ROCKJUMPER

Worldwide Birding Adventures

Brazil

Manaus & Rio Negro

13th August to 27th August 2022 (15 days)

Amazonia NP Extension

27th August to 1st September 2022 (6 days)



Spot-tailed Nightjar by Forrest Rowland

Few countries in the Americas hold more mystique and intrigue than the massive nation of Brazil. No feature on the continent of South America is more recognizable, more written about, or more wistfully contemplated than the mighty Amazon River. Despite this amazing river's nearly 4000 miles of length, remarkably few ports of access exist. In fact, the entirety of the Amazon Basin, some 2,800,000 sq. miles (!), represents the largest contiguous area of intact rain forest, and least populated area, in the entire Western Hemisphere. No wonder the draw of the Amazon is irresistible to the nature-loving explorer in all of us! This tour is centred in the heart of the basin, in the states of Amazonas and Para, where we will access the entire suite of micro-habitats in the region. From the white water river islands and flooded varzea forests of the Amazonas and Negro river systems, across hilly terra firme, we will spend time in boats, and afoot, searching out the Amazon Basin's most spectacular and iconic bird species. Wildlife possibilities range from Tapir and Pink River Dolphin to the elusive Jaguar. This tour is an in-depth exploration of the best Amazon birding has to offer.

THE TOUR AT A GLANCE…

MANAUS ITINERARY

Day 1	**Arrivals in Manaus**
Day 2	**Museu da Amazonia to Presidente Figueiredo**
Day 3	**Lajes Reserve & Iracema Falls**
Day 4	**Iracema Falls & Mari Mari**
Day 5	**Tucumanduba & Mari Mari**
Day 6	**INPA canopy tower to Manaus**
Day 7	**Manaus to Cirandeira Bela (Manacapuru)**
Day 8	**Cirandeira Bela (Manacapuru)**
Day 9	**Birding to Novo Airao**
Day 10	**West Bank birding Novo Airao, board Amazon Cruise, PM Anavilhanas**
Day 11	**Anavilhanas archipelago to mouth of Rio Ariau**
Day 12	**Morning Rio Ariau, cruise up Rio Solimoes to Lago Januari**
Day 13	**River Islands around Marchanteria, cruise down to Rio Madeira**
Day 14	**River Islands and forests at mouth of the Madeira**
Day 15	**Disembark and return to Manaus overland, birding en route**

AMAZONIA NP ITINERARY

Day 1	**Arrivals in Manaus**
Day 2	**Manaus to Amazonia National Park via Itaituba**
Days 3 to 5	**Amazonia National Park**
Day 6	**Amazonia National Park to Itaituba and final departures**

TOUR MAP…



THE TOUR IN DETAIL…

Day 1: Arrivals Manaus. Upon arriving in the city of Manaus you will be transferred to our comfortable hotel in the city overlooking the spectacular Rio Negro. Here you will be met for a welcome dinner by your tour leader from Rockjumper Birding Tours with time to talk through some of the exciting adventures to come! Early arrivals can enjoy some productive birding and photography around the hotel.



Crimson Topaz by Murray Cooper

Day 2: Museu da Amazonia to Presidente Figueiredo. The botanical garden of Manaus, Museu da Amazonia is a fantastic introduction to Amazonian birding, especially since it borders with the extensive Adolfo Ducke forest reserve. The 42m tall observation tower is a great place to start the early morning. From the top we'll be scanning the canopy and sky for macaws, toucans, trogons, raptors, flycatchers and cotingas. One of our first Guianan shield specialties that we might get include Guianan Toucanet, Guianan Puffbird, Caica and Dusky Parrots,

Guianan Tyrannulet, Guianan Woodcreeper and Guianan Gnatcatcher. Hopefully we also get some eye-level views of mixed-species flocks that pass by.



