

ITINERARY

***Rio Aripuana Mammal Expedition***

*Oct. 3-17, 2019*



*This tour will take us down the Rio Aripuana in Brazil, and into some of the lesser-known regions of the Amazon basin, such as the creek shown in the center image. We'll search for mammals such as the Common Woolly Monkey (left) and Common Tent-making Bat (right). Photographs by Albert Burgas (left); Micah Riegner (center); Jon Hall (right).*

*We include here information for those interested the 2019 Field Guides Rio Aripuana Mammal Expedition tour:*

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

*Those who register for the 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 reference list
- a Field Guides checklist for preparing for and keeping track of the mammals we see on the tour
- after the conclusion of the tour, a trip report with the mammals seen on the tour

**T**he Rio Aripuana courses through remote reaches of the southern Amazon before joining the mighty Rio Madeira. In recent years, the region has been a hotbed of species discovery with several startling new mammals and birds uncovered, including the Dwarf Marmoset, belonging to a distinctive new genus. On this mammal-oriented tour, we'll focus on finding rare primates, bats, and the dwarf manatee, an enigmatic inhabitant of the Aripuana River Basin few people have ever seen. Join Micah, Fiona, Jon and Marcelo on this exciting boat-based adventure into the heart of Amazonia as we scan treetops and waterways for rare, elusive mammals.

The primates along the Rio Aripuana are diverse. We'll spend time on both banks of the Rio Aripuana, since many species are replaced by congeners on the opposite banks. We'll look for the Dwarf Marmoset, which remained undescribed until the late 90's! We'll also look for Manicore and Gold-and-white Marmosets, Prince Bernhard's Titi (another species described fairly recently), Ashy-gray Titi, Red-nosed Bearded-Saki, Gray Saki, Common Woolly and Black Spider Monkeys. On our way back to Manaus, we'll stop at sites on the left bank of the Rio Madeira where we'll look for Red-bellied Tamarin (a colorful callitrichid of the Purus-Madeira interfluve), Pygmy Marmoset, and a host of other primates that don't occur along the Aripuana.

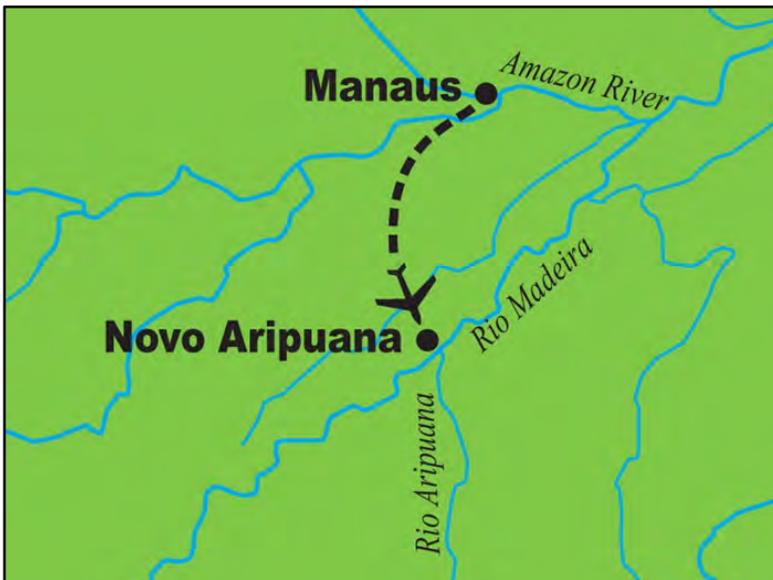
Be prepared for nocturnal outings most evenings, as we spotlight along creeks and mist net for bats under Fiona's and Marcelo's expertise. If we're lucky we could see 30 species of bat and several range-restricted primates, not to mention both river dolphins, sloths, agoutis, cute arboreal rats and much much more. Join us for this truly once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see mammals in a remarkable, rarely visited corner of the Amazon Basin.

