



Marsh Seedeater – © Jorge La Grotteria

# **Ibera Marshes Birding & Nature Tour**

**4 days/3 nights**

*Birding safari in Argentina's best kept secret...*

[WWW.BIRDSARGENTINA.COM](http://WWW.BIRDSARGENTINA.COM)



Strange-tailed Tyrant – © Jorge La Grotteria

## **INTRODUCTION**

Ibera marshes constitute an enormous wetland located in north-east Argentina, in the center of Corrientes province, and one of the wildest areas in southern South America. The marshland habitat hosts a remarkable variety of birds, many of them mainly found in this part of the world, including a newly described species: Ibera Seadeater. But Ibera is not just about marshes: other important ecoregions are found in the surroundings. The subtropical grasslands are the marshes main counterpart in the region, giving refuge to some of the most endangered bird species of the area, such as Strange-tailed Tyrant, Saffron-cowled Blackbird and Marsh Seedeater, threatened mainly by habitat loss. The Espinal forest is found south of the marshes, adding a high diversity of furnarids (oven birds) and one of the most sought-after species: the endangered Yellow Cardinal. Finally, the Humid Chaco forest to the west and the Atlantic forest to the north-east of the Ibera marshes add their strong influence to the area's biodiversity in the scattered patches of forest naturally found in the region. The combination of all these ecoregions and their bird species makes Ibera marshes an outstanding birding destination.

Having been protected for decades, first as a Provincial Park and currently in process of becoming a National Park (the strongest protection rank in Argentina), Ibera marshes' fauna is particularly tame and lots of animals are easy to spot, such as Capybara, Marsh Deer, Yacare and Broad-snouted Caimans, and Black Howler Monkey, as well as the many bird species (more than 400) found in the area. Current re-introduction programs are being carried out to bring back recently extirpated species such as Red-and-green Macaw, Collared Peccari, Brazilian Tapir, Giant Anteater, Giant Otter and the magnificent Jaguar.



Birding and photographing in Ibera marshes – © Marcelo Gavensky

## **TOUR DESCRIPTION**

The tour begins in the airport of Posadas (Misiones province). From there we will take a birding transfer in a 4x4 vehicle to Colonia Carlos Pellegrini, located right by Ibera marshes. During this transfer we will make birding stops where we will have our first chances of finding some of the main targets of the tour, such as the **Strange-tailed Tyrant**, **Streamer-tailed Tyrant**, **Black-and-white Monjita**, **Jabiru**, **Marsh Seedeater** (only in the summer) and **Crested Doradito**, among many others.

Once in Colonia Carlos Pellegrini we will accommodate in a perfectly located lodge surrounded by nature, where commonly seen species include **Southern Screamer**, **Rufescent Tiger-heron**, **Giant Woodrail**, **Black-capped Donacobius**, **Scarlet-headed Blackbird** and more. Near the town there is a strong influence of Espinal forest which constitutes the main habitat for **Yellow Cardinal**, one of the most attractive targets of the tour. Other typical species of this forest are **Brown Cacholote**, **Scimitar-billed Woodcreeper**, **Little Thornbird**, **Tufted Tit-spinetail**, and the great **Cream-backed Woodpecker**.

The humid subtropical grasslands around Ibera marshes are the main habitat for a variety of **seed eaters** and other species such as **Wedge-tailed** and **Lesser Grassfinch**, **Great Pampa Finch**, **Long-tailed Reedfinch**, **Greater Rhea**, **Red-winged Tinamou** and **Bearded Tachuri**.

A boat trip in Laguna Ibera will increase our chances of seeing **White-headed Marsh-tyrant**, **Great Black Hawk** and three species of **kingfishers**, as well as enjoying the beautiful landscape and other wildlife of Ibera, including Marsh Deer, Yacare Caimans, Capybaras and good chances of finding Neotropic River Otters and Yellow Anacondas.