Paradise Tanager by Forrest Rowland

These canopy flocks can be very productive holding species such as Ash-winged and Spot-backed Antwren, the lovely Painted Tody-Flycatcher, Yellow-throated Flycatcher, Todd's Sirystes, Glossy-backed and Pink-throated Becard, Lemon-chested and Buff-cheeked Greenlet, Yellow-green Grosbeak, Short-billed Honeycreeper, Yellow-backed Tanager, Golden-bellied and Golden-sided Euphonia, Red-billed Pied, Flame-crested, Fulvous-crested Tanager, Turquoise, Paradise and Opal-rumped and maybe even the rare Dotted Tanager! In terms of colourful cotingas we will have chances for the Spangled, Pompadour and even Purple-breasted!

In the afternoon we'll make our way to Presidente Figueiredo where we'll be based for the next 4 nights.

Day 3: Lajes reserve & Iracema Falls. Being farther north of the Amazon, this area boasts a list of species very obviously influenced by the Guianan shield geology on which it is situated. Not only will we focus on the impressive variety of parrots, manakins, and cotingas that have evolved around the shield, but we will spend time birding some good Campina forests, as well. These special, depleted white sand forests are equally interesting, harbouring several species only found in very specific habitat. At the hotel grounds we have chances to find such gems as Little Chachlaca, the stunning Crimson Topaz, Amazonian Motmot, Red-and-green Macaw, Rothschild's Grosbeak, Epaulet Oriole, Red-rumped Cacique and Green Oropendola. We'll also explore the Lajes Reserve and surrounding properties where the owners are quite amenable to visiting birders. Some of the special species we will focus on include Green-tailed Goldenthroat, White-barred Piculet, Spotted Puffbird, Guiana Red Cotinga, Purple-breasted Cotinga, Capuchinbird, Dusky Purpletuft, Bronzy Jacamar, Golden-spangled Piculet, Painted Parakeet, Blue-and-Yellow and Scarlet Macaws, Black-crested, Northern Slaty- and Amazonian Antshrikes, Rufous-bellied Antwren, Willis's, Dusky, Black-throated, and Rufous-throated Antbirds, Chestnut-belted Gnateater, Rufous-crowned Elaenia, McConell's Flycatcher, Guianan Tyrannulet, Short-tailed Pygmy-Tyrant,



Painted Tody-Flycatcher by Forrest Rowland

Double-banded Pygmy-Tyrant, Pelzeln's Tody-Tyrant, Pale-bellied Mourner, Saffron-crested Tyrant Manakin, White-fronted, Golden-headed, Red-headed, Black and Yellow-crested Manakins, Buff-cheeked Greenlet, Paradise and Opal-rumped Tanagers, Golden-sided and Plumbeous Euphonias, White-naped and Wing-barred Seedeaters, and Yellow-green Grosbeak, among others!



Guianan Cock-of-the-rock by Adam Riley

Day 4: Iracema Falls & Mari Mari. After some final morning target birding at Iracema Falls we will continue to Mari Mari for the afternoon. This property has an accessible lek of Guianan Cock-of-the-rock and a spectacular display of these mind-blowing cotingas will hopefully be the star attraction for the afternoon. Depending on how much time is left we might explore the property grounds that provide great birding. Night birding nearby might produce Tawny-bellied Screech Owl and the much sought-after White-winged Potoo!

Day 5: Tucumanduba & Mari Mari. Today we have several options for great birding at Mari Mari and surrounding areas. Tucumanduba is a possibility but we might also try other sites further east. Today's plan actually largely depends on the species that have eluded us so far, especially those targets inhabiting Campina and white sand forest, but of course we'll also search for other missed species in the general area. Another visit to the Guianan Cock-of-the-rock lek is also among the options.



