



Inala's CHILE South America group tour

Monday 31 October – Tuesday 15 November 2022

Prepared by Dr Tonia Cochran, Inala Nature Tours 9 September 2020.



Andean Condor (F. Díaz)

Inala's expedition to Chile, in the Southern cone of South America ...come and join the quest to find Gondwanan connections and evidence of the Theory of Continental Drift.

Introduction: South America was one of the last parts of the supercontinent Gondwanaland to break away from the Antarctic plate around 65 million years ago; Australia was the last (separating from the Antarctic plate around 45 million years ago). Consequently, the Australian fauna and flora are quite closely related to that of South America. This 14-day itinerary focuses on the central part of Chile and showcases these Gondwanan connections with particular reference to Tasmania and the southern cone of South America.

ITINERARY OUTLINE:

- Day 1. Mon 31 Oct 22. Arrival in Santiago.
- Day 2. Tue 1 Nov 22. La Campana NP-Santiago
- Day 3. Wed 2 Nov 22. Highlands above Santiago.
- Day 4. Thu 3 Nov 22. Santiago to Vilches and Colbún Lake.
- Day 5. Fri 4 Nov 22. Day trip to Altos de Lircay National Park-Vilches.
- Day 6. Sat 5 Nov 22. Vilches to Laja River Waterfalls to Angol.
- Day 7. Sun 6 Nov 22. Day trip to Nahuelbuta National Park.
- Day 8. Mon 7 Nov 22. Angol to Conguillio NP.
- Day 9. Tue 8 Nov 22. Conguillio NP- Huilo-Huilo.
- Day 10. Wed 9 Nov 22. Huilo-Huilo Biological Reserve.
- Day 11. Thu 10 Nov 22. Huilo-Huilo to Puyehue.
- Day 12. Fri 11 Nov 22. Full day in Puyehue National Park.
- Day 13. Sat 12 Nov 22. Nahuel Ñadi to Puerto Varas.
- Day 14. Sun 13 Nov 22. Alerce Andino National Park- Chiloé Island.
- Day 15. Mon 14 Nov 22. Chiloé Island – Puñihuil -Chepu.
- Day 16. Tue 15 Nov 22. Chiloé Island – Puerto Montt. Fly to Santiago and depart.

CENTRAL CHILE: This part of Chile has been classified as a having a Mediterranean Climate, with rainy, cold winters and very hot and dry late spring/summers. The Mediterranean region of Chile has high rates of biodiversity and endemism and as a result has been classified as one of the 25 Hot Spots in the world with priority for its conservation.



La Campana National Park (F Díaz)

Day 1. Monday 31 October 2022. Arrival at Santiago. We will arrive at Santiago, the capital of Chile, where we will be transferred to our hotel. During the afternoon, our local South American guide will meet us to discuss and answer questions regarding the itinerary before beginning this fantastic trip. This will be followed by a brief introduction about the biogeographical context of Chile's wilderness over a 'Pisco sour' (traditional Chilean cocktail). **Accommodation:** Santiago (en suite). **Meals included:** D.

Day 2. Tuesday 1 November 2022. La Campana National Park.



Alstroemeria sp (F Díaz)

This park is located in the Coastal Range in the Valparaiso Region about 1.5 hours' drive from Santiago. Because of its high rates of biodiversity and endemism it was declared a Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO (WNBR The World Network of Biosphere Reserves). Because of its protection, La Campana has a very representative sample of the flora and fauna native to central Chile. One of the most attractive floral highlights in the park is the presence of the endemic and long-lived Chilean Palm (*Jubaea chilensis*). This extraordinary plant, with amazing adaptations is also famous because it can reach more than 1000 years old. In the park, it will also be possible to observe the three main native vegetation types that occur in the central zone of the country; Matorral (a mix of short and spiny scrubs, bushes and cacti), Sclerophyllous forest (formed by different species of hard-leaved

trees) and Savanah (large extensions of plains covered by Acacia). The British naturalist Charles Darwin in 1834, explored this valley, one of the important expeditions while traveling in Chile. Gondwanan flora we should see here include *Drymis winteri* (a sacred tree for Indigenous people), *Alstroemeria ligtu*, *A. pulchra* (which should be flowering at the time of our visit) and *Crinodendron patagua*. Endemic bird specialties here include Moustached Turca, White-throated Tapaculo, Chilean Tinamou, Dusky-tailed Canastero and Dusky Tapaculo. Other interesting central Chilean birds we should see here include Chilean Pigeon, Striped Woodpecker, Chilean Flicker, Austral Pygmy-owl, Giant Hummingbird, Plain-mantled Tit-spinetail, Tufted Tit-tyrant, White-crested Elaenia, Rufous-tailed Plantcutter and Common Diuca-finch. In this beautiful area, it also possible to observe some mammals including two native species of fox and diurnal endemic rodents (Family Octodontidae). The variety of reptile species is also amazing, one of the most impressive being the endemic Chilean Iguana or Liguana (*Callopistes maculatus*). **Accommodation:** Santiago (en suite) as for last night. **Meals included:** BLD

Day 3 Wednesday 2 November 2022. Highlands above Santiago. We will start early



Andean Hillstar (F. Díaz)

this morning to travel to Farellones, east of Santiago and in the heart of the Andes Range. This mountain town is an important sky centre close to the capital. During spring and summer, it is an excellent location to see native high-altitude flora and fauna. While driving along the road to Farellones we will look for high altitude specialists like Greater Yellow finch, Rufous-Banded, Creamy-Rumped Miners and White-Sided Hillstar among other special Andean birds.

