

Coquimbo Circuit

1 Casa de las Artes Rural de La Cantera
(Rural House of Arts in La Cantera)
La Cantera 1951, Coquimbo.

In April 1908, Lucila Godoy Alcayaga –a self-instructed 19-year-old schoolteacher– was named temporary preceptor at *Escuela N°17 Elemental Mixta Rural* (17th Rural Elementary School) in Coquimbo, located in the rural village known as La Cantera.

Here she started to be recognized by the pseudonym that led her to be a worldwide figure. On June 10, 1908, the newspaper *La Constitución* of Ovalle published her poem *"Rimas"* ("Rhymes"), signed by Gabriela Mistral. Since 1914, she started to live under the identity that she created herself, which eventually displaced her legal name.

The Rural House of Arts in La Cantera is placed in an old school. It honours poet's presence in the area. The house offers cultural activities throughout the year, and it has a community library too.

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La Serena Circuit

2 Casa de Gabriela Mistral de Las Compañías
(Gabriela Mistral's House in Las Compañías)
Gabriela Mistral 133, La Serena.
Historic monument since 2008.

It is said that people from the ancient village of Compañía Baja called it "The Weird House". It was a peculiar two-storied building with high roofs, a rectangular ground floor and blue wooden stairs outside.

It was there where Gabriela Mistral and her mother lived from 1903 to 1907. From the windows, Gabriela could see the coast, the fields and meadows, and the cities of La Serena and Coquimbo.

This was a crucial moment in her life. At the age of 14, she started to work as teacher's aide in the local school, where she taught from little children to illiterate youngsters. At the same time, she began writing. She published her first poems and comments in the local newspapers and became acquainted with important intellectuals who supported her developing as a writer.

Nowadays, this is an urban area. The centennial house was restored to be converted into an interpretation centre about the poet's life and work. A new modern building is set as a support next to the house.

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3 Casa de Gabriela Mistral de las Palmeras
(Gabriela Mistral's Palm Trees House)
Av. Francisco de Aguirre 300, La Serena.
Historic monument since 1990.

In 1925, Gabriela Mistral returned to Chile as a highly regarded writer and intellectual. She had spent two years in Mexico working in the educational reform and creating popular libraries, and finished her first international literary tour.

She bought a country house in La Serena, a few blocks from the beach. Her plans were to settle in there with her mother, Petronila; her half-sister, Emelina; and Graciela, her sister's daughter. Additionally, she wanted to make an old dream of hers into reality: establish a school-farm for peasant children from the Elqui Valley. She wanted them to be instructed and taught farming techniques.

However, the same year, Chilean government sent her to France as representative for the International Institute of Intellectual Cooperation, an advisory organization for the League of Nations.

Gabriela Mistral never lived in Chile again. She spends the rest of her life in different cities of Europe and America. Her family continued living in the country house until their decease.

As time passes by, the house has been known as *Casa de las Palmeras*. It has an historic setting and photographs of that time.

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4 Biblioteca Regional Gabriela Mistral
(Gabriela Mistral Regional Library)
Juan José Latorre 782, La Serena.

On 1925 Gabriela Mistral had the dream of creating a farm school on La Serena. Although that dream was never fulfilled, some decades later a place dedicated to books and reading arise in the yard of the property where her and her family cultivated a vegetable garden.

It was inaugurated in March of 2018 and is the seventh regional library created on Chile. This library has contributed to the development of reading, increasing the book lending statistics, positioning itself as a placed focused on literature, knowledge and joint creation, delivering a place for the development of regional projects and provide opportunities for local authors.

The library offers a busy schedule, including book presentations, seminars, workshops, lectures, theatre plays, festivals and concerts and an endless number of free activities. All of this inspired by the life and legacy of Gabriela Mistral.

The building is distributed on five floors and was designed to be accessible, inclusive and ecofriendly. It's location in front of the busy Francisco de Aguirre Avenue, next to *Casa de las Palmeras,* make this library an urban landmark by itself.

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5 Liceo Gabriela Mistral
(Gabriela Mistral High School)
Juan José Latorre 782, La Serena.

In 1907, Gabriela Mistral started to work as general inspector and secretary at the *Liceo de Niñas de La Serena* (La Serena High School for Girls) which, at the time, was located to the north of *Plaza de Armas* (Main Square). However, because of personal and professional differences, she came into conflict with Ana Krusche, the headmistress of the school.

Some of their differences stands out, the young teacher questioned the elitist character of the High School and helped girls from the lower class with the admission process in order to facilitate the entry to this institution. In addition, Gabriela's libertarian opinions and new pedagogical ideas – openly published in the newspapers– resulted in the rejection not only from the headmistress but also from the conservative people in the city.

