



Portales Wharf to Baron's Pier

Summary: This section will undergo massive transformation during the next 5 years as Valparaíso undergoes its historic waterfront renovation project. In the short term, you can glimpse significant industrial heritage sites that will be transformed in the upcoming years.

Estimated Walking Time: Approximately 90 minutes.

How to Get Here: Take the Merval Train from the Downtown Station directly to the Portales Wharf, or take any bus or collective taxi from Valparaíso to Viña and ask to be advised when you get to the wharf.

Degree of Difficulty: Easy

Tourist Infrastructure: There are a number of restaurants for all demographic levels at the beginning of the route, in the Portales Wharf. The Baron's wharf has a coffee shop and clean bathrooms. During the cruise ship season, you can also visit the shops and café in the new Passenger Terminal.



Portales Wharf

This traditional fisherman's wharf offers several restaurants in different price ranges and an excellent opportunity to watch the artisan fisherman at work. A stark contrast from the large industrial fishing fleets, Chile's artisan fisherman belong to a centuries-old

tradition of men and woman who make their lifestyle out of the sea. A playful colony of sea lions often delights children off the pier. There are also some replicas of Moai from Easter Island.

Wheelwright Promenade

Though undeveloped, a law preserves a strip of coast between the Portales Wharf and the Baron's Pier as the Wheelwright Promenade, in honor of William Wheelwright, the famed American venture capitalist who built the nitrate railroads and founded the Pacific Steam Navigation Company. As you walk, try to imagine what this area will be like after significant waterfront renovation in the coming years. William Wheelwright was the prototype of the American venture capitalist. Born in Boston, Wheelwright immigrated to Chile with the pipe dream of founding Latin America's first steamship company. He later discovered the coal being mined in Chile was unsatisfactory for steamships. He convinced the Cousiño family to exploit new mines in Lota to supply his ships. The Lota mines supplied Chile with coal for over a hundred years. Having solved his coal problem, Wheelwright set to creating the Pacific Steam Navigation Company, which briefly became the largest steamship fleet in the world. Wheelwright also founded the saltpeter railroads. Legend has it, he spread wildflower seeds out the window as the train road by. Today, when certain valleys fill with orange-colored blossoms in early spring, the legend of William "Guillermo" Wheelwright takes on new meaning.

Old Foundry and Turnstile

Although not currently open for public visits, the old "Maestranza" (railroad foundry) is an important industrial heritage site that once employed several thousand people. Next door, an old railroad turnstile lays in disuse.



These are both national monuments and will be restored in the second stage of waterfront renovation. The properties are owned by SAAM, which belongs to the group Sudamericana de Vapores.



Terminal de Pasajeros

Baron's Clock

Another national monument illustrating the industrial heritage of this area, the solitary Baron's Clock is the last remaining remnant of what once was a major train station in this area. The three-faced red-brick clock marked the train itineraries.

Baron's Pier and VTP Cruise Ship Terminal

In November 2003, Valparaiso's long awaited Cruise Ship Terminal opened its doors in the renovated Simon Bolivar Warehouse-the longest industrial building in all of Chile. Rights to operate the terminal were bidded out to Agunsa, a maritime logistics and services company that also runs the Santiago Airport. They have invested about US \$ 2 million dollars in infrastructure to attend the approximately 100,000 cruise ship passengers that pass through Valparaiso every year.

The Baron's Pier was built for fruit shipments, but seldom used due to dangerous riptides. In 2002, the pier was officially remodeled by the Port of Valparaiso and inaugurated as a public walkway, the first step of a massive waterfront renovation project that will continue during the next 10 years. At the end of the pier, a pleasant exhibition space hosts art exhibits and a tiny café.

