

ITINERARY  
***BIRDS & WINES OF CHILE AND ARGENTINA***  
*January 30- February 13, 2027*



*We will visit the Salentein Winery near Mendoza, Argentina, where we'll sample some fine wines, and see some great birds such as Sandy Gallito and White-throated Cacholote. Photograph by participant Sid England.*

We include here information for those interested in the 2027 Field Guides *Birds & Wines of Chile and Argentina* tour:

- a general introduction to the tour
- a description of the birding areas to be visited on the tour
- an abbreviated daily itinerary with some indication of the nature of each day's birding outings

These additional materials will be made available to those who register for the tour:

- an annotated list of the birds recorded on a previous year's Field Guides trip to the area, with comments by guide(s) on notable species or sightings (may be downloaded from our web site)
- a detailed information bulletin with important logistical information and answers to questions regarding accommodations, air arrangements, clothing, currency, customs and immigration, documents, health precautions, and personal items
- a Field Guides checklist for preparing for and keeping track of the birds we see on the tour
- after the conclusion of the tour, a list of birds seen on the tour

**Argentina** and Chile, two countries divided by the longest mountain range on Earth, are joined by a passion for making and drinking excellent wine! This new tour aims to take you to the wine-producing regions of these two countries while showing you the exuberant natural world that surrounds them.

The Andes are undoubtedly the main star of the tour, and this mountain range is largely responsible for the megadiversity of South America's avifauna. The geographical barriers created by the Andes are at the root of different cultures, *terroirs*, and distinctive bird communities that we aim to explore during our stay here. We'll cross over this massif on a day that may prove to be one of the most memorable of the tour.

On the Chilean side, we'll explore the region around Santiago, a vibrant city surrounded by not one, but two mountain ranges that cradle a variety of birds, including the odd-looking Moustached Turca (one really strange tapaculo!), the aptly named Giant Hummingbird, Chilean Mockingbird, White-throated Tapaculo, Dusky-tailed Canastero, Striped Woodpecker, Austral Pygmy-Owl, and the very handsome Rufous-tailed Plantcutter. Santiago is also home to some of the best wineries in Chile, and we will take time to visit them and learn how great wines are produced. We will also spend time on the coast where we'll take advantage of the rich marine life supported by the Humboldt Current both on our outings and in our meals. We'll sample the wealth of seafood produced here, pairing it with the fine white wines of the Casablanca Valley, while scanning the ocean for Inca Terns, Humboldt Penguins, and more.

In Argentina, we will be in the world headquarters of Malbec, also known as the province of Mendoza. Here we will spend two nights in a winery and explore the area in search of Burrowing Parrots, Sandy and Crested gallitos, White-tipped Plantcutter, White-winged Black-Tyrant, White-throated Cacholote, and Correndera Pipit; later, we'll visit a large salt lake that is home to a breeding colony of Chilean Flamingos.

Throughout both countries we will always keep an eye in the sky for those incredible Andean Condors watching over us as we discover the true meaning of *savoir vivre*!

*Salud!*



*Burrowing Parakeets are unique parrots found in the Chaco region of Argentina. Photograph by participant Randy Beaton.*

*We want to be sure you are on the right tour! Below is a description of the physical requirements of the tour. If you are concerned about the difficulty, please contact us about this and be sure to fully explain your concerns. We want to make sure you have a wonderful time with us, so if you are uncomfortable with the requirements, just let us know, and we can help you find a better-fitting tour! Field Guides will not charge you a change or cancellation fee if you opt out within 10 days of depositing.*

### **Physical requirements of this tour**

- **TRAILS & WALKING:** Moderate amounts of walking, much of it on paved roads or well-groomed tracks or trails. No single walk exceeding 2 miles in distance round-trip; most will be shorter. Walks in steep terrain are few and taken slowly, and those at higher elevations are short and slow. All walks are optional.
- **POTENTIAL CHALLENGES:** We cover much ground on this tour, and many days will feature long periods of time in the bus and roadside birding, with much getting in and out. Altitude sickness affects some visitors to high elevations, and physical or health problems can be exacerbated. We will take care to move at a slow pace, but participants must be aware of their limitations and the challenges that high altitudes present.