Weary of the situation, she resigned before beginning the next school year. However, time did justice to the poet. In 1967, the school changed its name to *Liceo de Niñas Gabriela Mistral,* being a co-educational school now.

The construction of its new building started in 1945. It is located in a natural hill and is clearly visible along Cordovez Street, the main commercial street in La Serena.

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Vicuña Circuit

6 Museo Gabriela Mistral
(Gabriela Mistral Museum)
Gabriela Mistral 759, Vicuña.
Collections are historic monuments since 1987.

It has the greatest collection of artifacts related to Gabriela Mistral, including personal items and presents she was given throughout her life. Besides, the patrimonial library preserves hundreds of books belonging to the poet. A great number of these present notes in her own handwriting.

The original house where Gabriela Mistral was born on April 07 in 1889, was lost to time. However, a replica was built in the same place, transporting its visitors throughout the time to connect them with the roots of this extraordinary woman.

The museum was opened in 1957, as part of the *Centro Cultural Gabriela Mistral* (Gabriela Mistral Cultural Centre), an idea of a group of neighbors in 1935.

The main building of the museum was built in 1971, and it was enlarged and restyled in 2010. One of its highlights, among other details, is the remarkable use of natural light and the stones.

The museum had an access yard and a carefully grown garden in the back yard.

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7 Plaza Gabriela Mistral
(Gabriela Mistral Square)
Main Square, Vicuña.

In 1900, Gabriela Mistral was a girl running across this square to get to school. In May 1938, she stood there when she was already a regarded literary figure, and in 1954, during her last trip to Chile, when the city did homage to her as its "preferred daughter". Then, in 1960, she received the final homage from the people of Vicuña, when her remains were transported to her definitive tomb.

This urban space has been part of the city from the very foundation of *Villa de San Isidro de Vicuña* in 1821. It is the main meeting and celebration place for citizens. It carries the name of Gabriela Mistral since 2016.

Its most remarkable features are the protective shadows of the ancient trees, wide aisles and confortable banks, the great stage, and beautiful sculptures. Since 1971, the most important stone carving is in the center of the square: Gabriela Mistral's face looking to the sky.

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8 Casa de la Cultura y Biblioteca Pública de Vicuña
(The Cultural Centre and Public Library of Vicuña)
Chacabuco 334, Vicuña.

Located across from the square, the Culture Centre in Vicuña is an active cultural center opened to the community. It offers periodic exhibitions, lectures, conferences, forums and workshops.

An old adobe and wooden building, in the center of the first inner yard, is what remains from the old *Escuela Superior de Niñas* (Female Elementary School), where Gabriela Mistral studied in 1900. Now, this building, enlarged and restyled through the years, shelters the Public Library of Vicuña.

Gabriela entered this school to continue with her primary education, which she started in Montegrande. In order to attend classes, she had to move to her aunt house. Her mother and half-sister settled in Diaguitas, a nearby village. She was a shy, quiet 11 year-old girl who was facing the unknown.

An unfortunate incident –Gabriela was unfairly accused of being a thief– made her to leave the school the same year. After this event, she could never finish her formal education.

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Paihuano Circuit

9 Museo de Sitio Casa y Escuela de Gabriela Mistral
(House and School of Gabriela Mistral On-site Museum)
Route D-485, Montegrande.
Historic monument since 1979.

This humble adobe house was Gabriela Mistral home during the pinnacle of her childhood, from 1892 to 1900. It was here where she learnt her first words and started her admiration for the landscape and the village people.

In 1892, the first *Escuela de Niñas de Montegrande* (Montegrande's Female Elementary School) was founded in this house. At the age of 18, Emelina Molina, Gabriela older half-sister, was in charge of the school. Like in some other rural schools, the young teacher could live in the house. So, her mother, Petronila Alcayaga, moved there with her, carrying her youngest daughter who was almost three years old.

These three women lived in the back of the house, while the main room was arranged as the classroom. A postal office was installed in a small room at the entry of the house.

The thick adobe wall building has survived with no or little changes. Inside, there are furniture and some objects to recreate its original look.

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10 Mausoleo
(Mausoleum)
Route D-485, Montegrande.
Historic monument since 1961.

In the slope of a small and lush hill, next to the village, the mausoleum is the last resting place of Gabriela Mistral since March 23, 1960. The same landscapes that impressed her in her childhood can be seen from its heights, and only the wind breaks the quietness.

It is a pilgrimage place for the poet admirers. Gabriela Mistral died on January 10, 1957, in New York (USA), as a result of a pancreatic cancer. A month and a half before, she had signed in her last will: "It is my desire that my body is to be buried in my beloved Montegrande".

