

Juan Fernandez Archipelago

Robinson Crusoe Island



Pink-footed Shearwater

The Juan Fernandez Archipelago consists of the islands of Robinson Crusoe, Alejandro Selkirk and Santa Clara and is known for its pirate stories, treasures, naval battles and stunning landscape. These volcanic islands are located some 650 km from the Chilean coast and have been declared Biosphere Reserves, owing to their particularly varied biodiversity and numerous endemic plants. Despite the distance, one can get to Robinson Crusoe Island relatively easily and quickly. The flight from Santiago takes 2-3 hours to the airfield located at one end of the island. The settlement of San Juan Bautista, place of residence of the small island population, can be reached by boat on a 2-hour trip from the airport.

On Robinson Crusoe we will find two species of endemic and endangered birds: the Juan Fernandez Tit-Tyrant and the Juan Fernandez Firecrown, as well as some birds also that are common in central Chile. In addition, we will try to spot petrels of the *Pterodroma* genus (or Gadfly Petrels) that are common in this archipelago. These are Masatierra (Defillipiá™s) Petrel, Juan Fernandez Petrel, Stejnegerá™s Petrel and Kermadec Petrel, and also the Pink-footed Shearwater, which breeds in the forests of the island.

Although on this trip we will focus on a small group of birds, they are all considered to be among the rarest birds in the world.

PROGRAM

Day 1. Welcome to Chile

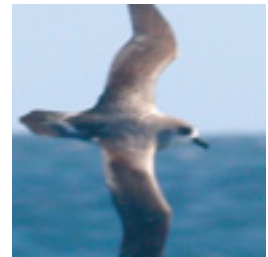
Arrival and reception of passengers at Santiago International Airport and transfer to the hotel. After check-in, the passengers will have a few hours of spare time to settle in and take a rest from the flight. We will meet in the evening in order to get acquainted, have dinner and talk about our forthcoming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

Day 2. Arrival at the island

After meeting in Santiago, we will fly to Robinson Crusoe Island. A two-hour boat trip will take us to the San Juan Bautista settlement, where we will spend the night. We will explore the area around San Juan Bautista, look out for emblematic terrestrial birds and enjoy its outstanding landscape and exuberant vegetation. The most remarkable species are the endemics Juan Fernandez Tit-Tyrant and the Juan Fernandez Firecrown, as well as the American Kestrel, which has its own subspecies on the island.

Day 3-4. Sailing close to the Island

On these two days we will sail to different places around Robinson Crusoe, trying to attract the Petrels and Shearwaters that can be found there. We might also see other species of pelagic birds. We expect to find the following birds during our trip: Masatierra Petrel, Stejneger's, Petrel, Kermadec Petrel, Juan Fernandez Petrel and Pink-footed Shearwater, as well as the White-bellied Storm-Petrel, which breeds on the island.



Day 5. Vegetation and Ecology

The islands are of relatively recent volcanic origin (1 to 4 million years), and consist mainly of steep slopes; the village of San Juan Bautista lies on a small coastal plain. Today we will climb the hillsides in order to get to know the island and appreciate the native vegetation and its struggle with invading plants. We

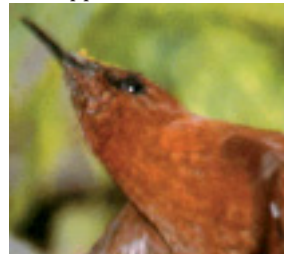


Photo: Juan Carlos Torres Mura

will have a closer look at *Juania australis*, a beautiful endemic palm tree and several species of the Juan Fernandez Cabbage-Tree, which is also endemic. We are likely to spot birds like the Juan Fernandez Tit-Tyrant, the Juan Fernandez Firecrown and common continental species like the Austral Thrush, the Green-backed Firecrown or birds that have been brought on to the island like the House Sparrow and the Rock Dove. We will climb a ledges that will give us an overview of the island and its ecological processes.

Day 6. Return to the continent

Today we will have another look at birds around the village. Then we will take the boat back to the airfield and return to Santiago. Overnight stay in Santiago.

Day 7. 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.