



**BIRDING NORTHEAST ARGENTINA: IBERÁ MARSHLANDS AND
IGUAZÚ NATIONAL PARK**

**02 - 11 OCTOBER 2023
01 - 10 NOVEMBER 2024**



Strange-tailed Tyrant will be one of the targets on this north-eastern Argentina tour (photo Horacio Matarasso).

In the Corrientes province in the north-eastern reaches of Argentina there is a vast region locally known as the Iberá Marshlands, which is the largest wetland area in South America after the Pantanal in Brazil. Iberá, or as the Guaraní natives call it “Shining Waters”, is a BirdLife International IBA and Ramsar Site as well as a national preserve. It covers an area nearly three times the size of the American Everglades and protects a multitude of fauna and flora occurring in such diverse habitats as lakes and swamps, palm groves, expansive grasslands, and climax forests. Over 330 bird species, including **Jabiru**, **Snail Kite**, **Southern Screamer**, **Greater Rhea**, **Savanna Hawk**, **Black-collared Hawk**, **White Woodpecker**, **Scarlet-headed Blackbird**, and **Red-crested Cardinal**, as well as other animals such as **Capybara**, **Marsh Deer**, **Maned Wolf**, **Black-and-gold Howler Monkey**, **Big Hairy Armadillo**, **Yellow Anaconda**, and **Yacaré Caiman**, are all to be found.

The legendary “Gauchos” (Argentine cowboys) also call Iberá home; these “cowboys” live and work on the vast cattle ranches known as “estancias”, where they still use their traditional equestrian culture in daily life. It’s on some of these “estancias” that we’ll be staying to explore the region, as the hotels are few and far between.



Yellow-fronted Woodpecker is one of a number of spectacular woodpecker species we may see on this tour.

Come and explore this captivating paradise, combined with the fascinating Iguazú Falls, close to the border of Brazil. We’ll be spending three days in the spectacular Iguazú National Park on both the Argentinian and Brazilian sides, where birds include the likes of **Black-fronted Piping Guan**, **Toco Toucan**, **Chestnut-eared Aracari**, **Scaly-headed Parrot**, **Blue-winged Parrotlet**, **Plumbeous Kite**, **Tropical Screech Owl**, **Short-tailed Nighthawk**, **Great Dusky Swift**, **Scale-throated Hermit**, **Black-throated Mango**, **Fork-tailed Woodnymph**, **Surucua Trogon**, **Yellow-fronted Woodpecker**, and **Tufted Antshrike** among many more.

This tour can be combined with our preceding **Birding Tour Argentina: Northwest from the foothills to puna**, and/or our following **Birding Tour Argentina: Southern Patagonia – Los Glaciares National Park and Austral Rail**.

Itinerary (10 days/9 nights)

Day 1. Buenos Aires

Today the group arrives in Buenos Aires flying into Ministro Pistarini (Ezeiza) International Airport and from there transfer immediately to our hotel for the night. After settling in we'll do some afternoon birding at the Costanera Sur Ecological Preserve; here we could expect to find species such as **Red-crested Cardinal**, **Coscoroba Swan**, **Silver Teal**, **Spot-flanked Gallinule**, **Nanday** and **Monk Parakeets**, **Southern Crested Caracara**, **Pampa Finch**, **Spectacled Tyrant**, and **Black-and-rufous Warbling Finch** among many more as we explore the wetlands, grasslands, and woodlands.

Overnight: Hotel Dolmen/Hotel Pestana, Buenos Aires



*The Iberá Marshlands have good numbers of **Southern Screamer** (photo Alejandro Ronchetti).*

Day 2. Buenos Aires to Posadas

We'll start the day with a transfer flight to Posadas. Our base for the next three nights will be the Estancia San Juan Poriahú. This ranch is found in the northwest corner of the Iberá Marshlands, which is considered the Argentinean Pantanal. A great variety of habitats such as

savannas, forests, lakes, and wetlands means a great variety of birds, such as **Greater Rhea**, **Red-winged Tinamou**, **Savanna Hawk**, **Burrowing Owl**, **Southern Screamer**, **Brazilian Teal**, **Anhinga**, **Roseate Spoonbill**, **Wood Stork**, **White-necked Heron**, **Maguari Stork**, **Bare-faced Ibis**, and **Snowy Egret**. Spending time in the grassland habitat we could get lucky with **White Monjita**, **Pampa Finch**, **Picui Ground Dove**, and **Black Siskin**. Our last excursion for the day will be a nocturnal venture after dinner, when we'll be looking for **Crab-eating Fox**, **Tropical Screech Owl**, and **Scissor-tailed Nightjar**.

