

ITINERARY

***BRAZIL – Minas Gerais & Tocantins:
Blue-eyed Ground-Dove and Beyond
May 10 - 27, 2025***



*In addition to looking for the Blue-eyed Ground-Dove, we'll be watching for a number of other uncommon birds such as the beautiful Kaempfer's Woodpecker, a resident of bamboo forests in the state of Tocantins.
Photograph by guide Marcelo Padua.*

We include here information for those interested in the 2025 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

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 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 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, also 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 spinetail 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!



*Golden-capped Parakeets can be found in several scattered locations in Brazil; we'll watch for them near Januária.
Photograph by participant Linda Nuttall.*

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 & WALKING:** Good amounts of walking (2-5 miles per day) along trails, some of which will be on even ground, but there is one trail walk of about 2 miles (round trip) that is over a rough, narrow trail that is mostly uphill. This trail has many loose rocks and other obstacles, so good balance and agility is important. This hike can be opted out of, if necessary. **Your guide may suggest that, for your own good and the for the benefit of the entire group, you refrain from attempting to make this hike. If this is the case, please respect his decision, and wait for the group to make the hike and return later in the morning.**
- **POTENTIAL CHALLENGES:** We'll spend time standing and waiting for birds to come in; this can be tiring, especially in the heat and humidity. We'll have a few boat rides, so you'll need to be able to get in and out of a small motorized boat. We have several short domestic flights whose schedules may change unpredictably, so plans may change. There will also be several 3-6 hour drives to reach birding locations.
- **PACE:** After breakfast (usually at 5:00-5:30 a.m., sometimes earlier), we bird until lunch time. We sometimes pack a picnic lunch to extend our time in the field, while on other days we'll return to the lodge for lunch. Normally, weather permitting, we bird again after lunch. On several days, we'll have a short siesta after lunch. On several evenings, we'll also try for nocturnal birds after dinner.
- **ELEVATION:** Elevations are low on this tour.
- **WEATHER:** Temperatures vary considerably with elevation and weather, ranging from around 90 degrees at midday on a sunny day to the low 60s at dawn. Rain is a possibility.
- **VEHICLE SEATING:** So that each participant has equal opportunity during our travel, we employ a seat rotation system on all tours. 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 medical conditions.
- **BATHROOM BREAKS:** Participants should be prepared to make comfort stops in nature, as there are generally no other options when away from our lodging.
- **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. 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.



*We'll have at least one hike in rocky terrain that may be somewhat difficult.
Photograph by guide Bret Whitney.*

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: Botumirim, Montes Claros, and Januaria. The valley of the great Rio São 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, with the exception of one more strenuous birding walk (see the above description marked in green, and below, under the description for Day 4).

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, 10-11 May. Arrival in Belo Horizonte. You'll depart your home country on Friday (unless coming to Brazil a day, or more, early) for the overnight flight to Belo Horizonte, capital of Minas Gerais state, with arrival the morning of May 11. You can arrive anytime on Day 2, and the group will have dinner Saturday evening to go over general plans for the tour. Night of Day 2 in Belo Horizonte.

Day 3, Mon, 12 May. Fly Belo Horizonte to Montes Claros, and drive to Botumirim. We'll have breakfast this morning before getting over to the airport by about 7:00a.m. to fly to Montes Claros, Minas Gerais, where we'll have lunch. Heading southeast from Montes Claros, we'll keep the "pedal to the metal" 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 and on last year's tour, she's an awesome cook!). Night in Botumirim.

Day 4, Tue, 13 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 several individuals on our inaugural, 2019 tour. 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.