Massive Andean Condors should be above and sometimes below us. We are also hoping to see Variable Hawk, Black-Chested Buzzard Eagle and Mountain Caracara. We will also

be birding in lower altitudes, looking for 5 endemics: Chilean Tinamou, Moustached Turca, White-Throated and Dusky Tapaculos, Crag Chilia and Dusky-Tailed Canastero. We are also likely to spot some native rodents during this trip. This will be a great birding day with fantastic views of the scenery and spectacular landscapes. In the afternoon we will return to hotel. **Accommodation:** Santiago (en suite as for last night). **Meals included:** BLD.

Day 4. Thursday 3 November 2022. Santiago to Vilches and Colbún Lake. We will

depart from Santiago in the morning and drive towards to the south to Talca, and then continue our trip to Colbún Lake. We are still in the Mediterranean Region and our main targets will be the large, spectacularly colourful and very noisy Burrowing Parakeet and beautiful Spectacled Duck. Hopefully we will also find a good number of other interesting ducks and grebe species and an opportunity to see Spectacled Tyrant and Andean Gull. We will



then make a short trip to the north to spend the afternoon in a quiet and comfortable forest lodge in Vilches. At dusk, we will look for the hard to see Rufous-Legged Owl. **Accommodation:** Vilches (en suite rooms). **Meals included:** BLD.

Day 5. Friday 4 November 2022. Day trip to Altos de Lircay National Park. Located



in the southern border of the Mediterranean Region, this park is in the ecotone (transition area between two biomes) between the Temperate Rain Forest and the Mediterranean Region of Chile. Usually an ecotone appears on the ground as a gradual blending of the two communities or ecosystems, so in this area we can see a

transition of species of *Nothofagus* forest. While walking along trails participants will be amazed with the spectacular mature *Nothofagus* trees as well as ferns, mosses and forest bird species that are unique to the southern cone of South America. On this northern border of the Temperate Rainforest plant species with Gondwanan connections gradually appear such as *Lomatia hirsuta* and *Embothrium coccineum* (both

family Proteaceae), *Austrocedrus chilensis* (a southern Cypress) and *Laurelia sempervirens* (which is related to our Sassafras). We should also find a range of birds including Chile's least known Tapaculos and Chestnut-Throated Huet-Huet. *Nothofagus* forest specialties such as Austral Parakeet (the world's most southerly parrot species),



Chucao Tapaculo (F. Díaz)

Chucao Tapaculo with its explosive voice, Magellanic Tapaculo and the colourful Patagonian Sierra-Finch. This will also be our first opportunity to see the truly spectacular Magellanic Woodpecker, and there also is a chance to spot rare and difficult to find Chilean and White-Throated Hawks. After a long day return to Vilches.

Accommodation: Vilches (en suite rooms as for last night). **Meals included:** BLD.

SOUTHERN CHILE: This part of Chile has a Temperate rainforest biome with vast amounts of rainfall, but feature a cooler average temperature compared to tropical rainforests. Southern Chile has a Temperate Oceanic Climate, which essentially, does not experience extremely cold or extremely hot temperatures and have two different marked seasons; winter, which is quite long and very rainy, and the summer, which is short, dry and foggy.

Day 6. Saturday 5 November 2022. Vilches to Laja River Waterfalls to Angol. After breakfast, we will leave Vilches and head south to Angol. We will stop en route at scenically beautiful Laja Waterfalls where we will have lunch. These beautiful and huge waterfalls are formed by the Laja river and the spray generated by the water are often tinged by a huge rainbow that crosses above it from side to side. The waterfalls are actually comprised of four spectacular falls of between 40 and 55 meters (130 and 180 ft.) in height. We will then continue to the city of Angol. **Accommodation:** Angol (en suite rooms). **Meals included:** BLD.

Day 7. Sunday 6 November 2022. Day trip to Nahuelbuta National Park.

Nahuelbuta National Park is one of the few parks located in La Araucanía Region of Chile's Coastal Mountain Range. It sits atop the highest part of the Cordillera de Nahuelbuta. Created in 1939, it consists of 6,832 hectares of land situated just 162 km northeast of Temuco. Nahuelbuta (indigenous word for "big tiger") is a sanctuary for Araucaria trees (*Araucaria araucana*), with specimens dating back 2,000 years. Many Temperate Rain Forest species are possible to observe here including two Gondwanan relics *Saxegothaea conspicua* and *Gunnera tinctoria*. The park also provides habitat for Puma (Mountain lion), the beautiful small Chilean deer Pudú and Darwin's fox. Bird species found here include Magellanic Woodpecker, the Magellanic and Chucao



Magellanic Woodpecker (F. Díaz)

Tapaculos among many others. The Amphibian fauna is of great interest in this park since there is at least one highly endemic species restricted only to the area of the park. **Accommodation:** Angol (en suite rooms). **Meals included:** BLD.

