

ITINERARY  
**BAHIA BIRDING BONANZA**  
February 2-16, 2025



*The brilliant Brazilian Tanager is nearly endemic to the coastal regions of Brazil, where it is described as uncommon. We'll look for this bird at Porto Seguro. Photograph by participant Wayne Whitmore.*

We include here information for those interested in the 2025 Field Guides Bahia Birding Bonanza tour:

- a general introduction to the tour
- a description of the birding areas to be visited on the tour
- an abbreviated daily itinerary with some indication of the nature of each day's birding outings

These additional materials will be made available to those who register for the tour:

- an annotated list of the birds recorded on a previous year's Field Guides trip to the area, with comments by guide(s) on notable species or sightings (may be downloaded from our web site)
- a detailed information bulletin with important logistical information and answers to questions regarding accommodations, air arrangements, clothing, currency, customs and immigration, documents, health precautions, and personal items
- a Field Guides checklist for preparing for and keeping track of the birds we see on the tour
- after the conclusion of the tour, a list of birds seen on the tour

Bahia, the largest state in northeast Brazil, is about the size of Texas, but it seems few gringos have even heard of it. Around the capital of old Salvador, in the coastal, humid Atlantic Forest habitats and also in the more mountainous interior of the state, near Boa Nova, the Pernambuco/Alagoan endemics we seek on our *Nowhere But Northeast Brazil!* tour are replaced by a quite different set of birds, many of which have miniscule world ranges. Extensive mangrove forests on the northern coast and tall forest we'll bird near the coastal town of Porto Seguro lie within the largest region of lowland Atlantic Forest remaining anywhere. Most of this coastal terrain is flat, very sandy ground. Three birdy days out of Boa Nova will get us into rare *mata-de-cipo* ("vine forest," practically endemic to the state of Bahia) and breathtakingly beautiful, natural "cactus gardens" and also humid montane forest, where we'll reach appropriate elevations for several Atlantic Forest endemic birds we do not get on any other Field Guides tours.

Prizes we hope to find include everything from Little Wood-Rail, Mangrove Rail, Rufous Crab-Hawk, Hook-billed

Hermit, Black-capped Screech-Owl, White-winged Potoo, an undescribed *Pyrhura* parakeet(!), and the elusive Banded Cotinga to Ruby-topaz Hummingbird, Stripe-breasted Starthroat, Slender Antbird, Narrow-billed Antwren, Rio de Janeiro Antbird, Plumbeous Antvireo, Band-tailed and Bahia antwrens, Striated Softtail, Pink-legged Graveteiro, Bahia Spinetail, Bahia Tyrannulet, and Wied's Tyrant-Manakin — plus a large dose of other Atlantic Forest and *caatinga* specialties, from Pygmy Nightjar and Golden-capped Parakeet to Black-billed Scythebill and Pin-tailed Manakin — and you could even get that Giant Snipe that's been eluding you for years! WOW, what a wonderful assemblage of great birds... you might even call it a *BAHIA BIRDING BONANZA!* To get yourself ready for the 2025 tour, check out the triplists from our inaugural tours, in 2022 and 2023, on the Field Guides website; they feature some great photos and videos!



*The rare Hook-billed Hermit is highly sought-after Atlantic Forest species. Photograph by participant Eric Carpenter.*

*We want to be sure you are on the right tour! Below is a description of the physical requirements of the tour. If you are concerned about the difficulty, please contact us about this and be sure to fully explain your concerns. We want to make sure you have a wonderful time with us, so if you are uncomfortable with the requirements, just let us know and we can help you find a better fitting tour! Field Guides will not charge you a change or cancellation fee if you opt out within 10 days of depositing.*

### **Physical requirements of this tour**

- **TRAILS:** Some trails are quite steep in places and their ascent, and later in the day, descent, require good physical stamina. In February of a typical year, these trails are expected to be dry, or at least not very slippery or muddy. Nonetheless, in assessing your own capabilities and endurance levels, some points to keep in mind include: you must be able to maintain a steady forward, often rather steeply uphill, pace for perhaps two hours at a stretch, carrying with you sufficient water to keep yourself adequately hydrated for up to six hours. Of course, we will not be rushing along any of these birding trails, but our overall success in finding rare birds for all to enjoy depends on the group as a whole being *reasonably cohesive in strength and spirit*. Rest assured that, in everyone's best interest, your guide(s) will continuously assess the level of this fundamental group cohesiveness. The guide(s) may deem it necessary to rebalance the participation of some group members in specific birding outings -- please respect their judgments and instructions. **In the day-by-day itinerary, below, activities that require your special attention are marked in green.**

