



BIRDS OF THE HEART OF CHILE:
**BETWEEN THE
ANDES AND THE
PACIFIC OCEAN**



PROGRAMMES
**BIRDING
CHILE**



DIADEMED
SANDPIPER PLOVER



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The central region of Chile is very narrow, between 90 and 170 km wide. In this region, the high, snow-capped Andes mountain range coexists with the rivers and estuaries that form the valleys used for agriculture, and with the coast. The cold Humboldt Current flows through the Pacific Ocean. In this diversity of environments we find a great variety of birds ranging from species specially adapted to mountainous regions to those who fly tirelessly over the waves of the Pacific Ocean. In the valleys and hillsides of the Andean foothills we find Mediterranean birds, including some very interesting endemic species. The coastline also has migratory species from North America,



DUSKY TAPACULO

which, come to the South American coast during the northern winter to gather the energy they require for next season's reproduction cycle.

This trip will give you a fairly complete overview of the birds of Chile, since most of the species present in Chile can be found in this region, with the obvious exception of the species found exclusively in the north or in the south of the country.

We invite you to know our circuits in Central Chile, which could be booked from one to all four days, following your own interest.



RUFIOUS-TAILED PLANTCUTTER

PROGRAM

DAY 1

INTRODUCTION TO THE CENTRAL ANDES

On the first day, we will make a trip to the mountains that surround the city looking for birds of the central Andes. We will head for Farellones, a ski resort located in the Andes. We will be looking for birds that inhabit the foothills like the endemic Chilean Tinamou, Dusky-tailed Canastero, Moustached Turca, and Chilean Mockingbird. As we climb higher, we will see Andean birds like the Andean Condor, the national bird of Chile, Mountain Caracara, Grey-breasted Seedsnipe, White-sided Hillstar, Scaled-throated Earthcreeper, three different Ground-Tyrants (White-browed, Rufous-naped, and Black-fronted) and Greater Yellow-Finch among others. Overnight stay in Santiago.

DAY 2

EL YESO RESERVOIR

On our second morning, we will leave for El Yeso Reservoir, located deep in the Andes Mountains. Here, we will observe the different environments of the central Chilean Andean range: high altitude bogs, lakes, rivers and grasslands. We will be looking for birds that inhabit the foothills and the mountains, like the Crested Duck, Speckled Teal, Torrent Duck, Diademed-Sandpiper-Plover, South American Snipe, Gray-breasted Seedsnipe, Creamy-rumped Miner, Crag Chilia (endemic), and White-browed Ground Tyrant among others. Overnight stay in Santiago.

DAY 3

WETLANDS AND COASTAL BIRDS

We will dedicate this day to waterfowl and other coastal birds, and a long trip will be necessary. We will visit wetlands near Santiago and many lagoons on the coast, one of which is the well-known natural sanctuary "Laguna El Peral". At various specific points on the road we will also try to spot shorebirds and waterfowls like the White-tufted Grebe, Silvery Grebe, Great Grebe, Black-necked Swan, Stripe-backed Bittern, Black Vulture, Plumbeous Rail, South American Painted-Snipe, American Oystercatcher, Grey Gull, Warbling Doradito and Many-colored Rush-Tyrant. Overnight stay in Vina del Mar.

DAY 4

TRIP TO HUMBOLDT CURRENT AND ITS BIRDS

We will start our expedition early and leave the hotel at about six in the morning in order to sail the waters of the Humboldt Current. This is one of the marine currents with the highest biological productivity, and originates in Antarctica. It is very cold and very rich in nutrients; this attracts many sea birds as well as marine mammals to the South American Pacific coast. We will find birds like the Northern Royal Albatross, Black-browed Albatross, Buller's Albatross, Salvin's Albatross, Southern Giant Petrel, Southern Fulmar, Juan Fernandez Petrel, White-chinned Petrel, Westland Petrel, Pink-footed Shearwater, Elliot's Storm-Petrel, Peruvian Diving-Petrel and Humboldt Penguin among others. After our sail, we will drive to a Humboldt Penguin colony and will see other birds like the endemic Seaside Cinclodes. Overnight stay in Santiago.



MANY-COLORED RUSH-TYRANT

SUMMARY

Duration: 4 days / 3 nights

Start / End: Santiago / Santiago

Restrictions: Possibility of seasickness on the day of the boat trip. Altitude close to 3,000m (9,700ft) in the mountains.

Climate: Mediterranean climate, it might be cold, but not extremely in the Andes.

Dates: From September to March

Potential # of species: 176

OUTSTANDING

1. A trip that combines sailing on the Pacific Ocean with an excursion in the Andes of central Chile.
2. The possibility of seeing seven endemic species: Moustached Turca, White-throated Tapaculo, Crag Chilia, Chilean Mockingbird, Dusty-tailed Canastero, Chilean Tinamou and Seaside Cinclodes.
3. The most beautiful bird in the Andes of central Chile, the Diademed Sandpiper-Plover.
4. In the mountains, the Andean Condor, the national bird of Chile.
5. In the wetlands we can find the Black-necked Swan, Stripe-backed Bittern, South American Painted-Snipe, Warbling Doradito and Many-colored Rush-Tyrant.
6. During our sailing trip on the Humboldt Current we might see, the Northern Royal Albatross, Black-browed Albatross, Salvin's Albatross, Southern Fulmar, White-chinned Petrel, Westland Petrel, Pink-footed Shearwater, Peruvian Diving-Petrel and Humboldt Penguin.



CHILEAN FLICKER