- **PACE:** On a couple of days, we will have an early breakfast at 6:00 a.m., and on most days, breakfast will be later (7:00 to 8:00) followed by birding, with a break for lunch (a couple of picnics, mostly in restaurants). In the afternoons, we sometimes bird but usually shift the focus to vineyards and wineries. Dinners are served rather late in both countries (7:00-8:30 p.m.).
- **ELEVATION:** Most birding will take place at lower elevations (sea level to 2,500 feet), but on three days we will bird at high elevation (around 8,000 feet, reaching up to 10,000 feet for a couple of hours). One night will be spent at 7,000 feet. Those prone to altitude sickness should take precautions.
- **WEATHER:** Temperatures are often chilly in the highest elevations (low 40s F), whereas the lowest elevations can be rather hot (80s to low 90s F). Rain showers are a possibility.
- **VEHICLE SEATING:** So that each participant has an equal opportunity during our travel, we employ a seat rotation system on all tours. Participants will need to be flexible enough to maneuver to the back of the vehicle on occasion, though our large van makes it quite easy. Those who experience motion sickness will need to bring adequate medication for the duration of the tour, as we are not able to reserve forward seats for medical conditions.
- **BATHROOM BREAKS:** Whenever possible, we use modern, indoor restrooms, but in remote areas, participants must be prepared to make a comfort stop in nature.
- **OPTING OUT:** Where we are staying multiple days in the same lodging, participants can easily opt to sit out a day or sometimes a half-day. This will not be possible on days when we are changing locations.

**Other considerations:** We have tried to balance our goal of sampling a broad cross-section of Chile's and Argentina's birds, landscapes, and wines with reasonable logistics. This is a tour of Chile's heartland with a focus on the Chilean Mediterranean zone and marine specialties, as well as Argentina's province of Mendoza with several widespread species and a good number of Argentine endemics—all while sampling the wines from both countries and learning about the winemaking process as we go.

Restaurants in Chile and Argentina typically open later than most birders would prefer, often at 9:00 p.m. In order to get earlier dinners, it will sometimes be necessary to pre-arrange a set menu. This facilitates the evening meal immensely, as well as allowing us to conduct paired wine tastings on a number of nights over the course of the tour. Having said that, we still are unlikely to eat dinner any earlier than 7:00 p.m. at most sites, and sometimes 8:00 will be the earliest. Special dietary concerns will be forwarded to the hotels before the tour and kept in mind by the tour leader as he plans the meals. Be warned that both Chileans and Argentines are great meat lovers, but we will do our best to cater to all diets!

If you are uncertain whether this tour is a good match for your abilities, please don't hesitate to contact our office; if they cannot directly answer your queries, they will put you in touch with one of the guides.

## About the Birding Areas

**Santiago's central Andes**—The central section of the Chilean Andes is an important region for birding, as many species are limited within the country to this area. A variety of Andean habitats between 1220 and 3050 meters are accessible from the capital. These range from arid shrub-covered slopes and rugged canyons of the lower Andes to upper-temperate scrub and open rocky alpine habitats at 2750 to 3350 meters (near Farellones, a ski resort above Santiago). In Farellones, a lovely summer setting of snow-mantled peaks and rugged slopes, we'll seek such central-Chilean specialties as White-sided Hillstar, Creamy-rumped (rare) and Rufous-banded miners (the Chilean form probably deserves species status), Gray-flanked Cinclodes (scarce), Sharp-billed (Lesser) and Cordilleran canasteros, Moustached Turca (a vocal, large, and often very visible tapaculo!), Black-fronted (scarce), White-browed, and Ochre-naped ground-tyrants, Greater Yellow-Finch, and Band-tailed and Gray-hooded sierra-finches. In the wild foothills, we will also make a concerted effort to locate the rare and little-known Crag Chilia, perhaps Chile's most unusual endemic bird, as well as the endemic Chilean Tinamou.

We shall also visit the Yeso valley, a beautiful area of high elevation (2450m) wetlands south of Farellones. Here we'll look for Andean Parakeet and Magellanic Tapaculo, as well as several species mentioned above, in Farellones. El Yeso holds a large population of Andean Condors, up to thirty can be seen on a good day! Perhaps *the* bird of Yeso is the Diademed Sandpiper-Plover, *Phegornis mitchellii*, its generic name meaning bird of splendor. This high-elevation shorebird embodies characteristics of both plovers and sandpipers, and its beautiful plumage, combined with its genuine rarity, has made it one of the most sought-after of Andean birds. El Yeso is a particularly good place for seeing the sandpiper-plover because much of the bird's favored bog/stream habitat occurs not far from the road and at a somewhat lower elevation than elsewhere in the bird's range. Finding this species will be a high priority.



