containing building, outdoor, text, drawing

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Picture of the [Church of San Francisco](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/San_Francisco_Church_(Valpara%C3%ADso)) in 1864

[A picture containing outdoor, building, water, boat

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Picture of the city in 1888

On March 28, 1814, the USS *Essex* was defeated by British frigates *Phoebe* and *Cherub* during the [War of 1812](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/War_of_1812), leading to the deaths of 58 US Marines. (Captain [David Porter](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Porter_(naval_officer)), a survivor of this attack, would retire to Portersville, Indiana, and request changing the name to [Valparaiso](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valparaiso,_Indiana), commemorating the only naval battle he ever lost.) By August 2, 1820, the [Liberating Expedition of Peru](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Freedom_Expedition_of_Per%C3%BA) sails from Valparaíso.

At 10:30 pm on the evening of November 19, 1822, Valparaíso experienced a violent earthquake that left the city in ruins; of the 16,000 residents, casualties included at least 66 adults and 12 children, as well as 110 people wounded. The next day, a meteor trail was visible from Quillota to Valparaíso, seen as a religious experience for much of the population.

In 1826, the [Royal Navy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal_Navy) Great Britain established a [South America Station](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pacific_Station) in Valparaíso to maintain British naval interest in the region. It would remain until 1837, when it was relocated to [Esquimalt, British Columbia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Esquimalt,_British_Columbia).

September 12, 1827 saw the establishment of [*El Mercurio de Valparaíso*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/El_Mercurio_de_Valpara%C3%ADso), the oldest circulating newspaper in the [Spanish language](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spanish_language) worldwide.

In May 1828, a constitutional convention began regular meetings in the [church of San Francisco](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/San_Francisco_Church_(Valpara%C3%ADso)). By August 9, the [Constitution of the Republic of Chile](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chilean_Constitution_of_1980) was fully drafted and disseminated.

On June 6, 1837, Minister [Diego Portales](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diego_Portales) was shot at the port outside of [Baron Hill](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bar%C3%B3n_Hill) on suspicion of promoting conspirators who opposed the [Peru-Bolivian Confederation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/War_of_the_Confederation), considered a turning point of Chilean public opinion and the purpose of the war.

By 1851, the first fire brigade in the country was formed. The next year potable running water became available, as well as the first [telegraph](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Telegraph) service in Latin America, between the city and [Santiago](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Santiago). It would be another four years before streetlights, with 700 gas lanterns, were installed. In 1861 the first tram company was formed, mostly using horses or mules to draw them, and fully established over the next few years.

In 1852, British shipping company Williamson, Balfour & Cía was established in Valparaíso to handle trade in the region. [[13]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valpara%C3%ADso#cite_note-13)

Taking advantage of the total lack of defenses, a Spanish fleet commanded by [Casto Méndez Núñez](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Casto_M%C3%A9ndez_N%C3%BA%C3%B1ez) [bombarded the city](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bombardment_of_Valpara%C3%ADso) during the [Chincha Islands War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chincha_Islands_War) in 1866. Chilean merchant ships were sunk, except for those vessels whose captains hoisted foreign flags.

A merger of the National Steamship Company and Chilean Steamship Company, the [South American Steamship Company](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CSAV) was created as a national response to the increasing dominance of the Pacific Steam Navigation Company in 1872. In 1880 the Chilean Telephone Company was formed by Americans Joseph Husbands, Peter MacKellar, James Martin, and the US consul Lucius Foot, the first official telephone company in the country. Three years later on the first of December, Concepción funicular opened, the first of many hydraulic systems. After the country's independence and its consequent openness to international trade, Valparaíso became an important port of call on trade routes through the Eastern Pacific. Many immigrants settled there, mostly from Europe and North America, who helped include Valparaíso and [Chile](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chile) in the [industrial revolution](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Industrial_revolution) sweeping other parts of the world. This created a different city with civil, financial, commercial and industrial institutions, many of which still exist today.

All this resulted in a population increases. The city reached more than 160,000 inhabitants in the late nineteenth century, making it necessary to use the steep hills for more houses, mansions and even cemeteries. The lack of available land caused the city authorities and developers to reclaim low lying tidal marshland (polders) upon which to build administrative, commercial and industrial infrastructure.

**20th century**[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Valpara%C3%ADso&action=edit&section=3)]

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Headlines of [*El Mercurio de Valparaíso*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/El_Mercurio_de_Valpara%C3%ADso) on May 14, 1903. In English, it reads: "The Strike of the Seafarers. Fire of the South American Company. Assault on the printing press of "El Mercurio". Fire of the Malecon. Attitude of the Authority. The troops arrived from Santiago. The calm is restored. Meetings in the Municipality. It reaches an Arrangement. The Court of Appeals. The city in State of Siege. *El Mercurio, 1903*

The twentieth century began with the first big protest of dockworkers, Chile on April 15, 1903, due to complaints by dockers about their excessive working hours and demands for higher wages, requests that were ignored by employers, creating a tense situation that led to serious violence on May 12. There were protests and the burning of the [CSAV](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CSAV) offices and several people were shot and killed. All this prompted intervention by the state. This protest was important for the future of Trade Unionism in the country.

