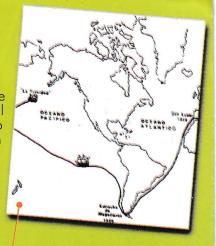
## FOUNDING OF FUERTE BULNES AND PUNTA ARENAS

At the beginning of 1841 the government of President Manuel Bulnes made great efforts to incorporate the Patagonian territories and Tierra del Fuego into Chile. The Chilean government knew full well that France and Argentina were especially interested in extending their sovereignty over the Magellanic land and waters. To prevent this, President Bulnes sent a expedition to Magallanes with the mission of colonizing the region. In may of 1843 the schooner "Ancud" left the port



Recorrido de Hernando de Magallanes y el descubrimiento del Estrecho (1520).

of Ancud on Chiloé. In charge was Captain John Williams, an experienced English Officer in the service of the Chilean Navy. The Prussian naturalist Bernardo Phillipi joined the crew an served as cartographer, builder, botanist, rifleman, explorer and diplomatic

After travelling for four months, the schooner anchored near Puerto del Hambre on September 21. On that date, Williams officially took possession of the Strait of Magellan and its territory

in the name of the Republic of Chile.

By October 30, the crew had built a small fort at the top of the Santa Ana hill, which they called "Bulnes" in honor to the President of the Republic. By 1848, the governor of this settlement was José de los Santos Mardones.

After thoroughly exploring the Region they realized that the best place to locate the settlement would be in a more sheltered area to the north of Fuerte Bulnes. This new location, along the Strait and between the Carbón river and Punta Arenosa (Sandy Point), was named Punta Arenas after the nearby point on December 18, 1848.

John Williams y Fuerte Bulnes.







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