Brazil

Manaus & Rio Negro

Amazonia National Park Extension



Guianan Cock-of-the-rock by Dušan Brinkhuizen

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 4 000 miles of length, remarkably few ports of access exist. In fact, the entirety of the Amazon Basin, some 2 700 000 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 Lowland Tapir and Amazon River Dolphin to the elusive Jaguar. This tour is an in-depth exploration of the best Amazon birding has to offer.

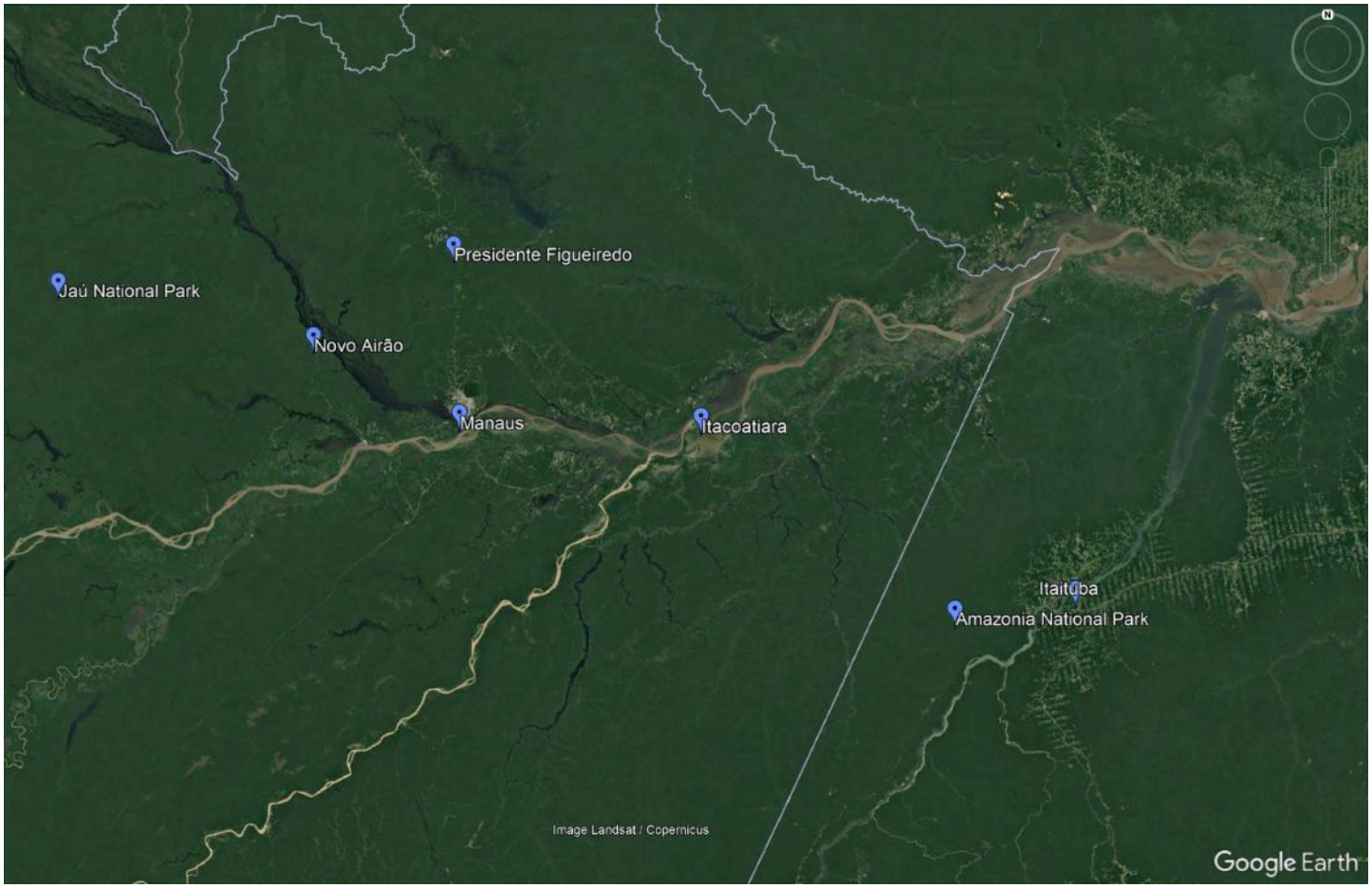
Itinerary & Map

Manaus & Rio Negro

Day 1	**Arrival in Manaus**
Day 2	**MUSA canopy tower & Pau Rosa area**
Day 3	**Manaus to Itacoatiara via Ducke Reserve**
Day 4	**Varzea forests of Itacoatiara to Manaus**
Day 5	**INPA canopy tower to Presidente Figueiredo**
Days 6 & 7	**Presidente Figueiredo area**
Day 8	**Presidente Figueiredo to Manaus**
Day 9	**Marchantaria River islands, transfer to Novo Airão**
Day 10	**Anavilhanas archipelago, board Amazon Cruise**
Day 11	**Jaú National Park & birding lower Jaú River**
Days 12 & 13	**Jaú National Park**
Day 14	**Jaú National Park to Novo Airão**
Day 15	**Terra firme forests of Novo Airão, transfer to Manaus & final departure**

