

NE Argentina: The Pampas, Iberá wetlands and Iguazú

Our tour of Argentina covers the northern part of this huge country. After departing from the capital city of Buenos Aires we travel through large swathes of pampas, which are internationally important for birds. The huge wetlands in this part of Argentina offer superb birding and, combined with nearby forests and marshes, a large bird list is likely. Our final stop is at the world famous Iguazú Falls - remarkable place to visit and a fitting finale to the trip.

Days 1-2: Fly to Buenos Aires with arrival on the morning of Day 2. Afternoon birding in Costanera Sur Nature Reserve marshes, located by the Rio de la Plata and a few minutes from downtown Buenos Aires. White-tufted Grebe, Coscoroba and Black-necked Swans, Rosy-billed Pochard, Silver Teal, Rufous Hornero, Rufous-bellied Thrush, Chalk-browed Mockingbird, Red-crested Cardinal and Black-and-Rufous Warbling-Finch are among the species we should see.

Days 3-4: Early departure to San Clemente del Tuyú, birding the pampas grasslands on the way. Our route takes us through extensive areas of grassland dotted with pools. The main birding areas we visit are at the Punta Rasa migratory bird reserve and other areas near our base. Species we may encounter include a mix of migrants from North America and resident species. Interesting birds occurring on a regular basis include Spotted Tinamou, Buff-breasted and White-rumped Sandpipers, Southern Screamer, Snowy-crowned Tern, Black Skimmer, American Oystercatcher, Hudsonian Godwit, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Red Knot, American Golden Plover, Olrog's Gull, Dot-winged Crake, South American Painted-Snipe, Field Flicker, Firewood Gatherer, Hudson's Canastero, Bay-capped Wren-spinetail, Warbling Doradito, Correndera and Hellmayr's Pipit and Scarlet-headed Blackbird. Two nights at San Clemente del Tuyú.

Days 5-7: After some early morning bird-

Dates

Friday October 2nd – Thursday
October 15th 2020

Leaders: Simon Papps and local guides

Group Size: 8

Birds: 300- 330

ing we return to Buenos Aires to catch a flight to Posadas. Upon arrival, transfer to an estancia in the Iberá marshes for a three-night stay. The Iberá marshes are one of the largest wetlands in the world and our base is located at the very heart of this amazing area. We go birding in the morning and afternoon in subtropical grasslands, woods, and of course the wetlands themselves, which we'll also explore on a boat trip. The list of birds is impressive and we have good chances of locating the following species: Greater Rhea, Red-winged Tinamou, Jabiru, Plumbeous Ibis, Rufescent Tiger-Heron, Pinnated and Stripe-backed Bitterns, Azure Gallinule, Rufous-sided Crake, Large-billed Tern, Savanna Hawk, Little and Scissor-tailed Nightjars, Striped Cuckoo, Black-and-white Monjita, Strange-tailed Tyrant, Crested Doradito, White-headed Marsh-Tyrant, Donacobius, Ochre-breasted Pipit, Purple-throated Euphonia, Yellow-billed Cardinal, Green-winged Saltator, Wedge-tailed and Lesser Grassfinches, seedeaters, Yellow-rumped Marshbird and Chopi and Scarlet-headed Blackbirds.

Day 8: After another morning birding the forests and marshes of Iberá, we drive to



Spot-billed Toucanet Photo: H R Goñi

Posadas, on the shore of the Paraná river. Night in Posadas.

Days 9-10: Morning birding near the hotel. Check out and continue our way north towards a forest lodge located near Urugua-í Provincial Park. Birding will become more exciting as we start dealing with a greater diversity of forest habitats and their numerous associated bird species. Morning and afternoon birding the forest trails of the reserve which hold an amazing range including Solitary Tinamou, Black-fronted Piping-Guan, Rusty-marginated Guan, Pauraque, Short-tailed Nighthawk, Slaty-breasted Wood-Rail, Maroon-bellied Parakeet, Blue-winged Parrotlet, Great Dusky Swift, Black-faced and Surucua Trogons, five species of toucans, twelve species of woodpeckers, Lesser Woodcreeper, White-eyed and Black-capped Foliage-gleaners, Tufted and Spot-backed Antshrikes, Plain Antvireo, Rufous-winged Antwren, Short-tailed Antthrush, Red-ruffed Fruitcrow, three species of manakins (Blue, White-bearded and Band-tailed), Southern Antpiper, Long-tailed Tyrant, Yellow Tyrannulet, Three-striped Flycatcher, Sirystes, White-throated Spadebill, Eared Pygmy-Tyrant, Grey-hooded Flycatcher, White-winged Swallow, White-necked Thrush, Creamy-bellied Gnatcatcher, Streamside Warbler, Black-throated Grosbeak, Giant Cowbird, Red-

rumped Cacique, Blue Dacnis, Chestnut-bellied Euphonia, Blue-naped Chlorophonia and tanagers including Guira, Green-headed, Magpie and Chestnut-headed.

Days 10-11: After another morning birding the forest around the lodge, we move to Puerto Iguazú, planning to arrive in the afternoon. If time permits, we visit the famous hummingbird feeders in town. On Day 11 we have a full day at the mighty Iguazú Falls. A well designed network of walkways lets us approach the falls to enjoy magnificent views of the river and forest. Birding here is excellent, with potential highlights including Black-fronted Piping-Guan, Common Squirrel-Cuckoo, Toco Toucan, Rufous Gnateater, Plush-crested Jay, various tanagers including Blue Dacnis and Swallow Tanager, a wide variety of antbirds and the iconic sight of Great Dusky Swifts flying in behind the torrents of water. If conditions are suitable the phenomenon of clouds of thousands of butterflies of hundreds of different species is one of the most astonishing sights in the natural world.

Day 12: Check out and fly back to Buenos Aires for connecting flights back to Europe. Arrival is on the following day.

Prices

Ground Price: £4,995
 Single room: £450
 Deposit: £500
 *Air Fare: £1,200

This holiday is fully inclusive of accommodation and meals, transport, permit fees, guidance, tips and taxes.

Not included: drinks, insurance, any relevant airport departure taxes within Argentina and items of a personal nature.

**Please refer to our terms and conditions relating to flights*