Overnight: Estancia San Juan Poriahú, Ituzaingó

Day 3. Iberá Marshlands

We'll start the day in search of the largest rodent on the planet, **Capybara**, as we take a boat ride in the Iberá Marshlands. Birdlife here includes **Black-collared Hawk**, **Long-winged Harrier**, **Jabiru**, **Wattled Jacana**, **Black-capped Donacobius**, **Yellow-chinned Spinetail**, and the recently described endemic **Ibera Seedeater**, as well as many more. We'll spend our afternoon exploring the indigenous forests, where we might have an opportunity to photograph groups of **Black-and-gold Howler Monkeys** as we search for birds such as **Dusky-legged Guan**, **Pale-crested Woodpecker**, **Blue-crowned Parakeet**, **White-winged and Green-backed Becards**, **Yellow-billed Cardinal**, **Ultramarine Grosbeak**, **Little Nightjar**, and **White-throated Hummingbird**.

Overnight: Estancia San Juan Poriahú, Ituzaingó



*Birding the Iberá Marshlands may produce sightings of the beautiful **Scarlet-headed Blackbird** (photo Alejandro Ronchetti).*

Day 4. Iberá Marshlands

We spend another day in this amazing area as we keep adding more birds to our list, such as **Southern Screamer, Ultramarine Grosbeak, Purple and Azure Gallinules, Strange-tailed Tyrant, Double-collared Seedeater, Pearly-bellied Seedeater, Green-winged Saltator, Yellow-rumped Marshbird, Scarlet-headed Blackbird**, and the endangered **Saffron-cowled Blackbird**.

Overnight: Estancia San Juan Poriahú, Ituzaingó

Day 5. Iberá Marshlands to Iguazú National Park

With a long drive north to Iguazú we'll leave immediately after breakfast. En route we will be visiting the ruins of the 17th-century Jesuit Mission at San Ignacio. While admiring the ruins we'll be scanning the surrounding area for **Bat Falcon, Red-capped Parrot, Blue-winged Parrotlet, Striped Cuckoo, Scale-throated Hermit, Black Jacobin, Surucua Trogon, Campo Flicker, Swallow Tanager, Brown-chested Martin, White-rumped Swallow**, and **Saffron Finch**. From here we have a six-hour drive to our hotel in Iguazú.

Overnight: Yvy Hotel de Selva, Iguazú



*The large and impressive **Blond-crested Woodpecker** (photo Alejandro Ronchetti)*

Day 6. Iguazú National Park

We'll spend a full day walking and birding the forest trails of the Iguazú National Park, admiring the spectacular Iguazú Falls and the park's Atlantic Forest. Here we have good

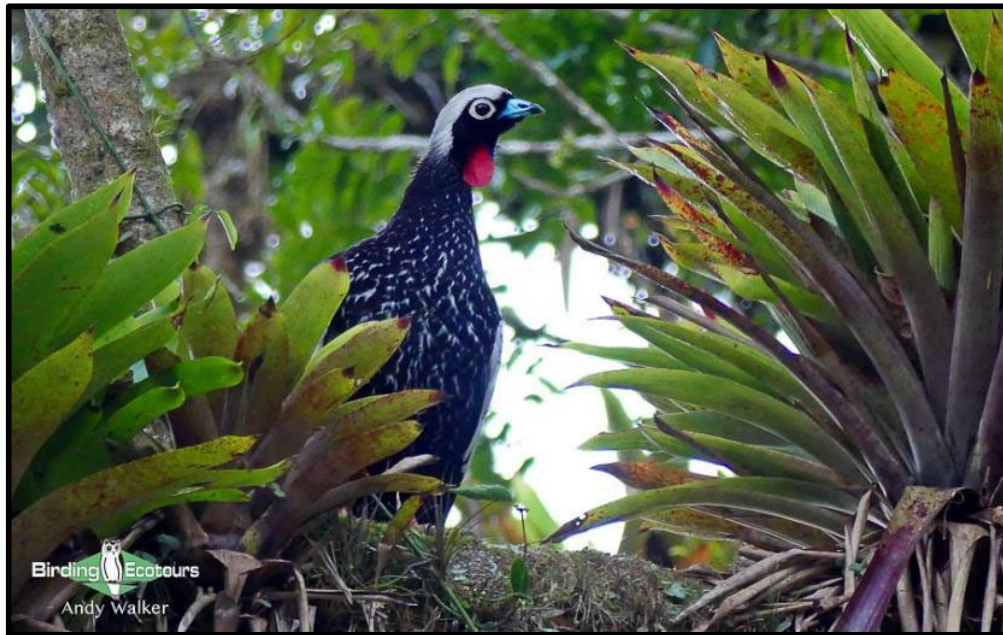
chances of **Plumbeous Kite**, **Bat Falcon**, **Toco Toucan**, **Surucua Trogon**, **Rufous-capped Motmot**, **White-eared Puffbird**, **Yellow-fronted Woodpecker**, **Blond-crested Woodpecker**, **Large-tailed Antshrike**, and **Swallow Tanager**. We'll also search for big flocks of **Dusky Swifts** before sunset as we visit the main falls of the Iguazú system, known as Devil's Gorge.

