

BRAZIL – Jaguars, Jabirus & other Jewels of Pantanal’s Wildlife
Unique itinerary with a full circle cruise in the Pantanal



Brazil and within that **the Pantanal** is surely a dream destination for any nature enthusiast. There are more and more people who would like to visit, there are a few specialized tour companies who offer it, but only a handful options to make a full circle in the huge river systems in the Southern Pantanal. Our tour is one of those, visiting **Parque Estadual Encontro da Aguas, Parque Nacional Mato Grosso & Reserva Ecologia Taiama**. Please check out the details. **All pics in this material were made during our previous tours.**

Fact File

- 12 wildlife watching days in the world-famous Pantanal area, total 14 days with travelling
- start and finish in Cuiaba, Brasil
- stay at the best Pantanal Lodges (3nights:2North, 1South) with excellent on site wildlife & bird-watching possibilities & spacious floating hotel with panoramic restaurant&bar for 8 nights

Highlights

- the incredible **cruise itself with amazing landscape, days without roads & settlements**
- **wide variety of birds, mammals, reptiles** such as thousands of Caimans, lizards, snakes, **clouds of butterflies and great habitats**
- **Jaguars, Giant River Otters, Giant Anteaters** & other mammals, several unique bird species in good numbers like **Hyacinth Macaw, Jabiru, Sunbittern**
- extension possibility to the **Atlantic Forests of Brasil or Iguazu Falls**

Accommodation

2 nights at Piuval Lodge & 1 night at Rio Claro Lodge plus 8 nights on the floating hotel

Dates & Prices

-Sunday 28th Oct till Thursday 8thNov2018, 12days at \$4999 with min.8people



Our price includes

- all land travel as noted in the itinerary;
- all accommodation based on shared rooms, single rooms for extra charge if possible at all;
- services of the leader(s);
- trip materials
- 3 meals/day, generally full breakfast, lunch & dinner (3 courses, usually excellent buffet style);



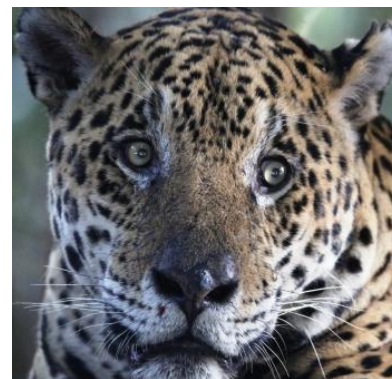
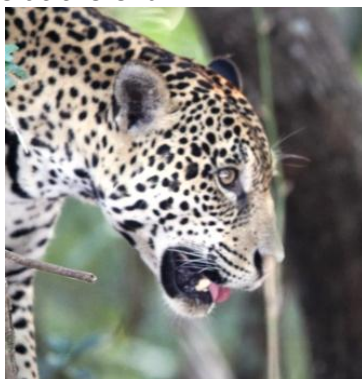
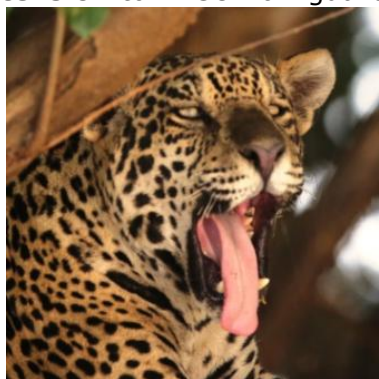
Activity level

Easy to moderate walks; some areas are hot and humid; rain is possible
Daily outings on small motorboats to search wildlife morning & afternoon & night drives

Not included

- flights to and from Cuiaba, Brasil;
- optional programmes to places of interest and entrance fees involved;
- airport and other departure taxes, tips, drinks & food beyond generally 3 meals/day;
- excess baggage charges; telephone calls; other personal expenses;
- compulsory personal insurance

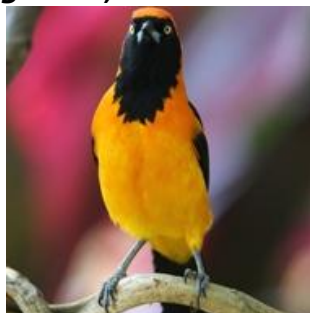
Extension to REGUA or Iguazu, see at the end



