# Brazil

## Atlantic Coastal Forest



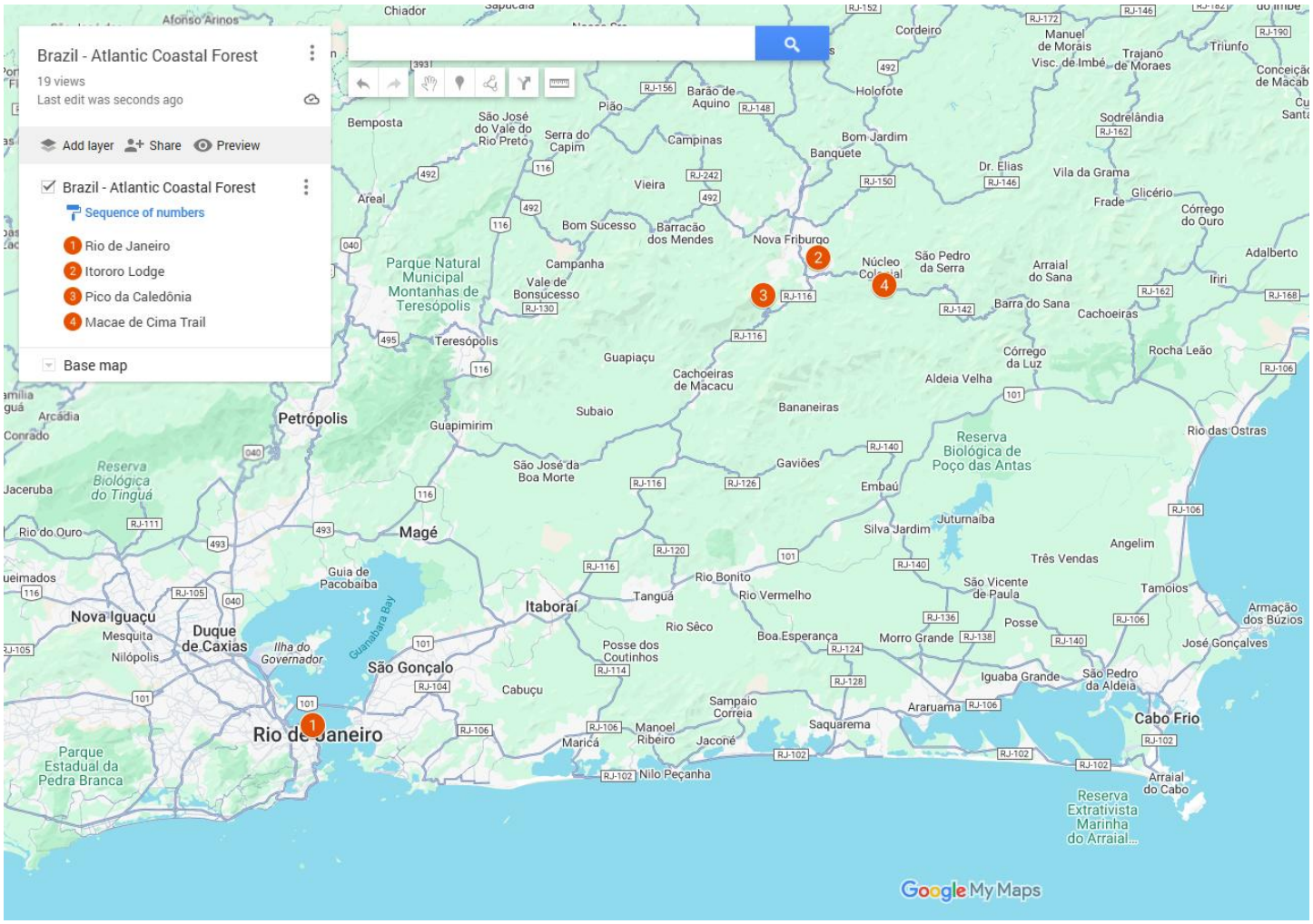
**Saffron Toucanet by Dušan Brinkhuizen**

