

PAUL McDOUGALL

wildlife photographer  photographic safaris

Argentina – Southern Right Whale, Sea lions and birds

5N/6D Highlights of Argentina Wildlife Tour

Accommodation: Lodge and hotels – comfortable but basic.

Photo guide: Paul McDougall

Trip Duration: 5 nights and 6 days

Maximum Participants 5

Trip Cost: £3750pp (No single supplement)

Private Trip Cost: Available on Request

ITINERARY AT GLANCE

Date	Location	Accommodation	Meal Plan	Activity
Day 1	Pick up at Trelew Airport (REL). Transfer to hotel in Puerto Madryn.	Hotel in Puerto Madryn	L,D	TRSF
Day 2	Transfer to Península Valdés. Morning Whale watching tour. Caleta Valdés Natural Reserve. Punta Norte Reserve - Sea lion colony.	Hotel in Puerto Madryn	B L D	H, WV
Day 3	El Doradillo Protected Natural Area (coastal whaletaching). Transfer to San Pablo Natural Reserve (Guanaco herds, rheas) Punta Pirámides Protected Natural Area - Sea lion colony. Sunset Whale watching tour.	Hotel in Puerto Madryn	B L D	H, WV
Day 4	Morning Commerson's dolphin watching tour. Ornithologist's Lagoon (Flamingos, swans, ducks, grebes). Isla Escondida beach - Endemic White-headed Steamer Duck (and may be	Hotel in Puerto Madryn	B L D	H, WV

	the first male elephant seals of the season).			
Day 5	Moring birding around south Puerto Madryn area. Visit to Punta Loma Protected Natural Area - Sea lion & Cormorant colony. Punta Ninfas (Mouth of the Nuevo Gulf, Open Atlantic coastal cliff landscapes, and may be the first male elephant seals of the season).	Hotel in Puerto Madryn	B L D	WV
Day 6	Check-out and transfer to Trelew Airport (REL). End of services.	None	B	WV

B – Breakfast, L – Lunch, D – Dinner, MG - Morning Game Drive, Drive, EG – Evening Game Drive, TRSF –Transfer, FG – Full Day Game Drive, ON – Overnight in hide, BS – Boat Safari, WV – Wildlife Viewing, H - Hiking

Please note accommodation may be altered to an equivalent option dependent on availability.

The Valdes Peninsula

The Valdés Peninsula is a coastal accident located in the northeast of the province of Chubut, Patagonia, Argentina. It is a protected natural area that houses a great biodiversity characteristic of the Patagonian region. Due to its geographical particularity and biological importance, it is one of the nine UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Argentina.



Its waters make up the habitat of marine mammals such as the Southern Right Whale, orcas, dolphins, sea lions and elephant seals. Its rocky beaches show in different strata a large sample of marine fossils. They are scenery characterized by very high cliffs, bays with extensive intertidal zones, sandy beaches, pebbles and restingas (intertidal platforms of sedimentary rock) that offer food to various species of coastal birds, as well as many photographic opportunities.

With its back to the sea, there are field of dunes formed by the wind and the erosion of the coastal rock over millions of years. We can enter an environment of shrubby steppe, where birds and terrestrial fauna are perfectly adapted to an arid situation. In this area there is not much water and blending in with the environment or being fast are the best options for survival. They are territories inhabited by guanacos, foxes, pumas, skunks, hairy ones, maras and other smaller rodents, as well as reptiles, birds of prey, choiques and small birds endemic to Patagonia and the southern cone.

In an area of 800km in the Valdés Peninsula Region, we will be able to travel the coasts inside and outside protected areas, navigate in and out of the Golfo Nuevo, take advantage of the best daylight hours and ensure magnificent sightings of wildlife that will allow us to take endless photographs.



Target species: Southern Right Whale, Orca, Commerson's dolphin, Southern elephant seal, Fur seal, Guanaco, Mara, Gr fox, Hairy, Lesser guinea pig, Skunk, Wildcat, Grassland cat, Choique, Magellanic penguin, Black-necked cormorant, Imperial cormorant, Grey gull, South American tern, White-headed quetro, Double-collared plover, Tufted martineta, Burrowing parrot, Antarctic pigeon, among others.



Small Group Photo Safari

DAY 1: Pick up at Trelew Airport (REL) and transfer to hotel in Puerto Madryn.

DAY 2: Valdés and Whale Watching

Begin your journey with a transfer to Puerto Pirámides, the gateway to the stunning Península Valdés Protected Natural Area (World Heritage Site). In the morning, embark on an unforgettable whale watching experience, where you'll have the chance to observe the majestic Southern Right Whales in their natural habitat during their breeding season. We will be able to see impressive jumps, tails, mating groups, and very close encounters with these animals there.



