

ITINERARY

***BRAZIL – Minas Gerais & Tocantins:
Blue-eyed Ground-Dove and Beyond***
May 25 – June 9, 2019



Our tour will focus on finding the Blue-eyed Ground-Dove, one of Brazil's rarest birds. We'll visit a reserve near Botumirim that was created to protect a small breeding colony. This Blue-eyed Ground-Dove was especially confiding as it foraged briefly right along the edge of the main road through the reserve. Photograph by guide Bret Whitney.

We include here information for those interested in the 2019 Field Guides Minas Gerais & Tocantins 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

Those who register for a tour will be sent this additional material:

- 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 reading list
- a Field Guides checklist for preparing 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

After more than 50 years without a record, "Ol' Blue-eyes" is BACK! Nooo, we're not talking about Frank, but trumpeting the encore of a species feared perhaps gone forever. It's the Blue-eyed Ground-Dove, alive and, well, pretty well. How would you like to meet this marvelous little columbid, and to help make it better, stronger, and living longer? You can bet Field Guides is fully on-board with that, and we're delighted to announce that we're ready to draft a few enthusiastic tour participants for a birding trip extraordinaire through the wilds of Minas Gerais -- the only known stronghold of the Blue-eyed Ground-Dove -- and beyond. We'll be privileged to visit the new, critically important reserve created just a few months ago by the collaborative effort of SAVE Brasil and Rainforest Trust to protect the ground-dove and numerous other rare and localized birds and plants inhabiting the ancient, rocky uplands of eastern Minas.

From there, it's all downhill (literally, not figuratively) as we wend our way westward into the vast valley of the Rio São Francisco, the most important river (biogeographically and socio-economically) in eastern Brazil. Expect to tally a bunch of rarely seen endemic species, the likes of Plain-tailed (Bahia) Nighthawk, Golden-capped Parakeet, Chestnut-capped Foliage-gleaner, Moustached Woodcreeper, Silvery-cheeked Antshrike, Caatinga Antwren, Sao Francisco Black-Tyrant, Minas Gerais Tyrannulet, Reiser's Tyrannulet (both of these very poorly known birds), Scarlet-throated Tanager, Sao Francisco Sparrow, and, if there are adequate flowers in bloom, possibly the newly described "Dry-forest Sabrewing" (*Campylopterus calcirupicola*), which may prove to be specifically distinct from the highly localized form of Large-tailed Sabrewing, with which its range abuts.

Building on a star-studded first week, we'll head straight into a second one. The relatively small state of Tocantins, west of Minas Gerais, is Brazil's newest state, and one few tourists have visited. The dominant geographic feature there is the great Rio Araguaia, which marks a gateway to Amazonia. We'll settle in for a few days at a private, family-run fazenda (huge ranch) on the Araguaia that is peaceful, comfortable, and superbly birdy. Those of you who have birded the Pantanal will immediately be reminded of that wonderful place as we roll through the landscape in the back of elevated trucks and take boat trips on the river. Unlike the Pantanal, however, the Araguaia harbors some endemic species of birds, including Bananal Antbird, Crimson-fronted Cardinal, and a highly distinctive spintail that has not yet been described to science! Finally, we'll focus on Kaempfer's Woodpecker, a spectacular species closely related to the geographically distant Rufous-headed Woodpecker of far-western Amazonia. Territories are large and scattered, but we stand an excellent chance of success!

About the Pace & Purpose: We will cover a large region of Brazil's semi-arid interior. This calls for two- and three-night stays (plus a couple of one-nighters), with a couple of flights and a few 3-6 hour drives between venues. We have arranged the tour around the most useful (least-disruptive) options for internal flights, which, however, certainly could change before the tour starts.

Departures for the field will be bright (sometimes dark!) and early every morning. We will break mid-day for a rest or dip in the pool on some non-travel days.

About the Birding Areas



We will discuss birding areas on a state-by-state basis, which will allow an understanding of the type of habitat and general terrain we will visit on each segment of the tour.

