



Austral Pygmy-Owl | Caburé Austral | *Glaucidium nana*

Patagonian forest tour

(4-day tour)

📍 El Calafate, Santa Cruz, Argentina



 Available anytime from October to March

 Group size: 2-6

 Tour category: birdwatching



Trip overview

This tour combines scenic routes with wonderful views of the Andes, mountain villages, enchanted Nothofagus forests thriving in the rain shadow of those mountains, and vast lakes that feed the Patagonian Steppe as they flow toward the Atlantic Ocean. This corner of Patagonia captivates travelers, climbers, hikers, and nature lovers from around the world every year.

Iconic birds of the area include the Andean Condor, Magellanic Woodpecker, Black-throated Huet-huet, Magellanic Tapaculo and White-throated Treerunner, as well as the Torrent Duck, Spectacled Duck and Rufous-legged Owl. In addition, this region harbors several other fantastic creatures of this sub-Antarctic forest hiding and waiting to be discovered - for example, the enigmatic Patagonian deer locally known as Huemul (South Andean Huemul / Hippocamelus bisulcus), a seriously threatened species, and the Wolffsohn's Mountain Chinchilla (Lagidium wolffsohni).

Join this birding tour and discover this enchanted forest and its fantastic creatures.

Tour details

Target birds for the area

Torrent Duck, Flying Steamer-Duck, Spectacled Duck, Chiloe Wigeon, Ruddy Duck, Lake Duck, Chilean Flamingo, Magellanic Plover, Magellanic Snipe, Least Seedsnipe, Andean Condor, Cinereous Harrier, Variable Hawk, Lesser Horned Owl, Austral Pygmy-Owl, Striped Woodpecker, Magellanic Woodpecker, Chilean Flicker, White-throated Caracara, Black-throated Huet-huet, Magellanic Tapaculo, White-throated Treerunner, Buff-winged Cinclodes, Gray-flanked Cinclodes, Thorn-tailed Rayadito, Plain-mantled Tit-Spinetail, Rufous-tailed Plantcutter, Tufted Tit-Tyrant, Dark-faced Ground-Tyrant, Cinnamon-bellied Ground-Tyrant, Fire-eyed Diucon, Chilean Swallow, Grass Wren, Patagonian Mockingbird, Austral Blackbird, Patagonian Yellow-Finch, Gray-hooded Sierra Finch, Patagonian Sierra Finch, Diuca Finch and more.

Number of expected species

75-80

Mammal highlights

Guanaco, Huemul, South American Gray Fox, Humboldt's Hog-nosed Skunk, Large Hairy Armadillo

Itinerary¹

Day 1: Arrival at FTE. Overnight in El Chaltén.

Arrival at El Calafate Airport "Cdte. Armando Tola" (IATA: FTE). Transfer to Laguna Nimez Natural Reserve and visit Redonda Bay. Lunch in the field. Transfer to El Chaltén with some birding stops. Hotel check-in. Dinner. Night in El Chaltén.

Day 2: Full day birding in El Chaltén.

Morning transfer to Lago del Desierto with some birding stops along the way in the Patagonian forest. Lunch in the field. Full-day birding in the area. Dinner. Night in El Chalten.

Day 3: Full day birding in El Chaltén.

Transfer to a natural reserve in search of birds and mammals. Lunch in the field. Second full day birding in the forest area. Dinner. Night in El Chalten.

Day 4: Transfer back to FTE. End of the tour.

Hotel check-out. Morning birding in El Chaltén. Land transfer back to El Calafate with a box lunch included. Drop-off. End of the tour.

Inclusions

- ✓ Private ground transportations
- ✓ Guided services: local birding guide
- ✓ Spotting scope: Vortex Diamondback HD 65mm
- ✓ Accommodation: Comfortable lodges or 3-star hotel
- ✓ Three meals a day: breakfast, box-lunch and dinner (3-course meal)
- ✓ Drinking water for refill private bottles (in order to avoid plastic pollution and waste)
- ✓ Personal insurances
- ✓ Communication support in remote areas

Exclusions

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

¹ Itinerary may be changed due to force majeure, accommodation availability, or unforeseen circumstances.

More information

Category

Birdwatching, with good opportunities to take photographs

Habitats

Forest, lakes, reedbeds, shrublands and grasslands
(Patagonian Forest and Patagonian Steppe)

Climate

Cold, humid

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, layered clothing, waterproof jacket, 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 *contact us*.

Combined with

This tour can be combined with:

- Hooded Grebe tour (5 days / 4 nights)
- Puma & wildlife safari (5 days / 4 nights)

Map

Patagonian Forest tour

- Locations
- ✈ El Calafate
 - 📍 Parador La Leona
 - ★ El Chalten
 - 🏠 El Chalten
 - 🏠 Lago del Desierto

4-day tour

