MAMMAL AND BIRDING TOUR CHILE: PUMAS IN TORRES DEL PAINE, SOUTHERN PATAGONIA

15 – 22 NOVEMBER 2019
15 – 22 NOVEMBER 2020
15 – 22 NOVEMBER 2021

*Three full days will be spent in Torres del Paine National Park searching for **Puma**, the "lord of the Andes".*

At the southern tip of Patagonia there is a vast territory crowned by the majestic Paine Massif. Its stunning granite “towers” and “horns”, surrounded by massive glaciers, turquoise lakes, and verdant forests, make it one of the most beautiful mountain landscapes on earth. This paradise is protected by the Torres del Paine National Park, “the jewel in the crown” of the Chilean national park system.
Torres del Paine is a remote refuge where the Patagonian wildlife is tame and abundant. Here we can expect to see the inquisitive **Guanaco**, **Patagonian Fox**, **Patagonian Huemul** (Andean deer), **Large Hairy Armadillo, Andean Condor**, **Black-faced Ibis**, and **Torrent Duck**, which all share the mountain landscape with the top predator of the region, **Puma** or mountain lion. This expedition focuses on the observation and photography of this large, elegant cat in the most spectacular area of its entire range.

Andean Condor *(photo Alejandro Tello) is one of the big targets in the Andes.*

Together with the **Puma** and other Patagonian wildlife we will also visit a small wetland near Torres del Paine National Park, where it is possible to observe the extremely rare **Austral Rail**.

Itinerary (8 days/7 nights)

Day 1. Punta Arenas
Arrival at Presidente Carlos Ibáñez International Airport in Punta Arenas with an afternoon visit to the nearby Tres Puentes Wetland to look for **Chiloe Wigeon**, **White-tufted Grebe**, **Red Shoveler**, **Southern Lapwing**, **Short-billed Miner, South American Snipe**, and **Austral Negrito**.
Overnight: Hotel Cabo de Hornos or similar, Punta Arenas

Day 2. Punta Arenas to Torres del Paine National Park
Today we drive to the majestic Torres del Paine National Park, with stops at Puerto Natales for lunch as well as birding along the bay of Last Hope Sound, where we hope to find **Yellow-bridled Finch** and **White-throated Caracara**. While crossing over the impressive

Patagonian steppes we will keep a lookout for **Lesser Rhea** and **Least Seedsnipe**. After arriving at Torres del Paine National Park we will do the first outing searching for **Puma**.
Overnight: Hostería Pehoé, Torres del Paine

Lesser Seedsnipe *should be seen in the Patagonian steppes.*

Days 3-5. Torres del Paine National Park
Three full days looking for the majestic "lord of the Andes". After an early breakfast we will start searching for **Puma** in Torres del Paine National Park and the nearby Estancia Laguna Amarga, a ranch located on the eastern border of the park, which hosts large numbers of **Puma**.
Together with **Puma** we should also see large groups of **Guanacos** (wild relatives of the llama), **Large Hairy Armadillo**, **Patagonian Fox**, **Upland Goose**, **Andean Condor**, **Yellow-bridled Finch**, **Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle**, and many other species. We will also bird the *Nothofagus* (southern beeches) forests, where we hope to find the impressive **Magellanic Woodpecker** and **Austral Parakeet**.
Overnight: Hostería Pehoé, Torres del Paine

Day 6. Torres del Paine National Park to Punta Arenas
This will be our last morning in Torres del Paine National Park. We will visit a small wetland, where we might observe and photograph the very rare **Austral Rail**. We will stop en route for photo opportunities at Ultimate Esperanza bay in Puerto Natales, where we may find **Black-necked Swan**, **Crested Duck**, **White-tufted** and **Great Grebes**, **Magellanic Shag**, **Magellanic Oystercatcher**, and **Dark-bellied Cinclodes**.
Overnight: Hotel Cabo de Hornos or similar, Punta Arenas

Day 7. Marta and Magdalena Islands
We will head across to Laredo Bay for the morning, where we will take a boat trip to two nearby islands, first to Magdalena Island to visit a colony of **Magellanic Penguins** and then circumnavigating Marta Island to view a colony of **South American Sea Lions**. In the afternoon we will visit San Juan Bay, where we might see **Magellanic Diving Petrel**, **Black-**

browed Albatross, **Chilean Skua**, **Kelp Gull**, **Magellanic Plover**, and **Blackish Cinclodes**, among others.
Overnight: Hotel Cabo de Hornos or similar, Punta Arenas

Black-browed Albatross *can be seen on our boat cruise in Laredo Bay.*

Day 8. Departure
Transfer to the airport to board your departure flight, which will end an amazing eight days in Chile.

Please note that the itinerary cannot be guaranteed as it is only a rough guide and can be changed (usually slightly) due to factors such as availability of accommodation, updated information on the state of accommodation, roads, or birding sites, the discretion of the guides and other factors.

Duration:	8 Days
Limit (group size):	4 - 7
Dates:	15 - 22 November 2019 15 - 22 November 2020 15 - 22 November 2021
Start:	Punta Arenas, Chile
End:	Punta Arenas, Chile
Prices (expensive):	US$6,068 per person sharing 2019 US$6,493 per person sharing 2020 US$6,948 per person sharing 2021

Single supplements: US$768 2019
US$822 2020
US$880 2021

Price includes:
Meals (from dinner on day 1 until breakfast on day 8)
Accommodation
Guiding fees
Entrance fees
All transport while on tour (private transportation in a 4WD or van)
Tolls
Puma tracker
Boat trip to Marta and Magdalena Islands

Price excludes:
All flights
Items of a personal nature, e.g. gifts
Alcoholic drinks
Personal insurance
Gratuities