*Throughout this tour, you will be based at a comfortable and beautifully located eco-lodge, situated in the 57 000-hectare Tres Picos State Park only a relatively short distance from Rio de Janeiro. Here you will explore the numerous mosaics of trails around the lodge grounds and take short drives to explore several other habitats and elevations surrounding the reserve. Some of the avian gems that will be sought during this tour include Three-toed Jacamar, spectacular Swallow-tailed Cotinga, Saffron Toucanet, Green-crowned Plovercrest, Saw-billed Hermit, Black-billed Scythebill, Giant and White-bearded Antshrike, Blond-crested Woodpecker, Shrike-like and Black-and-gold Cotingas, and the beautiful Brazilian Tanager.*

*This will be a very comfortably paced tour with no long drives! On some days you will have packed lunches, while on others you will return to the lodge for lunch. There will be ample time to unwind and to enjoy birding from the lodge grounds or even while relaxing by the natural swimming pool. Fruit trays and hummingbird feeders placed throughout the grounds attract a variety of parakeets, hummingbirds, and tanagers. Birds are confiding and photographic opportunities are excellent. This tour captures the best of Brazil's Atlantic Rainforest endemic bird species, and after a week of birding, you can expect to have seen up to 250 bird species, including 70 endemics!*

# *Itinerary & Map*

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| **Day 1** | **Arrival in Rio de Janeiro, transfer to Itororo Lodge** |
| **Day 2** | **Pico da Caledônia** |
| **Day 3** | **Itororo Lodge trails** |
| **Day 4** | **Reserva Ecologica de Guapi Acu** |
| **Day 5** | **Three-toed Jacamar quest** |
| **Day 6** | **Cedae & Theodoro Trails** |
| **Day 7** | **Macae de Cima Trail & Itororo Lodge trails** |
| **Day 8** | **Transfer to Rio de Janeiro & final departure** |



## *Birding sites in detail*



**Red-necked Tanager by Dušan Brinkhuizen**

**Itororo Lodge.** Our lodge is in the 57 000-hectare Tres Picos State Park and the gardens are filled with birds attracted to the variety of flowers and numerous feeders.

Nearly 200 species have been recorded within the lodge grounds, of which over 60 are endemic to the Atlantic Rainforest! Some of the birds that can be expected include Brown Tinamou, Dusky-legged Guan, Spot-winged Wood Quail, Maroon-bellied Parakeet, Scaly-headed Parrot, Scale-throated Hermit, Green-crowned Plovercrest, Violet-capped Woodnymph, White-throated Hummingbird, Brazilian Ruby, Black-throated and Surucua Trogons, Yellow-browed Woodpecker, Grey-bellied and Pallid Spinetails, White-browed and White-collared Foliage-gleaners, Sharp-tailed Streamcreeper, the amazing Black-billed Scythebill, White-throated, Scaled, Olivaceous and Lesser Woodcreepers, Rufous Gnateater, Blue and Pin-tailed Manakins, Grey-hooded Flycatcher, Drab-breasted Bamboo Tyrant, White-rimmed Warbler, Fawn-breasted and Azure-shouldered Tanagers, Uniform Finch and Green-winged Saltator.

The hummingbird feeders are always buzzing with activity and include gems such as Black Jacobin, White-throated Hummingbird and Violet-capped Woodnymph. Maroon-bellied Parakeets and Scaly-headed Parrots might give themselves away with a raucous call flying overhead, Brazilian Antthrush, Ochre-rumped and Bertoni's Antbirds may be seen skulking in the undergrowth, and Spot-billed Toucanets could be observed from the trees around the lodge, whilst during the breeding season Bare-throated Bellbirds can be heard and seen clanging away throughout the day!

