



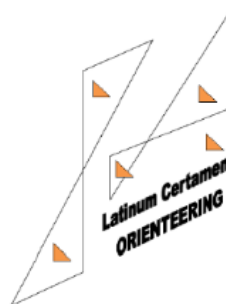
BULLETIN 1

**South American Orienteering
Championships 2026**

Latin Countries Cup 2026



www.saoc2026.cl



Organizer:



Sponsors:



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Invitation

 Dear orienteers from South America and around the world

With great enthusiasm, the Chilean Orienteering Federation and the Organizing Committee of the 2026 South American Orienteering Championship (SAOC2026) have the honor of inviting the entire international orienteering community to participate in this new edition of the continental event, which will take place in Pucón, Chile, from November 12 to 15, 2026.

SAOC2026 will be a true South American orienteering “fiesta”, with highly technical races in an incomparable natural setting: native forests, volcanic trails, lakes, and the mountains of the Araucanía. We look forward to the presence of national teams, clubs, elite, junior, and master athletes, as well as orienteering enthusiasts of all ages and levels.

For four days, orienteering will be the meeting point for countries, cultures, challenges, and friendship, under the motto that unites and inspires us: **The South Navigates.**

We look forward to sharing maps, races, and unforgettable experiences in the south of our globe. **See you in Pucón!**

SAOC2026 Organizing Committee, Chilean Orienteering Federation

Competitions and Dates

The South American Orienteering Championship, the Latin Countries Cup, and the South American Open will be held from **November 12 to 15, 2026**, in the municipality of **Pucón**, which will host the SAOC Event Center.

The following competitions will be held as part of the SAOC2026 event:

-  SAOC: South American Orienteering Championship (WRE  OF)
-  SAJOC: South American Junior Orienteering Championship ( OF)
-  SAYOC: South American Youth Orienteering Championship ( OF)
-  CPL: Latin Countries Cup ( OF)
-  O-SAOC: South American Open Orienteering Championship
-  M-SAOC: South American Masters Orienteering Championship



The South navigates

Program

Date	Time	Activity	Venue
Thursday 12-11-2026	9:00 am to 10:00 pm	Arrival and accreditation of delegations and athletes	Event Center SAOC2026 Pucón
	7:00 pm to 8:00 pm	SAOC2026 Opening Ceremony	Pucón, further info in Bulletin 2
	10:00 am to 6:00 pm	Model/Training Event	Pucón, further info in Bulletin 2
Friday 13-11-2026	10:00 am to 2:00 pm	Long Distance Competition	Pucón, Sector Cerduo
	2:30 pm to 3:30 pm	Long Distance Awards Ceremony	Long Distance Arena
	7:00 pm to 8:00 pm	South American Federations and CPL Meeting	Pucón, further info in Bulletin 2
Saturday 14-11-2026	9:00 am to 1:00 pm	Middle Distance Competition	Pucón, Sector Cerduo
	1:30 pm to 2:30 pm	Middle Distance Awards Ceremony	Medium Distance Arena
	7:00 pm to 10:00 pm	SAOC BBQ Social Event	Pucón, further info in Bulletin 2
Sunday 15-11-2026	9:00 am to 12:00 am	Sprint Competition	Pucón, Municipal Park
	1:00 pm to 2:00 pm	Sprint Awards Ceremony, SAOC2026 Closing Ceremony	Sprint Arena



IOF Senior Event Advisor and National Event Advisor

IOF Senior Event Advisor (SEA)	Gilson Schropfer (BRA), gilsonschropfer@gmail.com
National Event Advisor	Carlos Saldías (CHI), cargassal@gmail.com

Organization

The event is organized by the Chilean Orienteering Federation.