**Central Chilean foothills and lowlands**—Situated west of Santiago are the coast ranges where habitats vary from arid, stony hillsides with thorny *matorral* (shrubby thorn forest) and cacti to strips of riparian woodland. It is a birdy place in the early morning, where we could find, among others, the endemic Chilean Tinamou, Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle, Chilean Flicker, Striped Woodpecker, Plain-mantled Tit-Spintail, Dusky-tailed Canastero, Great Shrike-Tyrant (rare), Fire-eyed Diucon, Tufted Tit-Tyrant, “Chilean” White-crested Elaenia, Chilean Swallow, Austral Thrush, the endemic Chilean Mockingbird, Common Diuca-Finch, Austral Blackbird, and Long-tailed Meadowlark. More importantly, though, this shrub zone is home to two other special endemics, the big White-throated Tapaculo, whose explosive song can raise the hairs on one’s neck, and the endemic Dusky Tapaculo. We will give these endemic tapaculos top priority.

The coast of Valparaíso province provides more *matorral* habitat where we shall try for anything we didn’t see in the mountains. But the real highlights here are several wetlands, including El Peral Lake, Batuco Lake, the Lampa Marshes, and the mouth

of the Maipo River. Here we shall seek White-tufted Grebe, Stripe-backed Bittern, the gorgeous Black-necked Swan, Cinnamon Teal, Red Shoveler, Rosy-billed Pochard, Yellow-billed Pintail, Lake and Black-headed (rare) ducks, Plumbeous Rail, Spot-flanked Gallinule, and Red-gartered, Red-fronted, and White-winged coots. Two species found in *Scirpus* marshes we will search for include the odd Wren-like Rushbird and the Many-colored Rush-Tyrant, perhaps the most beautiful tyrant flycatcher. At the Maipo River, we also stand a chance of finding the Warbling Doradito—this Chilean form certainly deserves species status. If the water levels are right in the Lampa Marshes, we could also see the South American Painted-snipe, a secretive bird that is absent if it is too dry or too wet! The mouth of the Maipo River and its associated estuary also offer a chance to view large numbers of non-breeding gulls and terns, as well as Black Skimmers and migratory shorebirds.

**The central coast and the Humboldt Current off Valparaíso**—The cold Humboldt Current that sweeps up the Pacific coast of northern Chile and Peru not only delivers planktonic riches that support an entire oceanic food chain of remarkable biomass and diversity, but the chilled air mass above it robs the westerlies of their moisture, thus creating the coastal Atacama Desert farther to the north. The effects of the Humboldt Current are still felt—although slightly ameliorated—along the central Chilean coast. Near Viña del Mar, many of the Humboldt Current specialties (including Humboldt Penguin, Peruvian Booby, Guanay and Red-legged cormorants, and Inca Tern) can be conspicuous right along the road that winds through the arid hills overlooking the rocky coastline. Here too is the endemic Chilean Seaside Cinclodes, *Cinclodes nigrofumosus*.

**Crossing the Andes**—Never mind the birds and forget the wines. The Andes in all their glory are the true star of this tour, and crossing them by land is not only one of the most scenic and memorable trips one can make, but also a most fascinating journey for a natural history aficionado. They comprise the longest mountain range on Earth, spanning over 5000 miles from north to south, and their rise had such a profound impact on the continent that it would be impossible to imagine what South America would be like if the Andes did not exist. On either side of the mountains, we will find different climates, soils, plants, birds, and cultures. A large number of species that are widespread on the continent can only be found on the Argentine portion of this tour—Tropical Kingbird and Guira Cuckoo. Many birds that are known from both sides sound completely different on either side, to the point that I could hardly recognize the loud calls of the common Southern Lapwing when I first set foot in Chile. During our crossing, we will take some time to bird Aconcagua Provincial Park and search for Mountain Parakeets, Creamy-rumped Miners, Black-billed Shrike-Tyrant, Gray-breasted Seedsnipe, and others, all with the tallest mountain in South America in the background.

**Monte Desert**—The biogeographical province known as Monte Desert comprises an extensive area that stretches from 23° to 43° south in latitude and encompasses a large part of the province of Mendoza at its western limit. It is characterized by shrub steppes and small and localized areas of woodland. The region has a high level of endemism of plants and insects, and few birders have explored the areas we will be visiting. Much remains to be studied and discovered in this area, but as we move about, we will make an effort to locate several specialties such as Sandy Gallito, Scale-throated Earthcreeper, White-throated Cacholote, Cordilleran Canastero, White-browed Ground-Tyrant, and many others.

**Laguna Llanquanelo Provincial Park**—Laguna Llanquanelo is a large (40,000ha), very shallow (less than 3m deep), inland saline water body located in the Department of Malargue in southern Mendoza, Argentina. It is situated at 1330m above sea level and is surrounded by medium-high hills of the pre-cordillera. The lagoon is part of a closed drainage system 50 km in length and 12 km wide, fed by the Rio Malargue, several creeks, and groundwater. The water level of the lagoon, and thus its perimeter, is highly variable and especially dependent on the rainfall cycle.