Itinerary

Days1-2

Meeting at **Cuiaba airport** before noon, 1,5-2hours transfer on the **Transpantenera road to Piuval Lodge** where we can start with lunch and then we can get the rooms, followed by **birding & wildlife watching** on site. This afternoon and the next full day we spend with searching birds, mammals, reptiles, butterflies & other wildlife at the huge area of the Piuval Lodge and alongside the Transpantenera road. During evening we also venture out with safari style trucks and we should see different bats, nightjars & with some luck **Ocelot, Tapir** or other mammals. In a walking distance we should find such bird species as **Guira Cuckoo, Rufous Hornero, Grey-crested Cacholote, both Yellow-billed & Red-crested Cardinal, Baywing, Cattle Tyrant, Green-barred Woodpecker, Bare-faced Ibis, Wattled Jacana**. A beautiful Mango tree if fruiting at the time of our visit can attract **Thrush-like Wren, Blue-crowned & Yellow-chevroned Parakeet, Purplish Jay, Crested Oropendula & Chestnut-eared Aracari**. Also at the property at ponds and wet areas we should encounter **Woodstork, Jabiru, Plumbeous-, Bare-faced-, Buff-necked & Green Ibis, Amazon kingfisher, Striated & Whistling Heron, Limpkin, Brazilian Teal & Muscovy Duck**.



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Another short walk in the drier grassland with patches of woods can result **Campo Flicker, White Woodpecker, Epaulet Blackbird, Great Rufous Woodcreeper, Fork-tailed Flycatcher, Saffron Finch** and a number of raptors such as **Southern Crested Caracara, Savanna Hawk, Black-collared Hawk, Plumbeous Kite & Crane Hawk.**

Even **Hyacinth Macaws** fly across every day, but to be sure we will visit & admire them at their nesting area from a safe distance. **Peach-fronted & Monk Parakeet** could be new ones and we will surely find the huge flightless **Greater Rea** as well. We will hear from large distance **Southern Screamers.**

If you are ready for an early morning drive out we should search **Brasilian Tapir, Red-legged Serriama, Sunbittern, Crab-eating Fox** & we should see huge number of **Jabirus & Woodstorks** among hundreds of Caimans. We can add to the list **Solitary Cacique, Grayish Saltator, Fork-tailed Woodnymph & Picui Ground Dove** among others.

In the local forest we will search **Ferruginous Pygmy Owl, Scaled Dove, Bare-faced Curassow and also Black-tailed Marmoset, Coati & Howler Monkey.**

One day we pay a visit to a local dry gallery forest alongside a river from where we walk on a boardwalk to a tall lookout tower, offering a panoramic view of the region dotted with huge Woodstork & Jabiru colonies. The small shady forest with some old trees can result **Red-billed Scythebill, Buff-throated Woodcreeper, Epaulet Oriole, Orange-backed Troupial & Thrushlike Wren.**



Day3

After our last early morning walk at Piuval we have our breakfast, check out and say goodbye to this great place. It would be easy to spend a week just here! But we start our journey South on the on the Transpantenera road, crossing a very exciting habitat, stopping at the best points: at huge flocks of waterbirds, at a roosting site of **Great Horned Owls** which also can produce **Great Antshrike, White-lored Spinetail, Pale-legged Hornero & Yellow-billed Cardinal.** We will also look for **Scarlet-headed Blackbird, Black-capped Donacobius, Peach-fronted Parakeet.**

The journey gives a second chance to find a **Giant Anteater** as well if we have missed to see it before.

We should arrive to Rio Claro lodge in time for lunch. We will check out part of the garden and surely the hummingbird feeders, but one of the main benefits to be here is the possibility to go out on a river boat tour. This gives a chance to see up close **Southern Screamer, Ringed & Green Kingfisher, Wattled Jacana, Greater Ani, Neotropical Cormorant, Yellow-headed Caracara.** But last time the highlights were **Orange-winged Amazons** & a pair of **Golden-collared Macaws**, plus an up close hunting **River Otter.**

Usually the sunset is quite dramatic as well.



