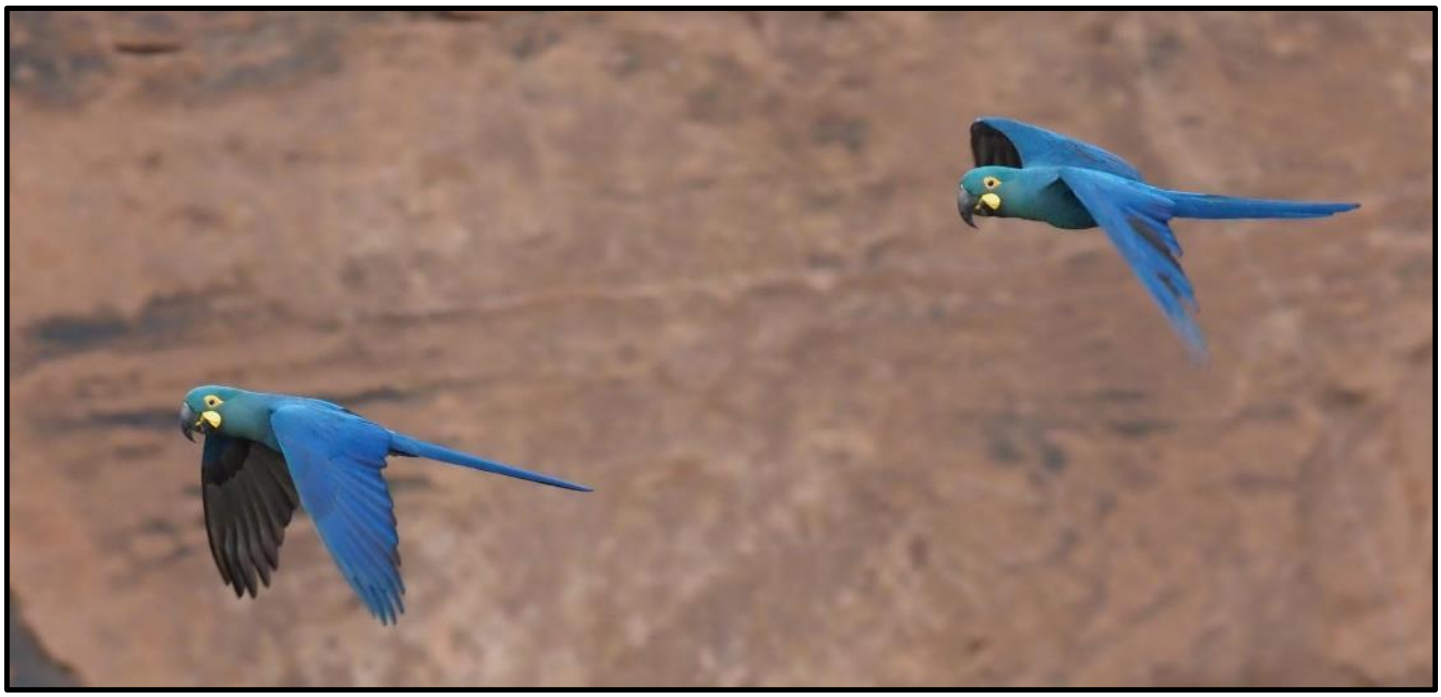
Brazil

Northeast Mega Birding Tour



Lear's Macaws by Stephan Lorenz

Northeast Brazil is a land of outstanding contrast: from gorgeous white-sand beaches, to arid, cactus-topped plateaus, and the humid montane slopes in between. This region has all the beauty and diversity that any birder could ever hope for. Perhaps what this area is best known for, however, is the stunning array of beautiful endemics that flourish in the diverse habitats of Ceara, Pernambuco, Alagoas, Bahia and Espiritu Santo. Our tour explores all the best sites in this fascinating region and offers an impressive bird list that includes Lear's (Indigo) Macaw, the striking Araripe Manakin and rare, White-collared Kite!

We begin in the state of Ceara, visiting Serra de Baturite for Grey-breasted Parakeet, Ceara Gnateater and Buff-breasted Tody-Tyrant, before heading to Quixada for the rarely recorded Pygmy Nightjar and White-browed Guan. Chapada do Araripe puts us in position for the recently described Araripe Manakin and other superb species such as White-browed Antpitta and Great Xenops in advance of our visit to Canudos for the Critically Endangered Lear's Macaw! The birding continues apace, as we head to São Benedito do Sul for a plethora of sought-after species; Scalloped Antbird, incredibly adorned Seven-colored Tanager, Orange-bellied Antwren and Alagoas Tyrannulet. White-collared Kite, Forbes' Blackbird, Pinto's Spinetail and Yellow-faced Siskin make up the target species near Tamandare before we head to Estancia for the endangered Fringe-backed Fire-eye. The next featured location is one of the best birding sites in Brazil, Chapada Diamantina. Hailed as perhaps the most breathtakingly beautiful of all Brazilian National Parks, it hosts several localised endemics including Hooded Visorbearer, the recently described Sincorá Antwren, Grey-backed Tachuri and Diamantina Tapaculo.

