ROCKJUMPER

Worldwide Birding Adventures

Brazil & Argentina I

Iguazú Extension

31st July to 4th August 2022 (5 days)

Birds & Wildlife of the Pantanal & Cerrado

4th August to 13th August 2022 (10 days)

Amazon Rainforest Birding Extension

13th August to 18th August 2022 (6 days)



Toco Toucan by Adam Riley

Brazil, one of the most biodiverse countries on the planet, is a dream destination for general naturalists, photographers and birders alike. Home to swathes of Amazon Rainforest, the vast majority of the continent's savannah and endemic-rich Atlantic Rainforest, and the highly celebrated Pantanal, few destinations can offer such great variety and abundance in such a short space of time.

Combining a visit to two of these great regions - the Pantanal, weighing in as the world's largest freshwater wetland, and the Cerrado, a true icon of Brazil's fascinating habitats - our main tour packs in an incomparable mix of productive birding, great wildlife-viewing and superb photography opportunities. Indeed, sampling a fantastic cross-section of the Pantanal's 250 000km² (96 500mi²) of woodland, swathing rivers and shallow wetlands, on top of the bird-rich Cerrado in the Chapada dos Guimarães area, our 10 day itinerary is simply unbeatable. And for those who wish to stay longer and sample more of the region, we have an extension to the mighty Iguazú Falls and the highly threatened Atlantic rainforests of northern Argentina, and a visit to the pristine Amazon rainforests near Alta Floresta, in the heart of the verdant southern Amazon basin - each packed into less than a week!

THE TOUR AT A GLANCE…

BRAZIL & ARGENTINA: IGUAZÚ EXTENSION

Day 1	**Iguazú Falls**
Days 2 to 4	**Iguazú National Park**
Day 5	**Iguazú and depart**

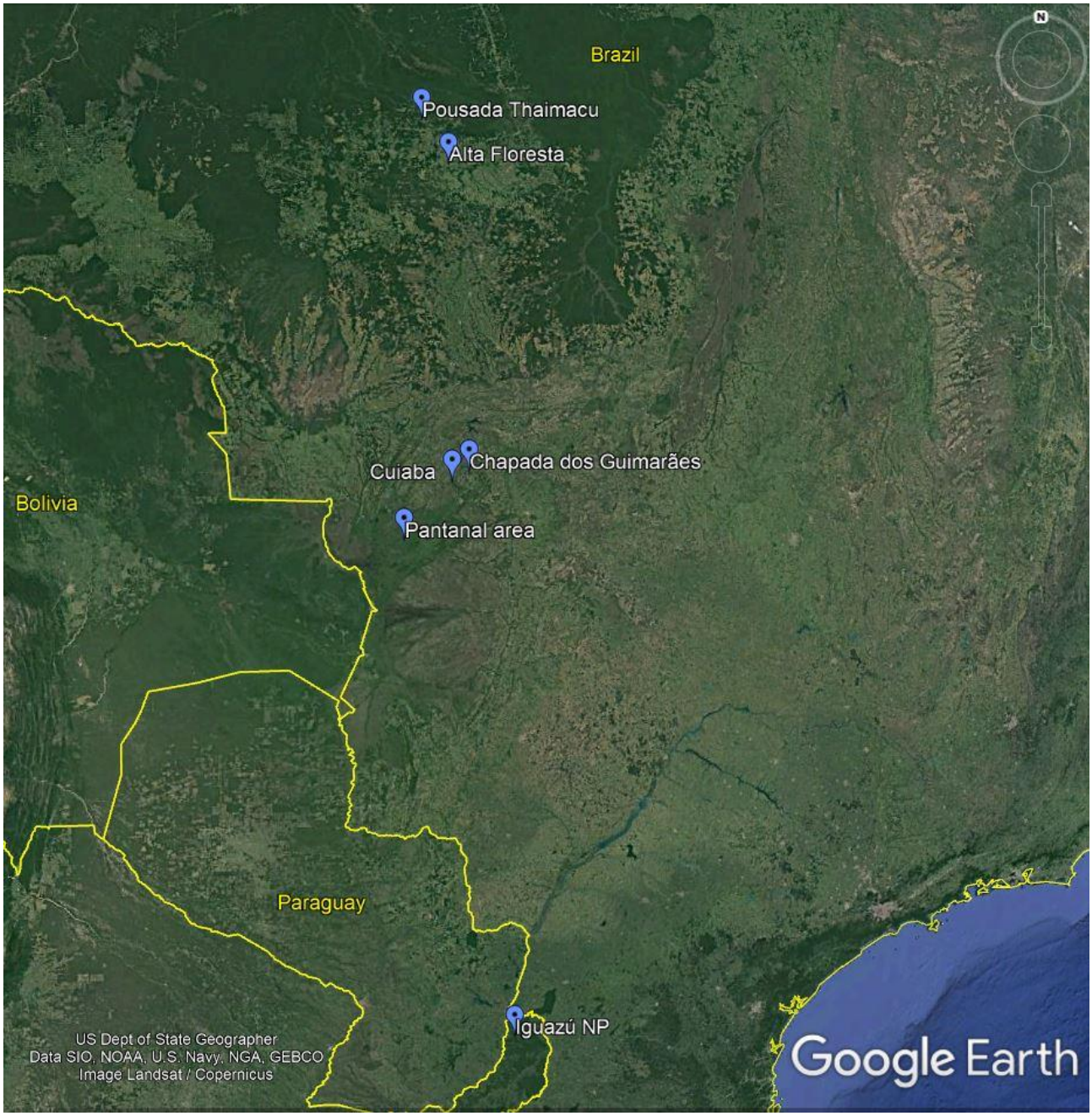
BRAZIL: BIRDS OF THE PANTANAL AND CERRADO

