



**PARAGUAY: AMAZING BIRDS AND WILDLIFE OF THE CHACO
TOUR-SPECIFIC INFORMATION**



*We'll search for **Crested Gallito** in the Chaco (photo Oscar Rodriguez).*

[PLEASE CLICK HERE FOR GENERAL INFORMATION PERTAINING TO ALL OUR PARAGUAY TOURS](#)

Although Paraguay has a relatively modest country list of 742 bird species, it is the quality of birds and other wildlife that makes this small (the size of the US state of California), landlocked country so appealing to adventurous wildlife travelers. Perhaps one of the least visited countries in South America, Paraguay has a great deal to offer intrepid birders who are willing to explore the remote wilderness of the Chaco and the Atlantic Forest. On this tour we will look for some of the continent's rarest birds such as **Robust Woodpecker**, **Helmeted Woodpecker**, **White-winged Nightjar**, **Vinaceous-breasted Amazon**, and **Saffron-cowled Blackbird**. Additionally, we stand a good chance of tracking down all the Chaco bird endemics and could find high quality wildlife species such as **Geoffroy's Cat**, **Jaguarundi**, and **Chacoan Peccary**.

ARRIVAL INFORMATION

This tour will begin and end in Paraguay's capital city, Asunción, at the Internacional Silvio Pettirossi Airport (ASU) which can be reached by direct flights from the US, Spain, Panama, Brazil, and several other Latin American countries. You might wish to consult your travel agent to book your most convenient flight (and contact us if you need any guidance). Please e-mail us before you book any flights, as the information shown here is just an initial guide. Your tour leader will be waiting for you at Asunción Airport (with the Birding Ecotours logo clearly displayed) and will then transfer you to your hotel. Please remember to keep your luggage tags, as they are required to exit the terminal at the airport. If you arrive in Asunción around midday, we can spend the afternoon birding the nearby Asuncion Bay. In case you arrive on an early flight, you will be transferred to the hotel but may have to wait until check-in is available. For an early check-in you might be charged extra directly by the hotel; this cost is not included in the overall tour price.

When filling out the customs declaration form, please use the below address for the hotel:

Hotel Bourbon Convention Center, Avenida Sudamericana con Atilano Cáceres, 3104, Asunción

DEPARTURE INFORMATION

Our tour will end in Asunción after an exciting eleven days in Paraguay. On the last day, your tour leader, or one of our tour representatives will transfer you to Asunción Airport from where you can connect with your international departure or join our Bolivia birding tour which follows immediately after our Paraguay tour.

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS AND PACE

This trip ranks as one of our more difficult birding tours and will involve long days of birding and large distances between birding destinations. There will be some strenuous walking on this trip as well as a number of long drives. We will have early morning starts every day of the trip and a few late finishes (looking for nocturnal birds and animals).

The habitat in the Chaco and the Cerrado is open but we will do some forest trail birding in the Atlantic Forest which is more enclosed and not as easy to spot birds and wildlife.

ATM MACHINES

We ask you to exchange US dollars to Paraguayan Guaraní at Asunción Airport. After we leave Asunción, we will spend several days in the remote countryside without access to ATMs, with the only other place to draw money on this tour being at Ciudad Del Este on Day 11. Some of the lodges and family *haciendas* where we will be staying do not accept credit cards for extra expenses not included in the tour, such as bar bills, gratuities and souvenirs. We ask you to draw enough cash in local currency and/or US dollars to cover any personal expenses.

ALTITUDE

Altitude should not be an issue in Paraguay as it is a relatively low-lying country with the country's highest point being just 2,672 feet (842 meters) above sea level.

WEATHER

The weather throughout the trip will be hot, reaching temperatures between 77°F (25°C) and 91°F (33°C), although early mornings may be on the chilly side. The Chaco ranges from humid to dry areas and the Atlantic Forest will be hot and humid. Even though Paraguay's rainy season only begins in late November and December (after our scheduled trip), we are likely to experience some rain in the Chaco and the Atlantic Forest.

LAUNDRY

Laundry is available at Iparoma Ranch, Hotel Concepción, and Mbaracayú Lodge however please note that laundry fees are not included in the tour price.

ACCOMMODATION

The accommodation standard on this trip varies from very good, such as in Asunción, to fairly basic in some of the *haciendas* we will be using. In the most basic places, you will at least have a clean room with an en suite bathroom, however hot showers may not be available in one of the lodges in the Chaco. In some of the basic *haciendas*, there will be no other extra services, other than dinner and accommodation.

In some areas, we may have to use double rooms, as several establishments have a limited number of rooms and it will depend on how long in advance we can make reservations, to provide single supplements. The earlier you book, the more likely we can secure a single supplement and private bathroom for you. If you are a light sleeper, we suggest you bring earplugs along.

TRANSPORT

We will use a single 4x4 vehicle for groups of up to three people, and two 4x4 vehicles for groups of 4-6 people. Occasionally we may use a third vehicle, for a group of 7-8. When we do have to travel in two (or three) vehicles, your tour leader will be switching between the vehicles with the vehicles driven by local English-speaking guides. Please note that this is one of the few Neotropical Birding Ecotours trips where we don't provide a large and spacious van, due to the poor quality of the roads in Paraguay.

LUGGAGE REMINDER

We ask you to travel with as little luggage as possible and to please limit yourself to one piece of large luggage per person, plus a small personal backpack/daypack, as space is limited in the vehicles.

