

itinerary

bird watching

cities	nights
Rio de Janeiro	2
Itatiaia	2
Cuiabá	1
Pantanal	6
Alta Floresta	7
Rio de Janeiro	2



Combining Brazil's natural and cultural highlights with an active bird watching program, this unforgettable roundtrip will inspire amateur and highly experienced bird enthusiasts alike. Toucans, macaws and the majestic Tuiuiu stork are just some of Brazil's strikingly colourful bird species awaiting the enthusiast.



DAY 1 | RIO DE JANEIRO

Arrival in Rio. Airport meet and greet, followed by guided transfer to the hotel. Overnight at selected hotel.

DAY 2 | RIO DE JANEIRO

Designed for those who have a full day available and wish to visit two of Rio's main attractions, this tour includes both Sugarloaf and Mountain. The first stage of the tour takes in a number of sites of interest in downtown Rio de Janeiro, namely the contemporary Metropolitan Cathedral, with its vast stained-glass windows and Aterro do Flamengo, a calm, spacious park with lawns and blossoming trees, offering lovely views of Rio and The Sugarloaf.

The tour then proceeds through the old Urca neighborhood towards the Sugarloaf, where a cable-car starts the steep, exhilarating 215m climb up Morro da Urca. From here, the cable-car travels high above the rugged, vegetated terrain to the Sugarloaf's 395m summit. Visitors

can enjoy wonderful panoramic views over Rio de Janeiro from the top, sunsets being particularly spectacular.

After a lunch, the tour continues on to the Corcovado. Perched atop the Corcovado (Hunchback) Mountain at an altitude of 710m, the statue of Christ the Redeemer is certainly one of the world's best-known and most-visited monuments. Clad with a soapstone mosaic, the statue is also one of Rio's finest Art Nouveau monuments and at night becomes a shining landmark visible from all over the city. From the top there are breathtaking views of Copacabana, Ipanema, Leblon, the Botanical Gardens, Jockey Club and Rodrigo Freitas Lagoon. A rack railway takes the visitor up to the foot of the statue, the train leaving the Cosme Velho district and climbing the steep slopes of Tijuca Forest. Located around the base of Corcovado and with many springs and waterfalls, this dense forest was proclaimed a National Park in the early sixties. Overnight at selected hotel.

DAY 3 | ITATIAIA

Pick-up at the hotel and departure to the Itatiaia National Park, located in the southwestern part of Rio de Janeiro State, between the borders with São Paulo and Minas Gerais States in the Mantiqueira Mountain range, 175 km from Rio de Janeiro and 250 km from São Paulo. The park was founded in 1937 and is the oldest Serra dos Orgaos /Itatiaia national park in Brazil, covering an area of 137 square kilometres. The park comprises beautiful springs, creeks, waterfalls, primary forest and at least 1,200 species of animal life including birds, mammals and reptiles. The area is excellent for climbing, with peaks such as the Pico das Agulhas Negras, the highest in Rio de Janeiro state (2,787m), and the Pico da Prateleira (2,540), trekking along numerous trails and birdwatching. It is said that, at a certain point, with clear weather, it is possible to see the cities of Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo at the same time. Please note that the temperatures can be fairly low, especially in the winter months. Overnight at selected hotel.

DAY 4 | ITATIAIA



Full day trekking and bird watching on the lower trails of the park, joining the biome Mata Atlântica, characterized for its big biologic diversity and high endemic degrees.

Bird watching, crystal waterfalls and an observation platform are the principal attractions. A trekking to the peak of "Três Picos" (1.662 meters) will be done.

Depending on visitors' preferences and physical fitness, the expert guide can help choose from a variety of trails. Overnight at selected hotel.

DAY 5 | CUIABÁ

Morning transfer to airport for flight to Cuiabá, gateway to the Pantanal. Arrival and transfer to the hotel. Overnight at selected hotel.

DAY 6 - 12 | PANTANAL

(we have selected the Araras lodge and Ecolodge Park as examples)

Pick-up from hotel and transfer to the Pantanal for 4 nights at Araras lodge followed by 2 nights in Park Ecolodge. Mato Grosso, with its three ecosystems, concentrates an enormous variety of birds. With an excellent structure of access and support, with a body of specialized guides equipped with telescopes, birdsong recorders and field guide books, the state thus

offers the ideal environments for guided bird watching. The pantanal is a vast wetland area in western Brazil, which cuts across the states of Mato Grosso and Mato Grosso do Sul (as well as western Brazil and northeastern Paraguay), is one of the world's great wildlife reserves.