The same year, electric trams were introduced.

The [1906 Valparaíso earthquake](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1906_Valpara%C3%ADso_earthquake) caused severe damage throughout the city on August 16, which was at that time the heart of the Chilean economy.

The damage was valued at hundreds of millions of pesos of the time, and human victims were counted at 3,000 dead and over 20,000 injured. After the removal of the debris, reconstruction work began. This included the widening of streets, culverting and covering streams, (Jaime and Delicias – creating the avenues Francia and Argentina respectively). The main street of the city (Pedro Montt) was laid and Plaza O'Higgins was created; a hill was removed to allow the passage of Colon Street. The damaged Edwards mansion was demolished and in its place, the present Cathedral of Valparaíso was built and, among many other works, this gave shape to the Almendral Valparaíso area.

In 1910, the port expansion work of the city, which ended in 1930, began. A long breakwater was built, along with piers and docking terminals.

The Imperial German East Asia Squadron engaged the British West Indies Squadron on 1 November 1914 at the [Battle of Coronel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Coronel) off the coast of Valparaiso, sinking two British cruisers. After the battle the East Asia Squadron stayed in Valparaiso Harbor before continuing to the Falklands.

In November 1915, [Augusto Pinochet](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Augusto_Pinochet) was born in the city.

**21st century**[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Valpara%C3%ADso&action=edit&section=4)]

[A large white building with a steeple

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[Edificio Armada de Chile](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edificio_Armada_de_Chile).

Chile's legislature along with other institutions of national importance like the National Customs Service, the National Fish and Aquaculture Ministry, the Ministry of Culture and the Barracks General of the [Chilean Navy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chilean_Navy) are sited in the city. In addition to the capital of the Valparaíso Region hosts the Regional Administration and government.

In 2003, Valparaíso became an [UNESCO World Heritage Centre](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UNESCO_World_Heritage_Centre). This title was awarded to Valparaiso for its unique urban form, as well as its clear maintained historical background as a colorful port city. In becoming a World Heritage Center, Valparaíso is tasked with maintaining its cultural heritage, through the maintenance of its historic infrastructure, like its [Ascensores](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valpara%C3%ADso_funiculars).

On April 13, 2014, [a huge brush fire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2014_Valpara%C3%ADso_wildfire) burned out of control, destroying 2,800 homes and killing 16 people, forcing President [Michelle Bachelet](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michelle_Bachelet) to declare it a disaster zone.[[14]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valpara%C3%ADso#cite_note-14)

Geography[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Valpara%C3%ADso&action=edit&section=5)]

Valparaíso is located in central Chile, 120 km (75 mi) to the north west of the capital [Santiago](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Santiago,_Chile). Valparaíso, like most of Chile, is vulnerable to earthquakes. Before the [earthquake of February 27, 2010](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2010_Chile_earthquake), which measured 8.8 on the [moment magnitude scale](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moment_magnitude_scale),[[15]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valpara%C3%ADso#cite_note-yahoo-15) the last catastrophic earthquake to strike Valparaíso devastated the city in [August 1906](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1906_Valpara%C3%ADso_earthquake), killing nearly 3,000 people.[[16]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valpara%C3%ADso#cite_note-16) Other significant earthquakes to affect the city were the [1730 Valparaíso earthquake](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1730_Valpara%C3%ADso_earthquake) and the [1985 Algarrobo earthquake](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1985_Algarrobo_earthquake).

**Geology**[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Valpara%C3%ADso&action=edit&section=6)]

Because of Valparaíso's proximity to the [Peru–Chile Trench](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peru%E2%80%93Chile_Trench), the city is vulnerable to earthquakes. The Peru–Chile Trench stores large amounts of energy for a very long time and sometimes ruptures after short intervals in a violent earthquake.

**Climate**[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Valpara%C3%ADso&action=edit&section=7)]

Valparaíso has a very mild [Mediterranean climate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mediterranean_climate) ([Köppen](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/K%C3%B6ppen_climate_classification" \o "Köppen climate classification) *Csb*). The summer is essentially dry, but the city is affected by fogs from the [Humboldt Current](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Humboldt_Current) during most of the year. In the winter, rainfall can occasionally be extremely heavy when a powerful frontal system crosses central Chile, but frequency of such rains varies greatly from year to year. Monthly average temperatures vary just around 6°C between the coolest and the warmest month, from 17 °C (63 °F) in January to 11.4 °C (52.5 °F) in July. Snowfall occurs rarely in the highest parts of the city. In winter, strong winds can lead to [wind chill](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wind_chill) temperatures below freezing.[[*citation needed*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Citation_needed)]

