



BIRDING TOUR ARGENTINA: PUERTO MADRYN AND VALDÉS PENINSULA

30 OCTOBER - 01 NOVEMBER 2022



Lesser Rhea should be seen on the grassy plains of the Valdés Peninsula (photo Alejandro Ronchetti).

Welcome to this 3-day birding tour to the Puerto Madryn region, in northeastern Patagonia, one of the gateways to the Valdés Peninsula — a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The area is located in a transitional region between three interesting Argentinian biomes: the Patagonian shrubby steppes, the Monte (an arid eco-region of thorny bushes and low trees), and the Chubut River valley, with its wetlands and agricultural areas. If we add to this the extensive South Atlantic coastline featuring impressive cliffs and beaches, with enormous colonies of birds and marine mammals, we will have the perfect combination for a journey of discovery to a fascinating region of Patagonia.



*We'll be sure to keep an eye out for the delightful **Long-tailed Meadowlark** (photo Alejandro Ronchetti).*

This tour is as pre-tour to our **Antarctic birding cruise** which departs from Puerto Madryn and can also be combined with our **Chilean Puma tour** in Torres del Paine National Park.

Itinerary (3 days/2 nights)

Day 1. Chubut River valley

We have an early departure to visit a number of different sites around Puerto Madryn as well as the lower valley of the Chubut River. As we leave early this morning, we will require tour participants to arrive in Puerto Madryn the evening before. We will look for species in many

different environments such as coastal sites, shrubby steppes, lagoons, grasslands, semi-flooded areas, irrigation canals and reedbeds.

The Chubut River flows from the Andes down to the Atlantic Ocean across the vast Patagonian steppes. The lower valley area is an ecotone that stretches across 600 square kilometers and combines several different environments, both natural and rural, with Welsh immigrants establishing colonies here in the late 19th century. Due to its location and unique environment, the lower valley serves as an important stopover point for migrating birds.

Some of our targets in the area include **Elegant Crested Tinamou**, **Black-necked** and **Coscoroba Swan**, **Upland Goose**, **White-tufted Grebe**, **Chilean Flamingo**, **Cocoi Heron**, **Black-faced** and **White-faced Ibis**, **White-tailed Kite**, **Harris's Hawk**, **Chimango Caracara**, **Red-gartered Coot**, **Wilson's Phalarope**, **Hudsonian Godwit**, **Guira Cuckoo**, **Burrowing Owl**, **Monk Parakeet**, **Rufous Hornero**, **Wren-like Rushbird**, **White Monjita**, **Many-colored Rush Tyrant**, **Fork-tailed Flycatcher**, **Spectacled Tyrant**, **Austral Thrush**, **Chalk-browed Mockingbird**, **Correndera Pipit**, **Grassland Yellow Finch**, **Yellow-winged Blackbird**, **Black-chinned Siskin**, among many others.

Overnight: Hotel Las Restingas, Puerto Pirámides



*A pair of cheeky and cheerful **Burrowing Parrots** (photo Alejandro Ronchetti).*

Day 2. Valdés Peninsula

This will be our first day exploring a number of habitats on the Valdés Peninsula (UNESCO World Heritage Site), such as Patagonian shrubby steppes, salt flats and coastline. Its vibrant coastline is dotted with huge cliffs, rocky bays and extensive beaches — a paradise for birds and

marine mammals. We will visit this area over two consecutive days, looking for birds and mammals of the Patagonian steppes, shorelines and transitional area.

Our accommodation is located at Puerto Pirámides, in a bay of the Golfo Nuevo, an important breeding area for the **Southern Right Whales**, which arrive in large numbers every year (June – December) to mate and give birth. Numerous colonies of **Southern Elephant Seals**, **South American Sea Lions**, **Magellanic Penguins**, and various species of cormorants and seagulls are scattered along the coastline, while mammals such as **Guanacos** (wild relatives of the llamas), **Big Hairy Armadillos**, **Lesser Cavies**, **Patagonian Grey Foxes**, and **Maras** (Patagonian Hares), inhabit the bushy steppes.

Overnight: Hotel Las Restingas, Puerto Pirámides

Day 3. Valdés Peninsula

The morning of our final day we expect to visit San Lorenzo Ranch, in the northeastern tip of the Valdés Peninsula, which hosts one of the largest continental colonies of **Magellanic Penguins**. Here we will also have the chance to observe numerous flycatchers and furnariids, as well as **Guanacos**, **Big Hairy Armadillo**, **Killer Whales** and **South American Sea Lions**.



Big Hairy Armadillos are full of character (photo Alejandro Ronchetti)!

Our two days of birding on the Valdés Peninsula are likely to produce some of the following species: **Lesser Rhea**, **Elegant Crested Tinamou**, **Magellanic Penguin**, **Rock Shag**, **Turkey Vulture**, **Crested Duck**, the endemic **Chubut Steamer Duck**, **White-tailed Kite**, **Cinereous Harrier**, **Variable (Red-backed) Hawk**, **Southern Crested Caracara**, **Magellanic Oystercatcher**, **Tawny-throated Dotterel**, **Two-banded Plover**, **Least Seedsnipe**, **Olrog's**

Gull, Brown-hooded Gull, South American and Snowy-crowned Terns, Burrowing Parrot, Burrowing Owl, Common Miner, Scale-throated and Band-tailed, Earthcreepers, Patagonian and Sharp-billed Canasteros, Plain-mantled Tit-Spinetail, White-throated Cacholote, the endemic Rusty-backed Monjita, Chocolate-vented Tyrant, Tufted Tit-Tyrant, Lesser Shrike-Tyrant, White-tipped Plantcutter, Southern Martin, Patagonian Mockingbird, Mourning Sierra Finch and Patagonian Yellow Finch, among many species.



Least Seedsnipe; another target on the Valdés Peninsula.

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:	3 days
Group Size:	4 – 12 (we have a higher limit on this tour than most tours)
Date:	30 October - 01 November 2022
Start:	Puerto Madryn, Argentina
End:	Puerto Madryn, Argentina
Price:	US\$1,595 per person (2022)
Single supplement:	US\$335 (2022)

Price includes:

Accommodation
All meals
Guiding fees
Entrance fees
All transport while on tour

Price excludes:

All flights
Items of a personal nature, e.g. gifts
Alcoholic drinks
Personal insurance
Gratuities (please see our [tipping guidelines blog](#))