*White-browed Antpitta is a Brazilian endemic found in the caatinga woodlands of Minas Gerais.
Photograph by participant Eric Carpenter.*

Day 5, Wed, 14 May. Botumirim to Januária. 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, involving a more strenuous hike up into a valley with lots of rocky walls and shrubby woodland where we stand an excellent chance of seeing Hyacinth Visorbearer, Cipo Canastero, Velvety Black-Tyrant, and Cinereous Warbling-Finch among a number of other higher elevation species of more widespread distribution. **This hike may not be for everyone, however, in that it requires good stamina and balance as we traverse uneven, rocky terrain along a narrow trail that is quite steep in some stretches. For those in reasonably good shape, this hike is thoroughly enjoyable and may even be considered among the trip highlights, but for people not in adequate physical condition to make the hike comfortably, it could be exhausting or even dangerous. Thus, if your guide suggests that you stay behind at any point of the hike (perhaps not starting the hike or stopping at some point along the way), please respect his decision, and wait for the group to meet you later.**

After lunch in town and some time to pack up, we'll head to Januária. Along the way we will hope to find the obscure Plain-tailed (Bahia) Nighthawk, described only in 1994. It was originally named *Chordeiles vielliardi*, but Bret Whitney 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 Januária.



Another endemic, the Great Xenops, is found in the caatinga. Photograph by guide Marcelo Padua.

Day 6, Thu, 15 May. Peruacu Caverns National Park and drive to Montes Claros. The middle Sao Francisco valley is a seldom-birded region despite the recent description of three species of birds new to science. A morning in the Januaria environs should give us some time to locate the specialties of the region: the huge Moustached Woodcreeper, Great Xenops (wow!), Black-capped Antwren, Caatinga Black-Tyrant (currently considered a subspecies of White-winged Black-Tyrant by the South American Classification Committee SACC), and the beautiful Sao Francisco Sparrow; the latter two were only recently described to science. 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. Peruacu Caverns National Park will be our principal birding venue, where 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. Night in Montes Claros.

Day 7, Fri, 16 May. Montes Claros: Lapa Grande State Park. After an early breakfast this morning, we'll drive to nearby Lapa Grande State Park. This park protects a fine block 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 also hope to encounter the little-known Minas Gerais Tyrannulet and Chestnut-capped Foliage-gleaner here. 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. Night in Montes Claros.

Day 8, Sat, 17 May. TRAVEL: Montes Claros to Brasilia and on to Terra Ronca. We'll have to depart early to ensure arrival at the airport in Montes Claros in time for a roughly 06:00am flight to Belo Horizonte, where we'll connect to Brasilia. After lunch, we'll use the afternoon to drive to Terra Ronca State Park, about 300 kilometers northeast of Brasilia. Night in São Domingos.

Days 9-10, Sun-Mon, 18-19 May. Terra Ronca State Park; drive to Chapada dos Veadeiros. Terra Ronca State Park contains perhaps the most extensive system of caverns in all of South America. Its 57,000 hectares (about 142,000 acres) also protects a vast area of rare semideciduous forest as well as extensive, undisturbed *cerrados* dissected by crystalline rivers with some impressive waterfalls. The gorgeous but rarely seen Pfrimer's Parakeet occurs here, and will be the principal target of our visit to the park, and the area is very birdy, so this morning will be one to remember, for sure! After lunch, we'll make the drive to the little town of Alto do Paraiso, gateway to Chapada dos Veadeiros National Park. Nights in Alto do Paraiso.



The Sharp-tailed Tyrant is found in the grasslands, a habitat that is threatened by encroaching agriculture. Some of this vanishing space is preserved in Chapada dos Veadeiros National Park, where we'll watch for this attractive little flycatcher and others. Photograph by participant Rick Thompson.

Day 11, Tue, 20 May. Chapada dos Veadeiros National Park encompasses a geologically complex region featuring high, rocky ridges and deep limestone canyons interspersed with vast expanses of savanna and *Mauritia* palm swamps. There are also some incredible waterfalls in the forest – it's the kind of place where you'll want both your wide-angle and telephoto lenses with you all the time! The area is well preserved mostly because it is so rocky, which has deterred agriculture and grazing (though we'll see plenty of this en route to Brasília, on more arable soils). It is worth visiting Chapada dos Veadeiros just for the scenery, to experience the serenity of dawn and dusk in an unspoiled *cerrado*. It's a truly spiritual place, which has nurtured in the local population an Earth-friendly kind of counter-culture obvious in their art and lifestyle. Oh, and there's a bunch of fine birds to seek! Among the specialties to be sought there are Dwarf Tinamou, Ocellated Crane, and Chestnut-capped Foliage-gleaner plus a host of species with distributions centered on the *cerrados* and riparian woodlands of the ancient Brazilian Shield such as Yellow-faced Parrot, Russet-mantled Foliage-gleaner, Collared Crescentchest, Cock-tailed Tyrant, Sharp-tailed Tyrant, Curl-crested Jay, Sedge Wren (any place with breeding Sedge Wrens is a great place!), Black-masked Finch, and Yellow-billed Blue Finch. Finding some of these species will be challenging, and will depend on access to both areas that have recently burned and areas that have not burned recently. Night in Alto do Paraiso.