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| **hideClimate data for Valparaíso, Chile (1961–1990, extremes 1961–2010)** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Month** | **Jan** | **Feb** | **Mar** | **Apr** | **May** | **Jun** | **Jul** | **Aug** | **Sep** | **Oct** | **Nov** | **Dec** | **Year** |
| **Record high °C (°F)** | 31.2 (88.2) | 31.9 (89.4) | 28.9 (84.0) | 29.6 (85.3) | 28.6 (83.5) | 24.2 (75.6) | 25.8 (78.4) | 26.4 (79.5) | 28.4 (83.1) | 28.5 (83.3) | 28.9 (84.0) | 31.2 (88.2) | 31.9 (89.4) |
| **Average high °C (°F)** | 20.8 (69.4) | 20.7 (69.3) | 19.4 (66.9) | 17.9 (64.2) | 16.5 (61.7) | 15.2 (59.4) | 14.3 (57.7) | 14.8 (58.6) | 15.4 (59.7) | 16.5 (61.7) | 18.2 (64.8) | 19.9 (67.8) | 17.5 (63.5) |
| **Daily mean °C (°F)** | 17.0 (62.6) | 16.8 (62.2) | 15.6 (60.1) | 14.2 (57.6) | 13.3 (55.9) | 12.0 (53.6) | 11.4 (52.5) | 11.7 (53.1) | 12.1 (53.8) | 13.2 (55.8) | 14.7 (58.5) | 16.2 (61.2) | 14.0 (57.2) |
| **Average low °C (°F)** | 13.5 (56.3) | 13.5 (56.3) | 12.7 (54.9) | 11.4 (52.5) | 10.8 (51.4) | 9.6 (49.3) | 9.2 (48.6) | 9.3 (48.7) | 9.5 (49.1) | 10.4 (50.7) | 11.5 (52.7) | 12.8 (55.0) | 11.2 (52.2) |
| **Record low °C (°F)** | 3.0 (37.4) | 2.8 (37.0) | 0.4 (32.7) | −0.3 (31.5) | −1.2 (29.8) | −2.3 (27.9) | −3.6 (25.5) | −2.4 (27.7) | −3.2 (26.2) | −1.2 (29.8) | 0.4 (32.7) | 1.2 (34.2) | −3.6 (25.5) |
| **Average**[**precipitation**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Precipitation)**mm (inches)** | 0.4 (0.02) | 0.0 (0.0) | 3.7 (0.15) | 13.3 (0.52) | 54.5 (2.15) | 83.1 (3.27) | 111.2 (4.38) | 60.0 (2.36) | 26.7 (1.05) | 10.4 (0.41) | 7.9 (0.31) | 1.3 (0.05) | 372.5 (14.67) |
| **Average precipitation days (≥ 1.0 mm)** | 0.1 | 0.0 | 0.4 | 1.3 | 3.7 | 5.6 | 6.3 | 4.0 | 2.7 | 1.5 | 0.7 | 0.3 | 27.3 |
| **Average**[**relative humidity**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Relative_humidity)**(%)** | 72 | 74 | 76 | 78 | 80 | 80 | 80 | 79 | 78 | 75 | 71 | 70 | 76 |
| **Mean monthly**[**sunshine hours**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sunshine_duration) | 279.0 | 245.7 | 217.0 | 174.0 | 114.7 | 81.0 | 93.0 | 117.8 | 147.0 | 170.5 | 216.0 | 263.5 | 2,119.2 |
| Source 1: Meteorología Interactiva,[[17]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valpara%C3%ADso#cite_note-climatologica-17) Latin American Climate Assessment & Dataset (extremes 1961–2010)[[18]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valpara%C3%ADso#cite_note-LACADRR1-18)[[19]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valpara%C3%ADso#cite_note-LACAD-19)[[a]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valpara%C3%ADso#cite_note-20) | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Source 2: Climate & Temperature (humidity and sunshine hours)[[20]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valpara%C3%ADso#cite_note-21) | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Cityscape[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Valpara%C3%ADso&action=edit&section=8)]

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Historic Quarter of the Seaport City of Valparaíso** | |
| [**UNESCO World Heritage Site**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Heritage_Site) | |
| [A group of buildings on a hill  Description automatically generated with low confidence](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Cerro_Concepcion.jpg)  Cerro Concepción | |
| [**Criteria**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Heritage_Site#Selection_criteria) | Cultural: iii |
| **Reference** | [959](https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/959) |
| **Inscription** | 2003 (27th [Session](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Heritage_Committee)) |
| **Area** | 23.2 ha |
| **Buffer zone** | 44.5 ha |

[A car driving down a street

Description automatically generated with low confidence](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Valpara%C3%ADso_-_20081207-08.jpg)