The bird feeders teem with colourful activity and offer great photographic opportunities, with species including Spot-billed and Saffron Toucanets, Rufous-bellied Thrush, Dusky-legged Guan, and a whole host of tanagers such as Burnished-buff, Golden-chevroned, Ruby-crowned and Brassy-breasted, plus Orange-bellied and Chestnut-bellied Euphonias and Blue-naped Chlorophonia.

The Blue Circular Trail and the Orchid Garden Trail depart from the lodge, offering fantastic birding through primary and secondary forest as well as native bamboo, giving us the chance of seeing many Atlantic Forest endemics! Here we hope to see some of the following species: Brown Tinamou, Dusky-legged Guan, Spot-winged Wood Quail, Black Hawk-Eagle, Black-and-white



**Brazilian Ruby by Adam Riley**



**Brassy-breasted Tanager by Adam Riley**

Hawk-Eagle, Barred Forest Falcon, Maroon-bellied Parakeet, Scaly-headed Parrot, Scale-throated Hermit, White-throated Hummingbird, Green-crowned Plovercrest, Black-throated Trogon, Saffron and Spot-billed Toucanets, Yellow-eared and Yellow-browed Woodpeckers, Rufous-capped, Pallid, Grey-bellied and Chicli Spinetails, White-browed, White-collared, Buff-browed and Buff-fronted Foliage-gleaners, White-throated, Lesser, Scaled and Olivaceous Woodcreepers, Black-billed Scythebill, Giant and Variable Antshrike, Star-throated Antwren, Bertoni's, Ochre-rumped and Dusky-tailed Antbirds, Rufous-backed Antvireo, Rufous-tailed and Cryptic Antthrushes, Rufous Gnateater, Spotted Bamboowren, White-breasted Tapaculo, Grey-capped Tyrannulet, Grey-hooded Flycatcher, Drab-breasted Bamboo Tyrant, Grey-hooded Attila, Bare-throated Bellbird, Sharpbill, Greenish Schiffornis, Rufous-crowned Greenlet, Yellow-legged Thrush, White-rimmed Warbler, Half-collared Sparrow, Chestnut-headed, Black-goggled, Ruby-crowned, Azure-shouldered, Golden-chevroned, Fawn-breasted, Brassy-breasted and Burnished-buff Tanagers, Uniform Finch and Green-winged Saltator.

The lodge grounds are fortunate enough to have Long-trained Nightjars, Pauraque, Short-tailed Nighthawk, Tropical Screech Owl, Rusty-barred Owl, Striped Owl and various other night birds yet to be discovered!

**Pico da Caledônia.** We will spend the entire day afield, taking a packed lunch along. After a short drive to access the higher elevations, we will be walking a trail at an altitude of approximately 1 600 metres. As we gain altitude we will see a change in habitat, small, stunted trees surrounded by bamboo and other low vegetation provide the first areas in which we hope to see Bay-chested Warbling Finch, Diademed Tanager, Blue-billed Black Tyrant and Rufous-tailed Antbird. Flowering plants could reveal the recently split Green-crowned Plovercrest, while other sought-after specialities are the appropriately named Giant Antshrike, Serra do Mar Tyrant-Manakin and the outrageously patterned Swallow-tailed Cotinga, to name but a few. Tanagers are also well represented here and include the eye-searing Brazilian, Azure-shouldered, Fawn-breasted, and vibrant Chestnut-headed Tanagers.



**Swallow-tailed Cotinga by Adam Riley**

Other exciting species may include White-tailed Hawk or Aplomado Falcon cruising overhead, Plumbeous Pigeon, Blue-billed and Velvety Black Tyrant, or Yellow-legged Thrush, while inside the forest you can search for Yellow-browed Woodpecker, Large-tailed and Rufous-capped Antshrikes, Rufous-capped and Pallid Spinetails in denser vine tangles, the often vocal, White-shouldered Fire-eye, Dusky-tailed Antbird, White-rimmed Warbler and Thick-billed Saltator.



