



**CHILE: CENTRAL CHILE AND ARAUCARIAN FOREST
SPECIALS BIRDING TOUR**

TOUR-SPECIFIC INFORMATION



Chucao Tapaculo, one of the major targets of our Central Chile birding tour (photo Fernando Diaz).

ARRIVAL INFORMATION

Our tour begins in Santiago de Chile, at Arturo Merino Benítez International Airport (SCL). Your tour leader or other Birding Ecotours representatives will wait for you (with a signboard) at Santiago Airport and will then transfer you to your hotel.

You may wish to consult your travel agent to arrange the most convenient flights, and please contact us if you require any guidance. Please email us (or contact us by another preferred method) before booking any flights, as the information provided here serves only as an initial guide.

Please note that most international flights arrive in Santiago early in the morning. If you arrive on an early flight, you will be transferred to the hotel but may need to wait until standard check-in time. Early check-in may incur an additional charge, payable directly to the hotel, and is not included in the Birding Ecotours tour price. Alternatively, you may wish to book an additional night in advance.

When completing your customs declaration form, please use the following hotel address:

Hotel Plaza El Bosque Ebro

Ebro 2828, 7550091 Santiago, Las Condes, Región Metropolitana, Chile

Phone: +56 2 2498 1800

DEPARTURE INFORMATION

The tour will conclude at Santiago de Chile Airport following our domestic flight from Temuco. Tour participants will either connect with their international flights or stay an additional night in Santiago in case of an inconvenient departure time.

The flight from Temuco to Santiago will be operated by LATAM Airlines.

DOMESTIC FLIGHTS

We will have one domestic flight during the tour, from Temuco (ZCO) – La Araucanía International Airport to Santiago de Chile (SCL) – Arturo Merino Benítez International Airport, at the end of the tour. Participants connecting onward internationally with LATAM Airlines may be able to check their luggage through from Temuco; however, we strongly recommend confirming this directly with the airline in advance.

If you book your flight through us, the ticket includes:

- One checked luggage item (up to 50 lbs/23 kg)
- One carry-on bag

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS AND PACE

We categorize this trip as easy, and it is likely one of the easiest birding tours in the Neotropics.

Most birding is conducted along flat, smooth roads. Some uneven terrain, gentle uphill sections, and a few forest trails will be encountered, but there are no long hikes or strenuous walks planned, nor extended periods away from the vehicle.

This tour does not involve daily pre-dawn starts. However, please be aware that we will cover long driving distances, particularly toward the end of the tour.

Breakfast is served daily at the hotels, after which we depart directly for birding activities. We spend several nights in Santiago de Chile at approximately 2,625 feet (800 meters) above sea level, so altitude should not affect sleep or general comfort.

ALTITUDE

We explore a range of habitats from sea level to high-elevation Andean environments. The maximum elevation reached is approximately 9,800 feet (3,000 meters), and this occurs only during one morning visit to El Yeso, in search of high-altitude species.

Most birding sites are located between 3,800–6,500 feet (1,000–2,000 meters) above sea level. Accommodation in Santiago, used as our base to visit the Andes, is at around 2,600 feet (800 meters).

If you have any medical conditions that may be affected by altitude, please consult your doctor prior to travel.

MEALS AND WATER

Breakfasts and dinners are served at the hotels. Lunch is usually either a picnic-style boxed lunch or a meal at a local restaurant near the birding sites.

Lunches typically offer a fixed menu with a limited number of choices (including vegetarian options), while dinners are generally à la carte, with a wider selection available.

Tap water in urban areas of Chile is generally safe to drink. Bottled water is provided during birding activities and with meals. Please note that water and other items from hotel room minibars are not included in the tour cost.

WEATHER

The tour takes place during the Chilean spring, with expected temperatures ranging from approximately 7–23°C (45–73°F).

There is a chance of rain, particularly during our time in the Valdivian forest regions near Talca and Temuco.

MONEY AND ATMs

The national currency of Chile is the Chilean peso (CLP), often denoted by \$ or CLP\$. As of January 2025, the exchange rate is approximately CLP 890 = USD 1.

You can exchange US dollars at Santiago Airport and at an exchange office located near your hotel in Santiago. There are plenty of ATMs in the hotel area.

Credit cards are widely accepted throughout the country. Tipping may be done in Chilean pesos or US dollars.

LAUNDRY

Laundry services are available at the hotel in Santiago de Chile.

WHAT TO BRING

- Hiking shoes suitable for uneven terrain (waterproof footwear with Vibram soles is recommended)
- Comfortable walking shoes for use around hotels and during non-birding activities
- Warm jacket
- Fleece or windbreaker
- Tops and base layers (T-shirts, shirts, blouses, sweaters; quick-drying fabrics are recommended)
- Warm hat (winter beanie)
- Sun hat or baseball cap
- Gloves
- Personal medication and prescriptions (in case you need to purchase medication locally)
- Prescription glasses, including a spare pair
- Flashlight
- Electrical chargers and universal adapters
- Sunscreen
- Insect repellent
- Lip balm
- Walking stick (optional)
- Travel documents
- Plastic or waterproof bag for travel documents
- Camera memory cards
- Spare batteries
- Spotting scope (optional)

A communal telescope will be available and shared among the group for viewing on a rotational basis. If you wish to digi-scope or prefer prolonged scope views, please bring your own telescope.