Days 4-11

We will have an early morning birding in the garden and also will check out the hummingbird feeders again. After breakfast we will have a short transfer to Porto Jofre from where we continue our amazing discovery of the area with an excellent floating hotel. Within half an hour we will reach a point in the **Parque Estadual Encontro da Aguas** where 3 big rivers meet, this is the best base where we are at the area which boasts of **the World's highest concentration of Jaguars**. We spend this afternoon and another full day here to discover the main riverside areas and several small side channels.

So upon arrival after getting our cabins we refresh ourselves and get ready for our excellent lunch in the spacious restaurant with panoramic windows. After lunch we can go out with a smaller boat for the first Jaguar encounter. There is also a very high chance that we will see the first **Giant River Otters** as well.



We will have a full week, 8 nights to enjoy searching & finding **Jaguars, Giant River Otters, Capibaras**, perhaps **Tapirs** & wonderful birds & other wildlife. Generally the daily routine is to have breakfast early, so we can leave with smaller boats when it is still cooler and wildlife activity is bigger. Another benefit is to be at the place before other people arrive to the area from more distant lodges. We come back to our base, the floating hotel latest around noon, have a little siesta and a great lunch (perhaps a bit of siesta after lunch as well ☺) and then around 3pm we go out again till dusk. In this way we can maximize the chance to see jaguars and other wildlife regularly.



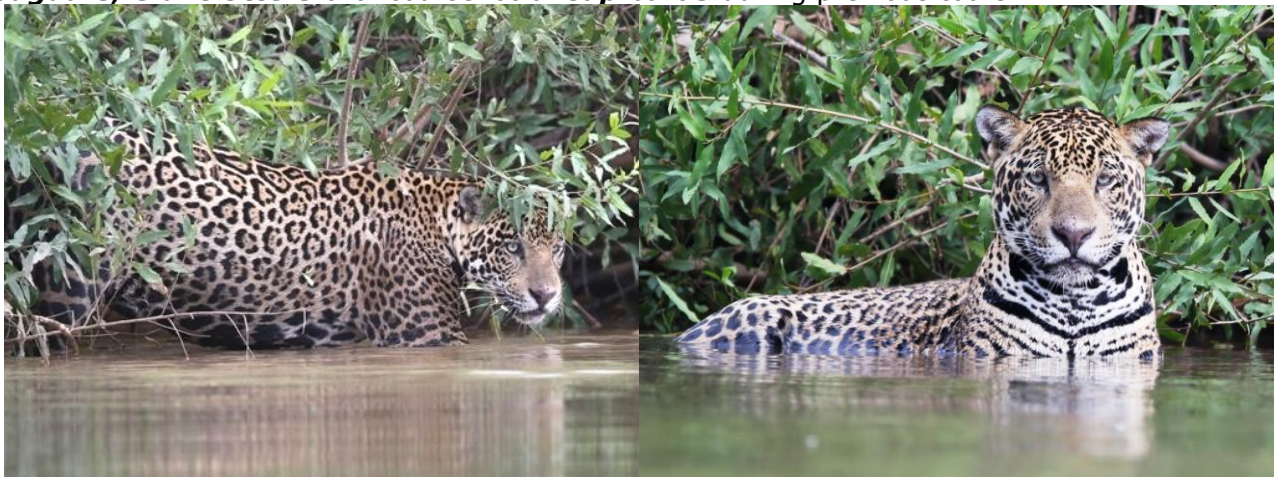


Beside the sought after mammals and the already mentioned bird species we should see **White-winged & White-rumped Swallow, Chaco Chachalaca, Black-fronted Nunbird, Common Piping Guan, Yellow-rumped Cacique, Great Black Hawk, Rufescent Tiger Heron, Water Tyrant, Rufous-tailed Jacamar, Anhinga, Yellow-billed Cardinal, Cocoli Heron, Blue-headed Trogon, Smooth-billed Ani, Rusty-collared Seedeater, Unicolored Blackbird, Glittering-bellied Emerald, Common Tody Flycatcher** & of course different **Parrots & Parakeets**. We should check the sky for raptors as well, such as **Osprey, Plumbeous Kite, Pantanal Roadside Hawk or Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture**. At dusk we should hear **Great Tinamu** and see **Band-tailed Nightjars** hunting above the water.

