



ROCKJUMPER

Worldwide Birding Adventures

Brazil

Birds & Wildlife of the Pantanal & Cerrado

6th to 14th October 2012 (9 days)

& Atlantic Rainforest Extension

1st to 5th October 2012 (5 days)

& Amazon Rainforest Birding Extension

14th to 19th October 2012 (6 days)



Brazil, one of the most biodiverse countries on the planet, is a dream destination for any naturalist - and especially so for birders! During this tour we explore the celebrated Pantanal, the world's largest wetland, encompassing 250 000 square kilometres of emerald forests, savannas, swathing rivers and shallow lagoons; as well as the verdant Amazon rainforest with its amazing diversity of



avifauna rivalled nowhere else on earth. Our journey will expose you to the superb birding that this region is famous for, as well as some of the best mammal watching in South America! For those wishing to maximise their time spent in Brazil, we have also created a pre-tour extension to the endemic-rich southeast where we will visit the highly productive Intervales State Park; and a post-tour extension to Cristalino Jungle Lodge, surrounded by almost 30,000 acres of pristine forest!

THE TOUR AT A GLANCE...

DETAILS

Tour Dates	Atlantic Rainforest Extension	1 st to 5 th October 2012 (5 days)
	Birds & Wildlife of the Pantanal & Cerrado	6 th to 14 th October 2012 (9 days)
	Amazon Rainforest Birding Extension	14 th to 19 th October 2012 (6 days)
Tour Price	Atlantic Rainforest Extension	US\$1,750 * £1,100 * €1,250 * ZAR12,000 (Tour price fixed in US\$, other rates subject to exchange rate fluctuations)
	Birds & Wildlife of the Pantanal & Cerrado	US\$3,500 * £2,210 * €2,500 * ZAR24,000 US\$585 approx. cost of domestic flights Tour price fixed in US\$, other rates subject to exchange rate fluctuations)
	Amazon Rainforest Birding Extension	US\$2,250 * £1,420 * €1,610 * ZAR15,400 US\$390 approx. cost of domestic flights Tour price fixed in US\$, other rates subject to exchange rate fluctuations)
Tour Size	Limited to 8 participants and 1 Rockjumper leader	

ATLANTIC RAINFOREST EXTENSION

1 st October	Sao Paulo to Intervales State Park
2 nd to 4 th October	Intervales State Park
5 th October	Transfer to Sao Paulo

BIRDS OF THE PANTANAL AND CERRADO

6 th October	Sao Paulo to Serra Das Araras via Cuiaba
7 th October	Serra Das Araras area
8 th October	Serra Das Araras to Rio Pixaim and the Pantanal
9 th to 11 th October	Pantanal Area
12 th October	Pantanal to Chapada dos Guimaraes
13 th October	Chapada dos Guimaraes Area
14 th October	Chapada dos Guimaraes to Sao Paulo via Cuiaba

AMAZON RAINFOREST BIRDING EXTENSION

14 th October	Sao Paulo to Cristalino via Alta Floresta
15 th to 18 th October	Cristalino Jungle Lodge
19 th October	Cristalino to Cuiaba and transfer to Sao Paulo



Atlantic Rainforest Extension

1st to 5th October 2012 (5 days)

Day 1, 1st October: Sao Paulo. Upon arrival in Sao Paulo we will transfer to the famous Intervalles State Park. This great reserve, with its offering of spectacular localized endemics, is situated on a 3300 foot high escarpment, the Serra do Mar, that parallels the Atlantic coast of Southeast Brazil. We have three full days of birding here; and, depending on our arrival times, we may have an afternoon to begin the initial explorations of our surroundings before settling into our very comfy lodge near the reserve.

Days 2 to 4, 2nd to 4th October: Intervalles State Park. Intervalles State Park consists of four adjacent reserves that make up the Mata Atlantica Biosphere Reserve. This covers nearly 450 square miles of pristine Atlantic forest! Declared an International Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO in 1991, and inscribed as a World Heritage site in 1999, the reserve includes an altitudinal gradient from just above sea level to almost 3000 feet in elevation.