Surucua Trogon by Clayton Burne

Mixed flocks will be sifted through for Sharp-billed Treehunter, Black-billed Scythebill, Rufous-backed Antvireo, Olivaceous Elaenia and Green-winged Saltator.

As we walk further uphill, we begin to enter good habitat for the rare and endemic Grey-winged Cotinga, Serra do Mar Tyrannulet, Swallow-tailed Cotinga and Black-and-gold Cotinga. We shall also try for Brazilian Antthrush and Mouse-colored Tapaculo in this area. Almost at the summit, we hope to encounter the rare and endemic Itatiaia Thistletail.

**Reserva Ecologica de Guapi Acu.** Established in 2002, this wetland restoration project has been successful in attracting an abundance of overwintering and breeding species. Some of these that should be seen here include Brazilian Teal, the furtive Masked Duck, Pied-billed Grebe, Whistling and Capped Herons, Grey-headed Kite, the stately Savanna Hawk, and the monotypic Limpkin. Amazon and Ringed Kingfishers are often quite conspicuous, while a little searching often yields a resident Green Kingfisher as well. Scanning through the reedbeds allows us the chance to find Yellow-chinned Spinetail, White-headed Marsh Tyrant and Chestnut-capped Blackbird.

The reserve also protects a large amount of lowland forest and employs rangers to protect this area from hunting. Birds that we will be searching for here include Rufous-capped Motmot (often giving itself away with a distinctive call), Rufous-tailed Jacamar, Long-billed Wren, hummingbirds such as Reddish Hermit and White-chinned Sapphire, Yellow-throated Woodpecker and Chestnut-backed Antshrike. Antwrens are often in good attendance, including White-flanked, Unicolored and Rufous-winged, although it might take more searching to find Crescent-chested Puffbird or the scarce Brazilian Laniisoma (Shrike-like Cotinga).

**Three-Toed Jacamar quest.** Today will then be spent exploring new areas for one of the most sought-after birds of south-east Brazil, the endemic Three-toed Jacamar. We traverse a variety of habitats today, often tallying up more than a 100 species for the day! Raptors are often abundant in the more open habitats and might include Plumbeous Kite, Bat and Laughing Falcons and Yellow-headed Caracara, plus the low flying Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture. If very lucky, a Red-legged Seriema may be seen sauntering across the grass. Blue-winged Macaw and White-eyed Parakeet can be observed perched on the treetops, while Striped Cuckoo are often heard before they are seen. The open grasslands and wetland edges can produce Long-tailed and Streamer-tailed Tyrants, Black-capped Donacobius, White-rumped and Tawny-headed Swallows, Wattled Jacana and Blackish Rail.



Three-toed Jacamar by Forrest Rowland

Other specialities besides the Three-toed Jacamar that will be searched for include the boldly patterned White-eared Puffbird, Black-necked Aracari, noisy bands of Curl-crested Jay, and



**Yellow-fronted Woodpecker by Adam Riley**

Firewood-gatherer (which builds massive stick nests). Additional species on this exciting day include Blue-winged Parrotlet, Hooded and Magpie Tanagers, Amethyst Woodstar, Planalto Hermit, Band-tailed Hornero, Narrow-billed Woodcreeper, Ochre-faced Tody-Flycatcher, Hooded Siskin and both Grey and White-rumped Monjitas, to name just a few!

**Cedae & Theodoro Trails.** A half an hour drive will see us at the head of the Cedae Trail. We will spend much of the morning birding this great trail with an immense number of new species possible, including Plain Parakeet, Saw-billed Hermit, Black-throated Trogon, Rufous-capped Motmot, Buff-bellied Puffbird, Channel-billed Toucan, White-barred Piculet, Yellow-eared Woodpecker, Plain-winged and Lesser Woodcreepers, Spot-backed Antshrike, Rufous-capped Antthrush, Spot-breasted and Plain Antvireo, Star-throated Antwren, Ferruginous Antbird, Streak-capped Antwren, Black-cheeked Gnateater, Blue Manakin, Oustalet's Tyrannulet, Eared Pygmy Tyrant, Black-tailed Tityra, Rufous-headed, Yellow-backed, Olive-green, Flame-crested, Green-headed and Red-necked Tanagers as well as Black-throated Grosbeak.

