



**BIRDING CHILE  
FOR GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY  
January 21st - February 05th, 2022**

## **BIRDING CHILE**

### **I. INTRODUCTION:**

#### **BIRDING CHILE: A QUEST FOR THE ENDEMIC & SPECIALTIES OF CHILE**

Birding Chile Journey is an exciting birdwatching journey aimed to discover the endemics and specialties of this 3,000-mile long and narrow biogeographical country and explore and enjoy its marvelous landscapes, excellent infrastructure and great cuisine. Chile is a land of huge contrasts, truly a geographic extravaganza. On this birding adventure we will explore Chile's incredibly diverse habitats and marvel at some of the most beautiful landscapes on Earth, while enjoying top-class hotels and cuisine. From Mediterranean scrub to the windswept steppes of Tierra del Fuego and Patagonia, our search for the avian specialties of this long and narrow country will take us from the high Andes to the cold and productive waters of the Humboldt Current in the Pacific. We will find many interesting species, some of them with very restricted distributional ranges and some endemic to the country.



### **TRIP HIGHLIGHTS**

- Three (3) pelagic trips and 4 ferry rides offering great opportunities for pelagic specialties of the eastern Pacific and Southern Ocean.



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- The magnificent Andean Condor and Magellanic Woodpecker and stunning waders including Diademed Sandpiper-Plover, Magellanic Plover, Tawny-throated Dotterel, Rufous-chested Dotterel and Two-banded Plover.
- Up to nine endemic species including Slender-billed Parakeet, Crag Chilia, Moustached Turca and White-throated Tapaculo. We will also search for the quasi-endemic Chestnut-throated Huet-huet.
- A spectacular system of national parks and nature reserves protecting some of the most beautiful places on Earth.

## II. DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

### A. THE HEART OF CHILE



#### Day 1 • Friday 21 January, 2022 • Lampa marshes - Farellones - Santiago

Our birding adventure in Chile starts today! Please make arrangements to arrive into Chile the prior day, in order to have an early start this morning. Your guide will be gathering trip participants at each individual hotel; right after we will drive a short distance north of Chile's capital to explore some marshes around the localities of Lampa and Batuco. Wetlands are under a lot of urban pressure in central Chile and sadly Lampa and Batuco are examples of this threat. However, they hold a well represented sample of waterfowl, including Yellow-billed Pintail, Yellow-billed Teal, Cinnamon Teal, Chiloe Wigeon and Red Shoveler. Other targets here will be Cocoi Heron, Rosy-billed Pochard, White-cheeked Pintail and hopefully South American Painted Snipe. Correndera Pipit might be well singing high in the air in their characteristic courtship display! During the afternoon we will bird in the spectacular setting of Farellones. There are several Andean specialties here including Mountain Caracara, White-sided Hillstar, Rufous-banded and Creamy-rumped Miners, Cinereous, Black-fronted, White-browed and Rufous-naped Ground-tyrants plus Greater Yellow-Finch, Grey-hooded and Band-tailed Sierra-Finch. We will also look for the endemic Chilean Tinamou and Chilean Mockingbird and we might have the chance of seeing Red-backed (Variable) Hawk and Aplomado Falcon.

Overnight Santiago (Lunch, Dinner) (Guide).

#### Day 2 • Saturday 22 January, 2022 • Exploring the Andes: El Yeso Valley

We will have a full day to explore the surroundings of El Yeso reservoir in the Andean foothills, where will hopefully be rewarded with sightings of the endemic Crag Chilia plus our first Andean Condors, Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle, and several other Andean specialties such as Black-winged Ground Dove, Grey-flanked Cinclodes, Black-billed Shrike-Tyrant and Yellow-rumped Siskin. Careful scanning of grasslands and streams may produce the stunning Diademed Sandpiper-



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Plover, our main target species for the day. El Yeso valley is a lovely mountain spot where we will also have good chances for Mountain Parakeet flocks.

During the afternoon we will visit another valley, Baños Morales. This location offers great chances for several other specialties including Mountain Caracara, White-sided Hillstar, Rufous-banded and Creamy-rumped Miners, Cinereous, Black-fronted, White-browed and Rufous-naped Ground Tyrants plus Greater Yellow Finch and Grey-hooded and Band-tailed Sierra Finches.

