

Humboldt Current

Pelagic Birds



Northern Royal Albatross

The Chilean territory has a privileged location in the southern cone of South America and extends over 4,300 km (near 2,670 miles). Along the Chilean coast, the natural boundary is the Pacific Ocean, and there flows the cold Humboldt Current, coming from southern seas, plenty of nutrients and attracting a great variety of pelagic birds that flies tirelessly over the waves, looking for his food.

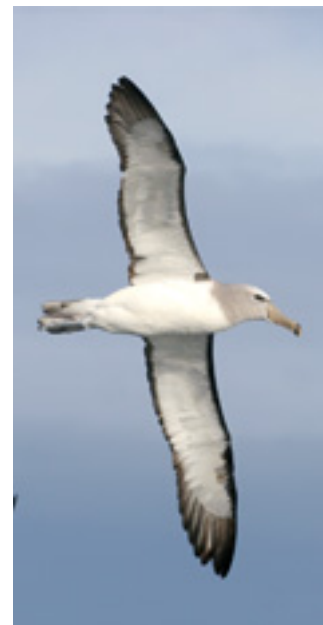
PROGRAM

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. If some people were interested in spending their spare time bird watching, we could take an interesting trip into the Andes around Santiago. 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. Sailing in the Humboldt Current

The upwelling system of the Humboldt Current is one of the most productive in the world. It originates near Antarctica and runs north to the Equator. It is cold and rich in nutrients and contains a high diversity of invertebrates and fishes, all of which support several sea birds as well as marine mammals. In these rich waters it is possible to find a variety of pelagic birds flying in large numbers and many coastal birds nearer to the coast. The list frequently includes Black-browed Albatross, Salvin's Albatross, Northern Royal Albatross, Buller's Albatross and sometimes even Northern Buller's Albatross and Chatham's Albatross. The Pink-footed Shearwater, the White-chinned Petrel, and the Westland Petrel are very common as are also the Northern Giant Petrel and the Southern Giant Petrel, Chilean Skua, the very interesting Peruvian Diving-Petrel and the Storm Petrels - Wilson's and Elliot's - are frequently seen. Sometimes the Juan Fernandez Petrel and Masatierra Petrel come to our boat. These are some examples from a total of 50 or more potential species. In the afternoon, once we have returned to the coast and had lunch, we could head to the north along the coast to observe a Humboldt Penguin colony and look for other birds like the endemic Seaside Cinclodes. We will return to Santiago at the end of the day.



Day 3. 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.