Organizing Team

Event Director	Kai Ostermann, koster@saoc2626.cl
Administrative Director	Erwin Thieme, erwin@saoc2026.cl
Start and Finish Director	Carlos Galdames, carlos@saoc2026.cl
Technical Director	Jorge Espinoza, charly@saoc2026.cl
Timing & IT Director	Manuel Ostermann, manuel@saoc2026.cl
Associated Director	Nelson Yáñez, nelson@saoc2026.cl

Contact Information

Please direct all inquiries by email to the Event Secretariat at the following email address: info@saoc2026.cl

 Spanish speaking contact:	Georgina Sánchez Astudillo
 English speaking contact:	Kai Thomas Ostermann Valencia
 Portuguese speaking contact:	Raylane Barros

 Contact Address:	La Concepción 81, Oficina 608, Providencia, Santiago, Chile
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Classes

The following categories will be available for competitors to participate in:
W= Ladies, M= Men

SAOC (Elite)	WE / ME	no age limit
SAJOC (Junior)	W20E / M20E	born in 2006 and later
SAYOC (Youth)	W18E / M18E	born in 2008 and later
	W16E / M16E	born in 2010 and later

CPL	Senior	equivalent to WE / ME
	Junior	equivalent to W20E / M20E
	Cadete	equivalent to W18E / M18E or W16E / M16E

O-SAOC (Open)	W12 / M12	born in 2014 and later
	W14 / M14	born in 2012 and later
	W16 / M16	born in 2010 and later
	W18 / M18	born in 2008 and later
	W20 / M20	born in 2006 and later
	W21 / M21	no age limit

M-SAOC (Masters)	W35 / M35	born in 1991 and earlier
	W40 / M40	born in 1986 and earlier
	W45 / M45	born in 1981 and earlier
	W50 / M50	born in 1976 and earlier
	W55 / M55	born in 1971 and earlier
	W60 / M60	born in 1966 and earlier
	W65 / M65	born in 1961 and earlier
	W70 / M70	born in 1956 and earlier



For the South American Open competition, there will be no categories based on difficulty (A, B, N), but two introductory categories will be organized for novices under 18 years of age (N-MENOR) and novices 18 years of age and over (N-MAYOR).

Additionally, the FAM recreational class will be open without age restrictions for the South American Open, allowing family groups to participate on a special course.

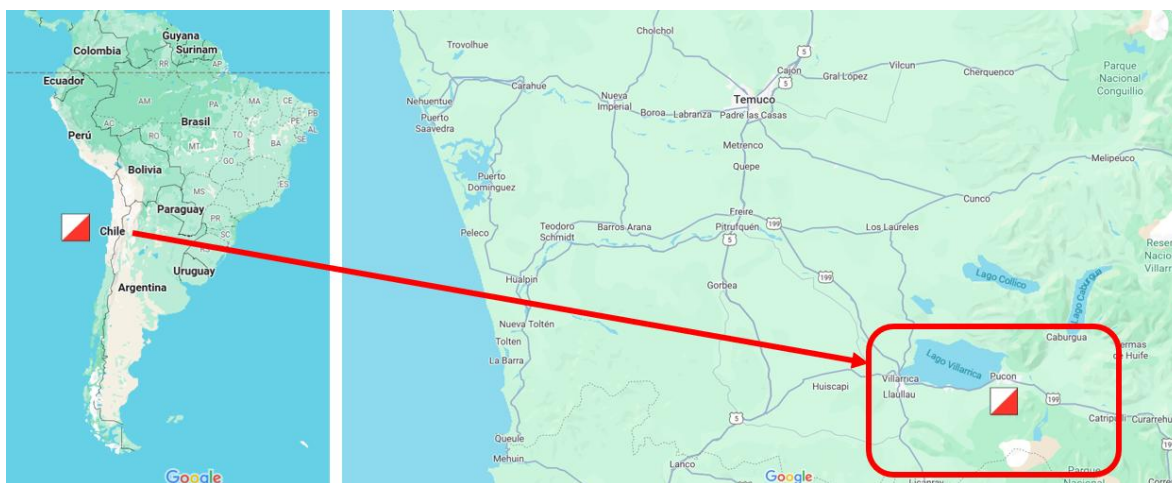
If necessary, additional categories older than W/M70 will be opened.

For the open championship, the organizers reserve the right to combine categories if the number of entrants is less than three, which will be communicated to all Federations and competitors in a timely manner.

O-SAOC (Open) BEGINNERS	N-MENOR	born in 2008 and later
	N-MAYOR	born in 2008 and earlier
	FAM	families

General Map of the Region

The following map shows the general location of Pucón. The nearest regional capital is Temuco.



Competition Venues and Embargoed Areas

The South American Championship will be held in the Chilean city of Pucón and its surrounding areas, south of Temuco, capital of the Araucanía Region.

