

Tour Report Chile's Rare Mammals 26 February – 9 March 2023

Large hairy armadillo



Torres del Paine National Park



Marine otter



South American sea lion



Compiled by David Couve
South American sea lion image by David

Day 1: Sunday 26 February 2023

Arrival in Puerto Montt.

Day 2: Monday 27 February 2023

We started from Puerto Montt to cross the Chacao Channel, where we saw a South American sea lion swimming and small pods of Peale's dolphin.

We set aside time for a walk in the afternoon once we arrived at Tepuhueico Park, which helped us to get to know the place. Then, close to sunset, we toured the section again and saw the first Southern. There were three, one female and two males, all exhibiting solitary behaviours. We also found a Colocolo opossum on the night out, which was a great find as it is an extremely rare mammal.

Day 3: Tuesday 28 February 2023

In the morning, we toured Tepuhueico Park again in search of mammals and birds. We saw Chucao tapaculo and black-throated huet-huet - iconic birds of the rainforests. In the afternoon, it rained profusely, so we had to wait at the hotel looking for birds such as green-backed firecrown, rufous-tailed plancutter, and slender-billed parakeet. In the few minutes that we left the shelter, we ended up soaked in seconds!

By evening the rain stopped, and we found Southern pudu again, sadly at first there was no evidence of Darwin's fox or kodkod, however, our luck changed at dusk where we saw the former at a distance six metres.

Day 4: Wednesday 1 March 2023

Today we headed to Puñihuil, and the weather was favourable with little wind and a small mist in the morning that dissipated by noon. We saw birds such as pink-footed shearwater and sooty shearwater, Humboldt and Magellanic penguin, red-legged cormorant, rock cormorant, imperial cormorant, neotropical cormorant, flightless steamer duck, kelp goose, and common diving-petrel. Mammals seen included blue and humpback whale, South American sea lion, Chilean dolphin, Peale's dolphin and marine otter.

Day 5: Thursday 2 March 2023

The Yaldad Fjord was windless and partly cloudy today, as we crossed it we found colonies of South American sea lion, marine otter, and a small pod of Peale's dolphin with a very young calf.

Day 6: Friday 3 March 2023

We had a totally clear morning in the Chepu River, so went in search of river otter, where we were fortunate to encounter three species - two together, a mother and calf, and an adult male in another bend in the river. They were all very trusting and we were able to spend more than half an hour with them.

Day 7: Saturday 4 March 2023

It was a windless and sunny day for the Reloncaví Sound, and we saw many South American sea lions and birds such as Chilean skua. In the afternoon at Parque Alerce Andino, we marvelled once more at the Chucao tapaculo and a quick sighting of the striped woodpecker.

Day 8: Sunday 5 March 2023

We arrived in Punta Arenas, with little wind all day and semi-clear conditions. Before crossing to the island of Tierra del Fuego, we saw the rhea and guanacos. Then we crossed the Strait of Magellan by ferry, where

we saw Commerson's and Peale's dolphin, along with the South American sea lion and Magellanic penguin. At the edge of the strait and below, we appreciated several Chilla fox, whilst in the afternoon, we admired the King Penguin Colony.

Day 9: Monday 6 March 2023

This morning was clear, and we tried to find tuco-tuco, however they only appeared in the caves. Before noon we crossed the strait by ferry back to the mainland, where windy conditions made it difficult to see dolphins; even so, in the distance, you could see well-defined groups of Commerson's and Peale's dolphin, and the occasional black-browed albatross.

At noon we looked for Humboldt's hog-nosed skunk, large hairy armadillo, and Chilla fox, and were fortunate to enjoy excellent sightings. In the afternoon, we entered Torres del Paine Park; the weather was very rainy and foggy, and as there had been constant rain for the past fortnight (something I have rarely encountered in Torres del Paine!), it made it difficult to cross the road. We arrived at our destination and had an early night.

Day 10: Tuesday 7 March 2023

Today was again rainy, and we went on the search for Culpeo fox and the Southern Andean deer in the morning and noon. We chatted to some locals, who commented that they had only seen them occasionally since the rains.

We then spent the afternoon looking for pumas as the weather had slightly improved. We had a quick encounter with a puma walking away from the trail.