Afterward, transfer to Caleta Valdés for lunch. Take some time to explore the area with scenic walks, soaking in the breathtaking coastal views and unique landscapes. The fauna of the Patagonian steppe and seabirds will be the main attractions there. We will also have the chance to spot some of the first elephant seals of the season.

Our last stop before returning to Puerto Madryn will be at the Punta Norte wildlife reserve, where we can observe a colony of South American Sea lions and different bird species from the Patagonian steppe (such as the Patagonian Mockingbird, Mourning Sierra-finch, Long-tailed Meadowlark, among others) as well as marine birds from the panoramic viewpoints (including Northern and Southern giant petrels, cormorants, oystercatchers, terns, and herons fishing in the intertidal zone, among others). In the parking area, we are often surprised by Hairy Armadillos that are attracted by the presence of visitors eating on site.



DAY 3: Whales and Patagonian shrub steppe

Start your day with a transfer to the El Doradillo Protected Natural Area (25 km) during high tide, where you'll have the chance to observe Southern Right Whales from the shore. This unique vantage point allows for an intimate and ground-level viewing experience, offering a completely different perspective on these magnificent creatures than the boat tour.

We continue our day's journey by re-entering the Protected Natural Area of Península Valdés, heading to San Pablo Natural Reserve. Unlike most ranches in the province and the peninsula, this reserve does not have livestock, which enhances the quality of its pastures

and the presence of large herds of guanacos, making it a unique setting for wildlife photography.

In the afternoon, we head to the sea lion colony at Puerto Pirámides, set against the characteristic coastal cliffs of the Chubut Patagonian shoreline. As the day comes to a close, we will embark on another whale-watching excursion at sunset, where the golden light highlights the beauty of these incredible creatures.



DAY 4: Dolphin Watching and Coastal Exploration

Start your day with a transfer to Playa Unión, located 75 km away, where we will embark on an Commerson's Dolphin watching adventure in the open Atlantic sea. Known for their striking black and white coloration, often referred to as the "pandas of the sea," these are one of the smallest dolphins in the world and you'll have the chance to observe them up close in their natural environment. We will always be on the lookout for the possible presence of other species, such as the Black-browed Albatross, Magellanic Penguin, South American Tern, and White-chinned Petrel, among others.

After our dolphin encounter, continue your journey with a transfer to Isla Escondida (75 km). Here, you'll search for the endemic White-headed Steamer Duck and look for the first elephant seals of the season. The stunning coastal cliffs of the Atlantic Patagonia provide a dramatic backdrop for your exploration.

If time permits, we will make a stop at the Ornithologist's Lagoon in Trelew, a wetland that is home to large populations of ducks, flamingos, grebes, coots, and other birds.





DAY 5: Coastal Wildlife

Today begins with a visit to the southern coastal area of Puerto Madryn. First, explore the Punta Loma Protected Area, just 15 km away, home to a lively colony of South American Sea Lions and Magellanic Cormorants. This location also offers opportunities to spot intriguing bird species such as the Snowy Sheathbill and the Dolphin Gull.

Next, head to the coastal intertidal zones of Puerto Madryn, where you can find a flock of Chilean flamingos feeding in the intertidal area down the town. We will also try to spot a couple of the endemic Magellanic Horned Owls that inhabit a coastal canyon.

Continue our journey to Punta Ninfas (95 km), the mouth of the Golfo Nuevo. Here, we will be treated to breathtaking views as the gulf meets the open waters of the Argentine Sea. Keep your eyes peeled for seabirds soaring overhead and the thrilling possibility of spotting orcas patrolling the coastline as well as whales.



DAY 6: Check-out from the hotel in Puerto Madryn. Transfer to Trelew Airport (REL).

The price for the trip is **£3,750** per person (price excludes all flights).

The price includes:

- 5 nights/days accommodation in Hotel in Puerto Madryn
- Breakfast, Dinner and Lunch included

- Airport Transfers (as described)
- All boat trips as described
- All Reserve Entrance Fees as described
- All services from tour driver/guide.
- All services from photographic guide.
- No single supplement

The price excludes.

- Any flights
- Any accommodation required either side of the trip
- Tips and Gratuities
- Any drinks other than water.
- Travel Insurance. It is strongly advised that you take Travel out a Travel Insurance Policy for the duration of your trip.

(Please Note accommodation options detailed above are subject to availability and may be changed). The order of the hides may also change based on availability.

Please Read the Full Terms and Conditions before Making Your Booking