

Birding Ecotours

A stylized white owl with large eyes, perched on a horizontal line, set against a green diamond-shaped background.

SOUTHERN PATAGONIA: TIERRA DEL FUEGO

12-15 DECEMBER 2023



Magellanic Woodpecker is one of our major targets on this trip.

This short tour of Tierra del Fuego, Argentina gives you the opportunity to explore southern Patagonia and the Tierra del Fuego National Park from the world's most southerly city, Ushuaia. Apart from the sheer beauty of the area, including snow-capped peaks, mountain streams, and large beech forests, there is an assortment of important bird species which will be targeted. High on this list will be the huge **Magellanic Woodpecker**, which inhabits beech forests in Tierra del Fuego National Park, as well as **White-bellied Seedsnipe**, which is found above the tree line on a nearby mountain pass. Other range-restricted species which we hope to find include **Flying Steamer Duck**, **Andean Goose**, **Yellow-bridled Finch**, and **Patagonian Sierra Finch**.



White-bellied Seedsnipe can be seen on the Garibaldi Pass.

This trip is an extension to our 19-day **Birding Cruise Antarctica: Falklands, South Georgia, and the Antarctic Peninsula** and only runs if the latter becomes a guaranteed departure.

Itinerary (4 days/3 nights)

Day 1. Ushuaia

This tour will commence the day after our Antarctica cruise and will begin with an early morning departure from your hotel in Ushuaia. We will likely spend the day birding the coastal areas around Ushuaia, where we expect to see **Kelp** and **Dolphin Gulls**, **Black-browed Albatross**, **South American Tern**, **Magellanic** and **Blackish Oystercatchers**, **Austral Negrito**, **Chilean Swallow**, **Blackish Cinclodes**, and **Flying Steamer Duck**, among others.

Overnight: Hotel Tolkeyen, Ushuaia

Day 2. Lago Escondido and Garibaldi Pass

After breakfast we will head east along the National Route No. 3 highway beyond the city, where the landscape changes drastically to include mountain ranges, valleys, peat bogs, beaver dams, and various beech forests. On the Garibaldi Pass (430 meters/1419 feet above sea level) we will hike above the treeline to search for the localized **White-bellied Seedsnipe**. This bird can be hit-and-miss at times, and if we miss it today we will have another shot on our final morning. Other noteworthy species we hope to encounter today include **Rock Shag, Imperial Shag, Kelp Goose, Upland Goose, Fuegian Steamer Duck, Flying Steamer Duck, Crested Duck, Chiloe Wigeon, Turkey Vulture, Andean Condor, Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle, Southern Crested Caracara, White-throated Caracara, Chimango Caracara, Chilean Skua, Grey-flanked Cinclodes, Buff-winged Cinclodes, Thorn-tailed Rayadito, Ochre-naped Ground Tyrant, Dark-faced Ground Tyrant, White-crested Elaenia, Austral Thrush, and Yellow-bridled Finch.**

Overnight: Hotel Tolkeyen, Ushuaia



Andean Condor is an iconic bird of the high Andes (photo Alejandro Tello).

Day 3. Tierra del Fuego National Park

After breakfast we will head out for the day's birding into the Tierra del Fuego National Park, where giant woodpeckers, ibises, and other birds can be seen in the southern beech forests. The coastal areas also offer some fantastic birding, where we hope to find **Kelp Goose** and **Flying Steamer Duck**. The day's birding could also produce the following important bird species: **Great Grebe, Neotropic Cormorant, Black-faced Ibis, Black-necked Swan, Upland Goose, Ashy-headed Goose, Bronze-winged Duck, Crested Duck, Yellow-billed Pintail, Yellow-billed Teal, Chiloe Wigeon, Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle, Chilean Hawk, American Kestrel, Plumbeous Rail, South American Snipe, Austral Parakeet, Austral Pygmy Owl, Ringed Kingfisher, Magellanic Woodpecker, Magellanic Tapaculo,**

Patagonian Tyrant, Fire-eyed Diucon, White-crested Elaenia, Tufted Tit-Tyrant, House Wren, Austral Blackbird, Patagonian Sierra Finch, and Black-chinned Siskin.

Overnight: Hotel Tolkeyen, Ushuaia



*The attractive **Fuegian Steamer Duck** can be found near to Ushuaia.*

Day 4. Ushuaia and departure

Depending on flight times we will spend the morning birding around Ushuaia, cleaning up on any targets we may have missed the last few days (perhaps another trip to look for **White-bellied Seedsnipe** if we missed it on our first attempt) and then transfer to the airport to board our flights.

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.

Duration:	4 days
Limit (group size):	4–10 (We have a higher limit for this than for most tours.)
Date:	12–15 December 2023
Start:	Ushuaia, Argentina
End:	Ushuaia, Argentina
Price:	US\$2,051 per person sharing
Single supplement:	US\$391

Price includes:

Meals (from lunch on Day 1 to breakfast on Day 4)
Accommodation
Guiding fees (English-speaking guide)
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](#))