Tawny-bellied Screech Owl by Dušan Brinkhuizen

Day 6: INPA canopy tower to Manaus. Today is our second opportunity to be high in the canopy with a birds-eye-view over the richest forest in the world, as dawn breaks and the rain forest comes to life. The INPA tower has become the premier canopy access in this vast region. Birding opportunities from the tower, and on the surrounding forest trail system, are nothing lesser than superb. On a good morning with decent weather, we can expect a sizeable host of the following species: Spix's Guan, Black-faced Hawk, White Hawk, Lined Forest Falcon, Black-bellied Cuckoo, Amazonian Pygmy Owl, Black-eared Fairy, Racquet-tailed Coquette, Pied Puffbird, Golden-collared and Yellow-throated Woodpeckers, Golden-winged Parakeet, Dusky and Red-fan Parrots, Yellow-billed Jacamar, Ash-winged, Pygmy, and Spot-backed Antwrens, Variegated and Spotted Antpitta, Olive-green Tyrannulet, Glossy-backed Becard, Spangled and Pompadour Cotinga, Guianan Gnatcatcher, Slaty-capped Shrike Vireo, Flame-crested, Fulvous-crested, Opal-rumped and Spotted Tanagers. Other species less frequently

encountered, but certainly possible include Harpy or Crested Eagle, Fiery-tailed Awlbill, Curve-billed Scythebill, Crimson Fruitcrow, and both Dotted and Blue-backed Tanagers. Again, incredible birding possibilities today! We'll then make our way back to Manaus for the night.



Brazilian Tapir by Rich Lindie

Day 7: Manaus to Cirandeira Bela (Manacapuru). This morning we'll make an early start to the vast tracts of t*erra firme* (never flooded) forests near Manaus. Our plans today will depend primarily on which species we need to search for, but are likely to include an array of attractive and interesting species such as the very special Black Curassow, Grey-winged Trumpeter, Red-and-green and Blue-and-yellow Macaw, Crimson Topaz, Guianan Toucanet, Bronzy Jacamar, Curve-billed Scythebill, Golden-collared Woodpecker, Glossy-backed Becard, Pompadour Cotinga, Guianan Red Cotinga, Capuchinbird, Guianan Gnatcatcher, Slaty-capped Shrike-Vireo, Blue-backed and Dotted Tanager, spectacular White-plumed and Rufous-throated Antbird, Guianan Slaty Antshrike, Saffron-crested Tyrant-Manakin, White-naped Seedeater and even a remote chance for the recently re-discovered Pelzeln's Tody-Tyrant. We'll then head to Cirandeira Bela for the night.

Day 8: Cirandeira Bela (Manacapuru). We have the whole day to bird the riverside town of Cirandeira Bela. Some of the birds we can look for include Ivory-billed Aracari, LaFresnaye's Piculet, Chestnut and Scale-breasted Woodpeckers, Paradise Jacamar, Black-eared Fairy, Negro Stipple-throated Antwren, Peruvian Warbling-Antbird, Yellow-browed Antbird, Snethlage's Tody-Tyrant, and many more!



Red-billed Pied Tanager by Forrest Rowland

Day 9: Birding to Novo Airao. Cirandeira Bela offers up some great birding, as it sits atop white sand forest and mixed terra firme habitat on the West Bank. We will spend this morning enjoying the birds on the property, before heading North towards Novo Airao, and some fine terra firme habitat near there. Before departing the property, we might find Green-tailed Goldenthroat, Black-throated Trogon, Collared Puffbird, Great Jacamar, Gilded Barbet, Ringed Wodpecker, Orange-cheeked Parrot, White-shouldered Antshrike, Gray, Dusky, Spot-winged, and White-cheeked Antbirds, Point-tailed Palmcreeper,

Brownish Twistwing, Blue-backed, Blue-crowned, White-crowned, and Golden-headed Manakins, and more! In the afternoon we will work a productive trail system near Novo Airao, where we have a chance to see White-chested Puffbird, Red-necked and Cream-colored Woodpeckers, Pearly Antshrike, Negros Stipple-throated, Gray, Long-winged, and Spot-backed Antwrens, Chestnut-belted Gnateater, Rufous-capped Antthrush, Rufous-tailed Xenops, Ocellated, Spot-throated, Long-tailed, Amazonian Barred and Black-banded Woodcreepers, Saffron-crested Tyrant Manakin, Collared Gnatwren, and a huge array of Tanager, Honeycreepers, and Euphonias all possible. Some night birding might turn up the rare, enigmatic, White-winged Potoo, which has been encountered here on several occasions!