Overnight Santiago (Breakfast, Picnic lunch, Dinner) (Guide).



**Day 3 • Sunday 23 January, 2022 • Drive to the Pacific coast: Maipo Estuary – Laguna El Peral Nature Reserve – Viña del Mar**

The Coastal Range separates Chile's central valley from the Pacific coast and we will drive across to explore the productive Maipo river mouth and surrounding coastal wetlands, including El Peral Reserve. Our target birds here will be the cryptic-colored Stripe-backed Bittern, the brood-parasitic Black-headed Duck and the striking Many-colored Rush Tyrant; we will also have a chance to find the scarce and local Ticking Doradito.

Overnight Viña del Mar (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner) (Guide).

**Day 4 • Monday 24 January, 2022 • Pelagic trip off Valparaiso – Cachagua**

Today we will make an unforgettable visit to the cold and productive waters of the Humboldt Current, considered one of the world's finest pelagic birding destinations. Here, we should see a great variety of tubenoses including up to six albatross species: Black-browed, Salvin's, Buller's, Chatham, Wandering (Antipodean) and both Northern and Southern Royal albatrosses. We also hope to find Southern and Northern Giant Petrels, Pintado, Masatierra, White-chinned and Westland Petrels, Pink-footed, Buller's and Sooty Shearwaters, Wilson's Storm Petrel, and Peruvian Diving Petrel. Other seabirds we may encounter include Red Phalarope, Sabine's Gull and Chilean Skua. There are good chances of seeing cetaceans although

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they are always difficult to predict; on recent trips we have recorded Dusky Dolphin, Southern Right Whale Dolphin, and Orca! In the afternoon, we will head to the productive rocky coast north of Valparaiso. We have planned a visit to a protected breeding colony of the endangered Humboldt Penguin; the endemic Seaside Cinclodes and the delightful Marine Otter are both possible here as well. Before ending the day, will stop in a coastal marsh to see a variety of waterfowl including Red Shoveler, Yellow-billed Pintail, Speckled Teal and Chiloe Wigeon, all three lowland coot species (Red-gartered, White-winged and Red-fronted), Spot-flanked Gallinule and Plumbeous Rail, which is surprisingly quite easy to spot as it often walks in the open.

Overnight Viña del Mar (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner) (Guide).



**Day 5 • Tuesday 25 January, 2022 • La Campana National Park – Drive to Vilches**

During the morning we will bird at La Campana National Park, where we will be looking for an interesting array of passerines, all endemic to Chile: Dusky-tailed Canastero, Moustached Turca, Dusky Tapaculo and White-throated Tapaculo. We are also likely to encounter the remarkable Giant Hummingbird, Striped Woodpecker, Austral Pygmy Owl and Chilean Pigeon. The highest peak around, Mount La Campana (The Bell), dominates the entire scene; this area receives enough moisture from the ocean to sustain broad-leaf forests and a xeric shrub community named matorral (Chile's equivalent to California's chaparral). We will continue driving south along the central valley and the Panamerican Highway in direction to Talca (35°S). The forested rural locality of Vilches will be our base for two nights. Rufous-legged Owl usually roosts in the woodlands behind the lodge, a very good reason for a short owling night excursion.

Overnight Vilches (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner) (Guide).

**Day 6 • Wednesday 26 January, 2022 • Altos de Lircay – Lake Colbun**

At dawn, we will visit the temperate southern beech forests of Altos de Lircay Nature Reserve to seek for several Patagonian woodland specialties. The Nothofagus forests are the home for an interesting array of species, including the rare Rufous-tailed and White-throated Hawks, Austral Parakeet, Thorn-tailed Rayadito and White-throated Treerunner. We will keep searching in the undergrowth bamboo thickets for the quasi-endemic Chestnut-throated Huet-huet and Magellanic Tapaculo, our main target birds here. Along the road we might see the largest of the tyrant flycatchers, the Great Shrike-Tyrant, which usually perches on wires looking for large insects and even small birds and rodents! We will head to the mountains once more to briefly

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visit Lake Colbún where our search will focus on the threatened local race of Burrowing Parakeet, which usually congregates in noisy flocks.