Embargoed areas are shown on the map (marked in magenta). In accordance with IOF rules, orienteering events are prohibited from this publication until the event date. Training, surveys, inspections, or other activities that could generate an advantage for athletes or team officials who subsequently participate in the competitions are also prohibited.

Additionally, embargoed areas and other georeferenced information will be published on the interactive map available at the following link:

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/O/edit?mid=1BdbBBSeCkjYg8yDrGikzTlzhJaQHd3O&usp=sharing>



The South American Orienteering Championships will be held in the Araucanía Region of Chile.

Both the Long Distance and Middle-Distance competitions will take place on the lower slopes of the Villarrica Volcano, in the northeastern part of Villarrica National Park. The terrain is located between 550 and 1,200 meters above sea level and features native forests and a wide variety of vegetation.





The technically difficult terrain is marked by ancient traces of lava flows and volcanic eruptions.



There are two mountain rivers in the competition area, which can only be crossed at the points indicated by the organizers.





On the date of the competition, there may be nesting areas for protected species, which may be marked as prohibited areas on the competition maps.

The Sprint competition will take place in Pucón Municipal Park, a very flat area with a mix of meadows, small woods, playgrounds, recreational areas, and park buildings. The organizers reserve the right to also use artificial impassable barriers on the map to introduce difficulties.



The maps will meet the requirements of ISSprOM 2019 (International Specification for Sprint Orienteering Maps) and ISOM 2017/2 (International Specification for Orienteering Maps).



Regulations and Anti-Doping

The competitions will be conducted in accordance with the International Orienteering Federation (IOF) Orienteering Regulations.

This event is part of the IOF Official Orienteering Calendar and, as such, is subject to doping control by the competent authority.

See the IOF Anti-Doping Regulations at

- <https://orienteering.sport/iof/anti-doping/>

Awards

SAOC2026: Medals will be awarded to the first three places in each category for each race, and diplomas to the first six places. Winners will receive the title of **South American Orienteering Champion**.

SAJOC2026: Medals will be awarded to the first three places in each category for each race, and diplomas to the first six places. Winners will receive the title of **South American Junior Orienteering Champion**.

SAYOC2026: Medals will be awarded to the first three places in each category for each race, and diplomas to the first six places. Winners will receive the title of **South American Junior Orienteering Champion**.

CPL2026: The **Latin Countries Cup** will be awarded to the winning country, and trophies to second and third place winners.

O-SAOC2026 and M-SAOC2026: Medals will be awarded to the first three places in each category for each race.



Registration, Deadlines, and Fees

The following must be considered for registration:

-  Registration will be open starting November 12, 2025, at <http://www.saoc2026.cl> and the IOF Eventor.
-  Registration for athletes in the W/M21E, W/M20E, W/M18E and W/M16E classes must also be completed via the IOF Eventor for SAOC (WRE), SAJOC and SAYOC races.
-  Athletes in the W/M21E, W/M20E, W/M18E and W/M16E categories, registered for SAOC2026, SAJOC2026 or SAYOC2026, may also register as members of their respective country's CPL2026 team and are exempt from the CPL2026 registration fee.
-  Registration will be possible for one, two, or all three races (Long Distance, Middle Distance, and Sprint).
-  Registrations are only valid after payment of the registration fee. Payments will be accepted via the Online Registration and Payment System, which will be published in due course.

The registration fees are as follows:



SAOC2026 (Elite) - Classes DE/HE						
Deadline	Long	Middle	Sprint	All	Accreditation	Total
12/05/26	20 USD	20 USD	20 USD	45 USD	20 USD	65 USD
12/08/26	25 USD	25 USD	25 USD	60 USD	20 USD	80 USD
12/10/2026	25 USD	25 USD	25 USD	70 USD	20 USD	90 USD
Deadline: 12/10/2026						

SAJOC2026 (Junior) - Classes D2OE/H2OE						
Deadlines	Long	Middle	Sprint	All	Accreditation	Total
12/05/26	15 USD	15 USD	15 USD	40 USD	15 USD	55 USD
12/08/26	20 USD	20 USD	20 USD	50 USD	15 USD	65 USD
12/10/2026	25 USD	25 USD	25 USD	70 USD	15 USD	85 USD
Deadline: 12/10/2026						