Her wishes had to wait for three years to be fulfilled, until the monument was ready. During that time, her remains were kept in the General Cemetery in Santiago.

In 2005, her beloved nephew, Juan Miguel Godoy, who was called "Yin Yin" by Gabriela, was buried in the same place. Yin Yin committed suicide in 1943, in Petrópolis (Brazil).

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Gabriela Mistral, pseudonym for Lucila de María Godoy Alcayaga (Vicuña, 1889 / New York, 1957), was one of the greatest poet laureates in Chile and Ibero-America.

Her mother, Petronila Alcayaga, was a seamstress. Her father, Jerónimo Godoy, was a schoolteacher and poet who abandoned his family when Gabriela was only three years old.

Gabriela spent her early childhood in Montegrande, an Andean village where the breathtaking geography of the Elqui Valley was forever impressed in her memory. During her adolescence and youth, she traveled from village to village, moving from the inland valley to the coast of Coquimbo region.

She only attended school through the fourth grade, and she never finished her formal education. Since her early years, Gabriela was victim of prejudice and scorn. However, the world was moved by her poetry and she was awarded with the first Nobel Prize for a Latin American writer.

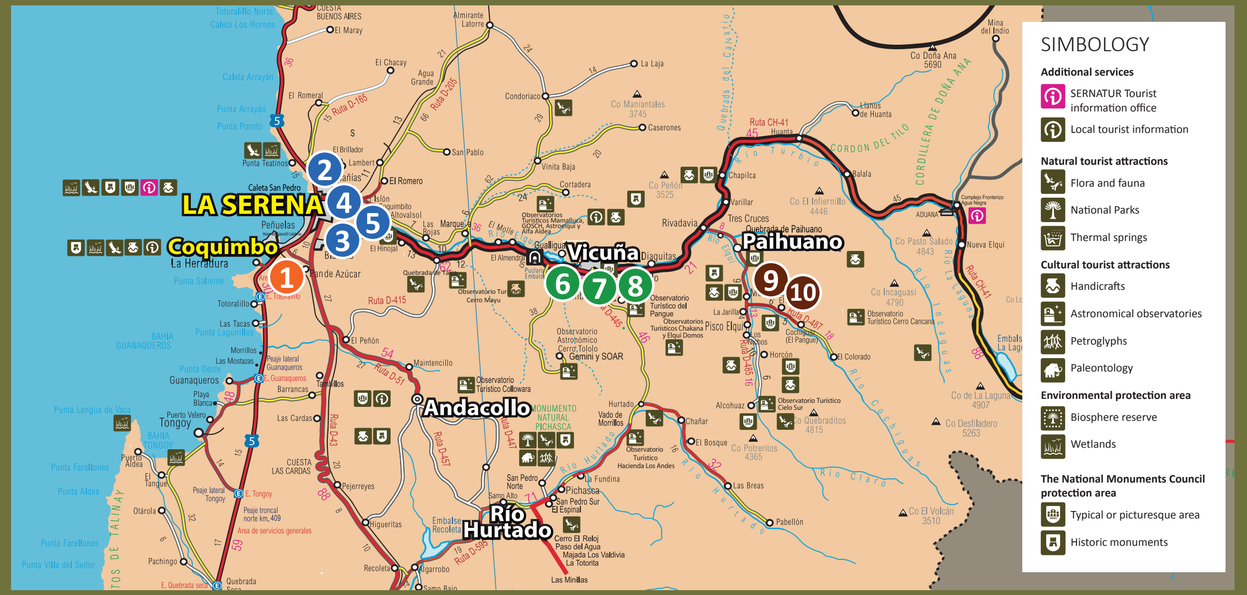
Gabriela was a self-instructed teacher, who had a strong social sense of education. She was a free-thinker way ahead of her time; a defender of universal values, such peace, democracy and human rights. She was the first Chilean woman who was appointed as a consul, becoming a restless world traveller.

Her history could be described as story of strong will, determination and talent which started in the Coquimbo region, the same land where her remains finally rest.

"I have walked many lands, and, like few, I've appraised strange towns. But either writing or living, new images are always born to me on the subsoil of my childhood".

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	Coquimbo	La Serena	El Molle	Gualliguaica	Vicuña	Diaguitas	Paihuano	Montegrande	Pisco Elqui
Coquimbo		11	47	61	73	78	96	102	116
La Serena	11		36	50	62	67	85	101	105
El Molle	47	36		14	26	31	49	65	69
Gualliguaica	61	50	14		12	17	35	51	55
Vicuña	73	62	26	12		5	23	39	43
Diaguitas	78	67	31	17	5		20	34	38
Paihuano	96	85	49	35	23	20		9	20
Montegrande	112	101	65	51	39	34	9		4
Pisco Elqui	116	105	69	55	43	38	20	4	

Distance in kilometres (km).

