

BIRD TREKS

BIRDING IGUAZÚ FALLS

22-26 October 2012

EXTENSION to ARGENTINA TOUR - - 5 days/4 nights, including your flight home

The most important forest south of the Amazon is formed by a set of subtropical rainforests including the Brazilian “Mata Atlántica” and the Interior Atlantic Forest in the Argentine province of Misiones. These forests host dozens of unique species of orchids, small primates, bats of rare habits, and endemic birds. The most remarkable natural wonder of Misiones is **Iguazú National Park**, with its unparalleled falls. Here, the Iguazú River falls 70 meters down, forming a fan of cascades with more than 250 individual falls.

Around one million hectares of the highly endangered Interior Atlantic Forest still stand in patches spread throughout the Argentine province of Misiones. Thanks to the efforts made by several local conservation organizations and individuals, most of them have been declared provincial reserves, and at the present they are linked to each other and to Iguazú National Park, forming a big, single conservation unit, known as the **Green Corridor**. This continuous forest cover supports healthy populations of big mammals, such as Jaguar, South American Tapir, and Giant Anteater, among others. There are areas of the Green Corridor where the forest canopy is dominated by giant Monkey-puzzle Trees (*Araucaria angustifolia*). This Araucaria forest cherishes some true forest jewels, such as Araucaria Tit-Spinetail, Red Howler Monkey, and the rare Vinaceous-breasted Parrot.

Iguazú Falls can be enjoyed to their fullest by walking along the different walkways of the park and stopping at their many lookouts to behold the most spectacular views of them all. These trails have been built in different levels and visitors have the chance to see the falls from above and below. A narrow gauge train takes you from the entrance gate of the park to the trails’ entrance and on to the most spectacular fall of them all: Devil’s Throat. A myriad of colorful birds live in Iguazú. Surucua Trogon, Red-ruffed Fruitcrow, Blue Manakin, five species of euphonias and several species of tanagers are all commonly found inside the park. Thousands of Great Dusky Swifts and several species of forest raptors master the skies here as well. The forest canopy is home to noisy flocks of parrots, parakeets, antwrens, and five species of toucans. The lower layers of this rainforest are inhabited by such birds as Black-fronted Piping-Guan, Spot-backed Antshrike, Black-billed Scythebill, and twelve species of woodpeckers, including the rare Helmeted Woodpecker. One can also enjoy the magic of this forest by listening to the distinctive calls of birds like Solitary Tinamou, Spot-winged Wood-Quail, Tufted Antshrike, and Southern Antpiper.

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Thanks to the efforts made throughout the years to preserve the falls and their surrounding habitat as wild as possible, it can be said that the area now looks almost as pristine as it did when the Spanish ‘Conquistador’ Alvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca first saw it in 1542. The unique conditions of the forest in Iguazú made it possible for the producers of the famous film ‘The Mission’ (starring Robert de Niro and Jeremy Irons) to recreate the conditions under which the Jesuit missionaries lived in the region more than two centuries ago.

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YOUR TOUR ITINERARY AT A GLANCE . . .

Bird Treks Iguazú Extension to Northwestern Argentina, 22-26 October 2012.

Day	Date	Program	Overnight	Meals
1	22 Oct, Mon	Flight from Buenos Aires to Iguazú. Birding in the surroundings of the city.	Iguazú	L/D
2	23 Oct, Tue	Full day birding at Iguazú National Park.	Iguazú	B/L/D
3	24 Oct, Wed	Full day birding in Urugua-í Provincial Park.	Iguazú	B/L/D
4	25 Oct, Thu	Morning birding at Iguazú National Park. Afternoon flight to Buenos Aires.		B/L
5	26 Oct, Fri	Return home.		

YOUR DETAILED ITINERARY . . .

We will take a morning flight from the City of Buenos Aires to the Argentine city of **Puerto Iguazú** on **DAY 1**. Upon arrival, we will drive to our hotel to check in for the following three nights. Birds and butterflies are incredibly abundant and diverse here, so we will dedicate the balance of the day to watch these and other animals in the surroundings of Iguazú.

On **DAY 2** we will visit **Iguazú National Park**, with its magnificent falls. We will spend the day exploring the walkways of the falls area and other trails, some of them only accessible with a special permit, to increase our chances to observe the most secretive bird species of the canopy and the shady interior of the forest. Some of the bird specialties here include **Long-tailed Tyrant**, **Surucua Trogon**, **Tufted Antshrike**, and **Short-tailed Antthrush**. In the early evening we will visit the most impressive waterfall of them all, **Devil’s Throat**. It is here that **Dusky Swifts** dive through the foaming falls *by the thousands!*

On **DAY 3** we will drive 60 kilometers south of Iguazú, to explore **Urugua-í Provincial Park**. The forest here settles at a higher altitude and birds are different than the ones found in Iguazú. We expect to see lots of new species in this area, including **Spotted Bamboowren**, **Mouse-colored Tapaculo**, **Dusky-tailed Antbird**, and **Green-chinned Euphonia** to name but a few.

We will pay a second visit to Iguazú National Park in the morning of **DAY 4** to look for birds we might have missed the first day. After a light lunch in the park, we will drive to the local airport to take a flight to Buenos Aires, and connect with your **return flight home**.

On **DAY 5** you will reach your home destination.

[Important details on page 3]

Financial information for the IGUAZÚ EXTENSION . . .

The **tour fee** is approximately \$2195 based upon double occupancy and a minimum of six participants. Single accommodations are available for an extra charge of \$245.

Included on the price of the tour:

Private transportation for all transfers and excursions.

All tours as per program.

Trogon Tours' leader to accompany the group from Days 1 to 4 in Iguazú.

Local guides where required by law.

Accommodations en-suite on a twin/double basis in selected hotels, as per program, with breakfast included.

All lunches, box lunches, and dinners from lunch on Day 1 to lunch on Day 4, with one non-alcoholic beverage per person included.

Admission fees to National Parks and Fauna Reserves.

Not included in the price:

International and domestic airfares and airport taxes.

Personal medical and travel insurance.

Tips to your tour leader.

Items of a personal nature, such as telephone calls, laundry service, and souvenirs.

Anything not specified in "Included on the tour".

Deposit A \$500 deposit will assure your reservation on the tour. The balance is payable 22 July 2012. Send your deposit soon to insure your reservation and to obtain the best possible airfare.

Extra Services We offer the services of our exclusive BIRD TREKS travel agent, **Lori Heathcote**, in arranging your air travel and other extras. Lori has 26 years of experience in the travel industry and is a veteran birder. Contact her at Bailey Travel toll-free at **1-800-224-5399**, or e-mail lori@baileytravel.com. By dealing with Lori you have the security of a 24-hour toll-free telephone number in case of any travel emergency. She can also assist you with all pre- and post-tour travel plans. There may be a fee for these services.



Iguazú Falls -- Jo Lehr

Refund and Cancellation Policy With written notice more than 90 days prior to the first day of the tour, 100% of your deposit will be refunded, minus a \$100 service fee. With 30-90 days notice, you will receive a 50% refund of the full cost of the tour. No refund can be made with less than 30 days notice. You will receive a full refund if you provide a replacement for your spot on the tour. No partial refund can be given once the tour begins. We **STRONGLY RECOMMEND** that you purchase trip cancellation insurance to protect your investment. Contact **Allianz Global Assistance** (formerly Access America) and mention **BIRD TREKS ACCAM # F021096**. You can apply via the Internet at www.allianztravelinsurance.com or by phone at **1-800-284-8300**.