



ROCKJUMPER

Worldwide Birding Adventures

Chile

Small Group Tour

Birds, Wildlife & Andean landscapes

15th November to 27th November 2023 (13 days)



Diademed Sandpiper-Plover by Dubi Shapiro

Chile occupies a 2,650 mile-long narrow ribbon of land between the Pacific Ocean and the Andes, and stretches from north of the Atacama Desert to Cape Horn, the southernmost headland of the Tierra del Fuego archipelago. Chile is one of South America's most stable and prosperous nations and our tour covers the highlights of this fabulous country as we search for its numerous specialities and endemics.

These range from the giant Andean Condor to the tiny Chilean Woodstar, and include the unique Chilean tapaculos called huet-huets and turcas. One of our primary targets will no doubt be the highly prized Diademed Sandpiper-Plover, while other no less desirable species include James's Flamingo, Puna Ibis, Chilean Tinamou, Rufous-bellied Seedsnipe, Andean Avocet, Rufous-legged Owl, Slender-billed Parakeet, Magellanic Woodpecker, White-throated Treerunner and the appropriately named Giant Hummingbird. We will also undertake an exciting pelagic excursion in search of the region's seabirds, including the rare Peruvian Diving Petrel and Chilean Skua, while mammal possibilities include herds of stately Vicunas, the range-restricted Marine Otter and the bizarre Southern Mountain Viscachas. Accommodations, meals and wines are excellent throughout the tour and the Chilean people offer warm hospitality. Combined with the outstanding scenery of high altitude Puna lakes and snow-capped volcanoes, excellent coastal desert and rich Patagonian forest, this is without doubt one of South America's most memorable birding destinations!

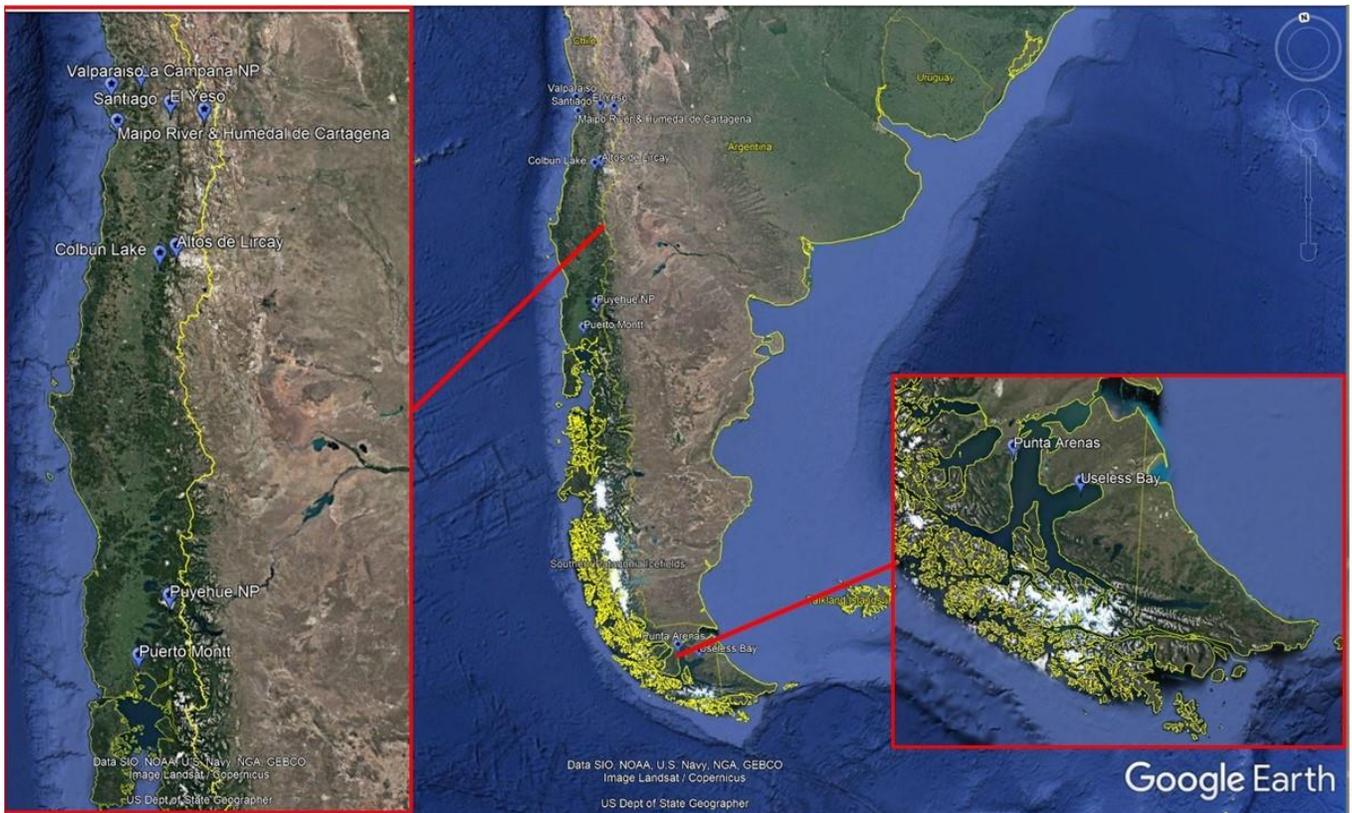
THE TOUR AT A GLANCE...