The area was declared a Provincial park due to the abundance of waterfowl found here in the early 80's; subsequent studies have recorded 98 species of birds on the lagoon and in surrounding areas, 28 of which are aquatic species breeding in the lagoon. The park is most famous for its breeding colony of Chilean Flamingos, but we will also find a large number of Coscoroba and Black-necked swans, and many others. The surrounding areas are also very productive, and we are likely to come by among others such as Correndera Pipit, Patagonian Canastero, and Yellow-billed Tit-Tyrant.



*This tour is organized so that we may find the best of birds and wines in Chile and Argentina! We'll visit a number of wineries, and even be able to enjoy some wine with our lunch! Photograph by participant Sue Wright.*

## About the Wine Regions and Wineries

**Maipo Valley**—One of the oldest wine-growing regions in Chile and home to many of the country's most acclaimed wines, Maipo Valley is large and encompasses a variety of microclimates, allowing for the production of several different styles of wine. The rocky soil, combined with the great variation in temperatures throughout the day and very dry summers, accounts largely for the high quality of the wines produced here. In this area, we will attempt to visit three wineries, the two largest ones in Chile, as well as one of the smallest, allowing us to get a sense of the full spectrum of the scale of this fascinating industry.

**Casablanca Valley**—Located only 40 kilometers from the coast and surrounded by smaller mountains, this valley found its true calling in the 80's with the employment of new technology and the discovery of the valley's suitability for the production of white wines. As a result of alluvial deposition, the soil in the area is composed mostly of sand, silt, and clay, which drains well, while the constant exposure to fog results in a slow ripening of the grapes, bringing out the best characteristics for whites.

**Mendoza** accounts for nearly two-thirds of wine production for the entire country and is largely responsible for the giant leap in quality seen in the Argentine wines in recent years. The arid climate and great temperature variation throughout the day, combined with modern irrigation techniques, allow for a very controlled development of the grapes; this, combined with the latest in winemaking technology, has elevated Argentine wines to the highest international standards.

We will visit three distinct areas in the Mendoza Province, each with unique characteristics and terroirs. They are:

- Lujan de Cuyo is the birthplace of the best Malbecs in Argentina, which come from vines planted at altitudes ranging from 850 to 1525m. This was the first controlled appellation created in Mendoza.
- Valle de Uco is rapidly gaining importance as it invests in the production of varieties from higher altitudes that reach 1220m; we are likely to see more and more premium wines coming from this area in the near future.
- San Rafael once produced large quantities of lower-quality wine largely consumed by the internal market. However, the region is making a transition with the reduction of quantities and improvement of quality; we will have little time in this area, as we will not overnight, but we will do our best to sample some of its wines.



*The Crag Chilia is a furnariid endemic to Chile. We'll look for these charming little birds in the high country near Santiago.  
Photograph by participant DV Hardy.*

## Itinerary for Birds & Wines of Chile and Argentina

**Day 1, Sat, 30 Jan. Departure for Santiago.** International overnight flights depart the US this evening. Your guides are planning to be in Chile and will meet you in Santiago. If you would like to go a day or two early to recover from the flight and/or to tour around Santiago, please contact our office, and we can help you make those arrangements.

**Day 2, Sun, 31 Jan. Santiago.** Upon arrival in Santiago, you will be met by a representative of our local agent who will transfer you to our hotel, where you will be met by your guides and the rest of the group. After settling into our rooms, we will have lunch at the picturesque Central Market of Santiago. After lunch, our plan is to spend the afternoon birding. We'll visit Farellones, a popular Ski Village just outside of Santiago, where we will look for our first Condors as well as several high-altitude specialists such as the Black-winged Ground-Dove or the Rufous-banded Miner. Night in Santiago.

**Day 3, Mon, 1 Feb. Santiago.** The city of Santiago is surrounded by great wineries and wonderful reserves, and we'll begin the day by visiting Rio Clarillo National Reserve, where we'll keep our eyes peeled as we look for a variety of endemics such as Moustached Turca, Dusky-tailed Canastero, and White-throated Tapaculo, and, with a dose of good luck, do more than just hear the Chilean Tinamou. There are other specialties as well, some that are sure to impress even the non-birder, such as Giant Hummingbird, Austral Pygmy-Owl, and the handsome Rufous-tailed Plantcutter.

