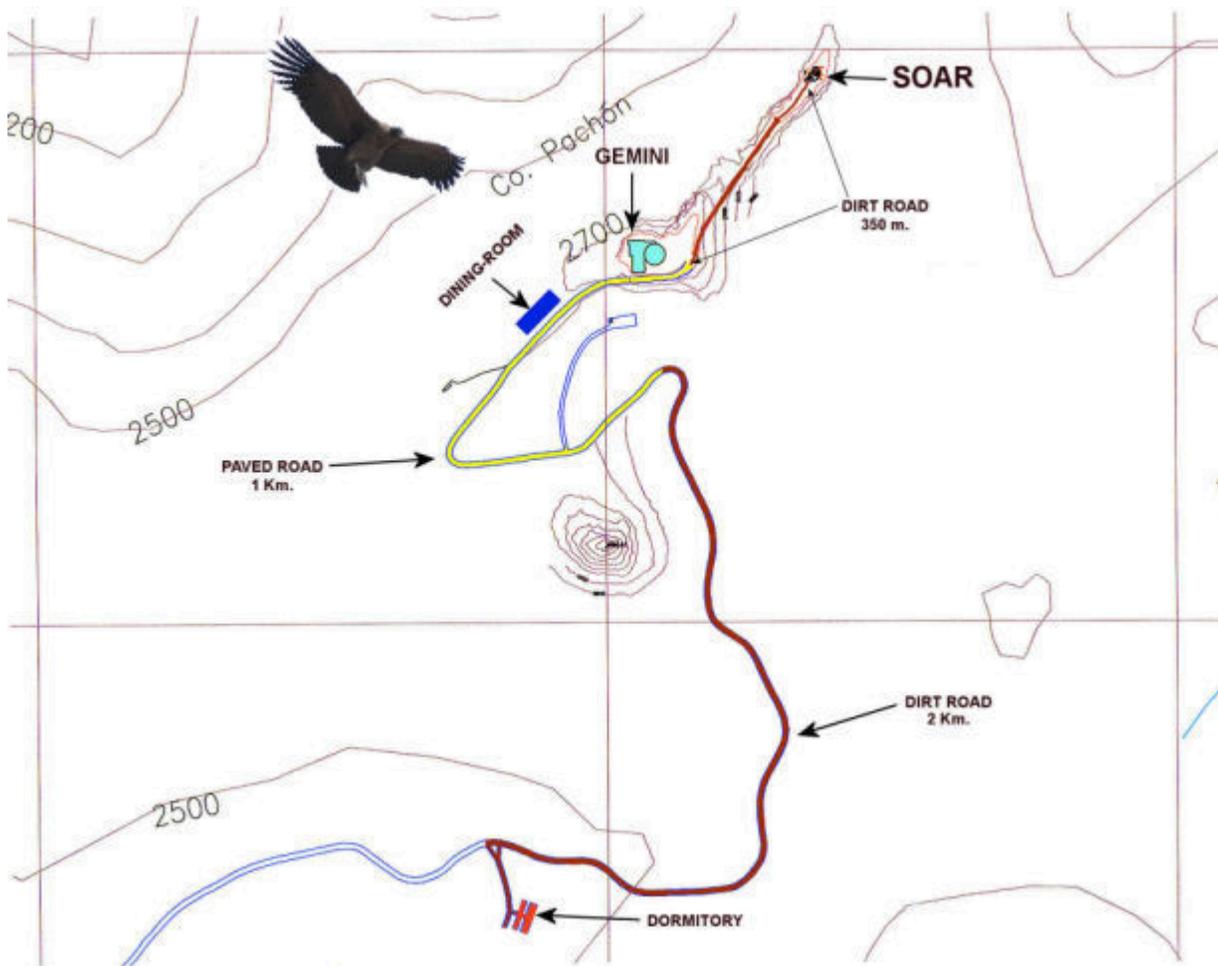


Published on SOAR (<http://www.ctio.noao.edu/soar>)

[Home](#) > [About](#) > Site description

## Location



Cerro Pachon is located 10km southeast and 0.5km higher than CTIO (Cerro Tololo Inter-American Observatory), at an altitude of 2.701m, in the Chilean Andes.

