

ROD GUN



ARGENTINA'S
FINEST MIXED-BAG
BIRD HUNTING



In all the world, there is no place that can compare to Argentina for its variety and abundance of game birds. In the provinces of La Pampa in the west and Entre Rios in the east, huge populations of doves plague farmers, and ducks of many species fill marshlands that stretch to the horizon. In the “big country” region of Buenos Aires Province to the south, geese, ducks, doves, pigeons and perdiz prosper in areas virtually undisturbed and unpopulated

“El Retiro had a great variety of ducks and the number of ducks was equally amazing. Lucinda and I had one duck hunt that would equal an entire season of hunting in Arkansas!”

Tal Goldsby, Hughes, AR

May through mid-August (winter in Argentina) is the season for hunting mixed bag. The latitude is similar to central Texas, and the climate offers nice winter weather, with lows in the 30s and 40s and highs in the 60s and 70s throughout the long season. Aside from the great shooting and pleasant weather, you will find Argentine hospitality to be both genuine and generous. Even in remote areas, dining is terrific and — as you can see from the photos — lodge accommodations range from very nice to opulent.



Rod & Gun Resources

Your Hunting & Fishing Travel Resource

206 Ranch House Road

Kerrville, TX 78028

1-800-211-4753

venture@rodgunresources.com

For additional information and images, please visit us online at www.argentinabirdhunting.com

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"A 28 gauge over/under, a stylish Brittany on point what seemed like every few seconds...upland hunting doesn't get any better than this. Then follow that up with a 30-box afternoon on doves that same day. Estancia El Rincon is a game paradise."

Lee Hunter, Buda, TX

On our Argentina bird hunts, we prefer small parties of four to eight guns, in order to assure the best hunting and

individual personal attention for our guests, and as always, we will carefully consider seasonal variations, preferred species and budget. These programs are located in the most

abundant of habitats, and have consistently proven to provide Argentina's highest standard in shooting, equipment, guides, lodging, food and drink, and, of course, caring and attentive personal service.



For La Pampeana, guests are delivered to the lodge via private vehicle, stopping for lunch and duck shooting along the way.

For Cerro de la Cruz or El Retiro, guests usually take the one hour flight

COST:

Trips range from \$850-\$985/night

PRIME TIME:

Early May through mid-August

HOW TO GET THERE:

Buenos Aires is best reached from Miami, Atlanta, Dallas or Houston on American Airlines, United Airlines, Delta Airlines or Continental Airlines.

from Buenos Aires to Bahia Blanca, then transfer one hour to the lodge.

For Santa Rosa or El Rincon, guests are met in Buenos Aires and transferred via private vehicle three hours to the estancia.

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Ducks

Argentina hunting offers many species of wild ducks, none of which are found in the Northern Hemisphere. Predominately, they are Chilean pintail, Brazilian pintail, Argentine widgeon, Brazilian, silver, white-fronted and ring-necked teal and two species of tree ducks. A very sporty and abundant duck is the rosy-billed pochard, very similar to our canvasback, which responds well to calls and comes confidently into decoys.



Magellan Geese

Most prevalent is the big Magellan goose, named after the explorer Ferdinand Magellan. The male is snowy white with black-tipped wings, and the average weight is around nine pounds, similar to our Canadas. The second type is the wary ashy-headed goose, with rust breast, gray head and black and white wings. These birds nest in the far south and move into Buenos Aires Province in early May and stay throughout August.



Eared Doves & Pigeons

Argentina's most sought-after quarry is the eared dove, similar in size and flight to our mourning dove. Shooting is

always exceptional in La Pampa, Salta, Buenos Aires, Entre Rios and Cordoba Provinces, where the birds do not migrate and populations prosper into literally the millions. Two species of Argentina wild pigeon can be found in Buenos Aires, La Pampa and Salta Provinces - the picazuro and spot-winged. They are fast and hard to bring down and are particularly fun to hunt in grain fields over decoys.

Wild Spotted Tinamou or Perdiz

By far the most common of Argentina's upland birds is the wild spotted tinamou, called perdiz by the natives and resembling a small partridge. They fly well when flushed and they are superb table fare. Hunters enjoy careful dog work from well-trained pointers, Brittanys and shorthairs, and the average point comes every four-five minutes! Like their North

American cousins the bobwhite quail, Argentina's perdiz are a grassland species that feeds mainly on seeds and green shoots, and consequently, they prefer an environment of short grass pastures or fallow land, with no thorns or cactus.



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THE DESTINATIONS



La Pampeana

Long known as a land of gauchos and wide open spaces, eastern La Pampa Province has been discovered to be absolutely loaded with doves, ducks, pigeons and perdiz of two different species. River Plate Wingshooting's program here offers a true grand slam of bird gunning.