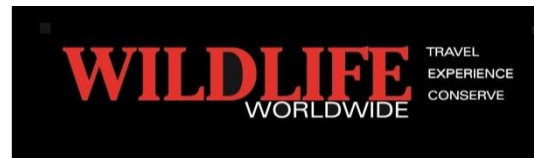
Day 11: Wednesday 8 March 2023

We woke up early today and searched for pumas. We were able to find one on the side of the road, just outside the park, so stayed in the van with a very good view of a female who continued on her way after laying down to rest.

Day 12: Thursday 9 March 2023

We left Puerto Natales to fly to Santiago, where our tour concluded.

Checklist



	Common Name
	BIRDS
1	Lesser (Puna) Rhea
2	Ornate Tinamou
3	Chilean Tinamou
4	Coscoroba Swan
5	Black-necked Swan
6	Flying Steamer Duck
7	Fuegian Steamer Duck
8	Torrent Duck
9	Andean Goose
10	Upland Goose
11	Kelp Goose
12	Ashy-headed Goose
13	Ruddy-headed Goose
14	Crested Duck
15	Puna Teal
16	Cinnamon Teal
17	Chiloe Wigeon
18	White-cheeked Pintail
19	Yellow-billed Pintail
20	Yellow-billed Teal
21	Andean Duck
22	Lake Duck
23	California Quail
24	Band-winged Nightjar



25	Andean Swift
26	Green-backed Firecrown
27	Andean Hillstar
28	White-sided Hillstar
29	Oasis Hummingbird
30	Peruvian Sheartail
31	Chilean Woodstar
32	Groove-billed Ani
33	Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon
34	Spot-winged Pigeon
35	Chilean Pigeon
36	Picui Ground Dove
37	Croaking Ground Dove
38	Bare-faced Ground Dove
39	Golden-spotted Ground Dove
40	Eared Dove
41	West Peruvian Dove
42	Common Gallinule
43	Giant Coot
44	Red-gartered Coot
45	Andean Coot
46	White-winged Coot
47	Pied-billed Grebe
48	White-tufted Grebe
49	Great Grebe
50	Silvery Grebe
51	Chilean Flamingo
52	Andean Flamingo
53	James's Flamingo

54	Peruvian Thick-knee
55	Blackish Oystercatcher
56	American Oystercatcher
57	Andean Avocet
58	Southern Lapwing
59	Andean Lapwing
60	American Golden Plover
61	Grey Plover
62	Semipalmated Plover
63	Killdeer
64	Snowy Plover
65	Two-banded Plover
66	Rufous-chested Plover
67	Tawny-throated Dotterel
68	Grey-breasted Seedsnipe
69	Least Seedsnipe
70	Hudsonian Whimbrel
71	Hudsonian Godwit
72	Ruddy Turnstone
73	Surfbird
74	Stilt Sandpiper
75	Sanderling
76	Baird's Sandpiper
77	Pectoral Sandpiper
78	Magellanic Snipe
79	Wilson's Phalarope
80	Lesser Yellowlegs
81	Willet
82	Greater Yellowlegs

83	Black Skimmer
84	Andean Gull
85	Brown-hooded Gull
86	Grey-headed Gull
87	Dolphin Gull
88	Franklin's Gull
89	Grey Gull
90	Belcher's Gull
91	Kelp Gull
92	Elegant Tern
93	Peruvian Tern
94	South American Tern
95	Common Tern
96	Inca Tern
97	Chilean Skua
98	King Penguin
99	Humboldt Penguin
100	Magellanic Penguin
101	Black-browed Albatross
102	Southern Giant Petrel
103	Northern Giant Petrel
104	White-chinned Petrel
105	Sooty Shearwater
106	Pink-footed Shearwater
107	Subantarctic Shearwater
108	Peruvian Diving Petrel
109	Common Diving Petrel
110	Peruvian Booby
111	Red-legged Cormorant

