Brazil

Southeast Endemics (Relaxed)



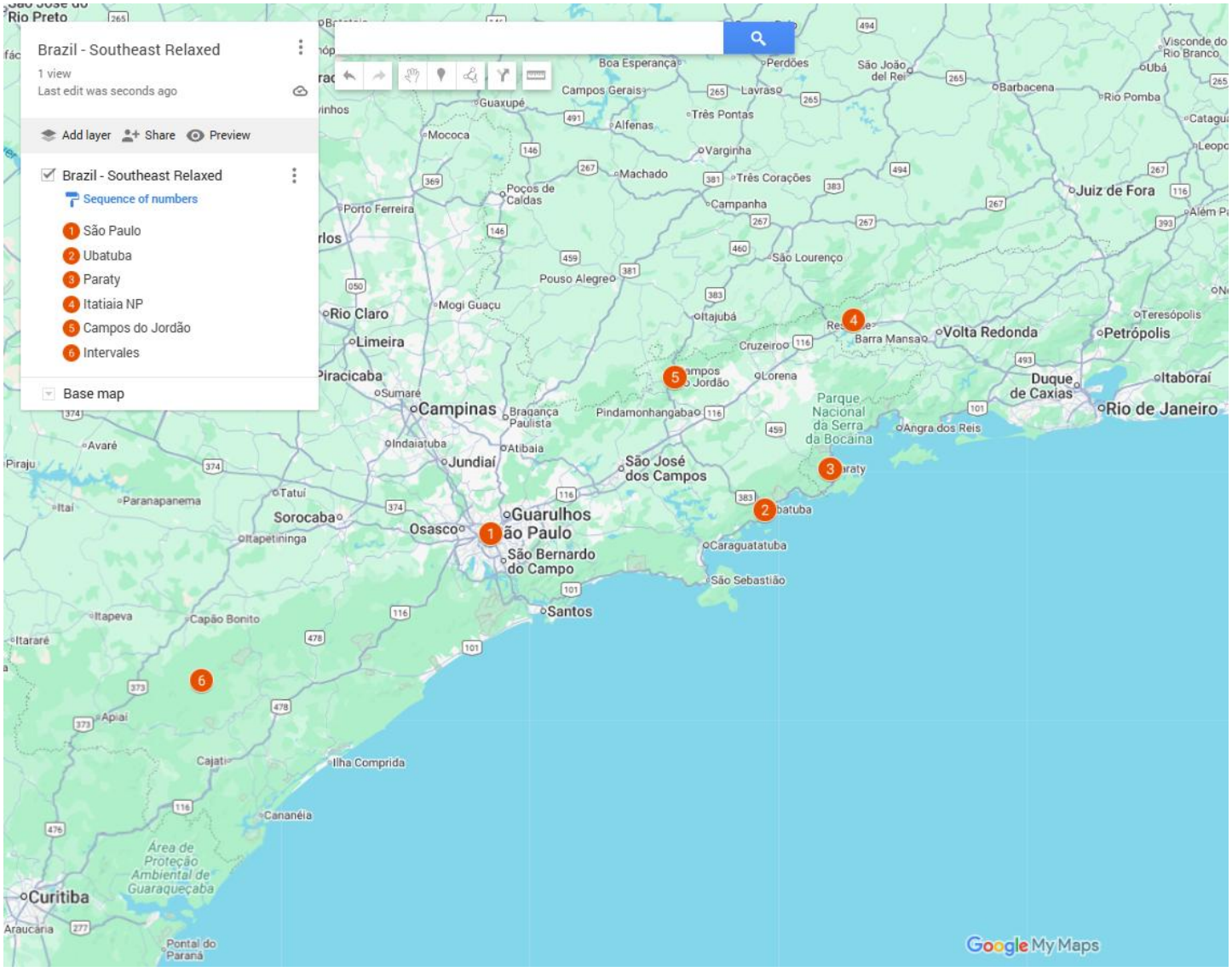
Red-necked Tanager by Dušan Brinkhuizen

Brazil is one of the most biodiverse countries on the planet and a dream destination for birders, general naturalists, and photographers alike. Our relaxed Southeastern Endemics tour covers some of the key highlights of the threatened Atlantic Forests, seeking out a myriad of remarkable and endemic species.

Ubatuba, Intervales and Itatiaia are among the big name sites that we will explore, with highlight species including Black-fronted Piping Guan, Surucua Trogon, Saffron Toucanet, Red-necked, Golden-chevroned and Green-headed Tanagers, Spot-winged Wood Quail, Spotted Bamboowren, Green-crowned Plovercrest, Festive Coquette, Itatiaia Spinetail, Black-and-gold and Swallow-tailed Cotingas, Bare-throated Bellbird, Hooded Berryeater, Serra do Mar Tyrannulet, as well many other gorgeous tanagers, antbirds, antwrens and huge spectacular antshrikes!

