

ITINERARY

**RIO NEGRO PARADISE: MANAUS, BRAZIL**

*I: September 1-15, 2018*

*II: September 16-30, 2018*



*The Point-tailed Palmcreeper is found in Mauritia palm swamps across much of Brazil. While not rare, they are uncommon, and can be difficult to see, but we have been able to see them well on recent Field Guides tours, as this image shows. Photograph by guide Bret Whitney.*

We include here information for those interested the 2018 Field Guides Rio Negro Paradise: Manaus, Brazil tours:

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

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

- 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 reference list
- a Field Guides checklist for preparing for and keeping track of the birds we see on the tour
- after the conclusion of the tour, a list of birds seen on the tour

**T**he Rio Negro is the crown jewel of Amazonia. Born in the ancient sands of the Guianan Shield, her dark waters course over foaming rapids and through vast island archipelagos to meet the Amazon at Manaus. Second only to the Amazon in volume of water, the Negro drains a huge portion of the northern Amazon Basin. For birds, it is a wonderful place to live. For birders, it is a wonderful place to bird! So get out your map of the Amazon and start planning to spend a couple of weeks birding some of the world's most amazing forests.

The city of Manaus, gateway to one of the greatest avifaunas on Earth, is a place every birder who's ever dreamed of birding the Amazon has got to visit. Our tour of the Rio Negro begins near Manaus with four days in a variety of climax

Amazonian rainforest habitats. We'll do some serious nightbirding here as we go for White-winged, Long-tailed, and Rufous potoos on forest trails. By day we'll be dealing with mixed-species flocks in both the understory and canopy, and searching for raiding swarms of army ants between visits to leks of such world-class cotingas as Guianan Cock-of-the-rock, Capuchinbird, and possibly also Guianan Red-Cotinga. We will also have the privilege of birding from the INPA research tower north of Manaus at the beginning of the trip (and on another INPA tower close to town at end of the tour)!

Then it's down to the Negro herself where we'll board our private boat for several days in the singularly beautiful Anavilhanas Archipelago and remote and unspoiled Jau National Park, eastern section of the second-largest conservation area in the world and home to numerous special birds, such as Tawny-tufted Toucanet, Pavonine Quetzal, Bar-bellied Woodcreeper, Chestnut-crested Antbird, and Reddish-winged Bare-eye. We'll also bird the lower Rio Solimoes, that section of the Amazon west of the meeting of the waters with the Negro (an amazing spot to see!). Our boat is nigh-on luxurious, featuring private (two bunks), air-conditioned cabins with private bathrooms and great meals any time we want them. The open-air top deck is a great spot for an icy *caipirinha*, the national drink of Brazil. Life is grand out on these rivers; there's nothing to do but bird, eat, and sleep!

But can we really do the Manaus area justice in just a couple of weeks? The answer is "No." We are learning that it could take a lifetime to sleuth out her many avian secrets. And we won't even take time to cross the Amazon; that would entail simply too much (so we'll leave southern Amazonia for separate tours at Alta Floresta, the Rio Roosevelt, and our Great Rivers of the Amazon boat-based tours!). Join us and discover why we feel that the Rio Negro is paradise in the Amazon. We have organized our itinerary to take advantage of direct flights between Miami and Manaus (a little over five hours).



Field Guides group birding one of the islands on the Solimoes. Photograph by guide Bret Whitney.

**About the Physical Requirements & Pace:** Most days will see us up for breakfast before first light, then back to the hotel or the boat for lunch and a siesta. We'll be back afield in the afternoon, and we will offer optional owling trips on evenings or early mornings. Thus, the rhythm of our days will be overall quite relaxing. That said, we will often be birding on narrow, freshly opened trails up to 2.5 kilometers long (one-way; mostly about half of this) to access particular habitat types.

**PLEASE NOTE** that walking on these trails will be challenging and require heightened attention and good balance, as there may be lots of short, sharp stubs, root masses, fallen trees and rotting trunks to scramble over, small streams to wade or cross, perhaps on improvised log "bridges", etc. You should be prepared to confront these kinds of obstacles on a regular basis, and for hundreds of meters of walking, on some of the days of the tour. Of course, we will

never be charging along such paths, but always walking slowly, listening for birds and ant swarms, mammals, etc. September is the dry season in this part of Amazonia, and the climate will be very warm, ranging between about 75 and 93 F, with very high humidity. To reach *terra firme* terraces for birding, on some days we will have to ascend very steep dirt/mud banks. We will always 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.

