



WINE & FEATHERS

Birding, Wine Tasting & Photography in Central Chile

5 days / 4 nights



An exclusive itinerary to enjoy the world-famous Chilean wines and great scenarios for a comprehensive search for the birds of Central Chile. Between a glass of Carmeneré in the fertile valleys at the foothill of the Andes or near the Pacific coast, we will be also looking for specialties and endemics of Chile. The diversity of the country is reflected in our birds and in our wine, giving us the unique chance to enjoy the flight of Andean Condors, Albatrosses and native passerines while we share the taste and quality of the Chilean musts. We will cross a wide array of ecosystems, from the high altitude home of the Diameded Sandpiper-plover to the rich Humboldt current, passing through marshes, valleys and sclerophyll mediterranean-like forests where endemics as the White-throated Tapaculo and the Moustached Turca will be our targets among many other birds species associated to these habitats.

ITINERARY

DAY 1. LAMPA MARSHES AND FLAHERTY WINERY

The marshes and wetlands near the city of Santiago are among the best places to start our birding experience. This recently declared natural sanctuary is at the edge of an industrial area. Despite its location, it is home of great diversity of waterfowl and passerines associated to these habitats. In our first day we will be looking for the parasitic Black-headed Duck, Rosy-billed Pochard, Yellow-billed Pintail, Coscoroba and Black-necked swans among other great aquatic species. The vegetation around is home of the Correndera pipit, Long-tailed meadowlark, Rufous-collared Sparrow and with a little luck we may spot in the reed the Wren-like Rushbird and the Many-coloured Rush-tyrant among others. After birding we will move toward our first wine experience at the Flaherty winery to have lunch and taste the wines. This vineyard belongs to two Californians that arrived to Chile in 1993 and started to produce excellent blends of Carmenere, Syrah and Cabernet Sauvignon // Breakfast and lunch included. Overnight in Santiago.

Some species of the day: Correndera Pipit, Long-tailed Meadowlark, Yellow-winged Blackbird, Southamerican Snipe, Black-headed Duck, Rosy-billed Pochard, White-cheeked Pintail, Spotted-flanked Gallinule, Lake Duck, Silvery Grebe, Burrowing Owl, Cocoi Heron among others.

DAY 2. CAJÓN DEL MAIPO AND CONCHA & TORO WINERY

An early wake up to drive toward the Andes and explore El Yeso Valley and the Maipo river area where we will be surprised by the diversity of landscapes while we look for some of the Chilean endemics as the Crag Chilia and the Mustached Turca among some specialties of this part of the country as the Chilean Mockingbird, the Black-winged Ground Dove, the Grey-flanked Cinclodes, Grey-hooded Sierra Finch, Torrent Duck and the charismatic and monotypic Diademed Sandpiper-plover. The afternoon will be spent at one of the most famous Chilean wineries. Viña Concho & Toro was founded in 1883 and it is today one of the largest ones in the world. The facilities deserved a visit by themselves, being a real wine museum and a great chance to get back on time following the line of time of the Chilean wines. Breakfast and lunch included. Overnight in Santiago.

Some species of the day: Magellanic Horned Owl, Torrent Duck, Mountain Caracara, Red-backed Hawk, Crag Chilia, Mustached Turca, Chilean Mockingbird, Diademed Sandpiper Plover, Mourning Sierra Finch, Grey-flanked Cinclodes, Band-tailed Sierra Finch, Grassland Yellowfinch, Yellow Rumped Siskin, Andean Condor, Black-chested Buzzard Eagle, among others.

DAY 3. THE PACIFIC COAST

Early departure from Santiago to head to the coast and visit the mouth of the River Maipo. This recently declared Natural sanctuary is a great spot to look for shorebirds in the sand banks facing the ocean and migratory species as the Franklin Gull, Hudsonian Godwit, Black Skimmers, Sanderlings among others. The area is also the best spot in Chile to find the Ticking Doradito among other passerines. We will also scan some wetlands at Laguna El Peral to complete our list of waterfowl. Afternoon arrival at the hotel and a walking tour through the rocky coast to look for the endemic Seaside Cinclodes and the Inca Tern, a Humboldt current specialty. Breakfast, lunch and dinner included. Overnight in Viña del Mar or Con-Con.