Around Day8 we start our journey with the floating hotel towards & through the **Parque Nacional Mato Grosso**. From now on for days it will be very rare to see any other sign of humans than occasionally a local fisherman, we will be surrounded by pure nature.

First we will travel on the **Rio San Lorenzo** which is the natural border between **Mato Grosso do Sul & Mato Grosso**. As we travel West suddenly the scenery will change: we will see some beautiful hills covered with dense forests. This is where we leave Rio San Lorenzo and reach **River Paraguay** and continue on that. Soon we will arrive to the huge **Uberaba Lagoon** where we will actually visit the **border of Brasil and Bolivia**. We can admire some ancient, pre-historic carvings on rocks & breathtaking scenery. During that part of the journey we still have a good chance to see **Jaguars & Giant Otters**. We also can add to the list **Silver-beaked Tanager, Grey Tinamu, Chestnut-bellied Guan, Barred Anthshrike, Rufous-browed Peppershrike, Picazuro Pigeon, Southern Screamer, Orange-winged Parrot, Undulated Tinamu, Blue-fronted Parrot/Turquoise-fronted Amazon, Black-crowned Night Heron & American Pygmy Kingfisher, Golden-collared Macaw, Blue-crowned & Yellow-chevroned Parakeet** beside the regular things.

Later on, around Day9 we continue on River Paraguay to North towards **Reserva Ecologica Taiana**. Here we can find **Red-throated Piping Guan** which is a rare member of the Guan family, mentioned on the Red List. It is a very good area for raptors, such as **Savanna Hawk, Plumbeous, Gray-headed & Rufous-thighed Kite**. We had seen here **Jaguars, Giant Otters** & of course lot of **Capibaras** during previous tours.





Every day we will visit small, isolated bays, little lagoons and side channels. These offer excellent photography possibilities of **Sunbittern, Sungrebe, Rufous-tailed Jacamar, Toco Tucan, Buff-necked Ibis, Limpkin, Grey-necked Woodrail** & many more. On one of the last days we reach some ranch areas where we have a short walk to give a second chance for **Hyacinth Macaw & Black Hooded/Nenday Parakeet**. Other species here can be **White-rumped Monjita, Rufous-rumped Seedeater, Creamy-bellied Thrush**. If we find a sandy island on the river that can be full with birds such as **Large-billed & Yellow-billed Terns, Black Skimmer, Pied Lapwing**, but during migration we had seen even **Wilson's Phalarope**. Other birds in the area include **Southern Lapwing, Spotted and Upland Sandpiper, Pied Plover**.



Days 12

Today we arrive to Caceres from where we will have with about a 2-hour-long transfer to Cuiaba where we provide a hotel room if you need, depending on your flight schedule. You also can catch a flight either to Sao Paolo or Brasilia from where you can continue on our **REGUA extension at the Atlantic Forest** or continue with international connection to home.



Extension at the Atlantic Forest of Brazil

7nights/8days from 8th till 15th Nov, 2018

The Atlantic Forest of Brazil is one of the richest areas in the World for wildlife and especially for endemic birds. Within this huge area the **Reserva Ecológica de Guapiacu** is a great area to visit and actually it has a perfect base, a great lodge to stay. Needless to say that it would be possible to spend easily 2 weeks just at this one base and one could still find new species every day. We offer a 7nights/8days stay here with fantastic on-site programmes with some days without using any vehicles. There are many different types of habitats from grasslands, wetlands, dry lowland forests, primary and secondary foothill forests and even cloud forests each is full with birds. It is possible to see around 300 species or with more time even more, including dozens of endemics. From **Giant Snipe** through **Frilled Coquette** till **Shrike-like Cotinga or Bare-throated Bellbird** there are plenty of speciality birds to look for. Beside birding the place offers **fantastic photo opportunities, birds, butterflies and landscape** as well. Just at the Atlantic Forest there are **more than 1000 butterfly species** and more than half can be found at REGUA. Out of the **several thousand moth species** a nice selection can be found just at the lodge where during the nights we can switch on the **moth lights** as well. **Dragonfly species** are well over 70 as well.



Good rooms, excellent food, refreshing evening caipirinha, great company, unique birds, what else you need for a perfect birding and wildlife holiday?