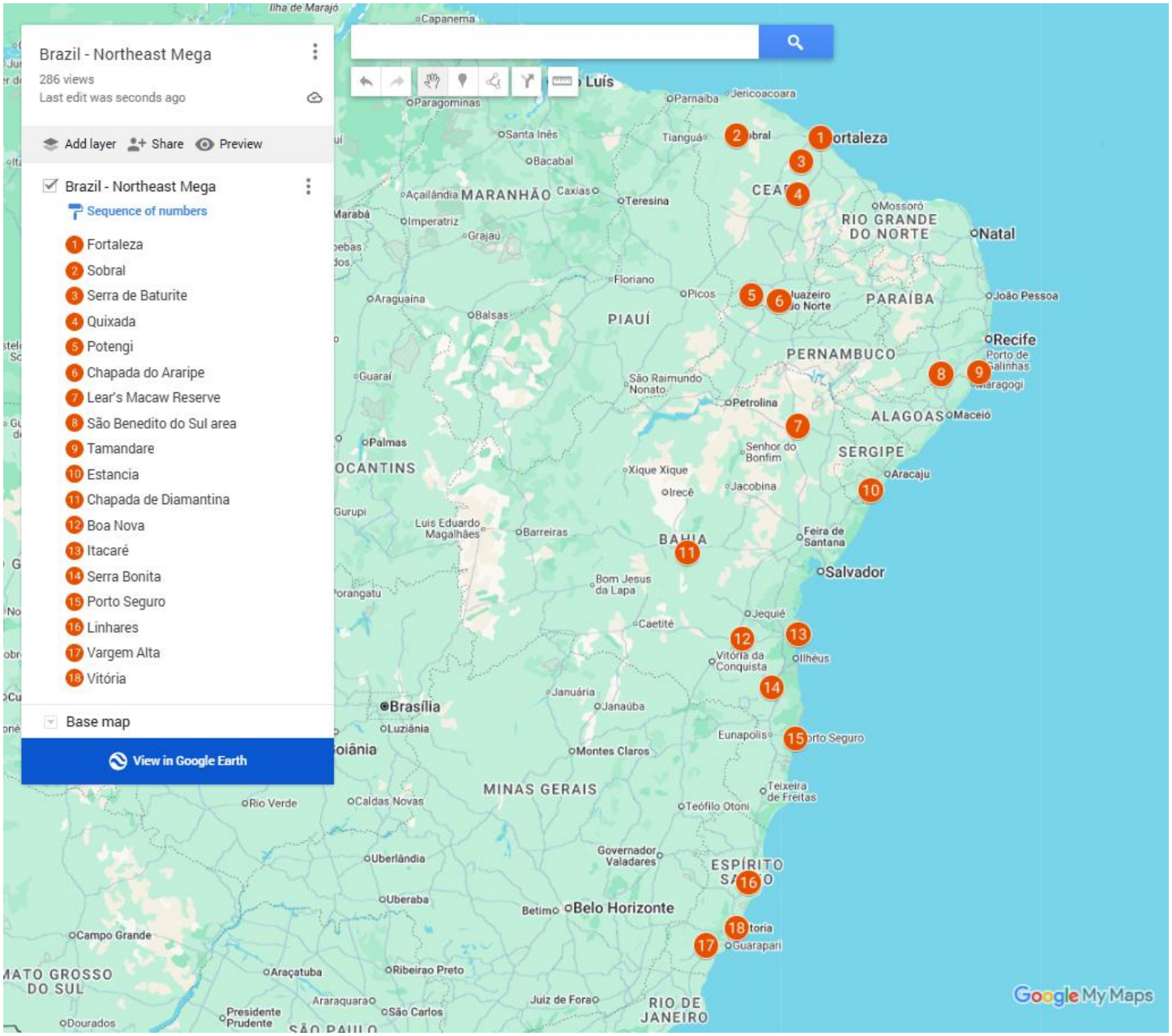
We then head towards the coast and Boa Nova. Located in the southwest of Bahia state where the Montane Atlantic forests meets Caatinga, this diverse location hosts over 430 bird species. Here we shall search diligently for the highly localised Slender Antbird, Narrow-billed Antwren, Bahia Spinetail and Pin-tailed Manakin. We spend some time in the delightful Serra Bonita Reserve, host to Pink-legged Graveteiro, Plumbeous Antvireo,

Bahia Tyrannulet and Crescent-chested Puffbird before taking in the coastal lowlands of Porto Seguro where targets include White-winged Potoo, White-winged Cotinga, Bahia Antwren, Ochre-marked Parakeet, Red-browed Amazon and the rare Banded Cotinga.