Minas Gerais—The first legs of our tour will find us birding the northern interior of the huge state of Minas Gerais, visiting four distinct areas: Montes Claros, Pirapora, Botumirim, and Januaria. The valley of the great Rio Sao Francisco holds a set of little-known endemic birds surviving in habitats ranging from cactus-studded karst (surficial limestone) outcrops to gallery woodland to highly endangered forest habitats that reflect what the undisturbed *caatinga* must have been like. We'll also bird a highly restricted habitat, of *cerrado*-like brush and woodland growing on white sand (reminiscent of Amazonian *campina*), home of the Blue-eyed Ground-Dove. Birding is on mostly level terrain in fairly open country.

Tocantins—Our final venue will be one of the most exciting of all as we bird from trucks and boats around the Rio Araguaia in western Tocantins state. In general aspect, the upper Araguaia is remarkably reminiscent of the *pantanal*, and the overall birding experience is equally fabulous. Many of the birds and animals are present in both areas, but Tocantins has a much stronger influence from Amazonia and the region also boasts several endemic species (the *pantanal* holds a number of specialties but no endemic species). Birding a well-developed forest rich in bamboo in the interior of the state will give us a chance to find Kaempfer's Woodpecker and a good variety of other birds new to our list.

Itinerary for BRAZIL – Minas Gerais & Tocantins: Blue-eyed Ground-Dove and Beyond

Days 1-2, Sat-Sun, 25-26 May. Miami to Brasilia, Distrito Federal, Brazil. You'll depart your home country on Saturday (unless coming to Brazil a day, or more, early) for the overnight flight to Brasilia, which nowadays is direct (from Miami, at least); arrival is fairly early in the morning on Sunday. After a bit of rest and lunch, we'll make our first birding foray into *cerrado* habitat, a fire-adapted savanna/woodland mix on the Brazilian Planalto, where a fine variety of birds will be possible, perhaps including even a shot at Dwarf Tinamou and Brasilia Tapaculo. Walking will be fairly easy in this generally flat, open landscape. Night in Brasilia.

Day 3, Mon, 27 May. Fly Brasilia to Montes Claros, and drive to Pirapora. We'll have a leisurely breakfast this morning before getting over to the airport by about 08:00 to fly to Montes Claros, Minas Gerais, connecting (and also having lunch) in Belo Horizonte, capital of the state of Minas Gerais.

Our final destination is the town of Pirapora, on the bank of the great Rio Sao Francisco. Much of the interior of northern Minas Gerais, like the Brasilia area, is dominated by *cerrado*. Unfortunately, outside of protected areas, it is rapidly being cleared to produce charcoal (along the highway, we'll see large trucks heavily loaded with bags of charred wood) and soybeans. Time permitting, we'll make a couple of productive birding stops in *cerrado*, and possibly also in some gallery woodland. Night in Pirapora.

Day 4, Tue, 28 May. Pirapora. The middle Sao Francisco valley is a seldom-birded region despite the recent description of three species of birds new to science. This is a pretty important morning of birding, as we'll have our sights set on finding a couple of the most range-restricted birds in eastern Brazil: the impressive Chestnut-capped Foliage-gleaner and especially the jaunty little Minas Gerais Tyrannulet (known from just two or three specimens in the world). Other species to watch for in the area we'll bird include Toco Toucan, Rusty-breasted Nunlet, Long-tailed Ground-Dove, Chotoy Spinetail, Pale-legged Hornero, Red-billed Scythebill, Curl-crested Jay, and Ultramarine Grosbeak. After a delicious lunch back in town and an attempt to spot a Black-collared Swallow along the river (this is a small, disjunct population well east of any other), we will begin the quest for the obscure Plain-tailed (Bahia) Nighthawk, described only in 1994. It was originally named *Chordeiles vielliardi*, but Bret and colleagues, who coincidentally discovered the bird in 1994, transferred it to the genus *Nyctiprogne* to join its close relatives in the Band-tailed Nighthawk complex. Night in Pirapora.



The Chestnut-capped Foliage-gleaner is rather common within its small range. We'll search for it near Pirapora. Photograph by guide Marcelo Padua.

Day 5, Wed, 29 May. Pirapora to Montes Claros, and on to Botumirim. Unless we are still missing an endemic species or two around Pirapora (heaven forbid!), we'll plan to have a leisurely breakfast and head back to Montes Claros, with perhaps a birding stop or two. We'll keep the "pedal to the metal" most of the day, however, to ensure we arrive in the Botumirim (bo-tu-mee-REEN) area in time for catching good late-afternoon bird activity. This is a quaint little town that has gained fame quite recently as the gateway to the Land of the Blue-eyed Ground-Dove. The hotel here is quite new, but is also quite basic, and we'll take our meals at another place nearby (as we learned on our scouting trip, she's an awesome cook!). Night in Botumirim.