A street in Valparaiso

[A row of colorful houses

Description automatically generated with low confidence](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Coloured_Fronts_(3927272807).jpg)

Many houses in Valparaíso are colourfully painted

Nicknamed "The Jewel of the Pacific", Valparaíso was declared a world heritage site based upon its improvised urban design and unique architecture. In 1996, the World Monuments Fund declared Valparaíso's unusual system of [funicular](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Funicular) lifts (steeply inclined carriages) one of the world's 100 most endangered historical treasures. In 1998, grassroots activists convinced the Chilean government and local authorities to apply for UNESCO world heritage status for Valparaíso. Valparaíso was declared a [World Heritage Site](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Heritage_Site#Chile) in 2003. Built upon dozens of steep hillsides overlooking the Pacific Ocean, Valparaíso has a labyrinth of streets and cobblestone alleyways, embodying a rich architectural and cultural legacy. Valparaíso is protected as a [UNESCO World Heritage Site](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UNESCO_World_Heritage_Site).

Since its status as a World Heritage Site, Valparaíso has made several changes to its urban fabric in the process of maintaining its cultural heritage.

Landmarks include:

* [Iglesia de la Matriz](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iglesia_de_la_Matriz)
* [Plaza Aníbal Pinto](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plaza_An%C3%ADbal_Pinto)
* [Plaza Sotomayor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plaza_Sotomayor) including the [Edificio Armada de Chile](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edificio_Armada_de_Chile" \o "Edificio Armada de Chile)
* [Edificio Luis Cousiño](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edificio_Luis_Cousi%C3%B1o)
* [Courthouse](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palacio_de_los_Tribunales_de_Justicia_de_Valpara%C3%ADso)
* 16 remaining [funiculars](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Funicular) (called ascensores): 15 public (national monuments) and 1 private (which belongs to "Hospital Carlos Van Buren").[[21]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valpara%C3%ADso#cite_note-22)
* The Concepcion and Alegre historical district
* The Bellavista hill, which has the "Museo a Cielo Abierto" or "open air museum"
* Monument to [Admiral Lord Thomas Alexander Cochrane, 10th Earl of Dundonald](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_Cochrane,_10th_Earl_of_Dundonald)
* Monument to [Manuel Blanco Encalada](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manuel_Blanco_Encalada), first Chilean President
* Cemeteries on [Panteón Hill](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pante%C3%B3n_Hill" \o "Panteón Hill) – [Cemetery Number One](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cementerio_N%C2%B0_1_de_Valpara%C3%ADso) (Catholic) and [Dissidents Cemetery](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dissidents_Cemetery) (Protestant)

**Gallery**[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Valpara%C3%ADso&action=edit&section=9)]

[A picture containing outdoor, building, house, vehicle

Description automatically generated](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Ascensor_Conception-_Built_in_1883.jpg)

Ascensor "Conception" built in 1883

Demographics[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Valpara%C3%ADso&action=edit&section=10)]

Although technically only Chile's sixth largest city, with an urban area population of 263,499 (275,982 in municipality[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valpara%C3%ADso#cite_note-INE-2)), the [Greater Valparaíso](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gran_Valpara%C3%ADso) metropolitan area, including the neighbouring cities of [Viña del Mar](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vi%C3%B1a_del_Mar), [Concón](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Conc%C3%B3n), [Quilpué](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quilpu%C3%A9" \o "Quilpué) and [Villa Alemana](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Villa_Alemana), is the second largest in the country (803,683 inhabitants).

According to the 2002 census of the [National Statistics Institute](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Statistics_Institute_(Chile)), the commune of Valparaíso spans an area of 401.6 km2 (155 sq mi) and has 275,982 inhabitants (135,217 men and 140,765 women). Of these, 275,141 (99.7%) lived in urban areas and 841 (0.3%) in [rural areas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rural_area). The population declined by 2.4% (6858 persons) between the 1992 and 2002 censuses.[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valpara%C3%ADso#cite_note-INE-2)

Residents of Valparaíso are commonly called *[porteños](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Porte%C3%B1o" \o "Porteño)* (feminine: *porteñas*).[[22]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valpara%C3%ADso#cite_note-nyt-2009nov-23)[[23]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valpara%C3%ADso#cite_note-stgotimes2011-01-21-24)

Government[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Valpara%C3%ADso&action=edit&section=11)]

As a commune, Valparaíso is a third-level [administrative division of Chile](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Administrative_division_of_Chile) administered by a [municipal council](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Municipal_council), headed by an [alcalde](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alcalde) who is directly elected every four years. The 2021–2024 alcalde is [Jorge Sharp Fajardo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jorge_Sharp).

The [Chilean Congress](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chilean_Congress) meets in a modern building in the Almendral section of Valparaíso, after relocation from Santiago during the last years of the dictatorship of General [Augusto Pinochet](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Augusto_Pinochet). Although congressional activities were to be legally moved by a ruling in 1987, the newly built site only began to function as the seat of Congress during the government of [Patricio Aylwin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patricio_Aylwin) in 1990.