Day 1	**Cuiaba to Chapada dos Guimaraes**
Days 2 & 3	**Chapada dos Guimaraes area**
Day 4	**Chapada dos Guimaraes to the Pantanal area**
Days 5 to 9	**Pantanal area**
Day 10	**Pantanal to Cuiaba**

BRAZIL: AMAZON RAINFOREST BIRDING EXTENSION

Day 1	**Cuiaba to Pousada Thaimacu via Alta Floresta**
Days 2 to 5	**Pousada Thaimacu area**
Day 6	**Pousada Thaimacu to Cuiaba via Alta Floresta**

TOUR MAP


Brazil
Pousada Thaimacu
Alta Floresta
Cuiaba
Chapada dos Guimarães
Bolivia
Pantanal area
Paraguay
Iguazú NP
US Dept of State Geographer
Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO
Image Landsat / Copernicus
Google Earth

Iguazú Extension



Iguazú Falls by Rob Williams

Our extension to the incredible Iguazú Falls, offers not only a visit to the most voluminous and arguably most scenic falls in the world, but also several days of fantastic Atlantic rainforest birding. Targets, whenever we're not marvelling at the falls, include Surucua Trogon, Rufous-capped Motmot, Rufous Gnateater, Spot-backed and Tufted Antshrikes, Slaty-breasted Wood Rail, Black-throated Grosbeak, Red-ruffed Fruitcrow, Spot-billed Toucanet and many more, while our forays to the various falls viewpoints are likely to turn up sightings of Black-fronted Piping Guan and the iconic Great Dusky Swift! Our itinerary even allows time to venture to higher-elevation birding sites, in search of other regional specialties such as Dusky-tailed Antbird and Chestnut-headed Tanager.

Day 1: Iguazú National Park. On arrival at Foz do Iguaçu airport, you will be met by our local representative and taken on a scheduled road transfer, across the border into Argentina, and onward to our hotel adjoining the Iguazú National Park.



