**Georgia Audubon Travel – 2022**

**Location:** Argentina

**Duration:** 14 days

**Dates:** September 17 (Sat) to September 30 (Fri)

 \*\*You will need to depart the U.S. on Sep 16 and likely

 won’t return home until October 1\*\*

**Group Size Limit:** 10 + guides

**Guides:**

* Adam Betuel - Georgia Audubon
* Mark Pearman – author of Birds of Argentina and the South-west

Atlantic (2020) Helm Identification Series.

**Tour Price:**

* Georgia Audubon Members- **$4,630**
* Non Members (Includes a one-year Georgia Audubon membership) - **$4,680**
* Single supplement for non-shared hotel room: **$235/person**

\*Some of our lodges/hotels have limited rooms. It is greatly preferred if rooms are shared. We will limit the number of single supplements to four individuals max. There may be options for someone to have a single room most nights, sharing only when necessary\*

* If needed, the trip can run with eight participants. If we only get eight people, the trip rate increases to:
	+ **$5,745 for members**
	+ **$5,795 for non members**

**Cost Includes:** One local expert birding tour leader (Mark Pearman) and a co-leader from Georgia Audubon (conservation director Adam Betuel), all local guides, government guides, and a secondary pelagic guide, accommodations in all destinations (double room with private bathroom and hot shower), all transportation during the trip including pick-up and drop-off at the airport and the domestic flight, all tips except for the head guide, three boat tours and a private lecture, all meals from dinner on day 1 to breakfast on day 14, all non-specialty beverages, including non-premium beer, also included within reason, all entrance fees to parks & reserves, taxes

**Cost Does NOT Include:** Costs of obtaining passports, international airfare and any accompanying baggage fees, wine, premium beer, liquor, or specialty coffee (non-alcoholic beverages included with each meal), snacks, beverages, room service, or sightseeing not specified in itinerary, souvenirs, laundry, travel insurance (strongly recommended), medical costs including vaccines, guide gratuity, personal communications (hotel phone calls, cell phones, etc), any other incidentals that participants may wish to purchase

**Payments:**

1. $500.00 due to reserve spot on trip
2. Half of cost (less $500) due by March 15, 2022
3. Full payment must be made by June 15, 2022

**Cancellation:** ​ If notice of cancellation by the participant is received by March 15, 2022 a refund of all payments made will be given (less a $50 administrative fee). If notice of cancellation is received between March 16, 2022 and April 15, 2022 a 50% refund of the tour fee will be given unless the space(s) can be filled, in which case a full refund will be given (less a $50 administrative fee). Thereafter, all deposits and payments are non-refundable unless the space(s) can be filled, in which case a full refund will be given (less a $50 administrative fee). In the event of tour cancellation due to weather, strike, war, quarantine, or other unforeseen emergency situation, a 100% refund will be given, less any expenses incurred by the tour operator.

**Number of bird species expected**: 250-300

**Target Species:** Magellanic Penguin, Burrowing Parakeet, Yellow Cardinal, South American Painted Snipe, Olrog’s Gull, Pampas Meadowlark, Pampas Pipit, Carbonated Sierra Finch, Dolphin Gull, Lesser Rhea, Elegant Crested-Tinamou, Chubut Streamer Duck, Tawny-throated Dotterel, Rusty-backed Monjita, Snowy Sheathbill, Red-and-white Crake, Black-headed Duck, Least Seedsnipe, Darwin’s Nothura, Patagonian Canastero, Cinnamon Warbling Finch, Ash-colored Cuckoo, Black-browed Albatross, Yellow-nosed Albatross, Royal Albatross, Dot-winged Crake, Bearded Tachuri, Curve-billed Reedhaunter, and many more including multiple artic breeding migratory shorebirds.

**Pace/Walking Effort:** Slow to moderate pace. Very few long walks. Most walking will be on or along roads with some loop trails. Mostly flat terrain. Some walking on sand. Some days you may spend a lot of time on your feet though very few days can be called strenuous. To see the South American Painted Snipe, we will need to walk into wet/muddy areas. It is easy to buy Wellington/muck boots and they are cheap at to purchase in Argentina so there is no need to bring them. Mark, our local guide, often instructs his groups to purchase boots so that people can leave the boots behind at the end of the tower, allowing them to be donated to locals who live in areas with venomous snakes.

**Transportation within country:** The group will be in a Mercedes Benz sprinter 516 cdi, Model 2020. **There will be some long drives on this tour. Potentially four days will have a six to seven hour long drive**. Of course, these will be broken up with stops but be aware that some significant time will be spent in the vehicle. Most days will have very manageable times driving.

