

ITINERARY  
**THE HEART OF CHILE**  
*January 25-February 8, 2020*



*The Inca Tern is one of the most unusual of the tern family. These beautiful birds are found along the Pacific coast of Chile and Peru, and we'll see them when we visit the coastal areas. Photograph by participant Jane Barnette.*

*We include here information for those interested in the 2020 Field Guides Heart of Chile 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

*Those who register for the tour will be sent this additional material:*

- 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
- 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 reference list
- 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

**C**hile is a country larger than it appears on a map; that long, thin ribbon of land along the west coast of South America is from tip to tip the distance from San Francisco to New York. THE HEART OF CHILE will focus on the central region of the country, allowing for a shorter tour with multiple night stays at most of the hotels we visit. It also allows us to visit the most characteristically Chilean habitats and avifauna, from the dry Matorral of the central zone to the wetter temperate Nothofagus or "Southern Beech" rainforests of the Lake District. In addition, we'll visit montane habitats in central Chile that allow us to see highland species such as sierra-finches, ground-tyrants, Gray-breasted Seedsnipe, Andean Condor, Mountain Caracara, Crag Chilia, and, of course, the handsome Diademed Sandpiper-Plover.

The heart of Chile is the land of wine, of the Mapuche or “Araucano” natives who were never conquered by the Spanish and still live in the Lake District region. The heart is the land that inspired the Nobel prize-winning poetry of Pablo Neruda, a man who understood that the Chucao Tapaculo, Chilean Tinamou, Magellanic Woodpecker, Slender-billed Parakeet, Green-backed Firecrown, White-throated Tapaculo, and Chilean Pigeon—all of which he wrote about—were special birds.

With a backdrop of symmetrical volcanoes and cool waterfalls, the ancient forests of Chile—where most of the tree species have no close relatives in South America but share a history with many plants in New Zealand and other areas where Gondwanaland still survives—make for great birding. Imagine days in the idyllic countryside of smooth rolling hills and awe-inspiring Andean mountains where we start our morning with Torrent Ducks, where Creamy-rumped Miners may be dessert after a great field lunch, and a Chilean Mockingbird greets us as we come down slope to the hotel. How about finding an Ochre-flanked Tapaculo, flocks of noisy Black-faced Ibis, Austral thrushes and blackbirds, and perhaps a Magellanic Woodpecker (as close to seeing an Ivory-billed as many of us can hope for) in old growth giant trees, dripping with moss—a forest so old that it could be considered a living fossil. This is the heart of birding in Chile.

Perhaps no other country is so closely defined by natural borders, the Andes on one side and the ocean on the other. Historically, the Pacific has connected Chile to the world, and it still does—to the avian world that is. Nowhere is there such an incredible biomass of seabirds as in the Humboldt Current off Chile's coast, and we'll go out into the southern end where the pelagic birding is second to none. We may see thousands of birds, from the huge Northern Royal Albatross to the diminutive Wilson's Storm-Petrel and Red Phalarope. Here, seabirds breeding in Chile mix with antarctic, subantarctic, and boreal breeders. Sooty and Pink-footed shearwaters are abundant, while the albatross show, which includes Black-browed, Buller's, Salvin's, and perhaps Chatham and Royal, is not only diverse but intimate, with birds coming in just a few feet from the boat. Southern Sea Lions snap up our chum, taking it away from Westland and Cape petrels and Inca Terns, while hungry Peruvian Pelicans try to muscle out all but aggressive Chilean Skua. Humboldt Penguins may swim through for a bite, while a Juan Fernandez Petrel may pop in for a quick look...seabirding at its best.

Further south we'll take a short but birdy ferry ride to the island of Chiloe, where Common and Magellanic diving-petrels are possibilities, along with Imperial and gorgeous Red-legged cormorants. The cold and sheltered waters of Chiloe may provide us with views of both Flying and Flightless steamer-ducks and maybe playful Peale's Dolphins jumping out of the water as we watch.