Day 8. Monday 7 November 2022. Angol to Conguillío National Park. After an early breakfast, we will travel to Conguillío National Park. Along the route dazzling countryside scenery that allows stopping on the way for special sightings. We finally reach higher altitudes where *Nothofagus* and *Araucaria* forests grow in the mountain landscape. Conguillío National Park is located in the Andes Mountain Range, in the provinces of Cautín and Malleco in the Araucanía Region of Chile. Its name derives from the indigenous Mapudungún word for "water with Araucaria seeds". Among the attractions of the park are the Llaima and Sierra Nevada volcanoes, both responsible for modelling the landscape. There are vast areas of lava flows characterized by islands of vegetation. Stunning lagoons and extensive forests formed mainly by Araucarias and a high biodiversity of *Nothofagus* species increase the scenic beauty of the park. Apart from being like paradise on earth, Conguillío is one of the places where it is possible to find Gondwanan relics such as *Podocarpus salignus*, *Prumnopitys andina* and *Gunnera*

tinctoria. Some of the special birds to be found here are the Torrent Duck and the newly-split Patagonian Forest Earthcreeper, along with Magellanic Tapaculo, Austral Parakeet, Striped Woodpecker, Chilean Flicker, Magellanic Woodpecker, White-Throated Treerunner and other forest species. Some mammals like Southern red and grey fox are possible to spot. **Accommodation:** Conguillío (en suite rooms). **Meals included:** BLD.

Day 9. Tuesday 8 November 2022. Conguillio National Park to Huilo-Huilo Biological Reserve. We will spend the morning Conguillío before travelling to the Biological Reserve Huilo-Huilo in the early afternoon. **Accommodation:** Huilo Huilo (en suite rooms). **Meals included:** BLD.

Day 10. Wednesday 9 November 2022. Huilo-Huilo Biological Reserve. Huilo Huilo



Lomatia hirsuta (B. Moriarty)

Biological Reserve is located in the middle of the Chilean Patagonian Rainforest, under the majestic Andes Mountain range. This unique project is committed to the conservation of nature and local culture. Looking for sustainability, the Huilo Huilo Foundation mission is to develop

flora and fauna conservation projects and to involve the local community and local entrepreneurs in this work. One of the Foundation flagship projects is the conservation of the Huemul (*Hippocamelus bisulcus*), the southernmost deer in the world. This animal is a national symbol, but in danger of extinction. This project has succeeded in preserving and breeding the Huemul in a controlled environment. In this beautiful and fairytale-like forest it is possible to find *Lomatia hirsuta*, *Austrocedrus chilensis*, *Embothrium coccineum*, *Laurelia sempervirens* which all have affinities with Australian flora. We will take a night walk tonight, to look for nocturnal mammals.

Accommodation: Huilo Huilo (en suite rooms as for last night). **Meals included:** BLD.

Day 11. Thursday 10 November 2022. Huilo-Huilo to Puyehue. This morning we continue exploring in the Huilo Huilo Biological Reserve, including a visit to a fascinating museum with exhibitions on aspects of local indigenous groups, geology and culture in southern Chile. Midmorning we will transfer to Puyehue, stopping for lunch on-route. **Accommodation:** Puyehue (en suite rooms). **Meals included:** BLD.

Day 12. Friday 11 November 2022. Full day in Puyehue National Park. We will



Marsupial *Dromiciops gliroides*

spend the day in the Puyehue National park which is located in the Andes Mountain Range, in the Los Ríos and Los Lagos regions of Chile formerly referred to as the 10th region. The park boasts 220,000 acres of evergreen forests, surrounded by volcanoes and mountainous landscape. There are natural thermal springs. Puyehue National park forms part of

the Reserve of Temperate Rainy Forest Biospheres of the Southern Andes. Forty animal species coexist in this place in which green colour rules. One of the most amazing and emblematic species that relate the South American continent with Oceania is the 'Monito del Monte' (*Dromiciops gliroides*). This small opossum represents an ancient group related to Australian dasyurid marsupials. It is the only surviving species of the order Microbiotheria (family *Microbiotheriidae*) and differs from other living American opossums by having unique structures only related with Australian marsupials. It is very unlikely to see it because it's nocturnal. However, night excursions and walks will be organised in suitable spots the in mature southern South American temperate rainforest where they occur. **Accommodation:** Puyehue (en suite rooms). **Meals included:** BLD.

Day 13. Saturday 12 November 2022. Nahuel Ñadi to Puerto Varas. This morning



Fitzroya cupressoides
(B. Moriarty)

after breakfast, we will visit the Nahuel Ñadi National Monument. This park protects a remnant of the gorgeous long-lived conifer, the Alerce (*Fitzroya cupressoides*) which belongs to the family Cupressaceae. Magellanic Woodpeckers, tapaculo species and flocks of Slender-billed Parakeet can be seen in these forests. We will then travel to Puerto Varas for dinner at our lakeside hotel. **Accommodation:** Puerto Varas (en suite rooms). **Meals included:** BLD.

Day 14. Sunday 13 November 2022. Alerce Andino National Park- Chiloé Island.

We will have an early morning breakfast in Puerto Varas before travelling to Alerce Andino National Park. This spectacular park has one of the last remaining populations of Alerce (*Fitzroya cupressoides*). We have a full day in the park looking for temperate rainforest flora and fauna. One of the floral target species is *Weinmannia trichosperma* which belongs to the family *Cunoniaceae* and is a relative of Tasmanian Leatherwood. This afternoon we will travel to Pargua where we will embark the ferry that will take us through the Chacao Chanel to Chiloé island. We will then transfer to our Ancud on the island for a traditional seafood dinner. **Accommodation:** Ancud (en suite rooms). **Meals included:** BLD.

Day 15. Monday 14 November 2022. Chiloé Island – Puñihuil -Chepu.



