

THE GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY



bring you:

IGUAZÚ BIRDING TOUR, 20-24 Sep 2022



Iguazu Waterfalls by Anne Koke

Surrounded by Atlantic Forest bordering Brazil, Argentina and Paraguay, Iguazu Falls is one of the great natural wonders of the world. Here, where the Iguazu River tumbles over the edge of the Parana Plateau, is often considered the world's most spectacular waterfall. Ever since the Spaniards discovered these falls in the 16th century, they have not ceased to impress travelers from all over the whole world, and a visit here can be considered as a once in a lifetime trip and one of the highlights of South America. The falls span over 1.6 miles (2.6 km) and are comprised of over 275 distinct falls, forming a breathtaking sight. Perhaps the most impressive is the U-shaped Devil's Throat which is 250 feet (82 meter) high, 450 feet (150 m) wide and 2100 feet (700 m) long; this is the truly iconic waterfall of the park, immortalized in the iconic 1986 movie *The Mission*.

Even though the waterfalls are shared by Brazil and Argentina, we advise spending the bulk of the time on the Argentinian side, which is what we focus on during this tour, using a super easy border crossing. The birding is best on the Argentinian side.

During this 5-day tour, we shall have adequate time to admire the waterfalls as well as to look for the special birds. Target species include the impressive **Great Dusky Swift**, which roost on the waterfall cliffs. Other birds we will look for include **Red-rumped Cacique**, **Toco Toucan**, **Chestnut-eared Araçari**, **Blonde-crested Woodpecker**, **Yellow-fronted Woodpecker**, **Ochre-collared Piculet**, **Swallow-tailed Manakin**, **Southern Antpipit**, **Eared Pygmy-Tyrant**, **Chestnut-bellied Euphonia**, **Green-headed Tanager**, **Streak-capped Antwren**, **Surucua Trogon**, **Rufous-capped Motmot**, **Greenish Schiffornis**, **Rufous Gnateater**, **Dusky-tailed Antbird**, and the most wanted **Black-fronted Piping-Guan**.

This is indeed a fun trip that will provide you the chance to visit a unique natural wonder and to see a nice set of Atlantic forest species. The trip is designed to combine with our other [Brazil](#) (or [Argentina](#)) tours.

Itinerary (5 days/4 nights)

Day 1. Arrival to Foz do Iguazu and transfer to the Argentinean side

We shall arrive at Foz de Iguazu airport in the Brazilian state of Parana and immediately transfer to Puerto Iguazu on the Argentinean side in the state of Misiones. Crossing the border is relatively easy, usually taking half an hour by car; the two cities are separated by 9 miles (15 km). We shall check in at our comfortable hotel, spend the afternoon birding around the accommodation's grounds, and visit the hummingbird garden, *Jardin de Picafloras*, where we hope to see hummers such as **Black Jacobin**, **Black-throated Mango**, **Glittering-bellied Emerald**, **Scale-throated Hermit**, **Planalto Hermit**, **White-throated Hummingbird**, **Swallow-tailed Hummingbird**, **Violet-capped Woodnymph**, **Versicolored Emerald**, and **Gilded Hummingbird**. Other birds we might see today include **Ochre-bellied Piculet**, **Chestnut-bellied Euphonia**, **Violaceous Euphonia**, **Green-headed Tanager**, **Ruby-crowned Tanager**, **Sayaca Tanager**, **Black-goggled Tanager**, **Guira Tanager**, **Chestnut-eared Aracari**, and **Plush-crested Jay**.

Overnight: Hotel Selva Del Laurel

Day 2 Iguazu falls and Devil's Throat

Today we will have an early start to get inside Iguazu Park and visit the famous Devil's Throat, probably the most spectacular point of all the waterfalls. We shall have time to do the lower and upper trail circuits inside the Argentinean side of the park, allowing you to see the waterfalls from different angles, with abundant photo opportunities throughout. One of the main bird highlights of the day will be the impressive **Great Dusky Swifts** flying around and perching on the vertical cliff faces of the waterfalls. Wildlife abounds in the park and for example large troops of **South American Coatis** and **Tufted Capuchins** are usually seen each day along the park trails.

Overnight: Hotel Selva Del Laurel



Great Dusky Swift by Anne Koke

Day 3-4 Exploring the Iguazu Park surroundings and the Urugua-í Provincial Park

We shall spend two full days birding different sectors outside the Iguazu waterfalls. One site we'll visit is the Urugua-í Park, located 63 miles (100km) from our hotel; here we will look for the Endangered **Black-fronted Piping-Guan**. This bird can be tricky to find in other Atlantic forest areas but in southern Misiones state of Argentina it is still a reliable bird to find. Other birds we hope to see include **Black-throated Trogon**, **Rufous-capped Motmot**, **Green-billed Toucan**, **Yellow-fronted**, **Blond-crested**, **Lineated** and **Robust Woodpeckers**. Furthermore, we will also look for **Black-billed Scythebill**, **Tufted Antshrike**, **Rufous-winged Antwren**, **Short-**

tailed Antthrush, several woodcreepers such as **White-throated, Olivaceous, Plain-winged and Planalto Woodcreepers**.

Other birds we will look for during these two days are a few skulkers such as **White-eyed, Ochre-breasted and Buff-fronted Foliage-gleaners, White-throated Spadebill, Red-crowned Ant-Tanager, Eared Pygmy-Tyrant, Southern Antpiper, and Plain Antwreio**. Other more obvious (and as usual, beautiful) species that we will be on the lookout for, include **Swallow Tanager, Boat-billed Flycatcher, Social Flycatcher, Three-striped Flycatcher, White-winged Swallow, Pale-breasted Thrush, White-necked Thrush, Riverbank Warbler, Chestnut-vented Conebill, Magpie Tanager, Chestnut-headed Tanager, White-lined Tanager, and Blue-naped Chlorophonia**.

Overnight: Hotel Selva de Laurel

Day 5. Birding in the morning and transfer to the airport

After a last morning enjoying the hotel grounds or looking for species we might have missed on previous days, we will transfer to the airport at Foz de Iguazu (on the Brazilian side again) for your flight to a different part of Brazil (e.g. the Pantanal) or home.

Please note that the itinerary cannot be guaranteed as it is only a rough guide and can be changed (usually slightly) due to factors such as availability of accommodation, updated information on the state of accommodation, roads, or birding sites, the discretion of the guides and other factors. In addition, we sometimes have to use a different international guide from the one advertised due to tour scheduling.

Duration: 5 days

Limit: 6 - 8 (there will be a surcharge for a smaller group)

Dates: 20-24 September 2022

Start: Foz de Iguazu, Brazil

End: Foz de Iguazu, Brazil

Price: US\$1985 per person sharing

Single Supplement: US\$240

Price includes:

Accommodation as described in the itinerary

Private land transportation

Admission fees to Iguazu Park and other reserves mentioned in the itinerary

Tour leader and local guides

All meals (except where otherwise indicated)

Water

Price excludes:

International and domestic flights

Any activity not described in the itinerary

Breakfast on Day 1 and dinner on Day 5

All drinks

Any personal expenses (e.g. laundry, phone calls, minibar expenses, internet access)

Gratuities (please see our [tipping guidelines blog](#))