We finish the tour in Espiritu Santo, visiting Vargem Alta in search of enigmatic, critically endangered Cherry-throated Tanager and Linhares for Red-billed Curassow. There are few tours that can offer over 100 endemics in a matter of 27 days, but this tour of Northeast Brazil does just that!

Itinerary & Map

Day 1	**Arrival in Fortaleza, transfer to Sobral**
Day 2	**Sobral to Guaramiranga (Serra de Baturite)**
Day 3	**Guaramiranga (Serra de Baturite) to Quixada**
Day 4	**Quixada to Potengi**
Day 5	**Potengi area to Canudos (Chapada do Araripe)**
Day 6	**Canudos to São Benedito do Sul**
Day 7	**São Benedito do Sul area**
Day 8	**São Benedito do Sul to Tamandaré**
Day 9	**Tamandaré to Estância**
Day 10	**Estância to Chapada Diamantina**
Days 11 & 12	**Chapada Diamantina area**
Day 13	**Chapada Diamantina to Boa Nova**
Days 14 & 15	**Boa Nova**
Day 16	**Boa Nova to Itacaré**
Day 17	**Itacaré**
Day 18	**Itacaré to Serra Bonita**
Day 19	**Serra Bonita**
Day 20	**Serra Bonita to Porto Seguro**
Day 21	**Porto Seguro**
Day 22	**Porto Seguro to Linhares**
Day 23	**Linhares**
Day 24	**Linhares to Vargem Alta**
Day 25	**Vargem Alta**
Day 26	**Vargem Alta to Vitória**
Day 27	**Vitória & final departure**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Sequence of numbers
1 Fortaleza
2 Sobral
3 Serra de Baturite
4 Quixada
5 Potengi
6 Chapada do Araripe
7 Lear's Macaw Reserve
8 São Benedito do Sul area
9 Tamandare
10 Estancia
11 Chapada de Diamantina
12 Boa Nova
13 Itacaré
14 Serra Bonita
15 Porto Seguro
16 Linhares
17 Vargem Alta
18 Vitória
Base map
View in Google Earth
Fortaleza
Natal
Recife
Salvador
Brasília
Belo Horizonte
MARANHÃO
PIAUÍ
CEARÁ
PARAÍBA
PERNAMBUCO
ALAGOAS
SERGIPE
BAHIA
MINAS GERAIS
ESPÍRITO SANTO
RIO DE JANEIRO
Google My Maps

Birding sites in detail

Sobral area. Sobral provides access to the Serra da Meruoca, an isolated area of humid forest rising above the surrounding dry Caatinga. Our primary target here is the localised Hooded Gnateater, for which Meruoca is an important and reliable site in Ceará. Other possibilities here include Ceará Woodcreeper, Grey-headed Spinetail and Planalto Slaty Antshrike. We may also encounter Planalto Hermit, Ochre-cheeked Spinetail and Black-capped Antwren.



Grey-headed Spinetail by Stephan Lorenz

The surrounding woodland supports a good selection of more widespread northeastern Brazilian species. These may include Caatinga Parakeet, Caatinga Puffbird, Ochraceous Piculet and White-naped Jay.

Guaramiranga (Serra de Baturité). The Baturité Mountain Range is host to several habitats, from humid forested slopes, deciduous forest and xeric caatinga in the lower-lying areas. The semi-humid, evergreen woodland is laden with birds, so we can expect to get cracking right from the get-go. Of prime importance is the incredibly scarce Buff-breasted Tody-Tyrant, reported from only a small number of scattered nearby hilltops, the Critically Endangered, Grey-breasted Parakeet and recently elevated, endemic Ceara Gnateater.

The cool misty mountains will bring some relief from the heat of the lowlands, and an early start will see us birding along an excellent, wide cobblestone pathway. While we shall be being paying special attention to finding the Buff-breasted Tody-Tyrant, Grey-breasted Parakeet or Ceara Gnateater, we can expect to be inundated with many other species of interest including Ochraceous Piculet, Guianan and Planalto Tyrannulets, Lesser Woodcreeper, Ruby-topaz Hummingbird, Planalto Hermit, Swallow-tailed Hummingbird, Grey-headed and Ochre-cheeked Spinetails, Southern White-fringed Antwren, Pectoral Sparrow and Short-tailed Antthrush. Also worth noting is that many of the birds we will see here are isolated, sub-specific forms that are likely to attain full-species status in the near future. These include Rufous-breasted Leaftosser, Gould's Toucanet, the stunning Band-tailed Manakin, Buff-throated Woodcreeper, Red-necked Tanager and the rare Spot-winged Wood Quail.