Magellanic Penguin (F. Diaz)

After an early morning breakfast in our Lodge in Ancud, we will take a bird walk around Caulin Bay before visiting Puñihuil reserve where a boat ride will take us to a Penguin Colony with Humboldt and Magellanic penguins nesting side by side. We will then visit Chepu, a breathtaking location overlooking the confluence of three rivers and 140 km² of sunken forest (a phenomenon created by the 1960 Valdivia earthquake, which sunk the ground some 2m, allowing salt water to enter the area and kill the trees). Chepu, in the northern sector of Chiloé National Park is 38 km southwest from Ancud and remains Chiloé's sanctuary of pristine beauty. We will explore stunning coastline, many temperate rain forest specialties and a chance of sighting the endangered river otter Huillín (*Lontra provocax*), while sailing in comfortable boats along the gorgeous Chepu river. We will retrace our path to our accommodation late afternoon.

Accommodation: Ancud (en suite rooms as for last night). **Meals included:** BLD.

Day 16 Tuesday 15 November 2022. Chiloé Island – Puerto Montt. Fly to Santiago and depart. This morning, we transfer to Puerto Montt for our flight back to Santiago where our main tour finishes ([flight not included in tour price](#)). **Accommodation:** none. **Meals included:** BL.

2021 Tour Price: USD\$11,220 per person twin share. **Single supplement:** USD\$850 (expected to be similar for 2022).

Additional estimated price of Puerto Montt to Santiago domestic flight (based on 2020 prices): USD\$150 each

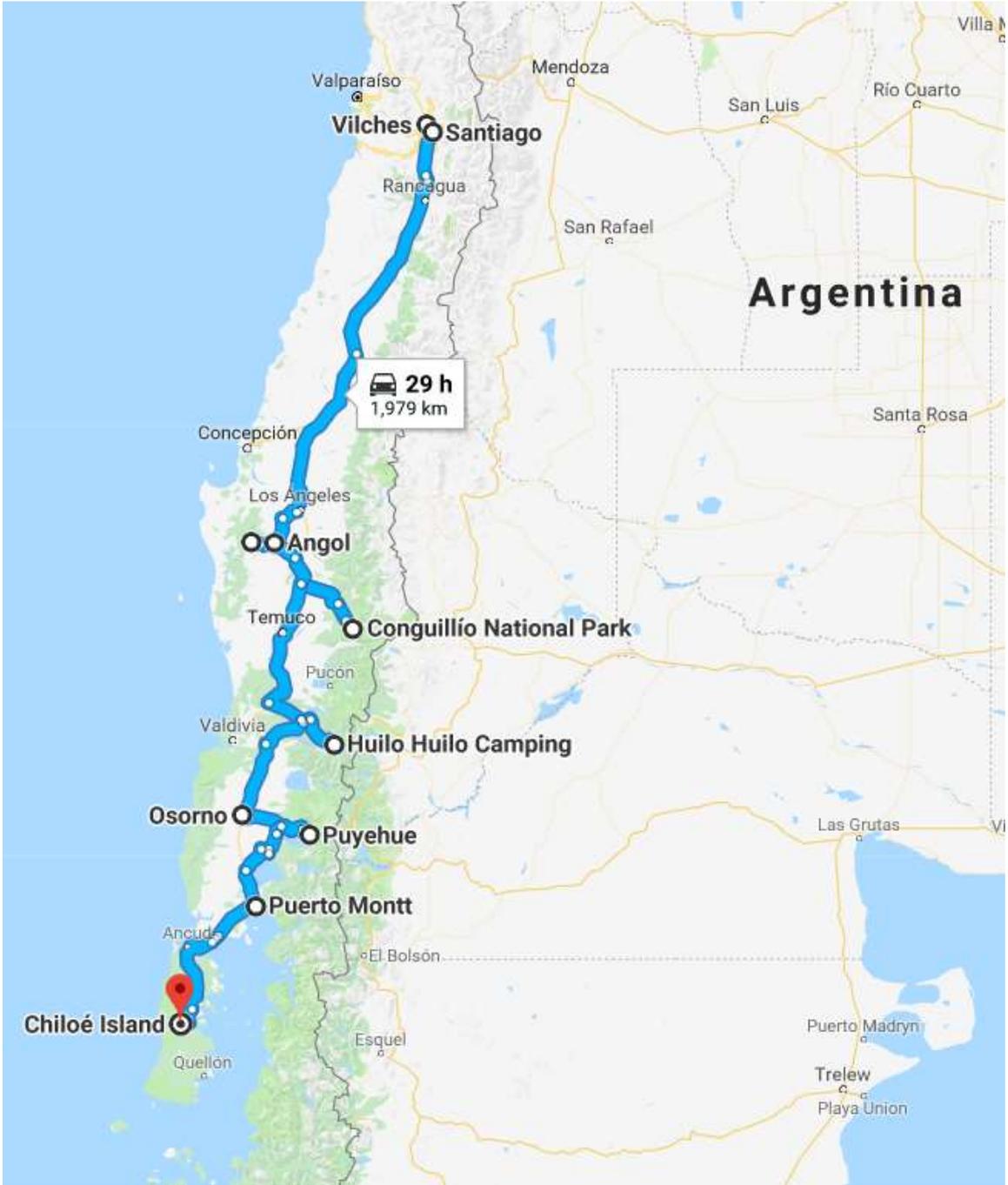
Based on a group size of 6 participants + Inala leader Dr Tonia Cochran + local South American guide.

Inclusions: Accommodation for each night of the tour, specialist guiding and transport for day and night tours as outlined in the itinerary, all meals (B, L, D) and activities outlined in the itinerary and National Park entry fees.

Exclusions: any international and domestic airfares, alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages and expenses of a personal nature (snacks, travel insurance, internet, laundry, tips etc).

