



THE BIRDS OF **THE SILENT LAND:** ATACAMA



PROGRAMMES
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The city of San Pedro de Atacama is located in the north of Chile, between the desert and the foothills of the Andes. It is populated by the Atacama ethnic group. This race of shepherds and peasants achieved considerable cultural development before the arrival of the Incas in the 14th century. We will set up our camp in this oasis, which is the meeting point of various environments, which will enable us to get to know birds from the desert and the Andes mountain range.

The privileged location of the town will allow us to visit various environments that are very different from each other, and we will even get close to the border with Bolivia and Argentina



GREY-BELLIED SHRIKE-TYRANT

in our search for local birds. Our trip will take us to locations over 4.000m above sea level, with majestic landscapes and where magnificent birds have adapted surprisingly well to such adverse living conditions.

Our trip will lead us to a diversity of environments like the biggest salt flat in Chile, rivers and lakes located at altitudes of over 4.000m and wetlands close to them, where we will find a wide range of wildlife.



PUNA MINER

PROGRAM

DAY 1

RIVERS, LAGOONS AND BOGS.

We start early morning to an area with many different wetlands (rivers, ponds and bogs), where we can spend the day looking for birds. As an example, we can find Lesser Rhea, Chilean Flamingo, Andean Flamingo and James's Flamingo, as well as the Andean Avocet. Also Giant Coot, Andean Coot, Crested Duck, Puna Teal, Andean Goose, Creamy-winged Cinclodes, Greenish Yellow-Finch, Black Siskin, Red-backed Sierra-Finch among others. Overnight stay in San Pedro de Atacama.

DAY 2

THE ATACAMA HIGH-PLATEAU

Today will be a long and interesting day. We will focus on high andes birds. We will travel up into the mountains, reaching 4.500m, on our way there, we will stop more than once, hoping to spot the Andean Goose, Chilean Flamingo, Grey-breasted Seedsnipe, Rufous-bellied Seedsnipe, Golden-spotted Ground-Dove, Creamy-rumped Miner, Puna Miner, Cordilleran Canastero, Ochre-naped Ground-Tyrant and Red-backed Sierra-Finch. We will try the Puna Snipe and Diademed Sandpiper Plover. Overnight stay in San Pedro de Atacama.



RUFIOUS-BACKED SIERRA FINCH

DAY 3

ATACAMA SALT FLAT

Very early in the morning we will visit the Atacama salt flat. We will be able to see the three flamingo species living there, the Chilean Flamingo, the Andean Flamingo and the James's Flamingo, as well as the Andean Avocet and the Puna Plover and Baird's Sandpiper. On this day we will be looking for Tamarugo Conebill and other birds., and will be the end of our trip.



PUNA PLOVER

SUMMARY

Duration: 3 days / 2 nights

Start / End: San Pedro de Atacama / San Pedro de Atacama or Calama / Calama (with little changes)

Restrictions: The trip takes place at over 2,500m (8,200ft) above sea level, with trips to 4,500m (14,500 ft) above sea level.

Climate: Hot in San Pedro de Atacama, cold in higher locations, especially at nightfall.

Dates: The rainy season is in January and February, with possible landslides, snow and electric storms. The dry season is between March to December, but it tends to be very cold during those months.

Potential # of species: 97

OUTSTANDING

1. Visit to the Atacama salt flat, the biggest in Chile, and the surrounding desert, considered to be the driest in the world.
2. On the Andean lakes you can see the Horned Coot, which is only found in the Altiplano, as well as the Andean Avocet and the Puna Plover.
3. The Red-backed Sierra-Finch, is found exclusively in this sector of the Andes of Chile, Bolivia and Argentina.
4. The three flamingo species of the south of South-America: Chilean, Andean and James's.
5. The rare and surprising Rufous-bellied Seedsnipe and Puna Snipe. With luck, the Diademed Sandpiper Plover.



CHILEAN FLAMINGO