THE MAIN TOUR ITINERARY

Day 1	Arrival in Santiago, afternoon birding in the Farellones area
Day 2	El Yeso Valley
Day 3	Maipo River mouth and Humedal de Cartagena
Day 4	Pelagic trip off Valparaiso and Cachagua
Day 5	La Campana National Park and Laguna Batuco
Day 6	Colbun Lake and Altos de Lircay Nature Reserve
Day 7	Altos de Lircay Nature Reserve to Santiago
Day 8	Santiago to Puyehue National Park via Puerto Montt
Day 9	Puyehue National Park to Puerto Montt
Day 10	Pelagic trip off Puerto Montt, flight to Punta Arenas
Day 11	Ferry trip to Tierra del Fuego, visit King Penguin colony of Useless Bay
Day 12	Ferry to Punta Arenas, explore the Pali Aike Road
Day 13	Final departure



TOUR MAPS...



Birds, Wildlife & Andean landscapes

Day 1: Arrival in Santiago, afternoon birding in the Farellones area. Upon arriving in the city of Santiago, you will be met and transferred to a comfortable hotel that is conveniently located near the airport. Here, you will meet your Rockjumper leader. Time permitting, we will then spend the afternoon birding in the vicinity of Farellones for several Andean species, including our first opportunity to see the stately Andean Condor soaring overhead. Mountain Caracaras are also a conspicuous feature of this landscape while we search for White-sided Hillstar, Rufous-banded Miner, Grey-hooded Sierra Finch, Greater Yellow Finch and a host of Ground Tyrants including Cinereous, Black-fronted, White-browed and Rufous-naped. We will also look for the secretive endemic Chilean Tinamou and Chilean Mockingbird, while other raptors we might encounter are Variable Hawk and the sleek Aplomado Falcon.



Crag Chilia by Bryan J Smith

Day 2: El Yeso Valley. We have a full day for exploring the scenic surroundings of El Yeso reservoir in the Andean foothills. Rewarding sightings here could include the endemic Crag Chilia, the huge Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle, Black-winged Ground Dove, Greater Yellow Finch, Grey-flanked Cinclodes, Black-billed Shrike-Tyrant, Creamy-rumped Miner, Cordilleran and Sharp-billed Canasteros, South American Snipe and Yellow-rumped Siskin, among other Andean specialities. Much of our time will be spent carefully scanning the boggy areas of shallow grass and streams for the stunning Diademed Sandpiper-Plover, our main target species for the day. We can also listen for the call of Mountain Parakeets that regularly flock to this area, as well as the elusive Grey-breasted Seedsnipe.



Moustached Turca by Dušan Brinkhuizen

Day 3: Maipo River mouth and Humedal de Cartagena. Our time today will be divided between the Maipo River mouth and nearby coastal wetlands, searching through areas that teem with birdlife for other water-associated species. We will also include a visit to the exceptional Humedal de Cartagena where we will concentrate on finding the brood-parasitic Black-headed Duck, Lake Duck,



White-tufted and Great Grebes, Coscoroba Swan, Red Shoveler, Brown-hooded Gull and the striking Many-colored Rush Tyrant. In addition, today will be our best chance to locate the scarce Ticking Doradito and Dusky Tapaculo among others.

Day 4: Pelagic trip off Valparaiso and Cachagua.

Today we make an unforgettable visit to the cold waters of the Humboldt Current, considered to be one of the world's finest pelagic birding locations. We can expect to see a great variety of tubenoses here, including Black-browed and Salvin's Albatrosses, plus chances for Buller's, Chatham, Antipodean (formerly part of the Wandering complex) and both Northern and Southern Royal Albatrosses. We should also find Southern and Northern Giant Petrels, Cape and the occasional De Filippi's (Masatierra), White-chinned and Westland Petrels, Pink-footed, Buller's and Sooty Shearwaters, Wilson's Storm Petrel and the rare Peruvian Diving Petrel. Other seabirds we may encounter during our pelagic include Red (Grey) Phalarope, the decorative Sabine's Gull and Chilean Skua.