Overnight: Yvy Hotel de Selva, Iguazú

Day 7. Iguazú National Park

With another full day of birding in the Iguazú National Park we'll focus on finding new additions to our list. We'll be cleaning up on species such as **Black-fronted Piping Guan**, **Green-billed Toucan**, **Squirrel Cuckoo**, **Speckle-breasted Antpitta**, **Rufous Gnateater**, and **Blackish-blue Seedeater**. Our afternoon birding session will be spent on a private property in Puerto Iguazú, known as Hummingbird Garden, where we can find over 12 species of hummingbirds coming to the feeders as well as various tanagers and finches. Birds to expect here include **Blue-tufted Starthroat**, **Black-throated Mango**, **Green-crowned Plovercrest**, **Violet-capped Woodnymph**, **Rufous-throated Sapphire**, **Festive Coquette**, **Chestnut-bellied Euphonia**, **Golden-rumped Euphonia**, and **Chestnut-backed Tanager**, to name just a few.

Overnight: Yvy Hotel de Selva, Iguazú



Black-throated Piping Guan can be seen in Iguazú National Park.

Day 8. Iguazú to Surucua Reserva & Ecolodge

Today we make our way east through the Atlantic Forest of Iguazú National Park in search of **Solitary Tinamou**, **Green Ibis**, **Black-and-white Hawk-Eagle**, **Violaceous Quail-Dove**, and **Saffron Toucanet**. We end our drive at the Surucua Reserva & Ecolodge on the Iguazú River, a luxurious private property. Habitats here include palmito, bamboo-cane groves, and

rainforest. We'll spend the rest of the day birding the surrounding area in search of species such as **Turkey Vulture, Orange-breasted Falcon, Black-fronted Piping Guan, Rusty-margined Guan, Spot-billed Toucanet, Rufous-capped Motmot, White-necked Puffbird, Blond-crested Woodpecker, Sharp-tailed Streamcreeper, and Chestnut-crowned Becard.** We'll spend some time looking for owls and nightjars after dinner.

Overnight: Surucua Reserva & Ecolodge or Yacutinga Lodge, Andresito

Day 9. Urugua-í Provincial Park

A full day birding around our lodge and at Urugua-í Provincial Park will provide us with birds such as **Grey-bellied and Zone-tailed Hawks, Black Hawk-Eagle, Grey-fronted Dove, Scaly-headed Parrot, Pavonine Cuckoo, Surucua and Black-throated Trogons, Robust and Helmeted Woodpeckers, Buff-fronted Foliage-gleaner, Black-billed Scythebill, Giant Antshrike, Bertoni's Antbird, and Red-ruffed Fruitcrow.** We'll spend another owling session after dinner in search of **Mottled, Black-banded, Buff-fronted, and Spectacled Owls** among other nocturnal species.

Overnight: Surucua Reserva & Ecolodge or Yacutinga Lodge, Andresito

Day 10. Transfer to Buenos Aires, departure

Today is mostly a travel day as we'll be driving to Puerto Iguazú to catch our flight to Buenos Aires, where everyone will connect with their international flights or continue onto their next birding trip in Argentina.

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. In addition, we sometimes have to use a different international guide from the one advertised due to tour scheduling.

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| Duration: | 10 days |
| Limit (group size): | 4 - 12 (We have a higher limit for this than for most tours.) |
| Dates: | 02 – 11 October 2023 01 – 10 November 2024 |
| Start: | Ministro Pistarini (Ezeiza) International Airport, Buenos Aires |
| End: | Puerto Iguazú, Argentina |
| Prices: | US\$5,383 per person sharing (2023) US\$5,706 per person sharing (2024) |
| Single supplements: | US\$1,312 (2023) US\$1,390 (2024) |

Price includes:

Meals (from dinner on day 1 until breakfast on day 10)
Accommodation
Guiding fees
Entrance fees
All transport while on tour
Tolls

Price excludes:

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