Amazonia National Park Extension

Day 1	**Arrival in Manaus; flight to Santarem**
Day 2	**Santarem to Amazonia National Park via Tapajos National Forest**
Days 3 to 5	**Amazonia National Park**
Day 6	**Amazonia National Park to Itaituba, flight to Manaus**
Day 7	**Birding Manaus area & final departure**


Presidente Figueiredo
Jaú National Park
Novo Airão
Manaus
Itacoatiara
Itaituba
Amazonia National Park
Image Landsat / Copernicus
Google Earth

Birding sites in detail



Dark-winged Trumpeter by Bobby Wilcox

MUSA canopy tower. This outstanding canopy tower located is located in the Museu da Amazonia (MUSA) Botanical Garden. The 42-meter tower is incredibly stable, providing amazing views of the MUSA forest reserve and the neighboring Adolpho Ducke Reserve. From our vantage point, we have the opportunity to observe numerous Guianan Shield terra firme specialties such as Guianan Puffbird, Guianan Toucanet, Green Aracari, Black-spotted Barbet, Waved Woodpecker, Paradise Jacamar, and Red-fan Parrot. Flocks of canopy birds pass by the tower, and we'll carefully examine them to find the likes of Black-bellied Cuckoo, Guianan Woodcreeper, Spot-backed Antwren, Glossy-backed Becard, and Buff-cheeked Greenlet.

Pau Rosa area. It is a good area to search for fruiting trees that might attract prize birds such as Purple-breasted Cotinga, Capuchinbird and Guianan Red Cotinga! The mixed secondary forest and edge habitats can be very productive with species including Crimson Topaz, Golden-spangled Piculet, Yellow-throated, Yellow-tufted and Golden-collared Woodpecker, Black-spotted Barbet, Green and Black-necked Aracari, Black-throated Antshrike, Northern Slaty Antshrike, Guianan Warbling Antbird, Black-headed, Rufous-throated and Black-throated Antbird, Spotted Antpitta, Cinnamon-throated and Red-billed Woodcreeper, McConnell's Flycatcher, Short-tailed Pygmy-Tyrant, White-crested Spadebill, White-throated Manakin and many more.



Crimson Topaz by Lev Frid

Ducke Reserve. The Adolpho Ducke Reserve is a birdwatcher's paradise located just outside the city limits. This expansive reserve safeguards 10 000 hectares (25 000 acres) of pristine and regenerated terra firme forest, offering a good number of Guianan Shield species. We'll be on the lookout White-fronted Manakin, Red-billed Woodcreeper, Spot-winged Antbird, and Grey-winged Trumpeter. If conditions permit, we may visit the area later in the evening to look for Tawny-bellied Screech-Owl and Rufous Potoo.

Itacoatiara area. It takes around 4½ hours to get to Itacoatiara, a town situated on the north bank of the Amazon River. We'll be targetting several key species here including endemic Varzea Piculet, Scaled Spinetail, Plain Softtail and the recently distinguished Amazon River race of Ash-breasted Antbird, unique from the ones we'll encounter later on the Rio Negro. Additionally, we may get sightings of Glossy Antshrike, Klages's Antwren, White-eyed Attila, and with a bit of luck, Crimson-hooded Manakin.



Crimson-hooded Manakin by Stephan Lorenz

INPA canopy tower. This tower give us the 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 short of superb. On a good day 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 and Crested Eagles, Fiery-tailed Awlbill, Curve-billed Scythebill, Crimson Fruitcrow, and both Dotted and Blue-backed Tanagers. Again, incredible birding possibilities today!



Capuchinbird by Forrest Rowland

Presidente Figueiredo area. We'll explore the diverse habitats around Presidente Figueiredo, including terra firme and white sand forests. Some of the key species we hope to encounter in the terra firme include a variety of interesting cotingas, such as the Guianan Red Cotinga, Capuchinbird, Pompadour, Spangled, and Purple-breasted Cotingas, along with the spectacular Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock. Other terra firme targets include Yellow-billed Jacamar, Ferruginous-backed Antbird, Rufous-bellied

Antwren, Brown-bellied Stipplethroat, Spotted Antpitta, and Wing-banded Wren.

The stunted white sand *campinarana* forests and open sandy and rocky *campinas* areas offer a different set of avian treasures, such as White-naped Seedeater, Plumbeous Euphonia, Rufous-crowned Elaenia, Saffron-crested Tyrant-Manakin, Pelzeln's Tody-Tyrant, and Yellow-crowned Manakin.