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 one of the guides for the tour.

## About the Birding Areas

**Terra firme forest**—The north bank of the Amazon in the Manaus area (east of the Rio Negro) still holds vast areas of uncut primary *terra firme* (never flooded) forest. Near the city, much of this lies on a white sand soil, while further out the clay soils and forest are more typical of that reaching to southern Venezuela and the Guianas. Near Manaus and around the little town of Presidente Figueiredo (about 1.5 hours north), forest trails permit many productive hours of birding.

Species regularly occurring here and in neighboring habitats include Red-and-green and Blue-and-yellow macaws, Caica Parrot, Crimson Topaz, Chapman's Swift, Green Aracari, Guianan Toucanet, Bronzy Jacamar, Red-billed Woodcreeper, Curve-billed Scythebill, Golden-collared Woodpecker, Spot-backed Antwren, Olive-green Tyrannulet, Glossy-backed Becard, Pompadour Cotinga, Guianan Red-Cotinga, the incredible Capuchinbird, Wing-banded Wren, Guianan Gnatcatcher, Slaty-capped Shrike-Vireo, and a variety of tanagers including Blue-backed and Dotted (both among the rarely seen species). Army ant swarms may yield Rufous-throated Antbird and the spectacular White-plumed Antbird.

Another important *terra firme* habitat, characterized by a dense growth of trees (often bushy in aspect and around twenty feet tall), grasses, and terrestrial bromeliads on poorly drained sand, is called *campina*. The particular *campinas* we will visit are home to the Northern Slaty-Antshrike, Saffron-crested Tyrant-Manakin, Pelzeln's Tody-Tyrant (the last recently rediscovered following a hiatus in records of 161 years or, in other words, since the little critter was first discovered!), and the rarely seen White-naped Seedeater.

**Chavascal** is a forest habitat flooded for most of the year and characterized by dense growth of thin-trunked trees of more-or-less uniform canopy height ranging from about fifteen to twenty-five feet. Many of the trees have narrow crowns and the canopy has few openings relative to taller forests. It borders only along blackwater rivers and is sort of a subdivision of *igapo*, or permanently flooded blackwater forest. Not surprisingly, *chavascal* differs from the *terra firme* and tall *varzea* (seasonally flooded forest on whitewater river floodplains) forest not only in its



community of plants, but also in its bird composition. We'll take full advantage of our boat to sample this important Amazonian habitat, mostly on the west side of the Negro, where specialties include Lafresnaye's Piculet, Cherrie's Antwren, Yellow-crowned Manakin, an undescribed species in the Zimmer's Tody-Tyrant complex, and Brown-headed Greenlet, among many other birds. We'll see lots of *chavascal* at Jau National Park.

**Anavilhanas Archipelago**—A short distance up the Rio Negro from Manaus lies the Anavilhanas Archipelago, the largest river-island archipelago in the world. The archipelago is uninhabited and accessible only by water; it is completely covered with undisturbed seasonally flooded forest and home to many birds of note, among them Crestless Curassow (fairly easy to hear, very hard to see), both species of Band-tailed Nighthawks, Festive Parrot, Streak-throated Hermit, Green-tailed Jacamar, Cream-colored Woodpecker, Long-billed and Zimmer's woodcreepers, Speckled Spinetail, Blackish-gray Antshrike, Klages' and Leaden antwrens, Ash-breasted Antbird, Black-chinned Antbird, Wire-tailed Manakin, and *Varzea Schiffornis*. Other rarities we'll have a shot for include Agami and Zigzag herons and there is a pair of Crested Eagles that shows up every now and then. In contrast to whitewater river islands, those of the Anavilhanas are relatively stable and change little in configuration from year to year.

**Solimoes/Amazonas River islands**—River islands in the whitewater Rio Solimoes are highly dynamic landforms. At the upstream end of the islands, material is constantly being eroded, the flow of the river eating away at the substrate under what is often tall and mature forest that has stood on larger islands for decades. The downstream end of the islands, by contrast, has a marked progression of successional plant stages, from last year's silty tip with its emerging grass and shrubbery to progressively older, mixed stands of cane grass, Cecropias, morning-glory tangles, and other fast-growing vegetation farther back. This early successional plant community harbors a specialized avifauna. Birds unlikely to be found elsewhere on our trip include Ladder-tailed Nightjar, Short-tailed Parrot, Green-throated Mango, Olive-spotted Hummingbird, Scaled, Parker's, White-bellied, and Red-and-white spinetails, Castelnau's Antshrike, Black-and-white Antbird (diminutive and beautiful), River Tyrannulet, Riverside Tyrant, Orange-headed Tanager, and Oriole Blackbird to mention just a few—the islands are very birdy!