Please note:

- **Meals and drinks:** Breakfast generally consists of a continental style breakfast with cereal, fruit and yoghurt and tea/coffee. Full cooked breakfast is not generally offered at most locations. Lunch will generally consist of a packed lunch style meal eaten in the field, with sandwich/filled roll, fruit, and a drink. Dinner usually consists of several options for main with the choice of either an appetiser or dessert. Drinks (soft and alcoholic) are generally not included but at lunches and breakfasts juice may be made available.
- **The itinerary:** Whilst we aim to follow the itinerary as planned, please note that the itinerary provided should only be used as a guideline. Depending on individual trip circumstances, weather, and local information, the exact itinerary may not be strictly adhered to. The guides reserve the right to make changes to the itinerary as they see fit.





Northern Chile Lauca National Park pre-tour extension

Wednesday 26 - Monday 31 October 2022



Chilean Woodstar (F. Medrano)

Introduction: Scenically breathtaking with stunning birdlife, the Andes conjure up a mouth-watering birding feast. Soaring Andean Condors above high peaks in clear blue skies and Diademed Sandpiper-Plovers on mineral-rich bogs with the sound of Seedsnipe echoing in the valley. These are the magical experiences of this trip. In just few days we shall visit, not only the high Puna grasslands but also the arid Pacific coast with its endemic species, the stunning Lauca National Park and look for the critically endangered hummingbird, the Chilean Woodstar. The plants are just as spectacular- those in the Atacama Desert contend with an annual rainfall of just 0.6mm of rain a year. Cacti and succulents abound and other plant specialties such as *Calceolaria* (slipper flower) and *Tillandsia* (air plants) are also found here.

ITINERARY OUTLINE:

Day 1. Wed 26 Oct 22. Arrival in Santiago.

Day 2. Thu 27 Oct 22. Santiago to Arica.

Day 3. Fri 28 Oct 22. Arica to Putre. Birding and endemic plants.

Day 4. Sat 29 Oct 22. Lauca National Park.

Day 5. Sun 30 Oct 22. Putre to Arica.

Day 6 (= Day 1 of main tour). Mon 31 Oct 2022. Fly Arica to Santiago and join main tour.

DETAILED ITINERARY:

Day 1. Wednesday 26 October 2022. Arrival in Santiago. Most international flights to Santiago, Chile arrive during the night. Today has been set aside as an arrival day to relax at your hotel or explore the local area. We will meet our local Chilean guide during the afternoon where we will discuss our itinerary. **Accommodation:** Hotel near Santiago Airport (en suite rooms). **Meals included:** D.

Day 2. Thursday 27 October 2022. Santiago to Arica. This morning we will leave early fly from Santiago to the city of Arica which is next to the Peruvian border ([flight not included in price but can be arranged if required](#)). This northern extreme of Chile is known as the “Big North” and includes the vast Atacama Desert and the High Andean steppes of the Altiplano. Although located in the driest desert on earth, Arica has a good bird population, which is only possible because of rivers and small water courses which are fed by runoff from the High Andes allowing the existence of fertile valleys and well-cultivated flood plains that form rich oasis in this harsh environment. Our most important target species will be hummingbirds (Trochilidae): Sturdy Oasis Hummingbird, Peruvian Sheartail and the critically endangered Chilean Woodstar (world’s population estimated at 350 individuals: The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2017) which occur in the Camarones Valley in southern Arica. Other unique bird species like Pied-crested Tit-Tytant, Tamarugo Conebill and a new species, Yellow-Finch, are also found here. After lunch we will explore the coastline at the estuary of one of the most important rivers in the region, Lluta River. The main target species here will be shorebirds, hopefully Killdeer, Snowy Plover, American and Blackish Oystercatchers, Surfbird, Willet and a beautiful species selection of Gulls and Terns. **Accommodation:** Hotel in Arica (en suite rooms). **Meals included:** B, L, D.

Day 3. Friday 28 October 2022. Birding and endemic plants Arica to Putre. This morning we will travel to the arable areas outside Arica and then to the town of Putre. Bird specialties we may see en route include the impressive Peruvian Thick-knee, Pacific Dove, Croaking Ground-Dove, Groove-Billed Ani, Burrowing Owl, Andean Swift, Peruvian Elaenia (the local form of White-Crested Elaenia), Vermilion Flycatcher, local race of Bran-Coloured Flycatcher (a strong candidate for a future split), Cinereous Conebill, Chestnut-Throated Seedeater, Blue-Black Grassquit, Slender-Billed Finch and Peruvian Meadowlark and much more. We will also see a range of endemic plants that



Calceolaria inamoena
(Chileflora)

grow in this area including two species of *Tillandsia* or 'air plant' (*T. macronae* and *T. landbeckii*) which manage to survive by obtaining water from the humid Pacific air. One plant which stands out in this arid environment is the impressive *Browningia candelaris*, which can reach a height of 5 metres; the silhouettes of their wide-spread arms along the mountain crests is reminiscent of the Araucarias of the south. As we approach Putre, the species diversity increases, and the vegetation cover approaches 70% with many shrubs up to 1m tall-amazing in this arid environment. Other species we hope to see today include *Lupinus oreophilus*, *Calceolaria inamoena*, verbenas (like *V.*

gynobasis), two species of *Mutisia* (*M. acuminata* and *M hamata*, both of which have large, showy flowers, as well as a variety of cacti including *Corryocactus brevistylus* which grows up to 5m tall with huge yellow flowers, *Oreocereus hempelianus* and *O. leucotrichus* and *Neowerdermannia chilensis*. We will spend the night in the beautiful town of Putre (altitude of 3,500 metres or 11.483 ft), Putre is the gateway for tomorrow's adventure to the high elevation Andean ecosystems. **Accommodation:** Hotel in Putre (en suite rooms). **Meals included:** B, L, D.