Harpy Eagle by Forrest Rowland

Days 10 & 11: West Bank birding Novo Airao, board Amazon Cruise, PM Anavilhanas. After a bit of morning birding the West Bank to catch up with some of the birds mentioned above, we will board our live-aboard charter boat, to begin our explorations of the Amazon river systems. Over the next two days we will spend our time exploring the scenic black waters of the Rio Negro. Here we have the opportunity to access a wonderful variety of habitats including black water *varzea*, and our only chance to bird the black water river islands and the hilly *terra firme* forests on the west bank of the Rio Negro. Due to its incredible volume and length, the Rio Negro itself acts as a significant bio-geographical divider, separating species present on its west bank, from species east of the Rio Negro where we've been thus far. It's a perfect example of how diversity has evolved in the Amazon!

Wildlife viewing during this portion of the tour will be outstanding as well, with a high probability of encountering the iconic Pink River Dolphin and charismatic Giant Otter! We will be in boats and on foot, searching for the likes of Orinoco Goose, Crestless and Razor-billed Curassows, Sand-colored, Short-tailed, and Band-tailed Nighthawks, Blackish Nightjar, Great and Common Potoo, Amazonian and Blue-crowned Trogon, Green-and-rufous and American Pygmy Kingfisher, Chestnut-capped Puffbird, Green-tailed Jacamar, Lettered and Ivory-billed Aracari, Varzea Piculet, Scale-breasted, Chestnut and Ringed Woodpecker, Orange-cheeked and Black-headed Parrot, Glossy, Blackish-grey, and Spot-winged Antshrike, Cherrie's, Klage's and Leaden Antwren, Riparian, Ash-breasted, Black-chinned, Black-faced,



Point-tailed Palmcreeper by Markus Lilje

Spot-winged and Chestnut-crested Antbird, Short-billed Leaftosser, Spot-throated, Long-tailed and White-chinned Woodcreeper, Wing-banded, Pale-legged and Lesser Hornero, Amazonian Inezia, Snethlage's Tody-Tyrant, Amazonian Umbrellabird, Wire-tailed Manakin, Varzea Schiffornis and both Grey-chested and Brown-headed Greenlets amongst others. Despite having already spent over a week in the area, we will encounter a staggering number of new birds by simply crossing the Rio Negro!



Wire-tailed Manakin by Forrest Rowland

Day 12: Morning Rio Ariau, cruise up Rio Solimoes to Lago Januari. We have an exciting canoe trip scheduled to the blackwater ecosystem of the Rio Ariaú west of Manaus. It is a great introduction to igapo, or stagnant water, avifauna and some specialties such as Horned Screamer, Slate-coloured Hawk and Slender-billed Kite might be easier to see today than later on in the tour. The so-called Igapó species are confined to these permanently flooded forests and we'll do our best to see as many of them as we can. If we find a good stand of Moriche palm trees (*Mauritia* sp.) we will certainly try for specialties such as Point-tailed Palmcreeper, Sulphury Flycatcher and Moriche Oriole. Of course, being in a boat on the river we plan to pick up a good number of waterbirds and riparian corridor species. Some of the many birds we may encounter today include Undulated Tinamou, Muscovy Duck, Black-collared Hawk, Snail Kite, Grey-breasted Crake, Azure Gallinule, Large-billed Tern, Hoatzin, Little Cuckoo, Greater Ani, Nacunda Nighthawk, Ladder-tailed Nightjar, Ringed, Amazon, and Green Kingfisher, Little, Spot-breasted and Cream-colored Woodpecker, Long-billed and Zimmer's Woodcreeper, Spotted Tody-Flycatcher, Black-backed Water Tyrant, White-eyed Attila, Hooded and Orange-headed Tanager, Bicolored Conebill, Lined Seedeater, Oriole Blackbird, Orange-backed Troupial, and Solitary Black Cacique. Today's all-day boat excursion offers unforgettable scenery, as well as the opportunity to see Black Caiman and with luck, Pink River Dolphin!



