



**NORTHWEST ARGENTINA: YUNGAS, CHACO, AND HIGH
ANDES BIRDING TOUR
TOUR-SPECIFIC INFORMATION**



Rufous-throated Dipper is an important target on our Northwest Argentina birding tour.

PLEASE CLICK HERE FOR GENERAL INFORMATION PERTAINING TO OUR ARGENTINA TOURS

This birding trip is an amazing adventure that will allow you to explore the fantastic variety of habitats of northwest Argentina. From the wetlands of Buenos Aires, where you should get acquainted with the likes of **Spectacled Tyrant**, **Curve-billed** and **Straight-billed Reedhaunters**, through to the dry desert of the vast Chaco, where we will look for specials such as **Black-bodied Woodpecker** and **Black-legged Seriema**. We will then see a drastic change in scenery as we visit the lush Yungas or humid montane forest in the Calilegua National Park and the Tucumán forest, looking for incredible birds such as **Rufous-throated Dipper**, **Red-faced Guan**, **Black-and-chestnut Eagle**, **White-throated Antpitta**, and **Golden-collared Macaw**. We will end this adventure in the high Andes of the Argentinean altiplano near the Bolivian border, where we will enjoy stunning high-altitude scenery and hopefully find desirable species such as **Lesser Rhea**, **Horned Coot**, **Puna Tinamou**, **Diademed Sandpiper-Plover** and many more. This tour, together with our central Peru tour, provides perhaps the finest quality Andean birding of any of our tours. The following information, in combination with the Argentina general information, will help you prepare for your trip.

ARRIVAL INFORMATION

Please e-mail us (info@birdingecotours.com) or “[contact us](#)” in a different way, before you book any flights, as the information shown here is just an initial guide.

Our tour will start in Buenos Aires, the capital city of Argentina. You can reach Buenos Aires’ Ministro Pistarini International Airport, better known as Ezeiza Airport (EZE), by flights from most major hubs around the world. You might wish to consult your travel agent to book your most convenient flight (and [contact us](#) if you would like any guidance). Our representatives will be waiting for you at Buenos Aires airport, with a Birding Ecotours sign board and will then transfer you to your hotel. Please remember to keep your luggage tags, as they are required to exit the terminal building at the Buenos Aires airport. Please be aware that most international flights arrive in Buenos Aires around midday, so we don’t have any birding activities planned for the first “arrival” day. In case you arrive on an early flight, you will be transferred to the hotel but may have to wait until check-in is available. For an early check-in you might be charged extra by the hotel; this cost is not included in the Birding Ecotours tour price. Usual hotel check-in is at 15:00 hrs.

When filling out the customs declaration form, if an address in Argentina is required, you can use the hotel address below, this is where we usually stay in the city:

Hotel Pestana Buenos Aires, Carlos Pellegrini, 877, C1009ABQ, Buenos Aires. Tel: (+54) 011-5239-1000.

DEPARTURE INFORMATION

Our tour will end in Buenos Aires after a wonderful 17 days birding in Argentina. After the final morning's birding, your tour leader and/or tour representatives will transfer you to the Ezeiza Airport from where you can take your international flights home or join our next Argentinian tour.

DOMESTIC FLIGHT INFORMATION

Our tour includes two internal flights from Buenos Aires to Tucumán (2.00 hrs. flight) and from Jujuy to Buenos Aires. (2.10 hrs. flight). Aerolineas Argentinas (AR) is a governmental airline but the biggest and strongest in Argentina with the greater frequency of flights within the country at date. We are likely to use this airline but may at times use others. Luggage allowances for these flights are likely to include:

- 1x piece (small bag such a laptop case) of 3 kg. (6.6 lbs.) for carry-on
- 1x bag 8 kg. (17.6 lbs.) carry-on luggage
- 1x piece of luggage of 15 kg. (33 lbs.) as checked luggage

For extra luggage or excess weight, the airline charges (at the time of writing, January 2025) an additional fee to the air ticket of approximately US\$ 1.50 per kilogram (2.2 lbs.). This fee is not included in the tour price. The payment is made by the person at the moment of check in with the airline and it can be paid either with Argentine Peso cash (the Argentinean currency) or credit card.

If you carry cameras, be sure they fit in standard camera bags which normally are fine as carry-on baggage. The bag size allowed is 55 cm x 35 cm x 22 cm (22 in x 14 in x 10 in). Cameras in larger cases, or other equipment such as professional videography camera and lens, flash units, etc. will probably be required to be checked in as cargo hold under their fragile category or with crew luggage or baby car compartments. Sending camera equipment into the hold luggage (or any other form of transportation) is entirely at your own risk.

We will book the domestic flights for you to make sure the whole group is on the same flight and the costs for these flights will be added to your tour balance. If we can purchase flight tickets in advance with a higher weight limit, we will do and we will let you know when we make the bookings.

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS AND PACE

We grade this trip as easy to moderate going, with most of the birding consisting of walking along roads and birding near to the vehicle. We will walk no more than 2.5 miles (4 km) per day and the vehicle will remain near to us, as much as possible.