Yellow Cardinal – © Jorge La Grotteria

### **ITINERARY\***

**DAY 1:** AM arrival in Posadas airport, and transfer in private vehicle to Colonia Carlos Pellegrini (with birding stops in search of Strange-tailed Tyrant and others). Check-in at the lodge, lunch and afternoon birding the trails around the Interpretation Centre of Ibera Provincial Park. Dinner and night at the lodge.

**DAY 2:** early breakfast and boat tour in Laguna Ibera in search for wetland specialties. Lunch at the hotel and PM birding in southern access to Ibera marshes, in search of grassland specialties. Dinner and night at the lodge.

**DAY 3:** early breakfast and birding tour to Camba Trapo, in search of Yellow Cardinal, Jabiru and Black-and-white Monjita. Lunch at the hotel and PM free for relaxation, horse riding or more birding in the marshes. Dinner and night at the lodge.

**DAY 4:** breakfast and transfer in private vehicle to Posadas airport with birding stops along the way. End of the tour at Posadas airport.

*\* The itinerary may change due to force majeure*

### **TOUR DETAILS**

#### **Price**

Please contact us to find out about our prices for the current and/or following seasons.

[WWW.BIRDSARGENTINA.COM](http://WWW.BIRDSARGENTINA.COM)



Jabiru – © Andrés Teran

Our prices **include** full board accommodations, land transfers in private vehicle, boat tour in Laguna Ibera, local guide/driver and tour leader with quality spotting scope, and snacks and drinks (bottled water) during the birding outings. Our prices **do not include** flight tickets (unless asked on request) to and from Posadas, personal insurance, drinks during meals (at the lodge), tips nor anything not mentioned on previous sentence.

### **Group size**

We run this tour on request for groups with a minimum size of 2 and a maximum of 8 passengers. Please contact us for information about larger groups and options for single travelers.

### **Physical difficulty**

Easy.

### **Accommodations**

Very comfortable and conveniently located lodge in Colonia Carlos Pellegrini.

### **Weather in Corrientes province**

Corrientes province has subtropical humid and warm weather, with summer temperatures between 20 and 35° C. Winter (June to August) can be cold (between 5 and 10° C) when southern wind blows.



Yacare Caiman – © Jorge La Grotteria

Spring time and early summer is the rainy season, with passing storms, although rain may fall throughout the year.

### **Packing for the trip**

Bring light clothing (long-sleeves shirts and long pants to avoid insect bites) and a light coat. It's also essential to bring closed shoes (2 pairs if possible), a rain coat ("ponchos" are very useful) and a good hat. Along with that you should bring sun glasses, sun screen and insect repellent. If you are coming in winter you should add more warm clothing.

### **Best time of the year**

This is a tour that can be made at any time of the year, although we recommend early spring (September-October) for more bird activity, or the summer (November-February) for the seedeaters (most of them are summer visitors). Avoid March for it's moulting time for Strange-tailed Tyrant (hence, tailless males would be expected).

### **Best combined with**

*Best of Argentine Atlantic Forest and Iguazu Falls 7 days/6 nights tour (or check our "Northeast Argentina: Ibera Marshes & Atlantic forest of Iguazu Falls" 14 days/13 nights itinerary)*

*Punta Rasa & surroundings 3 days/2 nights tour*

*Costanera Sur reserve (Buenos Aires) Half Day tour*



Black Howler Monkey (female) – © Jorge La Grotteria

**Important (READ):** our tours are designed for small groups, with low impact, personalized attention and hiring local guides whenever possible, in order to increase their quality. We keep the use of play back down to a minimum possible so to avoid stressing the birds or affecting their natural behavior, thus actively contributing to the conservation of the same and promotion of responsible birding and ecotourism practices.

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Birds Argentina**  
& Southern South America  
[info@birdsargentina.com](mailto:info@birdsargentina.com)

 (+ 54) 9 11 6568 5344

Operador responsable: EVT 13058  
Beruti 2954 – Buenos Aires, Argentina

[WWW.BIRDSARGENTINA.COM](http://WWW.BIRDSARGENTINA.COM)