*We will visit some high-altitude locations, such as the beautiful Yeso Valley in the Central Andes. Photograph by participant Jeannette Shores.*

**About the Physical Requirements & Pace:** This is a tour of Chile's heartland with a focus on the Chilean Mediterranean zone and marine specialties (endemics and near-endemics and well-differentiated subspecies) as well as a sampling of the residents of the south temperate forest. We have tried to balance our goal of seeing a broad cross section of central Chile's birds and landscapes with reasonable logistics. The pace of the tour is moderate; we've tried to minimize one-night stands and longer drives. In general, the day-by-day pace is easy to moderate, though there are several longer days in the field. Most of our birding will be in fairly easy terrain or along roadsides and trails, although birding in the Andes may involve trails with a slope to them. The exception is when we are at higher altitudes in the Farellones area in the Andes of Santiago (We will reach a maximum altitude of 10,000 feet for a brief amount of time, and will spend about 3 hours at approximately 8000

feet). Altitude sickness affects some visitors to these elevations, and physical or health problems can be exacerbated. We will take care to move at a reasonable pace, but participants must be aware of their limitations and the challenge birding at such an altitude presents.

Our tour includes a six-hour pelagic trip off Valparaiso as well as a short ferry ride to Chiloe Island. The ocean is seldom flat calm in central Chile, but in summer it is less likely to be windy. Even so, the ocean swell can cause discomfort for some, and you will need to be prepared with appropriate seasickness medications. It will be possible to opt out of the pelagic.

Restaurants in Chile typically open later than most birders would prefer, often at 9:00 p.m. In order to get earlier dinners it is necessary to pre-arrange a set menu. This facilitates the evening meal immensely as well as allowing us to sample a broad selection of Chile's cuisine 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 we can obtain dinner. Special dietary concerns will be forwarded to the hotels before the tour. Many, but not all of our hotels offer a morning buffet breakfast. Lunches will vary from sit-down lunches at restaurants, to picnics made by the guides, to box lunches provided by hotels. Be warned that there is a seeming glut of ham and cheese in Chile! We will do our best to offer you a pleasant variety for our lunches.



*The Moustached Turca is endemic to the central region of Chile. This tapaculo nests in burrows, which it digs out using its large feet. They are fairly common, and we'll see them in the Central Andes.  
Photograph by participant Craig Caldwell.*

## 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 4000 and 10,000 feet are accessible from the capital. These vary from arid shrub-covered slopes and rugged canyons of the lower Andes to upper-temperate scrub and open rocky alpine habitats at 9000 to 11,000 feet (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, 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 (8000 feet) wetlands south of Farellones. Here we'll look for Andean Parakeet and Magellanic Tapaculo as well as several species mentioned above for 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 have 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 ranging from arid, stony hillsides with thorny *matorral* habitat (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 spine, 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 also could 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 Vina 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*.

From the port of Valparaíso, we’ll take a boat trip a few miles offshore where we should see the Humboldt Current species mentioned above as well as Peruvian Diving-Petrel. The list of possibilities includes, as well, a number of ocean wanderers of the highest order that breed in antarctic and subantarctic regions around the globe. Although many of the southern tubenoses will have returned to their subantarctic breeding islands by the austral summer, some subadults and nonbreeders remain in the Humboldt Current. Among the possibilities are Black-browed, Shy (Salvin’s), Shy (Chatham) (rare), Buller’s, and Northern Royal albatrosses, Southern (Antarctic) and Northern (Hall’s) giant-petrels, White-chinned, Westland, Masatierra (Defilippi’s), and Juan Fernandez petrels (rare), Pink-footed and Sooty shearwaters, Wilson’s and White-vented storm-petrels, Peruvian Diving-Petrel, Red Phalarope, Common and South American terns, Chilean Skua, and Parasitic Jaeger. During February we have a better chance of finding the Juan Fernandez Petrel off Valparaíso than we do on November tours.