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SIMBOLOGY

Additional services
- SERNATUR Tourist information office
- Local tourist information

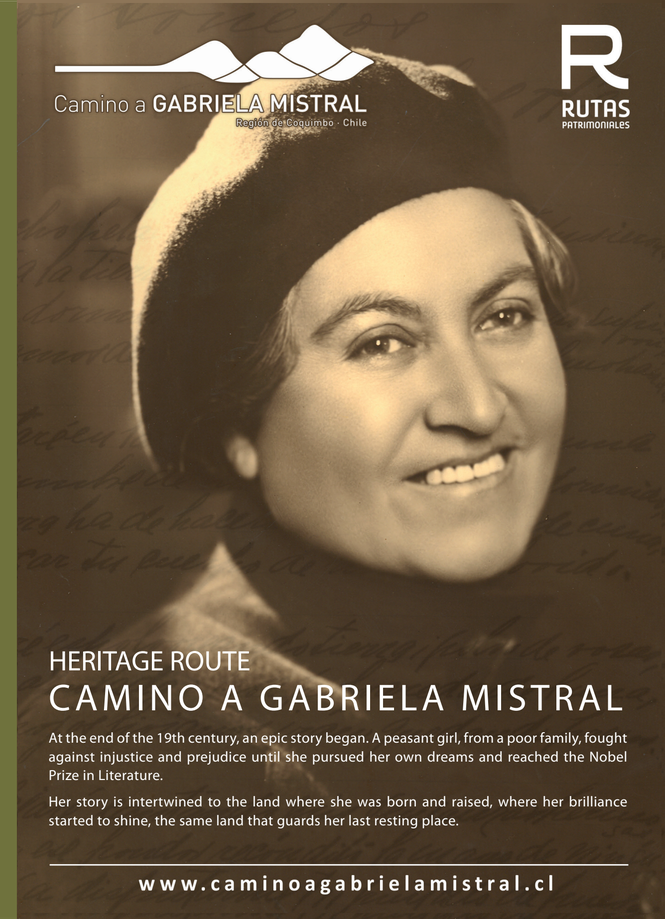
Natural tourist attractions
- Flora and fauna
- National Parks
- Thermal springs

Cultural tourist attractions
- Handicrafts
- Astronomical observatories
- Petroglyphs
- Paleontology

Environmental protection area
- Biosphere reserve
- Wetlands

The National Monuments Council protection area
- Typical or picturesque area
- Historic monuments

1. **Casa de las Artes Rural de La Cantera** *(Rural House of Arts in La Cantera)* La Cantera 1951, Coquimbo.
2. **Casa de Gabriela Mistral de Las Compañías** *(Gabriela Mistral's House in Las Compañías)* Gabriela Mistral 133, La Serena.
3. **Casa de Gabriela Mistral de las Palmeras** *(Gabriela Mistral's Palm Trees House)* Av. Francisco de Aguirre 300, La Serena.
4. **Biblioteca Regional Gabriela Mistral** *(Gabriela Mistral Regional Library)* Juan José Latorre 782, La Serena.
5. **Liceo Gabriela Mistral** *(Gabriela Mistral High School)* Benavente 560, La Serena.
6. **Museo Gabriela Mistral** *(Gabriela Mistral Museum)* Gabriela Mistral 759, Vicuña.
7. **Plaza Gabriela Mistral** *(Gabriela Mistral Square)* Main Square, Vicuña.
8. **Casa de la Cultura y Biblioteca Pública de Vicuña** *(The Cultural Centre and Public Library of Vicuña)* Chacabuco 334, Vicuña.
9. **Museo de Sitio Casa y Escuela de Gabriela Mistral** *(House and School of Gabriela Mistral On-site Museum)* Route D-485, Montegrande.
10. **Mausoleo** *(Mausoleum)* Route D-485, Montegrande.



Camino a GABRIELA MISTRAL
Región de Coquimbo · Chile

RUTAS PATRIMONIALES

HERITAGE ROUTE
CAMINO A GABRIELA MISTRAL

At the end of the 19th century, an epic story began. A peasant girl, from a poor family, fought against injustice and prejudice until she pursued her own dreams and reached the Nobel Prize in Literature.

Her story is intertwined to the land where she was born and raised, where her brilliance started to shine, the same land that guards her last resting place.

www.caminoagabrielamistral.cl