SAYOC2026 (Youth) - Classes D18E/H18E and D16E/H16E						
Deadlines	Long	Middle	Sprint	All	Accreditation	Total
12/05/26	15 USD	15 USD	15 USD	40 USD	-	40 USD
12/08/26	20 USD	20 USD	20 USD	50 USD	-	50 USD
12/10/2026	25 USD	25 USD	25 USD	60 USD	-	60 USD
Deadline: 12/10/2026						

O-SAOC2026 and M-SAOC2026 - All other Classes						
Deadlines	Long	Middle	Sprint	All	Accreditation	Total
12/05/26	15 USD	15 USD	15 USD	40 USD	-	40 USD
12/08/26	20 USD	20 USD	20 USD	50 USD	-	50 USD
12/10/2026	25 USD	25 USD	25 USD	60 USD	-	60 USD
Deadline: 12/10/2026						



-  Registrations are only valid after payment of the registration fee. Payments will be accepted via the Online Registration and Payment System, which will be published in at time.
-  Registrations may be canceled until October 12, 2026; the organization will refund 70% of the registration fee.
-  Changes to registrations may only be made until October 12, 2026, with an additional fee of USD 10.

The organization has 8 Slicard that can be rented for USD 1.50 per event. For classes under age 16, the organization will provide Slicard rentals free of charge. In the event of loss of the rented Slicard, a replacement fee of USD 30 will apply.

Insurance and Authorizations

Each competitor participates in the event at their own risk. However, the organizers will provide first aid in case of accidents. Participants are expected to have their own medical insurance.

All participants under the age of 18 must have permission from their legal guardian to participate in the event.

A liability waiver form will be published in the next bulletin and must be signed by each athlete at the time of accreditation or previously submitted digitally on the SAOC2026 website.



Time Control System



The SPORTident electronic timekeeping system will be used, supported by time clips at each checkpoint. According to IOF rules, it is the competitor's responsibility to ensure their time is recorded.

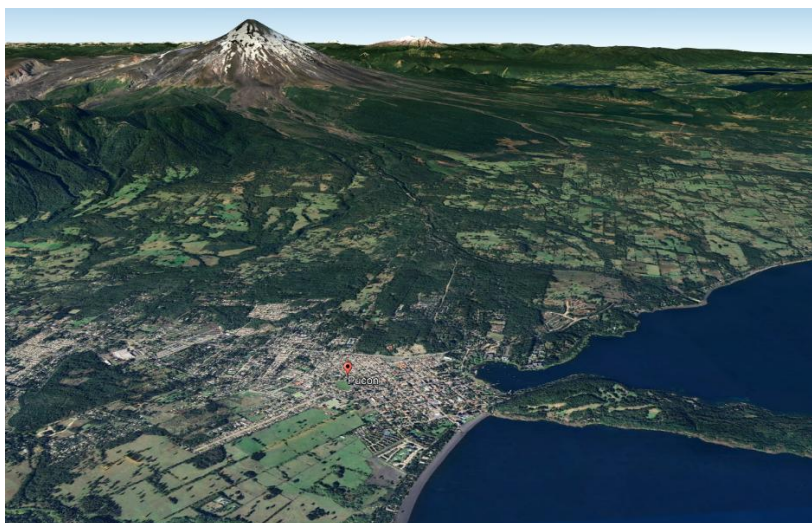
The SI Air system (punching without touching the base) will not be used. All electronic bases will only support the traditional SPORTident system.

Partial results will be published in the finish area (arena) via multimedia.

Athletes who have their own Slicard must provide the identification code on the registration form. Others may rent a Slicard from the event organizers.



Event Center



The Event Center will be located at the Osvaldo Muñoz Carrillo Municipal Stadium in Pucón, Colo Colo Street 475.

Image Google Earth (Image Airbus 2025)



The organization will provide official transportation for athletes. This transportation will cost **USD 15**, and athletes must indicate whether they require transportation at the time of registration.

From	To	Distance	Round trip included	Public Transportation Available
Event Center	Sprint Arena	2,8 km	Yes	Yes
Event Center	El Cerduo Bridge	7 km	Yes	Yes
El Cerduo Bridge	Model Event	6 km	Yes	No
El Cerduo Bridge	Long / Middle Distance Arena	7,5 km	Yes	No

Bus departure times will be published in the following bulletins. Transportation tickets will be provided to participants who have registered and paid for the service. If available, they can be purchased on-site for an additional fee.

