

RIVER PLATE WINGSHOOTING

PRE-TRIP INFORMATION

Estancia Santa Rosa

**Ducks, perdiz and doves....\$988/night
(six box limit on ducks, 15 perdiz limit)**

**Ducks, perdiz and doves ...\$750/night
(four box limit on ducks)**

High-volume doves...\$595/night

Included: Ground transportation from Buenos Aires to the lodge, all meals, including beer, wine and cocktails, single-room accommodations .

Not Included: Commercial or charter air travel, Argentine gun permits/or gun rental, local provincial hunting licenses at \$200, shotgun shells, gratuities, or miscellaneous purchases.

Please note: The program at Santa Rosa is either perdiz or duck hunting each morning and dove hunting each afternoon. If you opt to shoot perdiz or ducks in the afternoon, there will be an extra charge of around \$200.

GUN PERMITS/ENTRY/TRANSFERS

A passport is required to enter Argentina. Visas are not required. The process of taking your shotguns to Argentina is simple. Rod & Gun Resources will send you a one page "gun permit pre-registration" form. You just fill it out and have it back to us no later than 30 days prior to your departure. That's it. We will fill out the required Argentine technical form—*ficha tecnica* and send it (with three copies) to you, along with your other final documents.

Please note: Upon arrival in Buenos Aires you proceed to the gun clearance area, present the *ficha tecnica* form and pay the \$100 per gun fee (US dollars accepted) for each firearm. **Please make sure you have this amount of cash on hand when you arrive.** Of course, our representative will provide assistance throughout.

Once you are finished with customs and gun clearance, you will be driven approx. 3 1/2 hours in a private vehicle by the River Plate transfer agent.

IMMIGRATION FEE** (New)**

As of December 20, 2009, Argentine Immigration authorities began charging an Immigration "reciprocity fee" from inbound travelers whose countries charge Argentine citizens a visa fee. U.S. citizens must now pay \$131 to enter Argentina. The fee is good for multiple entries over a ten year period and is collected at the airport upon arrival.

GUNS/CHOKES

Either 12 or 20-gauge is suitable for ducks, doves and perdiz. 28 gauge shells are also available, but 410 gauge is not available. Price for the shells is \$13/box (subject to change). We recommend you bring two guns. Doubles, semi-autos or pumps are fine. We suggest improved/modified for doves/pigeons; skeet/improved for perdiz and improved/modified for ducks. Screw-in chokes can provide flexibility.

Make sure your guns are in good working order before you leave; this can be high-volume shooting, in the country away from gunsmiths. Take extra parts for repair if you have them. You should transport your guns in lockable hard cases, or packed well in a duffel bag. We also suggest a lightweight, storable soft case to carry guns into the field. Remember to take a vest or shell bag.

IMPORTANT

Upon your return, the U.S. Customs authorities frequently require you to have proof-of-ownership of your firearms. WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND that you take a copy of the purchase receipt, or register your guns with U.S. Customs (personal effects form 4457) prior to your departure from the U.S. This can be accomplished at your home city airport. PLEASE DO THIS TO AVOID ANY HASSLES.

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Also keep in mind that River Plate has excellent shotguns available to rent at \$50/day (full or half day). Models available include Beretta and Benelli autos in 20 and 12 gauge, along with Browning and Beretta over/unders in 20 and 12 gauge.

CLIMATE/CLOTHING

Drab-colored apparel is important for duck hunts---camo, khaki with greens/browns. A nice touch at Santa Rosa is that they provide good-quality boot-foot waders in various sizes, so you don't have to hassle with transporting them. Light rain gear (camo or brown) is always a must.

For perdiz, take well-broken-in hunting boots, along with traditional upland hunting clothes. Don't take clothes that are super bright, like blaze orange. The perdiz will run more. Just take a bright hat, so your hunting partner is sure to see you. Snake protection is not necessary.

For pigeons and doves, wear brown, dark green or camo with a similar hat. Ankle-height shoes/boots are perfectly adequate. Temperatures will range from lows of 35°-40° to highs of 60°-70°.

Evening wear in all areas will be very informal---whatever is most comfortable, including hunting clothes if you wish. The only need for coat and tie is at sophisticated restaurants in Buenos Aires.