Spangled Cotinga by Bobby Wilcox

We will also venture onto quiet tracks through tall forests around Presidente Figueiredo in search of the Glossy-backed Becard.

Marchantaria River islands. 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.

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!



Spotted Antpitta by Lev Frid

Novo Airão. We will work a productive trail system near Novo Airão, where we have a chance to see White-chested

Puffbird, Red-necked and Cream-colored Woodpeckers, Pearly Antshrike, Negros Stipple-throated, Grey, 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 tanagers, 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!



Red-fan Parrot by Forrest Rowland

Anavilhanas archipelago. After boarding our live-aboard charter boat, we'll begin our explorations of the Amazon River systems. Over the next few days, we will spend our time exploring the scenic black waters of the Rio Negro. Here we can 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 Amazon 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 Antwrens, Riparian, Ash-breasted, Black-chinned, Black-faced, Spot-winged and Chestnut-crested Antbirds, Short-billed Leaftosser, Spot-throated, Long-tailed and White-chinned Woodcreepers, Wing-banded, Pale-legged and Lesser Horneros, Amazonian Inezia, Snethlage's Tody-Tyrant, Amazonian Umbrellabird, Wire-tailed Manakin, Varzea Schiffornis and both Grey-chested and Brown-headed Greenlets amongst others.



Chestnut-crested Antbird by Dušan Brinkhuizen

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!



Amazon River Dolphin by Adam Riley

Jaú National Park. We will spend several nights cruising up the Rio Negro into the remote and little-explored Jaú National Park. Covering 2.3 million hectares, it is the largest forest reserve in South America and home to an incredible array of species.

We will have ample time to bird both *chavascal* woodland and tall terra firme forest in search of several Rio Negro specialties, including Pavonine Quetzal, Brown-banded Puffbird, Pearly Antshrike, Cinnamon Manakin-Tyrant, the seldom-seen Chestnut-crested Antbird and Reddish-winged Bare-eye. There are lots of other species to seek such as several species of colourful macaw, plus Hoatzin, Great Jacamar, Guianan Toucanet, Toco Toucan and, with luck, a King Vulture or the elusive Harpy Eagle and with great luck we may encounter Tawny-tufted Toucanet. We will also spend time owling for both Rufous and White-winged Potoos.

Both Amazon River Dolphin and Tucuxi have become habituated to humans and offer the chance of an incredible close-up experience. Over 14 species of primate have also been recorded in the park and we have an excellent chance of finding Squirrel and Red Howler Monkeys and Golden-faced Saki, as well as the strange, stub-tailed Golden-backed Uakari, a rarely seen primate endemic to the middle-upper Negro basin.



Rufous Potoo by Stephan Lorenz

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.

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,



Flame-crowned Manakin by Forrest Rowland

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 several of the special reptiles, amphibians, plants, and so forth, that make up this important, threatened, ecology.

Tour Grading & Key

Overall Ease		Moderate. Not suitable for dedicated photographers; inexperienced birders; or anyone with mobility or health challenges. Long days in the field, often spending hours at one site waiting for various species to arrive or pass through. Opportunities to rest in the hot afternoon after lunch on most days.
Birding Ease		Fairly demanding. Several rare or difficult species. Usual difficulties of birding in Amazonian forests.
Accommodation		Mostly comfortable to very comfortable. One simple lodge which is chosen for proximity to birding sites.
Walking / Trails		Moderate walking on trails through various forests. Trails can be muddy, with wet areas, tree roots & improvised bridges over small streams. Some steep sections to reach trails in terra firme forest. Two canopy towers of +-45m that must be climbed up (handrails present)
Vehicles / Roads		Mostly short drives to reach birding sites, with one reasonably long return drive of 4hrs in each direction. Mostly sealed roads between towns, changing to dirt in remoter areas. Several nights aboard a comfortable river boat.
Photography		Worthwhile, but challenging forest lighting conditions.
Annoyances		Temperatures are warm to hot with high humidity, some rain showers to be expected. Small biting insects.

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 dinner on day 1 to lunch on day 15 on the Manaus & Rio Negro tour;
- All meals from dinner on day 1 to breakfast on day 7 of Amazonia National Park Extension;
- Bottled drinking water;
- All lodgings;
- All ground transportation during the tour;
- All reserve entrance fees;
- All local guiding services ;

Tour exclusions:

- Visa fees;
- ANY flights;
- Any beverages (including mini-bar charges at hotels);
- Optional excursions;
- No tips or 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.**

- 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 much 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 and Departure Details

The main tour will begin with an arrival day in Manaus on Day 1. The tour will conclude at Manaus airport in the late afternoon of day 15.

The Amazonia NP extension will begin with an arrival day in Manaus on Day 1, followed by an evening flight to Santarem. The extension will end around midday in Manaus on day 7.

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.

Eduardo Gomes International Airport, Manaus (IATA: MAO) 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.