



White-bridled Finch | Yal Austral | *Melanodera melanodera* © J. La Grotteria

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 on the South American continent and it is home to more than 120 species of birds. It is located at the confluence of the Gallegos and Chico Rivers, in Santa Cruz Province, Argentina.

Together, these rivers form a rich estuary where the tides shape biodiversity. Wide marshes are developed on its southern coast, covered with *Sarcocornia* sp. and *Suaeda* spp. Grasslands and shrubs occupy the higher terrain.

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

Therefore, the Río Gallegos Estuary in its entirety is an IBA (BirdLife International) and it is also recognized as an International Important Site by 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.
09:00 AM	Transfer back to Lesser Gallegos river area and look for the Cordilleran Canastero and waterfowl.
11:00 PM	Transfer to Arroyo Robles and nearby areas in search of the Chocolate-vented Tyrant and other terrestrial birds.
12:00 PM	Lunch break in the field.
01:00 PM	Transfer back to Río Gallegos (an urban reserve area) and search for the threatened Ruddy-headed Goose and Austral Canastero.
05:30 PM	Return to the starting point. Drop-off. End of the tour.

Inclusions

- ✓ 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
- ✓ 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

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, 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)
- Patagonian forest tour (4 days / 3 nights)
- Monte León NP (4 days / 3 nights)

Birding to El Zurdo

Birding in RGL



El Zurdo



Bella Vista



Ruta Provincial 52



Reserva Costera Urbana

Full day tour