Overnight Vilches (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner) (Guide).

**Day 7 • Thursday 27 January, 2022 • Drive to Santiago – Flight to Temuco**

After some dawn birding at Vilches we will drive back to Santiago and catch our flight to the city of Temuco, gateway of northern Patagonia.

Overnight Temuco (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner) (Guide).

**Day 8 • Friday 28 January, 2022 • Conguillio National Park**

During the morning we will visit the slopes of the Llaima Volcano located east of Temuco, in the gorgeous Conguillio National Park. This protected area offers spectacular vistas and remarkable vegetation, including stands of the peculiar Chilean Pine (also known as Araucaria or Monkey-puzzle tree). These woodlands are reminiscent to pre-historic landscapes and we will have good chances of seeing the endemic Slender-billed Parakeet and Magellanic Woodpecker together with a variety of Patagonian songbirds such as Des Murs's Wiretail, Fire-eyed Diucon, Patagonian Tyrant, Austral Blackbird and Black-chinned Siskin. The soils of the forests and volcano slopes show an attractive array of wildflowers including several species of ground orchids, anemones, geraniums and lady slippers.

Overnight Temuco (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner) (Guide).



**Day 9 • Saturday 29 January, 2022 • Cerro Ñielol NR – Drive to Puerto Montt – Alerce Andino National Park**

We will visit Cerro Ñielol, a very interesting and well-preserved urban nature forest where we will try to find the rare Rufous-tailed Hawk, Black-throated Huet-huet and Des Murs's Wiretail.

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We will drive towards Puerto Montt (41°S) and as we head south in clear skies, we will admire a line of volcanos which form part of the section of the Andes; the most striking is no doubt Volcano Osorno and its almost perfect cone-shaped profile. The city of Puerto Montt is located at the very end of Chile's central valley. The topography south of here starts to break out, forming the maze of archipelagos and channels known as the Patagonian Fjords. The grasslands, orchards and agricultural fields are ideal habitat for Black-faced Ibis, Chimango Caracara, Southern Lapwing, Chilean Flicker, Rufous-tailed Plantcutter, Common Diuca Finch and Grassland Yellow Finch. Today we explore the lush temperate rainforest of Alerce Andino National Park, located just one hour south of Puerto Montt. Here we will search for other Patagonian rainforest specialties including Chilean Hawk, Green-backed Firecrown, the skulking Black-throated Huet-huet, Ochre-flanked Tapaculo and White-crested Elaenia. Later, on route back to Puerto Montt, we will scan the intertidal mudflats in search of wintering flocks of Nearctic visitors such as Hudsonian Godwit, Red Knot and Sanderling; other common coastal birds include the stocky Flightless Steamer Duck, Black-necked Swan, American Oystercatcher, Brown-hooded Gull and the local Snowy-crowned (Trudeau's) Tern.

Overnight Puerto Montt (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner) (Guide).

**Day 10 • Sunday 30 January, 2022 • Ferry ride to Chiloe Island - Pelagic trip off Chiloe**

We drive south to the ferry across the Chacao Channel. This short 30-minute journey offers great marine wildlife viewing opportunities and we are likely to see pods of Peale's Dolphin, groups of South American Sea Lion and a great array of seabirds including Southern Giant Petrel, Sooty and Pink-footed shearwaters, Imperial and Red-legged cormorants, Peruvian Pelican and South American Tern. Once in the island we'll take a scenic drive to the little fishermen's cove of Puñihuil. Here we will circumnavigate the islets to see one of the few mixed breeding colonies of Humboldt and Magellanic penguins. Marine Otter, Magellanic Cormorant, Kelp Goose and Flightless Steamer Duck are all usually found here, too. If you are interested to spend more time at sea to have more opportunities for wildlife, we can arrange for a highly recommendable 3-4 hour boat trip to Metalqui Island. Pygmy Blue Whales, one of the races of the world's largest living animal, are often seen from December until March; we also have other great pelagic prospects such as the poorly-known Subantarctic Shearwater, which probably nests in this rugged, densely forested coastline.

