

Wild Argentina!

Ibera Marsh and Iguazu Falls

February 7 - 14, 2024

Join TV Host Nigel Marven and top Argentinian guide Diego Gallegos (To find out more about Diego and his birding trips go to Buenos Aires Birding) on a wildlife adventure.

Feb 7th - Day 1

Pick up from hotels. Nigel will stay at the Efe Hotel in Buenos Aires on Feb 6th. (A super City Hotel, around 80 dollars for a twin room)

9 am Wildlife within the city of Buenos Aires, visiting Costanera Sur reserve, with Harris hawks, horneros, hummingbirds, ducks, herons, coots, black and white tegus and toad headed turtles.

Lunch and City Tour, including Plaza de Mayo, the iconic square where Eva Peron (Evita) spoke to the people from the balcony, and the spectacular Recoleta Cemetery where she's buried.

Welcome Dinner 7:30pm

Evening transfer to Retiro bus terminal for departure at 10pm

Overnight on luxury bus to Mercedes, Corrientes province, 800 km north of Buenos Aires. Comfortable flat seats.

February 8th - Day 2

Arrive at 5 00 AM

Van drive through grassland, wetland and forest stopping for wildlife and birds.

*Arrival to Aguape, our lodge over the Ibera lagoon. Lunch at lodge before taking boat excursion. We'll see *Capybara, Yacare Broad Snouted Caimans, Swamp Deer* (largest South American deer), and with luck *Neotropical River Otter, Maned Wolf* and *Yellow Anaconda*.*

February 9th - Day 3

Exploring Ibera Wetlands Reserve. A spectacular wilderness, the Pantanal of Argentina and the biggest re-wilding project in South America.

*We'll see *Howler Monkeys, Gray Brocket Deer**

*Birds will include *Strange-tailed Tyrant*, 5 species of *seedeater* including the newly discovered *Ibera Seedeater*, the extremely rare *Yellow Cardinal*, *White-headed Marsh Tyrant*, *Yellow-rumped Marshbird*, *Greater Rhea* and *Southern Screamer*.*

Overnight Aguape Lodge.

February 10th - Day 4

Drive to Candelaria (Al Kamar Lodge) wildlife watching en route.

Today and next day we will explore extensive grassland, and also the southernmost tip of amazonian forest

*Birds should include *Wedge-tailed* and *Lesser Grass Finch*, *Streamer-tailed Tyrant*, the peculiar *Potoo**

Overnight Al Kamar Lodge.



February 11 - Day 5

Exploring local area with our local guide, a top bird guide and also one of Argentina's top spider expert. We'll join him on a Night Safari to see them, including the *Paraná Tarantula*

Forest will provide raptors like *Plumbeous*, *Mississippi* and *Scissor-tailed Kite*, *Red-billed Scythebill*, *Surucua* and *Black-throated Trogons*, *Squirrel Cuckoo*, *Swallow Tailed Manakin* and more

Overnight *Candelaria Al Kamar Lodge*.

February 12 - Day 6

Depart north birding on the way in Urugua-i Park and other forest locations. Arrive Puerto Iguazu and bird in two spots near town: 600 Hectares, a birding hotspot, and the Hummingbirds Garden, a classic stop for watching several species at feeders (Mango, Jacobin, Hermit, Woodnymph) and many other birds of the rainforest

Overnight *Selva de Laurel (Puerto Iguazú)*

February 13th - Day 7

Full day visit to nearby ***Iguazú National Park***

Visit to Iguazu Falls, one of the world's natural wonders. We hope to see the famous *Great Dusky Swifts* flying in and out of the falls at Devil's Throat. *Coatimundis* and *Black Capuchin monkeys* are easily seen.

Wildlife watching around Iguazu. Butterflies found drinking in puddles, include *emperors*, *swallowtails*, *metalmarks*, *tropical bushfoots*, and many more

The richest birding spot of Argentina, Iguazu offers, among many others, *Toco* and *Red-breasted Toucans*, *Red-rumped Cacique* and some of the world's most impressive woodpeckers: *Blonde-crested*, *Robust*, *Helmeted* and *Yellow-fronted*. Among many more, *Long tailed Tyrant*, *Plush crested Jay*, colorful *Euphonias*, *Magpie Tanager*.

We should see the endangered *black fronted piping guan* and range restricted *white bearded* and *Band tailed wood creepers*, *large tailed* and *Spot backed ant shrikes*.

Overnight *Selva de Laurel (Puerto Iguazú)*

February 14th - Day 8

Morning flight *Iguazu to Buenos Aires* those of us continuing to Patagonia and Puma country will fly from *Buenos Aires to Calafate*.

Cost per person US\$2000 dollars

Single room supplement US\$350 dollars

Trip price includes guiding, overland transportation, park entry fees, accommodation and food, water and soft drinks (Not alcoholic beverages). FLIGHTS ARE NOT INCLUDED.

To book your place contact [Diego diegogallegos61@gmail.com](mailto:Diego.diegogallegos61@gmail.com)



Puma Country

14th - 19th Feb, 2024

Feb 14th Fly to Patagonia.

Buenos Aires to El Calafate Airport.

Flight leaves at lunchtime, which gives plenty of time to make the connection if you're on the first leg of the trip and flying from Iguazu Falls.

Price of 3 hour flight (Buenos Aires to El Calafate) **IS NOT INCLUDED IN TRIP TOTAL**) cost is about 450 Dollars return. Contact Esteban if you need assistance with booking these flights.

Feb 15th Drive to Cerro Castillo in Chile, the heart of Puma country. We will stay just outside Torres del Paine the National Park.

On the journey we will have great opportunities to see and photograph *Andean condors* and *black chested buzzard eagles* Also *black necked, coscoroba swans* and some sought after ducks, *spectacled* and *steamer*.

Feb 16th , Feb 17th and **Feb 18th**. Full Days tracking Pumas with local tracker. Hiking is easy and we'll cover one or two miles in a day.

Cost per person US\$3300.00 (single supp \$520.00)

Extension for the ...

Mythical Hooded Grebe

Feb 21st 9am Spectacular drive from Calafate to La Angostura. En route we have chances of condor, buzzard eagles, Patagonian tinamou and others. We will also make our first attempt to see the rare Austral Rail. Dinner at La Angostura

Feb 22nd 6am start to drive to Hooded grebe nesting lake.

The Conservation team guess there will be about 10 pairs with floating nests in the milfoil weed patches. The nests are usually quite close to the shore giving great photo opportunities. The grebes are not shy. For the 3 years before 2023 there was hardly any nesting at all, as the milfoil weed beds collapsed, but they grew back and the birds are now nesting again. Unless there's some unexpected disaster seeing the nesting colony of grebes is guaranteed in February 2024. **THERE ARE ONLY ABOUT 750 left.**

We'll spend all day with the grebes travelling back to La Angostura for dinner.

Feb 23rd Birding around La Angostura for Patagonian specialities.

Patagonian tinamou, lesser rhea, chocolate vented tyrant, etc. The bizarre Magellanic plover will be a target!

Packed lunch with dinner at La Angostura

Feb 24th Travel back to Calafate and flight to Buenos Aires.

IIF THE WEATHER IS BAD ie really windy on the 22nd we'll SWITCH DAYS and see the grebes in the 23rd instead

Cost per person US\$1650.00

Flights are not included

**To book a spot on either of these adventures contact Esteban
phototoursushuaia@hotmail.com**

