Puntarenas is known for its artistic and cultural offerings, such as a collection of more than 25 stone sculptures located along the "Tourist Promenade," and along the cathedral boulevard. Puntarenas offers items that demonstrate innovation, history, identity and quality using local materials such as threaded and metallic jewelry, designs from recycled wood, items made from seeds, dresses that incorporate palm fiber, seashells, starfish and others.

**Events**

**PUNTARENAS CARNIVAL.** Celebrated every year in February and March. It's also known as the "Queen's Carnival." This event includes parades that make their way to the Tourist Promenade in the city's center. You'll have the opportunity to see pictorial displays, dance troupe, masquerades and local bands.

**VIRGIN OF THE SEA FESTIVAL.** This event takes place each year on July 16. Its main attraction is an open-sea procession with dozens of decorated boats.

**SEAFOOD FAIR.** This fair is held every year in May and December.

**AVOCADO FAIR.** This fair is held every year in March and June.

**Historical Sites**

**PUNTARENAS CATHEDRAL.** The Puntarenas Cathedral was built in 1902 by architect Humberto Canessa. Its interior is baroque. One of its most important elements is a large tower in the cathedral's center, similar to medieval construction. It was built with stones joined together by lime and sand mortar. It has a brick floor, and the exterior has various religious sculptures and large windows.

**HARBORMASTER'S OFFICE.** This building is located near the cruise ship dock on the Tourist Promenade. It was built in 1930 with concrete and galvanized iron. Its two floors have corridors, balconies and large ocean-view windows.

**"THE POINT" LIGHTHOUSE.** This construction was indespensable for guiding ships from the gulf's interior. Currently it is the location of Our Lady of Carmen's chapel bell tower.

**BAND SHELL.** This amphitheater is shell-shaped with a roof that simulates the leaves of the almond trees along the beach.

**PACIFIC MARINE PARK.** This park features diverse species of marine fauna, including sharks, turtles and fish, among others. It also has green areas for visitors, a store and dining service.

**TOURIST PROMENADE.** The Tourist Promenade is a pedestrian boulevard parallel to the beach. Here you'll find restaurants, shops, sports areas and various services.

**Gastronomy**

**VIGORÓN.** This dish is made of a base of chopped cabbage, cassava, fried chicharrón and beef, topped with diced tomato, salsas and vinegar, and served on one or two almond leaves.

**CEVICHE.** This dish has small pieces of fish or mollusk such as Andara clams in lime juice, with onion, bell pepper, culantro and salted to taste. Accompanied by green plantain.

**ESCAPEBRE.** This dish has several vegetables including chayote, carrots, green beans, cauliflower, broccoli, onion, bay leaves and cloves.

**SALPICON.** This dish has a tuna base in tomato sauce with seasonings.

**RESBALADERA.** This beverage is made from liquid rice, cinnamon, rum, sugar added to taste, ice and milk.

**CHURCHILL.** This is a type of shaved-ice dessert with flavored syrup and condensed milk.

**Parks**

**National Parks and Nature Reserves You can Visit from the Cruise Ship Port**

**Cañas National Park.**

This national park spans 47 square kilometers. It has varied flora and fauna such as monkeys, crocodiles, armadillos, aquatic birds, opossums, sloths, macaws and ocelots. The park also has trails with eco-tourist facilities and universal access. Its forest coverage is intact, which guarantees the purity of rivers and streams.

**Monteverde.**

This cloud forest reserve is rich in diversity of flora and fauna. Species like the quetzal nest in the months of August and September. Other bird species include the calyandra lark, umbrellabird, bare-throated bellbird, emerald toucanet and black guian. Mammal species include the tapir, jaguar, ocelot, spider monkey, white-faced capuchin monkey, armadillo, the black squirrel and others. One of its main attractions is the Monteverde Cloud Forest Biological Reserve. Other attractions to enjoy include horseback riding, canopy tours, mountain biking, hanging bridges and others.

**Adventure Activities**

From the cruise ship's port of arrival, you can enjoy various adventure tourism activities, such as canopy tours, which entail riding from one point to another on horizontal cables with a full set of safety equipment; rappelling, which is a rapid descent from a mountainside by sliding down a rope affixed to an overhang from the summit of a mountain; and adventure rally, which has teams race over terrain in a set time while avoiding obstacles to advance until the planned objective is accomplished.