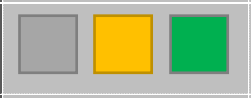
We will then take a short drive to the equally superb Theodoro Trail. Beginning at a slightly higher altitude than the Cedae Trail, this path offers wonderful birding through both primary and secondary forest. Variable Antshrike can often be found in the vine tangles by its distinctive voice, while Variegated Antpitta can sometimes be difficult to pinpoint. Other new birds that you might come across here include Streaked Xenops, Sharp-tailed Streamcreeper, Black-capped and White-browed Foliage-gleaners, Scaled Woodcreeper, Greenish Schiffornis, Grey-hooded Flycatcher and the unique Sharpbill, which can often be located by its distinctive descending song.

**Macae de Cima Trail.** Only a 20-minute drive from the lodge is the Macae de Cima Trail. We can look forward to a gentle walk, but if the weather looks variable, our vehicle will stay relatively nearby. Along the trail we hope to add some new birds, as well as appreciate more views of some of the many species we have already seen, including Plumbeous Pigeon, Scale-throated Hermit, Brazilian Ruby, Yellow-browed Woodpecker, Rufous-capped Spinetail, Pallid Spinetail, Orange-eyed Thornbird, White-collared Foliage-gleaner, Giant, Tufted and White-bearded Antshrikes, Bertoni's and Ochre-rumped Antbirds, Black-and-gold Cotinga, Bare-throated Bellbird, Serra do Mar Tyrant-Manakin, Drab-breasted Bamboo Tyrant, White-rimmed Warbler, Azure-shouldered and Brassy-breasted Tanagers and Green-winged Saltator.



**Black-cheeked Gnateater by Adam Riley**

## *Tour Grading & Key*

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| **Overall Ease** |  | Easy to moderate. Some early starts, mostly short drives, one strenuous hike. |
| **Birding Ease** |  | Mostly easy. Some target species are either of low density or skulking habit, which may require repetitive efforts. Some night birding (optional). |
| **Accommodation** |  | Singular, comfortable lodge for entire tour. |
| **Walking / Trails** |  | Mostly easy walking on reasonable trails. One strenuous hike up Pico da Caledônia (optional). |
| **Vehicles / Roads** |  | Mostly short drives from the lodge to reach nearby sites in a minibus vehicle. Transfer to and from Rio de Janeiro are +-2 ½ hours in each direction. |
| **Photography** |  | Worthwhile to good. Feeders at Itororo Lodge. |
| **Annoyances** |  | None. |

## *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 8;
- Bottled drinking water;
- All lodgings;
- Ground transportation in an air-conditioned minibus,
- One group transfer to and from Rio de Janeiro International Airport;
- Tea, coffee, fruit juice and fruit;
- Reserve entrance fees;
- WiFi internet access; and
- All local guiding services.

Tour exclusions:

- Visa fees;
- ANY flights;
- Any beverages (except those noted above);
- Optional excursions;
- Any tips or 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 are NOT included on this tour. If you feel that your leader/s 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.**

- It can be rather 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). Should you have any physical limitations or medical conditions please notify us in advance of departure.
- There is one strenuous hike up Pico da Caledônia (optional)

## *Arrival and Departure Details*

The tour will depart from Rio de Janeiro International Airport (IATA: GIG) on day 1 and conclude here on day 8.

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.

Galeão–Antonio Carlos Jobim International Airport (GIG), Rio de Janeiro is the primary port of entry and departure for this tour.

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.**