**Puyehue National Park and Chiloe Island**—Puyehue National Park north of the city of Puerto Varas is ideally situated in the heart of Chile’s temperate rainforest. Here old growth *Nothofagus*, or Southern Beech, flourish, festooned with mosses and ferns; this is Chile’s distinctive and primeval forest. Abundant rainfall throughout the year creates a lush and wonderful forest here, home to terrific birds. The understory is dominated by *Chusquea* bamboo, habitat to tapaculos and the strange Des Murs' Wiretail. A road climbs up through the forest eventually reaching shorter Ñirre trees (*Nothofagus antarcticus*) and from there the treeline and alpine slopes. One of the birds we will concentrate on finding is the magnificent Magellanic Woodpecker, perhaps the closest woodpecker in many respects to the Ivory-billed. The Magellanic is a bird of great character found in low densities in old growth forests, and you may even mutter “lord god” when you see one! Other wonderful specialties here include the quail-sized forest tapaculo, which goes by the name of Black-throated Huet-Huet, along with the smaller, but perhaps even more charismatic Chucao Tapaculo. Hidden in the bamboo we may spy the above mentioned wiretail as well as Ochre-flanked (the only species in its genus) and Magellanic tapaculos. More widespread and easy to see birds include the Black-faced Ibis, Austral Pygmy-Owl, Austral Parakeet, Green-backed Firecrown, Dark-bellied Cinclodes, Thorn-tailed Rayadito (an ovenbird trying to be a creeper and a chickadee at the same time), Austral Blackbird, Patagonian Sierra-Finch, and Black-chinned Siskin. While at Puyehue we will venture out at night to try to find the rarely seen Rufous-legged Owl, and visits to the alpine zone may allow us to find the Dark-faced Ground-Tyrant and perhaps the rare Yellow-bridled Finch. On the drive in and out we shall also aim to locate the endemic Slender-billed Parakeet and, if luck is with us, the rare Rufous-tailed Hawk.



*The Thorn-tailed Rayadito is a very small furnariid found in Chile and western Argentina. This active little bird is named for the spiny projections on its tail feathers. Photograph by guide Doug Gochfeld.*

Puerto Varas lies in an inland sound allowing access to marine habitats and is also the gateway to Chiloe Island, only a short ferry ride away. We will visit both areas looking for various marine species, from wintering Whimbrel and Hudsonian Godwit to Imperial and Red-legged cormorants, Flightless Steamer-Ducks, Magellanic Oystercatcher, and maybe Dolphin Gull. The short crossing may allow us to see the Magellanic Diving-Petrel, here at its northernmost known site, as well as Black-browed Albatross, Pink-footed Shearwater, and maybe a Peale’s Dolphin or two.

**Altos de Lircay** is a lovely national Reserve nestled in the Pre-cordillera a short way south of Santiago. Here we find the northern extension of Chile’s *Nothofagus* (Southern Beech) forests. This region is rich in birdlife including such fine species as the Des Murs' Wiretail, Burrowing Parrot, Magellanic Tapaculo, White-throated Treerunner, Great Shrike-Tyrant, and the wonderful Magellanic Woodpecker. Other treats we can see here include the Bicolored (Chilean) Hawk and the uncommon White-throated Hawk. Certainly, the species we will concentrate on is the elusive and colorful Chestnut-throated Huet-Huet, one of the biggest and fanciest of the tapaculos.

## Itinerary for The Heart of Chile

**Days 1-2, Sat-Sun, 25-26 Jan. Miami to Santiago and onwards to Puerto Varas.** The recommended overnight LAN Chile flight departs Miami at 10:55 p.m., arriving in Santiago the following morning (January 26) at 9:16 a.m. This recommended flight connects to the LAN flight departing Santiago at 12:27pm, arriving in Puerto Montt at 2:07pm. Make sure your bags are checked to your final destination of Puerto Montt before you begin your flight to Santiago.

Upon arrival in Santiago you will pass through customs and immigration; you will need to re-check bags for the domestic flight (the LAN Chile staff can tell you where to take them). You will be met by your Guide upon arrival in Puerto Montt, and after we transfer to the neighboring town of Puerto Varas we plan to start birding right away and do some forest birding after checking in to the hotel.

If possible, we recommend you fly in a day ahead of the tour to Santiago to get settled and be well rested before the start of the trip. We can recommend an airport hotel for you, and arrange transfer if you like. Night in Puerto Varas.



