

SALTA

Dove & Pigeon Shooting at Chacu Lodge

PRE-TRIP INFORMATION

PRICE

\$650 per person, per day

TRAVEL/GUN PERMITS/ENTRY

Salta is accessed by traveling overnight from the United States to Buenos Aires and then connecting to Salta via Aerolineas Argentinas jet service. If you bring guns, our representative will meet you in the *Renar* (gun clearance) office upon your arrival at Buenos Aires' international airport and assist. The fee is \$100 per gun. **Please make sure you have cash on hand when you arrive (US dollars accepted).**

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. **KEEP IN MIND THAT IT TAKES LONGER TO CLEAR THE GUNS AT CUSTOMS THAN IT USED TO—SOMETIMES AN HOUR OR MORE—SO YOU MIGHT CONSIDER RENTING SHOTGUNS FROM THE OUTFITTER.**

✎ IMPORTANT ✎

Upon your return to the U.S., the 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 international departure city airport. **PLEASE DO THIS TO AVOID ANY HASSLES.**

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.

SHELLS

All shells must be purchased in Argentina. The quality is quite good, and the outfitter will always have ample quantities. The cost of shells is tied closely to the cost of lead and fluctuates a bit. Generally you should expect to pay \$13/box for 20 and 12 gauge and a bit more for 28 gauge. **THESE PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE** Payment for shells can be made with cash or a personal check, and will be handled as you depart. Traveler's Checks or credit cards are not accepted.

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 in the country, away from gunsmiths. Take extra parts for repair if you have them. Gun cleaning equipment is not necessary—the lodge cleans all firearms daily for a small fee. .

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.***

SEASONS/CLIMATE/CLOTHING

Dove hunting is excellent year-round in Salta Province. Pigeons are best in the cooler months of April—September. Golden dorado fishing is best in the warmer months of October-March. During the colder months, lows will be 35° to 50°. Highs run 50° to 80°. During the warmer months, lows will be 50° to 60° and highs will be 80° to 90°. Generally, Salta is much closer to the equator than other Argentine destinations and has a milder climate.

PRE-TRIP INFORMATION

For doves and pigeons, use dark green/brown or camo clothes with a corresponding hat. Ankle-height shoes or boots are perfectly adequate. Pants are better than shorts due to the occasional irritation from gnats or no-see-ums. Always take a raincoat to the field. Recommended fishing clothes are listed on page 2. Evening wear will be very informal—whatever is most comfortable, including hunting clothes if you wish.

SHOTGUN/ROD RENTAL

Good-condition Benelli and Beretta autoloaders are available to rent in 20 or 12 gauge at \$75/gun per day. Both fly rods/reels and spinning rods/reels are also available for rental at \$25/rod per day.

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 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
- Sunscreen

ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR DORADO FISHING

Dorado fishing at Chacu Lodge is done either by floating larger rivers and fishing from the boat or wadefishing smaller rivers. Chacu has excellent spinning rods & reels and fly rods and reels available for rent, along with lure/fly flies to be purchased at cost. So anglers will only need to bring these additional items:

- Several cotton or microfiber long-sleeved shirts
- Several pairs of shorts (weather permitting)
- A pair(s) of nylon/microfiber pants for fishing/wading.
- Wading boots or wading sandals

- Fishing hat
- Fishing pack or bag
- Amber polarized fishing glasses
- Fishing gloves (optional)

Fly Fishermen should also bring the following:

- 10-30 lb. range of tippet material
- Plastic-coated 30 lb. steel tippet material
- Fishing pliers
- Hook sharpener
- Fly vest or fanny pack

Large Muddler/deceiver flies #2 to #3/0 in combinations of yellow, orange, brown, black, red, and blue with flash and some with white underbellies.

Flies can be ordered from Dawn Smith, (830) 522-4032 (e-mail address: jwdawn@omniglobal.net). Please order well in advance of your departure.

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

SHOOTING LIMITS

Bag limits in most provinces of Argentina are very liberal, and on some species that are considered “plagues” there are no limits. The dove shooting in Salta is in this category, and consequently, there are no limits. Hunters generally shoot from 1,000 to 3,000 rounds a day, sometimes more, depending on conditions and personal inclination. Pigeon hunters are limited to 200 pigeons per day.

CATCH AND RELEASE: In the spirit of sportsmanship and preserving our world-class fishing, we encourage catch and release on all species.

AIRLINE SCHEDULING

As mentioned earlier, many excellent carriers, such as American, Delta, United, Continental, Lan Chile, Aerolineas Argentinas and Varig offer flight service to Buenos Aires, Argentina, from Dallas, New York, Houston, 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.

We are in constant contact with our outfitters and our transfer agency—both organizations do an outstanding job handling incoming/outgoing transfers.

PRE-TRIP INFORMATION

CURRENCY

The official currency of Argentina is the peso. The exchange rate is roughly 2.8 pesos to the dollar. You will need cash in dollars or pesos for the gun permits and also for the airport departure tax (around \$18). Visa, MasterCard and American Express are widely accepted in larger cities.

TRIP CANCELLATION & BAGGAGE INSURANCE

We offer applications through *Travel Insured International*. You may want to 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

Gratuities for hotel and field staff are not included in the hunt cost, and 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. 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.

If you spend some time in Buenos Aires or Salta City, the standard restaurant tip is 10 to 15%.

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.

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, and Katrine for Mediterranean.

In the Recoleta (an upscale area near downtown with good shopping and sidewalk cafes), we suggest Lola for Mediterranean and 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 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 plenty early on your day of departure. You will have spent a lot of money on the trip, so start off on the right foot. 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. And, as mentioned earlier, 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/fishermen have a nice dry raincoat in their guestroom at the lodge. If it doesn't rain, they make an excellent outer shell for cool mornings.

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.

Bandannas 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.