Economy[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Valpara%C3%ADso&action=edit&section=12)]

[A picture containing outdoor, water, sky, boat

Description automatically generated](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Porto_de_Valparaiso_-_Chile_-_by_S%C3%A9rgio_Schmiegelow.jpg)

Port of Valparaíso

Major industries include tourism, culture, shipping and freight transport.

Approximately 50 international cruise ships call on Valparaíso during the 4-month Chilean summer. The port of Valparaíso is also an important hub for container freight and exports many products, including wine, copper, and fresh fruit.

[A picture containing cargo container, shipping container, sky, outdoor

Description automatically generated](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Port_of_Valparaiso_Shipping.jpg)

Container Shipping Port

Transport[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Valpara%C3%ADso&action=edit&section=13)]

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Metrovalchile.jpg)

Metro Valparaíso

[A picture containing map, text, diagram, screenshot

Description automatically generated](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:MetroValpara%C3%ADso.svg)

Metro Valparaiso Map

[A bus on the street

Description automatically generated with low confidence](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Valpara%C3%ADso_Pullman_trolleybus_715.jpg)

One of the historic [trolleybuses](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trolleybuses_in_Valpara%C3%ADso) that are still in daily service in 2019

A [commuter rail](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Commuter_rail) service, the [Valparaíso Metro](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valpara%C3%ADso_Metro), opened to the public on 24 November 2005. The creation of this system involved updating parts of the Valparaíso-Santiago Railway, originally built in 1863. The Valparaíso Metro constitutes the so-called "fourth stage" ("Cuarta Etapa") of Metropolitan improvements. The Metro now connects the city core of Valparaíso with [Viña del Mar](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vi%C3%B1a_del_Mar) and other cities. It extends along most of Gran Valparaíso, and is the second underground urban rail system in operation in Chile (after Santiago's), as it includes a tunnel section that crosses Viña del Mar's commercial district. The proposed [Santiago–Valparaíso railway line](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Santiago%E2%80%93Valpara%C3%ADso_railway_line) would link Valparaíso and Santiago in around 45 minutes.

[Public transport](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Public_transport) within Valparaíso itself is provided primarily by buses, [trolleybuses](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trolleybus) and [funiculars](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Funicular). The buses provide an efficient and regular service to and from the city centre and the numerous hills where most people live, as well as to neighbouring towns while more distant towns are served by long-distance [coaches](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coach_(bus)). Buses are operated by several private companies and regulated by the Regional Ministry of Transport, which controls fares and routes.[[24]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valpara%C3%ADso#cite_note-juts2009-25) The [Valparaíso trolleybus system](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trolleybuses_in_Valpara%C3%ADso) has been in operation since 1952, and in 2019 it continues to use some of its original vehicles, built in 1952 by the [Pullman-Standard Company](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pullman_Company), along with an assortment of other vehicles acquired later.[[25]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valpara%C3%ADso#cite_note-26)[[26]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valpara%C3%ADso#cite_note-27)[[27]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valpara%C3%ADso#cite_note-mercurio2014apr1-28) Some of Valparaíso's Pullman trolleybuses are even older, built in 1946–48, having been acquired secondhand from Santiago in the 1970s. The surviving Pullman trolleybuses are the oldest trolleybuses still in normal service anywhere in the world,[[24]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valpara%C3%ADso#cite_note-juts2009-25)[[28]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valpara%C3%ADso#cite_note-29) and they were collectively declared National Historic Monuments by the Chilean government in 2003.[[24]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valpara%C3%ADso#cite_note-juts2009-25)[[29]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valpara%C3%ADso#cite_note-estrella2003jul-30)

Valparaíso's road infrastructure has been undergoing improvement, particularly with the completion of the "Curauma — Placilla — La Pólvora" freeway bypass,[[30]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valpara%C3%ADso#cite_note-31) which will allow trucks to go directly to the port facility over a modern highway and through tunnels, without driving through the historic and already congested downtown streets. In addition, roads to link Valparaíso to San Antonio, Chile's second-largest port, and the coastal towns in between (Laguna Verde, Quintay, Algarrobo, and Isla Negra, for example), are also under construction. Travel between Valparaíso and Santiago takes about 80 minutes via a modern toll highway.

Internal passenger air services to Valparaíso are provided through the airport at [Quintero](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quintero) which is some distance from the city but now served by good roads. The great majority of foreign visitors arrive through Santiago or on cruise liners.