Day1

After landing in Rio de Janeiro we meet our driver, always cheerful Alceni who carefully crosses part of the city and takes us to the lodge which is just around 100 kms away. Depending on the traffic and whether we need a comfort stop it can take 1,5 or 2 hours.

Upon arrival we check in, look around in the beautiful garden and prepare for dinner.

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Days2-7

We spend 6 full days with discovering the area alternating days with local walks at different trails with days when we do longer outings to visit other habitats and look for different birds & wildlife. Beside the local Wetland and Forest Trails on which it would be easy to spend a couple of days there are many other possibilities, a few ones can be reached with a short drive and then we can hike, while others involve a longer drive and a full day out.

The following is a detailed description of some of the many different options. We especially suggest A, B, C, D and F excursions, E offers several species which we should see in Pantanal and G involves a really long travel; but of course days can be adapted to the interest of the group, eagerness of walk and of course the actual weather also a very important factor. We also highlighted the potential specialty bird species (**endemics, endangered, vulnerable or near-threatened**) in bold.



A. Spending a day at and around **the lodge's Wetland and the Forest Trails**

Wetland Trail

White-faced and Black-bellied Whistling Duck, Muscovy Duck, Masked Duck, Striated, Capped and Whistling Heron, Chestnut-backed Antshrike, White-barred Piculet, **Wing-banded Hornero, Yellow-lored Tody-Flycatcher**, Rufous-tailed Jacamar, White-chinned Sapphire, Black-crowned Night Heron, Boat-billed Heron, Rufous-sided Crake, Blackish Rail, Channel-billed Toucan, Chestnut-capped Blackbird, Bran-coloured Flycatcher, Pileated Finch, Lemon-chested Greenlet, Ash-throated Crake, White-winged Becard, **Brazilian Tanager**, Swallow Tanager, **Black-legged Dacnis**, Black-and-white Hawk-Eagle, **Maroon-bellied Parakeet**, Greater Ani, Grey-necked and **Slaty-breasted Wood-rail**, Ringed Kingfisher, Pinnated Bittern, **Black Jacobin**, Rusty-margined Guan

Evening: Common Potoo, Pauraque, Tropical Screech Owl, **Tawny-browed Owl**, Striped Owl, Scissor-tailed Nightjar



Forest Trail which starts with an incredible Cannon Tree

Rufous-capped Motmot, White-bearded Manakin, **Sooretama Slaty Antshrike**, White-flanked and **Unicolored Antwren**, Yellow-eared and Blond-crested Woodpecker, **Plain-winged Woodcreeper**, Reddish Hermit, Rufous-tailed Jacamar, Red-ruffed Fruitcrow, Blue Ground-Dove, Maroon-bellied Parakeet, White-winged Becard, Green-backed Becard, Crested Becard, Ochre-bellied, Yellow-breasted, Short-crested, Euler's Flycatcher, **Eye-ringed Tody-Tyrant**, Southern Beardless Tyrannulet, Yellow Tyrannulet, **Grey-hooded Attila**, Fawn-breasted Tanager, **Brazilian Tanager**, Yellow-backed Tanager, Chestnut-vented Conebill, Tataupa Tinamu, Uniform Crake, **Long-billed Wren**, Buff-throated Saltator, Yellow-backed Tanager, Moustached Wren, Tropical Parula, Red-rumped Cacique



B. Half day at **Green Trail** OR full day with further up on **Red Trail** as well

On the way to the Green Trail

Yellow-browed Tyrant, Chalk-browed Mockingbird, White-browed Blackbird, Palm and Sayaca Tanager, Yellowish Pipit, Blue-winged Parrotlet, Rufous-fronted Thornbird, Fork-tailed Flycatcher, Burrowing Owl