*Certain native grasses and sedges, around clear water, are critical components of the specialized habitat of the Blue-eyed Ground-Dove. Much of reserve area is on white sand, where this specialized plant community thrives.
Photograph by guide Bret Whitney.*

Day 6, Thu, 30 May. Botumirim. Today is THE DAY! The newly established reserve for the Blue-eyed Ground-Dove is only about a half-hour from our hotel. In the company of a highly knowledgeable field biologist employed by SAVE Brasil (the BirdLife partner in Brazil), who follows the ground-doves quite carefully throughout the year, we'll walk along the main road through the protected area, listening carefully for the rather high-pitched series of "hoo" whistles that is the song of the Blue-eyed Ground-Dove. This ultra-rare bird went without a confirmed (documented) record for nearly 70 years – until July, 2015, when a birder performing an environmental impact study happened upon a singing bird. What is fascinating about the discovery is the revelation of the preferred habitat of the ground-dove: a *cerrado*-like mosaic of native grasses and low, shrubby growth, quite dense in some places, very open in others, on an ancient, deeply weathered white-sand formation dissected by numerous clear, flowing creeks. Now that the habitat and voice of the bird are known, it is hoped that more patches of suitable land will be found, with more Blue-eyed Ground-Doves... but, at the moment, probably less than 30 individuals are confirmed to exist. We'll devote this day to the ground-dove, making every effort to find at least a bird or two, for ETE (that's "eye-to-eye"), blue-eyed studies! There are sure to be lots of other species sighted today as well -- this beautiful, protected place is very birdy! For example, if Horned Sungem is still on your list of *desiderata*, you may well finally catch up to one here; we saw multiple individuals during our late-May, 2018 scouting trip. If we are fortunate enough to have an excellent encounter with the ground-dove this morning, we'll have time to explore other habitats in the vicinity, which include some patches of fairly tall woodland and some *caatinga*-like growth harboring such birds as Helmeted Manakin, Narrow-billed Antwren, Caatinga Antwren, and White-browed Antpitta.

Let's keep fingers crossed for a typical northern Minas weather pattern for this time of year: crystal-clear skies, calm winds, with lows in the low 60s and highs into the mid-70s. Night in Botumirim.

Day 7, Fri, 31 May. Botumirim to Montes Claros. We'll have this morning to continue to bird the Botumirim area as needed, of course continuing to focus on the Blue-eyed Ground-Dove should it have eluded us yesterday. Even if we've seen the ground-dove well, we'll bird around Botumirim for the early morning activity before heading back to Montes Claros. After checking into the hotel there, we'll drive to nearby Lapa Grande State Park. This park protects a fine section of semideciduous forest now rare in eastern Brazil, because the region has been occupied by people for a very

long time, and the habitat is easily cut and cleared for firewood and agriculture. Lapa Grande is perhaps the most reliable site anywhere for the enigmatic Reiser's Tyrannulet, the relationships of which have been the source of considerable ornithological debate. We stand an excellent chance of finding the bird here, and getting a rare chance to watch its behaviors and hear its unusual, harsh, grating vocalizations. We may also encounter Minas Gerais Tyrannulet here (will be super-welcome if we've missed it around Pirapora!). We'll keep a sharp watch for hummers at Lapa Grande, especially for the recently described "Dry Forest Sabrewing", which differs minimally from the neighboring *diamantinensis* subspecies of Gray-breasted Sabrewing (itself of very restricted distribution), and may or may not be accepted as a separate species. In any event, we'll hope to make some progress on finding these difficult birds this afternoon. Night in Montes Claros.