We'll have lunch at Viña Santa Rita, then visit their cellars and bottling plant and their Andean museum that holds a spectacular pre-Colombian collection. Next, we'll head to the nearby Concha Y Toro for a visit and a tasting of some of their premium wines. Night in Santiago.

**Day 4, Tue, 2 Feb. Santiago.** This will be one of the most strenuous days of the tour. We'll have breakfast before dawn and lunch in the field in order to make the best of a full day of birding in the Andean highlands as we search for the rare and unusual Diademed Sandpiper-Plover as well as many other highlights. Today, we are more than likely to have our first encounter with the incredible Andean Condor, and, as we make our way to and from our destination, we will make several stops that may well produce good looks at Torrent Duck, Crag Chilia, Chilean Flicker, Austral Blackbird, and Spot-billed Ground-Tyrant, among several other highlights. On our way back to Santiago, we will visit Concha Y Toro, Chile's largest winery, for a memorable dinner paired with their wines. Night in Santiago.



*The Mountain Caracara is found in the high Andes, from southern Ecuador to Chile and Argentina. We'll watch for these striking raptors as we cross the Andes. Photograph by participant Sid England.*

**Day 5, Wed, 3 Feb. Santiago to Uspallata.** If this tour had just one day, this would be it. Today, we will make the journey of a lifetime, and we will take it slow because we will certainly want to see the Andes in all their glory as we leave Santiago and make our way up into the mountains. En route, we will stop as we encounter Mountain Caracaras, White-sided Hillstars, Black-fronted Ground-Tyrants, and others. And although today will be a very productive day for birding, the scenery will certainly be the star. Once we've gone through the formalities of crossing the border into Argentina, we will visit Aconcagua Provincial Park, where on a clear day we should have a quite spectacular view of the tallest mountain in the Americas, Mount Aconcagua. We'll then continue towards the small town of Uspallata, where we will spend the night. Night in Uspallata.

**Day 6, Thu, 4 Feb. Uspallata to Salentein Winery.** After a productive morning of birding around Uspallata, where we may encounter Plumbeous Rail, Great Pampa-finch, Warbling Doradito, and many others, we'll continue towards the small town of Tunuyan and check into Posada Salentein, a lovely lodge that is part of one of Mendoza's most beautiful wineries. Night at Posada Salentein.

**Day 7, Fri, 5 Feb. Posada Salentein.** The property at Salentein produces more than just grapes, and we will make a point of using this morning to explore the surrounding orchards and a good area of native habitat on the back side of the property, where we may find a wide range of birds such as White-crested Cachalote, Cinnamon and Ringed warbling-finches, Mourning Sierra-Finch, White-winged Black-Tyrant, and, if we are lucky, Elegant Crested-Tinamou. We will then visit a nearby winery for lunch and take some time to visit the cellars and the museum at Salentein later in the afternoon. Night at Posada Salentein.

**Day 8, Sat, 6 Feb. Posada Salentein to Malargue.** Today, we will continue to head south in the province of Mendoza. As we make our way towards the town of Malargue, we'll make several stops along the way, as we will be traveling through some excellent birding areas. With some luck today, we will find the rare Burrowing Parakeets, the unusual Sandy Gallito, and several other interesting birds, perhaps including Chiguanco Thrush, Chaco Earthcreeper, Blue-and-yellow Tanager, and Yellow-billed Tit-Tyrant. We will reach our destination late in the afternoon and enjoy a traditional *parrillada* (Argentine barbecue) for dinner. Night in Malargue.



*The Lake Duck is a handsome stiff-tail, related to the Ruddy Duck. We'll see them when we visit Llanquanelo Province Park. Photograph by participant Mike Warner.*

**Day 9, Sun, 7 Feb. Malargue.** We'll devote the day to exploring Llanquanelo Province Park and its surroundings. We will leave early with packed lunches. We'll explore the area in search of a large number of species of waterfowl as well as several passerines. We are more than likely to have excellent views of Chilean Flamingos, Black-necked and Coscoroba swans, Black-headed and Lake ducks, White-tufted and Great grebes, Andean Gulls, and as we explore the surroundings of the lake, we may come across Correndera Pipit, Austral Negrito, Spectacled Tyrant, Many-colored Rush-Tyrant, Lesser Rhea, and Common Miner, among many others. Night in Malargue.

**Day 10, Mon, 8 Feb. Malargue to Mendoza City.** Shortly after breakfast, we will start to make our way back north towards the city of Mendoza, looking for interesting birds along the way, but we will mostly take advantage of the morning to reach the small village of Manzano Historico, where we will search for species such as White-sided Hillstar, Torrent Duck, Rufous-tailed Plantcutter and several other high altitude species before Lunch. Lunch today will be at a lovely boutique winery where we will enjoy great views of the Andes, excellent food, and fine wines. After lunch, we will make our way to Mendoza City, where we will check into our hotel and get to bed early in preparation for our early departure tomorrow. Night in Mendoza.

