



**04 Aug 2025**

**Context:** Scientists from the Universidad Catolica report that at least 10 beaches in Chile are expected to disappear within the next decade due to significant coastal erosion, which is exacerbated by climate change and unregulated development.



### About Chile's Coastal Erosion:

- **Severe beach loss:** 86% of the monitored beaches along the central and southern coasts of Chile are experiencing shrinkage, with 10 beaches facing critical endangerment.
- **Permanent disappearance likely:** Certain tourist beaches, such as Valparaiso, have already witnessed the shoreline disappear last year.



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### **Causes of Erosion:**

- **Climate-induced forces:** Increased intensity and frequency of swells, rising sea levels, and heatwaves are contributing to the acceleration of erosion.
- **Human activities:** Urban development, construction near dunes and wetlands, and the degradation of river basins are diminishing natural sand replenishment.

### **Implications:**

- **Livelihood loss:** Fisherfolk, small coastal enterprises, and tourism operators are confronting reduced income and potential displacement.
- **Ecological degradation:** Saltwater intrusion and collapsing cliffs pose threats to coastal forests and biodiversity.

### **About Chile:**

- **Continent:** South America, situated along the Pacific Ocean.
- **Borders:** Argentina, Peru, Bolivia, and the Pacific Ocean.

### **Capital: Santiago.**

- **Government:** Multiparty Republic; President – Gabriel Boric.

### **Natural Features:**

- **Mountains:** The Andes dominate the landscape and include Ojos del Salado, the highest active volcano at 22,614 ft.
- **Lakes & Glaciers:** The Lake District and the Southern Ice Cap, the second largest in the Southern Hemisphere.
- 10 beaches facing severe erosion are located along Renaca, Vina del Mar, Valparaiso, and Puerto Saavedra.
- **Deserts:** The Atacama Desert in the north is recognized as one of the driest locations on Earth.
- **Volcanoes:** Active volcanoes include Llaima, Osorno, and Copahue.
- **Rivers:** Short, seasonal rivers that are nourished by the snowcaps of the Andes.