

RIVER PLATE OUTFITTERS

“La Zona” Dorado Fishing & Dove Shooting

PRE-TRIP INFORMATION

PRICE

Shooting: \$495 per person, per day, plus shells, gun permits OR gun rental, hunting license and tips. Single occupancy (Two night/four shoot minimum)

Fishing: \$4250 per person, five nights/four fishing days plus lures and tips. Single occupancy

IF SHOOTING AND FISHING

A passport is required to enter Argentina and Uruguay. Visas are not required. The dove shooting is done in Argentina, the fishing is based just across the border into Uruguay.

Accommodations for the first part of the trip are at Estancia Santa Rosa, near the Entre Rios Province town of Gualeguay, three hours northeast by van from Buenos Aires. The dorado fishing area is three hours north of Santa Rosa. On the arrival day you hunt doves in the afternoon, then one—three full days, then again the next morning, have lunch and travel up to La Zona/Salto Grande later that afternoon. There you cross the Uruguay River, clear Customs and arrive in time for settling in, cocktails and dinner. Accommodations there are at the lovely Horacio Quiroga Resort Hotel, just above the Salto Grande dam on the Uruguayan side of the river. **This will be on a Sunday night, all fishing is Monday-Thursday with departure back to Buenos Aires on Friday morning.**

If you wish to bring your own guns the process is simple for both Argentina and Uruguay. 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.

Upon your arrival in Buenos Aires, the River Plate Outfitters representative will meet you in baggage claim and escort you to the gun clearance room where you pay a \$100 gun permit fee for each firearm. **Please make sure you have this amount of cash on hand when you arrive (US dollars accepted).**

Of course the above does not apply if you rent guns from River Plate.

SHOTGUN RENTAL/FISHING RODS

Good-condition Benelli and Beretta autoloaders and Browning over/unders are available to rent in 20 or 12 gauge at \$50/gun per day. If you rent, you avoid the \$100/gun permit fee and the hassle of gun clearance at the airport. Spinning rods/reels and baitcasting rods/reels are included in the price. Lures will be available for purchase at the fishing area. Fly fishermen will need to bring all of their own equipment and flies—we are happy to advise.

GUNS/CHOKES

If you bring guns, we suggest you bring two in case of breakdown. 12, 20 or 28-gauge are all suitable. For chokes, we suggest improved/modified for double guns and modified for single barrels. Screw-in chokes can provide flexibility. Make sure your guns are in good working order before you leave—this is high-volume shooting, away from gunsmiths. Take extra parts for repair if you have them. Gun cleaning equipment is not necessary—the lodge cleans all firearms daily.

You should transport your guns in lockable hard cases, or packed well in a duffel bag. Even in a hard case, the gun must be disassembled. We also suggest a lightweight, storable soft case to carry guns into the field.

Of course, none of this applies if you rent guns.

Upon your return to the U.S., the Customs authorities frequently require you to show 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 international departure airport. PLEASE DO THIS TO AVOID ANY HASSLES.

PRE-TRIP INFORMATION

SHELLS

All shells should be purchased in Argentina. The quality is quite good, and buying them there eliminates hassles and possible overweight charges. Cost of shells will be around \$13/box (subject to change). Payment for shells can be made with cash or a personal check, and will be handled as you depart. Travelers checks or credit cards are not accepted.

SEASONS/CLIMATE/CLOTHING

Prime season for both fishing and shooting is September–April. Those months are Argentina’s spring, summer and fall (the opposite of our seasons). Lows will be 50° to 60°. Highs run 60° to 90°, depending on the season.

The fishing clothing/equipment list is on the following page.

For the shooting, use dark green/brown or camo clothes with a corresponding hat. Ankle-height shoes or boots are perfectly adequate. Always take a raincoat to the field. Evening wear will be very informal—whatever is most comfortable, including hunting clothes if you wish.

SHOOTING LIMITS

Bag limits in most provinces of Argentina are very liberal, and on some species that are considered “plagues” there are no limits. There are no limits on dove or pigeon shooting in Entre Rios Province. On doves, hunters generally shoot from 1,000 to 1,500 rounds a day, depending on conditions and personal inclination.

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.

ITEMS TO INCLUDE FOR SHOOTING

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

IF FISHING ONLY

Guests are met upon arrival in Buenos Aires and transferred approximately six hours to the Horacio Quiroga Resort Hotel, near the town of Salto, just across the Argentina border into Uruguay. Upon arrival you can settle in and get a good night’s sleep before starting your full days of fishing. After the last day of fishing, you again overnight, then depart midday for the return drive to Buenos Aires or possible commercial air return.

RODS/REELS/LURES

Use of the outfitter’s spinning rods/reels and baitcasting rods/reels are included in the price. Lures will be available for purchase at the fishing area, however we advise you take your own rods and reels and some of your own lures. A list of suggestions is below. **All fly fishermen will need to bring all of their own gear and flies.**

PRE-TRIP INFORMATION

ITEMS FOR DORADO FISHING

- Camera with extra battery
- Small container of bug repellent
- Light raincoat (brown, green, camo, etc.)
- Boat bag
- Multi-tool or pocketknife
- Reading glasses and reading material
- Toiletry items
- Prescription drugs
- Zip-lock bag or case to protect camera
- Lip balm
- Travel alarm clock and small flashlight
- Garbage bags for dirty laundry
- Cotton or microfiber shirts for fishing and lodge
- T-shirts
- Cotton or microfiber shorts
- Cotton or microfiber casual pants for fishing and lodge wear
- Boat shoes
- Fishing hat
- Line clippers or scissors
- Small wire cutters
- Knife
- Hook sharpener
- Small lure boxes/fly boxes
- Small fishing pack or vest
- Amber polarized fishing glasses
- Fishing pliers
- Fishing gloves

FLIES

Large muddler/deceiver flies #3 to #5/0 in combinations of yellow, orange, black, red, and blue with lots of flash and some with white underbellies. 5 to 7" in length.

