Chile

Fuegian Snipe Extension

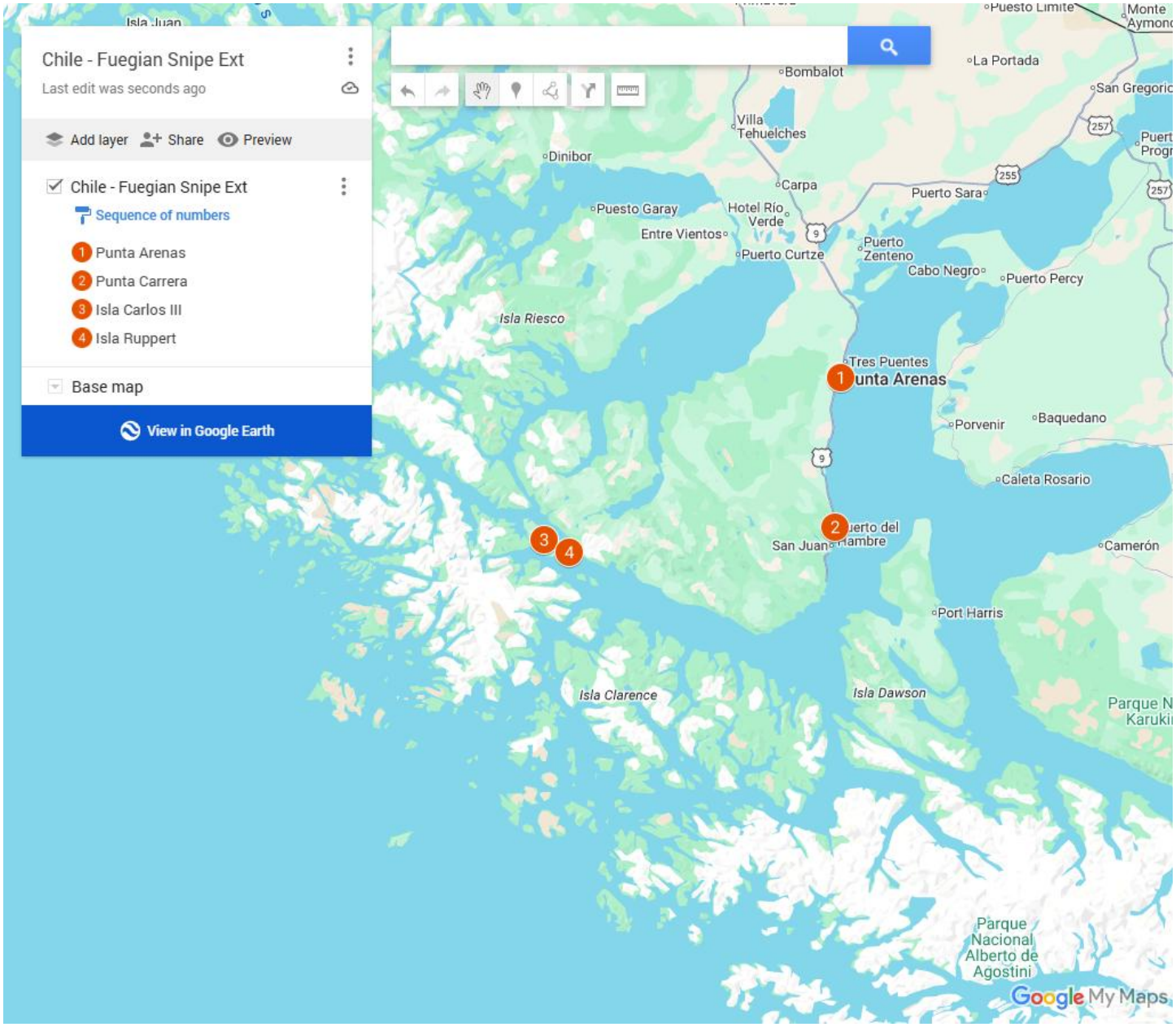


Fuegian Snipe & chick

This exciting extension explores the remote waterways of the Francisco Coloane Marine Park in the heart of the Strait of Magellan. Spending three nights aboard the comfortable M/V Estoa, we will navigate through a spectacular landscape of rugged islands, snow-capped mountains and pristine Patagonian channels during the height of the austral summer. A major focus of the voyage is the elusive and highly sought-after Fuegian Snipe, one of southern South America's most enigmatic bird species. The region's nutrient-rich waters also support an important seasonal concentration of Humpback Whales, with chances for Sei Whale, Peale's Dolphin, South American Sea Lion and South American Fur Seal are frequent. Birding is further enhanced by regular sightings of Black-browed Albatross, Southern Giant Petrel, Imperial Cormorant, Rock Shag, Flightless Steamer Duck and other characteristic Patagonian seabirds. Combining the search for one of the continent's premier birding targets with exceptional marine mammal viewing and breathtaking scenery, this voyage offers an unforgettable exploration of one of Patagonia's last great wilderness areas.

Itinerary & Map

Day 1	**Arrival in Punta Arenas, drive to Punta Carrera, sail towards Isla Carlos III**
Days 2 & 3	**Francisco Coloane Archipelago (Isla Carlos III, Ruppert & Charles)**
Day 4	**Arrive in Punta Carrera, drive to Punta Arenas & final departure**



Birding sites in detail

Punta Carrera, sail towards Isla Carlos III. Departing Punta Carrera, we enter the historic Strait of Magellan and begin our journey towards the remote Francisco Coloane Archipelago. The crossing provides our first opportunities for Patagonian seabirding, with regular sightings of Black-browed Albatross, Southern Giant Petrel, Imperial Cormorant, Rock Shag, South American Tern, Dolphin Gull and Flightless Steamer-Duck. Sheltered bays and rocky shorelines support Kelp Goose and Magellanic Oystercatcher, while Andean Condor may occasionally be seen soaring above the rugged coastline. Marine mammals are a constant possibility throughout the voyage, with Humpback Whale, Peale's Dolphin, South American Sea Lion and South American Fur Seal all regularly encountered. As we approach Isla Carlos III, we enter one of the most productive marine ecosystems in southern Chile, renowned for its spectacular wildlife concentrations and breathtaking scenery.