**About the Physical Requirements & Pace:** We'll be visiting the Aripuana during low water, which means to reach terra firme terraces for birding, on some days we will have to ascend very steep banks, perhaps for more than 30 meters. We will always plan to have our crew cut steps into the bank to aid in going up and down, but these places can be quite tiring and difficult for some participants to negotiate. Once we're on terra firme terrace, walking on trails will be somewhat challenging and require heightened attention to fallen logs, root masses, sharp stubs, small streams, etc. We'll be there at the end of the dry season, so be prepared for warm days (75-90 F) with high humidity and torrential thunderstorms in the afternoon. This is a mammal-watching tour, which means we will offer extended night outings to look for nocturnal critters. These will all be optional of course.

**Note:** We scheduled the tour at this time of year to maximize our chance to see the dwarf manatee. According to local people, the best time to see it is in October, when water levels are lowest on the Aripuana. That said, if 2019 is a drought year and the Aripuana is exceedingly low, we might not be able to reach the area where the manatee occurs (we'll never know unless we try!), in which case we would allocate more time to the lower Aripuana, searching for primates and other terrestrial fauna.

If you are uncertain 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.

## About the Locations



**The Rio Aripuana** is a classic clearwater river, born on the Brazilian shield and coursing through hundreds of miles of ancient, highly weathered clays and sands. It is not so dark or tannic (acidic) as blackwater, yet is far more toward that end of the spectrum than is, say, the Rio Madeira, which carries a heavy load of silt from Andean snowfields. The basin holds vast areas of uncut primary *terra firme* (never flooded) forest. Most of this grows on ancient, upland terraces, often several hundred meters off the river bank, but there is also a lower terrace of probably "younger" terra firme forest. We will want to explore both of these major biotopes, as well as the relatively narrow band of seasonally flooded forest just above the river and on islands in the main river channel.

The Aripuana acts as a major biogeographic boundary for countless species. For example, Agoutis on the right bank (when facing downstream)

are red, while those on the left bank are black. Woolly Monkeys and tortoises only occur on the right bank and are mysteriously absent from the left bank. Most of our time along the Aripuana will be in the Juma extractive reserve, an enormous swath of protected forest set aside for sustainable development. Local people are permitted to live within the reserve and harvest forest products such as Brazil Nuts, and *Copaiba*, a medicinal oil that is extracted from the trunks of trees.

En route back to Manaus, we will explore "whitewater" habitats along the **Rio Madeira**, dramatically different from those along the clearwater Aripuana. The Madeira is the muddiest river in the Amazon, shunting millions of tons of silt and clay from the Bolivian Andes to the basin each year. The Madeira, like the Aripuana, is an important barrier to countless birds and mammals. For instance, marmosets in the genus *Mico* only occur on the right bank and are replaced by tamarins in the genus *Saguinus* on the left bank. We will stop at several localities along the Madeira, including a newly established extractive reserve, to look for Red-bellied Tamarin and other primates that don't occur along the Aripuana. We'll also explore river islands in search of giant tree rats, porcupines, and other whitewater critters. Whitewater islands also yield a lot of bats because of the higher concentrations of insects.

**Note:** Many of the locations we will be visiting are extractive reserves that are difficult to access without a boat, and require permits to get into, which we will obtain for the tour.

## Itinerary for *Rio Aripuana Mammal Expedition*



*Manicore Marmosets are restricted to the left bank of the Aripuana. Note how this individual is attending a gum-exuding cavity in a trunk that it carved with specialized dentition.*

*Photograph by guide Micah Riegner.*

**Day 1, Thu, 3 Oct. Arrival in Manaus, Brazil.** At the time of publication of this itinerary, the best option for this tour is American flight #1265 that departs Miami close to 5:30 p.m. and arrives in Manaus around 11 p.m. For those who will need to leave home a day early in order to reach Miami in time for a morning flight to Manaus, we will be happy to help with overnight arrangements in Miami. Those traveling on this later flight may want to arrive a day early in order to participate in the activities this afternoon; we will be happy to help with overnight arrangements in Manaus.