Ceara Gnateater by Stephan Lorenz

Quixada. This area is characterized by granite inselbergs or monolitos. Typically very hot and dry, it hosts the sought-after Pygmy Nightjar, which roosts and breeds among the rocks, cacti and terrestrial bromeliads.

We will use the cool, early morning hours to bird around Quixada for our first Caatinga endemics such as Caatinga Cachalote, White-naped Jay,

Ochre-backed Woodpecker, Barred Antshrike (often split as Caatinga Barred Antshrike) and Caatinga Puffbird. Other more widespread species that we may find include Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle and Blue-winged Parrotlot. We will also keep our eyes open for the rare White-browed Guan in this area.



Buff-breasted Tody-Tyrant by Stephan Lorenz

Potengi. The famous Potengi area is in the heart of the Caatinga zone, and we provide us a serious selection of the region's specials. Some of the more sought-after species for this portion of our expedition include the magnificent Great Xenops, localised endemic White-browed Antpitta, Grey-eyed Greenlet, Rusty-margined Guan, Rufous and Scissor-tailed Nightjars, Least Nighthawk, Burrowing Owl, scarce endemic Broad-tipped Hermit, Spotted Piculet, smart Silvery-cheeked and Planalto Slaty Antshrikes, Stripe-backed Antbird, Caatinga and Black-bellied Antwrens, Sooty-fronted and unique Red-shouldered Spinetails, Ash-throated Casiornis, nomadic Scarlet-throated Tanager, Grey Elaenia, Greater and Lesser Wagtail-Tyrants, Southern Scrub Flycatcher and Ultramarine Grosbeak – to name just some of the more special species!

We should have some time to enjoy the feeders that attract a wide variety of visitors including Campo Troupial, Solitary Black Cacique, Grey Pileated Finch and White-throated Seedeater amongst many others.

Chapada do Araripe area. The famous Chapada do Araripe is located on a plateau in the south of the state of Ceará. Roadside wetland birding en route is usually productive, and in the past has held Masked Duck, Brazilian Teal, White-cheeked Pintail, Snail Kite, Savanna Hawk, Limpkin, Yellowish Pipit and both Chestnut-capped and White-browed Blackbirds.



Grey-breasted Parakeet by Forrest Rowland

However, our primary effort will be centred on one, legendary bird, the Araripe Manakin! This stunning species was described to science as recently as 1996 and with luck, we'll hopefully see several individuals of this truly magnificent creature! There are several springs in the foothills, and the associated moist forest is the specific habitat for our primary target while other species we will look out for include endemic Tawny Piculet, Planalto and Reddish Hermits, Flavescent Warbler and Moustached Wren

Lear's Macaw Reserve (Canudos). The Lear's Macaw Reserve is to be found near to the town of Canudos. We'll spend time birding the Caatinga near the reserve for Red-shouldered Spinetail, the local sub-species of Lesser and

Greater Wagtail-Tyrants, Least Nighthawk, Blue-crowned Parakeet, Spotted Piculet, Narrow-billed Woodcreeper, Black-bellied Antwren, Stripe-backed Antbird, Ash-throated Casiornis, White-throated Seedeater and Red-cowled Cardinal.



Araripe Manakin by Colin Valentine

To really appreciate Lear's Macaw, the second legendary bird of the tour, we shall head out whilst it is still dark. Soon after the break of dawn, we can expect to be treated to the morning flight of a number of Lear's Macaw, departing their roosts, as they set off to their preferred foraging sites. Little else can compare to viewing one of the world's rarest (numbers were as low as just 42 individuals in the 80's) and most spectacular macaws flocking to the trees around us! We will also easily understand the adopted name of Indigo Macaw, as we view these beautiful birds at our leisure. After absorbing as much as we can of this fine species, which few of us will ever see in the wild again – we shall return to our lodge for a delicious breakfast.