**Money:** Argentina uses the Argentine Peso (roughly 97 to 1 USD). Argentina, especially Patagonia, is primarily a cash-based economy. It will likely be best to have paper money versus relying on a card as they will only occasionally be accepted and there could be fees attached. Tipping for Mark can be done in USD (larger bills preferred - $50s & $100s). Vendors and others will likely want Argentine pesos. You can exchange money at the airport or Mark can make change for us. There is a better exchange rate via Mark, who gets better rates as a resident, when changing $100 bills.

**Tipping:** Almost all tipping is factored into the trip cost. The trip cost includes tips for our drivers, local guides, servers, boat staff, etc. You of course can always tip more if you would like. **The only tip not included in your trip cost is for our local guide, Mark Pearman**. Please tip what you are comfortable tipping depending on Mark’s service. That being said, multiple ecotourism companies and other online resources recommend a tip of $20 per day per person for the guide. For our trip, that would suggest a tip for our guide in the neighborhood of $280 per person. It is best to tip in US dollars, larger denominations preferred ($100 or $50 bills).

**Photography:** Opportunities should be fantastic. Bird, mammal, and landscape photographic opportunities should all be good. It is important to remember this is a bird and nature watching trip and not a photography trip. We will slow for photos when appropriate but in general, the pace could be a bit quick for photographers.

**Climate:** The climate in Patagonia can be quite unpredictable. Rain is not likely but also not impossible. We will likely encounter a good bit of wind, especially cooler winds in the afternoon. In Buenos Aires, we can expect temperatures between the upper 60’s and low 50’s. At the southern end of our trip, in Trelew, highs are likely to be in the mid 60’s with lows dipping into the low 40’s, possibly the upper 30’s. Out on the boats, especially the pelagic, it can be cold.

**Bugs:** Not an issue!

**Accommodations:** All comfortable. Most 3-star, some 4-star. All have private bathrooms, hot water, typical features. A few likely hotels, just to give you some examples, include Hotel Del Nomade in Puerto Piramides and Hotel Costanera Mar in San Clemente del Tuyu.

**Water and snacks:** Please bring a reusable water bottle. We will have large bottles of water on the vehicles to refill your personal bottles. Additionally, tap water is safe to drink so you can fill up at the hotel, restaurants, etc. On many of the drives, we will be in remote areas with few towns to stop in. On the vehicles, we will have snacks to keep us going and hold us over until meals.

**Field Guides:** The leaders will have guides so you do not need to purchase a book unless you would like your own. However, we are birdwatching with the author of the new Argentina field guide so you could get a signature should you purchase on. Here are some options to consider.

* *Birds of Argentina and the South-west Atlantic*by Mark Pearman and others. 2020. [Link](https://www.amazon.com/Birds-Argentina-Southwest-Atlantic/dp/0691147698)
* Merlin – The Merlin app by Cornell has a downloadable pack to the birds of Argentina. It is a great resource and is like a localized field guide on your phone.
* There are a few other regional guides like the Birds of Southern South America and Antarctica. They are smaller in size but nowhere near as nice as the new field guide

**Itinerary Outline:**

Day 1: Arrive in Buenos Aires

Day 2: Fly to Trelew, Puerto Madryn

Day 3: Punta Tombo

Day 4: Valdes Peninsula

Day 5: Las Grutas

Day 6: Rio Colorado

Day 7: Bahia Blanca

Day 8: Mar del Plata

Day 9: Pelagic Birding

Day 10: San Clemente del Tuyu

Day 11: San Clemente del Tuyu

Day 12: Buenos Aires

Day 13: Parana Delta

Day 14: Depart

**Tips for packing**

* Scope – If you have one, you will probably want to bring it. Lots of birding with scopes. The guides will have a pair to share but the more the better. Sturdy tripods as well as it will likely be windy.
* Layers
* Thin long pants and long sleeved shirts
* Fleece or jacket
* Rain gear, including pants for boat trips
* Sturdy shoes, possibly boots (waterproof is always smart). Rubber boots not necessary to bring but we may buy a cheap pair in country.
* Comfortable shoes for around hotels
* Sun protection (hat, sunglasses, sunscreen)
* Gloves and hat – It may get quite cold
* Binoculars
* Camera (if you want)
* Medication
* Cell phone – Make sure to check with your provider on an international package
* Chargers & batteries
* Flashlight or headlamp (may be able to use phone)
* Water bottle
* Travel insurance documentation should you get some
* Passport (may want a photo in case you lose it)
* Field guides (optional)
* Some people like a small, collapsible umbrella but it isn’t likely to be needed
* Foldable waking sticks if needed

**If you have any further questions, please contact Adam Betuel**

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