- **POTENTIAL CHALLENGES:** Agility and endurance while walking rudimentary and unimproved trails will be a frequently tested skill set. Please come prepared for this, and respect any level of instruction that may be proffered by your guide(s).
- **PACE:** We'll have early starts almost every day; on non-travel days, we'll try to have breaks mid-day. Some days will be long, however, with lunches in the field, and a lot of hiking. There will be a couple of unavoidably long days of travel between major birding venues.
- **ELEVATION:** We will not be encountering high elevations on this tour.
- **WEATHER:** Temperatures will probably remain within the narrow belt of about 75-92 degrees Fahrenheit. Some rain is likely (and, truth be told, desired!).
- **VEHICLE SEATING:** So that each participant has equal opportunity during our travel, participants will need to be flexible enough to maneuver to the back of the vehicle on occasion. Those who experience motion sickness will need to bring adequate medication for the duration of the tour, as we are not able to reserve forward seats, for example, for medical conditions.
- **BATHROOM BREAKS:** Whenever possible, we use modern, indoor restrooms, but on occasion participants must be prepared to make a rest stop in nature.
- **OPTING OUT:** Where we are staying multiple days in the same lodging, participants can easily opt to sit out a day or sometimes a half-day. Of course, this will not be possible on days when we are changing locations.

If you are uncertain about whether this tour is a good match for your abilities, please don't hesitate to contact our office; if they cannot directly answer your queries, they will put you in touch with the guide.

*This tour may be combined with its perfect complement, our **NOWHERE BUT NORTHEAST BRAZIL!** tour, January 18-February 4, 2025.*



## About the Birding Areas

*Here is some information that will allow an understanding of the type of habitat and general terrain we will visit on each segment of the tour.*

**Atlantic Forest**—For millennia, oceanic trade winds have brushed the face of the coastal forests of eastern Brazil. Moisture from the trades has permitted the historical maintenance of enclaves of humid forest that just a few miles to the west, in the rainshadow of the hills, give way to arid *caatinga* (see below). Along the highest ridges (above about 900 meters elevation) separating the humid forest and *caatinga* there exists a ribbon of habitat dominated by low-canopy forest tangled with dense growth of vines above patches of enormous terrestrial bromeliads called *mata-de-cipo*, which is home to several globally extremely rare species of birds. In a number of reserves in eastern Bahia, including the Picoões area and Boa Nova National Park in the interior of the state, we are privileged to enter well-preserved Atlantic Forest and

the *mata-de-cipo* as we seek encounters with some of the most endangered species of birds in all of South America. We'll do considerable slow walking through these forests.

**Caatinga**—Most of the interior of Brazil's Northeast is dominated by seasonally arid woodland and scrub called *caatinga*, or "white forest," by the Tupi Indians because it is so pale and dry for much of the year. *Caatinga* is one of the least-birded but most highly distinctive biomes in South America, and it is found only in the "outback" of Northeastern Brazil. Unfortunately, it is also one of the most highly disturbed biomes on the continent, owing to its generally fragile nature (growing on generally flat ground and easily cleared and burned) and a long history of human occupation. Several different classes of *caatinga* have been defined, based on plant species composition, abundance of trees or shrubs, and other factors; virtually none of the natural *caatinga*, which was a tall, deciduous forest, exists today. On at least one day around Boa Nova, we will bird some disturbed *caatinga* woodland, which will add a good number of birds to our totals. Birding in the *caatinga* is not difficult, as the ground is mostly level and easy to walk, and birds are usually easy to see well (once you find them, that is!).

**Mangroves and restinga**—In contrast to the more fertile regions around Salvador, the littoral region of northern Bahia, just a couple of hours north of the capital, remains relatively lightly populated with minimal agricultural development. Here people make their livelihoods from the sea, fishing, shrimping, and crabbing. Integral to their way of life is the mangrove forest, which in this region is still relatively well preserved, and harbors several birds difficult to see in many other areas of Brazil. Bordering the mangroves are areas of sparkling white sands, long ago eroded from the distant Brazilian Shield. These quartzitic deposits are quite limited in extent and are extremely poor in nutrients, supporting only a sparse and highly specialized plant community called *restinga*.