**Day 11, Tue, 9 Feb. Mendoza City.** This will be one of the most exciting birding experiences of the tour. We will leave our hotel quite early today (5:00 a.m.) and make our way northeast toward a reserve known as Bosques de Telteca, where we will be searching for a wide range of special birds such as Scimitar-billed Woodcreeper, Checkered Woodpecker, Narrow-billed Woodcreeper, White-fronted Woodpecker, and many others. Returning to Mendoza for a late lunch and in time to explore this vibrant and surprisingly green city, we will take some time to bird its surroundings, searching for a great variety of birds that may include the stunning Red-tailed Comet, Sparkling Violetear, Brown-capped Tit-Spintail, Lark-like Brushrunner, and others. We will have dinner at our hotel and get ready for our flight back to Chile the following day. Night in Mendoza City.

**Day 12, Wed, 10 Feb. Mendoza city to Viña del Mar.** In order to maximize our experiences and reduce the time that we spend on the road, we'll fly to Santiago today instead of driving. Upon arrival in Santiago, we'll drive west and visit a family home where we will have the rare treat of eating a homemade meal in typical Chilean style. Fortunately for us, this family's backyard is also full of waterfowl, and we may enjoy great looks at birds such as Spot-flanked Gallinule, White-winged Coot, and, with some luck, even a rare Black-headed Duck. After a hearty lunch, we will continue to the coast, where we will check into our hotel and bird some nearby roosting colonies of gulls and terns. Night in Viña del Mar.



*In coastal regions we'll watch for the unique Seaside Cinclodes. These furnariids are specially adapted to live in the tidal zone where they feed on small invertebrates and crustaceans. Photograph by participant Sid England.*

**Day 13, Thu, 11 Feb. Viña del Mar.** We'll depart early this morning to explore the mouth of the Maipo River. Here we will look for various species such as the Thorn-tailed Rayadito, Ticking Doradito, and enjoy a multitude of Gulls, Cormorants, and shorebirds. We will then head over to Matetic Vineyard for lunch, followed by a visit to some nearby *matorral* to look for the very difficult and elusive White-throated Tapaculo. As we bird, we will likely run into Chilean Flicker, Striped Woodpecker, and perhaps raptors such as Variable and Harris's hawks... and who knows, maybe even a Chilean Tinamou. We'll then drive back north and enjoy a memorable dinner by the ocean before returning to our hotel. Night in Viña del Mar.

**Day 14, Fri, 12 Feb. Birding the coast and return to Santiago.** After a morning of birding along the coast in Viña del Mar, we'll return to our hotel with plenty of time to go back to our rooms and pack up. We then head to the Casablanca Valley and have one final lunch at Vina Mar before we start to head back to Santiago International Airport in time to catch evening flights.

**Day 15, Sat, 13 Feb. Arrival in US.** Flights arrive in the US early this morning, connecting to homebound flights. Safe travels!

## About Your Guide

**Marcelo Padua** was born in Belem at the mouth of the Amazon River. Growing up he spent his free time at his uncle's farm in an Amazon rainforest reserve observing everything from insects to mammals and birds. Marcelo began studying English at an early age and attended high school in Middletown, Pennsylvania in a student-exchange program. He is remarkably fluent and even taught English for a couple of years back home in Brazil.

Following university in Rio de Janeiro, Marcelo transferred to law school in Cuiaba, but working as an English-speaking naturalist guide during school holidays soon made it clear to him that birding was much more than a hobby! With just a year to go for his bar exam, he turned his back on the law to hang out his shingle as a birding guide. He met Bret Whitney in 2005 and embarked on a full-time guiding career with Field Guides in 2010. With his great sense of humor, impeccable organizational skills, and love of seeing birds, Marcelo has quickly become a reference for birding in Brazil, spending over 200 days each year in the field. A warning: Watch out if he sees displaying manakins of any kind! Marcelo makes his nest at the crossroads of the Pantanal and the Amazon in Cuiaba with his wife, Ana.

*"Marcelo Padua has incredible eyes, ears, and memory—the best birding (and mammals) guide I have ever experienced. His ability to instantly hear distant birds and recognize birds in flight and their movements in the forest was amazing. He gave us 110% in skill, patience, and kindness." D. H., Jaguar Spotting*

Visit <https://fieldguides.com/our-staff/> for Marcelo's complete tour schedule; just click on his photo.