Day 4. Saturday 29 October 2022. Lauca National Park. Lauca National Park is a place of outstanding natural beauty located in the heart of the Altiplano of the region of Arica-Parinacota. It was declared part of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR) in 1981. The towering snow-capped volcanoes of Pomerape and Parinacota soar to over 6.300 metres (11.811 ft) and they reflect perfectly in the deep blue water of Chungara and Cotacotani Lakes, both important attractions of the park. Chungara Lake one of the highest altitude lakes in the world. It delights visitors with its impressive landscape and its hordes of amazing and unique species of birds. Some of the species present in this habitat are; Andean Grebe (the local form of Silvery Grebe), Puna Teal and Giant Coot along with a variety of species of ducks and Andean Gulls. While driving up to the lakes we will search in the high-altitude bogs for the stunning and difficult to find Diademed Sandpiper Plover. Other target birds for this area are; Puna Rhea, Andean Flicker, White-Winged Cinclodes, Black Siskin, Puna Tinamou, Puna Ibis, Andean Goose, Mountain Caracara, Andean Lapwing, Puna Plover, Andean Avocet, Andean Gull, Puna Miner, Puna and White Fronted Ground-Tyrants, Andean Negrito, White-Winged Diuca-Finch and White-Throated Sierra-Finch. We will also be looking for Flamingos, and with some luck we will be able to spot all three of its species: Chilean, Andean and Puna. We will return to Putre at the end of the day. At the end of an excellent and adventurous day we return to our lodge in Putre. **Accommodation:** Hotel in Putre (en suite rooms) as for last night. **Meals included:** B, L, D.

Day 5. Sunday 30 October 2022. Putre to Arica. We will spend the morning around this Andean village looking for Bare-Faced Ground-Dove, White-Throated Earthcreeper, Yellow-Billed Tit Tyrant, Canyon and Dark-Winged Canastero, Blue-and-Yellow Tanager, Cream-Winged and White-Winged Cinclodes, Streaked Tit-Spintail, D'Orbigny's and White-Browed Chat-Tyrants, Chiguanco Thrush, Black-Throated Flower-Piercer, Golden-Billed Saltator, Black-Hooded and Ash-Breasted Sierra-Finches along with Greenish Yellow-Finch, Band-tailed Seedeater and maybe Ornate Tinamou and Spot-winged Pigeon. We will then drive slowly down the winding mountain road back to Arica looking for any birds we may have missed on the way to Putre. We will then return to our hotel in Arica. **Accommodation:** Hotel in Arica (en suite rooms). **Meals included:** B, L, D.

Day 6 (=Day 1 of main tour). Monday 31 October 2022. Fly Arica to Santiago. We will visit the Luta River estuary early this morning before our flight back to Santiago, to connect with the Main Tour ([flight not included in price but can be arranged if required](#)). **Accommodation:** none (included in main tour). **Meals included:** B, L.

2021 Tour Price: USD\$3,450 per person twin share. **Single supplement:** USD\$300. (expected to be similar for 2022).

Additional estimated price of Santiago-Arica-Santiago domestic flight (based on 2020 prices): USD\$150 each

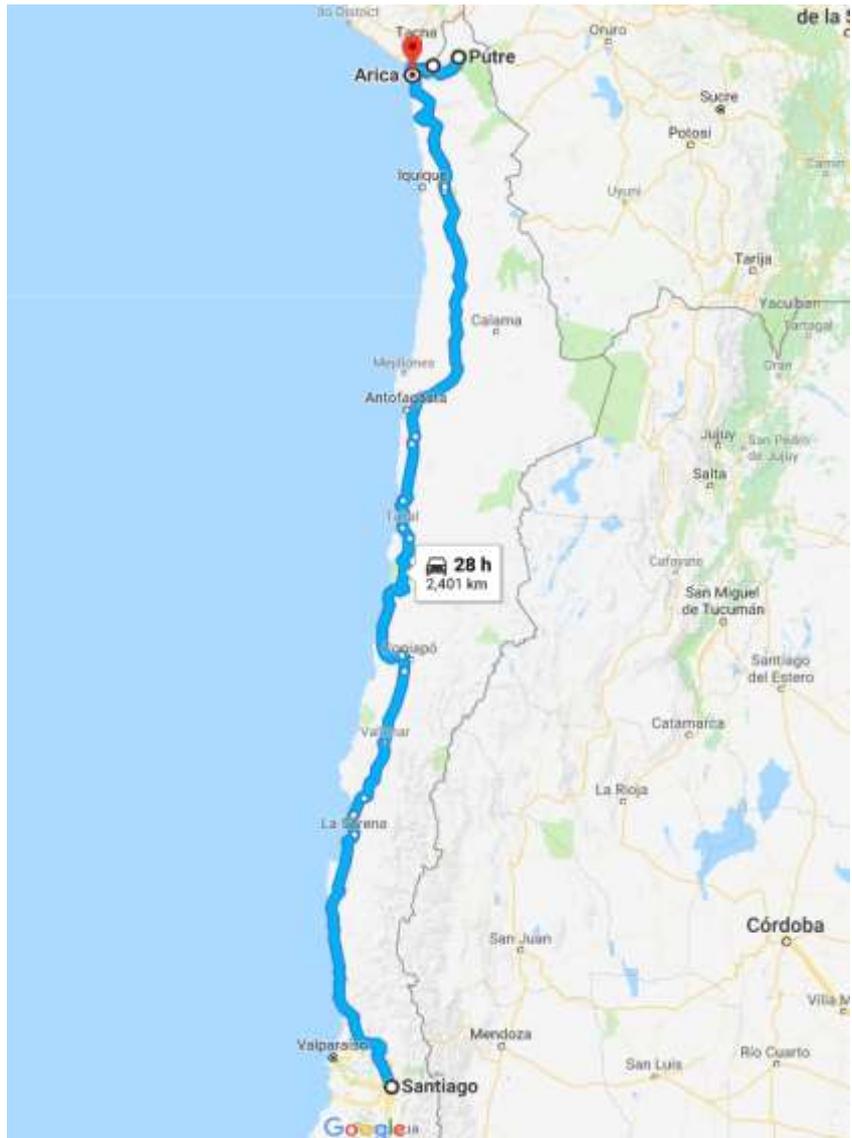
Based on a group size of 6 participants + Inala leader Dr Tonia Cochran + local South American guide.