OTHER ITEMS TO INCLUDE

- Shooting safety glasses—yellow for dark days, dark for sun
- Thin, soft leather shooting gloves or adhesive tape to protect hands and fingers while loading and firing
- Shell bag or vest
- Ear plugs for protection while shooting
- Shoulder pad recoil reduction device (optional)
- Camera or video camera with extra battery
- Small container of bug repellent
- Light raincoat (brown, green, camo, etc.)
- Small backpack or field bag
- Copy of passport—packed separately
- Multi-tool or pocketknife
- Reading glasses

- Toiletry items and prescription drugs
- Zip-lock bag or case to protect camera
- Reading material
- Lip balm
- Travel alarm clock and flashlight
- Garbage bags for dirty laundry

BAG LIMITS/GAME TRANSPORT

Bag limits in most provinces of Argentina are very liberal, and on some species that are considered "plagues" there are no limits. Doves and pigeons are in that category. All other species have some sort of limit. We want you to enjoy your hunt but also consider that these resources need to be preserved for generations to come.

River Plate has a limit of 150 shells per shooter/per hunt on ducks, a limit of 15 perdiz per shooter/per hunt and no limit on doves or pigeons.

It has long been legal to bring back birds for personal consumption, but since around 2007, more and more of the international airlines departing from Buenos Aires and Santiago **are refusing to allow the birds/meat to be checked onto the planes.** In the current climate, we consider it unlikely any hunters will succeed in getting birds on their flights, so we suggest clients do not make the attempt. Of course it is up to the individual.

AIRLINE SCHEDULING

Many excellent carriers, such as American, Continental, Delta, United Airlines, Lan Chile, Aerolineas Argentinas and Varig offer flight service to Argentina from New York, Miami, Dallas, Houston, Atlanta, or Los Angeles. All of the flights depart the U. S. in the evening and arrive Argentina early to mid-morning the next day. Most of the flights from Buenos Aires back to the U.S. also depart in the evening. **If your flight is one of the few that departs BA in the afternoon, you will have difficulty managing a hunt on your departure morning if your flight is prior to 5 p.m.**

Rod & Gun Resources will be happy to arrange your air travel or you are welcome to purchase tickets on your own.

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CURRENCY

The official currency is the peso; the exchange rate fluctuates, but is roughly at US \$1 = 3.4 pesos as of this printing. If you plan to spend time shopping in Buenos Aires, you should exchange some dollars into pesos for cash purchases, but US dollars are pretty widely accepted. If you pay with dollars you will usually receive your change in pesos. Visa, Mastercard and American Express are widely accepted in larger cities.

You will also need to pay the airport departure tax (around \$18) with either cash in pesos, dollars or with a credit card.

TRIP CANCELLATION & BAGGAGE INSURANCE

You may want to check your homeowner's insurance for coverage of your shotguns and baggage contents while traveling. For cancellation insurance, here are two companies to contact:

www.sportsmanstravelinsurance.com 866-877-3241
and, www.travelinsured.com 800-243-3174

ELECTRIC CURRENT

220 volts; a standard converter and European adapter for two-pronged plug should work fine.

GRATUITIES

Gratuities for hotel and field staff are not included in hunt cost, and we suggest \$40 per day per shooter as a general guideline. This will be distributed by the outfitters to luggage handlers, pick-up boys, and lodge or hotel staff. Camouflage caps, shirts, or other shooting-related items are also appreciated by younger bird boys as an extra tip.

Gratuities to hotel staff and at restaurants in Buenos Aires are not included; the standard restaurant tip is 10-15%.

LANGUAGE

Spanish is the national language, although English is spoken in most shops and restaurants.

IN BUENOS AIRES

SHOPPING: Most shops are generally open all day to 7 p.m. on weekdays and 1 p.m. on Saturdays. Florida Street is for pedestrians only and is lined with attractive shops. Frenkel's at Florida 1079, is within walking distance of the Plaza. Mundo del Cuero (or World of Leather, located on Calle Florida) houses two dozen leather goods merchants.

RESTAURANTS:

In the stylish Puerto Madero area, near the downtown Yacht Club, we suggest Cabana Las Lilas for steaks and mixed-grill, Marcela for international cuisine and Katrine for Mediterranean/Italian.

In the Recoleta (an upscale downtown area with good shopping and sidewalk cafes) we suggest Lola, for Mediterranean and Las Nazarenas for steaks and mixed grill.

You should plan on eating a little later than you may be accustomed to in the U.S.---many Argentines don't eat dinner until 10 p.m., and most restaurants do not begin serving dinner until 8:30 p.m.

HELPFUL HINTS

Get to the airport very early on your day of departure. Carry some bills in small denominations for tips, airport meters, snacks, etc.

Check the expiration date on your passport. Some countries require that the passport is valid for as much as one year from your date of entry. Take a photocopy of the photo page of the passport, in case you lose the original. The copy will greatly facilitate the process of securing a new one.

Plan for rain. Always take a raincoat (in hunting colors) and **always take it with you** on each outing. It's amazing how many wet hunters have a nice dry raincoat in their guestroom at the lodge.

Always take your passport, airline tickets, medications, camera equipment and valuables in a carry-on such as a backpack or small valise