*The tiny Kinglet Manakin is found in a narrow strip of Atlantic forest from roughly Salvador to Rio. This is our only tour where we see this bird, and we have seen them well! Photograph by participant Eric Carpenter..*

## Itinerary for Bahia Birding Bonanza

**Days 1-2, Sun-Mon, 2-3 Feb. Travel to Salvador, Bahia.** You will depart home for Brazil Sunday (if not coming down earlier), connecting to Salvador, Bahia, most likely through Sao Paulo or Brasilia, spending Monday night in Salvador. This will allow some time for your baggage to catch up with you should winter's frequent northern hemisphere weather delays come into play. You will meet your guides and those folks wrapping up the *Nowhere but Northeast Brazil!* tour Monday afternoon for a short city tour and dinner in the beautiful, old colonial section of Salvador, called Pelourinho (pelo-

REEN-yo). Bret and Marcelo, who are guiding the *Nowhere but Northeast Brazil!* Tour, will be in touch with you at some point Monday to optimize logistics of getting everyone together, but be ready to meet up in the hotel lobby by around 5:30 p.m. Nights in Salvador.

**Day 3, Tue, 4 Feb. Salvador to Conde.** We'll enjoy an early but well-appointed breakfast at our hotel before hitting the ground, running northward as dawn breaks, as it has for millions of years, over Bahia's beautiful coastline. We have a couple of important birding stops on the docket: one in an enclave of *cerrado*-like habitat (humid savanna with an open, fire-adapted plant community) where we could find Russet-crowned Crake, Peach-fronted Parakeet, Rusty-backed Antwren, Plain-crested Elaenia, and possibly even Horned Sungem and Blue Finch -- the other in tall forest where we will seek the rare, range-restricted Fringe-backed Fire-eye and Pernambuco Foliage-gleaner.

We should make it to our hotel near the little town of Conde this afternoon, with a few roadside stops to bird extensive cattail marshes near the coast. Night in Conde.

**Day 4, Wed, 5 Feb. Conde mangroves.** This very full day will find us exploring an extensive area of old-growth mangroves on Bahia's northern coast. We'll use small boats to access narrow channels in the mangroves watching carefully for Little Wood-Rail, Mangrove Rail, Rufous Crab-Hawk (rarely seen anywhere in Brazil!), Straight-billed Woodcreeper (endemic coastal subspecies *bahiae*), Campo Troupial, and Bicolored Conebill. A recent discovery here is the existence of a small, perhaps relictual population of *Pyrrhura* parakeets obviously related to the rare Gray-breasted Parakeet, until now thought to be endemic to the Serra de Baturite of northern Ceara state. Plumages of the two populations are at least slightly different, and their genetic makeups are currently under study. Although very few people have seen these birds, we will hope to find at least one small flock this morning. We will also make a foray into the *restinga*, where we could be fortunate enough to come up with Pectoral Antwren. Night in Conde.



*In the mangroves along the coast near Conde, we'll seek out the Little Wood-Rail and other coastal specialties.  
Photograph by participant Eric Carpenter.*

**Day 5, Thu, 6 Feb. Conde to Salvador; flight to Vitoria da Conquista and drive to Pocos.** After a good early morning of birding near the coast, or perhaps to make another attempt to find Fringe-backed Fire-eye or Pernambuco Foliage-gleaner, should either of these have escaped us earlier, the balance of today is largely devoted to repositioning from northern coastal Bahia to the southern, interior part of the state. It's a long way to go, but it sure will be worth the time and effort, as it will put us in place for lots of wonderful birding over the remainder of the tour. Thus, we'll get back to

Salvador in time to catch the afternoon flight to Vitoria da Conquista, then drive about an hour and a half to the little town of Pocos. Night in Pocos.

**Day 6, Fri, 7 Feb. Pocos *mata-de-cipo* and drive to Boa Nova.** The region of southeastern Bahia that we will be birding at Pocos and above the town of Boa Nova is a transition zone where the southern rim of the *caatinga* meets the western fringe of the humid Atlantic Forest. There is a remarkable assemblage of birds in the unique *mata-de-cipo* (“vine forest”) here, including an impressive concentration of rare antbirds. Species we hope to find this morning that we may not encounter again on the tour include Broad-tipped Hermit, the handsome Silvery-cheeked Antshrike, the peculiar Narrow-billed Antwren, the ultra-rare (but here fairly common!) Slender Antbird, the recently described Caatinga Antwren, White-browed Antpitta, and perhaps even Wied’s Tyrant-Manakin and Reiser’s Tyrannulet. Unfortunately, most of the *mata-de-cipo* has been cleared, and our birding will be in remnant patches on ridgetops that **require a steep hike of about 1.5 kilometers, mostly through wasteland, before the trail enters good habitat, continuing uphill for several hundred meters more. Despite the fact that we will not be rushing uphill, this hike has proven to be too much for some past tour participants, meaning that they have not been able to maintain the necessary slow, steady group pace required to effectively bird this habitat without falling well behind or being too tired to continue. Therefore, in everyone’s best interests, we must stress that anyone the guides judge to be unfit to undertake this hike at the outset, or anyone they judge to be unable to adequately continue at any point along the way, respect the guides’ decision that they must stop and wait or return downhill, or perhaps simply remain around the tour vehicle(s) with the drivers until the group returns late morning.**