After any afternoon arrivals have had time to check into the hotel and get settled, we'll offer a walk on the hotel grounds, which can be very productive—and keep an eye open for Pale-throated Three-toed Sloths and the Pied Bare-faced Tamarin, a tiny black-and-white primate with a very limited world range in the Manaus area. We'll have dinner at the hotel this evening and go over general plans for the tour. Night at Hotel Tropical, Manaus.

**Day 2, Fri, 4 Oct. Fly from Manaus to Novo Aripuana.** We'll charter a plane to take us from Manaus to the town of Novo Aripuana (about an hour-long flight) where we'll board the *Tumbira* of Amazonia Expeditions, our mobile hotel for the next week and a half. As soon as we settle in, we'll motor up the Rio Aripuana to the community of Nova Olinda. We'll search for the Dwarf Marmoset in the afternoon and mist net for bats in the evening.

**Day 3-6, Sat-Tue, 5-8 Oct. Explore middle Aripuana.** We'll continue upstream to a more remote section of river where we'll spend 3-4 days looking for the manatee, walking terra firme trails, spot-lighting and bat-netting at night. We'll be in the Juma extractive reserve, a massive area set aside for sustainable development. Local communities within the reserve collect forest products to send to Manaus. We'll learn more about this on the tour.

**Day 7, Wed, 9 Oct. Return to lower Aripuana.** Depending on luck with the manatee, we'll begin to head back, stopping to walk some trails along the way.

**Day 8, Thu, 10 Oct. Nova Olinda.** We'll return to Nova Olinda to walk the terra firme trails and a brand-new logging road on the right bank of the river. Yes—unfortunately there's still illegal logging going on despite the protected status. Logging roads, however, are great for seeing wildlife.

**Day 9, Fri, 11 Oct. Novo Aripuana.** We'll have a final morning of exploring behind Nova Olinda before we head back to Novo Aripuana and continue down the Rio Madeira.

**Day 10, Sat, 12 Oct. Left Bank Madeira.** We'll spend the morning and afternoon (bat-netting at night) in an extractive reserve on left bank Rio Madeira. Almost all the mammals we'll see on the left bank of the Madeira will be new for the trip!

**Day 11-13, Sun-Tue, 13-15 Oct. Transit back to Manaus.** We'll leave these days relatively open as our main goal will be to get back to Manaus. We'll stop along the way by day and some night cruises to look for bamboo rats, porcupines, and other varzea species.

**Day 14, Wed, Oct 16. Arrival in Manaus.** We'll dock in Manaus and drive to the airport for the midnight flight to Miami.

**Day 15, Thu, Oct 17. Arrival in the States with connections home.** *Que tenham uma ótima viagem!*

## About Your Guides

**Micah Riegner** grew up exploring the Central Arizona Highlands and was fortunate to have parents who took him along on college field courses ranging from the coast of Mexico to the mountains of Costa Rica, where encounters with tinamous, barbets, and jacamars started him birding at a young age. Since graduating high school, he made annual pilgrimages to Amazonia where he worked as a bird guide and participated in expeditions, mostly in Brazil. He studied ecology and scientific illustration at Prescott College and is currently working toward a master's degree on the foraging ecology of Amazonian woodcreepers. His fascination for birds and primates continually draws him to Amazonia. He helped set up and co-lead the first Field Guides tours to the Aripuana alongside Bret Whitney.