Parker's Spinetail by Forrest Rowland

Day 13: River Islands around Marchanteria, cruise down to Rio Madeira. Among the most noteworthy of microhabitats to be found in the Amazon basin, perhaps the most radically specialized bird species are those that evolved to reside only on the river islands of the Amazon and its tributaries. Today will be dedicated, entirely, to searching out many of these fascinating species. The many specialities of these islands, which prefer further-specialized habitats (short willow stands vs. tall *Cecropia* trees, for

example) will require us to navigate a few accesses and perhaps visit multiple islands today.



Yellow-billed Jacamar by Forrest Rowland

Of the many birds we hope to encounter, particularly noteworthy species include Muscovy, Azure Gallinule, Gray-breasted Crake, Sungrebe, Limpkin, Pied Lapwing, Collared Plover, Yellow-billed and Large-billed Tern, Black Skimmer, Spot-breasted Woodpecker, Little Cuckoo, Dark-billed Cuckoo, Nacunda and Sand-colored Nighthawks, Ladder-tailed Nightjar, Festive and Short-tailed Parrots, Tui Parakeet, Blue-winged Parrotlet, Green-throated Mango, Olive-spotted Hummingbird, Parker's, Red-and-white, Dark-breasted, and White-bellied Spinetail, Brownish Elaenia, Lesser Wagtail-Tyrant, Riverside Tyrannulet, 'Island' Fuscous Flycatcher of the race *fuscatior*, Castelnau's Antshrike, Black-and-white Antbird, Zimmer's Woodcreeper, Lesser Hornero, Riverside Tyrant, Dull-capped Attila, Orange-backed Troupial, Yellow-hooded and Oriole Blackbirds, Pearly-breasted Conebill, Lined, Chestnut-bellied, and Wing-barred Seedeaters, and many others! After a full day visiting river islands of all sizes, we will motor East down the Amazon River to our anchorpoint at the mouth of the Rio Madeira.



Capuchinbird by Forrest Rowland

Day 14: River Islands and forests at mouth of the Madeira. Today will be dedicated to finding a few, very important endemic species, during which time we can catch up on any river or varzea specialists we might have missed before. The headliners of the day are only found along the central Amazon river corridor, and include both the extremely range-restricted Varzea Piculet and Scaled Spinetail. Should time permit, we might access a trail to sample some of the birds of the trans-Madeira interfluvial plain. Being on the far side of the River, a host of new species are possible!

Days 15: Disembark and return to Manaus overland, birding en route: This final day of the tour will be mostly a travel day back to Manaus, though we break up the travel with some nice birding en route, as our journey will take is through some prime habitats. Upon arriving in Manaus, we will get settled in to our Hotel before meeting for a scrumptious farewell dinner.

Amazonia NP Extension

Day 1: Arrivals in Manaus. Upon arriving in the city of Manaus you will be transferred to our comfortable hotel in the city overlooking the spectacular Rio Negro. Here you will be met for a welcome dinner by your tour leader from Rockjumper Birding Tours with time to talk through some of the exciting adventures to come! Early arrivals can enjoy some productive birding and photography around the hotel.



Banded Antbird by Dubi Shapiro

Day 2: Manaus to Amazonia National Park via Itaituba. Our Amazonia NP adventure starts with a flight from Manaus to Itaituba. Upon arrival we will be transferred to our hotel, where we will be based for the remainder of the tour, giving us time to explore one of the most remote, spectacular parks in the Amazon basin: Amazonia National Park.

Days 3 to 5: Amazonia National Park. We will find ourselves again south of the Amazon, but amidst another new host of special birds. Situated on the Rio Tapajos, we will have access to many of the Madeira-Tapajos interfluvium species. These are birds that have evolved within the forest between the two major tributary rivers, and are found nowhere else. Many of these species are truly spectacular, heart-of-the-jungle species that few birders have ever laid eyes on. The habitat here is of the most pristine quality.



