

Caleta Tortel, Aysén, Chile

There are no roads in Caleta Tortel — around 7 km of raised cypress-wood boardwalks connecting stilt houses above a glacier-fed fjord. One of Patagonia's most remarkable expedition ports.

Tender port

Typical call: 6–8 hrs

Chilean Peso (CLP)

Spanish

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: _____ Arrive: _____ All aboard: _____

Excursion: _____ Notes: _____

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Tender — expedition ships anchor offshore; passengers zodiac or small-boat to main dock

Best For: Unique Patagonian architecture, glacier boat tours, Isla de los Muertos

Walk to center: You arrive at the boardwalk network — the whole village is on foot, no roads

Don't Miss: Boat trip to Jorge Montt Glacier or Isla de los Muertos (Island of the Dead)

Getting around: Rideshare not available

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Jorge Montt Glacier Boat Tour** — A full-day boat trip through the fjords of Bernardo O'Higgins National Park to reach the Jorge Montt tidewater glacier — a fast-receding river of ice...
- Isla de los Muertos** — A short boat ride to the Island of the Dead, a National Historical Monument where about 33 weathered cypress crosses mark the graves of workers from...
- Cerro Vigía Hike** — A half-day hike up Cerro Vigía (also called Cerro Bandera) above the village for panoramic views of the Baker River Delta, surrounding mountains, and...
- Steffen Glacier Boat Tour** — Boat trip through Steffen Fjord and up the Huemules River basin to the Steffen Glacier lagoon, the southernmost outlet of the Northern Patagonian Ice...
- Explore the Cypress Boardwalks** — Wander the roughly 7 km of hand-built Guaitecas cypress walkways that ARE the village — past stilt houses, a small school, the harbor overlook, and...

BEST WALKS

- Central Boardwalk Loop** 1–2 hrs · Easy · Flat to moderate stairs — Start at the main dock and follow the boardwalks uphill past the central plaza, the small church, and the upper residential terraces, then loop back along the lower...
- Playa Ancha & Cerro Vigía Trail** ~7 km · Moderate · Half day — From the top of the village boardwalk, follow the trail through native forest to Playa Ancha beach and on up to Cerro Vigía for sweeping views of the Baker River Delta...

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

	Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr		52°	41°	21d
Jun		41°	33°	22d
Aug		42°	35°	25d
Sep		45°	35°	22d
Oct		48°	37°	22d

DAYLIGHT & MONEY

Apr 8:33AM–7:13PM · Jun 9:42AM–6:06PM · Aug 8:56AM–7:00PM · Sep 7:57AM–7:42PM · Oct 6:56AM–8:24PM

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Wear grippy, waterproof footwear. The cypress boards are beautiful but slippery in the rain, and some sections are steep stairs. Trainers with no grip are a hazard.
- Bring Chilean Pesos in cash. Caleta Tortel is remote — card readers are unreliable and ATMs nonexistent in the village itself.
- Layer up regardless of the season. Aysén Region weather changes fast; even summer days can bring rain and wind off the ice fields. A waterproof jacket is essential.
- Book glacier boat tours in advance. Tour capacity is small and highly weather-dependent. Your ship's expedition team or local operators near the dock can arrange these.
- No wheeled luggage in the village. The boardwalks and stairs make rolling suitcases impossible. Pack a day bag when going ashore.
- Respect the cypress. The Guaitecas cypress boardwalks are a protected cultural and natural resource — don't carve, remove nails, or damage the wood.

Caleta Tortel, Aysén, Chile — Port Map

cruiseports.org

Red = walkable sights · Amber = excursions farther out · P = cruise terminal. Numbers match the order you'd typically visit.



P Cruise port / terminal