Black-fronted Piping Guan by Clayton Burne

Days 2 to 4: Iguazú National Park. Iguazu National Park protects the vast majority of one of the most important natural forests south of the Amazon: the Interior Atlantic Forest, hosting dozens of unique, often rare, orchids, small primates, bats and birds - many of which are also



Surucua Trogon by Clayton Burne

endemic. Also within the park, the Iguazú River plummets 70 meters into a stunning canyon below, in a curtain of cascades spanning more than 250 individual waterfalls and an impressive 2 kilometres! We have 3 full days to enjoy both the falls and the forest within the park to their fullest, by strolling a good selection of the park's myriad of trails and walkways, and by paying a visit to several spectacularly perched lookouts along the way.

The walkways in particular have been built at several different levels, allowing visitors a chance to see the falls from both above and below. A narrow gauge train also allows visitors to access several different areas, most notably the most spectacular fall of them all – the Devil's Throat, which we will certainly pay a visit to at some point. Along the forest trails on the other hand, a myriad of colourful birds living in Iguazú will be the primary focus of our attention. These including the often confiding Surucua and Black-throated Trogons, Red-ruffed Fruitcrow, Blue Manakin, five species of euphonia, Black-goggled and Green-headed Tanagers, White-eyed and Ochre-breasted Foliage Gleaners, Green-billed and Toco Toucans, Spot-billed Toucanets, Southern Antpipit, Spot-backed and Tufted Antshrikes, Maroon-bellied Parakeet, Scaly-headed Parrot, Short-tailed Anthrush and Rufous-capped Motmot - all of which are commonly found.

Less commonly encountered species that we will also search for include Black-billed Scythebill, Solitary Tinamou, Spot-winged Wood Quail, Buff-bellied Puffbird, Rusty-breasted Nunlet and Rufous-thighed Kite and several of the twelve species of woodpecker known to occur in the area.

On one of our days in the area, we will endeavour to visit the Urugua-i Provincial Park – an adjacent park based at a slightly higher elevation and containing some very interesting sections of bamboo-dominated forest. There, away from the crowd of Iguazú, we will have the chance to explore more trails, in search of Bertoni's and Dusky-tailed Antbirds, White-throated Spadebill, Speckle-breasted Antpitta, Mottle-cheeked Tyrannulet, Southern Bristle-Tyrant, Drab-breasted Bamboo Tyrant and even Green-crowned Plovercrest if luck is on our side.

Finally, near our base in Puerto Iguazú we will take time to visit a private house where hummingbird feeders normally attract at least seven species of these flying jewels at any given moment! Black Jacobin, Planalto Hermit, Swallow-tailed Hummingbird, White-throated Hummingbird, Gilded Sapphire and Violet-capped Woodnymph being among the most desired but also often joined by Bananaquit and Green-headed Tanager.



Green-headed Tanager by Rob Williams

Day 5: Iguazú and depart. This morning those continuing onto the main tour will take a flight to Cuiaba where we will start the **Brazil: Birds & Wildlife of the Pantanal & Cerrado** main tour. For those participating on the **Iguazú Extension** only, the tour will end here where you will take your departing flights home.

Birds & Wildlife of the Pantanal & Cerrado



Hyacinth Macaw by Rich Lindie

Day 1: Cuiaba to Chapada dos Guimaraes. Upon arrival in Cuiaba, we will transfer through to the Chapada dos Guimaraes area for a three-night stay.

Days 2 & 3: Chapada dos Guimarães. The region around the small town of Chapada dos Guimarães is most famous, and justifiably so, for its spectacular escarpments and waterfalls. Of greater interest to birders, however, are the great stretches of Cerrado, end even a few well-forested valleys. The Cerrado, a unique savanna confined mostly to Brazil, not only contains a set of fantastic endemic birds, but also a good deal of threatened species of many plant an animal groups - owed mostly to its clearance for swathes of agriculture. With two full days to explore this stunning region, our time will be dedicated mostly to birding this habitat, but also the forested valleys and even some of the well-known tourist attractions.



