

Temuco to Chillán

Forest Birds



Magellanic Tapaculo

This zone marks the transition between the Mediterranean forests and brush, characteristic of Central Chile, and the evergreen temperate rain forest typical of the south of the country. The scenery is dominated by two mountain ranges which stretch parallel to each other from north to south: the Andes and the Coastal mountain range. Both are covered by dense deciduous oak forests and in the mountainous zone near Temuco, by surprising Araucarias (Monkey-Puzzle Trees), which are capable of growing on volcanic soil of virtually no nutritional value. We will also visit the coastal sector of Temuco and then continue north to the Mediterranean forests of Chillán and later to the coast of Concepción. This trip will give us the opportunity to observe a variety of birds, including the noisy Tapaculos, an interesting South American group.

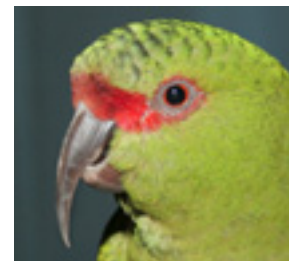
PROGRAM

Day 1. Welcome to Chile

Arrival and reception of passengers at Santiago International Airport and transfer to the hotel. After check-in, the passengers will have a few hours of spare time to settle in and take a rest from the flight. We will meet in the evening in order to get acquainted, have dinner and talk about our forthcoming trip. Overnight

Day 2-3. Araucanía Region: Temuco and Conguillio National Park

After breakfast we will fly to Temuco, from where we will head to a forested sector and later to the coastal wetlands, looking out for birds common to these environments. On the third day we will visit Conguillio National Park, hoping to find some typical species and enjoying the spectacular scenery with Monkey-Puzzle trees and the effects of volcanic eruptions. On these two days we will try to spot the Brown-hooded Gull, Two-banded Plover, Snowy-crowned Tern, Chilean Pigeon, Slender-billed Parakeet (e), Magellanic Woodpecker, Black-throated Huet-huet, Chucao Tapaculo, Ochre-flanked Tapaculo, Magellanic Tapaculo, Thorn-tailed Rayadito, Des Mur's Wiretail, White-throated Treerunner and the Spectacled Tyrant. We will also look for the rare Hellmayr's Pipit. At nightfall on the third day we will head north to the foothills of Chillán. Overnight stay in Temuco (night 2) and Chillán (night 3)



Day 4. Termas de Chillán (Chillán hot springs)



Today we will focus on a few very interesting species. Our principal objective will be to locate the elusive Chestnut-throated Huet-huet, which is practically endemic, since there is only an extremely reduced population in Argentina. In addition, we could spot the Chilean Hawk, Austral Parakeet, Magellanic Woodpecker, Magellanic Tapaculo, White-crested Elaenia, and with a little luck at night the Rufous-legged Owl, which can be normally heard but not seen. Overnight stay in the sector of Termas de Chillán.

Day 5. Concepción

In the morning we could either have another look at particularly attractive species or head directly for Concepción, from where we will fly back to Santiago. On the way to Concepción we will visit coastal wetlands trying to find the Brown-hooded Gull, Red-legged Cormorant, Guanay Cormorant, Spot-flanked Gallinule, Spectacled Tyrant, Grass Wren, Wren-like Rushbird, Elegant Tern, South American Tern and Snowy-crowned Tern. Overnight stay in Santiago.

Day 6. End of the programme

After a good night's rest and a nice breakfast, the trip will end with check out and transfer to the airport, if requested.