Duck shooting is equal to the best found anywhere in Argentina and may include shooting over small or large ponds and irrigation canals, which provide for incredible decoying. Also, decoying well are the popular wild pigeons. Expect hundreds of birds coming in to decoy from all directions. This is truly a great shooting experience that rivals the pigeon shooting in England and Paraguay. Skilled use of European-style carousels provides a decoying experience one might call "dry land duck hunting."

The Elegant Crested Tinamou (or giant perdiz) is rarely seen in Argentina, but abounds in the La Pampa brush and Calden forest which covers about 2 million acres. The giant perdiz is about the size of a hen pheasant with similar plumage minus the long tail. Expect 5-6

flushes over dogs every half hour of easy walking in the short grass and scrub. Every flush is a heart-stopping explosion of wings, making the giant perdiz one of the premier sporting birds of the world.

The dove shooting here can be enjoyed at any time of day, any time of the year. Eastern La Pampa is an arid place and there is much grain production, but not many lakes, rivers and places for birds to drink. This fact concentrates the birds as they come in to water, and the gunners, strategically placed near the water, experience shooting that can exceed the volume and intensity of Cordoba or any other South American location.

Cerro de la Cruz / El Retiro

Southern Buenos Aires Province is the only region of Argentina with plentiful populations of all of Argentina's game bird species — geese, ducks, doves, pigeons and perdiz. This is also the most beautiful region found anywhere in Argentina for bird hunting. Many of our guests say the surroundings resemble the American West, so when a bird dog goes on point or a flock of geese comes into the decoys here, the backdrop really adds to the experience.



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This unique program offers superb hunting for all of these species, all accessed from the same lodge. You may opt to hunt geese in the morning and doves in the afternoon one day and another day go for ducks in the morning and perdiz that afternoon. Or you might choose to hunt doves all day and enjoy a lavish *asado* picnic in the field. Well-known outfitter, Floro Lavalle, allows such flexibility and has so many quality options that individual guests can concentrate on their favorite species.

El Rincon / Santa Rosa

River Plate Wingshooting's program in Entre Rios Province is legendary. Estancia El Rincon and Estancia Santa Rosa offer ducks, doves and perdiz 30-45 minutes away. The secret for this huge population of ducks and the day-to-day high-volume consistency of our shoots is River Plate's supplemental feeding program. The shoots are centered in a vast marsh between two great rivers. Together these three bodies of water constitute perhaps the most important waterfowl area in the world.

Entre Rios is a province that is rich in cereal grains. Vast cultivation of corn, wheat, and sorghum has caused a veritable explosion of dove populations, which must certainly number in the tens of millions. You will be astounded at the clouds of doves coming into the roost at all angles.

Hunters can expect to shoot a limit of 15 perdiz each in 1-2 hours, within a 30-minute drive from the estancia. River Plate's well-mannered dogs and the beautiful countryside will ease you into surroundings reminiscent of days gone by.



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ARGENTINA MIXED-BAG SHOOTING THE LODGING

La Pampeana is operated by River Plate Wingshooting. The 100-year-old country estate was completely refurbished in 2007, and has been returned to its former majesty. It features hardwood floors, six bedrooms, several dining and cocktail areas, ten acres of gardens and landscaping and true end-of-the road privacy. The lodge is located in far eastern La Pampa Province, about 250 miles west of Buenos Aires.

El Rincon and its sister lodge, **Santa Rosa**, are both operated by River Plate Wingshooting, one of the pioneering Argentine outfitters who have hosted literally tens of thousands of sportsmen, and who are still among the best of the best operators. Both facilities are true country mansions surrounded by many acres of huge trees and gardens. Each lodge has seven bedrooms. They are located three hours northeast of Buenos Aires in Entre Rios Province, in the midst of a region defined by marshland, pothole lakes, grain production and very few human inhabitants. The nearest towns are Gualeguay and Gualeguaychu.

Outfitter Floro Lavalle is a fourth generation Argentine of German pioneer descent, who has spent his entire life hunting, fishing and adventuring in southern Buenos Aires Province. He has two beautiful lodges, both of which are huge, European-style private homes and both of which are located on large private ranches surrounded by gently flowing mountains and hillsides. Floro lives and hosts hunters in his home, **El Retiro** and

also accommodates parties in his nearby **Cerro de la Cruz**. The nearby town of Sierra de la Ventana is a summer destination for vacationing Argentines, who enjoy the beautiful scenery, golf, fishing, hiking, shopping and other activities.



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