Overnight Puerto Montt (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner) (Guide).





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**Day 11 • Monday 31 January, 2022 • Pelagic trip off Reloncavi Sound – Flight to Santiago or Punta Arenas for southern extension**

Early morning with the first light of the day, we will take a boat trip into the Reloncavi Sound to look for seabirds, particularly the recently discovered Pincoya Storm Petrel, a new species to science, overlooked during many years because of its strong similarities to sympatric Wilson's Storm Petrels. The range of this species seems to be very local and restricted to the nearby waters south of Puerto Montt and between Chiloé Island and the Continent.

Later we will return to Puerto Montt airport, from where you can easily get a flight to Santiago or join us in our flight to Punta Arenas for the Southern Patagonia extension (Breakfast, Lunch) (Guide).



## **B. SOUTHERN PATAGONIA EXTENSION**

**Day 11 • Monday 31 January, 2022 • Flight to Punta Arenas - Birding along the Magellan Straits coastline**

We will catch an evening flight from Puerto Montt to Punta Arenas (53°S), Chile's southernmost city. This can be a truly enjoyable plane journey, as we'll fly over seemingly endless Patagonian icecaps, deep fjords and the rugged peaks of the southern Andes. After our arrival, we will bird along the coast of the mythic Straits of Magellan looking for Flying Steamer and Crested Ducks, Kelp Goose, King and Rock Cormorant and Magellanic Oystercatcher. The coastal grasslands can produce other interesting sheldgeese including the ubiquitous Upland Goose, the smaller Ashy-headed Goose and the endangered Ruddy-headed Goose.

Overnight Punta Arenas (Dinner)(Guide).



**Day 12 • Tuesday 01 February, 2022 • Ferry to Tierra del Fuego - King Penguins**

This morning, we will take a 2-hour ferry ride across the Straits of Magellan towards the town of Porvenir, in Tierra del Fuego. We will be entertained by an interesting array of tubenoses such as Black-browed Albatross, Southern Giant Petrel, Southern Fulmar, the delightful Cape (or 'Pintado') Petrel, White-chinned Petrel, Sooty Shearwater, Wilson's Storm Petrel and Magellanic Diving Petrel. We will see other seabirds including Magellanic Penguin, Chilean Skua, Kelp and Dolphin Gulls and South American Tern. Possible marine mammals will include the common South American Sea Lion and playful pods of Peale's Dolphin. Once we land in Tierra del Fuego, we will check the coast where we shall see Crested Duck, Chiloe Wigeon, Baird's and White-rumped Sandpipers, Magellanic Oystercatcher and Dark-bellied Cinclodes, among several other 'goodies'. We will continue east to explore the large embayment of Useless Bay (Bahía Inútil), where it is likely to find a wealth of seabirds and other aquatic birds. On route we will be checking for potential raptors including Variable Hawk, Aplomado and Peregrine Falcons. Magellanic Horned Owl nests in some ravines we will pass by. The main target of our visit to this scenic part of the island is the newly established King Penguin breeding colony. This splendid species congregates year-round on this site and they have successfully started to breed and raise young here. Later, and before heading back to Porvenir, we will drive through the shrubby slopes and moorlands of the Baquedano Hills searching for Rufous-chested Dotterel, Austral Canastero and the stunning White-bridled Finch.

Overnight Porvenir (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner) (Guide).



**Day 13 • Wednesday 02 February, 2022 • Laguna Verde - Pali Aike road - Puerto Natales**

During the morning we will visit some alkaline lagoons east of the village. Our target here will be the local and odd-looking Magellanic Plover. This enigmatic wader looks more similar to a little dove rather than to any shorebird, and is often seen feeding 'scratching' the mud with its bright pink legs! Other birds of the area will include Two-banded Plover, Wilson's Phalarope, the abundant White-rumped Sandpiper, Short-billed