São Benedito do Sul area. We will devote a day to birding the splendid rainforest patch in the São Benedito do Sul area. Given the remote nature of these mountains, and the humid influence of onshore winds at the coast, this site hosts an incredible number of endemic and range-restricted species. Time will be dedicated to the regions local specialities, including the endemic Alagoas Tyrannulet and Orange-bellied Antwren, whilst also appreciating the many other rare inhabitants of this bird-rich area, most of which are also endemic, including White-collared Kite, flashy Jandaya Parakeet, Pinto's Spinetail, Seven-colored Tanager, difficult Golden-tailed Parrotlet, increasingly rare Pernambuco Foliage-gleaner, Black-headed Berryeater, White-shouldered Antshrike, unique endemic *pernambucensis* sub-species of White-backed Fire-eye, Scalloped Antbird, dapper Black-cheeked Gnateater, unique endemic sub-species *taunayi* of Plain-winged Woodcreeper, Silvery-flanked Antwren, scarce Buff-throated Purpletuft, Sharpbill, stunning but uncommon White-winged Cotinga, Blue-backed and Red-headed Manakins, Flame-crested Tanager and Yellow-green Grosbeak.



Jandaya Parakeet by Forrest Rowland

Frei Caneca Reserve (Jaqueira). Target birds this morning include the highly localised Alagoas Tyrannulet, Orange-bellied Antwren, the local endemic *pernambucensis* sub-species of Golden-spangled Piculet, Long-tailed Woodnymph, an undescribed species of Pygmy-Tyrant, Yellow-throated Woodpecker, increasingly rare Pinto's Spinetail, unique endemic sub-species *sabanoyi* of Willis's Antbird and the mind-blowing Seven-colored Tanager, among many others!

Tamandaré. The Tamandare area offers some excellent birding and gives us another good chance of finding the critically endangered, White-collared Kite, should we have yet to see this rarity. On the outskirts of Tamandare we have excellent chances of finding the localised Forbes' Blackbird while also keeping our eyes open for the uncommon and nomadic, Yellow-faced Siskin, Plain-bellied Emerald and Jandaya Parakeet. We'll also visit another lowland forest site, in amongst the sea of sugarcane for

additional chances for Pinto's Spinetail, Smoky-fronted Tody-Flycatcher, White-shouldered Antshrike, Blue-chinned Sapphire, White-bearded Manakin, Red-shouldered Macaw, Black-necked Aracari, Biscutate Swift and Black-capped Donacobius.



Horned Sungem by Stephan Lorenz

Estância. The forest fragments near the coastal town of Estancia are home to the rare and highly localized Fringe-backed Fire-eye. Other specialties include Sooretama Slaty Antshrike, Stripe-necked Tody-Tyrant and a further chance to find rare raptors such as White-collared Kite and even Rufous Crab Hawk.

Chapada Diamantina. Amidst a stark, beautiful landscape, we will encounter more amazing species including the gorgeous Hooded Visorbearer, chances for Horned Sungem and the recently described Sincora Antwren. Other highlights of the area include the feisty Grey-backed Tachuri, unforgettable Great Xenops, shy Sao Francisco Sparrow, White-eared Puffbird, Stripe-tailed Yellow-Finch, rarely seen Broad-tipped Hermit, Collared Crescentchest Rufous-sided Pygmy Tyrant, Velvety Black Tyrant, Blue and Serra Finches as well as a host of *Tyrannids*, such as Plain-crested, Lesser and Yellow-bellied Elaenias.

Birding the caatinga and cerrado habitats nearby should turn up Cactus Parakeet, Scaly-headed Parrot, Scissor-tailed, Little and Rufous Nightjars, uncommon and nomadic Stripe-breasted Starthroat, Blue-crowned and Surucua Trogons, Spotted Piculet, Red-billed Scythebill, Spix's, Caatinga Cacholote, Caatinga and Rufous-winged Antshrikes, Planalto Slaty Antshrike, Stripe-backed Antbird, Black-capped, Caatinga, Black-bellied, and Rusty-backed Antwrens, White-shouldered Fire-eye, Pale-bellied Tyrant-Manakin, Ochre-faced Tody-Flycatcher, Ash-throated Casiornis and many tanagers including Cinnamon, Shrike-like and the vibrant Scarlet-throated Tanager.

Boa Nova. Located in the southwest of Bahia state, it is here that the montane Atlantic Forests meet the Caatinga. The region is home to over 430 species of bird including the restricted Slender Antbird and Narrow-billed Antwren, both confined to a small area of eastern Brazil.



Sincora Antwren by Forrest Rowland

Boa Nova has long been regarded as one of the best birding areas in this vast country. Being situated on the cusp of both and the drier interior forest, this area not only allows easy access to numerous habitat types but hosts an avifauna particular to this mountain range. We will spend time scouring the accessible forests and prime habitats spared from human disturbance. The forests are prime locations for finding localised endemics such as Bahia Tyrannulet, Striated Softtail and Bahia Spinetail.

This is however Antbird heaven, and we have plenty members of the family to search for here including Silvery-cheeked, Rufous-winged, Cinereous and

Tufted Antshrikes, Narrow-billed Antwren, rarely recorded Rio de Janeiro, Slender, Ferruginous, Ochre-rumped and Scaled Antbirds.