Inclusions:

Accommodation for each night of the tour, specialist guiding and transport for day and night tours as outlined in the itinerary, all meals (B, L, D) and activities outlined in the itinerary, and National Park entry fees.

Exclusions:

any international and domestic airfares (return flight Arica-Santiago), alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages and expenses of a personal nature (snacks, travel insurance, internet, laundry, tips etc).





Patagonia Tierra del Fuego and Torres del Paine Chile post-tour extension

Tuesday 15 – Monday 21 November 2022



Puma (F. Díaz)

Introduction: This extension takes us to one of the most impressive landscapes and mythical places in Chile in search of some of Chile's most charismatic species. We will cross the famous Magellan straight into Tierra del Fuego, drive through the Patagonian steppe and look for the recently rediscovered Austral Rail at the base of the wonderful Torres Del Paine. Some stunning and sought-after species are found here, including King Penguin, Magellanic Plover, Ruddy-headed Goose, Chocolate-vented Tyrant, White-bridled Finch and so many more. Patagonia is also a destination for other wildlife, including the common Guanaco, Grey Fox, Peale's Dolphin, and with more luck the rare Puma or the rare Fin Whale. The weather is unpredictable here and it can be sunny, cold, very windy, rainy, snowy, and even warm – all in a single day!

ITINERARY OUTLINE:

Day 1 (=day 16 of main tour) Tue 15 Nov 22. Chiloé Island–Puerto Montt–Punta Arenas.

Day 2. Wed 16 Nov 22. Punta Arenas.

Day 3. Thu 17 Nov 22. Tierra del Fuego–King Penguin colony–Cerro Sombrero.

Day 4. Fri 18 Nov 22. Exploring the Steppes and Puerto Natales.

Day 5. Sat 19 Nov 22. Torres del Paine and Sierra Baguales. Cerro Castillo.

Day 6. Sun 20 Nov 22. Birding and Puma Tracking in Torres del Paine.

Day 7. Mon 21 Nov 22. Fly Punta Arenas to Santiago and depart Chile

DETAILED ITINERARY:

Day 1. Tuesday 15 November 2022. Chiloé Island – Puerto Montt. Fly to Punta Arenas. This morning we transfer to Puerto Montt where our main tour finishes. Those who are finishing their tour will fly back to Santiago and onward travels. Those continuing on the Patagonia extension will take an afternoon flight to the southernmost city in Chile, Punta Arenas. **Accommodation:** Punta Arenas (en suite room). **Meals included:** L, D.

Day 2. Wednesday 16 November 2022. Punta Arenas. Today we will explore the coast near the city, looking for Flying and Flightless Steamer-Ducks, Magellanic Oystercatcher, Imperial Cormorant, Upland Goose, Chilean Skua along with the splendid Dolphin Gull. In the afternoon, we will drive to the San Juan Reserve, where the very rare Ruddy Headed Goose breeds. We will then travel further south along the coast until we reach the very southern limit of the continent. Here we will walk among the Patagonian *Nothofagus* forest. We will look also for Kelp Goose along patches of rocky coastline. **Accommodation:** Punta Arenas (en suite rooms) as for last night. **Meals included:** BLD

Day 3. Thursday 17 November 2022. Tierra del Fuego and King Penguin colony.



Magellanic Plover (F. Medrano)

We will take the early morning ferry crossing (2.5 hrs) to Porvenir, which is the main town in the Chilean side of the mythical island of Tierra del Fuego at the end of the world. On the ferry crossing we should see Southern Giant Petrel, Magellanic Diving Petrel, Chilean Skua, Black-Browed Albatross and Peale's Dolphins. We will spend the afternoon

birding in visiting Laguna Verde in search of the much sought-after Magellanic Plover, a monotypic shorebird which is endemic to Patagonia. Other bird species we will search for over the next couple of days include Ashy-headed and Upland Goose, Two-banded

Plover, Short-billed Miner, Tawny-throated Dotterel, Black-necked Swan and Crested Duck. After lunch we will drive to Bahia Inútil to see a colony of magnificent King Penguins, which is the northernmost colony of this species. En route to our accommodation we will search for Rufous-Chested Dotterel, Chocolate-Vented Tyrant and Cinnamon-Bellied Ground-Tyrant that breed in the Patagonian Steppe.



King Penguins (F. Diaz)

Accommodation: Cerro Sombrero (en suite rooms). **Meals included:** B, L, D.