112	Neotropic Cormorant
113	Rock Shag
114	Guanay Cormorant
115	Imperial Shag
116	Black-faced Ibis
117	Puna Ibis
118	Black-crowned Night Heron
119	Western Cattle Egret
120	Great Egret
121	Little Blue Heron
122	Snowy Egret
123	Peruvian Pelican
124	Andean Condor
125	Black Vulture
126	Turkey Vulture
127	Osprey
128	Cinereous Harrier
129	Harris's Hawk
130	Variable Hawk
131	Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle
132	Burrowing Owl
133	Pacific Pygmy Owl
134	Lesser Horned Owl
135	Rufous-legged Owl
136	Ringed Kingfisher
137	Striped Woodpecker
138	Chilean Flicker
139	Andean Flicker
140	Mountain Caracara

141	Crested Caracara
142	Chimango Caracara
143	American Kestrel
144	Aplomado Falcon
145	Peregrine Falcon
146	Mountain Parakeet
147	Austral Parakeet
148	Slender-billed Parakeet
149	Common Miner
150	Puna Miner
151	Greyish Miner
152	Short-billed Miner
153	White-throated Treerunner
154	Wren-like Rushbird
155	Buff-breasted Earthcreeper
156	Buff-winged Cinclodes
157	Cream-winged Cinclodes
158	Grey-flanked Cinclodes
159	White-winged Cinclodes
160	Dark-bellied Cinclodes
161	Chilean Seaside Cinclodes
162	Thorn-tailed Rayadito
163	Plain-mantled Tit Spinetail
164	Dark-winged Canastero
165	Cordilleran Canastero
166	Canyon Canastero
167	Dusky-tailed Canastero
168	Black-throated Huet-huet
169	Moustached Turca

170	Chucao Tapaculo
171	Ochre-flanked Tapaculo
172	Magellanic Tapaculo
173	White-crested Elaenia
174	Chilean Elaenia
175	Tufted Tit Tyrant
176	Many-coloured Rush Tyrant
177	Vermilion Flycatcher
178	Spot-billed Ground Tyrant
179	White-fronted Ground Tyrant
180	Rufous-naped Ground Tyrant
181	Puna Ground Tyrant
182	Andean Negrito
183	Austral Negrito
184	Spectacled Tyrant
185	Fire-eyed Diucon
186	Rufous-tailed Plantcutter
187	Chilean Swallow
188	Blue-and-white Swallow
189	Andean Swallow
190	Barn Swallow
191	American Cliff Swallow
192	Grass Wren
193	House Wren
194	Chilean Mockingbird
195	Chiguanco Thrush
196	Austral Thrush
197	House Sparrow
198	Correndera Pipit

199	Black-chinned Siskin
200	Hooded Siskin
201	Black Siskin
202	Rufous-collared Sparrow
203	Peruvian Meadowlark
204	Long-tailed Meadowlark
205	Shiny Cowbird
206	Austral Blackbird
207	Mourning Sierra Finch
208	Band-tailed Sierra Finch
209	Blue-black Grassquit
210	Chestnut-throated Seedeater
211	Slender-billed Finch
212	Cinereous Conebill
213	Bright-rumped Yellow Finch
214	Greenish Yellow Finch
215	Puna Yellow Finch
216	Grey-hooded Sierra Finch
217	Patagonian Sierra Finch
218	Black-hooded Sierra Finch
219	Ash-breasted Sierra Finch
220	Plumbeous Sierra Finch
221	White-throated Sierra Finch
222	Glacier Finch
223	Blue-and-yellow Tanager
224	(Common) Diuca Finch
225	Red Knot
226	Least Sandpiper
227	Sharp-Billed Canastero

	MAMMALS
1	Monito del Monte
2	Large Hairy Armadillo
3	European Hare
4	POSSIBLE Olive Soft-haired Mouse
5	Bolivian Big-eared Mouse
6	Common Mountain Viscacha
7	Common Vampire Bat
8	Chilean Myotis
9	Humpback Whale
10	Blue Whale
11	Sei Whale
12	Dusky Dolphin
13	Peale's Dolphin
14	Commerson's Dolphin
15	Chilean Dolphin
16	Common Bottlenose Dolphin
17	Southern Pudu
18	North Andean Huemul
19	Guanaco
20	Llama (domestic)
21	Vicuna
22	Alpaca (domestic)
23	Puma
24	Darwin's Fox
25	South American Grey Fox
26	South American Sea Lion
27	Molina's Hog-nosed Skunk
28	Southern River Otter

29	Marine Otter
30	Common Dolphin
31	POSSIBLY Andean Big-Eared Mouse