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Miner and the ubiquitous Austral Negrito. The windswept steppes of Tierra del Fuego and Patagonia hold a number of specialties including Least Seedsnipe, Tawny-throated Dotterel, Short-billed Miner, Band-tailed Earthcreeper and Chocolate-vented Tyrant. A short ferry ride will allow us to be on mainland once again and if we are lucky, to see the striking Commerson's Dolphin following the wake. Chilean Flamingo, Coscoroba Swan, Silver Teal plus thousands of waders such as Wilson's Phalarope, Baird's and White-rumped Sandpipers will be common at the roadside wetlands while we explore and enjoy the beauty of this 'big sky' country. On the journey, we should encounter Lesser Rhea, Cinereous Harrier, Cinnamon-bellied Ground-Tyrant and Patagonian Mockingbird. Large herds of camel-like Guanacos will be a common sight along the entire drive towards Puerto Natales and other possible mammals will include Southern Grey (Chilla) Fox, Patagonian Hairy Armadillo and Patagonian Hog-nosed Skunk.

Overnight Puerto Natales (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner) (Guide).

**Day 14 • Thursday 03 February, 2022 • Torres del Paine National Park**

Torres del Paine is one of the gems of Chile and certainly one of the most visited parks in Patagonia. We will have the whole day to explore its diverse habitats, but above all, to appreciate the colossal magnitude and rugged beauty of the awe-inspiring granite peaks which name the park. The reed-fringed lagoons of the eastern side of the park will keep us busy during the whole morning. Here we will find a wealth of waterbirds including Great, Silvery and White-tufted Grebes, Ruddy (Andean) and Spectacled Ducks, Speckled Teal, Yellow-billed Pintail, and with luck, the elusive and recently re-discovered Austral Rail. We also hope to see Andean Condors and Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle hovering in these turbulent skies. During the afternoon we will visit Lake Grey to enjoy the stunning sight of its southern shore dominated by stranded blue icebergs. We will scan the fast-flowing rivers hoping to find the remarkable and colourful Torrent Duck.

Overnight Puerto Natales (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner) (Guide).



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**Day 15 • Friday 04 February, 2022 • Sierra Baguales - Drive to Punta Arenas**

Early in the morning we will explore the impressive Sierra Baguales Range, located northeast of Torres del Paine. Along the road and in the scrubby gullies, we will look for more restricted-range songbirds in Chile such as Patagonian Mockingbird and Grey-bellied Shrike-Tyrant. As we continue exploring this montane habitat, we might find the local White-throated Caracara, Grey-breasted Seedsnipe, Rufous-banded Miner, Cinnamon-bellied and Ochre-naped Ground Tyrants, Patagonian and Greater Yellow Finches and the stunning Yellow-bridled Finch.

Overnight Punta Arenas (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner) (Guide).

**Day 16 • Saturday 05 February, 2022 • Flight to Santiago**

Transfer to Punta Arenas airport for our connecting flight to Santiago. End of the trip. (Breakfast).

### **III. EXPEDITION LEADER**



**CLAUDIO F. VIDAL**

**Far South Expeditions Founder | Product & Marketing Manager | Expedition Leader**

Claudio has been exploring and birding since the age of 12 and currently leads birding / nature tours and photo safaris throughout Patagonia, Chile and South America. He is one of the two founders and original driving forces behind the far South Expeditions concept and company.

Claudio has a particular interest in the seabirds and marine mammals occurring in the Humboldt Current, Patagonia and Antarctica. Botany is also one of his greatest passions, leading him to devote to the photographic documentation of wildflowers of desert and Mediterranean regions of the world, of which he possesses a vast archive. Claudio is now finishing the writing of a Field Guide to the Birds of Chile together with a team of accomplished field ornithologists, and is co-

author of more than 20 books, including the acclaimed Birds of Patagonia, Tierra del Fuego and Antarctic Peninsula. He is actively involved in several ecotourism projects in Chile and is founding partner of Far South Expeditions since 1997. He lives in Punta Arenas.



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## **IV. FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS**

### **A. Trip Arrangements**

#### **i. 'The heart of Chile' - Main Chile trip [Jan 21<sup>st</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022]**

4 to 5 guests @ US \$5,331 per person, based in double room occupancy.  
6 to 7 guests @ US \$4,168 per person, based in double room occupancy.  
8 guests @ US \$3,588 per person, based in double room occupancy.  
Single room supplement @ US \$550.-

What the trip includes/excludes:

The above price is per person in US Dollars. All payments are in US Dollars.  
Single supplement will be added if single accommodations are requested.