Chestnut-throated Huet-huet by Dušan Brinkhuizen

Day 5: La Campana National Park and Laguna Batuco. This morning, we visit La Campana National Park, a reserve that supports one of the last remaining Chilean Wine Palm forests amidst picturesque mountain peaks. Here, we will look for an interesting array of endemic passerines, including Dusky-tailed Canastero, Moustached Turca and the furtive White-throated Tapaculo. We are also likely to encounter the remarkable Giant Hummingbird, Striped Woodpecker, Austral Pygmy Owl, Chilean Elaenia, Tufted Tit-Tyrant, Plain-mantled Tit-Spinetail, Grey-hooded Sierra Finch, Chilean Pigeon and the endearing Thorn-tailed Rayadito while in the national park.



Buller's Albatross by Dušan Brinkhuizen

Later today, we will head back towards Santiago with a visit to the extensive Batuco Lagoon. Masses of freshwater birds can be expected here including the scarce Black-headed Duck and Rosy-billed Pochard.

Day 6: Colbun Lake and Altos de Lircay Nature Reserve.

Today we continue our exploration south of Santiago to seek forest-dwelling birds of the Andean slopes. First we'll concentrate on locating the endemic and threatened Chilean race of Burrowing



Parrot, which usually congregates in noisy flocks. Along the route, we should also have the opportunity to observe Upland Goose, the scarce Bronze-winged Duck and if lucky Chilean Tinamou. The rich forests in the area host a wide range of specialised birds, although few conjure up such magnificence as the goliath Magellanic Woodpecker! Males show off a bright red head over a huge black body, while females adorn a ridiculously curled crest. We will listen for the distinctive taps of what is surely one of the world's greatest woodpeckers, while also searching for the localised White-throated Treerunner, Dark-bellied Cinclodes and near-endemic Chestnut-throated Huet-huet. Tonight we can also stay out in search of Rufous-legged Owl.

Day 7: Altos de Lircay Nature Reserve to Santiago. While exploring the beautiful temperate forests of Altos de Lircay our search will concentrate on locating any of the target species that we possibly missed the day before. Experience has shown that species like Chestnut-throated Huet-huet often need extra effort in order to obtain good views. Later today we will journey back to the capital city of Santiago.



Slender-billed Parakeet
by Dušan Brinkhuizen

Day 8: Santiago to Puyehue National Park via Puerto Montt. Today we will catch a flight to Puerto Montt, from where we will then drive to Puyehue National Park. En route, we will focus on Slender-billed Parakeet,



Chucao Tapaculo
by Dušan Brinkhuizen

one of the trickier endemics that is best seen in semi-open habitats. We will also scan through the thicker undergrowth for Des Murs's Wiretail and both Chucao and Ochre-flanked Tapaculos, amongst other species, while hoping for the local and rare Rufous-tailed Hawk overhead.

Day 9: Puyehue National Park to Puerto Montt. We will spend the majority of the day inside Puyehue National Park at Hotel Antillanca. Here, the sight of the magnificent temperate rainforests amidst a fantastic mountain backdrop is simply breathtaking! Amongst the Patagonian specialities that we will search for inside the park are Austral Pygmy Owl, Green-backed Firecrown, Black-throated Huet-huet, Ochre-flanked Tapaculo, Chilean Elaenia, Patagonian Tyrant and other gems of these *Nothofagus* forests. Above the treeline we might encounter the attractive Yellow-bridled Finch but access depends on the level of snow higher up.

In the afternoon we shall return to Puerto Montt in advance of an exciting pelagic tomorrow morning. Time dependent, we may have some time to search over the intertidal mudflats for wintering flocks of Hudsonian Godwit, Red Knot, Sanderling,



the stocky Fuegian Steamer Duck, large congregations of elegant Black-necked Swans, attractive Silvery Grebes and the local Snowy-crowned Tern. The grasslands, orchards and meadows here are ideal for sighting Black-faced Ibis, Austral Blackbird, the endemic Slender-billed Parakeet, Black-chinned Siskin, Chilean Flicker, Rufous-tailed Plantcutter, Common Diuca Finch and Grassland Yellow Finch.



Magellanic Plover by Dušan Brinkhuizen

Day 10: Pelagic trip off Puerto Montt, flight to Punta Arenas.

This morning we depart Puerto Montt and head to the local dock for our pelagic trip. As we traverse the bays en route to Isla de Chiloé, we shall keep our eyes peeled for our primary target - the recently described Pincoya Storm Petrel. Other species we can expect to find whilst searching for our primary quarry include Imperial and Rock Cormorants, Magellanic Diving Petrel and even Marine Otter.