Some of the species of the day: *Peruvian Booby, Inca Tern, Seaside Cinclodes, Ruddy Turnstone, Baird's Sandpiper, Ticking Doradito, Red gartered Coot, Spot-flancked Gallinule, Grey Gull, Franklin's Gull, Guanay Cormorant, Yellow-billed Pintail, Speckled teal, Silver Teal, Lake Duck, Crested Duck, Red Shoveler, White Tufted Grebe, Silvery Grebe, Pied-billed Grebe, Cocoi Heron, among others.*

DAY 4. PELAGIC OF THE HUMBOLDT CURRENT AND CASABLANCA VALLEY

Today we will be enjoying one of the best pelagic trips in the world. The rich Humboldt current with its nutrients and the cool waters is the perfect habitat to spot tubenoses as the Black-browed, Salvin, Buller and Chatham Albatrosses. With some luck we may also spot the majestic Wandering Albatross. Other species of the day will be Sooty and Pink footed Shearwater, Northern and Southern Giant Petrels, Phalaropes, Skuas and Peruvian – diving petrels among others. The pelagic trip is also a great chance to spot sea mammals as Peale's Dolphin, Dusky Dolphin, Marine Otter among others. In the afternoon we will visit *Some of the species of the day: Black-browed, Chatham, Buller and Salvin Albatrosses, Sooty and Pink-footed Shearwater, White-chinned Petrel, Westland Petrel, Masatierra Petrel, Peruvian diving Petrel, Masatierra Petrel, Wilson's Storm Petrel, Peruvian Booby, Peruvian Pelican, Inca Tern among others.* After the pelagic we will visit Casa Blanca valley, famous for its high quality grapes, where we will enjoy lunch and wine tasting at the small family-owned winery, Bodegas Re.

Breakfast, pic-nic lunch and dinner included. Overnight in Viña del Mar or Con-Con.

DAY 5. NATIONAL PARK LA CAMPANA

The National Park la Campana is strategically located in the Coastal Mountain range of Central Chile. The very diverse gradient of flora give us the perfect condition to spend a day looking for some of the Chilean endemics as the Moustached Turca, Chilean Tinamou, White-throated Tapaculo and the Dusky-tailed Canastero among a great array of passerines. The park is also the home of the last patch of *Jubaea chilensis*, the southernmost palm tree in the world that is close to extinction and raptors as the Chilean Hawk. In the afternoon you will be driven to Santiago Airport or to your hotel to continue the trip. //Breakfast and Box lunch included.

Some of the species of the day: *Variable Hawk, Chimango Caracara, Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle, Chilean Flicker, Striped Woodpecker, Grey-hooded Sierra Finch, Giant Hummingbird, , White-throated Tapaculo, Chilean Tinamou, Rufous-tailed Plantcutter, Thorn-tailed Rayadito, Tufted-tit Tyrant, among others.*

Destinations	Central Chile: The Andes, valleys and Pacific Coast
Departure	Santiago
Length	5 days/ 4 nights
Difficulty	Low
Activities	Birding Visit to wineries and wine tasting Photo opportunity Soft walks Pelagic Trip
Meals	Meals included as indicated in the itinerary
Accommodations	2 nights in Santiago / 2 nights in Viña del Mar or Con-Con
Transportation	Professional Driver with license A2, modern vehicles, window seat guaranteed for each traveller, transportation
Equipment provided	Literature, field guide, birds check list, spotting scope. Extra set of binoculars available upon request.
Equipment required	Sun-hat and sunscreen, comfortable shoes, reusable bottles for water
Not included	International and Domestic flights, tips, insurances and any other item not specified in this file
Guide	Bilingual Naturalist guide expert in birdlife with WFR Certification & Certified by Interpret Europe
Minimum of passengers	This trip is guaranteed to depart with a minimum of two participants. Maximum 8 participants.
Sustainability	0% Plastic emissions, Carbon Print compensation, Water to refill reusable bottles, small groups for low impact, 100% of the waste produced recycled plus two Conservation/Educational Programs supported through your booking
Protocols for Biosecurity	Download our protocol response