After this invigorating morning in the *mata-de-cipo*, we will bird an open, rock shield that is studded with flowering cacti that attract a host of hummers, usually including Swallow-tailed Hummingbird, Sapphire-spangled Emerald, the gorgeous Ruby Topaz, and sometimes even Amethyst-throated Woodstar and Stripe-breasted Starthroat. Later this afternoon, we’ll make the 1.5-hour drive to Boa Nova. Depending on the weather and our hour of arrival, we will either check into the hotel, or perhaps head straight to another excellent birding venue in tall, humid forest about 11 kilometers east of town. This area is usually very birdy, even during afternoon hours, but there is one celebrity that will have us waiting until dusk: Giant Snipe. If our string of great luck, now about 5 of the last 7 years (but with weather-related misses in 2022 and 2023), holds up, we will have the thrilling experience of seeing this amazing creature, the largest snipe in the world, practically at our feet! Night in Boa Nova.



*The Swallow-tailed Hummingbird is one of many flashy hummers we’ll see. Photograph by participant Kirsten Tucker.*

**Day 7, Sat, 8 Feb. Boa Nova National Park and environs.** Most of the land around Boa Nova was stripped of its native vegetation 40+ years ago, but the great news is that the region was declared Boa Nova National Park in June 2010!

Formal protection of the remnant habitats and increasing visits from people like us are sure to help preserve, and perhaps expand them into the future.

This morning's birding gets underway along a level road through good birding habitat at about 700 meters elevation. We'll see many good birds here, before starting up a narrow trail that we will bird for the rest of the day, everyone carrying their water and a sack lunch. This trail goes up to a ridge at just under 1000 meters, where we will look especially for the difficult Bahia Tyrannulet. **Please note that, along the approximately 2.5 kilometers of this trail there are several steep sections, some with poor footing and fallen trees and logs to clamber over. Some participants on past tours have found it difficult to negotiate their way up this trail, and then back down in the afternoon. Therefore, in everyone's best interests, at the start of this trail or at any other point, if your guides judge it best for you to return to the tour vehicle(s) to wait with the driver, please respect their decision, and enjoy some excellent birding along the level road where we started the day.**

Here, from the Atlantic Forest element of the Boa Nova avifauna, which is more typical of southeastern Brazil, we may see such species as Least Pygmy-Owl, Crescent-chested Puffbird, Black-billed Scythebill, Striated Softtail, White-collared Foliage-gleaner, Sharp-tailed Streamcreeper, Bahia and Pallid spinetails, Buff-fronted and Ochre-breasted foliage-gleaners, Tufted and Spot-backed antshrikes, Spot-breasted Antwreio, the rare and little-known Rio de Janeiro Antbird, Ferruginous and Scaled antbirds, Pin-tailed and Swallow-tailed manakins, Drab-breasted Bamboo-Tyrant, Oustalet's Tyrannulet, the rare and beautiful Fork-tailed Tody-Tyrant, Sharpbill, and Gilt-edged, Rufous-headed, and Golden-chevroned tanagers among numerous others. There are LOTS of fabulous birds in this area! Night in Boa Nova.



*The Sharpbill is an odd species with a very disjointed distribution. In Brazil, they are found in several areas, including the region around Boa Nova in Bahia. These unusual birds are not easy to find or to see, but we've had good luck on our tour.  
Photograph by participant Hanna Zhao.*

**Day 8, Sun, 9 Feb. Boa Nova to Itacaré and the Pink-legged Graveteiro.** Our plan for today is to push eastward through southern Bahia to enter a very different, more humid region on dark, fertile soils where almost all of the forest has been converted to growing cacao, bananas, and other crops. Cacao was introduced into southern Bahia from the Brazilian Amazon in 1746, and cultivating it is the economic base for almost everyone in the region to this day. Planting cacao has resulted in the total clearance of the forest understory beneath a somewhat thinned canopy of tall, native trees and, nowadays, planted *Erythrina* and other species. Thus, all lowland birds dependent on native forest understory have disappeared from this region (a subset persists on the few and scattered hilltops over about 500m elevation), but the circumstance of cacao requiring shade for maturation has had the positive corollary of providing a tenuous maintenance of at least some of the canopy avifauna, the most illustrious member of which is the Pink-legged Graveteiro.