It is amazing yet disheartening to think that this forest once extended virtually continuously along the coast of Brazil, but is now confined to only isolated pockets. Nonetheless, these support a whole host of specialties including the striking Mantled Hawk, Black-fronted Piping-Guan, the elusive Rusty-barred Owl, Crescent-chested Puffbird, Red-eyed Thornbird, the very impressive Giant Antshrike, dazzling Red-ruffed Fruitcrow, gaudy Azure-throated and Golden-chevroned Tanagers, Black-legged Dacnis, and the noisy but inconspicuous Bare-throated Bellbird.

Further exploration of the surrounding trails and forests may yield the entertaining Brown Capuchin and Brown Howler Monkey, as well as other mammal species such as Forest Rabbit and Capybara.

Other birds we will lookout for during our time in this reserve include the stately Helmeted Woodpecker, retiring Red-and-white Crake, Pileated Parakeet, Blue-bellied Parrot, the attractive Surucua Trogon, Rusty-breasted Nunlet, Pale-browed Treehunter, White-browed Foliage-gleaner, the localised Sao Paulo Tyrannulet, Atlantic Royal Flycatcher, White-throated Spadebill and the lovely Spot-billed Toucanet. We will also follow the haunting calls of Variegated Antpitta in our efforts to see this tricky species, as well as taking time for other skulkers such as the unique Spotted Bamboowren, Spot-winged Wood-Quail, Slaty Bristlefront, Large-tailed Antshrike and the attractive Black-cheeked Gnateater.



Two special Cotingas we will specifically target here are the vocal Hooded Berryeater and the stunning Swallow-tailed Cotinga, which sometimes nest in the area. In the evenings we will search for some of the nocturnal denizens of this forest, including Long-trained Nightjar and four species of owl: namely Tawny-browed, Rusty-barred, Mottled and the enigmatic Buff-fronted Owls.

Day 5, 5th October: Transfer to Sao Paulo. This morning we will return to Sao Paulo where we will overnight before starting the Brazil: Birds & Wildlife of the Pantanal & Cerrado main tour.



Birds & Wildlife of the Pantanal & Cerrado

6th to 14th October 2011 (9 days)

Day 1, 6th October: Sao Paulo to Serra Das Araras via Cuiaba. Upon arrival in Sao Paulo, you will take a flight to Cuiaba, and then transfer to Serra Das Araras, a classic deciduous Amazon Forest area.

Later this afternoon we will commence our birding by visiting a known nest site for the impressive Harpy Eagle. Time spent in this area should give us the opportunity to view one of the most desirable and sought after forest raptors in the world – undoubtedly a tour highlight!



Day 2, 7th October: Serra Das Araras area. We have a full day to explore this amazing area, continuing our search for the Harpy Eagle in case we missed it the day before. Other exciting species that will keep us busy include Crested Eagle, the scarce Tiny Hawk, Roadside and Grey Hawks, Plumbeous, Swallow-tailed and Hook-billed Kites, King, Black and Greater Yellow-headed Vultures, Undulated Tinamou, Pheasant, Guira and Squirrel Cuckoos, Spix's Guan, Toco Toucan, Ferruginous Pygmy Owl, Common Potoo, Scaled and Plumbeous Pigeons, Black-tailed Trogon, the striking White, Lineated and White-fronted Woodpeckers, Straight-billed Woodcreeper, Chestnut-eared and Lettered Aracaris, Red-bellied and Blue-winged Macaws, Blue-crowned Motmot, Swallow, Hepatic and Guira Tanagers, Blue-headed and Orange-winged Parrot, Dusky-headed Parakeets, Planalto Antshrike, Pale-breasted Thrush, White-backed Fire-eye, White-necked and Black-fronted Nunbirds, Chopi Blackbird, Sallow-wing, Moustached Wren, Fork-tailed Woodnymph, Yellow-rumped Cacique, Variegated and Cliff Flycatchers and Chalk-browed Mockingbird, to name but some the many species that occur here!