Please note that (as is usual on our birding trips) we need to be awake very early in the mornings, and pre-dawn starts are in order almost every day. We normally spend the whole morning birding in the field, return to the lodge for lunch (followed by some rest), before continuing our birding in the afternoon. In some cases, particularly in remote areas, we will take picnic lunches along with us. When we have birding stops while traveling from location to location, people who feel tired do not have to follow the group and can remain in the vehicle.

Argentina is a big country, the second largest in South America, and as such this tour includes some long drives with much climbing in and out of the vehicle when we find interesting birds or suitable habitat en route. A positive of these long drives is that they will allow us to enjoy the amazing scenery and maximize our chances for unexpected birds along the route.

We think this trip might be difficult for people who battle with high elevations or who have back, walking, or balance problems. If you feel motion sickness, we ask you to bring your own medication. Furthermore, if you are not used to birding trips with early starts every morning, you may find this tour tiring.

ATM MACHINES

ATM machines are available in Buenos Aires, Cafayate, Callilegua, and Tilcara. We recommend drawing money from ATMs or exchanging money at the bureau de change in the Buenos Aires airport upon arrival. Local currency may be difficult to obtain while on tour and may eat into our birding time and so we highly recommend sorting this out while at the airport.

ALTITUDE

Our tour starts in the lowlands and then gradually gains in altitude; this steady increase in altitude will give your body time to adapt to high altitude conditions. Please note that we will drive across some mountain passes above 13,450 feet (4,100 meters), with our highest overnight point being in Yavi (where we will spend three nights), at 11,500 feet (3,500 meters). We will always have a vehicle near us while we bird at these altitudes, which will help reduce fatigue.

Spending a few hours at high elevation is not normally a problem, however, some minor symptoms might appear, such as a slight headache and mild dizziness. A regular Paracetamol tablet, taken two hours before we reach high elevations, often prevents any headache trouble. We suggest you avoid eating a large dinner on the previous night (before visiting high altitudes) which will aid with easier digestion. Please inform your tour leader if you experience any symptoms of altitude sickness.

WEATHER

We ask you to be ready for all kinds of weather during this trip. The range of habitats and altitude that we will pass through will mean we will also encounter a diverse array of weather conditions. In general, the weather will be subtropical (we will in fact cross the Tropic of Capricorn on the tour), but in the heights of the Andes it can be very cold, especially at night and in the early mornings. The eastern lowlands are usually warm and can even be hot in the winter. The Puna and high Andes can reach warm temperatures during the day, but at night, the temperatures decrease drastically; sometimes to below freezing. While birding some of the high Andean peaks, there is even the possibility of snowfall. October and November are still part of the “dry season” and therefore we should expect very little rain; any rainfall that we experience will likely be in the Yungas or cloud forest. Conversely, the Chaco is likely to be hot and dry.

Sometimes cold fronts from Antarctica can blow towards southern South America and as a result we might get unexpected cold winds reaching southern Argentina and Buenos Aires city for a couple of days when temperatures may drop to as low as 34 °F (1 °C).

ACCOMMODATION

We will provide you with a list of hotels and emergency phone numbers before the start of the tour. Weblinks (if there is one), for accommodation we will be using during the tour will be included in the final itinerary document. We use a range of accommodation on this tour, much of our route takes us through fairly remote areas so a fair amount of accommodation is basic.

LAUNDRY

Laundry is available almost everywhere, but we suggest you try to get laundry done in those locations where we will stay for more than one night, such as in Buenos Aires, Tafí del Valle, Calilegua, and Yavi. Laundry fees are not included in the tour price.

PACKING FOR THE TRIP

Due to the complex weather conditions described above, packing clothing for this trip can be difficult. We recommend you take with you a good amount of light clothing (long-sleeved shirts and long pants to avoid insect bites), a light coat for the nights in the lowlands, while for the highlands, a warmer coat and a good sweater are recommended, a scarf and woolly gloves are also suggested. It is also essential to bring closed shoes (two pairs if possible), a raincoat (“ponchos” are quite useful) and a good hat. Along with that, you should bring sunglasses, sunscreen, and insect repellent (high DEET content), as mosquitoes, biting flies and ticks are a possibility on the trip, especially in the cloud forests and at lower altitudes.

The following is a list of some additional items that might be useful to bring on this tour:

- Small travel umbrella
- Walking stick (optional, particularly necessary if you are at all uncertain on your feet)
- Personal medication and prescription in case you need to buy some extra
- Torch (flashlight) and/or headlamp (headtorch), and spare batteries
- Universal electric adaptors for all outlets
- An extension cable (e.g. 3 meters / 10 feet long) with a surge adaptor (optional) can be useful for providing multiple charging outlets, which can sometimes be located in inconvenient locations in the room (e.g. far from the bedside tables/desk etc.)
- Small hand towel/bandana to clean your own sweat in the field
- Plastic zipper (Ziplock) bags to protect your documents like passports, cash etc.
- Personal amenities