A “graveteiro” is a “twig-gatherer,” which Bret and Brazilian colleagues introduced in the formal description of *Acrobatornis fonsecai* in 1996. The Pink-legged Graveteiro is one of the most distinctive species of furnariids—the Ovenbird family—which is saying a lot. DNA analysis has confirmed that it is most closely related to the Orange-fronted Plushcrown of upper Amazonia, and the even farther disjunct Ecuadorian and Double-banded graytails. This odd little bird, black-and-gray as adult and rufous-and-buff as juvenile, with stout, bright-pink legs and bill, hangs on in the canopy of native trees shading the cacau plantations in southern Bahia. It is a highly acrobatic forager (hence the genus name), deftly scaling along the undersides of thin branches as it searches for insect prey with mixed-species flocks. We’ll make a point of seeing it well and learning of its interesting nesting habits. Other birds to watch for during our birding stops include Mantled Hawk, the handsome Golden-capped Parakeet, and Green-headed Tanager.

We should roll into the little town of Itacaré, on the coast at the mouth of the Rio de Contas, around dusk. Night in Itacaré.



*The lovely Green-headed Tanager is common in southeast Brazil. Photograph by participant Linda Rudolph.*

**Day 9, Mon, 10 Feb. Itacaré.** Our overriding goal this morning is to lay eyes on a Bahia Tapaculo, among the least-often seen of all Atlantic Forest endemics. We’ll have plenty of time to work on it, trying to ensure that everyone comes away with a satisfying view of this shy species. That mission accomplished, we’ll have the afternoon to go for “Margaretta’s Hermit”, a highly range-restricted endemic currently considered a subspecies of Great-billed Hermit (by the SACC; the Brazilian CBRO regards it as a distinct species). Other amazing sightings on our past two tours included gorgeous male Kinglet Manakins, a close, foraging group of White-winged Cotingas, and a fly-over flock of 22 very rare Brown-backed Parrotlets near Itacare, so we’ll sure be looking for repeat performances! Night in Itacaré.

**Days 10-11, Tue-Wed, 11-12 Feb. Itacaré to Serra Bonita.** After an early morning of birding around Itacaré on Monday, we will head south to Serra Bonita to settle in for two nights of fabulous birding in well-preserved foothill Atlantic Forest. Highlights we will seek here include, first and foremost, the rare Banded Cotinga, which has proven to be fairly reliable here (certainly more reliable than any place else!). We’ll also aim to find Plumbeous Antvireo and the enigmatic Rufous-brown Solitaire. And, should Pink-legged Graveteiro have eluded us between Boa Nova and Itacaré, we’ll do our best to get good looks at it while we’re based in Serra Bonita. Nights in Serra Bonita.

**Day 12, Thu, 13 Feb. Serra Bonita to Porto Seguro.** We’ll have the early morning to concentrate our efforts on finding any rarities that may remain at large before making our way ever southward to the coastal, resort town of Porto Seguro. After checking into our lovely hotel near the coast, and a truly spectacular lunch, we’ll make the short drive to the VERACEL Reserve for an opening afternoon of birding. If the weather looks to be good, we may also choose to stay out later, to be in position for a go at the rarely seen Atlantic Forest population of White-winged Potoo. This is the nominate form, widely disjunct from the very similar Amazonian/Guianan birds that are much more frequently seen. The type



specimen (original skin upon which the name *Nyctibius leucopterus* was based) was taken in southern Bahia in 1816. There were no additional records in the Atlantic Forest until Bret and Brazilian colleagues rediscovered it at the Una Biological Reserve some 300 kilometers north of Porto Seguro on 1 November 1999. In February 2009, Bret found a White-winged Potoo at the reserves we will visit near Porto Seguro, and since then, the bird has been seen well at VERACEL many times, including last year's (2023) tour. Still, it's a mighty rare bird, and we'll certainly give it a solid try! We may also be able to throw the light on some other night birds in the hunt, perhaps including Black-capped Screech-Owl and Tawny-browed Owl. Night in Porto Seguro.