Private parking is available at the Long and Medium Distance Arena, but spaces are limited. Tourist buses do not go to the Arena and must be parked at the Cerduo Bridge.

Training Areas

The organizers will prepare a Model Event and provide training maps to each registered competitor. Athletes will be able to train on Thursday, November 12, from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Available training areas will be reported in Bulletin 2.



Ceremonies, Meetings, and Social Event

A solemn opening ceremony will be held jointly for the South American Orienteering Championship and the Latin American Countries Cup, with the participation of all delegations. The location will be announced in the next newsletter.

The closing ceremony will take place immediately after the awards ceremony at the end of the Sprint race on Sunday, November 15, at the competition venue.

In addition, the Chilean Orienteering Federation invites you to hold the annual Latin American Countries Cup meeting, along with the biannual meeting of South American orienteering leaders. The location of the meetings will be announced in the next newsletter.

As part of SAOC2026, we also invite you to participate in the "SAOC BBQ." Along with registration, you can register to participate in the SAOC barbecue, which costs USD 25.00.



The image is for reference only; more information about the menu will be provided in the next newsletter.



Transportation, Food, and Accommodation

Arrival by plane: Santiago International Airport, Chile, and Araucanía Airport, Temuco. It is recommended to book a flight to Temuco, where there are various transportation services (shuttle, bus, or taxi) to Pucón. There are several domestic flights from Santiago to Temuco, which, depending on the fares, can cost between \$50 and \$180 USD.

The distance between Temuco and Pucón is 105 km, and the trip by car takes approximately 1 hour and 40 minutes. Transportation costs from Temuco to Pucón vary, but bus tickets can be found starting at \$10.00 USD. A taxi can cost between \$50 and \$70 USD.

Arrival by bus: Pucón is 786 km from Santiago, approximately 8 to 9 hours by bus. Bus tickets range from \$20 to \$40 USD.



Pucón is one of the country's most tourist-friendly cities, with 98.6% hotel occupancy during peak season, so it's easy to encounter crowds of tourists. However, at this time of year, November, you can still enjoy the benefits of traveling during the off-season, making it ideal for holding the event, given the peace

and security afforded by the less crowded months.

Accommodations in Pucón and its surrounding areas are widely varied in terms of services and prices. You can find them on the most popular websites for searching for and booking accommodation, such as:

<https://www.airbnb.cl/>

<https://www.booking.com/>

<https://puconchile.travel/alojamiento/>



You can find a wide variety of accommodations, from hotels, hostels, cabins, and campsites. The cost of these accommodations can range from USD 30 to USD 120 per person per night.



Links with detailed information about agreements the organization will establish with various establishments will be posted on the SAOC2026 website in the future.

Food in Chile is varied and generally unremarkable, with prices ranging from USD 7.00 to USD 25.00 in restaurants.

Visa to enter Chile

Most citizens of South American countries do not require a visa to enter Chile as tourists and can enter with their valid national identity document.

Participants from other countries can check the visa information at:

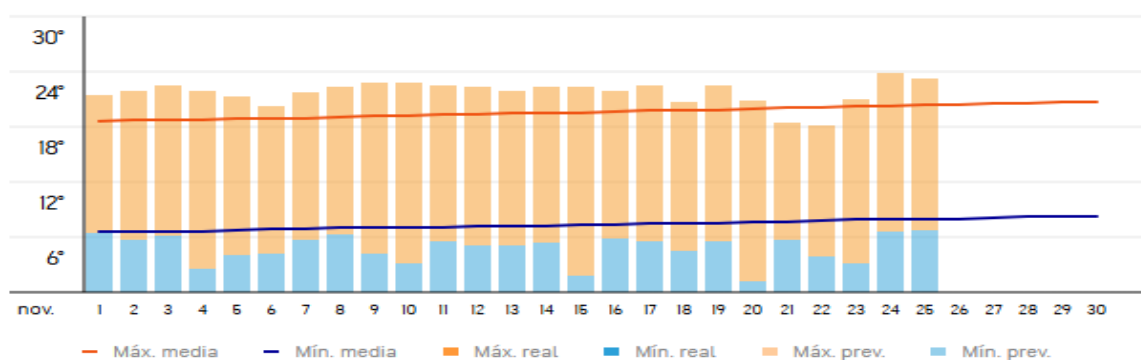
<https://www.consulado.gob.cl/informacion-sobre-visas-para-ingresar-a-chile>

Weather Conditions

Average temperatures during this time are around 18°C, rarely dropping below 13°C. It's spring, so we'll have better weather, more sunlight, and warmer days than in previous months, but without the sweltering temperatures of summer.