Bahia Spinetail by Stephan Lorenz

We also hope to encounter Blue-winged Macaw, Scale-throated Hermit, Frilled Coquette, Yellow-eared Woodpecker, Pallid Spinetail, Crescent-chested Puffbird, Black-billed Scythebill, White-collared and White-eyed Foliage-gleaners, Scaled Woodcreeper, Fork-tailed and Hangnest Tody-Tyrants, Sharp-tailed Streamcreeper, Pin-tailed & Blue Manakins, Gilt-edged and Rufous-headed Tanagers, Cinnamon-vented Piha, Sharpbill and, with a lot of luck, Swallow-tailed Cotinga!

Pocoes. A new birding site where a young local claimed to have found some mega species. Local specialists were a little dubious, however, it turned out the young man knew pretty much every bird in the forest! Here we have excellent chances of finding the little known Wied's Tyrant-Manakin and Reiser's Tyrannulet (nearest known territory 400 miles away), as well as a potentially undescribed hermit species. General birding in the area is simply exceptional, and we could easily see 100 species as we cover several habitat types on this incredible mountain. Other good birds include East Brazilian Chachalaca, White-eyed Parakeet, Buff-throated Purpletuft, stunning, White-bibbed Antbird, Greenish Schiffornis, Scaled Woodcreeper, Hooded Tanager, White-throated Spadebill and Green-backed Becard.

Itacaré. This region of south coast Bahia is rich in endemism and special birds. With a vast area of remnants of lowland forest, some of them in private areas and other protected by the Serra do Conduru State Park. We will base ourselves in Itacaré, a famous touristic destination with marvellous forest, beaches and waterfalls. From here we will visit Maraú (north of Itacaré) to try to find the rare and endemic Bahia Tapaculo and other special birds. We will also explore the Serra do Conduru State Park to the south of Itacaré. This State Park protects more than 9 000 hectares of Atlantic Forest and is one of the most biodiverse areas of this biome, with 458 different tree species per hectare with a high index of endemism. This reflects on the avifauna; a paradise to see manakins and many other interesting birds.



Stripe-breasted Starthroat by Stephan Lorenz

Our main targets of the lowland Atlantic Forest will be Kinglet Manakin, White-crowned Manakin, Blue-backed Manakin, Scaled Antbird, Black-cheeked Gnateater, Band-tailed Antwren, Cinereous-breasted Spinetail, Great-billed (Margaretta's) Hermit, Turquoise (White-bellied) Tanager, Opal-rumped (Silvery-breasted) Tanager, the nominal race of White-fronted Nunbird and many others.

Serra Bonita. This montane paradise is one of the few, easily accessible, cloud forests in the region. After arriving in Serra Bonita, we will transfer to 4x4 vehicles for the ride (roughly one hour) up to our jungle lodge. We don’t need to move all that much, as the hummingbird and fruit feeders will keep us

royally entertained with Sombre Hummingbird, Black Jacobin, Scale-throated Hermit and sometimes even the scarce Brazilian Ruby making an appearance. Other species that we should also see include Maroon-bellied Parakeet, Orange-bellied Euphonia and Red-necked, Green-headed, Brazilian, Golden-chevroned and Azure-shouldered Tanagers squabbling at the fruit feeders.



Banded Cotinga by Lev Frid

With a bird list including fantastic and rare species such as Pink-legged Gravateiro, Star-throated and Salvadori's Antwrens, Spot-breasted and Plumbeous Antvireos, Bahia Tyrannulet and the stunning Blue Manakin, we will seamlessly pass a day birding this beautiful preserve.

Forays around the lodge and deeper into the surrounding forests are liable to turn up many of the aforementioned attractions, while we may also find the rare Atlantic race of Rufous-brown Solitaire (soon to be split), stunning Kinglet Manakin, Spot-backed Antshrike, Spot-billed Toucanet, the still undescribed 'Serra do Lontras' Treehunter, Crescent-chested Puffbird, Yellow-lored Tody-Flycatcher, Rufous-headed Tanager, Grey-headed Attila, East Brazilian Pygmy Owl, Pallid Spinetail and Scaled Woodcreeper. The region is also home to some rarely seen species such as Variegated Antpitta and Cryptic Antthrush. Overhead, several raptors may make an appearance, with the likes of Black and Black-and-white Hawk-Eagles, Mantled Hawk and King Vulture all being distinct possibilities.

The Serra Bonita lowlands offer good birding opportunities as well, and we'll take some time to look for the highly localised and threatened White-eared Parakeet while also keeping our eyes open for species such as Channel-billed Toucan, Scaled Antbird, Bright-rumped Attila, Sibilent Syristes, Bare-throated Bellbird and a unique sub-species of Thrush-like Wren.