Helmeted Manakin by Adam Riley

In the Cerrado itself, Chapada Flycatcher, Collared Crescentchest, Rufous-winged Antshrike, Shrike-like and White-rumped



Jaguars by Rob Williams

Tanagers, Small-billed Tinamou, Sooty-fronted Spinetail, the delightful Coal-crested and Red Pileated Finches, Black-throated Saltator and perhaps even the sleek Horned Sungem will be the object of our desires, while forested areas will hopefully provide us with sightings of colourful Band-tailed and Fiery-capped Manakins, the endearing Southern Antpipit, Tataupa Tinamou, Sharp-tailed Streamcreeper (which we may locate by its striking calls), Pavonine Cuckoo, Brown Jacamar and the eye-catching Pectoral Sparrow.

The raucous calls of Blue-winged and Red-and Green Macaws, on the other hand, are more likely to welcome us at the scenic Bridal Veil Waterfall or the Geodesic Centre viewpoint, where the scarce Blue Finch and Bat Falcon also occur. Nocturnal birding in the area may also produce several nightjars, including Little and Scissor-tailed Nightjars.

Day 4: Chapada dos Guimaraes to Pantanal area. This morning we may do a little birding in our lodge area before making our way to the incredible Pantanal - Passing once again through Cuiaba, we will this time head further south, to the bustling town of Pocone and, shortly after, the famed Transpantaneira.

The Pantanal, a huge, gently sloping basin that seasonally inundates with water runoff from the surrounding highlands, is by no means a monotonous expanse of water. Instead, it is a mosaic of woodland, slow-moving waterways, and thousands of drying water pools in the dry season. En route through its northern end, we'll make stops to admire our views of this fascinating landscape and all the birds and animals that gather in sight of the road. We should see our first stately Jabiru (often offering excellent photographic opportunities), Ringed and Amazon Kingfishers, the attractive Scarlet-headed Blackbird, Rufescent Tiger Heron, Savanna Hawk, Wood Stork, Snail Kite, Greater Rhea, Grey-necked Wood Rails and Guira Cuckoos, among an impressive assortment of other waterfowl and bank-loads of Jacare Caiman. We will be on the lookout for Red-legged Seriema, Sunbittern and several of the area's less common species, including Maguari Stork, Least Bittern and Chotoy Spinetail.



Red-legged Seriema by Clayton Burne

Days 5 to 9: Pantanal area. Combining several boat rides, easy walks along



Giant Otter by Rob Williams

forested trails and a return trip along the entire length of the Transpanataneira, we will sample the full suite of avian gems that call the Pantanal home, not to mention give ourselves the best chance of seeing some of its greatest mammal attractions. Along the Claro and Cuiba Rivers, for example, we have a decent chance of connecting with both Agami and Zigzag Herons, all five Brazilian kingfishers, the often inconspicuous Sungrebe and the spectacular Sunbittern, on top of regular sightings of Great Black Hawk, several parrot species, Nacunda and Band-tailed Nighthawks and Pale-legged Hornero.

Naturally, our best chances of seeing Giant River Otter and even the biggest prize of them all, the Jaguar, will be from boats along these rivers, particularly the Cuiaba. Indeed, we will dedicate several boat trips in the Porto Jofre area to finding these magnificent beasts, drawn to the river shores by a seasonal abundance of prey - mostly caiman and Capybara!

During these five days we will also thoroughly cover the other extensive habitats of the Pantanal by accessing them from three separate lodges along the Transpantaneira. Our first few nights will be spent at a newly revamped lodge located along a narrow river full of wildlife, currently considered one of the best spots for birding and nature photography in the entire Pantanal. Among the regular visitors to the lodge grounds are Grey-necked Wood Rail, Bare-faced Curassow, Chestnut-bellied Guan, Chestnut-eared Aracari, Toco Toucan, Turquoise-fronted Amazon, White-eyed and Yellow-chevroned Parakeets, Golden-collared and Hyacinth Macaws which even nest near the rooms on occasion, Crimson-crested and Pale-crested Woodpeckers, Great Rufous Woodcreeper, Red-billed Scythebill, Rufous-tailed Jacamar, Saffron Finch, Silver-beaked Tanager and many more! Mammals commonly seen here include Azara's (Hooded) Capuchins Black-and-gold Howler Monkeys, South American Coati, Azara's Agouti and Paca.

