

# From hunting...

# ...to housing whales

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## THE PROJECT: THE QUINTAY WHALE HOUSE

### ENHANCES HISTORICAL MEMORY

The former whaling site becomes a place that promotes the protection of these beautiful animals.

### FOCUSES ON THE BLUE WHALE

The blue whale, the largest animal on the planet, lives in the Southern Hemisphere off the Chilean coast. It is an icon of greatness that stirs emotions and affection.

### PROMOTES MARINE CONSERVATION

We will build a full-scale blue whale replica, which will be housed in one of the buildings of the former whaling site. It will be the largest installation of its kind in South America.

## A PROJECT WORTHY OF YOUR SUPPORT

In Chile, the Quintay whaling station illustrates the unique history of these kinds of facilities. In its heyday the station included many plant structures used for processing the whales.

Whale hunting represented a large portion of Chilean industrial development during the first half of the twentieth century. Today the site's ruins bear witness to the dimensions of this former industry, and will be the foundation on which we will build environmental awareness to resist the indiscriminate hunting of endangered animals.

The Quintay Foundation (FQ), the Blue Whale Center (Centro Ballena Azul, CBA) and WWF, a global organization of nature conservancy, together have defined a collaborative program that will disseminate information concerning the importance of conserving these animals. The site receives about 30,000 visitors annually.

As a tribute to the magnificent blue whale, the largest mammal on the planet, we will build the Quintay Whale House.

Quintay Foundation is transforming this place which formerly processed hunted whale, into a place of information promoting the protection of marine animals and the coastal ecosystem.

The construction of the Quintay Whale House will allow visitors to admire and marvel at an accurate replica of a blue whale to scale.

The project of transformation includes equipping the installation to deliver multi-media information about these magnificent animals and their protection.

We warmly invite you to participate in this unique project, which is highly educative and which will produce a positive impact for conservation.



## Quintay: a magical place

The fishing village of Quintay, where the whaling formerly took place, is located 45 km south of Valparaíso. The name "Quintay" comes from the Mapuche, meaning "vessel delivered to the wind." Its fishing history goes back to pre-Columbian times and up to the early twentieth century, which brought the development of fishing for swordfish (in the 40s) and the growth of the largest whaling station in the South Pacific.

Several events of importance to the country have happened in Quintay.

On June 23, 1947, President Gabriel González Videla, declared the sovereignty of Chile to include 200 nautical miles from its shore, laying the foundations for the doctrine of the Exclusive Economic Zone which now dominates the International Law of the Sea;

In October 1967, the Whaling at Quintay, forever stopped its whaling activities;

In August 2003, the Minister Secretary General of the Presidency of the Government of Chile created the country's first Marine Conservation Area, Parque Francisco Coloane, located in the vicinity of the island Carlos III in the Strait of Magallanes;

In June 2008, the President of Chile, Michelle Bachelet signed the bill that will create the Chilean Whale Sanctuary, which covers all the seas of Chile.

*"Handsome, charming Quintay!  
I never tire of coming to see you ...."  
Cecilia, June 2000.*



## The blue whale, an icon:

Whales are iconic and attractive species that have captured the imagination of mankind since time immemorial, and are undoubtedly some of the most fascinating animals on the planet. The blue whale can weigh 150 tons and measure 33 meters. The whale's tongue alone weighs as much as an adult elephant, and sounds made by a whale in Chile can reach New Zealand.

Film and literature have also been responsible for human awareness and knowledge of whales, from Aristotle's whale classifications, to Herman Melville's "Moby Dick", through Hollywood's "Save Willy".

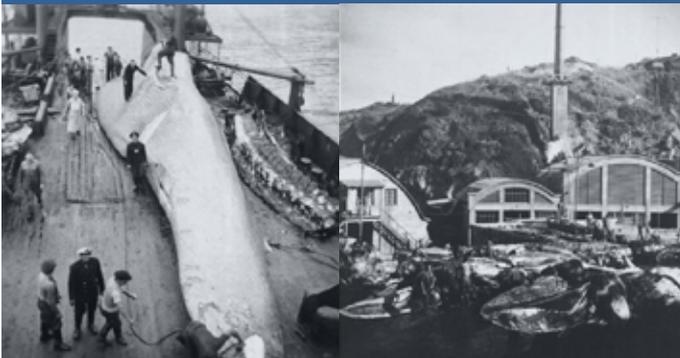
Whales have long been a cultural heritage of mankind. The traditions of indigenous communities in Chile are closely related to whales, also called Yene by the Huilliches. They believed that when they died, Yene was responsible for transporting their souls on its back to the Wenumapu, earth in heaven. The whales have earned a place in the hearts of all inhabitants of the modern world.

## Quintay Whale House

A place where, in just 16 years, 13,700 whales were killed, including 1,000 blue whales, now becomes a memorial of this attack against nature and a vehicle to resist future attacks.

Our concept, by paying tribute to and rescuing these beautiful animals, provides a message of optimism and hope for the survival of their species.

The Quintay Whale House will be emblematic of the shift away from the former whaling industry, and, bathed in a fresh sea breeze, will provide protection and new understanding for these magnificent creatures of the sea. Quintay Whale House is a metaphor for **"From hunting ...to housing whales"**.



## Why support this project?

- Heighten community interest in nature conservation;
- Provide access to historical and natural information about whales, increasing visibility of the work of the conservancy;
- Support the creation of an unique artwork;
- Serve all ages of interest, children, teens and adults ,and continue to grow the number of 30,000 visitors per year annually by 10%;
- Preserve a location of great natural charm;
- Support the private management of public space, protected by land use planning and on the verge of being declared an historical monument;
- The future possibility to receive tax deductions for donations.

## Technical Data

The Whale House consists of an industrial building of 450 square meters of concrete, 12 feet high, now in ruins.

The existing walls will be reinforced with steel and the roof and new walls will be constructed in transparent material, to allow external viewing of the whale replica which will be housed inside.

A lighting system will depict the whale swimming among the rocks in the sea.

The whale replica will be constructed of polyurethane and fiberglass with a steel inner structure.

The entire construction will take 12 months and cost 300,000 USD.





Large-scale blue whale at the Museum of Natural History as reference

### References:

The principals visited major museums and interpretive centers of the world's marine biology and ecology sciences to discuss ideas for our adaptation.

The large-scale blue whale at the Museum of Natural History in New York is a primary reference (pictured above). However, we aspire to a quality and fidelity to facts which can be found in Te Papa Tongarewa Museum in Wellington (pictured below right).

All of our work has been done respecting the concept of low maintenance cost with the goal of highlighting the conservation of marine biodiversity with special focus on the blue whale. We believe this approach provides long-term museum viability and permanence for the photographic exhibits and displays (see photo below), while making the resources available to visitors over time.



Prototype of WWF Chile photo exhibition room

### Project Developers

The project is led by Dr. Karin Gauer of the Quintay Foundation in close collaboration with WWF Chile which brings with it an international support network. Technical assistance is provided by the Blue Whale Center, whose director is the renowned scientist and whale expert Dr. Rodrigo Hucke-Gaete. The construction of the blue whale replica incorporates the work of the national well-known sculptor Jorge Barba, author of the true-scale dinosaur replicas in Concepcion. We will also have technical support from Te Papa Tongarewa Museum in Wellington, New Zealand. The renowned architect Carlos Urquiza Vega is in charge of the transformation of the building, currently in ruins, which will house the whale replica. The experience that this multidisciplinary team provides, offers a guarantee of success for the proper completion of the project.



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Replica of blue whale at the Te Papa Tongarewa Museum