*The Magellanic Woodpecker is one of our main goals in Puyehue National Park. It is a much-wanted bird, and we've seen them well on past tours. Photograph by guide Tom Johnson.*

**Day 3, Mon, 27 Jan. Birding Chiloe.** After breakfast we will board the bus and drive to the ferry for the short crossing to Chiloe Island. On the crossing, we'll hope for Black-browed Albatross and Magellanic Diving-Petrel. On Chiloe we'll head west towards the coast looking for Magellanic Oystercatcher and Flightless Steamer-Duck, and we'll visit a mixed Humboldt and Magellanic penguin colony where Kelp Goose can also be found. We return via the ferry to Puerto Varas for dinner. Night in Puerto Varas.

**Days 4-5, Tue-Wed, 28-29 Jan. Puyehue National Park.** We'll pack up today and do some Coastal Birding near Puerto Montt before driving two hours north to Puyehue National Park, birding on the way. We will have a two-night stay here, giving us plenty of time to explore the various regions of the park as well as opportunities for owling. We'll be staying at the Antillanca Hotel, a ski lodge situated right where the birds are. On past tours, we've seen Magellanic Woodpeckers and Black-throated Huet-Huets on the hotel grounds! We will make sure you have some time to enjoy the park while we are here. Nights At Antillanca Ski Resort.

**Day 6, Thu, 30 Jan. Return to Puerto Montt and onto Santiago.** After an early morning breakfast we will pack up and make our way back to Puerto Montt taking advantage of the early hours of the day to bird some of the forest trails of Puyehue National park on our way in search of any birds we may have missed and we will reach the airport for an afternoon flight to Santiago, where we will settle into our hotel and get ready for the next day. Night in Santiago.

**Day 7, Fri, 31 Jan. Santiago; Pre-Cordillera, Batuco and Lampa wetlands.** Our aim today is for an early departure in order to enjoy some birding outside of Santiago before it's too hot. We will head west to the pre-cordillera mountains we will look for various *matorral* species such as the Dusky-tailed Canastero, Plain-mantled Tit-Spinetail, Moustached Turca, and the star of the show, the very difficult and elusive White-throated Tapaculo. We will then have lunch at a family house where we may enjoy some good birding in the backyard. Later on we will board our bus and head to a series of wetlands near Santiago, namely Lampa and Batuco, where we'll concentrate on waterbirds. A great diversity of ducks including the Black-headed Duck and Rosy-billed Pochard, and maybe the elusive Stripe-backed Bittern await us at Batuco if water levels are appropriate. Night in Santiago.

**Day 8, Sat, 1 Feb. Farellones; the Andes above Santiago.** We'll start early and spend the day in search of numerous endemics and specialties such as Andean Condor, Mountain Caracara, White-browed, Ochre-naped, and Black-fronted

ground-tyrants, Lesser Canastero, and Rufous-banded and the rare Creamy-rumped miners. It should warm up on the slopes and then cool off near the upper end of the road around 10,000 feet. Wear comfortable hiking boots for kicking around on loose-rock slopes. Night in Santiago.

**Day 9, Sun, 2 Feb. Yeso and Maipo valleys.** We'll start early, birding our way up into these beautiful highlands; we'll have a picnic lunch in the field. Come prepared for a cool morning, and sunny and perhaps cool temperatures in the highest areas, although if there are few clouds, it can get warm even in the highlands. In addition to hiking boots you will need rubber boots for walking a boggy valley in search of the sandpiper-plover; we'll cross a small (depending on snow melt) stream in order to get to the site. We will return to Santiago for dinner. Night in Santiago.

**Day 10, Mon, 3 Feb. To Altos de Lircay.** We will depart early heading south to towards the city of Talca and turn eastward towards Altos de Lircay National Reserve. En route we will make a stop at Colbun lake and look for species such as Andean Gull, Upland Goose, Cinnamon teal, Great Grebe, Red-garthered Coot and even an endangered sub species of Burrowing Parrot. We will then continue on to our lodge in Altos de Lircay.