A quiet canoe trip along the river may herald Cocoi and Agami Herons, Sungrebe, Sunbittern, Black-collared Hawk, all five species of South American Kingfisher, Black-capped Donacobius, Yellow-billed Cardinal, as well as Yacare Cayman and Giant Otters.



Black Skimmer by Rob Willliams

Time spent on the trails may produce Blue-throated Piping Guan, Buff-bellied Hermit, Blue-crowned Trogon, White-wedged Piculet, Planalto Slaty Antshrike, Large-billed Antwren, Mato Grosso Antbird,



Giant Anteater by Rob Williams

White-lored Spinetail, Southern Antpipit, Stripe-necked and Pearly-vented Tody-Tyrants, White-eyed Attila, White-naped Xenopsaris, Helmeted and Band-tailed Manakins, Green-backed Becard, Hooded and Grey-headed Tanagers, Flavescent Warbler, Rusty-collared Seedeater, Orange-backed Troupial, and Scarlet-headed Blackbird, just to name a few!

Wooded areas will be searched for Plain Inezia, Rusty-fronted Tody-Flycatcher, Forest Elaenia, Moustached Wren, Golden-green Woodpecker and Narrow-billed Woodcreeper, whilst some of the birding is made much easier by the abundance of feeders that can be found throughout several of the lodge's gardens. There, at point-blank range, Nanday Parakeets, Saffron Finch and even Chestnut-bellied Guan can often be seen feeding in impressive numbers. The haunting calls of Undulated Tinamou will no doubt greet us daily, though laying eyes on one shall present a rather greater challenge.

Along the Transpantaneira road itself we will search for the fantastic Hyacinth Macaw, perhaps the grandest and most striking of all the world's parrots, whilst the rest of our time along the dirt track and its over one hundred narrow bridges where we will keep our eyes out for the migrant Maguari Stork, King Vulture, Cinereous-breasted Spinetail, Southern Screamer, Boat-billed Heron, White-wedged Piculet and White-tailed Goldenthroat. As mentioned earlier, the waterbird spectacle is truly something to behold, and we will also dedicate more time to observing the nesting and feedings sites of a variety of herons, spoonbills and storks, all providing for unparalleled photography to boot.

Mammals, aside from the aforementioned Jaguar and Giant Otters, are also a prominent feature of the Transpantaneira, where many are easier to see than any other place in South America. We stand an excellent chance of seeing the world's largest rodent, the massive Capybara, Brazilian Tapir, localised Marsh Deer, Black-and-gold Howler Monkey, Giant Anteater and even its smaller cousin, the Southern Tamandua. Night excursions will, of course, increase our chances of seeing several of these beasts but may also yield Scissor-tailed Nightjar and two species of potoo.



Black-capped Donacobius by Rob Williams

Day 10: Pantanal to Cuiaba. After some final early morning birding in the area, we will return to Cuiaba where the main tour will conclude. For those continuing onto our **Amazon Rainforest Birding Extension**, we will fly from Cuiaba to Alta Floresta. For those participating on the **Brazil: Birds &**

Wildlife of the Pantanal & Cerrado main tour only, the tour will end here where you will take your departing flights home.

Amazon Rainforest Birding Extension



Curl-crested Aracari by Markus Lilje

Our Amazon Rainforest Birding Extension takes us to the soon to be famous Thaimacu Lodge. Here we will explore the trails and waterways while also scanning from a productive canopy tower in search of Bald Parrot, Razor-billed Curassow, Zigzag Heron, Cryptic Forest Falcon, Curl-crested Aracari, Rufous-faced and Bare-eyed Antbirds, and Fiery-capped, Flame-crested and Band-tailed Manakins to name just a few of the special species we hope to see!