Day 3, 8th October: Serra Das Araras to Rio Pixaim and the Pantanal. After some final early morning birding, we will make the long transfer to Rio Pixaim bordering the Pantanal, where we will arrive in the early evening. *En route* we will keep our eyes open for any interesting birds and mammals, including possibly searching by spotlight on the final leg of our journey if conditions allow.

Days 4 to 6, 9th to 11th October: Pantanal area. We will probably start our Pantanal adventure with a morning boat trip on the Pixaim River, where our goal will be to try and find one of the most spectacular Pantanal mammals: Giant Otter. Here we also have a chance to locate the stunning Bare-faced Curassow, Blue-throated Piping-guan, Plumbeous Ibis, Band-tailed Antbird, Pale-legged Hornero, both Agami and the difficult Zigzag Heron, Grey-breasted Crake, Cream-colored Woodpecker, Rusty-backed Spinetail, all five Brazilian Kingfishers, the often inconspicuous Sungrebe, and the spectacular Sunbittern.

Later we will depart for our journey into the Pantanal – a huge, gently-sloped basin that seasonally inundates with water runoff from the surrounding upland areas of the Planalto highlands. *En route* we'll make stops to admire our first stately Jabiru (often offering excellent photographic opportunities),



Ringed Kingfisher, the attractive Scarlet-headed Blackbird and Savanna Hawk, which usually perches upon bare snags and fenceposts along the roadside. After checking into our comfortable accommodations, we should have time for a short initial walk in the surrounding garden and forest edge, where we will search for the scolding Grey-crested Cackalote, White-rumped Monjita and the localised Chotoy Spinetail, amongst many others.

During the next three days we will thoroughly cover the extensive habitats of the Pantanal by access from two separate lodges along the Transpantaneira. Each habitat offers a different selection of regional specialties. Here we will first explore the gallery forest, looking for the gaudy Helmeted Manakin, Stripe-necked Tody-Tyrant, Plain Tyrannulet, active Flavescent Warbler, Large-billed Antwren, charming Pale-crested Woodpecker, Buff-throated Woodcreeper, Rufous-tailed Jacamar and White-lored Spinetail.

Mammals are also a prominent feature of the Pantanal where they are easier to see than any other place in South America. We stand an excellent chance for the massive Capybara, Brazilian Tapir, the localised Marsh Deer, Black Howler Monkey, Giant Anteater, and perhaps even Jaguar! A night excursion in this area could also yield Band-tailed Nighthawk flying over the water at twilight, Scissor-tailed, Spot-tailed and Little Nightjars, Great Horned Owl and Tropical Screech-Owl.



Along the Transpantaneira Road itself we set out in search of the fantastic Hyacinth Macaw, perhaps the grandest and most striking of all the world's parrots. Whilst making our way along the dirt roadway and crossing narrow bridges, we will keep our eyes out for the migrant Maguari Stork, White-napped Xenopsaris, Cinereous-breasted Spinetail in the scrub, Golden-collared Macaw, Great Rufous Woodcreeper, Red-billed Scythebill, delightful Southern Screamer, White-wedged Piculet, White-tailed Goldenthrout and Green-backed Becard. The haunting calls of Undulated Tinamou will no doubt be a feature. Here we will search any suitable habitat for Rusty-fronted Tody-Flycatcher, Buff-throated Woodcreeper, Forest Elaenia, Buff-breasted and Moustached Wrens, Mato Grosso Antbird, Rusty-backed Antwren and Golden-green Woodpecker. The waterbird spectacle is truly something to behold, and we will dedicate time to observing the nesting site of a variety of Egrets, Spoonbills and Wood Storks while searching for additional species such as Least Bittern, Black-capped Donacobius, the endemic Chestnut-bellied Guan and Large-billed Tern.

The forested and secondary areas surrounding our lodge also teem with wildlife and birds.



