Brazil

Amazon Rainforest Birding Extension



Bald Parrot by Lev Frid

Brazil is one of the world's great wildlife destinations, home to an astonishing diversity of habitats ranging from the vast Amazon Rainforest to the Pantanal wetlands and Atlantic Forest. For birders and naturalists alike, few countries can rival the sheer abundance and variety of species found here. Humanity took one look at this biological masterpiece and still decided parking lots were the peak of civilization. Extraordinary judgment.

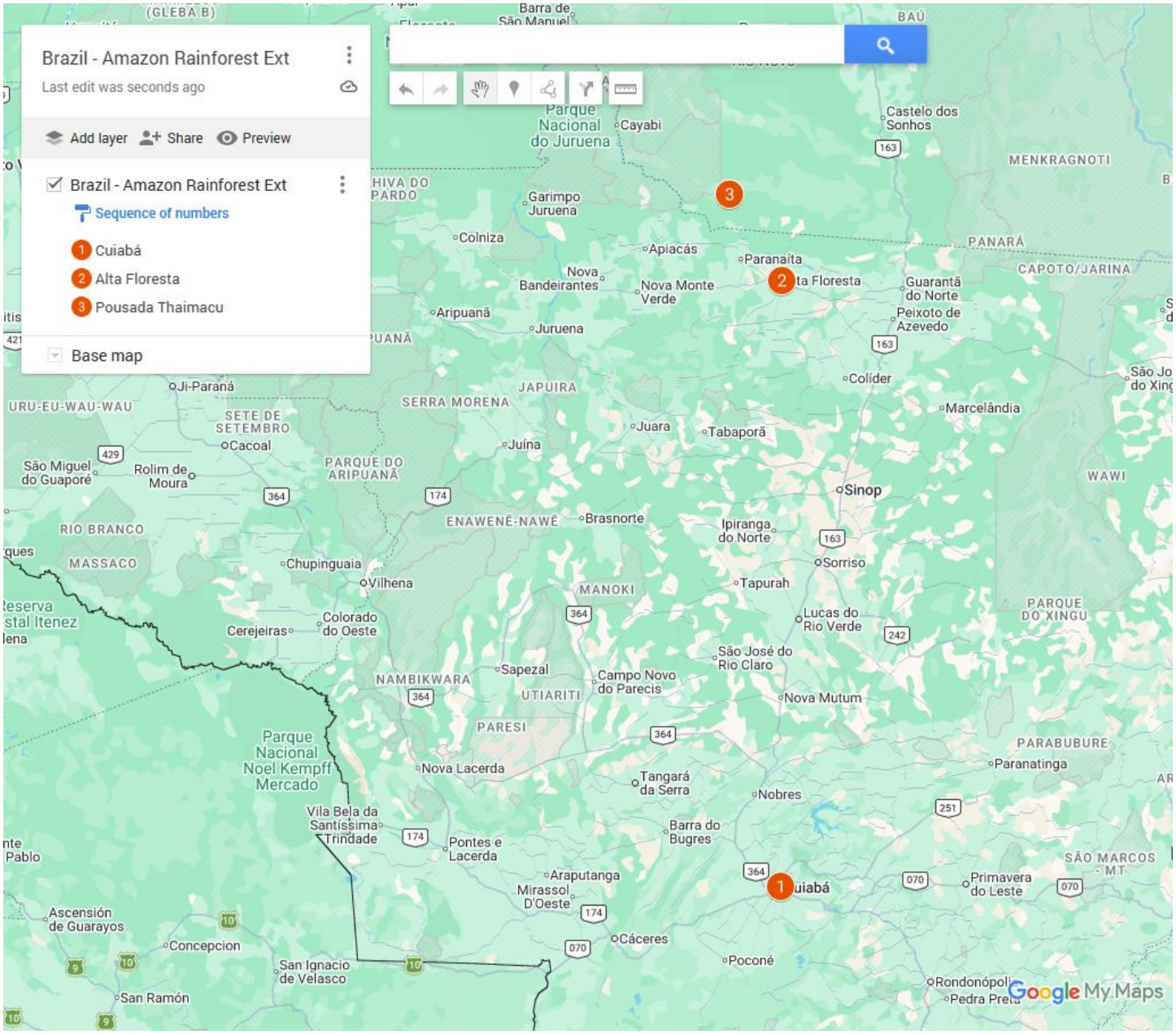
Our Amazon Rainforest Birding Extension takes us deep into the southern Amazon to the exceptional Pousada Thaimaçu, a remote lodge overlooking the rapids of the Rio São Benedito. Surrounded by pristine rainforest, rivers, wetlands, and patches of savanna, this region supports more than 550 bird species and has quickly become one of Brazil's premier Amazonian birding destinations.

