



White-bridled Finch | Yal Austral | *Melanodera melanodera*

Birding to El Zurdo (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, Silver Teal, Chiloe Wigeon, Chilean Flamingo, Austral Rail, Tawny-throated Dotterel, Rufous-chested Dotterel, Two-banded Plover, Magellanic Oystercatcher, Magellanic Snipe, Least Seedsnipe, Cinereous Harrier, Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle, Short-eared Owl, 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

Itinerary¹

Time	Activity
6:00 AM	Hotel pick-up and drive to El Zurdo area. Look for the Austral Rail and White-bridled Finch.
9:00 AM	Transfer back to Lesser Gallegos river area and look for the Cordilleran Canastero and waterfowl.
11:00 AM	Transfer to Arroyo Robles and nearby areas in search of the Chocolate-vented Tyrant and other terrestrial birds.
12:00 PM	Lunch
01:00 PM	Transfer to Palermo Aike and Guer Aike with birding stops. Then, transfer to Río Chico (an urban reserve area) and look for the threatened Ruddy-headed Goose and Austral Canastero.
5:30 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 and waste)
- ✓ Personal insurances

It does not include:

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

¹ Itinerary can be changed due to force majeure. You can also customize this tour.

Category

Birdwatching, with good opportunities to take photographs

Habitats

Sea coast, marshes, lagoons, shrublands and grasslands
(Patagonian 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.

Combined with

This tour can be combined with:

- Birding to Río Turbio (4 days / 3 nights)

Map

Birding to El Zurdo

