

Puyehue to Chiloé

Birds of the Temperate Rainforest



Des Mur's Wiretail

The main characteristics of the south of Chile are its evergreen, cold and rainy forests. The effects of volcanic eruptions, which have formed its geography, are still evident. This region is also defined by the eternal presence of the Pacific Ocean, supplier of vast amounts of rain during almost the whole year. Rain is the main climatic feature of this region, but fortunately it falls only sporadically in spring and summer.

The influence of the Pacific Ocean and the Humboldt Current are evident on Chiloé Island, both in terms of landscape and human activities. The rain and the impact of the sea and its tides are evident, since they create specific environments populated by wildlife associated to the moderate rain forest and the coastline. In this mixed region, where forest and sea merge and in some places almost melt into each other, we will look for a variety of birds that include Andean, coastal and sea varieties.

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 stay in Santiago.

Day 2. Puyehue National Park

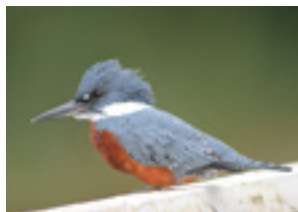
Early in the morning we will fly to Osorno and after a two-hour drive, reach Puyehue National Park. In this forest area we will try to find birds that are typical of this environment, like the Black-throated Huet-huet, Chucao Tapaculo and Magellanic Tapaculo. Later in the day we will look out for the Torrent Duck, Southern Caracara, Chilean Pigeon, Dark-faced Ground-Tyrant and Yellow-bridled Finch and possibly also the Magellanic Woodpecker and the Slender-billed Parakeet (endemic). Overnight stay at Termas de Puyehue (Puyehue hot springs).



Day 3. Chiloé Island

Early in the morning we will take another look at Puyehue National Park in order to complete the visit of the previous day. Then we will head to the Island of Chiloé and take advantage of the crossing of the Chacao Channel by watching seabirds, such as the Pink-footed Shearwater, Sooty Shearwater, Black-bellied Storm-Petrel, Magellanic Diving-Petrel, Red-Legged Cormorant, Imperial Cormorant and South American Tern. On this day we also hope to see the Black-necked Swan, Flightless Steamer-Duck, American Oystercatcher, Hudsonian Godwit, Silvery Grebe, Dark-bellied Cinclodes and the surprising Des Mur's Wiretail. With a little luck we will get to see the Ringed Kingfisher, perched near a lake. Overnight stay in Ancud.

Day 4. Pacific Coast of Chiloé

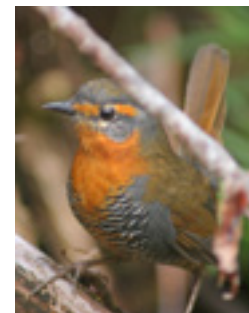


Today we will travel to the coast of Chiloé, taking time to visit wetlands, wooded and coastal areas on the way. We will look for species like the Des Mur's Wiretail, Thorn-tailed Rayadito, Chilean Flicker, Chiloé Wigeon, Brown-hooded Gull and Magellanic Tapaculo. Later we will reach a place where it is possible to find Magellanic Penguin, Flightless

Steamer-Duck, Blackish Oystercatcher, Kelp Goose, Rock Shag and Red-legged Cormorant. At the end of the day we will head south to an area near Castro covered by forests, where we will spend the night.

Day 5. Chiloé and return to the Continent

In the morning we will visit some woodlands and then drive to the coast, on the lookout for the Austral Parakeet, Slender-billed Parakeet (endemic), Ringed Kingfisher Chilean Pigeon and Chucao Tapaculo. On the way back to the Continent we will once again be able to enjoy the crossing of the Chacao Channel. After landing, we will continue our trip along the coast and through wetlands, searching for Common Miner, Spectacled Tyrant, Grass Wren and Cinereous Harrier among other species. Overnight stay in Puerto Montt.



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.