**Day 11, Tue, 4 Feb.** We will spend all day in the beautiful Altos de Lircay National Reserve region visiting several spots to look for Chilean forest birds. The lodge grounds have feeders that host great numbers of Green-backed Firecrowns and sometimes Magellanic Woodpecker is seen right around the buildings. Although most of our birding will be roadside, hiking boots are advisable as we may have to wander off the main trails in search of the scarce Chestnut-throated Huet-huet. There will be time for some optional owling after dinner if we have not yet seen the Rufous-legged Owl. Night in Altos de Lircay.

**Day 12, Wed, 5 Feb. Coast range and wetlands.** Today we'll head to the coast, but in a roundabout and birdy way. We'll visit several sites, mainly the mouth of the Maipo River, where gulls and terns roost and where we may find the extremely rare Ticking Doradito—a future split from Warbling Doradito. If time allows, we will stop at other sites on our way towards Viña del Mar looking for more waterbirds and seabirds. Lunch will be in the field. Hiking boots will be useful and do remember your sun block. Night in Viña del Mar.



*The wide-ranging Pink-footed Shearwater is one of the seabirds we'll watch for on our pelagic cruise out of Valparaiso. Photograph by guide Marcelo Barreiros.*

**Day 13, Thu, 6 Feb. Pelagic boat trip off Valparaiso.** We plan to start early for an exciting six-hour pelagic trip into the Humboldt Current where we may see various albatrosses, shearwaters, petrels, storm-petrels, and Peruvian Diving-Petrel. (Don't forget your motion sickness preventive.) In the afternoon, we will bird north of Viña del Mar looking for coastal species and perhaps the elusive Great Shrike-Tyrant. Night in Viña del Mar.

**Day 14, Fri, 7 Feb. Birding the coast and return to Santiago airport.** Our last morning will be a leisurely one as we will bird a few areas along the coast of Vina del Mar and look for rarely seen species such as the Great Shrike-tyrant and Stripe-backed Bittern and enjoy final looks at Inca Terns, Guanay Cormorants and Southern Sea Lions. We will return to our hotel pack up and have lunch and head back to Santiago for evening flights.

**Day 15, Sat, 8 Feb. Arrival in Miami.** Flights arrive in Miami at 5:25 a.m. *Safe travels home!*

## About Your Guides

**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.

*"Marcelo Padua was the best feature of the tour. He is an expert at his profession, a diplomat, and his obvious enthusiasm for what he does is much appreciated. Marcelo is second to none and heads above most other guides with whom we have traveled." J. & M.V., Jaguar Spotting*

Marcelo 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.

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

**Marcelo will be joined by a local Chilean Guide.**

## Financial Information

**FEE: \$6175 from Puerto Montt** (*The cost of internal flights is included in the tour fee*)

**DEPOSIT:** \$600

**FINAL PAYMENT DUE:** September 27, 2019

**SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (Optional):** \$850

**LIMIT:** 12

## Other Things You Need to Know

**TOUR MANAGER:** The manager for this tour is Karen Turner. Karen 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 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 accommodations on the tour are good.

**DOCUMENTS:** A current **passport**, valid three months beyond the date of your return, is necessary for US citizens to enter Chile. We recommend that your passport be valid for at least 6 months beyond the dates of your visit, as regulations vary from country to country, and are subject to change. You will be issued a tourist card at no cost by the airline in Miami.

If you are not a US citizen, please check with the Chilean consulate nearest you for entry requirements. Information about consulates and entry requirements is generally available online or you can contact us and we will be happy to look



this up for you. Passports should have an adequate number of blank pages for the entire journey. Some countries require a blank page for their stamp and as a precaution it is best to have one blank page per country you will visit or transit.

**AIR ARRANGEMENTS:** Tour starts in Puerto Montt and ends in Santiago.

Field Guides is a full service travel agency and your tour manager will be happy to assist you with flights to join this tour. Field Guides does not charge a service fee for these services to clients booking a tour. However, we understand that tech-savvy clients often prefer to shop online or that you may wish to use mileage to purchase tickets. Regardless of which method you choose, your tour manager will be happy to provide assistance regarding ticket prices and schedules, along with rental cars and extra hotel nights as needed.

Please be sure to check with your tour manager prior to purchasing your ticket to make sure the flights you have chosen will work well with the tour itinerary and that the tour is sufficiently subscribed to operate. Once purchased, most airline tickets are non-refundable and carry a penalty to change. Field Guides cannot be responsible for these fees.