GRÁFICO DE TEMPERATURAS

°C



Probability of precipitation in spring in Pucón:



El porcentaje de días en los que se observan diferentes tipos de precipitación, excluidas las cantidades ínfimas: solo lluvia, solo nieve, mezcla (llovió y nevó el mismo día).

Even if the sun isn't as strong as it is in summer, you should still be careful of sunburn and sunstroke. We recommend using sunscreen and drinking plenty of water, especially while competing.

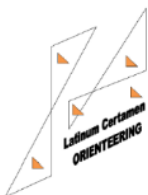
Hazards

There are no special hazards in the area, given that Chile is a seismic country and the Villarrica volcano is an active volcano, with the risks that this entails.

The event organizers will implement all the necessary safety measures required in Chile for these situations and will publish the rules of conduct in the event of an event.



XXII Latin Countries Cup – CPL2016



We especially welcome the invitation of all member countries of the Latin American Cup—namely, SPAIN, FRANCE, ITALY, PORTUGAL, ROMANIA, BELGIUM, BRAZIL, ARGENTINA, COLOMBIA, MOZAMBIQUE, VENEZUELA, SWITZERLAND, URUGUAY, COSTA RICA, PARAGUAY, PERU, GUATEMALA, ECUADOR, MEXICO, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, and CHILE – as well as any Latin American countries that wish to join, to register teams for this version of the **Latinum Certamen**, which will be held in **parallel** with the South American Orienteering Championship.

True to the spirit of this competition, our organization will work enthusiastically to facilitate the reunion of athletes from each country and the exchange of experiences in a friendly atmosphere of sporting coexistence. Furthermore, the annual meeting of the member countries will be included in the program of activities for this event.

Each country will present a team composed of three women and three men:

-  SENIOR WOMEN and MEN
-  JUNIOR WOMEN and MEN
-  CADET WOMEN and MEN

The entrants on each team will compete on the same DE/HE, D2OE/H2OE, D18E/H18E, and D16E/H16E courses, so that the races of South American athletes will also be valid for the South American Orienteering Championship and the South American Junior Orienteering Championship.

-  A team is included in the race classification when it has at least one representative participating.
-  The CPL regulations will apply, as last updated after the meeting held in 2025.
-  As indicated in the "Registrations, Deadlines, and Fees" section of this newsletter, our organization will be responsible for the registrations of athletes registered on the Latin American Countries Cup teams, except for South American athletes also participating in the South American Championships. The registration deadlines are the same as those indicated in the "Registration, Deadlines and Fees" section of this bulletin.



Tourist Information



Pucón is a major tourist center in southern Chile, on the shores of Lake Villarrica, known for its wide range of adventure, nature, and relaxation.

Highlights include trekking and climbing the Villarrica Volcano, rafting on the Trancura River, visits to national parks like Huerquehue, and relaxing in the area's hot springs, such as Termas Geométricas. The best time to visit is the southern hemisphere summer (December to March), but November is the year when the area shines with springtime charm.

Some tourist attractions include:

Villarrica Volcano, or Rucapillán in the Mapuche language, which means "House of the Spirit."

This is one of the main attractions; you can hike up to enjoy spectacular views.



Explore Huerquehue National Park, with its trails and the beautiful Ojos del Caburgua Park.



The waters of the Trancura River are ideal for rafting, and Lake Villarrica offers water sports activities.





You can visit various waterfalls, where you can also practice rappelling.



Pucón and its surroundings are full of hot springs with pools and massage services. Why not relax after the competitions?

In the afternoons in Pucón, it's recommended to walk the 4 kilometers of beach on the shores of Lake Villarrica, enjoy local products and handicrafts in the markets, and visit the city center to experience its atmosphere.



Additional Information

For a complete list of activities and services, visit reliable tourism websites.





¡SEE YOU!
in...



El sur orienta...