Green Trail

Azure-shouldered Tanager, **Brazilian Ruby**, **Saw-billed Hermit**, Yellow-olive Flycatcher, Yellow-backed Tanager, **Grey-hooded Attila**, **White-eyed Foliage Gleaner**, **Silvery-flanked Antwren**, **Unicolored Antwren**, **Eye-ringed Tody-Tyrant**, **Surucua Trogon**, **Streak-capped Antwren**, **Blue/Swallow-tailed Manakin**, **Black-cheeked Gnateater**, **Uniform Finch**, **Scaled Antbird**, Reddish Hermit, Red-crowned Anttanager, Plain Antvireo, Sepia-capped Flycatcher, White-flanked Antwren, **Rufous-breasted Leaf-tosser**, Rufous-tailed Jacamar, Grey-rumped Swift, **Green-headed Tanager**, Blue Dacnis, Red-legged Honeycreeper, Flame-crested Tanager, Chestnut-crowned Becard, White-barred Piculet, Burnished-buff Tanager, **Temminck's Seedeater**, **Crescent-chested Puffbird**

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Red Trail

At 1300m: **Shrike-like Cotinga, Ochre-breasted Foliage-gleaner, Star-throated Antwren**, At 2200m: **Bare-throated Bellbird**

C. **Drive** to nearby **Malumbo** and **walk Waldenoor Trail** above can be done half day

At the lower area

White-necked Hawk, Laughing Falcon, **Plain Parakeet**, Blond-crested Woodpecker, **Golden-chevroned/Chevron-shouldered Tanager, White-bellied Tanager** (or a race of Turquoise Tanager), **Golden-tailed** and Blue-winged **Parrotlet**, Chestnut-crowned Becard, Green-winged Becard, Crested Becard, several flycatchers include Boat-billed, Euler's, Ochre-bellied and Streaked, White-thighed Swallow, White-collared & Biscutate Swift

Bit higher up

Rufous-breasted Leaftosser, Lesser and Olivaceous **Woodcreepers**, Red-crowned Ant-Tanager, **Grey-hooded Flycatcher, Green-headed Tanager**, Versicolored Emerald, **Maroon-bellied Parakeet**, Spot-billed Toucanet, Channel-billed Toucan, Black-necked Aracari, Green-winged Becard, Chivi Vireo, Blue Dacnis, **Yellow-fronted Woodpecker**, Streaked Xenops, **Pale-browed Treehunter**, Yellow-green Grosbeak, White-tailed Trogon, Dusky-legged Guan

Steeper and rockier part

Frilled Coquette, Star-throated Antwren, Planalto Hermit and several tanagers such as Black-goggled, Yellow-backed, Hooded, **Red-necked, Rufous-headed, Olive-green Tanager**



D. Driving out to the **Peak of Caledonia** covered by a beautiful montane forest; full day
It is essential to do this tour on a dry day to be able to drive up as high as possible, to about 2000m above sea level. In this way most of the walks would be downhill.

There are many **Serra do Mar endemic species** to look for such as **Rufous-tailed Antbird, Green-crowned Plovercrest, Serra do Mar Tapaculo, Slaty Bristlefront, Black-and-**

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Gold Cotinga, Grey-winged Cotinga, Serro do Mar Tyrant-Manakin, Serra do Mar Tyrannulet, Velvety Black Tyrant, Cinnamon Tanager, Brassy-breasted Tanager, Bay-chested Warbling Finch



Some of the other species which are possible here include:

White-tailed Hawk, Plumbeous Kite, Dusky-legged Guan, Gray-fronted Dove, Scaly-headed Parrot, Biscutate Swift, Gray-rumped Swift, Sharp-tailed Streamhaunter, Green-winged Saltator, **Pallid Spinetail, Brassy-breasted** and Diademed Tanagers, **Surucua Trogon**, Rufous-capped Antshrike, Variable Antshrike, Blue-billed Black Tyrant, Rufous-collared Sparrow, **Yellow-browed Woodpecker, Black-billed Scythebill**, Swainson's Flycatcher, **Rufous-crowned Greenlet, Rufous-capped Spinetail, Shear-tailed Gray Tyrant, White-shouldered Fire-eye, Dusky-tailed Antbird**, Golden-crowned Warbler, Rufous-browed Pepper-shrike, **Swallow-tailed Cotinga**, Large-tailed Antshrike, Rusty-margined and Variegated Flycatchers, Hooded Siskin, Diademed Tanager

E. **Coastal Area** with waterbirds at Cabo Frio and **Restinga Habitat** which is sandhills covered by scrub, bushes, trees—this is a full day tour, min 2hours driving 1 way; most of coastal birds after Pantanal wouldn't be new ones, but surely the Restinga species