*We'll also watch for the Scarlet-throated Tanager, which is found in the caatinga biome of northeastern Brazil.
Photograph by guide Dave Stejskal.*

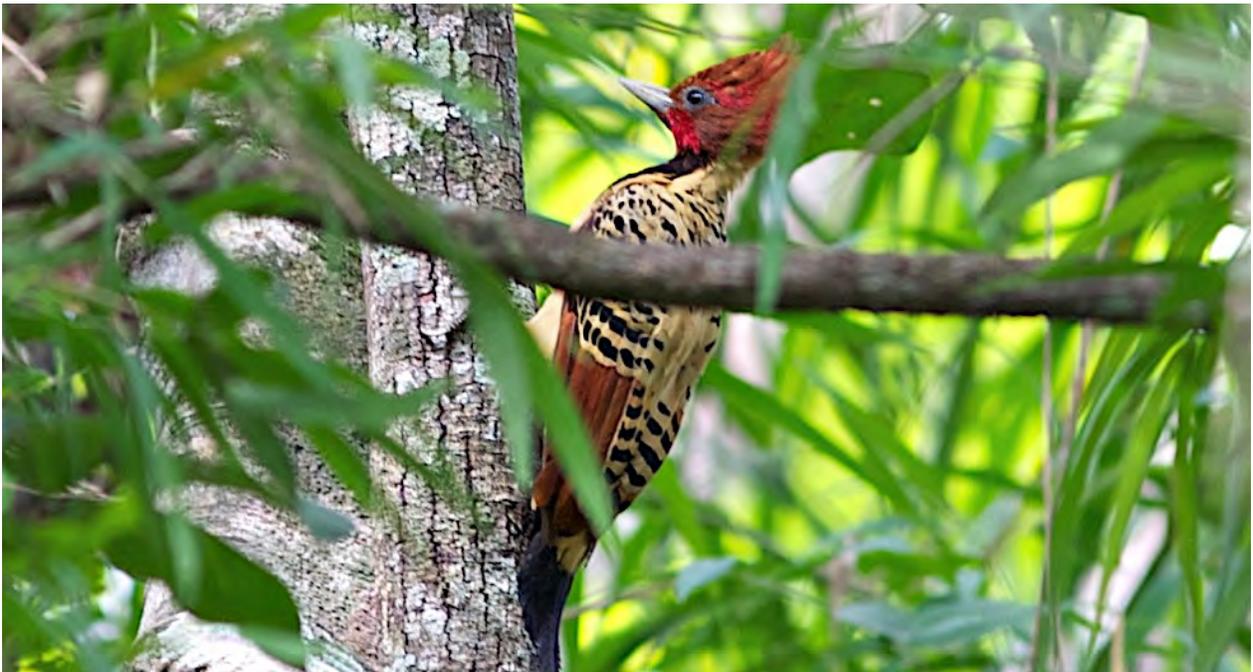
Days 8-9, Sat-Sun, 1-2 Jun. Lapa Grande, then drive to Januaria; birding farther down the Sao Francisco. On Saturday, depending on our successes with seeing important birds at Lapa Grande yesterday afternoon, we will either return there for morning bird activity, or head northwest more directly toward another little town on the Sao Francisco, Januaria. That drive will take just 2-3 hours. This afternoon and a couple of mornings in the Januaria environs should give us ample time to locate the remaining specialties of the region: the huge Moustached Woodcreeper, Great Xenops (wow!), Caatinga Black-Tyrant (currently considered a subspecies of White-winged Black-Tyrant by the South American Classification Committee SACC), and the beautiful, recently described Sao Francisco Sparrow. We'll also keep a sharp eye and ear open for Golden-capped Parakeet and Scarlet-throated Tanager; this is among the best areas anywhere to see these birds. Also, around Januaria, we will visit some fascinating "karst" limestone formations, capped with a strange community of cacti, bromeliads, and *Vellozia* spp (members of this latter family look something like fire-adapted bromeliads) and walk beneath some of the most impressive bombax trees remaining in the once-extensive *caatinga* woodland of Brazil. If needed, a dusk excursion along the river will give us another opportunity to look for Plain-tailed Nighthawks. Nights in Januaria.

Day 10, Mon, 3 Jun. TRAVEL: Januaria to Montes Claros to Palmas, Tocantins. Today is basically a "transfer" day as we take advantage of the amazing travel technologies of the early 21st century (vans and airplanes ;-)) that enable us to make it from Januaria to Palmas, Tocantins in a single day (you realize that that was tongue-in-cheek). Truth be told, we'll have to leave Januaria early to get to Montes Claros; likely connect through Belo Horizonte to Brasilia; potentially endure a six-hour layover in Brasilia; to arrive in Palmas at 9:00 p.m... and, ugh, it's the best option available. Night in Palmas.