Day 4. Friday 18 November 2022. Exploring the Steppes and Puerto Natales. After breakfast we will continue birding in the Patagonian Steppe in a landscape dominated by short tough clumps of grasses (mainly *Stipa speciosa* and *Festuca gracillima*) en route to the northern tip of Tierra del Fuego, where we will catch a ferry back to the mainland.



White-bridled Finch (F. Diaz)

During this short (approximately 20 minute) ferry crossing, we have a good chance of seeing Commerson's Dolphin, Magellanic Diving-Petrel, Wilson's Storm Petrel and White-Chinned Petrel. Back on the mainland we will make a stop at Buque Quemado wetland on the steppe to see a variety of waterfowl, including Silver Teal, Rosy-billed Pochard, Chiloe Wigeon, White-cheeked Pintail, Coscoroba Swan, and variety of shorebirds. We will continue across the vast steppe towards Puerto Natales, searching for species like Darwin's Rhea, Austral Canastero, Chocolate-Vented Tyrant, Band-Tailed Earthcreeper, Common Miner, Patagonian Yellow-Finch and the stunning White-bridled Finch. We will also be searching for Patagonian Hog-nosed Skunk and Patagonian Haired Armadillo. **Accommodation:** Puerto Natales (en suite rooms). **Meals included:** B, L, D.



Patagonian Haired Armadillo (F Diaz)

Day 5. Saturday 19 November 2022. Torres del Paine and Sierra Baguales. This morning we will head north towards the scenic mountainous valley of Sierra Baguales where we will be searching for Band-tailed Earthcreeper, Patagonian Mockingbird and the gorgeous Yellow-bridled Finch. On our drive up the valley the rocky cliffs surrounding us are great places to watch Andean Condors soaring above us. The valleys here are also a breeding area for White-throated Caracara and the very rare Grey-bellied Shrike-tyrant. The low scrub of the valley is dotted with bright red mounds of



Anarthrophyllum desideratum (F. Diaz)

Anarthrophyllum desideratum. After lunch, we will then travel to the incomparable and breathtaking Torres Del Paine National Park. This will be amongst the most unforgettable scenic highlights of the tour. While the park is most famous for its astonishing scenery, it is also rich in bird and mammal life.

Guanaco, Patagonian Hog-nosed Skunk and Grey Fox are among the mammals we are most likely to encounter. And we will also be looking for Dark-faced Ground- Tyrant,

Cinnamon-bellied Ground-Tyrant and White-throated Caracara. Focussing our efforts on the eastern side of the park, we will visit some lakes to look for waterfowl, and on reed-fringed pools we will have another chance of seeing Austral Rail. The rolling hills in and around Torres del Paine are arguably the best place in the world to see Puma so we will focus our efforts on this species during the late afternoon with the assistance of expert trackers who have been searching for them throughout the day and will keep in radio contact as to the best and safest way to view and photograph them. After dusk, we will then travel to our hotel on the steppe for dinner. **Accommodation:** Cerro Castillo (en suite rooms). **Meals included:** B, L, D.

Day 6. Sunday 20 November 2022. Birding and Puma tracking in Torres del Paine.

Today we will continue the search for Pumas on a ranch bordering the eastern edge of the park, where traffic is low and Puma encounters are more frequent. We'll head out early to have the best chances to see them while they're active. In the scrubby vegetation we can find *Berberis microphylla*, *Chuquiragua avellanadae*, *Baccharis magellanica*, and *Embothryum coccineum*. During the mid-morning we'll explore other areas of the park and have lunch at a lakefront hotel with breathtaking views of the mountains. After lunch we will continue to explore other areas of the park looking for more wildlife, paying special attention to large groups of Guanaco, where Pumas may be stalking close by. Another interesting mammal we'll be on the lookout for is the endangered Southern Andean Deer, or Huemul (*Hippocamelus bisulcus*), that can be very tame when encountered. Among the flora we'll see are *Mulinum spinosum*, *Escalonia rubra*, *Discaria serratifolia*, *Armeria maritima*, *Lathyrus nervosus*, and the



Calceolaria uniflora (F. Diaz)

stunning *Caleolaria uniflora*. Various species of *Chlorea* and *Gavilea* orchids are also present in the park and should be flowering at this time of year. Once again, close to dusk we will focus on searching for Pumas when they become more active after a day of resting. After sunset we'll head

back for dinner at our hotel in the steppe. **Accommodation:** Cerro Castillo (en suite rooms) as for last night. **Meals included:** B, L, D.

Day 7. Monday 21 November 2022. Fly Punta Arenas to Santiago and depart Chile.

Sadly, this is the last day of our expedition. We will drive back to Punta Arenas airport where we will connect with our flight back to Santiago and onward connecting international flights. **Accommodation:** none. **Meals included:** B, L.

2021 Tour Price: USD\$4,550 per person twin share. **Single supplement:** USD\$400. (expected to be similar for 2022).

Additional estimated price of Puerto Montt-Punta Arenas-Santiago domestic flight (based on 2020 prices): USD\$200 each

Based on a group size of 6 participants + Inala leader Dr Tonia Cochran + local South American guide.

Inclusions: Accommodation for each night of the tour, specialist guiding and transport for day and night tours as outlined in the itinerary, all meals (B, L, D) and activities outlined in the itinerary, and National Park entry fees.

Exclusions: any international and domestic airfares, alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages and expenses of a personal nature (snacks, travel insurance, internet, laundry, tips etc).