[A picture containing outdoor, sky, window, building

Description automatically generated](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Ascensor_Polanco_Superior.jpg)

[Polanco Lift](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Polanco_Lift)

[A picture containing outdoor, building, aerial photography, house

Description automatically generated](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Ascensor_Artiller%C3%ADa.jpg)

[Artillería funicular railway](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Artiller%C3%ADa_funicular_railway)

**Funiculars**[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Valpara%C3%ADso&action=edit&section=14)]

*Main article:*[*Funiculars of Valparaíso*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Funiculars_of_Valpara%C3%ADso)

Because of the slopes of the hills, many of the surrounding areas of Valparaíso are inaccessible by public transport. That is why "elevators" serve the function of communicating the high part of the city with the [plan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plan_de_Valpara%C3%ADso), besides being a strong holiday highlight. The only [elevator](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elevator) that can truly be called as such, is the [*Ascensor Polanco*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Polanco_Lift), because it is vertical. Meanwhile, the rest are cable cars but traditionally called elevators. Several of those [funiculars](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Funicular) – locally called *ascensores* – provide public transport service between the central area and the lower slopes of the surrounding hills,[[24]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valpara%C3%ADso#cite_note-juts2009-25) the first of which ([Ascensor Concepción](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ascensor_Concepci%C3%B3n), also known as Ascensor Turri) opened in 1883, operated by steam, is still in service.[[31]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valpara%C3%ADso#cite_note-merc-4Apr2019-ascensor-32)[[32]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valpara%C3%ADso#cite_note-morrison-33)[[33]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valpara%C3%ADso#cite_note-34) The Cerro Cordillera elevator was built in 1887. As many as 28 different funicular railways have served Valparaíso at one time or another, of which 14 were still in operation in 1992[[32]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valpara%C3%ADso#cite_note-morrison-33) and still around 12 in 2010.

[A picture containing train, track, outdoor, railroad

Description automatically generated](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Ascensor_Conception.jpg)

Ascensor Conception- built 1883

Valparaíso has fifteen lifts declared Historical Monuments by the National Monuments Council. Five are municipal property and the remaining belong to four private companies. The elevators are elevators municipal Baron, El Peral, Polanco, Queen Victoria and St. Augustine. As for the rest, lifts Florida, Butterflies and Nuns are owned by the National Elevator Company SA; Artillery, Concepción and Mountains belong to the Society of Mechanical Lifts Valparaíso Holy Spirit, Larraín and Villaseca (stopped for repairs) are the property of Valparaíso Elevators Company SA, and Dairy (stopped by fire) belongs to the Society of Dairy Cerro Lifts Ltd.

As a part of its 2003 declaration as a [UNESCO World Heritage Site](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Heritage_Site), Valparaíso has promised to replace and maintain its several funiculars. The funiculars were identified as an important cultural artifact.

**Valparaíso public transportation statistics**[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Valpara%C3%ADso&action=edit&section=15)]

The average amount of time people spend commuting with public transit in Valparaíso and Viña del Mar, for example to and from work, on a weekday is 68 min. 15% of public transit riders, ride for more than 2 hours every day. The average amount of time people wait at a stop or station for public transit is 13 min, while 15% of riders wait for over 20 minutes on average every day. The average distance people usually ride in a single trip with public transit is 7 km, while 12% travel for over 12 km in a single direction.[[34]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valpara%C3%ADso#cite_note-35)

**Port of Valparaíso**[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Valpara%C3%ADso&action=edit&section=16)]

The port of Valparaíso is divided into ten sites which sites 1,2,3,4 and 5 are administered by *South Pacific Terminal SA and sites 6,7,8,9 and 10 for Valparaíso Port Company*. The last two sites include a dock and are used as public walks and cruise passenger terminal.

Valparaíso is the main container and passenger port in [Chile](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chile), transferring 10 million tons annually, and serves about 50 cruises and 150,000 passengers.

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Valpara%C3%ADso_panor%C3%A1mica.jpg)

Overlooking the port of Valparaíso from the viewing point 21 de Mayo (May Twenty-one), Artillery Hill.

Culture[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Valpara%C3%ADso&action=edit&section=17)]

[A picture containing outdoor, building, government building, car

Description automatically generated](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:BibSeverin02.jpg)

[Biblioteca Santiago Severín](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biblioteca_Santiago_Sever%C3%ADn)

During Valparaíso's golden age (1848–1914), the city received large numbers of immigrants, primarily from Europe.[[35]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valpara%C3%ADso#cite_note-36) The immigrant communities left a unique imprint on the city's noteworthy architecture. Each community built its own churches and schools, while many also founded other noteworthy cultural and economic institutions. The largest immigrant communities came from Britain, Germany, and Italy, each developing their own hillside neighbourhood, preserved today as National Historic Districts or "Zonas Típicas".

[A picture containing outdoor, sky, building, arch

Description automatically generated](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Arco_Brit%C3%A1nico.jpg)

[Arco Británico](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arco_Brit%C3%A1nico)

During the second half of the 20th century, Valparaíso experienced a great decline, as wealthy families de-gentrified the historic quarter, moving to bustling Santiago or nearby Viña del Mar. By the early 1990s, much of the city's unique heritage had been lost and many Chileans had given up on the city. But in the mid-1990s, a grassroots preservation movement blossomed in Valparaíso where nowadays also a vast number of murals created by graffiti artists can be viewed on the streets, alleyways and stairways.