Days 11-13, Tue-Thu, 4-6 Jun. Birding the Araguaia region. We'll get started a bit later this morning, to take advantage of the fabulous breakfast spread at our hotel, then pack up for the half-day drive to Lagoa da Confusao, in southwest Tocantins. Get set for a couple of fabulous days of birding and perhaps also mammal-watching in the

pantanal-like environs of the Rio Araguaia valley. We'll roll across the landscapes, and travel the river on boat trips to look for a great variety of wildlife. A few other birds have even more restricted ranges in the Araguaia basin, including Bananal Antbird, Araguaia Spinetail (*Synallaxis simoni*, sometimes still considered a subspecies of White-lored Spinetail), the handsome Crimson-fronted Cardinal, and an as-yet-undescribed species of *Certhiaxis* (Yellow-chinned/Red-and-white group) spinetail. Waterbirds are abundant in the region, including lots of Jabirus and good numbers of Orinoco Goose, with a reasonable chance of seeing Pinnated Bittern and Azure Gallinule. Bare-faced Curassow and Chestnut-bellied Guan are likely to be seen as well. Mammal encounters could include Giant Anteater, Maned Wolf, and Marsh Deer, as well as several smaller critters. We'll have early starts each day, then break for lunch and a siesta before again heading into the field late afternoon. There are good photographic opportunities everywhere in this area, including right around our hotel. We'll also want to do some night-driving for spotlighting Band-tailed Nighthawks and Scissor-tailed Nightjars, a variety of mammals, and perhaps some owls. Nights at a very comfortable pousada in western Tocantins.

Day 14, Fri, 7 Jun. Return to Palmas. We'll have this final morning for birding the Araguaia. After lunch and time to clean up and repack, we'll drive back to Palmas. Night in Palmas.



Another specialty we'll look for on the tour is Kaempfer's Woodpecker. This endemic is described as "local and uncommon", but we have a good chance of finding it near Palmas. Photograph by guide Marcelo Padua.

Day 15, Sat, 8 Jun. Kaempfer's Woodpecker and forests of central Tocantins; return to Brasilia. Among the most special birds we'll seek on the tour is Kaempfer's Woodpecker. This fabulous bird was described in 1973 (based on a single specimen collected in about 1926) as a subspecies of Rufous-headed Woodpecker, a scarce bird concentrated in the extensive bamboo thickets of western Amazonia. It was a complete mystery until one went into a researcher's mist-net in central Tocantins in 2006. Since then, and especially after its voice became known, Kaempfer's Woodpecker has been found in numerous places with bamboo thickets around the eastern rim of Amazonia at its interface with *cerrado*. We'll have all morning to work on the woodpecker and other birds of these more humid, bamboo-laden forests, then have lunch and some time to relax and repack back at the hotel. Flights out of Palmas to Brasilia dictate our arrival at the airport by about 7:00 p.m as of the writing of this itinerary. Night in Brasilia.

Day 16, Sun, 9 Jun. Departure to Miami (or elsewhere) and connections home. The American Airlines direct flight from Brasilia (for example) departs for Miami about 07:00 today, allowing for good homeward connections. *Uma boa viagem para todas!*

SPECIAL NOTE: *The Brazilian air schedules often change, which means that we sometimes have to make alterations to the published tour itinerary. It is unlikely that such alterations would affect the tour price. Should we need to change the itinerary, we'll send you a revised one as soon as we can. All flights within Brazil are included in the tour fee.*

About Your Guides

Bret Whitney must be *at least* half Brazilian by now. It all began when he was born, birding in the Wild Midwest, mostly in Indiana, where he was narrowly overlooked by his high school baseball team and did, in fact, graduate from Earlham College. He is known for his ability to identify birds by their calls and songs, which has led to his stumbling onto multiple species new to science. Bret is one of the founders of Field Guides, a Research Associate of the Museum of Natural Science at Louisiana State University, an Associate of the Laboratory of Ornithology at Cornell, 2004 recipient of the ABA's Ludlow Griscom award, and an eternal optimist about everything except Ivory-billed Woodpeckers. Bret guides most of our Brazil tours and, with Brazilian colleagues, he is supposed to be producing a series of regional field guides to the birds of Brazil. When not on tour, "the Kite" attempts to stay in shape with irregular bike rides, by leaning over pool tables, and by hefting kegs of Live Oak Pilsner and dumping 35-lb sacks of spicy crawfish, corn, and potatoes onto old doors covered with newspapers so his family and friends can pig out at his crawfish boils.