**Also, it is imperative that we receive a copy of your comprehensive flight itinerary—including any and all flights not covered in the tour fee—so that we may track you in the event of missed connections, delays, or other mishaps.**

**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.

**TOUR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS:** The **tour fee** is **\$6175** one person in double occupancy from Puerto Montt. It includes all lodging from Day 2 through Day 14, all meals from lunch on Day 2 through lunch on Day 14, all ground transportation, internal flights, entrance fees, tips for baggage handling and meal service, 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 fees do not include your airfare to and from Chile, airport taxes, visa fees, any checked or carry-on baggage charges imposed by the airlines, any alcoholic beverages, optional tips to local drivers, phone calls, laundry, or other items of a personal nature.

The **single supplement** for the tour is **\$850**. 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, complete the Registration/Release and Indemnity form and return it with a **deposit of \$600** per person. If registering by phone, a deposit must be received within fourteen days, or the space will be released. **Full payment** of the tour fee is due 120 days prior to departure, or **by September 27, 2019**. **We will bill you for the final payment at either 120 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.

**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.

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** Refund of deposit and payment, less \$100 handling fee, will be made if cancellation is received up to 120 days before departure. If cancellation occurs between 119 and 70 days before the departure date, 50% of the tour fee is refundable. Thereafter, all deposits and payments are not refundable.

This policy only applies to payments made to Field Guides for tour fees (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 the 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 airlines restrictions.

The right is reserved to cancel any tour prior to departure, in which case full refund will constitute full settlement to the passenger. The right is reserved to substitute another guide for the original one. Where this is necessary, notification will be given to tour members, and they will have the right to cancel their participation and receive a full refund.

**TRIP CANCELLATION & MEDICAL EMERGENCY INSURANCE:** We strongly recommend you consider purchasing trip cancellation (including medical emergency) insurance to cover your investment in case of injury or illness to you or your family prior to or during a trip. Because we must remit early (and substantial) tour deposits to our suppliers, we cannot offer any refund when cancellation occurs within 70 days of departure, and only a partial refund from 70 to 119 days prior to departure (see CANCELLATION POLICY). In addition, the Department of State strongly urges Americans to consult with their medical insurance company prior to traveling abroad to confirm whether their policy applies overseas and if it will cover emergency expenses such as a medical evacuation. US medical insurance plans seldom cover health costs incurred outside the United States unless supplemental coverage is purchased. Furthermore, US Medicare and Medicaid programs do not provide payment for medical services outside the United States.

When making a decision regarding health insurance, Americans should consider that many foreign doctors and hospitals require payment in cash prior to providing service and that a medical evacuation to the United States may cost well in excess of \$50,000. Uninsured travelers who require medical care overseas often face extreme difficulties. When consulting with your insurer prior to your trip, please ascertain whether payment will be made to the overseas healthcare provider or whether you will be reimbursed later for expenses that you incur.

US citizens will receive from us a brochure regarding optional tour cancellation/emergency medical insurance. Our agent, CSA, will insure for trip cancellation and interruption, medical coverage, travel delay, baggage loss and delay, and emergency medical transportation. **Currently we are unable to offer CSA insurance policies to residents of New York and Hawaii.** We have had clients provide positive feedback after acquiring insurance with InsureMyTrip ([www.insuremytrip.com](http://www.insuremytrip.com)) in the past, and would suggest that company as an alternative. Please let us know if you have any questions about this. If you purchase the insurance within 24 hours of making final payment for the tour, and cover all non-refundable parts of the trip (including any non-refundable flights), pre-existing conditions are covered. The CSA brochure includes a contact number; you may also purchase your CSA policy on-line by visiting our website at <https://fieldguides.com/travelinsurance.html> and clicking the link to CSA. Please note, once the insurance is purchased it is non-refundable, so please check with your tour manager prior to making the purchase to assure the tour will operate as scheduled. Citizens of other countries are urged to consult their insurance broker.

**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 reverse side of 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. Field Guides Incorporated accepts no responsibility 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.

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