Port Seguro. Time permitting, we will head to a patch of denuded and litter strewn mangroves to sift out the prime targets of the area, Mangrove and Little Wood Rails.



Rufous-capped Antthrush by Stephan Lorenz

Estação Veracel. Porto Seguro is situated amidst one of the few expanses of lowland Atlantic Rainforest left in the region. The town is surrounded by good habitat, but the Estancia Veracel is certain to be the focus of our birding efforts during our time here. We have sufficient of time to seek out the two headline birds of this site – White-winged and the exquisitely-coloured and rare Banded Cotingas. There is also the highly localised, endemic Bahia and Band-tailed Antwrens, while we will head out at night to find the near mythical White-winged Potoo and a variety of other nocturnal species that could include Tawny-browed, Mottled and Black-capped Screech Owl.

We shall also pay close attention to another two possible future splits to be found here, involving the local populations of both Turquoise and Opal-rumped Tanagers. The gaudy birding shall continue with a host of exciting species including Black-headed Berryeater, Red-browed Amazon, Ochre-marked Parakeet, White-bearded, White-crowned, Red-headed, Blue and Kinglet Manakins! Not that this is all: there are also many others – albeit fractionally less colourful species to look for here. These include Hook-billed and the very rare Margaretta's Hermits, scarce Racket-tailed Coquette, Golden-tailed Parrotlet, Grey-rumped Swift, Golden-spangled Piculet, the rare *tinninculus* sub-species of Ringed Woodpecker, Black-billed Scythebill, Buff-throated Woodcreeper, Sooretama Slaty Antshrike, Eared Pygmy Tyrant, Dusky-capped Flycatcher, Greyish Mourner and Rufous-capped Antthrush while the scarce Rufous-capped Motmot could also make an appearance.



Little Wood Rail by Colin Valentine

Linhares. We'll explore the largest contiguous tract of northeast Atlantic Rainforest left on Earth. The state-owned Sooretama Biological Reserve and adjacent, privately managed Reserva Natural Vale do Rio Doce are home to some of the rarest and most sought-after Brazilian endemic species, and this is where we will get our first exposure, really an inundation to the amazing birds of the coastal rainforests of Brazil! This region is a transition zone between the northern and southern Atlantic Forest biomes and we can see some of the best of both. The star species here is undoubtedly the Red-billed Curassow. With a global population teetering around 250 individuals, the only reason it is not considered Critically Endangered is due to the efforts across many protected areas to maintain and propagate the species.

Red-billed Curassow will be one of our main targets, along with other headline species including White-necked Hawk, Ochre-marked Parakeet, Red-browed Amazon and Black-headed Berryeater! Some of the more wide-ranging, though no-less exciting birds that we might find here include Solitary and Variegated Tinamous, East Brazilian Chachalaca, Spot-winged Wood Quail, Grey-headed Kite, Black Hawk-Eagle, Black-capped Screech Owl, Tawny-browed Owl, Least Pygmy Owl, White-winged Potoo (rare), Minute Hermit, Violet-capped Woodnymph, Rufous-throated and White-chinned Sapphires, Black-necked Aracari, White-barred Piculet, White, Yellow-fronted, Ochre-backed, Robust (rare) and Blond-crested Woodpeckers, Plain and Maroon-faced Parakeets, Scaly-headed Parrot, Blue-winged Macaw, Sooretama Slaty Antshrike, Plumbeous Antvireo, Silvery-flanked Antwren, Black-cheeked Gnateater, Plain-winged



Black-headed Berryeater by Stephan Lorenz

Woodcreeper, Black-capped, Ochre-breasted and White-eyed Foliage-gleaners, Eared Pygmy Tyrant, White-crowned and Red-headed Manakins, Brazilian Tanager and Yellow-green Grosbeak amongst even more!



Cinnamon-vented Piha by Stephan Lorenz

Vargem Alta. Vargem Alta is a small village in the mountains of Espírito Santo. Most of the properties in this village are based on agriculture, even so there are still significant remnants of Atlantic Forest to be found. We'll be birding patches of Atlantic Forest, most in a great state of preservation, with bromeliads, orchids, epiphytes, and towering emergent trees. The star here and our main target will be the critically endangered Cherry-throated Tanager.

Until February of 1998, the enigmatic Cherry-throated Tanager was known only from one specimen deposited in a museum in Berlin, and a handful of anecdotal observations, before its official rediscovery at Conceição do Castelo. After the rediscovery, this species was also found at a few sites near to Vargem Alta. With a global population of as few as 16 individuals, and as many as 25, the gorgeous Cherry-throated Tanager is on the brink of extinction. The few remaining birds seem to occupy large territories. Encountering this critically endangered, iconic species is a privilege few have enjoyed.