Because of the veldt-like open land, it is also the best place to see wildlife in Brazil. 650 species of birds, among which are storks (including the stately Tuiuiu or Jabiru stork), egrets, herons, coots, ducks and ibises, can be observed in the region. Animal life is represented by, among other species, alligators, jaguar, otters, emus, boa constrictors and monkeys. The lodges offer rooms with ceiling fans, mosquito nets, private facilities with hot and cold water.

The lodges also have a bar, swimming pool and a tree-top lookout. The lodges provide excellent structure of access and support, with a body of specialized guides equipped with telescopes, birdsong recorders, fieldbooks and vehicles for daily bird watching excursions.

All meals included.



DAY 12 - 19 | ALTA FLORESTA

(we have selected the Cristalino Jungle Lodge as example)



Transfer to airport for flight to the Cristalino Jungle lodge in the southern reaches of the Amazon Rainforest, one of the most rewarding destinations for watching the Amazon's birds with more than 570 species, many of which endemic to the region, others yet to be described. The package includes 2 nights at Floresta Amazônica hotel and 5 nights at Cristalino lodge in VIP bungalows.

Alta Floresta is considered by many ornithologists as one of the most diverse destinations for bird watching in the entire Amazon. With a bird list of 570+ species and new species found every year, the region of Alta Floresta and Cristalino River Basin have been visited by leading ornithologists and birders from all over the world.

First visited by Ted Parker and Mort and Phyllis Isler in 1989, the region has attracted the visits of Dr. Jürgen Haffer, Dr. Robert Ridgley, Guy Tudor, Dr. Kevin Zimmer, and Bret Whitney to mention a few. Due to the barrier effect of rivers like the Madera, Xingu and Teles Pires which inhibit the dispersion of some species, the Cristalino Reserve has a high incidence of endemism.

Differing soil types from the drainages of the "White water" Rio Teles Pires and the "Black water" Rio Cristalino enhance the overall diversity of flora and fauna. Clients can choose from a set of trails with different habitats, go by boat on the river in search of Red-throated Piping Guan, Razor-billed and Bare-faced Curassow or they can relax in the Lodge clearing where many species of toucan, macaw, parrots, cotinga, barbet, trogon, and other frugivores visit the Cecropia trees for their tasty fruit. In addition to the Cristalino Lodge, the Hotel Floresta Amazonica, which is located in a 100 acre fragment of primary forest in the center of the city of Alta Floresta, has unique attractions not to be missed.

Visitors often spend a night at the Hotel upon arrival and before departure home. Endemics such as Crimson-bellied Parakeet, Black-girdled Barbet and Cryptic Forest Falcon as well as rarities such as Rufous-necked and Collared Puffbird are all found within 5 minutes walk of the breakfast buffet.

All meals included.

DAY 19 | RIO DE JANEIRO

After lunch transport from the Floresta Amazônica Hotel to the airport for flight to Rio de Janeiro. Arrival at airport in Rio, meet and greet and transfer to the hotel. Overnight at selected hotel.



DAY 20 | RIO DE JANEIRO

Day for leisure in Rio de Janeiro. Overnight at selected hotel.

DAY 21 | RIO DE JANEIRO

After breakfast transfer to the airport for return flight to Europe.

INCLUDED:

- Rio de Janeiro 2 nights at selected hotel
- Itatiaia 2 nights at selected hotel
- Cuiabá 1 night at selected hotel
- Patanal 6 nights at selected lodge
- Alta Floresta 7 nights at selected lodge
- Rio de Janeiro 2 nights at selected lodge
- Transfers as specified continues in air-conditioned vehicles
- All excursions and packages listed above with English-speaking guides
- Hotel taxes and service charges
- Breakfast plus all meals as specified.

NOT INCLUDED:

- All domestic and long-haul flights, airport taxes etc.
- All meals and excursions not listed above

The itinerary is available with different categories of hotel selected on the basis of customer preference.

Due to the vastness of the country, the best way to visit Brazil is by using a "Visit Brazil Air Pass" which allows you to fly between cities.

PLEASE NOTE: The destinations, hotels and excursions presented in this itinerary may be altered according to customer preference. All tours are presented as LAND ONLY (no airfare is included). All tour programs are subject to your acceptance of our Terms and Conditions on reservation. Please review Terms & Conditions.