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Puerto Natales, Chile: The City That Began As a Sheep Farm

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At the turn of the 20th century, the port city of Puerto Natales (located in Chile's Última Esperanza province), was founded as a way to deal with the area's booming sheep-farming industry. The town was an ideal location for the farmers, thanks to its waterside location and surrounding dry, scrub land.



Once a freezer plant where more than more than 3,000 sheep were slaughtered each day, the Frigorífico Borie was recently converted into [the Singular Puerto Borie](#), a new luxury hotel. It's a stone's throw from downtown Puerto Natales and an hour's drive from Torres del Paine National Park, and incorporates original elements of the building, including the boiler room and the tannery.



The former forge is now El Asador, a restaurant serving racks of lamb and guanaco steaks, for example; another two-story restaurant and bar was once the building's tannery.



The boiler room, home to machinery shipped over from England, forms part of a permanent exhibition that recalls the plant's and the city's beginnings. Other exhibits include wool presses, a locomotive, and wagons that transported workers to and from the plant.