Itinerary & Map

Day 1	**Arrival in São Paulo**
Day 2	**São Paulo to Ubatuba via Folha Seca**
Day 3	**Ubatuba**
Day 4	**Ubatuba to Paraty**
Day 5	**Paraty to Itatiaia National Park**
Days 6 & 7	**Itatiaia National Park**
Day 8	**Itatiaia National Park to Campos do Jordão**
Day 9	**Campos do Jordão**
Day 10	**Campos do Jordão to Intervales**
Days 11 to 13	**Intervales State Park**
Day 14	**Intervales State Park São Paulo & final departure**



Birding sites in detail



Hooded Berryeater by Dušan Brinkhuizen

Ubatuba. Ubatuba is a busy, but pleasant coastal town that lies between Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo. During summer holidays it attracts many tourists that come to the expansive beaches to swim and surf. It is also a popular destination for birders as the nearby lowland rainforests situated at the foot of the Serra do Mar ridge provide excellent birding. Over 450 species have been recorded in the Ubatuba area and many superb Atlantic Forest Endemics can be found just outside of the town.

We will visit an old cacao plantation, a so-called 'fazenda' that has been transformed back into a natural reserve. The mature forest and trails provide great birding and specialties that we will be looking for include Buff-throated Purpletuft, Orange-eyed Thornbird, Plain Parakeet, Spotted Bamboowren, Yellow-fronted Woodpecker, Spot-backed Antshrike, Sao Paulo Tyrannulet, Black-capped Foliage-gleaner and Ochre-faced Tody-Flycatcher amongst others.

At another site with feeders, we might get close encounters with stunners like Green-headed, Brazilian and Red-necked Tanagers, Brazilian Ruby, Saw-billed Hermit and Festive Coquette!

Paraty. We'll spend the cooler morning hours searching for Black-hooded Antwren amongst others. The distinct (and attractive!) antwren has a very localized distribution along the coast. The birding in the area is exciting and other species that we could encounter in these humid forests include Fork-tailed Pygmy Tyrant, Yellow-throated Woodpecker, Scaled Antbird, Chestnut-backed Antshrike, Orange-eyed Thornbird, Tufted Antshrike, Riverbank Warbler and Green-headed Tanager.

Folha Seca. The owners of Sitio Folha Seca have been feeding hummingbirds and tanagers near their home for many years. There are well over 20 species of hummers that have already been recorded here! We may see Saw-billed and Scale-throated Hermits, Black-throated Mango, Brazilian Ruby, Sombre Hummingbird, Glittering-throated and Versicolored Emeralds, Black Jacobin, Festive Coquette, White-chinned Sapphire, Amethyst Woodstar and more.

Other species that we will be searching for in the surrounds include Buff-throated Purpletuft, Fork-tailed Pygmy Tyrant, Sao Paulo Tyrannulet, Black-



Black-cheeked Gnateater by Dušan Brinkhuizen



Brazilian Ruby by Adam Riley

cheeked Gnateater, Chestnut-bellied Euphonia, Red-necked Tanager, Green Honeycreeper, Slaty Bristlefront and Rufous-capped Antthrush.

Itatiaia National Park. The reserve covers an area of over 300 km^2 and is one of the best-known birding sites in southeast Brazil, with pristine Atlantic Forest ranging from 700m up to 2800m in elevation. Within the park, close to 400 species of birds have been recorded including over 50 Atlantic Forest endemics.

Lodge grounds and surroundings are a good place to start, and we'll keep an eye out for mixed species-flocks and specialties. Top birds that we might run into include Saffron Toucanet, Green-billed Toucan, Surucua Trogon, Maroon-bellied Parakeet, Dusky-legged Guan, Yellow-legged Thrush, Green-headed, Brazilian and Golden-chevroned Tanagers, Rufous-capped Motmot and Blue Manakin.

We will visit several lower and mid-elevations sites to find many of the specialties. Understory birds that we will look for include Star-throated Antwren, Black-goggled Tanager, White-shouldered Fire-eye, White-throated Spadebill, Golden-crowned Warbler, Greenish Schiffornis and Serra do Mar Tyrant-Manakin to name a few. Some of the forest dwellers can be tough to see, and we are likely to only hear the likes of Cryptic Antthrush, Speckle-breasted Antpitta and Rufous Gnateater.



Brassy-breasted Tanager by Forrest Rowland



Saffron Toucanet by Dušan Brinkhuizen

Mixed-species flocks are likely to contain Spot-breasted Antvireo, Streak-capped Antwren, Pallid Spinetail, Buff-browed and White-collared Foliage-gleaner, Planalto Woodcreeper, Rough-legged Tyrannulet, Yellow-lored Tody-Flycatcher, Rufous-crowned Greenlet, White-barred Piculet, Gilt-edged Tanager, Green-winged Saltator, and many more, will be looked for carefully. Several bamboo specialists are to be found here, some of which are nomadic and include Ferruginous and Ochre-rumped Antbirds, Buffy-fronted and Temminck's Seedeaters, Large-headed Flatbill and Uniform Finch.

At the hummingbird feeders we might get gems such as the endemic Brazilian Ruby, Violet-capped Woodnymph, Black Jacobin and White-throated Hummingbird.