Exploring a network of forest trails, river systems, and a spectacular 40-metre canopy tower, we will search for an exciting range of Amazonian specialties including Bald Parrot, Razor-billed Curassow, Zigzag Heron, Cryptic Forest Falcon, Curl-crested Aracari, Pompadour Cotinga, Pavonine Quetzal, and Amazonian Umbrellabird. Army ant swarms may reveal sought-after skulkers such as Bare-eyed and Xingu Scale-backed Antbirds, while colourful mixed flocks enliven the canopy and forest edge throughout the day.

The region is equally rewarding for mammals, with opportunities for Giant River Otter, South American Tapir, Capybara, Tayra, and several species of monkeys including the localized, Red-nosed Bearded Saki. Comfortable accommodation, excellent food, exciting night excursions, and outstanding birding opportunities combine to make this a truly unforgettable Amazonian experience.

Itinerary & Map

Day 1	**Arrival in Cuiabá, flight to Alta Floresta & transfer to Pousada Thaimaçu**
Days 2 to 5	**Pousada Thaimaçu**
Day 6	**Pousada Thaimaçu to Alta Floresta, flight to Cuiabá & final departure**



Birding sites in detail



Red-necked Araçari by Lev Frid

Pousada Thaimaçu. Originally established as a fishing lodge, the excellent Pousada Thaimaçu overlooks the dramatic rapids of the Salto do Thaimaçu on the Rio São Benedito. Surrounded by pristine Amazonian wilderness and with more than 550 bird species recorded in the area, this remote lodge offers an exceptional birding and wildlife experience combined with comfortable accommodation, excellent food, and immediate access to superb habitat.

We will explore a remarkable diversity of habitats surrounding the lodge, including primary rainforest, seasonally flooded forest, wetlands, mixed savanna, and granite outcrops. Access is excellent, with an extensive network of forest trails complemented by boat excursions along the river and its forest-lined channels. Flowering Cecropias around the lodge regularly attract toucans, aracaris, parrots, and fruitcrows, providing exciting birding opportunities even from the gardens.

This region supports an outstanding variety of Amazonian specialities and sought-after species. Key targets during our stay include the recently described Bald Parrot, Cryptic Forest Falcon, Red-fan Parrot, Kawall's Amazon, Paradise Jacamar, Amazonian Royal Flycatcher, Glossy Antshrike, Tooth-billed Wren, Gould's Toucanet, Amazonian Pygmy Owl, and the dazzling Pavonine Quetzal. During quieter periods of the day, we will also search for the elusive Collared and Rufous-necked Puffbirds.

Army ant swarms are a major feature of the region and can attract an exciting array of understory specialists, including Xingu Scale-backed and Bare-eyed Antbirds, Curve-billed Scythebill, Alta Floresta Antpitta, and, with luck, the exceptionally rare Scaled Ground Cuckoo. The haunting calls of Marbled Wood Quail often echo through the forest, while noisy flocks of White-bellied Parrots regularly pass overhead. We will also dedicate time to searching for some of the area's most difficult and desirable species, such as Zigzag Heron and the impressive Razor-billed Curassow.



Razor-billed Curassow by Bobby Wilcox

One of the highlights of our stay is the spectacular 40-metre (130-foot) canopy tower, which rises above the surrounding rainforest and provides breathtaking panoramic views across the forest canopy. This



Agami Heron by Rob Williams

elevated vantage point offers excellent opportunities to observe canopy specialists including Pompadour Cotinga, Curl-crested Aracari, Bald Parrot, Long-billed Woodcreeper, Black-girdled Barbet, Brown-banded Puffbird, and the remarkable Amazonian Umbrellabird, together with a colourful variety of parrots, macaws, and tanagers. Blue-and-yellow, Red-and-green, and Scarlet Macaws are regularly seen flying over the canopy, while there is even the possibility of encountering the mighty Harpy Eagle.

