



Ruddy-headed Goose | Cauquén Colorado | *Chloephaga rubidiceps*

# **Birding in Río Gallegos (Full day tour)**

Río Gallegos, Santa Cruz, Argentina



Available anytime from October to March

Group size: 2-6

Tour category: birdwatching





## Trip overview

Río Gallegos is one of the southernmost cities of the South American Continent and it houses more than 120 species of birds. It is located at the confluence of the Río Gallegos and Chico rivers, in Santa Cruz Province, Argentina.

These rivers form a rich estuary where the tides condition biodiversity. Wide marshes are developed on its south coast covered with *Sarcocornia sp.* and *Suaeda spp.* Grassland and shrubs occupy the higher terrains.

Patagonian, Nearctic, and Antarctic birds can be found in this mosaic of environments and many of them entail a particular interest for both conservation and birding such as **Ruddy-headed Goose**, **Hooded Grebe**, **Magellanic Plover**, **Red Knot** and **Austral Canastero**.

Therefore, the entirety of Río Gallegos estuary is an **IBA** (BirdLife International) and it is also recognized as an **International Important Site** of the WHSRN.

## Tour details

### Target birds for the area

Lesser Rhea, Ruddy-headed Goose, Flying Steamer-Duck, Chiloe Wigeon, Chilean Flamingo, Tawny-throated Dotterel, Rufous-chested Dotterel, Two-banded Plover, Magellanic Oystercatcher, Whimbrel, Hudsonian Godwit, Red Knot, Baird's Sandpiper, White-rumped Sandpiper, Magellanic Snipe, Least Seedsnipe, South American Tern, Magellanic Penguin, Southern Giant-Petrel, Cinereous Harrier, Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle, Short-eared Owl, Peregrine Falcon (South American, included "pallid" form), Band-tailed Earthcreeper, Austral Canastero, Tufted Tit-Tyrant, Chocolate-vented Tyrant, Chilean Swallow, Patagonian Yellow-Finch, White-bridled Finch.

### Number of expected species

50-55

### Mammal highlights

Guanaco, South American Gray Fox, Humboldt's Hog-nosed Skunk and Dwarf Armadillo

## Itinerary<sup>1</sup>

Time	Activity
6:00 AM	Hotel pick-up and transfer to Ea. Condor (RP1) in search of the Tawny-throated Dotterel, Rufous-chested Dotterel, Chocolate-vented Tyrant and White-bridled Finch.
10:00 AM	Transfer to Punta Loyola and Shorebirds Provincial Reserve. Search for migratory shorebirds and pelagic birds.
12:00 PM	Lunch
01:00 PM	Transfer back to Río Chico (an urban reserve area) and look for the threatened Ruddy-headed Goose and Austral Canastero.
3:30 PM	Transfer to Laguna Ortiz (an urban reserve area) and visit the city coast.
6:00 PM	Transfer back to the meeting point. Drop off. End of the tour.

## More information

### What's included?

This tour includes:

- ✓ Private ground transportations
- ✓ Guided services
- ✓ Spotting scope: Vortex Diamondback HD 65mm
- ✓ Box lunch
- ✓ Drinking water for refill private bottles (in order to avoid plastic pollution and waste)
- ✓ Personal insurances

It does not include:

- ✗ Flight tickets
- ✗ Alcoholic drinks
- ✗ Tips
- ✗ Extra services or anything not mentioned in this brochure

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<sup>1</sup> Itinerary can be changed due to force majeure. You can also customize this tour (If you have any special requirement, please let us know)

**Category**

Birdwatching, with good opportunities to take photographs

**Habitats**

Sea coast, marshes, lagoons, shrublands and grasslands  
(Magellanic Steppe and Argentine Sea)

**Climate**

Cold, semi-arid

**Max group size**

6 + 1 local guide (ask for larger groups)

**Physical requirements**

The physical difficulty of this tour is low (easy to moderate terrain).

**Recommended equipment**

Woolly hat, cap, sunscreen (+30), polarized sunglasses, warm and waterproof clothing, trekking shoes.

**Departures**

This tour is available anytime from October to March. It requires prior reservation.

**Price**

If you want a quote for this tour, please send an email to:  
[info@southernpatagoniatours.com](mailto:info@southernpatagoniatours.com).

**Combined with**

This tour can be combined with:

- Hooded Grebe tour (5 days / 4 nights)
- Patagonian forest tour (4 days / 3 nights)
- Monte León NP (4 days / 3 nights)

## Map

### Birding in Río Gallegos

