



Hooded Grebe | Macá Tobiano | *Podiceps gallardoi*

# **Hooded Grebe tour**

(5-day tour)

El Calafate, Santa Cruz, Argentina



Available anytime from October to March

Group size: 2-6

Tour category: birdwatching



## Trip overview

The Hooded Grebe (*Podiceps gallardo*) is a handsome Near Endemic bird to Argentina which breeds exclusively in some basaltic plateaus of Santa Cruz, Patagonia Argentina. Among them are Buenos Aires, Strobel, Asador, Mata Amarilla, etc. As other grebes, this one is highly associated to healthy lakes which offer it the support to build its nesting colonies during the austral summer, an aquatic plant called *Myriophyllum sp.* During the winter, it migrates to some estuarine areas of SE Santa Cruz located between Río Gallegos and Puerto Santa Cruz villages. There are also some records in Chile from last 1990´s.

Hooded Grebe was discovered to science in 1974 and at the moment, its population is estimated at about 800 individuals. Indeed, it has declined 80 percent in the last 25 years. As a result of this extremely worrying situation, and to avoid its imminent extinction, it was declared a protected species of Santa Cruz in 2003 by Law 2582 and currently, it is also categorized as a Critically Endangered species by IUCN/BirdLife International.

Consequently, this grebe is one of the "most wanted" birds of Southern Patagonia and this tour is specially focused in the search of it and some other endemic and specialties of this zone.

## Tour details

### Target birds for the area

Patagonian Tinamou, Flying Steamer-Duck, Silver Teal, Chiloe Wigeon, Ruddy Duck, Lake Duck, Chilean Flamingo, Hooded Grebe, Austral Rail, Magellanic Plover, Tawny-throated Dotterel, Magellanic Snipe, Least Seedsnipe, Andean Condor, Cinereous Harrier, Variable Hawk, Lesser Horned Owl, White-throated Caracara, Buff-winged Cinclodes, Plain-mantled Tit-Spinetail, Rufous-tailed Plantcutter, Tufted Tit-Tyrant, Dark-faced Ground-Tyrant, Cinnamon-bellied Ground-Tyrant, Chocolate-vented Tyrant, Chilean Swallow, Grass Wren, Patagonian Mockingbird, Yellow-winged Blackbird, Patagonian Yellow-Finch, Gray-hooded Sierra Finch and more.

### Number of expected species

70-75

### Mammal highlights

Guanaco, South American Gray Fox, Humboldt´s Hog-nosed Skunk, Large Hairy Armadillo.

## **Itinerary<sup>1</sup>**

### **Day 1: Arrival at FTE.**

Welcome to El Calafate. Arrival at El Calafate Airport "Cte. Armando Tola" (IATA: FTE) and transfer to Laguna Nimez Natural Reserve. Lunch. Visit to Redonda Bay and transfer to Hoya del Chingue area with birding stops. Hotel check-in and dinner. Overnight in El Calafate.

### **Day 2: Drive to Strobel Lake area.**

Transfer to Strobel Lake area with birding stops. Check-in and dinner at the Lodge. Overnight in Est. La Angostura.

### **Day 3: Adventure & birding in the Strobel Lake area.**

Full day birding in search of the Hooded Grebe with a box-lunch service. Transfer back to the Lodge. Dinner. Overnight in Est. La Angostura.

### **Day 4: Full day birding in the zone.**

AM birding in Strobel Lake area. Lunch. PM transfer to La Angostura Ranch and half day birding there. Dinner. Overnight in Est. La Angostura.

### **Day 5: Transfer back to FTE. End of the tour.**

AM birding in La Angostura Ranch. Transfer back to El Calafate with a box-lunch service. Drop off. End of the tour.

## **More information**

### **What's included?**

This tour includes:

- ✓ All ground transportation in a private vehicle
- ✓ Guided services: local birding guide and driver
- ✓ Spotting scope: Vortex Diamondback HD 65mm
- ✓ Accommodations: Comfortable lodges and 3-star hotels
- ✓ Three meals a day: breakfast, box-lunch and dinner (3-course meal)
- ✓ Drinking water for refill private bottles (in order to avoid plastic and waste)
- ✓ Entrance fees to private areas, natural parks and all excursions during our trips
- ✓ Personal insurances

It does not include:

- ✗ Flight tickets: neither international nor domestic flights
- ✗ Alcoholic drinks

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<sup>1</sup> Itinerary can be changed due to force majeure and accommodation availability.

- × Tips
- × Extra services or anything not mentioned in this brochure

### **Category**

Birdwatching, with good opportunities to take photographs

### **Habitats**

Lakes, lagoons, reedbeds, shrublands and grasslands (Patagonian Steppe)

### **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). However, please note that it includes several long drives on stoned roads.

### **Recommended equipment**

Woolly hat, cap, sunscreen (+30), polarized sunglasses, warm and waterproof clothing, trekking shoes. Winter gloves are also recommended.

### **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:

- Patagonian forest tour (4 days / 3 nights tour)
- Puma & wildlife safari (5 days / 4 nights)

# Map

## Hooded Grebe tour