## Financial Information

**FEE: \$10,150** from Santiago (*The group flight from Mendoza to Santiago is now included in the tour fee*)

**SINGLE SUPPLEMENT** (Optional): \$1,600

**DEPOSIT: \$1,000**

**FINAL PAYMENT DUE:** August 3, 2026

**LIMIT: 8**

## Other Things You Need to Know

**TOUR MANAGER:** The manager for this tour is Nicole Cannon. Nicole will be happy to assist you in preparing for the tour. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call her!

**A NOTE ON ACCOMMODATIONS/ALTITUDE:** Please note that we will reach elevations in excess of 3050m (10,000 feet) on this tour. We will take it easy, but you should be well aware of the symptoms of altitude sickness and consult your physician regarding your own preparation for such elevations. The level of accommodations on the tour is good to excellent.

**DOCUMENTS:** Be sure to verify the latest entry requirements for each country you will visit or transit.

**Passport:** A current passport valid for at least three months beyond your return date is required for U.S. citizens traveling to Chile and Argentina. Because entry requirements can vary and may change, we recommend that your passport be valid for at least six months beyond the end of your trip. U.S. citizens do not currently pay a reciprocity fee to enter Chile or Argentina. Upon arrival, the airline or immigration authorities will provide the necessary tourist-entry documentation at no cost. Your passport should also contain an adequate number of blank pages for the entire journey. Some countries require a blank page for an entry or exit stamp, so we recommend having at least one blank page for each country you will visit or transit.

**Important for Chile:** Upon arrival in Santiago, Immigration/Border Control will issue a small receipt-style (It doesn't look like much!) Tourist Card, known as the *PDI Tarjeta de Turismo*, at no cost. Please keep this card in a safe and easily accessible place throughout your trip. It serves as proof of entry and must be returned when you depart Chile. Hotels and police may also request to see it during your stay.

If the card is lost or stolen, it must be replaced at the PDI Extranjería office at Santiago airport before departure, which could delay your check-in or flight.

If you are not a U.S. citizen, please check with the Chilean and Argentine consulates nearest you for current entry requirements. Information is generally available online, or you may contact us, and we will be happy to help research the requirements.

**Travel health insurance:** The government of Argentina recently instituted a requirement that all travelers must have travel health insurance.

**AIR ARRANGEMENTS:** This tour begins and ends in Santiago, Chile (SCL).

**Arrival:** Santiago, January 31, by 9:30 a.m. Most flights depart the US on the evening of Day 1 (January 30) and arrive in Santiago the next morning on Day 2 (January 31). If you would like to go a day or two early to recover from the flight and/or to tour around Santiago, please contact our office, and we can help you make those arrangements.

**Departure:** Santiago, late evening February 12.

**Note:** *The internal flight from Mendoza to Santiago is included in the tour fee, and your tour manager will book that flight for you.*

Please wait to purchase airline tickets until we notify you that the tour is confirmed to operate. At that time, we'll be glad to assist with your flight arrangements at no service fee.

**LUGGAGE:** Please be aware that many airlines have recently modified their luggage policies and are charging additional fees for checked bags. Updates could easily occur before your departure, so you may wish to contact your airline to verify the policy. Additional charges for bags on any flights, whether these are covered by the tour fee or not, will be the client's responsibility.

**SMOKING:** Almost all of our clients prefer a smoke-free environment. If you smoke, please be sensitive to the group and refrain from smoking at meals, in vehicles, and in proximity to the group on trails and elsewhere.

**TOUR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS:** **The tour fee is \$10,150 for one person in double occupancy from Santiago.**

It includes all lodging from Day 2 through Day 13, all meals from lunch on Day 2 through lunch on Day 14, all ground transportation from Day 2 through Day 14 (including airport transfer on arrival in Santiago), the internal flight from Mendoza to Santiago, entrance fees, and the guide services of the tour leader(s). Tipping at group meals and for drivers, porters, and local guides is included in your tour fee and will be handled for the group by your Field Guides leader(s). However, if you would like to recognize your Field Guides leader(s) or any local guide(s) for exceptional service, it is entirely appropriate to tip. We emphasize that such tips are optional and not expected.

**The above fee does not include** airport taxes, visa fees, any checked or carry-on baggage charges imposed by the airlines, any alcoholic beverages other than wine tastings included in the tour, optional tips to local drivers, phone calls, laundry, or other items of a personal nature.

**The single supplement for the tour is \$1,600 for those requesting a single room.** If you do not have a roommate but wish to share, we will try to pair you with a roommate from the tour, but if none is available, you will be billed for the single supplement. Our tour fees are based on double occupancy; one-half the cost of a double room is priced into the tour fee. The single supplement is calculated by taking the actual cost of a single room and subtracting one-half the cost of a double room (plus any applicable taxes).