*The Fundación Valparaíso* (Valparaíso Foundation), founded by the North American poet [Todd Temkin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Todd_Temkin), has executed major neighborhood redevelopment projects; has improved the city's tourist infrastructure; and administers the city's jazz, ethnic music, and opera festivals; among other projects. Some noteworthy foundation projects include the World Heritage Trail,[[36]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valpara%C3%ADso#cite_note-senderobicentenario-37) Opera by the Sea,[[37]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valpara%C3%ADso#cite_note-operaenelmar-38) and Chile's "Cultural Capital".[[38]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valpara%C3%ADso#cite_note-39) During recent years, Mr. Temkin has used his influential Sunday column in El Mercurio de Valparaíso to advocate for many major policy issues, such as the creation of a "Ley Valparaíso" (Valparaíso Law) in the Chilean Congress, and the possibility that the Chilean government must guarantee funding for the preservation of Valparaíso's beloved funicular elevators.

[A building with a statue on top of it

Description automatically generated with medium confidence](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Valpo3.JPG)

Facade of El Mercurio de Valparaíso's publishing building in Calle Esmeralda

[A picture containing sky, building, architecture, ceiling

Description automatically generated](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Vista_interior_edificio_Parque_Cultural_Valpara%C3%ADso.JPG)

The "Broadcasting Building" of the [Parque Cultural de Valparaíso](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Parque_Cultural_de_Valpara%C3%ADso&action=edit&redlink=1) (PCdV) which has been established on a former prison's ground on [Cerro Cárcel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/C%C3%A1rcel_Hill,_Valpara%C3%ADso).[[39]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valpara%C3%ADso#cite_note-40)[[40]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valpara%C3%ADso#cite_note-41)

Valparaíso's newspaper, [*El Mercurio de Valparaíso*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/El_Mercurio_de_Valpara%C3%ADso) is the oldest Spanish-language newspaper in circulation in the world.

The *Fundacion LUKAS* maintains the drawings and paintings of the cartoonist Renzo Antonio Giovanni Pecchenino Raggi (stage name LUKAS),[[41]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valpara%C3%ADso#cite_note-42) who came to symbolize Valparaíso in popular culture, in a new restored building overlooking the bay.[[42]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valpara%C3%ADso#cite_note-43)

Valparaíso is also home to the so-called "School of Valparaíso", which is in fact the Faculty of Architecture & Urbanism of the [Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pontificia_Universidad_Cat%C3%B3lica_de_Valpara%C3%ADso). The "School of Valparaíso" was in the 1960s and 1970s one of the most experimental, avant-garde and controversial Architectural schools in the country.

Valparaíso stages a major festival attended by hundreds of thousands of participants on the last three days of every year. The festival culminates with a "New Year's by the Sea" [fireworks](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fireworks) show, the biggest in all of Latin America, attended by a million tourists who fill the coastline and hillsides with a view of the bay. Even though everyone calls it the Valparaíso Fireworks, it is, in fact, a fireworks display running along a great part of the coast from Valparaíso, past Viña del Mar and all the way to Concón.

In 2003, the Chilean Congress declared Valparaíso to be "Chile's Cultural Capital" and home for the nation's new cultural ministry.

Valparaíso offers various urban nightlife activities. Traditional bars and nightclubs can be found near Plaza Sotomayor. A vivid guide to Valparaíso can be found in the novels of [Cayetano Brule](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Cayetano_Brule&action=edit&redlink=1), the private detective who lives in a Victorian house in the picturesque Paseo Gervasoni in [Cerro Concepción](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Cerro_Concepci%C3%B3n&action=edit&redlink=1).

Health system[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Valpara%C3%ADso&action=edit&section=18)]

The public healthcare system mainly relies on the [Hospital Carlos Van Buren](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Hospital_Carlos_Van_Buren&action=edit&redlink=1) located at the plan and Hospital Valparaíso (officially Hospital Eduardo Pereira) located at St. Roque Hill. There are also several clinics like [Universidad de Chile](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Universidad_de_Chile)'s Clinica Barón, Hospital Aleman (due to close), and the former Naval Hospital on Playa Ancha Hill.