**Day 13, Fri, 14 Feb. Porto Seguro: Estação Veracel Reserve.** Birding sandy-soil forests in this extensive forest reserve this morning will give us an excellent chance of seeing the little-known Hook-billed Hermit, Red-browed Parrot, Ochre-marked Parakeet, very local Bahia Antwren (true *Herpsilochmus pileatus*), Band-tailed Antwren, White-winged Cotinga, and the stunning Brazilian Tanager. With great luck, we could also come up with Racket-tipped Thorntail (formerly Racket-tailed Coquette), Ringed Woodpecker (Atlantic Forest endemic subspecies *tinnunculus*), Red-billed Scythebill (little-known, nominate *trochilirostris* restricted to these coastal forests of southern Bahia), Black-headed Berryeater, and the ultra-rare Banded Cotinga (but wait... didn't we get that at Serra Bonita?). Other birds to work on include Least Pygmy-Owl, Blond-crested Woodpecker, White-barred Piculet, Sooretama Slaty-Antshrike, White-flanked Antwren (endemic Atlantic Forest subspecies *luctuosa* in the process of being formally split, probably to be called "Silvery-flanked Antwren"), Black-capped and White-eyed foliage-gleaners, Rufous-throated and White-chinned sapphires, Turquoise Tanager (endemic *brasiliensis* soon to be split and probably called "White-bellied Tanager"), and Opal-rumped Tanager (endemic *cyanomelaena* soon to be split and probably called "Silvery-breasted Tanager"). Night in Porto Seguro.



*We'll visit the VERACEL reserve, where we'll search for White-winged Cotinga and other specialties.  
Photograph by guide Marcelo Barrios.*

**Day 14, Sat, 15 Feb. Porto Seguro to Sao Paulo.** We may choose to keep an eye on some feeders this morning, in hopes of seeing East Brazilian Chachalaca and Tropical Mockingbird (endemic subspecies *antelinus*) before heading back to Estação Veracel to continue scouring the treetops for rare cotingas and the understory for hermits and antwrens. We'll get back to town for lunch and an hour or so to clean up and pack at the hotel, before getting to the airport for our mid-afternoon flight to Sao Paulo. Please plan to depart from Sao Paulo after 9:00 p.m. this evening.

*Uma boa viagem para todos!*

**Day 15, Sun, 16 Feb. Arrival in Miami (or wherever) and home!** You'll arrive in Miami early this morning, allowing for leisurely homeward connections.

**Marcelo Barreiros** is a native of Sao Paulo, Brazil, who became fascinated with birds when he entered college in 2005, graduating with a degree in biology in 2009. He then moved to Manaus to work with conservation of Harpy Eagles and other large forest raptors, monitoring nests in both the Amazon and the Atlantic Forest regions. Today, Marcelo's depth of expertise in finding and identifying even the rarest species has earned him an outstanding reputation among the leading fieldmen in Amazonia and, increasingly, all of Brazil. He and his wife moved back to Sao Paulo in 2015 to be closer to family and the wonderful beaches and Atlantic Forest. Marcelo is a friendly, generous guide with an even temperament and ready laugh, who truly enjoys showing birds to tour participants. We know you'll have a great time with him!

*"We had a fabulous time. Great birds, great skilled and capable guides, and good food. Large number of interesting birds, beautiful scenery... Bret Whitney and **Marcelo Barreiros** were very personable guides and skilled birders. Their knowledge of Brazil certainly added to the overall experience." J.B., Nowhere but Northeast Brazil!*

Visit <https://fieldguides.com/our-staff/> for Marcelo's complete tour schedule just click on his photo.

## Financial Information

**FEE: \$6295 from Salvador and ending in Sao Paulo (includes flights within Brazil)**

**DEPOSIT: \$625**

**FINAL PAYMENT DUE: August 6, 2024**

**SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (Optional): \$875**

**LIMIT: 8**

## Other Things You Need to Know

**TOUR MANAGER:** The manager for this tour is Ruth Kuhl. Ruth will be happy to assist you in preparing for the tour. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call her!

**DOCUMENTS:** A current passport is necessary for US citizens to enter Brazil.

If you are not a US citizen, please check with the Brazilian consulate nearest you for entry requirements. Information about consulates and entry requirements is generally available online or you can contact us and we will be happy to look this up for you. Passports should have an adequate number of blank pages for the entire journey. Some countries require a blank page for their stamp and as a precaution it is best to have one blank page per country you will visit or transit.