**TOUR REGISTRATION:** **To register for this tour, please contact us at [fieldguides.com/contact-us/](https://fieldguides.com/contact-us/).** Our office will be in touch with you by email by the next business day (Mon-Fri) with instructions on how to complete our electronic registration form and medical questionnaire. (We are no longer accepting the paper version.)

**Please send your deposit of \$1,000 per person; see <https://fieldguides.com/payment-options/> for our Payment Options. Full payment of the tour fee is due 180 days prior to departure, or by August 3, 2026.** We will bill you for the final payment at either 180 days or when the tour has reached sufficient subscription to operate, whichever date comes later.

Since the cost of your trip insurance and airline tickets is generally non-refundable, please do not finalize these purchases until you have received final billing for the tour or have been advised that the tour is sufficiently subscribed to operate by your tour manager.

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** Refund of deposit and full payment, less \$100 handling fee, will be made if cancellation is received up to 180 days before departure. If cancellation occurs between 179 and 90 days before the departure date, 50% of the full tour fee is non-refundable, which would include the full deposit if the final payment has not yet been paid. Thereafter, all deposits and payments are not refundable and non-transferable.

Our cancellation policy only applies to payments made to Field Guides for tour (and any services included in those fees). Airline tickets not included in the tour fee and purchased separately often carry penalties for cancellation or change, or are sometimes totally non-refundable. Additionally, if you take out trip insurance the cost of that insurance is not refundable, so it is best to purchase the policy just prior to making full payment for the tour or at the time you purchase airline tickets, depending upon the airline's restrictions.

The right is reserved to cancel any tour prior to departure. In most such cases, full refund will constitute full settlement to the passenger. Note this exception, however: If you have been advised pre-tour that there is a non-refundable portion of your tour fee no matter the reason for Field Guides cancellation of the tour, that portion will not be refunded. The right is reserved to substitute in case of emergency another guide for the original one.

**TRIP CANCELLATION & MEDICAL EMERGENCY INSURANCE:** We strongly recommend purchasing trip cancellation (including medical emergency) insurance to protect your investment in case of injury or illness to you or an immediate family member before or during a trip. Because we must remit early and substantial deposits to our suppliers, we cannot offer refunds for cancellations outside of our Cancellation Policy. If a participant is unable to join or continue a tour due to illness, all related expenses will be their responsibility, and no refunds can be issued for missed days. Please wait to purchase insurance until we notify you that the tour is confirmed to operate, as most policies are non-refundable.

For full details, visit our Trip Cancellation Insurance page at <https://fieldguides.com/trip-cancellation-insurance/>.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** For and in consideration of the opportunity to participate in the tour, each tour participant and each parent or legal guardian of a tour participant who is under 18 agrees to release, indemnify, and hold harmless Field Guides Incorporated, its agents, servants, employees, shareholders, officers, directors, attorneys, and contractors as more fully set forth in the Release and Indemnity Agreement on the registration form. Field Guides Incorporated acts only as an agent for the passenger in regard to travel, whether by railroad, motorcar, motorcoach, boat, airplane, or other means, and assumes no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay, or irregularity caused by defect in such vehicles or for any reason whatsoever, including the acts, defaults, or bankruptcies of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. You acknowledge and agree that Field Guides Incorporated is not responsible for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, or other causes. The tour participant shall bear all such losses and expenses. Field Guides Incorporated reserves the right to substitute hotels of similar category for those indicated and to make any changes in the itinerary where deemed necessary or caused by changes in air schedules. Field Guides Incorporated reserves the right to decline to accept or to retain any person as a member of any tour. Baggage is at owner's risk entirely.

Participants should be in good health and should consult a physician before undertaking a tour. If you have questions about the physical requirements of a tour, please contact our office for further information. Participants should prepare for the tour by reading the detailed itinerary, the information bulletin, and other pertinent matter provided by Field Guides. Each participant is responsible for bringing appropriate clothing and equipment as recommended in our bulletins.

THE RECEIPT OF YOUR TOUR DEPOSIT SHALL BE DEEMED TO BE CONSENT TO THE ABOVE CONDITIONS. EACH TOUR PARTICIPANT AND EACH PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN OF A TOUR PARTICIPANT WHO IS UNDER 18 SHALL SIGN AND DELIVER THE RELEASE AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT AT THE TIME OF REGISTRATION.

Peg 9/2024; updated  
6/25 peg; 6/26NC; peg