



Your International Hunting Outfitter. Committed to Excellence.

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## DUCK HUNTING IN SANTA FE/ARGENTINA – SAN JAVIER LODGE

### Pre Trip Information



insurance (especially anyone with a pre-existing health condition). PE cannot assume any financial responsibility for consequences incurred if this information is not provided by you to all members of your group.

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### Arrival

A VALID PASSPORT with at least 6 months remaining. No visa is needed for U.S. citizens or Community subjects; others should check entry requirements with the Argentine consulate.

### Customs and Firearms Registration

Europe - You should inform the airline prior to travel date that you will be carrying shotguns and declare them when checking in for your flight. An airline official will escort you to a Customs post for gun registration and then hand-carry your guns to the plane. On return, you must retrieve your guns at the airline service desk in the baggage hall. An airline official will accompany you to the red channel, where your guns are registered with Customs as re-entering the country.

U.S. Customs has adopted more stringent regulations for checking firearms registration forms upon reentry. We are reminding you to pre-register each gun taken out of the country. By requesting U. S. Customs Form 4457-Certificate Of Registration For Personal Effects Taken Abroad. This can be done at any U.S. Customs office in advance of your trip by presenting your firearms for this procedure. This form, listing all guns, cameras, binoculars, etc., should be stapled in the back of your passport for ready reference. A copy should be carried in your gun case and a copy left

### South America Shooting Questionnaire

Shotgun information and serial numbers MUST BE legible and accurate. This document will be sent to Argentina for shotgun permits and shooting licenses.

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### Photocopy of the I.D. page in your Passport

This must clearly show your name, passport number, date issued and expiration date. Because of the time required for processing firearms permits, please return your questionnaire promptly. Your cooperation is appreciated.

NOTE TO GROUP LEADERS: It is important that as a group leader you share this pre-trip information with all members of your party so that everyone is adequately prepared, understands the cancellation/refund policy pertaining to their trip, and has the opportunity to purchase travel

at home. By following this procedure, you should experience delay at U.S. Customs on return from an international shooting trip. This regulation applies only for re-entry into the U.S.

## Entry Requirement

**ARGENTINA SHOTGUN PERMIT:** Shotguns must be declared and gun permits purchased on arrival in Argentina. This is usually done at the international airport and a fee paid directly to the National Police Authority. You are requested to pay in cash USD100 per shotgun. Fees are subject to change without notice. The information on your Shooting Questionnaire will be used for your shotgun entry permit and very carefully checked by the authorities on arrival, so please be sure it is absolutely legible and accurate. It will also be important to remember that your gun permit departure form must be stamped by police authority at the airport before check in at the ticket counter for your flight home.

## Air Travel Arrangements

We work very closely with our representatives in Buenos Aires and Cordoba who do an outstanding job of diligently handling all incoming and outgoing transfers, and our constant communication with them allows us to act quickly when unscheduled circumstances occur.

## Baggage/gun Case Restrictions

Airline regulations usually permit two (2) checked bags not to exceed 70 lbs. each and two carry-on pieces per passenger. Carriers' must fit under the seat in front of you or in the overhead bin. Please check with your Airline.

**NOTE: SOME GUESTS RECENTLY HAVE BEEN CHARGED A USD40 FEE FOR CHECKING A SHOTGUN CASE AS BAGGAGE. THIS POLICY, WHILE VALID WITH SOME U.S. CARRIERS, IS RARELY ENFORCED. WE WANT YOU TO BE AWARE OF IT, DO NOT MENTION IT TO THE TICKETING AGENT; BUT BE PREPARED SHOULD IT BE LEVIED.**

From time to time outfitters need things in the shooting fields, and they will ship them to us and ask that they be carried down by clients, as customs and shipping expenses are prohibitive for them. Usually items are things like jackets, hats, camouflage netting, or boots. If you have some

extra room in your bags, and would not mind carrying things down, outfitters will reimburse you for any expense you incur, and will often throw in some free shotgun shells for your trouble. Let us know if you have an interest in lending a hand.

## Shotgun Cartridges

We strongly recommend that all shot cartridges be purchased in Argentina. Buying them there eliminates baggage hassle and overweight charges, and cartridges available are very good. You may settle your cartridge account either in cash or personal checks.