We'll also spend time at the higher parts of Itatiaia National Park. Here we will bird the well-known Agulhas Negras Road and make our way up to roughly 2 400m in elevation. Target species that we will seek amongst mixed-species flocks include Black-capped Piprites, Rufous-backed Antvireo, Thick-billed Saltator, Red-rumped and Bay-chested Warbling Finches, Diademed and Brassy-breasted Tanagers, Olivaceous Elaenia, Golden-winged Cacique, White-rimmed Warbler and Serra do Mar Tyrannulet. Black-and-gold Cotinga is a rare and localized endemic that we will try to find by listening for its characteristic high-pitched whistle.

Higher up in the more open grasslands and scrubby habitat we will seek out endemics such as the localized Itatiaia Spinetail and Green-crowned Plovercrest. A handful of attractive tyrant flycatchers that we might encounter along the Agulhas Negras Road include Shear-tailed Tyrant, Blue-billed and Velvety Black Tyrants.

Campos do Jordão. This state park is in the Serra da Mantiqueira, another important remnant of interior Atlantic Forest with large tracts of Araucaria Forest. It is one of the best-known sites for Vinaceous-breasted Amazon, one of our key targets.

Finding this Endangered parrot can be tricky so we might have to wait until the late afternoon for roosting birds to fly in. Araucaria Tit-Spinetail is another speciality of these forests, but it should



Vinaceous-breasted Amazon by Clayton Burne



Swallow-tailed Cotinga by Adam Riley

be much easier to find. The pretty Black-capped Piprites is generally rare, but Campos do Jordão is a really good site for it. Other highland specialties that we might find here include Serra do Mar Tyrannulet, Bay-chested and Buff-throated Warbling Finches, Green-crowned Plovercrest, Rufous-backed Antvireo, Large-tailed Antshrike, Black Hawk-Eagle, Diademed Tanager, and the rare Black-and-gold Cotinga.

Intervales State Park. Intervales State Park is part of a large contiguous carpet of interior Atlantic Forests in São Paulo state. The area is one of the best conserved areas of southeast Brazil and the vast pristine habitats are home to numerous rare endemics.



Surucua Trogon by Dušan Brinkhuizen

Intervales is quite famous for its birding as many species are more easily seen here than anywhere else in the world. We have several days of birding at this amazing location and are very likely to become overwhelmed by the diversity and quality of birds within the reserve. With the help of local knowledge we will try to find as many specialties as possible including goodies such as Black-fronted Piping Guan, Solitary Tinamou, Spot-winged Wood Quail, Mantled Hawk, Red-and-white Crake, Slaty-breasted Wood Rail, Long-trained Nightjar, Rusty-barred Owl, Helmeted and Robust Woodpecker, Ochre-collared Piculet, Spot-billed Toucanet, Crescent-chested Puffbird, Rusty-breasted Nunlet, Giant, Tufted, Long-tailed and White-bearded Antshrike, Bertoni's and Dusky-tailed Antbird, Variegated Antpitta, Russet-winged Spadebill, Bay-ringed and Oustalet's Tyrannulet, Bare-throated Bellbird, Hooded Berryeater, Swallow-tailed Cotinga, Sharpbill, Cinnamon-vented Piha, Black-legged Dacnis, Brown Tanager and more!

Tour Grading & Key

Overall Ease		Comfortable. Suitable for most birding / wildlife interest levels.
Birding Ease		Moderate. A fair amount of forest birding means some species are difficult to find or visuals aren't always of great quality. Forest edge birding is very rewarding.
Accommodation		Good, one lodge is simple but comfortable.
Walking / Trails		Average walking, mostly on flat ground or roads with variable substrate at times. Some internal forest trails.
Vehicles / Roads		Several drives. Mostly sealed roads between towns, changing to dirt in remoter areas.
Photography		Good to good+. Internal forest photography is challenging, several fruit & hummingbird feeders.
Annoyances		Temperatures comfortable in the highlands (can be cool to cold) generally hot & humid in the lowlands.

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 breakfast on day 14;
- 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.**

Our Relaxed series of tours are designed to focus on having an enjoyable holiday with a bird and wildlife focus. Where possible; we have reduced or removed long drives, single night stays and poor/rustic accommodation. We have also sought to reduce or remove difficult hikes, narrow/muddy trails and otherwise oppressive environmental conditions. Early starts and night birding are mostly optional, and we will not spend much time searching for difficult and/or skulking species. These tours are not suitable for hardcore birders and listers, or dedicated photographers.

- To ensure your comfort and that of your companions, please limit yourself to one medium-sized suitcase or duffel bag (20 kg / 44 lb) and one carry-on bag, as space in the vehicles is limited.
- In some lowland areas, it can be quite hot. We aim to bird early on these mornings to avoid higher mid-day temperatures.
- 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.
- The vehicles we use are comfortable. We can 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 and Departure Details

Day 1 of the tour is set aside as an arrival day into São Paulo, and you may thus arrive at any time you wish. The tour will conclude in São Paulo around mid-morning of day 14.

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.

São Paulo International Airport, São Paulo (IATA: GRU) is the primary port of entry to Brazil for this tour and is well serviced by all major airlines.

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.