*"Bret Whitney is a superb guide who knows the birds at a level I have not experienced in any other tour. His scientific expertise was a huge plus for serious birders."
P.P.; Brazil's Rio Roosevelt.*

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 in has earned him an outstanding reputation among the leading fieldmen in Amazonia and, increasingly, all of Brazil. He and his wife have recently (2015) moved back to Sao Paulo 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. His English is good and improving with study and increased experience with foreign birders.

*Marcelo Barreiros is a natural trip leader and I would be delighted to take any trip with him as the lead guide. Aside from his mastery of the birds and environment, he projects a warm and humble confidence as well as a great sense of humor and even playfulness, which I appreciated enormously.
W. M.; Rio Negro Paradise: Manaus*

Visit <https://fieldguides.com/guides> for the guides' complete tour schedules; just click on a photo.

Financial Information

FEE: \$6275 from Brasilia

DEPOSIT: \$650 per person

FINAL PAYMENT DUE: January 25, 2019

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (Optional): \$400

LIMIT: 10

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: US citizens will need a **current passport and a visa** to enter Brazil. We recommend that your passport be valid for at least 6 months beyond the dates of your visit, as regulations vary from country to country, and are subject to change. Your passport should have at least one blank page available for the visa stamp (it is possible to have pages added to a U.S. passport). We will send visa application instructions to those registering for the tour.

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.**

VACCINATIONS: Yellow fever is widespread in many parts of Brazil, and we recommend all travelers to Brazil be vaccinated against the disease. Please <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/brazil> for the current CDC information and consult with your physician about whether the vaccine is appropriate for you (there are contraindications for some individuals).

TOUR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS: The **tour fee** is \$6275 for one person in double occupancy from Brasilia. It includes all lodging from Day 2 through Day 15, all meals from lunch on Day 2 through dinner on Day 15, the flights within Brazil, all ground transportation, entrance fees, tips for baggage handling and meal service, 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 fee does not include your airfare to and from Brazil, airport taxes, visa fees, 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 \$400. 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 LIMITS: Our limits are firm and we don't exceed the limit by one to accommodate a couple when only one space remains open. However, on occasion, we will send along a guide in training on a tour. In these cases, the guide in training will be taking a seat in the van or bus. Our guides will have a rotation system within the vehicle so that clients share the inconvenience equally. We hope this minor inconvenience will be more than offset by the advantages of having another guide along.

TOUR REGISTRATION: To register for this tour, complete the Registration/Release and Indemnity form and return it with a **deposit of \$650** per person. If registering by phone, a deposit must be received within fourteen days, or the space will be released. **Full payment** of the tour fee is due 120 days prior to departure, or **by January 25, 2019. We will bill you for the final payment at either 120 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.

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.

CANCELLATION POLICY: Refund of deposit and payment, less \$100 handling fee, will be made if cancellation is received up to 120 days before departure. If cancellation occurs between 119 and 70 days before the departure date, 50% of the tour fee is refundable. Thereafter, all deposits and payments are not refundable.

This policy only applies to payments made to Field Guides for tour fees (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 the 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 airlines restrictions.

The right is reserved to cancel any tour prior to departure, in which case full refund will constitute full settlement to the passenger. 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, we cannot offer any refund when cancellation occurs within 70 days of departure, and only a partial refund from 70 to 119 days prior to departure (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 from us a brochure 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. **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 with InsureMyTrip (www.insuremytrip.com) in the past, and would suggest that company as an alternative. Please let us know if you have any questions about this. If you purchase the insurance within 24 hours of making final payment for the tour, and cover all non-refundable parts of the trip (including any non-refundable flights), pre-existing conditions are covered. The CSA brochure includes a contact number; you may also purchase your CSA policy on-line by visiting our website at <https://fieldguides.com/travelinsurance.html> and clicking the link to CSA. 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 reverse side of 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. Field Guides Incorporated accepts no responsibility 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.

12/18BW

1/19 RK, peg