## Shotguns/Chokes

In selecting which gun you take, it boils down to personal preference. Autoloaders are popular, as are over/under or side by side guns. The quarry dictates that duck hunting in Argentina-with Rosy-Billed Pochards, Pintails, and other "big" ducks being prevalent-that 12 gauge is the gun of choice. Chokes are probably more open that you'd imagine-decoying ducks are generally at close range, and improved cylinder is about right. If you prefer not to bring a gun, we have Berettas autoloaders that you are welcome to use during your stay.

## Shotgun Rental

San Javier also has shotguns available to rent.

## Climate

Santa Fe has a Mediterranean climate. Duck Hunting is a fall and winter activity, and cool mornings, evenings, with an occasional ride in an open boat mean that layers, or a good water fowler's parka are the route to go. Temperatures start in the 50-70 F / 10-21° C range in the early season, and drop to 40-55 F / 5-13° C by July. Showers are also a possibility, and it can be cool, and damp. Skim ice is possible on very cold mornings, though quite rare.

## Seasons

Waterfowl game

Feb 15th – Aug 12th. Guests can shoot in marshes and islands of the river delta or inland in the rice fields.

October 15th to December 15th. It is open only inland in the rice fields.

## Clothing & Equipment

For the Field: Shooting clothes should be light green, green, brown, or camouflage, and any of the marsh patterns are fine. Warm hats and gloves are appropriate for the marshes.-plan carefully-most guests bring too much. A couple light layers, including long underwear, with a hooded rain or waterfowl parka over them will be about right, and if you are beyond a large duffle for a 4-night stay, waders included, you are probably over-packed.

Footwear: Duck shooting dictates that waders or at least hip boots are the best choice for staying dry and warm in any duck shooting situation. You will usually hunt in dry blinds and near shallow water, but thousands of miles from home-always better to be on the safe side. Clothing at the lodge is casual, shirts, sweaters and pants or jeans are appropriate for dinner and by the fire in the evenings.

## Important Accessories for the Field

SHOOTING SAFETY GLASSES - also serve as sunglasses and should be the shatterproof variety. The green or yellow protective glasses that can be worn over regular glasses are good. They have a small side panel, which protects against glare. Available from many shooting sports suppliers.

SHOOTING GLOVES - important item to protect hands from hot shotgun barrels and nicks and blisters from reloading, breaking guns or activating safeties. Golf or batting gloves are a good substitute if you can't find quality, sensitive leather shooting gloves.

MUFF – Ear protection is essential. Many field the expandable silicone plugs are best. These protect your hearing and help prevent headaches.

RECOIL REDUCTION DEVICE - recoil pad to wear under a shirt or shooting vest, or over either.

SOFT PROTECTIVE GUN CASE FOR DAILY USE

SHELL POUCH - one that will hold a box or two of shells - or belt-type pouch or vest. Especially handy for dove and pigeon shooting.

LIGHTWEIGHT HAT - one with a wide brim is best

SMALL FIELD BAG - to carry camera gear and other personal items into the field

INSECT REPELLENT - Mosquitoes or other bothersome insects are very unusual in the field - you might take a small bottle of Cutter's Cream.

CAMERA - The area is scenic and photographic possibilities abound.

FLASHLIGHT

EVENING DRESS - Clothing is casual, with slacks and sport shirt all you need.

MEDICATION - Most people have no stomach problems in this part of Argentina. Nevertheless, it's a good idea, as when travelling anywhere, to take along medication for symptomatic relief. Also, take aspirin, in case you get a shooting headache, in addition to other medications you normally use.

BAND-AIDS - for sore fingers from shooting

NOTE: LAUNDRY SERVICE IS AVAILABLE AT THE LODGE IF DESIRED.

AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE AT THE LODGE: SHELL POUCH, SOFT GUN CASE, LIGHTWEIGHT HAT AND SMALL FIELD BAG.

## Daily Schedule

Mornings start early, with a wake up call well before dark, and breakfast cooked to order at the ranch. Then, a short ride to the duck blinds will put you in your shooting position about twenty minutes before sunrise, with decoys at the ready. You'll start shooting at first light, and return to the lodge after the shoot for lunch and perhaps a short siesta before the afternoon shooting begins, usually about 2:30 or 3pm. The afternoon shoot continues until dark, with return again to the house for dinner and overnight.