Yellowish Pipit, Grey Monjita, Planalto Woodcreeper, the bright Crimson-crested Woodpecker, Dull-capped Atilla and Vermillion Flycatcher are all possibilities. In addition to this, we will explore a dry forest area nearby in search of specialties that include the bold Saffron-billed Sparrow, Masked Gnatcatcher, Tawny-crowned Pygmy-Tyrant and Hooded Tanager, before returning by twilight in the hope of finding both Common and Great Potoos.

Day 7, 12th October: Pantanal to Chapada dos Guimaraes.

We will spend our last morning at the Pantanal birding and taking photos in the surroundings of our lodge. After lunch we then head for Chapadas dos Guimaraes, where we expect to arrive in the late evening. The road from Pantanal to Chapadas is one of the very best for birding, and there will be plenty of photo opportunities for the most spectacular landscapes in this part of Brazil. We will spend the following two nights in Chapadas.



This is a unique cerrado habitat of Chapada dos Guimaraes, a region of seasonally dry woodland-savanna interspersed with spectacular cliff drop-offs and waterfalls. Our time will be dedicated to birding the surrounds, including forested sections that allow us chances to observe the colourful Band-tailed and Fiery capped Manakins, the endearing Southern Antpiper, Tataupa Tinamou, Sharp-tailed Streamcreeper (that we may locate by its striking calls), Streaked Xenops, Sepia-capped Flycatcher and the eye-catching Pectoral Sparrow. Nocturnal birding here could also produce the giant Spectacled Owl and perhaps Rufous Nightjar.

Day 8, 13th October: Chapada dos Guimaraes. Today the raucous calls of Blue-winged Macaws and Blue-headed Parrots might welcome us to the scenic Veu de Noiva Waterfall, where Swallow Tanager, the scarce Yellow-billed Blue-finch and Bat Falcon also occur. In a nearby forested area we will search for Euler's Flycatcher, the often vocal White-backed Fire-eye, Yellow-tufted Woodpecker, Ornate Hawk-Eagle calling overhead, and the tricky Russet-crowned Crake, with an outside possibility of both Pheasant and Pavonine Cuckoos.

In the more open and thorny habitat we may find the localised Chapada Flycatcher, Collared Crescent-chest, Rufous-sided Pygmy-Tyrant, Rufous-winged Antshrike, White-banded and White-rumped Tanagers, Small-billed Tinamou, Sooty-fronted Spinetail, the delightful Coal-crested and Red-crested Finches, Black-throated Saltator, and perhaps even the sleek Horned Sunem.

Day 9, 14th October: Chapada dos Guimaraes to Cuiaba or Sao Paulo. After some final early morning birding in the area, we will return to Cuiaba to connect with our flights back to the urban sprawl of Sao Paulo, where the main tour will conclude. For those doing the Amazon Rainforest Birding Extension, we will fly from Cuiaba to Alta Floresta and then transfer onto Cristalino.

Amazon Rainforest Birding Extension

14th to 19th October (6 days)

Day 1, 14th October: Cuiaba to Alta Floresta and transfer to Cristalino. Today we board a short flight from Cuiaba to Alta Floresta. Upon arrival, we will then transfer to the eco-friendly Cristalino Jungle Lodge, where we will settle in for a comfortable five night stay in this oasis of the Brazilian Amazon – the world's largest continuous tropical rainforest!

Days 2 to 5, 15th to 18th October: Cristalino. The Cristalino River Basin is truly legendary, with a comprehensive bird list of nearly six hundred species! Combined with a phenomenal number of localised and endemic specialties (due in part to the areas' isolation through two large adjacent river barriers), this is an absolute bird and wildlife heaven.

We have four full days to explore the environs of our lodge located in pristine forest. This normally has blooming Cecropias in the garden, which attracts Toucans, Aracaris, Parrots and Fruitcrows. During our time here we will cover a variety of habitats, including primary tropical forest, mixed savanna with granite outcrops, wetland, and seasonally flooded forest. These habitats are accessed by exploring the almost thirteen miles of networked trails on foot and cruising the river by boat.

