

Bird Watching Tour “Red-Fronted Macaw” (3 days, 2 nights)

➤ Description

In the San Carlos area of the Omereque municipality in the Cochabamba Department of Bolivia, on the banks of the Mizque river, BirdLife International has identified one of the key places for observing the now-rare Red-fronted macaws (*Ara rubrogenys*), that are endemic to the high-valleys of the Cochabamba Department, and that are threatened with extinction. In a joint project with three local communities, a lodge has been built with space enough for up to eight visitors. The lodge has been planned and built to satisfy the requirements of bird-watchers, a very specific tourist segment.

The lodge is situated across the river from a massive hard rock breeding cliff which serves as the most important breeding area for the Red-fronted Macaw, and was recently converted into a 124 acre (50 ha) natural reserve protected by Asociacion Armonia (BirdLife Bolivia). For much of the breeding period the area is full of activity with not only Red-fronted Macaws, but also Mitred Parakeets, Yellow-chevroned Parakeets, Blue-fronted Parrots, and Cliff Parakeets flying back and forth from the cliff face. The area is frequently visited by Andean Condors and Peregrine Falcons. One hundred and thirty birds have been found in the area. The lodge is located in a particularly beautiful area, framed by red-toned mountains, a river with crystalline waters, and the typical vegetation of the dry valleys.

The Red-fronted Macaw is present at the cliff throughout the year, but the best time to visit the site is from January to early May while there is all day breeding activity.

➤ Program

- First day: In the morning pick up from the hotel in Santa Cruz and trip by private transport to San Carlos (Duration 7-8 hours), Lunch at the beautiful village of Samaipata
- Second day: Observation of the Red-Fronted Macaw by hiking along the banks of the Mizque river (In the morning hiking trip along the top of the cayon enjoying the panoramic look-out over the whole valley of the Mizque river and the agricultural producing areas of the local farmers, in the afternoon hiking trip along the river Mizque to the “Pucara Canyon”)
- Third Day: Bird watching in the early morning, and later return to Santa Cruz

➤ The package includes

- Private transport
- Specialized local guide (Spanish)
- Optional: Guide in English/German (Price on request!)
- Two nights accommodation in a lodge/cabin with shared bathroom
- Full board

➤ Prices per person

- 2 Pax: USD
- 3-4 Pax: USD
- 5-6 Pax: USD

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