

Museums and cultural venues

When it comes to fine art, Santiago possesses an embarrassment of riches. For those without the time to visit them all, it is a difficult task to choose just one. These historical places are among the most famous buildings in Chile.

Museum of Natural History: The Museo Nacional de Historia Natural (Museum of Natural History), astounding visitors with its collection of wildlife dioramas, as well as an entire whale skeleton. The museum is located in the idyllic **Parque Quinta Normal** (Quinta Normal Park) west of the center.



Natural History National Museum at Quinta Normal Park - Santiago, Chile

Pre-Columbian Art Museum and National Fine Arts Museum: Two more of the best museums in Chile are the Museo Chileno de Arte Precolombino (Pre-Columbian Art Museum) and Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes (National Fine Arts Museum), a block southwest from the Plaza de Armas, and two blocks north of Santa Lucia Hill, respectively.

Each has an exquisite collection arguably unparalleled in South America.



National Fine Arts Museum

Gabriela Mistral Cultural Centre: Of special note among the city's museums is the Centro Gabriela Mistral (Gabriela Mistral Centre). More than an art museum, the venue hosts exhibitions, premieres, concerts, and theatre performances.

The center's namesake was a world-renowned author, educator, humanist, and diplomat, who became the first Latin American writer to be awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1945.

Cultural Center La Moneda: In the center of town is the Centro Cultural La Moneda (Cultural Center La Moneda). It's a great place to visit and they regularly update the exhibitions and bring new work to Chile. In the past they have shown exhibitions from Andy Warhol, Pablo Picasso, Sandro Botticelli and more! In addition, there are sometimes workshops that visitors can participate in. For the Andy Warhol show, the center hosted short workshops to demonstrate pop art techniques and allow visitors the chance to make some colorful artwork.

San Francisco Church: Located on the southern side of the Avenida Libertador General Bernardo O'Higgins, Iglesia San Francisco (San Francisco Church) is Chile's oldest monument, predating the colonial period. It contains colonial art and religious artifacts. Not only is the museum a national monument, but it has also been declared a World Heritage Site. San Francisco Church is a must-see, for both the secular and religious.



San Francisco Church - Santiago, Chile