## Itinerary for Rio Negro Paradise: Manaus, Brazil

**Day 1. Arrival in Manaus.** 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 about 10:50 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 first birding walk on the hotel grounds, which can be very productive—and keep an eye open for sloths (both Two- and Three-toed are in the area) and the Brazilian 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 in Manaus.

**Day 2. Terra Firme forest birding.** Manaus, at the confluence of the Amazon and Negro rivers, is the capital of the huge state of Amazonas and has a growing population that already exceeds two million. The city has spread inland dramatically in the past twenty years. Nonetheless, extensive forest remains near town, and we'll get an action-packed introduction to *terra firme* birding at the Adolfo Ducke Forest Reserve early this morning. After lunch and some rest, we'll bird a partially forested area north of the city where we may see a fine variety of birds around fruiting trees. Night in Manaus.



*The colorful Caica Parrot, one of 25 possible parrot species for this tour. Photograph by participant Fred Dalbey.*

**Day 3. Manaus to Presidente Figueiredo.** We'll get away from Manaus super-early this morning for the nearly two-hour drive to the famed INPA tower. This is a very sturdy, iron tower 42 meters tall and wide enough for all of us to move around. Arrival early at the tower gives us the best chance for good canopy birding action, with dozens of species possible! We'll be up there for about three hours, so you may wish to bring a small stool for sitting. Late morning we'll continue to the little town of Presidente Figueiredo, about 110 kilometers north of Manaus; we'll be there in time for lunch.

This afternoon is special. After a fabulous lunch spread and a little time off, we'll head straight to a lek of Guianan Cock-of-the-rock. Words cannot describe this bird—it has to be seen to be believed, so that's exactly what we'll do! If we're real lucky, we'll come away with good views of the little-known Pelzel's Tody-Tyrant as well—from the exquisite to the obscure, all fascinating birds! Night in Presidente Figueiredo.

**Days 4-6. Presidente Figueiredo: waterfalls and *campinas*.** We'll have two and a half days to bird a variety of habitats and trails in the beautiful Presidente Figueiredo region. This area is quite different from Manaus, being on a vast scarp of limestone, replete with exceptionally clean “blackwater” (see below) streams. One important habitat is white-sand *campina* woodland where we'll search of the little-known White-naped Seedeater, Crimson Topaz, White-fringed Antwren, Pale-bellied Mourner, Rufous-crowned Elaenia, Black Manakin, and Red-shouldered Tanager. We usually see two or three species of macaws in the area as well. We will also access forest interiors on several well-worn trails that lead to some of the dozens of beautiful waterfalls, watching for mixed-species flocks in the understory and canopy, and also for army ant swarms. These three full days will see us on the trail all morning and again late in the afternoon, with a couple of hours to rest after lunch. Our hotel features new, air-conditioned cabins set above a beautiful, blackwater stream that is excellent for a cooling dip on hot afternoons. Many of the birding trails are level and well-traveled, but some are hilly and narrow, and we will also bird along wider roadways in good habitat. We'll be on foot most of the time we're here, sifting through flocks, digging out leaf-tossers and gnateaters, staking out ant swarms, and, we hope, enjoying views of the bizarre Capuchinbird. Just a few of the specialties here include Marail Guan, Gray-winged Trumpeter, Red-billed Woodcreeper, Guianan Puffbird, Curve-billed Scythebill, Ferruginous-backed Antbird, Rufous-bellied and Brown-bellied

antwrens, Cinnamon-crested Spadebill, White-fronted and White-throated manakins, Tiny Tyrant-Manakin, and with great luck, the rarely seen Cinnamon Manakin-Tyrant. Both Musician and Wing-banded wrens could perform for us as well.

One goal of our nightbirding efforts will be finding White-winged, Rufous, and Long-tailed potoos. OK, make that three goals. Nights at Presidente Figueiredo.



The lovely Purple-breasted Cotinga is found in moist forests along the Rio Negro and Solimoes. Photograph by guide Bret Whitney.