**AIR ARRANGEMENTS:** Field Guides is a full-service travel agency and your tour manager will be happy to assist you with flights to join this tour. Field Guides does not charge a service fee for these services to clients booking a tour. However, we understand that tech-savvy clients often prefer to shop online or that you may wish to use mileage to purchase tickets. Regardless of which method you choose, your tour manager will be happy to provide assistance regarding ticket prices and schedules, along with rental cars and extra hotel nights as needed.

Please be sure to check with your tour manager prior to purchasing your ticket to make sure the flights you have chosen will work well with the tour itinerary and that the tour is sufficiently subscribed to operate. Once purchased, most airline tickets are non-refundable and carry a penalty to change. Field Guides cannot be responsible for these fees.

**Also, it is imperative that we receive a copy of your comprehensive flight itinerary—including any and all flights not covered in the tour fee—so that we may track you in the event of missed connections, delays, or other mishaps.**

**LUGGAGE:** Please be aware that many airlines have recently modified their luggage policies and are charging additional fees for checked bags. Updates could easily occur before your departure, so you may wish to contact your airline to verify the policy. Additional charges for bags on any flights, whether these are covered by the tour fee or not, will be the client's responsibility.

**VACCINATIONS:** Yellow fever is widespread in many parts of Brazil, and we recommend all travelers to Brazil be vaccinated against the disease. Please check <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/diseases/yellow-fever> for the current CDC information and consult with your physician about whether the vaccine is appropriate for you (there are contraindications for some individuals).

**SMOKING:** Almost all of our clients prefer a smoke-free environment. If you smoke, please be sensitive to the group and refrain from smoking at meals, in vehicles, and in proximity to the group on trails and elsewhere.

**TOUR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS:** The **tour fee** is \$6295 for one person in double occupancy from Salvador and ending in Sao Paulo. It includes all lodging from Day 2 (*February 3*) through Day 13 (*February 14*), all meals from dinner on Day 2 through lunch on Day 14, flights within Brazil, all ground transportation, entrance fees, and the guide services of the tour leader(s). Tipping at group meals and for drivers, porters, and local guides is included in your tour fee and will be handled for the group by your Field Guides leader(s). However, if you would like to recognize your Field Guides leader(s) or any local guide(s) for exceptional service, it is entirely appropriate to tip. We emphasize that such tips are optional and not expected.

The above tour fee does not include your airfare to and from Brazil, airport taxes, any checked or carry-on baggage charges imposed by the airlines, any alcoholic beverages, optional tips to local drivers, phone calls, laundry, or other items of a personal nature.

The **single supplement** for the tour is \$875. If you do not have a roommate but wish to share, we will try to pair you with a roommate from the tour; but if none is available, you will be billed for the single supplement. Our tour fees are based on double occupancy; one-half the cost of a double room is priced into the tour fee. The single supplement is calculated by taking the actual cost of a single room and subtracting one-half the cost of a double room (plus any applicable taxes).

**TOUR REGISTRATION:** To register for this tour, please contact us at [fieldguides.com/contact-us/](https://fieldguides.com/contact-us/). Our office will be in touch with you by email by the next business day (Mon-Fri) with instructions on how to complete our new electronic registration form and medical questionnaire. (We are no longer accepting the paper version.)

Please mail your **deposit of \$625** per person, or see <https://fieldguides.com/payment-options/> for our Payment Options. **Full payment** of the tour fee is due 180 days prior to departure, or **by August 6, 2024**. **We will bill you for the final payment at either 180 days or when the tour has reached sufficient subscription to operate, whichever date comes later.**

Since the cost of your trip insurance and airline tickets is generally non-refundable, please do not finalize these purchases until you have received final billing for the tour or have been advised that the tour is sufficiently subscribed to operate by your tour manager.

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** Refund of deposit and full payment, less \$100 handling fee, will be made if cancellation is received up to 180 days before departure. If cancellation occurs between 179 and 90 days before the departure date, 50% of the full tour fee is non-refundable, which would include the full deposit if the final payment has not yet been paid. Thereafter, all deposits and payments are not refundable and non-transferable.

Our cancellation policy only applies to payments made to Field Guides for tour (and any services included in those fees). Airline tickets not included in the tour fee and purchased separately often carry penalties for cancellation or change, or are sometimes totally non-refundable. Additionally, if you take out trip insurance the cost of that insurance is not refundable, so it is best to purchase the policy just prior to making full payment for the tour or at the time you purchase airline tickets, depending upon the airline's restrictions.

The right is reserved to cancel any tour prior to departure. In most such cases, full refund will constitute full settlement to the passenger. Note this exception, however: If you have been advised pre-tour that there is a non-refundable portion of your tour fee no matter the reason for Field Guides cancellation of the tour, that portion will not be refunded. The right is reserved to substitute in case of emergency another guide for the original one.