## Species

There are 12 common species in this area of Argentina, which is an area called Parana River and the north central lowlands, or wet pampas. A fine book on all of the bird species, including the waterfowl is Tito Narosky's Birds of Argentina and Uruguay, which is available in many bookstores and online retailers. In order of abundance you should see these ducks as they are listed below. Most all whistle, except for the Pochard which purrs, or burrs like the Canvasback.

Yellow Billed Pintail

Rosey-Billed Pochard

Brazilian Teal

White-Faced Whistling Duck

Fulvous Whistling Duck

Speckled Teal

Silver Teal

Red Shoveller

Southern Wigeon

Cinnamon Teal

White Cheeked Pintail

Black headed Duck  
Ring Teal

## Bag Limits

In our part of Argentina, the bag limit is quite generous, but we hope that you will let your conscience be your guide as well, and compare this shooting opportunity to virtually any other waterfowling experience worldwide. Our outfitters impose a limits based on shells fired, and will explain this to you in detail, but know that through our years of experience we find this system to strike the best balance between action and conservation.

## Health

We suggest that you consult with your physician for medical advice on travel to Argentina.

## Gratuities

Gratuities for lodge and field staff are not included in the shoot cost since we feel that tipping, in general, is discretionary.

However, clients have asked that we provide general guidelines; therefore, we suggest:

- USD35 per bird boy, per guest/day
- USD30 to USD40 for the household staff, per guest/day
- A total of USD50 to USD100 for your shooting guide, per person for the total stay.

As an example for a three day stay you will spend approximately USD280 in tips, which is USD95 per day. Our policy is that guests should tip pick-up boys directly in the field. Thus we have no arrangements for including tips in the final bill. For transfers in Buenos Aires, your PE guide will tip the drivers and airport porters but not hotel or restaurant personnel. If you wish to tip your guide, do so at your discretion.

## Currency

The official currency is the Argentine peso, which is no longer tied to the U.S. dollar. However, most shops in Buenos Aires accept dollars or pesos, but if you pay with dollars, expect pesos in change. You'll need cash or credit cards to pay for dinner in Buenos Aires or Cordoba, if you're overnighing there, and also to pay an airport departure tax (approx. USD12) on the domestic airlines and USD

18 for international flights. The lodge accepts payment in cash and personal checks dollars.

## Electric Current

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

## Customs Allowance

Two bottles of liquor and two cartons of cigarettes can be taken into Argentina duty-free. Our suggestion is that you purchase these at the airport before departure. If there is any special brand of liquor that you like we recommend that you purchase it at the duty free.

## Terms & Conditions

Inclusions: All meals in the shooting field, with wines and beer; best available lodging (double occupancy); services of a professional guide; all vehicles and ground transportation in the shooting ground as required by the itinerary; bird-boys as required; hunting license/permits; temporary gun import permit; all payments to landowners for hunting rights; taxes and service charges. Van Transfers from: Cordoba airport (5.5 h. drive), La Zenaida (5 h drive), Santa Fe airport (2 h. drive).

Exclusions: Land transfer or air charter to/from San Javier Lodge originating in Buenos Aires-this will be arranged on a group by group or individual basis. Scheduled air fares required by itinerary from point of origin through return; shot shells; gun rental; all gratuities; telephone calls, laundry/dry cleaning, room service, or items of a strictly personal nature; baggage overweight charges; personal/baggage insurance; passport expense; cost of itinerary modification requested by passenger; transfers in Buenos Aires if your airline schedule requires you to change airports.

## An Important Last Word - Safety

Check guns to make sure they're unloaded before leaving the ranch - recheck in the field and again on departure. Don't be offended if outfitters check them again. Everyone wants to be as safe as possible. Magazine shotguns should be carried with the receiver open; uncased doubles always broken when walking in the field, in a vehicle, or any time when not in shooting position. Don't hand loaded shotguns to bird-boys. Also, don't let bird-boys shoot. Some know how and are competent

shots, but this simply introduces another element of risk.

If you are taking a break from shooting, be aware of others around you. If you are in the open, you may be flaring birds away from others who are shooting. It is a good idea to always wear safety shooting glasses to protect your eyes. And protect your ears with plugs or a quality headset type of ear protector. Many times during the shoot there will be birds in the air, including songbirds, swans and shorebirds. Most of these are protected and should not be shot under any circumstance. The basic rule is stick with ducks. Check with the outfitter for any other game birds.

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