FLY FISHING TACKLE

9' to 10' fly rod for 9 to 10 weight line
Reel for 9 to 10 weight rod
Floating fly line for 9 to 10 weight rods
Fast sink tip line for 9 to 10 weight rods
40-50 lb. range of leader/tippet
Plastic-coated 40-50 lb. steel tippet material

If you wish to bring your own baitcasting or spinning rods and reels, we suggest:

BAITCASTING/SPINNING TACKLE

- Medium heavy/heavy 7 foot rods
- Medium baitcasting/spinning reel for 25-40 lb. line
- Ten 50 lb. 6" wire leaders with strong swivels in "dun-lock" or "coast-lock" style.
- Braided lines such as Spectra, Spiderwire and Super Braid in 65 pound test.

BAITCASTING/SPINNING LURES

- 1 oz. Pixie Spoon orange, pink and hot orange inserts
- Johnson Spoon 5/8 oz. and 1 oz. in chrome color
- Strike King Sexy Spoon 4" to 5 1/2" in all fish colors
- Rapala Saltwater X-Rap 5 1/2" or larger in silver, glass ghost and bunker colors
- Rebel or Rapala broken minnow 5 1/2" to 7" in fish colors. (Or similar lures in other brands. Quantity of ten each. Size matters.)

CATCH AND RELEASE

In the spirit of sportsmanship and preserving our world-class fishing, we encourage catch and release on all species. Catch and release is mandatory on Dorado.

AIRLINE SCHEDULING

Many excellent carriers, such as American, Delta, United Airlines, Lan Chile, Aerolineas Argentinas and Varig offer flight service to Buenos Aires, Argentina, from Houston, Dallas, New York, Miami, Atlanta, or Los Angeles. All of the flights depart the U. S. in the evening and arrive Argentina early to late morning the next day. Rod & Gun Resources will be happy to assist with your air travel or you are welcome to purchase tickets on your own. We are in constant contact with our outfitters and our transfer agency—both organizations do an outstanding job handling incoming/outgoing transfers.

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.

PRE-TRIP INFORMATION

CURRENCY

The official currency of Argentina is the peso. The exchange rate is roughly 3.8 pesos to the dollar. You will need cash in dollars or pesos for the gun permits and also for the airport departure tax (around \$15). Visa, MasterCard and American Express are widely accepted in larger cities.

TRIP CANCELLATION & BAGGAGE INSURANCE

You can contact *Travel Insured International* 800-243-3174 or *Sportsman's Travel Insurance* 866-877-3241. Check your homeowner's insurance for coverage of your shotguns and baggage contents while traveling.

ELECTRIC CURRENT

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

GRATUITIES

Shooting: We suggest \$50 per day per shooter in cash as a general guideline. This will be distributed by the outfitters to luggage handlers, pick-up boys, and lodge staff. Camouflage caps, shirts, or other shooting-related items are also appreciated by younger bird boys as an extra tip.

Fishing: A pair of anglers should tip \$50 total per day to their fishing guide. All tips can be paid at the end of the trip.

TIME

When we are on Daylight Savings Time here in the U.S., Argentina is Eastern Time plus one hour (it's later in Argentina). The remainder of the year they are Eastern Time plus two hours.

LANGUAGE

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

TAXIDERMY

For excellent fishing taxidermy contact: Ron Kelly with Artistic Wildlife Gallery at www.fishcreations.com 214-663-5299

IN BUENOS AIRES

Shopping: Most shops are generally open all day to 7 p.m. on weekdays and until 1 p.m. on Saturdays. Florida Street is for pedestrians only and is lined with many attractive shops. One example is Mundo del Cuero (World of Leather) which 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. In the Recoleta (the most upscale downtown area with good shopping and sidewalk cafes), we suggest Lola for Mediterranean, or Las Nazarenas for steaks and mixed-grill.

Keep in mind that Buenos Aires is a dynamic dining environment—even with these recommendations, it is still wise to ask your transfer agent or hotel concierge to make recommendations or assist with reservations for any restaurant. You should plan on eating a little later than you may be used to in the U. S.—many restaurants do not begin serving dinner until 8 p.m.

HELPFUL HINTS

Get to the airport plenty 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 (drab colors are best) and **always take it with you** on each outing. If it doesn't rain, they make an excellent windbreaker.

Pack sensibly. Try to use soft-sided luggage and take only as much clothing as you will need. Always take your passport, airline tickets, medications, camera equipment and valuables in a carry-on such as a backpack or small valise.

Bandanas are a good idea for protecting your neck against the sun, and they work well as an emergency headcover if you misplace your hat and need to protect your slightly balding head.

Bring two pairs of sunglasses.