Day 12, Wed, 21 May. TRAVEL: Return to Brasília and connection to Palmas, Tocantins; drive to Palmas or Canguçu Research Station. 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 the middle of nowhere in Goiás state to Palmas, Tocantins thence on to a private ranch in the southwest corner of the state in a single day (you realize that that was tongue-in-cheek). The flight times in Brazil change a lot, and if possible we will fly from Brasília to Palmas in the

morning, around 10:00am, have lunch in Palmas and drive to the Research Station. As of the writing of this itinerary, flights are in the afternoon. If this remains the case, we'll have another morning to get some possible missing birds around Chapada dos Veadeiros, and then drive to Brasília around noon to fly to the city of Palmas. It wouldn't be productive to drive to the Reserve after dusk, so if we have a later arrival in Brasília, we will spend the night in Palmas. We'll then be able to drive and enjoy the next morning for birding, and have our first attempt for the rare Kaempfer's Woodpecker along the way to Canguçu. Night in Palmas.

Days 13-14, Thu-Fri, 22-23 May. Birding the Araguaia region. 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 other storks and herons, tens of thousands of whistling-ducks and other fowl, and even some locally breeding of Orinoco Geese, with a reasonable chance of seeing Pinnated Bittern and Azure Gallinule. Yellow-collared Macaws, Bare-faced Curassow, and Chestnut-bellied Guan are likely to be seen as well. Mammal encounters could include Giant Anteater, Brazilian Tapir, 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 Canguçu.



*In the Rio Araguaia valley, we'll have the chance to see many different waterbirds, including the elusive Sungrebe.
Photograph by guide Marcelo Barreiros.*

Days 15-16, Sat-Sun, 24-25 May. Return to Palmas (Taquaruçu district). 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 with a first attempt to get the rare Kaempfer's Woodpecker on our way. This place has some very good areas of cerrado habitat. The higher plateau is basically grassy with sparse trees, perfect habitat for Ocellated Crake, Checkered Woodpecker, Horned Sunge, Yellow-faced Parrot and other great cerrado specialties. In the foothills, the humid forest is home for a different avifauna like Amazonian Motmot, Black-tailed Trogon, Red-necked Woodpecker and more. We'll have two nights to explore this great place before flying back home. Nights in Taquaruçu.

Day 17, Mon, 26 May. Kaempfer's Woodpecker and forests of central Tocantins; return to São Paulo. 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 São Paulo are usually in mid afternoon and it's possible to connect to overnight flights to the US. Night in São Paulo or flight back home.

Day 18, Tue, 27 May. Arrival in the States with connections home. *Que tenham uma ótima viagem!*

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 Guide

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*

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 Pilz 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. Oh yes, and by stirring cauldrons of Brazilian *moqueca* at the Field Guides annual business meeting.

*"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.*

Visit <https://fieldguides.com/our-staff/> for complete tour schedules for both guides; just click on their photos.

Financial Information

FEE: \$7175 from Belo Horizonte and ending in São Paulo

DEPOSIT: \$725 per person

FINAL PAYMENT DUE: November 11, 2024

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, valid for at least 6 months prior to its expiration date to enter Brazil. In addition, US citizens will need a **visa** to enter Brazil. As of April 10, 2025, Brazil is issuing eVisas for US citizens at the following link <https://brazil.vfsevisa.com/>. Our office will forward more detailed visa application instructions closer to the tour dates.

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 see <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 \$7175 for one person in double occupancy from Belo Horizonte. It includes all lodging from Day 2 through Day 17, all meals from lunch on Day 2 through dinner on Day 17, 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. 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, please contact us at 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 \$725** 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 November 11, 2024**. **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 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

12/23MB; 11/24 RK, peg-updated