Lowland Tapir by Clayton Burne

Day 1: Cuiaba to Pousada Thaimacu via Alta Floresta. Today we board a short flight from Cuiaba to Alta Floresta. Upon arrival, we will then transfer to Pousada Thaimacu, 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: Pousada Thaimacu area. Primarily set up as a fishing lodge, Pousada Thaimacu overlooks the rapids of the Salto do Thaimaçu on the Rio São

Benedito. With a comprehensive bird list of over 550 species combined with a phenomenal number of localised and endemic species, this is an absolute bird and wildlife heaven. A superb lodge with delicious food, affording us both comfortable and immediate access to a wonderland of birds and other wildlife.



Fiery-capped Manakin by Dubi Shapiro

We have four full days to explore the environs of our lodge located in pristine forest. The garden normally has blooming *Cecropias*, which attract 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 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 recently described Bald Parrot, poorly known Cryptic Forest Falcon, brilliant Red-fan Parrot and Kawall's Amazon, Paradise Jacamar, Amazonian Royal Flycatcher, Glossy Antshrike, Tooth-billed Wren, the crepuscular Collared and Rufous-necked Puffbirds, Amazonian Pygmy Owl, 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 may include Xingu Scale-backed and Bare-eyed Antbirds, Curve-billed Scythebill, Alta Floresta Antpitta and perhaps the very rare Scaled Ground Cuckoo. The noisy songs 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 very difficult species such as the reclusive Zigzag Heron and fantastic Razor-billed Curassow.

Not far from the lodge is a spectacular 40metre (130 foot) canopy 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, Bald Parrot, Long-billed Woodcreeper, Black-girdled Barbet, Brown-banded Puffbird, the bizarre Amazonian Umbrellabird and a kaleidoscope of colourful tanagers and parrots. Impressive Blue-and Yellow, Red-and-green and Scarlet Macaws in flight are a common sight from the towers. Although very scarce, we may be fortunate enough to see the massive



Agami Heron by Rob Williams

Harpy Eagle and a host of other resident raptors.



Hoatzin by Rob Williams

There is also an excellent selection of South American mammals to be found here, and we will maximize our efforts to see the huge Lowland Tapir, walk past fresh Jaguar and Puma tracks, see hosts of Capybara – the world's largest rodent, Southern Tamandua, several species of opossum, Giant River Otter, Brazilian Agouti, the sleek Tayra and the delicately patterned Paca. Perhaps most impressive is the selection of no less than seven primate species in the area, including Feline Night Monkey, Dusky Titi Monkey, Brown Capuchin, Red-handed Howler Monkey, White-Whiskered Spider Monkey, Snethlage's Marmoset 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 as well as Crested, Tawny-bellied Screech and the very attractive Black-banded Owl.

Day 6: Pousada Thaimacu to Cuiaba via Alta Floresta. After some final birding and breakfast, we catch the short flight from Alta Floresta to Cuiaba where our Brazilian adventure will conclude.

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 NOTES below.

The tour fee includes:

* Iguazu Extension – there will be one scheduled, group transfer from Foz do Iguacu airport to our hotel in Igauzu NP (transfers at other times will be at your own cost);
- All meals from lunch on day one to breakfast on day 5 of the Iguazú Extension; from dinner on day 1 to breakfast on day 10 for those on the main tour (lunch is included for guests participating on the Iguazu and Main tour), and from dinner on day 1 to lunch on day 6 for those on the Amazon Rainforest Birding extension (lunch is included for guests participating on the Main tour and Amazon 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 major foreign exchange fluctuations and 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/s. If, therefore, you feel that he/they have given you excellent service, it is entirely appropriate to tip them.

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.
Iguazu Extension: Starts and ends at Foz do Iguacu International Airport, Brazil (IATA: IGU).
Pantanal Tour: Starts and ends at Cuiaba International Airport (IATA: CGB).
Amazon Rainforest Extension: Starts and ends at Cuiaba International Airport (IATA: CGB).

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:

Both Foz do Iguacu International Airport (IATA: IGU) and Cuiaba International Airport (IATA: CGB) are located within Brazil! They are well serviced by a multitude of flights from major cities within Brazil such as Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro and Brasilia. **Please DO NOT book any flights until you have consulted the Rockjumper office for confirmation on the status of the tour.**