**The geographical coordinates of the SOAR telescope are:**

Geodetic latitude:  $-30^{\circ} 14' 16.41''$

Geodetic Longitude: -70° 44' 01.11"

Geodetic height: 2748 m

Elevation: 2713 m

Geocentric Latitude: -30° 04' 14.89"

Were for the geodetic latitude and longitude, south and west are negative), the geodetic height (in m) is measured with respect to the WGS-84 ellipsoid, the elevation (H) is measured with respect to the EGM96 geoid ("mean sea level"). See more information at: the [CTIO Coordinates for Observatories web page](#). [1]

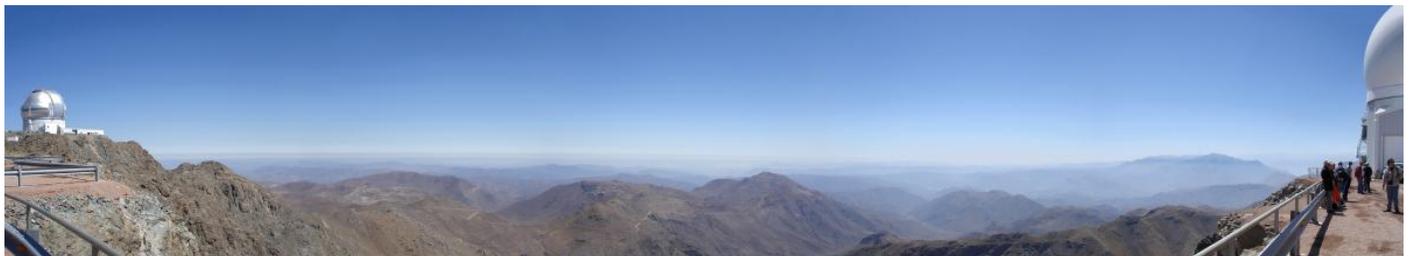
Cerro Pachón is about a 1h 45min drive east of the city of La Serena, where the SOAR offices and headquarters are located. The observatory can be accessed by driving on route 41 for 50 km, then making a right on the dirt road that extends for another 20km to Cerro Pachón, and also leads to the Cerro Tololo Interamerican Observatory (CTIO). However, public access is restricted by a guarded gate just a few hundred meters from the main 41 route.

### Visiting SOAR

Though CTIO has public visitor program on weekends (see <http://www.ctio.noao.edu/noao/content/Visits-Tololo> [2]), SOAR does not have a similar program yet, but special group visits (like schools) may be arranged with [Ms. Marcela Urquieta](#) [3], our administrative support person at La Serena.

[View Larger Map](#) [4]

On the same mountain as SOAR, about 0.4km far from north, is the [Gemini South Observatory](#) [5], close enough to access Gemini instruments and its mirror-coating facility. At the end of a narrow access road is the leveled 3.600 m<sup>2</sup> plataform (142m long and 35m wide at the larger point), on which SOAR sits.



---

**Source URL:** <http://www.ctio.noao.edu/soar/content/location>

### Links

[1] <http://www.ctio.noao.edu/noao/content/Coordinates-Observatories-Cerro-Tololo-and-Cerro-Pachon>

[2] <http://www.ctio.noao.edu/noao/content/Visits-Tololo>

[3] <http://www.ctio.noao.edu/soar/content/contact-us>

[4] <http://maps.google.com/?ie=UTF8&hq=&hnear=La+Serena,+Elqui+Province,+Coquimbo+Region,+Chile&t=h&vpsrc=0&ll=-30.238483,-70.733778&spn=0.004449,0.006866&z=17&source=embed>

[5] <http://www.gemini.edu/>