We will endeavour to search out a myriad of fantastic species, with some of our primary targets being the poorly known Cryptic Forest-Falcon,



brilliant Red-fan and Kawall's Parrots, Paradise Jacamar, Amazonian Royal Flycatcher, Tooth-billed Wren, the crepuscular Collared and Rufous-necked Puffbirds, Gould's Toucanet and the glittering Pavonine Quetzal. Army ant swarms are also a feature of this region, and congregations of ants often attract a fine selection of lower-story specialties that might include Yellow-browed and Bare-eyed Antbirds, Curve-billed Scythebill, Spotted Antpitta, and perhaps the scarce Rufous-vented Ground-Cuckoo. The noisy song of Marbled Wood-Quail can often be heard ringing through the forest, as can the screeches of White-bellied Parrots. We will also spend time targeting some of the very difficult species such as the reclusive Zigzag Heron and fantastic Razor-billed Curassow.

Just a few minutes walk from the lodge is a spectacular 50-metre tower that emerges above the trees, offering a sensational view of the surrounding forest. Canopy specialties are most easy to observe from this elevated position, and some of the birds we will be keeping an eye out for include



the vivid Pompadour Cotinga, Curl-crested Aracari, Long-billed Woodcreeper, the bizarre Amazonian Umbrellabird and a kaleidoscope of colourful Tanagers and Parrots. Although very scarce, we may be fortunate enough to see the massive Harpy Eagle and a host of other resident raptors.

There is also an excellent selection of South American mammals to be found here, and we will maximize our efforts to see the huge Capybara, Southern Tamandua, several species of Opossum, Giant River Otter, Brazilian Agouti, the sleek Tayra, and the delicately patterned Paca. We also visit a mammal clay lick with a screened viewing platform from where Red Brocket Deer, Collared Peccary, and even the charismatic Brazilian Tapir can sometimes be seen. Perhaps most impressive is the selection of no less than seven primate species in the area, including Night Monkey, Dusky Titi Monkey, Brown Capuchin, Red-handed Howler Monkey, White-Whiskered Spider Monkey, and the endemic Red-Nosed Bearded Saki Monkey, all of which are often seen in the surrounding forest.

After sorting through the profusion of Tyrant Flycatchers, Hummingbirds, Manakins and Antbirds, we will have a chance to enjoy the floating deck in front of our lodge – ideal for swimming and wildlife viewing – before venturing out at night in search of Nightjars, Crested Owl, and the very attractive Black-banded Owl.

Day 6, 19th October: Cristalino to Cuiaba. After some final birding and breakfast, we will catch a short flight from Alta Floresta to Cuiaba, and then transfer to Sao Paulo where the tour will conclude.

GROUP SIZE:

This departure will be limited to 8 participants and 1 Rockjumper leader.

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS:

The fees for the **Brazil tours** per person sharing are as follows:

Birds & Wildlife of the Pantanal & Cerrado: US\$3,500 * £2,210 * €2,500 * ZAR24,000;
Atlantic Rainforest Extension: US\$1,750 * £1,100 * €1,250 * ZAR12,000;
Amazon Rainforest Birding Extension: US\$2,250 * £1,420 * €1,610 * ZAR15,400.

(Please note: These prices do NOT include the domestic flights within Brazil. As a general guideline, we suggest you budget +/- US\$585 per person for the **main tour**, and +/- US\$390 for the **Amazon Rainforest Birding Extension**. We can book these flights on your behalf at no extra charge.)



The single supplement costs are as follows:

Birds & Wildlife of the Pantanal & Cerrado: US\$650;
Atlantic Rainforest Extension: US\$130;
Amazon Rainforest Birding Extension: US\$280.

The single supplement will be charged if you wish to have single accommodation. If RBT cannot provide you with a rooming partner although you choose to share, the single supplement will become applicable. We will make every reasonable effort to ensure that a rooming partner is found if you do wish to share.