Rufous Potoo by Dušan Brinkhuizen

There are relatively few trails in the area, all of which we will explore, but the road cuts through great habitat, as it runs the length of this huge National Park which has remained almost entirely undisturbed by man. Having already focused on *varzea*, white sand forest, and riverine habitats, we will spend most of our time seeking out the rare *terra firme* birds that make this park so spectacular for the visiting birder. White-crested Guan, Dark-winged Trumpeter, Cryptic Forest Falcon, Crimson-bellied, Santarem and Golden Parakeets, Vulturine Parrot, Brown-chested Barbet, Gould's Toucanet, Red-necked Aracari, Natterer's Slaty- and Saturnine Antshrike, White-eyed, Sclater's and Ihering's Antwren, Spix's Warbling Antbird, Wing-banded, Banded, Rufous-faced, Xingu Scale-backed and Harlequin Antbird, Pale-faced Bare-eye, Alta Floresta Antpitta, Black-bellied Gnateater, Rusty-belted Tapaculo, Elegant, Ocellated, Uniform and Hoffman's Woodcreeper, Zimmer's Tody-Tyrant, Cinnamon-crested and White-crested Spadebill, White-tailed Cotinga, Snow-capped and Flame-crowned Manakin, Brown-winged Schiffornis, Cinereous Mourner and Rose-breasted Chat are

among the over 350 species regularly found in this area! Our time in this remote primary forest also allows plenty of opportunity for some special efforts to see some of the more spectacular and bizarre mammal species of the region, as well as learn a bit more about a number of the special reptiles, amphibians, plants, and so forth, that make up this important, threatened, ecology.

Day 6: Amazonia National Park to Itaituba and final departures. We have one final morning to bird around Amazonia National Park before we travel back to Itaituba for our flight to Manaus.

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS:

Tour dates, prices, single supplement rates, approximate flight costs and spaces available for this tour are displayed on our website. Please see under IMPORTANT INFORMATION below.

The tour fee includes:

- All meals from dinner on day 1 to lunch on day 15 of the Manaus tour and from dinner on day 1 to lunch of day 6 for the Amazonia NP 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:

- Visa fees;
- **ANY** flights;
- Any drinks;
- Special gratuities; and
- 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.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

a) Due to constantly fluctuating exchange rates, we quote our tours in 4 currencies. The tour price is however 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 (usually 4 months before the tour.) The same applies to approximate flight and single supplement rates, which are also quoted in the respective fixed currency.

b) Rates are based upon group tariffs; if the tour does not have sufficient registration 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 and / or the designated Rockjumper leader/s 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, 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:

- We have timed our visit to coincide with the dry season and we can expect the weather conditions to be favourable, mostly dry and sunny. However, it is generally hot and very humid in the lowlands and foothills. It can get quite cool if it rains. 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. Should you have any physical limitations or medical conditions please notify us in advance of departure.
- The vehicles we use are comfortable. Most roads are of a good standard, although we should expect some bumpy conditions when leaving the paved road.

ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE DETAILS:

These tours do not include **ANY** airfares. Day 1 of the main tour is scheduled as an arrival day and you are welcome to arrive at any time before 17:00. The tour will conclude in the late afternoon at Eduardo Gomes International Airport, Manaus (IATA: MAO) on day 15.

Day 1 of the Amazonia NP extension is scheduled as an arrival day and you are welcome to arrive at any time before 17:00. The extension will conclude after our flight from Itaituba to Eduardo Gomes International Airport, Manaus (IATA: MAO) in the early afternoon of day 6.

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.

FLIGHTS:

Eduardo Gomes International Airport, Manaus (IATA: MAO) is the primary port of entry and exit for this tour and is well serviced by several airlines connecting via large international hubs such as Miami, Panama City, Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo. **Please DO NOT book any flights until you have consulted the Rockjumper office for confirmation on the status of the tour.**