The trip price **includes**: All accommodations, meals and guide services as stated in the itinerary, private ground transportation during the tour, 3 pelagic trips from Valparaíso, Chiloé Island and Puerto Montt. Park entrance fees are also included into the tour price.

The trip price **excludes**: Domestic flights, tipping, travel insurance, entrance tax to Chile, excess baggage charges, private excursions, à la carte dishes, snacks, drinks, laundry, telephone calls and anything else of a purely personal nature.

#### **ii. 'Southern Patagonia' - Post-extension [Jan 31<sup>st</sup> - Feb 05<sup>th</sup>, 2022]**

4 to 5 guests @ US \$2,324 per person, based in double room occupancy.  
6 to 7 guests @ US \$1,862 per person, based in double room occupancy.  
8 guests @ US \$1,621 per person, based in double room occupancy.  
Single room supplement @ US \$273.-

What the trip includes/excludes:

The above price is per person in US Dollars. All payments are in US Dollars.  
Single supplement will be added if single accommodations are requested.

The trip price **includes**: All accommodations, meals and guide services as stated in the itinerary, private ground transportation during the tour, ferry fares to Tierra del Fuego and park entrance fees.

The trip price **excludes**: Domestic flights, tipping, travel insurance, entrance tax to Chile, excess baggage charges, private excursions, à la carte dishes, snacks, drinks, laundry, telephone calls and anything else of a purely personal nature.

### **B. Payment Schedule**

To confirm your participation into the above describe tours, we require a deposit of US \$500 per person by March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021.

Full payment of the tour fee is due 90 days prior 'The Heart of Chile' departure date, on November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021.



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**C. Cancellation Policy**

Notice of cancellation can only be accepted IN WRITING from the person who signed the booking form and takes effect on the day such notice is received by us.

Refunds are made according to the following schedule:

If cancellation is made 120 days or more before departure date, the deposit less US\$ 200 is refundable.

If cancellation is made between 120 and 60 days before departure, the deposit is not refundable, but any payments covering the balance of the fee will be refunded.

If cancellation is made fewer than 60 days before departure date, no refund is available.

This policy and fee schedule also apply to post trip extension, as well as any transfers from one tour to another. We strongly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance to protect yourself.

**D. Flights**

Domestic flights airfare is not included into these trips. Airfare for the 3 flights involved in both sections of the tour: Santiago - Temuco, Puerto Montt - Punta Arenas, Punta Arenas -Santiago, is approximately US \$350 (quoted July 2020 and subjected to change).

**V. MISCELLANEOUS**

**Climate.**

Average January / February temperatures:

Santiago	22 °C / 71.6 °F
Viña del Mar	19 °C / 66.2 °F
Temuco	17 °C / 62.6 °F
Puerto Montt	15 °C / 59 °F
Punta Arenas	11 °C / 51.8 °F

**Clothing.**

For Santiago and Central area, is advisable to take light clothes a pair of sneakers or comfortable light trekking shoes as well as sunglasses and sun screen.

For Patagonia, we recommend to bring warm parka, waterproof jacket and trousers apart from comfortable clothes. Cap and gloves are also highly recommended as during the boat excursions the wind and cold may be uncomfortable.

**Baggage.**

Baggage limits per person for Chilean airline (e.g. Latam or Sky airlines) is one bag per person 23 kg (50 pounds), plus one carry-on bag of 8 kg (18 pounds). We request participants limit their baggage to one medium-sized suitcase and one carry-on.

**Health.**

Santiago, Viña del Mar, Temuco, Puerto Montt and Punta Arenas offer adequate medical and dental facilities with some pharmacies open 24 hours. In smaller towns and rural areas, medical assistance is limited or nonexistent. No vaccinations are required. While we believe the risk of contracting any disease on this tour



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will be minimal, you may call the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta (CDC), which operates a 24-hour automated travelers' health hotline at, 877-FYI-TRIP. You may also visit their website at <http://www.cdc.gov>.

**Medical insurance.**

We strongly urge you to be adequately covered by a medical insurance.