**TRIP CANCELLATION & MEDICAL EMERGENCY INSURANCE:** We strongly recommend you consider purchasing trip cancellation (including medical emergency) insurance to cover your investment in case of injury or illness to you or your family prior to or during a trip. Because we must remit early (and substantial) tour deposits to our suppliers, you acknowledge and agree that we will not issue a refund when cancellation occurs outside of our cancellation policy as published in the itinerary (see CANCELLATION POLICY). In addition, the Department of State strongly urges Americans to consult with their medical insurance company prior to traveling abroad to confirm whether their policy applies overseas

and if it will cover emergency expenses such as a medical evacuation. US medical insurance plans seldom cover health costs incurred outside the United States unless supplemental coverage is purchased. Furthermore, US Medicare and Medicaid programs do not provide payment for medical services outside the United States.

When making a decision regarding health insurance, Americans should consider that many foreign doctors and hospitals require payment in cash prior to providing service and that a medical evacuation to the United States may cost well in excess of \$50,000. Uninsured travelers who require medical care overseas often face extreme difficulties. When consulting with your insurer prior to your trip, please ascertain whether payment will be made to the overseas healthcare provider or whether you will be reimbursed later for expenses that you incur.

US citizens will receive information from us regarding optional tour cancellation/emergency medical insurance. Our agent, CSA, will insure for trip cancellation and interruption, medical coverage, travel delay, baggage loss and delay, and emergency medical transportation. If you purchase the insurance prior to, or within 24 hours of making final payment for the tour, and cover all non-refundable parts of the trip (including any non-refundable flights and in some cases, other arrangements), pre-existing conditions are covered. You may purchase your CSA policy on-line by visiting our website at <https://fieldguides.com/trip-cancellation-insurance/> and clicking the link to CSA. The CSA webpage also includes a contact number.

**Currently we are unable to offer CSA insurance policies to residents of New York and Hawaii.** We have had clients provide positive feedback after acquiring insurance thru InsureMyTrip (<https://www.insuremytrip.com/>) in the past, and would suggest that company as an alternative. When purchasing insurance with a company other than CSA, you will want to understand whether the timing of your purchase will affect coverage before paying your first deposit. Insurance purchase requirements can vary from company to company, and such requirements could limit your options if you do not look into this until making your final payment for your tour. Please let us know if you have any questions about this.

Please note, once the insurance is purchased it is non-refundable, so please check with your tour manager prior to making the purchase to assure the tour will operate as scheduled. Citizens of other countries are urged to consult their insurance broker.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** For and in consideration of the opportunity to participate in the tour, each tour participant and each parent or legal guardian of a tour participant who is under 18 agrees to release, indemnify, and hold harmless Field Guides Incorporated, its agents, servants, employees, shareholders, officers, directors, attorneys, and contractors as more fully set forth in the Release and Indemnity Agreement on the registration form. Field Guides Incorporated acts only as an agent for the passenger in regard to travel, whether by railroad, motorcar, motorcoach, boat, airplane, or other means, and assumes no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay, or irregularity caused by defect in such vehicles or for any reason whatsoever, including the acts, defaults, or bankruptcies of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. You acknowledge and agree that Field Guides Incorporated is not responsible for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, or other causes. The tour participant shall bear all such losses and expenses. Field Guides Incorporated reserves the right to substitute hotels of similar category for those indicated and to make any changes in the itinerary where deemed necessary or caused by changes in air schedules. Field Guides Incorporated reserves the right to decline to accept or to retain any person as a member of any tour. Baggage is at owner's risk entirely.

Participants should be in good health and should consult a physician before undertaking a tour. If you have questions about the physical requirements of a tour, please contact our office for further information. Participants should prepare for the tour by reading the detailed itinerary, the information bulletin, and other pertinent matter provided by Field Guides. Each participant is responsible for bringing appropriate clothing and equipment as recommended in our bulletins.

**THE RECEIPT OF YOUR TOUR DEPOSIT SHALL BE DEEMED TO BE CONSENT TO THE ABOVE CONDITIONS. EACH TOUR PARTICIPANT AND EACH PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN OF A TOUR PARTICIPANT WHO IS UNDER 18 SHALL SIGN AND DELIVER THE RELEASE AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT AT THE TIME OF REGISTRATION.**

NCP 7/2020

3/23 BW

6/24 RK; peg; 9/24 updated