Coastal Area

Brown Booby, South American Tern, Royal Tern, Cayenne Tern, Cabot's Tern, Yellow-billed Tern, Kelp Gull, Grey-hooded Gull, White-cheeked Pintail, Neotropic Cormorant, Little Blue Heron, Snowy Egret, Cocoi Heron, Roseate Spoonbill, Greater and Lesser Yellowleg, Spotted Sandpiper, Collared Plover, Pied-billed Grebe, Masked Water Tyrant, Willet, White-backed Stilt, Lesser Yellowleg, Ruddy Turnstone, Hudsonian Whimbrel, Semipalmated Plover, Black-bellied/Grey Plover, Black Skimmer, Yellowish Pipit, Chestnut-capped Blackbird, Clapper and Grey-necked Wood-Rail, Pale-breasted & Ruddy Ground-Dove

Restinga habitat

Restinga Antwren, Hangnest Tody-Flycatcher, Tawny-crowned Tody-Tyrant, Sooretama Slaty Antshrike, Black-backed Tanager, Brazilian Tanager, Short-crested Flycatcher, Yellow-bellied Elaenia, Southern Beardless Tyrannulet, Tropical Parula, Chestnut-vented Conebill, Burrowing Owl



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F. ***Macae de Cima*** – lush Mountain Forest full day birding, bit less than 2 hours drive

Crested Oropendola, **Brassy-breasted Tanager**, Streaked Xenops, Grey-headed Kite, **Bare-throated Bellbird**, White-tailed Hawk, Black Hawk-Eagle, Green Schifornis, Giant Antshrike, **Maroon-bellied Parakeet**, **Shear-tailed Grey-Tyrant**, Rufous-browed Peppershrike, Green-winged Saltator, **Black-and-gold Cotinga**, **Hooded Berryeater**, Olivaceous, Planalto and **Lesser Woodcreeper**, Spix's and **Rufous-capped Spinetail**, **Bertoni's Antbird**, Rough-legged and Mottle-cheeked Tyrannulet, Golden-crowned Warbler, **Orange-eyed Thornbird**, **Cinnamon Tanager**, **White-browed/Yellow-browed Woodpecker**, **Blue/Swallow-tailed Manakin**, **Surucua Trogon**, **Swallow-tailed Cotinga**, **White-browed Foliage-gleaner**, **Ochre-rumped Antbird**, Grey-eyed Greenlet, Highland Elaenia

Humminbird feeders at David Miller's house: Scale-throated Hermit, White-throated Hummingbird, Black-breasted/Green-crowned Plovercrest, Brazilian Ruby, Amethyst Woodstar



G. ***Dry Forests & Sumidouro Grasslands:*** long day with 3hours drive 1 way to Carmo

The main target of this long day is the **Three-toed Jacamar**, but there are many more to see, such as Savanna Hawk, Gray Pileated Finch, Blue-black Grassquit, **Rufous-headed Tanager**, Hooded Tanager, **Gray-eyed Greenlet**, Squirrel Cuckoo, **Serra Antwren**, **Rufous Gnateater**, **Hangnest Tody-Tyrant**, White-winged Becard, Boat-billed, Yellow-olive, Sepia-capped and Euler's Flycatcher, **Scaled Woodcreeper**, **Yellow-eared Woodpecker**, Grey-eyed Greenlet, Crescent-chested Puffbird, Rufous-fronted Thornbird, Glittering-bellied Emerald, Campo Troupial, Sapphire-spangled Emerald, **Plain Parakeet**, **Half-collared Sparrow**



Day8

After breakfast depending on our flight schedule we might spend a bit more time in the garden checking the always busy feeders before we say goodbye to this marvellous place and to our hosts and had back to the Rio airport with the help of Alceni.



Dates & Land Prices

-Thursday 8th Nov till Thursday 15th Nov 2018, 8 days at \$2200 with min. 6 people
Of course it is easy to spend a couple of more days at this marvellous area, let us know and we book more days for you.

Alternatively for those who would like to add a few days at the **Iguazu Falls** they can continue there, we can arrange that part, otherwise we catch our international connections and return home with excellent memories of Brazil.