We will do our best to find the Cherry-throated Tanager, and with luck obtain views. However, more than 300 other Atlantic Forest bird species reside in this area, and we will come across many of them in our search for the tanager. The elevation of around 1 000 meters above sea level is full of many species that will be new for us! Black-throated Trogons, Channel-billed and Red-breasted Toucans, Golden-tailed Parrotlet, Giant and Rufous-capped Antshrikes, Streak-capped and Star-throated Antwrens, Spot-breasted Antvireo, Ferruginous, Rio de Janeiro and White-bibbed Antbirds, Spotted Bamboowren, White-breasted and Mouse-colored Tapaculos, Such's Antthrush, Rufous-breasted Leaftosser, Black-billed Scythebill, Sharp-tailed Streamcreeper, White-collared Foliage-gleaner, Pale-browed Treehunter, Pallid Spinetail, Rufous-capped Spinetail, Mottle-cheeked, Oustalet's, Rough-legged, Greenish, and Planalto Tyrannulets, Drab-breasted Pygmy Tyrant, Ochre-faced Tody-Flycatcher, Blue-billed Black Tyrant, Shear-tailed Grey Tyrant, Sharpbill, Hooded Berryeater, Swallow-tailed Cotinga, Cinnamon-vented Piha, Bare-throated Bellbird, Swallow-tailed and Pin-tailed Manakins, Greenish Schiffornis, Brazilian Laniisoma, Brown, Magpie, Ruby-crowned, Azure-shouldered, Golden-chevroned, Brassy-breasted and Rufous-headed Tanagers, Temminck's and Buffy-fronted Seedeaters and more are possible for us here!



Cherry-throated Tanager by Arthur Grosset

Tour Grading & Key

Overall Ease		Difficult. This a Mega style tour designed for the dedicated lister and serious birder. Not suitable for dedicated photographers; inexperienced birders; or anyone with mobility or health challenges.
Birding Ease		Quite demanding. Many rare or difficult target species.
Accommodation		Mostly comfortable, some lodges are simple, not all lodges have enough rooms for Single rooming.
Walking / Trails		Average walking, mostly on flat ground with variable substrate. Atlantic forest trails are hilly.
Vehicles / Roads		Several long drives. Mostly sealed roads between towns, changing to dirt in remoter areas. Some sites may be unreachable if roads have been washed out. 4x4 vehicles necessary at some locations.
Photography		Worthwhile, but limited time due to nature of tour.
Annoyances		Temperatures can vary from cool to very hot depending on location and elevation. Long travel days with limited down time.

Financial Arrangements and Important Notes

Tour dates, prices, single supplement, approximate flight costs and tour spaces are displayed on our website.

Tour inclusions:

- All meals from lunch on day 1 to breakfast on day 27;
- Bottled drinking water;
- All lodgings;
- All ground transportation during the tour;
- All reserve entrance fees;
- All guiding services ;
- Tips for local guides, drivers and services.

Tour exclusions:

- Visa fees;
- ANY flights;
- Any beverages (including mini-bar charges at hotels);
- Optional excursions;
- Special gratuities;
- 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.

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 you feel that they have given you excellent service, it is entirely appropriate to tip them at your discretion.

- **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.**

- 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 warm to hot in the interior and can get a little humid in the lowlands although typically nothing like the Amazon. At higher altitudes, daytime temperatures are pleasant, but it can get quite cold at night or when 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 require a good level of fitness and 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.
- It is very important to note that we are covering vast distances on this tour, with many one-night stays and limited down time between locations.
- 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. Where necessary we use 4x4 vehicles, but some unpaved roads could still be impassable if they have been damaged by heavy rains.
- Accommodation is mostly of a good, comfortable standard but not all lodgings have enough rooms for everyone to always have single accommodations. There will more than likely be a few nights (Potengi and Canudos) where you will have to share with someone else and the single supplement has been calculated accordingly.

Arrival and Departure Details

The tour will depart from Aeroporto Internacional Pinto Martins, Fortaleza on the morning of day 1 with a transfer to Sobral. Please do arrive the day before the tour begins. The tour will conclude at Eurico de Aguiar Salles Airport, Vitória on the morning of day 27.

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.

Aeroporto Internacional Pinto Martins, Fortaleza (IATA: FOR) is the primary port of entry this tour and is well serviced by several airlines. Eurico de Aguiar Salles Airport, Vitória (IATA: VIX) is the primary port of departure for this tour and is connected to the large international hubs of Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo.

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.