Ultimate Patagonia
Species List | November 5-19, 2025
with Naturalist Journeys

Compiled by host Laura Koehne with local guide Luciano Mathieu. Our clients included Lloyd, Wendy, Susan, Lucie, Patsy, Tom, Terry, and Fred.

SUMMARY: An expansive tour across Patagonia, from the arid steppe to the wet Andean mountains. We began with a day in Buenos Aires before flying south to Trelew. We then spent a couple of days exploring the Valdes Peninsula and visited the Punta Tombo Penguin Colony. Then, we flew to Ushuaia where we cruised the Beagle channel and visited Tierra del Fuego National Park. Next, we flew to Calafate, and from there, drove into Chile. We spent several days exploring the many natural wonders of Torres del Paine National Park. For our last few days, we drove south to Puerto Natales and Punta Arenas. We had incredible wildlife throughout the tour. Birding highlights included soaring albatrosses, the iconic Magellanic Woodpecker, long legged rheas, two species of penguins, a huge roost of Andean Condors, and passerines like the Thorn-tailed Rayadito and Austral Negrito. The mammals we saw also made for some of our most memorable moments on this tour, particularly whale watching off of Puerto Piramides and tracking pumas through Torres del Paine.

BIRDS (182): species were recorded. Details are included below.

The eBird link below details the 182 species of birds our group observed during the tour. If you're new to eBird, be sure to click "Show All Details" on the right side of the list to expand the report and reveal where and when each of the birds were seen and how many.

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Following is a list of the birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians we were fortunate to observe during the trip.

MAMMALS (16):

Large Hairy Armadillo *Chaetophractus villosus*—Seen a few different days, with our best view being at Punta Tombo as one was digging in what was probably a penguin burrow, much to the chagrin of the nearby penguins.
Muskrat *Ondatra zibethicus*— An introduced species, seen on our last day in Punta Arenas.
American Beaver *Castor canadensis*— An introduced species seen at a park in Ushuaia.
European Rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculus*— An introduced species, seen several days while in Chile.
Brown Hare *Lepus europaeus*—The largest of the lagomorphs, this introduced species was seen throughout the tour, often bounding across the open landscapes.
South American Sea Lion *Otaris byronia*—Seen along the coast of Peninsula Valdes, and in the Beagle Channel during our cruise.

South American Fur Seal *Arctocephalus*— There was one individual amongst the sea lions on an island in the Beagle Channel.
Southern Elephant Seal *Mirounga leonina*— We saw a number of these massive pinipeds along the beaches of Peninsula Valdes, and had up close looks at some individuals on a beach en route to Punta Tombo.
Chilla *Lycalopex griseus*—Also known as the South American Grey Fox, we had a few looks at these small foxes, mostly from the van where we would spot them moving through flat, scrubby, landscapes.
Culpeo *Lycalopex culpaeus*— We spotted this larger red fox on our way to Estancia Olga Teresa. We watched as it hopped through a fence and then ran across a sheep field.
Puma *Puma concolor*—We were very lucky to see three individuals during our morning with the trackers at Estancia Laguna Amarga. Our best sighting was of a well-known female, Rupestre, feeding on a guanaco kill. An unforgettable experience!
Guanaco *Lama guanicoe*—Ever present, seen most days of the trip. One memorable encounter was two males engaged in a territorial dispute, chasing and biting at each other.
Peale's Dolphin *Sagmatias australis*— A couple of dolphins seen from shore on our final day. Difficult to ID as we could only see the fins, but our best guess was a Peale's.
Southern Right Whale *Eubalaena australis*—Too many too count! We spotted several at a distance at our stop in Puerto Madryn, but our bout trip from Puerto Piramides was the main event! We saw several mothers with calves surfacing together.
Patagonian Mara *Dolichotis patagonum*—A fascinating mammal that looks a bit like a large rabbit, but is actually a rodent. We had nice looks at several individuals on the roadside on Peninsula Valdes.
Cavy *Microcavia australis*—Small, guinea pig-like animals seen in a parking lot on Peninsula Valdes.