This includes:

- All meals from breakfast on day 1 to lunch on day 9 for those on the main tour; from dinner on day 1 to lunch on day 6 for those on the Amazon Rainforest Birding extension; and from lunch on day one to lunch on day 5 on the Atlantic Rainforest Extension;
- Bottled drinking water;
- All lodgings;
- Ground transportation;
- Reserve entrance fees; and
- All guiding services (including tips for local guides and services).

The tour fee does not include:

- ANY airfares (See above);
- Visa fees;
- Any drinks;
- Special gratuities; and
- Telephone calls, laundry and other items of a personal nature.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

a) **Due to constantly fluctuating exchange rates, we now quote our tours in 4 currencies. The tour price is however fixed only in the currency printed in bold (US\$), and the actual cost in the other currencies listed will be adjusted according to prevailing exchange rates at the time of final invoicing (usually 3 months before the tour.) Approximate domestic flight and single supplement rates have been converted to US\$ but are also subject to exchange rate movements.**

b) **Rates are based upon group tariffs; if the tour does not have sufficient registration (a minimum of 6 paying participants) a small party supplement will have to be charged.**

c) **Furthermore, these costs are subject to unforeseen increases in tour related costs and may have to be adjusted as a result.**

d) **Lastly, we may be forced to change or alter the itinerary at short or no notice due to unforeseen circumstances; please be aware that we will attempt to adhere as close to the original program as possible.**

Tipping:

As noted above, gratuities (drivers, hotel staff, porters, restaurants etc) are included on this tour. However, this does not include your Rockjumper leader. If, therefore, you feel that he has given you excellent service, it is entirely appropriate to tip him.

Special Notes:

- In some areas, it can be quite hot depending upon local weather conditions. On most mornings, we will be up and out early to take advantage of the cooler temperatures and wildlife activity.



- This Brazil tour does not require a high level of fitness but participants should be in good general health as some of the forest birding will be done on foot and may require walking for several hours at a time (always at a slow pace). There will also be a few lengthy drives. Should you have any physical limitations or medical conditions please notify us in advance of departure.
- The vehicles we use are comfortable although we should expect some bumpy roads depending upon local road conditions.
- Accommodation is generally comfortable throughout the tour although air conditioning is not available in some areas.

ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE DETAILS:

This tour **does not** include ANY airfares. The tour will depart from Guarulhos International Airport (Sao Paulo International) on day 1 of both the pre-tour Amazon Rainforest Extension and the main tour respectively. Further meeting details in this regard will be forwarded to you in due course. The tour will conclude on day 9 of the main tour at Guarulhos International Airport (Sao Paulo). For those participating in the Atlantic Rainforest extension the tour will conclude on day 6 at Guarulhos International Airport (Sao Paulo). If you wish to arrive early and/or depart late and would like assistance in this regard, kindly contact the Rockjumper office.

FLIGHTS:

Sao Paulo is one of the primary ports of entry for international flights in Brazil and is well serviced by many of the world's major airlines. We have the capacity to advise you on the best route according to your preferences, but your local travel agent will best be able to book these flights for you. We can, however, book the domestic flights on your behalf.

IMPORTANT: please DO NOT book your international flights until you have consulted the Rockjumper office for confirmation on the status of the tour.

Photo credits: Hyacinth Macaw (Luis Segura), Black-fronted Piping Guan (Adam Riley), Spot-backed Wood Quail (David Shackelford), Harpy Eagle (Tim Boucher), Bare-faced Curassow (Luis Segura), Jaguar (Mike Hunter), Chestnut-eared Aracari (Jonathan Rossouw), Giant River Otter (Tim Boucher) & Red-necked Tanager (Jonathan Rossouw).

Rockjumper Birding Tours
Worldwide Birding Adventures
PO Box 13972, Cascades, 3202, South Africa
Tel: +27 33 394 0225
Fax: +27 88 033 394 0225
Email: info@rockjumperbirding.com
Alternative email: rockjumperbirding@yahoo.com
Website: www.rockjumperbirding.com