To the north of Isla de Chiloé we shall visit a large penguin colony consisting of both Magellanic and Humboldt Penguins whilst also searching for the undescribed Chiloe Steamer Duck, Kelp Goose, Magellanic Oystercatcher, Rufous-tailed Hawk and Slender-billed Parakeet should we still need view of this endemic.



Magellanic Woodpecker
by Dušan Brinkhuizen

Day 11: Ferry trip to Tierra del Fuego, visit King Penguin colony of Useless Bay. This morning, we will catch a ferry to Tierra del Fuego, where our main target will be the very unusual and monotypic Magellanic Plover. Fuegian Steamer Duck, plenty of seabirds, as well as Rock and Imperial Shags. En route to the various viewing sites for the spectacular King Penguin, we'll also be searching for beauties that include Ruddy-headed and Kelp Geese and the stunning Rufous-chested Plover. We will no doubt have a full and rewarding day exploring this fascinating area!

Day 12: Ferry to Punta Arenas, explore the Pali Aike Road. This morning, we will board another ferry, this time destined to Punta Arenas. While we cross the straits, we stand a chance of finding Magellanic Oystercatcher and Dolphin Gull, along with Dusky, Chilean and Commerson's Dolphin. On arrival at Punta Arenas, we



shall transfer to the Pali Aike road and search for some of the many special birds here, including both Upland and Ashy-headed Geese as well as Least Seedsnipe, Tawny-throated Dotterel, Patagonian Yellow Finch, the erratic Chocolate-vented Tyrant, White-bridled Finch, Austral Canastero and Band-tailed Earthcreeper, to name just a handful! Mammal opportunities also abound, as well as adding the opportunity for several Patagonian species. The landscape in this region is utterly stunning, while a plethora of plants should be in bloom, adding to the overall aesthetic.



Yellow-bridled Finch by Dušan Brinkhuizen

Day 13: Final departure. After breakfast, we head to the airport to board our departure flights.

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS:

Tour dates, prices, single supplement rates, approximate flight costs (where applicable) and spaces available for this tour are displayed on our website. Please see under IMPORTANT NOTES below.

The tour fee includes:

- All meals from lunch on day 1 to breakfast on day 13 for the main tour;
- Bottled drinking water;
- All lodgings;
- Ground transportation;
- Extra activities mentioned in the itinerary;
- Reserve entrance fees; and
- All guiding services (including tips for local guides and services.)

The tour fee does not include:

- Visa fees;
- **ANY** flights;
- Any drinks;
- Special gratuities; and
- Telephone calls, laundry and other items of a personal nature.

Single Supplement: The single supplement cost for this tour will be charged if you wish to have single accommodation. If RBL cannot provide you with a rooming partner for these nights although you choose to share, the single supplement will become applicable. We will make all reasonable efforts to ensure that a rooming partner is found if you do wish to share.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

a) Due to constantly fluctuating exchange rates, we quote our tours in 4 currencies. The tour price is however fixed only in the currency printed in bold, and the actual cost in the other currencies



listed will be adjusted according to prevailing exchange rates at the time of final invoicing (usually 4 months before the tour.) The same applies to approximate flight and single supplement rates, which are also quoted in the respective fixed currency.

b) Rates are based upon group tariffs; if the tour does not have sufficient registration a small party supplement will have to be charged.

c) Furthermore, these costs are subject to unforeseen increases in tour related costs and may have to be adjusted as a result.

d) Lastly, we may be forced to change or alter the itinerary and / or the designated Rockjumper leader/s at short or no notice due to unforeseen circumstances; please be aware that we will attempt to adhere as close to the original program as possible.

Tiping: As noted above, gratuities (drivers, hotel staff, restaurants etc.) are included on this tour. However, this does not include your Rockjumper leader/s. If, therefore, you feel that he/they have given you excellent service, it is entirely appropriate to tip them.

ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE DETAILS:

This tour **does not** include ANY airfares. The tour will depart from the hotel in Santiago on day 1 and you are welcome to arrive at any time before **13:00** on this day (or arrive the day before preferably). The main tour will conclude after breakfast at Presidente Carlos Ibáñez International Airport, Punta Arenas (IATA: PUQ).

The above information in respect of arrivals and departures is a guide only. Precise arrival and departure information will be sent to you in your **Tour Confirmation** package once the tour has been officially confirmed. If you wish to arrive early and/or depart late and would like assistance in this regard, kindly contact the Rockjumper office.

FLIGHTS:

Comodoro Arturo Merino Benítez International Airport, Santiago (IATA: SCL), is the main port of entry for international flights into Chile. **Please DO NOT book any flights until you have consulted the Rockjumper office for confirmation on the status of the tour.**