Dolphin Gull by Dušan Brinkhuizen

Francisco Coloane Archipelago (Isla Carlos III, Ruppert & Charles). Over the next two days we explore the pristine waterways, sheltered bays and remote islands of the Francisco Coloane Archipelago, one of Patagonia's premier wildlife destinations. A major objective is the elusive Fuegian Snipe, a highly sought-after southern South American endemic whose breeding habitats occur within the archipelago's remote peatlands and coastal meadows. Other notable landbirds may include Austral Thrush, White-crested Elaenia, Austral Blackbird, Dark-faced Ground Tyrant and Crested Caracara.



Fuegian Steamer Duck by Dušan Brinkhuizen

The surrounding waters support one of the most important seasonal concentrations of Humpback Whales in South America, offering exceptional viewing opportunities. Additional marine mammals may include Sei Whale, Peale's Dolphin, Chilean Dolphin, South American Sea Lion and South American Fur Seal. Seabirding is consistently rewarding, with regular encounters with Black-browed Albatross, Southern Giant Petrel, Magellanic Diving Petrel, Imperial Cormorant, Rock Shag, Fuegian Steamer Duck, Dolphin Gull, Kelp Goose, Magellanic Oystercatcher and South American Tern. The dramatic backdrop of snow-capped mountains, glaciated fjords and untouched Patagonian wilderness completes an unforgettable wildlife experience in one of the southernmost birding destinations on Earth.

Tour Grading & Key

Overall Ease		Comfortable. Suitable for most birders and wildlife enthusiasts.
Birding Ease		Moderate to easy. Many species offer excellent viewing opportunities, though some key targets, including Fuegian Snipe, can be challenging to locate.
Accommodation		Comfortable. Three nights aboard the M/V Estoa in twin-share cabins.
Walking / Trails		Moderate. Although walks are generally short, birding for Fuegian Snipe may involve traversing uneven, boggy ground, wet peatlands and rough coastal terrain, sometimes with challenging footing.
Vehicles / Roads		Limited road travel. Group transfers between Punta Arenas and Punta Carrera, with the majority of the tour spent aboard the M/V Estoa.
Photography		Good to excellent. Outstanding opportunities for marine mammals, seabirds and dramatic Patagonian landscapes. Weather, sea conditions and variable light can occasionally present challenges.
Annoyances		Temperatures can range from cool to cold, with strong winds and occasional rain likely. Sea conditions may at times be rough.

