

# ARGENTINA MIXED-BAG SHOOTING OVERVIEW



In all the world, there is no place that can compare to Argentina for its variety and abundance of game birds. In the provinces



Our Argentina bird hunting lodges offer true luxury.

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 lodge accommodations range from very nice to opulent.



*“Cerro 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

of Corrientes in the north and Entre Rios in the east, huge populations of doves and pigeons 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.

*“A 28 gauge over/under, a stylish German shorthair on point what seemed like every few seconds—upland hunting doesn’t get any better than this. Estancia La Posada is a game paradise.”*

Steve Stutts, Rome, GA

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, your preferred species and your budget. These three 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.



Argentina offers shooting for ducks, geese, doves, pigeons and perdiz.

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May through August (winter in Argentina) is the season for hunting mixed bag. The latitude is similar to central Texas, and as such, 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

## ROD GUN



### **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 unique program offers superb hunting for each of these species, all accessed from the charming Cerro de la Cruz, or its sister lodge, El Retiro.

### **El Rincon/San Ambrosio**

These lodges offer Argentina's best combination of high-volume dove hunting, classic duck hunting for many species and excellent perdiz hunting over well-trained bird dogs. Both estancias are true country mansions.

### **La Posada**

Corrientes Province is a bountiful sub-tropical rice and grain producing region home to literally millions of ducks, along with Argentina's greatest populations of perdiz and large numbers of spot-winged and picazuro pigeons. La Posada is a lovely country inn, built in the 1860s.

### **COST:**

Cerro de la Cruz/El Retiro: \$775/night  
La Posada: \$750/night  
San Ambrosio/El Rincon: \$760 -  
\$950/night

**PRIME TIME:** Early May through mid-August

**HOW TO GET THERE:** Buenos Aires is best reached from Miami or Dallas on Aerolineas Argentinas, American Airlines, or United Airlines. There, hunters connect to jet service (approx. 1 hour) to their respective destination city. Upon arrival, they are met and transferred to the lodge. In the case of San Ambrosio/El Rincon, guests also travel to Buenos Aires, but there they are met and transferred via private vehicle three hours to the estancia.

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# ARGENTINA MIXED-BAG SHOOTING THE SHOOTING

## Ducks

Argentina hunting offers species of wild ducks, none of which are found in the Northern Hemisphere. Predominately, they are Chilean pintail, Brazilian pintail,



Buenos Aires Province has many species of attractive ducks.

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 come confidently into decoys. Hunting is primarily done from natural blinds and the limits are quite liberal.

## 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 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 and Salta Provinces — the picazuro and spot-winged. Both appear to float along in flight, but their slow wingbeat is deceiving. They are fast and hard to bring down and are particularly fun to hunt in grain fields over decoys. Depending on the

time of year, we either hunt the doves right in the roost as they exit and re-enter or we hunt over harvested grain.

## Magellan Geese

Argentina's prominent waterfowl is the big Magellan goose, named after the explorer Ferdinand Magellan. The male, snowy white with black tipped wings, averages nine pounds, similar to our Canadas. The second type is the wary ashey-headed goose, with rust breast, gray head and black and white wings. These birds nest in the far south, move into Buenos Aires Province in early May and stay throughout August. They are hunted from a variety of natural and man-made blinds, usually over winter wheatfields.



An Argentine favorite— perdiz hunting

## 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. 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 or five minutes! Like their North American cousins, Argentina perdiz are a grassland species that feeds mainly on seeds and green shoots, and consequently, they prefer short grass pastures or fallow land, with no thorns or cactus.

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# ACCOMMODATIONS



Old-World hospitality at Estancia El Rincon in eastern Argentina.



San Ambrosio—home to superb gunning for ducks, doves and perdiz.

**El Rincon and its sister lodge, San Ambrosio**, are both operated by River Plate Wingshooting, one of the pioneering Argentine outfitters who have hosted literally tens of thousands of sportsmen, and are still among the best of the best. Both facilities are true country mansions surrounded by acres of huge trees and gardens. El Rincon has seven bedrooms; San Ambrosio, five. They are located three

hours north of Buenos Aires in Entre Rios Province, in the midst of a region defined by marshland, pothole lakes, grain production and very few humans. The

nearest towns are Gualeguay and Gualeguaychu. Here you will find Argentina's best combination of ducks, perdiz and high-volume dove hunting.

### Cerro de la Cruz

(in Spanish... mountaintop of the cross) is a gorgeous, European-style private home, which is the headquarters of a 50,000 acre private ranch. Cerro has eight bedrooms in two adjacent buildings. 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. This region is the only part of Argentina that is host to abundant populations of all of Argentina's game birds — ducks, geese, doves, pigeons and



Cerro de la Cruz — Southern Argentina's best locale for geese, ducks, doves, pigeons and perdiz.

perdiz. 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.

**La Posada** (inn, in Spanish) is a beautifully restored and renovated small hotel built in the 1860s. Positioned near Goya along the bank of the Parana River in the far northeastern part of the country, the facility was once the military headquarters of a famous Argentine general. It has six bedrooms and features a beautiful patio overlooking the river and surrounding gardens. Goya, the main town in a huge ranching and agricultural area, is surprisingly sophisticated for a farming town — they have a large and very nice casino. Miles & Miles Outfitters have chosen this site for the vast numbers of ducks of many species, large numbers of perdiz and enjoyable optional shooting for decoyed pigeons.



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# ARGENTINA MIXED-BAG SHOOTING OTHER ACTIVITIES

If you are hunting from Cerro de la Cruz, there are a number of quality non-shooting activities. Only minutes away is a lovely 18-hole golf course, and the nearby town of Sierra de la Ventana has nice shops and good restaurants and a spa offering a full range of treatments. Horseback riding and hiking in the surrounding hills and mountains is available, as are visits to see working gauchos.

At La Posada, near the northern town of Goya, activities could include fishing, hiking, and visits to working ranches. Goya also has a very nice casino.

From San Ambrosio or El Rincon, there are not many non-hunting activities. Guests would have to content themselves with reading by the fireplace, strolling through the gardens and birdwatching.



Tour historic sites.



World-class golf courses.



Horseback riding.

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