The mammal watching in the area can be equally rewarding. Species possible during our stay include South American Tapir, Giant River Otter, Capybara, Southern Tamandua, Tayra, Brazilian Agouti, Paca, and several species of opossum. The region is also notable for its impressive primate diversity, with up to seven species possible, including Feline Night Monkey, Dusky Titi Monkey, Brown Capuchin, Red-handed Howler Monkey, White-whiskered Spider Monkey, Snethlage's Marmoset, and the localized, Red-nosed Bearded Saki.

After exciting days spent exploring this extraordinary region, there will be opportunities to relax on the lodge's floating deck overlooking the river before heading out again after dark in search of nightbirds such as Crested Owl, Tawny-bellied Screech Owl, Black-banded Owl, and various nightjars.



Pompodour Cotinga by Dušan Brinkhuizen

Tour Grading & Key

Overall Ease		Moderate. Suitable for birders and wildlife enthusiasts of all experience levels with a reasonable level of mobility and general fitness.
Birding Ease		Moderate. Many species offer excellent viewing opportunities in open habitats and from boats, though some Amazonian forest species can be more challenging due to dense vegetation and low-light conditions.
Accommodation		Comfortable. Well-appointed lodge with comfortable rooms and private facilities, excellent meals, and a spectacular setting overlooking the Rio São Benedito.
Walking / Trails		Mostly easy to moderate walking on forest trails and lodge surrounds. Some trails may be uneven, humid, muddy, or slippery, particularly after rain.
Vehicles / Roads		Access to birding areas is primarily by boat and on foot. Boat excursions can last approximately 4 to 6 hours at a time, often with excellent opportunities for wildlife viewing along the river.
Photography		Good to excellent. Superb opportunities from boats, around the lodge, and from the canopy tower, particularly for macaws, parrots, toucans, cotingas, and primates. Interior forest photography can be more challenging due to low light and dense vegetation
Annoyances		Typically hot, humid, and tropical, with cooler temperatures possible during early mornings and rain showers possible at any time. Insects are a regular feature of Amazonian birding conditions.

Financial Arrangements and Important Notes

This tour is made available through our Tailor-made tours department. To explore this offering further for pricing, precise day to day itinerary, inclusions & exclusions, or to tailor the tour to your personal requirements, please contact our Tailor-made team on tailormade@rockjumper.com

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.

- **Due to constantly fluctuating exchange rates, we quote our tours in 4 currencies. The tour price is 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. The same applies to approximate flight and single supplement rates.**
- **Rates are based upon group tariffs; if the tour does not have sufficient registrations, a small group supplement will be offered to confirm the tour.**
- **Tour prices are subject to unforeseen increases in tour related costs and may have to be adjusted as a result.**
- **The designated tour leader/s may be changed at short due to unforeseen circumstances.**

- **The itinerary is indicative only. Changes may need to be made to the order in which the tour is conducted, or some of the venues we visit closer to departure. We will attempt to adhere as close to the original program as possible.**

- Temperatures can range from warm to very hot and humid depending on local weather conditions. Most mornings will start early to take advantage of cooler temperatures and peak bird and wildlife activity.
- This tour does not require a high level of fitness; however, guests should be in good general health as some forest birding is conducted on foot and may involve walking for several hours at a time on uneven trails.
- Some trails may be muddy or slippery, particularly after rain, and insects are a regular feature of Amazonian conditions.
- Please notify us well in advance of departure should you have any physical limitations or medical conditions that may affect your participation.
- Access to birding areas is primarily by boat and on foot, with some boat excursions lasting several hours at a time.
- Accommodation at Pousada Thaimaçu is comfortable and well located for birding activities, although air conditioning may not be available in all rooms.
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Arrival and Departure Details

The will begins and concludes 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.

Cuiaba International Airport (IATA: CGB) is well serviced by a multitude of flights from major cities within Brazil such as Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro and Brasilia.

Visa requirements differ by country, nationality of the traveller and duration and purpose of your intended stay. It may be necessary to obtain a visa or an electronic travel authorization in advance of your travel. It is therefore vitally important that you check with your travel agent/consulate/embassy for exact visa requirements.

DO NOT book any flights until the Rockjumper Team have officially confirmed the tour.