Financial Arrangements and Important Notes

Tour dates, prices, single supplement, approximate flight costs and tour spaces are displayed on our website.

Tour inclusions:

- All meals from dinner on day 1 to breakfast on day 4;
- Bottled drinking water;
- All lodgings;
- All ground transportation during the tour;
- All reserve entrance fees;
- All guiding services
- Tips for local guides, drivers and services.

Tour exclusions:

- Visa fees;
- ANY flights;
- Any beverages (including mini-bar charges at hotels);
- Optional excursions;
- Special gratuities;
- Telephone calls, laundry and other items of a personal nature.

Single Supplement: The single supplement cost for this tour will be charged if you wish to have single accommodation. If RBL cannot provide you with a rooming partner for these nights although you choose to share, the single supplement will become applicable. We will make all reasonable efforts to ensure that a rooming partner is found if you do wish to share.

Tipping: As noted above, gratuities (drivers, hotel staff, restaurants etc.) are included on this tour. However, this does NOT include your Rockjumper leader/s. If you feel that they have given you excellent service, it is entirely appropriate to tip them at your discretion.

- **Due to constantly fluctuating exchange rates, we quote our tours in 4 currencies. The tour price is fixed only in the currency printed in bold, and the actual cost in the other currencies listed will be adjusted according to prevailing exchange rates at the time of final invoicing. The same applies to approximate flight and single supplement rates.**
- **Rates are based upon group tariffs; if the tour does not have sufficient registrations, a small group supplement will be offered to confirm the tour.**
- **Tour prices are subject to unforeseen increases in tour related costs and may have to be adjusted as a result.**
- **The designated tour leader(s) may be changed at short notice due to unforeseen circumstances.**
- **The itinerary is indicative only. Changes may need to be made to the order in which the tour is conducted, or some of the venues we visit closer to departure. We will attempt to adhere as close to the original program as possible.**

- To ensure your comfort and that of your companions, please limit yourself to one medium-sized suitcase or duffel bag (20 kg / 44 lb) and one carry-on bag, as space in the vehicles is limited.
- Weather and sea conditions in the Strait of Magellan can be highly variable and may necessitate changes to the planned itinerary. Any such adjustments will be made at the discretion of the captain and tour leader in the interests of safety and to maximise wildlife-viewing opportunities.
- Seasickness: Participants prone to motion sickness should take appropriate precautions, as sea conditions in the Strait of Magellan and surrounding channels can occasionally be rough.



Length:	19.3 m, 63.5 ft.
Beam:	6m, 19.6 ft.
Draught:	2.5m, 8.2 ft.
GRT:	99 tonnes
Speed:	10 knots
Crew:	4
Passengers:	12
Accommodations:	4 double cabins
	1 quadruple cabin
	4 bathrooms
	Spacious area (restaurar
Liferafts:	2x 25 people
Auxiliary boats:	2x 8-passenger zodiacs

M/V Estoa by FS Expeditions

Arrival and Departure Details

The tour begins in Punta Arenas on Day 1 with a scheduled group transfer to Punta Carrera, where we board the M/V Estoa. The tour concludes in Punta Arenas on Day 4 following disembarkation and transfer from Punta Carrera.

The above information in respect of arrivals and departures is a guide only. Precise arrival and departure information will be sent to you in your Tour Confirmation package once the tour has been officially confirmed. If you wish to arrive early and/or depart late and would like assistance in this regard, kindly contact the Rockjumper office.

Presidente Carlos Ibáñez International Airport (IATA: PUQ) is the main port of entry and departure and is easily reached via Comodoro Arturo Merino Benítez International Airport, Santiago (IATA: SCL).

Visa requirements differ by country, nationality of the traveller and duration and purpose of your intended stay. It may be necessary to obtain a visa or an electronic travel authorization in advance of your travel. It is therefore vitally important that you check with your travel agent/consulate/embassy for exact visa requirements.

DO NOT book any flights until the Rockjumper Team have officially confirmed the tour.