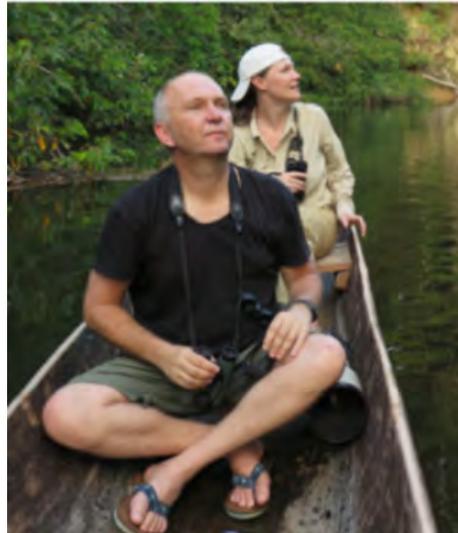


Visit <https://fieldguides.com/guides> for Micah's complete tour schedule; just click on his photo.

Micah will be accompanied on this tour by several mammalogists:



Fiona A. Reid



Jon Hall



Marcelo Marcos

**Fiona A. Reid** has been leading nature tours since 1986, showing ecotourists the mammals and other wildlife of diverse lands from Brazil to Indonesia, and Alaska to Venezuela. An accomplished writer and artist, Fiona is the author and illustrator of *A Peterson Field Guide to Mammals of North America*. She has written and/or illustrated numerous other guides, including *A Field Guide to the Mammals of Central America and Southeast Mexico*, *Bats of Trinidad and Tobago*, *The Wildlife of Costa Rica, a Field Guide*, *The Golden Guide to Bats of the World*, *Bats of Papua New Guinea*, *Mammals of the Neotropics* (volumes 1-3), and several children's books. She is a Departmental Associate in Mammalogy at the Center for Biodiversity and Conservation Biology at the Royal Ontario Museum, in Toronto, Canada. Fiona is also President of Halton/North Peel Naturalist Club in Georgetown, Ontario. She lives on the Niagara Escarpment in southern Ontario with two children and an assortment of pets.

**Jon Hall** has been interested in mammals since before he could read. His quest to see all of the world's mammal species has taken him to over 100 countries, including multiple trips to Brazil, yet he is still not even 30% of the way toward reaching his goal. In 2005 he set up the website [www.mammalwatching.com](http://www.mammalwatching.com) and happily--and rapidly—discovered he was not the world's only mammal watcher. The site has become the global hub of a fast-growing community of mammal

watchers, helping to share information and promote the hobby around the world. He is particularly excited to be on this adventure looking for several species that remain largely unknown.

**Marcelo Marcos** will be accompanying the expedition to assist with bat netting. He is one of the leading experts on bats of Brazil and has spent a considerable amount of time in Amazonia on research expeditions and tours with Fiona. He is incredibly easy-going and knows a ton about bats. It will be great to have him onboard!



*Yellow-crowned Brush-tailed Rats are often seen poking their heads out of tree cavities in flooded forests. We were lucky to see this one right out in the open! Photo by guide Micah Riegner.*



*Brown-throated Three-toed Sloths are abundant along whitewater rivers like the Rio Madeira. This one was carrying a baby. Photo by guide Micah Riegner.*

## Financial Information

**FEE:** \$5975 from Manaus

**DEPOSIT:** \$600 per person

**FINAL PAYMENT DUE:** June 5, 2019

**SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (Optional):** \$850 (singles aboard the boat cannot be guaranteed but will very likely be available)

**LIMIT:** 13

## 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!

**ACCOMMODATIONS:** In Manaus, we will stay in the very nice Hotel Tropical. Our riverboat (eight nights) is high-on luxurious, featuring private (two bunks), air-conditioned cabins with private bathrooms and great meals any time we want them.

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

**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/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).

**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.

**TOUR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS:** The **tour fee** is \$5975 for one person in double occupancy from Manaus. It includes all lodging from Day 1 through Day 13, all meals from dinner on Day 1 through dinner on Day 14, 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 fee does not include your airfare to and from Manaus, 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 \$850; singles aboard the riverboat cannot be guaranteed. 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 \$600** 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 June 5, 2019**. 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, 24-hour accident protection, and emergency medical transportation. If you purchase the insurance when 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.

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