Sports[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Valpara%C3%ADso&action=edit&section=19)]

Valparaíso has several public sports venues and facilities, including a growing network of cycle routes.[[43]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valpara%C3%ADso#cite_note-44)

* The *Club Deportivo Playa Ancha* (Playa Ancha Sports Club), located in Av. Playa Ancha 451, Cerro Playa Ancha,[[44]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valpara%C3%ADso#cite_note-45) opened in 1919 and offers football pitches, table football, basketball and tennis courts, two swimming pools and a small gym. Tennis and swimming lessons are held in the club as well as local tournaments, and the pool can be used recreationally in summer.
* The *Complejo Deportivo Escuela Naval* (Naval School Sports Centre), located at General Hontaneda, Cerro Playa Ancha,[[45]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valpara%C3%ADso#cite_note-46) offers Olympic-standard modern facilities with a heated swimming pool and indoor volleyball, basketball, gymnastics, judo and fencing areas. It also has extensive outdoor sports facilities, suitable for rugby, football and tennis.

[A picture containing building, outdoor, sky, government building

Description automatically generated](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Entrada_Estadio_Playa_Ancha.jpg)

Main entrance of [*Estadio Elías Figueroa Brander*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Estadio_El%C3%ADas_Figueroa_Brander), in 2011

* The [*Estadio Elías Figueroa Brander*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Estadio_El%C3%ADas_Figueroa_Brander) (formerly Chiledeportes Regional Stadium) is located at the junction of Hontaneda and Subida Carvallo, Cerro Playa Ancha,[[46]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valpara%C3%ADso#cite_note-47) This stadium has historic links to the local football team, [Santiago Wanderers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Santiago_Wanderers), the oldest professional football team in Chile founded on August 15, 1892. Built in 1931, it holds 18,500 people[[47]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valpara%C3%ADso#cite_note-48) and also serves as an athletics and swimming venue.
* *Fortín Prat* (Fort Prat), located at Rawson 382, Almendral,[[48]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valpara%C3%ADso#cite_note-49) is a historic basketball venue, hosting the "golden age" of Valparaíso basketball from 1950 to 1970. Fort Prat has also hosted numerous local handball, table tennis and boxing championships. It offers children's classes and a gym, and is also home to the Valparaíso Basketball Association Museum.
* The *Muelle Deportivo Curauma* is located 20 minutes from Valparaíso in [Lake Pañuelas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lago_Pe%C3%B1uelas_National_Reserve) at Avenue Borde Laguna and Curauma.[[49]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valpara%C3%ADso#cite_note-50) The calm waters of the 195 km2 lagoon permits [rowing](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rowing_(sport)), [kayaking](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kayaking), [fishing](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fishing) and [boating](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pleasure_craft). It has also been chosen as a venue for the [2014 South American Games](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2014_South_American_Games). Around the lagoon are camping sites, cycle and hiking trails, and paintball and canopy facilities.[[50]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valpara%C3%ADso#cite_note-51)
* The *Puerto Deportivo Valparaíso*,[[51]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valpara%C3%ADso#cite_note-52) located at Muelle Barón, Bordemar Centro,[[52]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valpara%C3%ADso#cite_note-53) is a watersports centre which offers sailing, kayaking and scuba diving lessons and hosts the "Valpo Sub" program that seeks to preserve the area's underwater heritage, offering educational tours and expeditions to shipwrecks along the bay. Puerto Deportivo Valparaíso also carries out programs promoting ecotourism in Valparaíso Bay, and rents equipment for people having lessons. It features an interactive room that shows information on the underwater heritage.
* The *Velódromo Roberto Parra*[[53]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valpara%C3%ADso#cite_note-54) is located opposite the Club Deportivo Playa Ancha and is part of its wider complex. The velodrome contains a cycle track, table football, and handball and basketball courts. All its facilities are available for public rent.

Valparaíso was one of the host cities of the official [1959 Basketball World Cup](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1959_Basketball_World_Cup), where [Chile](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chile_national_basketball_team) won the bronze medal.

[A picture containing outdoor, sky, government building, building

Description automatically generated](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Valparaiso,_Chile-04.jpg)

[Plaza Sotomayor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plaza_Sotomayor) with monument of the heroes of [Iquique](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Iquique)

The "Valparaíso Downhill"[[54]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valpara%C3%ADso#cite_note-55) is a mountain bike race that takes place in February. Riders race through the city streets tackling the steps and alleys, finding their own way through the ramps and jumps down to the "plan" (Valparaíso's "lowlands"). The Valparaíso Downhill has been described by Chop MTB as "the craziest urban downhill race of all".[[55]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valpara%C3%ADso#cite_note-56)

Since 2005, a series of running events has taken place in the city with 5 km, 10 km, 21 km and marathon distances. The race starts at Muelle Barón and the course runs along the seafront, crossing diverse architectural and geographical landmarks.[[56]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valpara%C3%ADso#cite_note-57)

The final stage of the [2014 Dakar Rally](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2014_Dakar_Rally) ended up at Valparaíso's [Plaza Sotomayor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plaza_Sotomayor) in the heart of the old town, surrounded by historic buildings. [Ignacio Casale](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ignacio_Casale), the Chilean winner of the 2014 Quad category, was cheered here in the streets by the Valparaíso crowd.[[57]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valpara%C3%ADso#cite_note-58)