#### **Day 7. Return to Manaus; boating up the Rio Negro.**

After a final early morning around Presidente Figueiredo and an early lunch, we'll head toward Manaus with an important stop at another *campina* in search of Yellow-crowned Manakin, Saffron-crested Tyrant-Manakin, and Northern Slaty-Antshrike. Back at the Tropical Hotel, we'll board our riverboat home for the next eight days!

One of the greatest rivers on Earth, the Negro, as the name implies, is "blackwater," which refers to the clear, dark appearance of the water. Blackwater carries virtually no silt, since its drainage is almost entirely through sand, which adds no suspended particles and filters the tea-colored tannins from vegetation decaying on the ground. The Negro is great for swimming, and there are very few biting insects (although there can be pesky deer flies in the forest). Depending on water levels and our progress upriver, we may offer our first post-dinner nightlighting excursion from the canoes. Tonight will be one of those long, rejuvenating nights of sleep. Night aboard the boat.

#### **Day 8. The Anavilhanas Archipelago.** We'll have dropped anchor sometime in the night, just off one of the myriad

islands in the middle Anavilhanas Archipelago. This puts us in position for this morning's dawn chorus of antbirds and other species we'll seek, foremost among them Blackish-gray and Black-crested antshrikes, Klages' and Leaden antwrens, Ash-breasted and Black-chinned antbirds, Zimmer's Woodcreeper, Speckled and Rusty-backed spinetails, and Wire-tailed Manakin. We also expect Festive Parrot, Green-tailed Jacamar, Cream-colored and perhaps Ringed woodpeckers, Streak-throated Hermit, and Snethlage's Tody-Tyrant. Crestless Curassow is a rare possibility (much more likely heard than seen, but we'll certainly try to be lucky). All five species of kingfishers are around the Anavilhanas and over the next few days, at Jau National Park. After repositioning during our midday siesta, we'll bird in a different part of the archipelago. There are usually lots of both species of river dolphins (Gray and Pink) in this area. Band-tailed Nighthawks, of two different species, will be around us dawn and dusk. Night aboard the boat.

**Days 9-12. Jau National Park.** Depending on water levels in the Negro, we may or may not have reached Jau by dawn, but we will most likely find ourselves enjoying breakfast on the top deck as the sun rises over the entrance to Jau National Park. This is a remote and seldom-visited park forming the eastern portion of the second-largest conservation unit in the world (the first is also in Brazil). We will have ample time to bird both *chavascal* and tall *terra firme* forest in search of several Rio Negro specialties, including Pavonine Quetzal, Brown-banded Puffbird, Bar-bellied Woodcreeper, Pearly Antshrike, the seldom-seen Chestnut-crested Antbird, Reddish-winged Bare-eye, and Wing-banded Wren. There are lots of other species to seek and, with great luck we may encounter Tawny-tufted Toucanet as well as the strange, stub-tailed Black Uakari, a rarely seen primate endemic to the middle-upper Negro basin. We will also do some important nightbirding in Jau, going especially for Rufous and White-winged potoos, and the rarely seen Nocturnal Curassow. Nights aboard the boat.

**Day 13. On to the Solimoes and birding whitewater river islands.** After this morning's birding in *chavascal* along the west bank of the Negro (the habitat for Cherrie's Antwren, an undescribed species related to Pelzeln's/Zimmer's Tody-Tyrant, Yellow-crowned Manakin, Brown-headed Greenlet, and Plumbeous Euphonia among others), we'll steer south *en route* to the Solimoes River: that part of the Amazon above the meeting of the waters with the Negro. We will stop for late-afternoon birding wherever we happen to be. That's one great advantage of being on the boat!

We'll pass Manaus very early in the morning and wake up on the Solimoes. The Solimoes is "whitewater," meaning that it is laden with fine silt, and you will immediately notice that the vegetation is quite different from that on the islands of the Anavilhanas (and whitewater means more bugs, so you may need to close those windows tonight).

There is a large suite of "island endemics" to be sought on the Solimoes and its major whitewater tributaries, such as Varzea Piculet (difficult this far west), Olive-spotted Hummingbird, Green-throated Mango, Castelnau's Antshrike, Black-and-white Antbird, Lesser Hornero, Dark-breasted, Pale-breasted, White-bellied, Yellow-chinned, Red-and-white, and Parker's spinetails (not all strictly endemic but whew, that's a prickly lot of spinetails to absorb!), Brownish Elaenia, Riverside Tyrant, River Tyrannulet, and Pearly-breasted and Bicolored conebills. Short-tailed Parrots and Tui Parakeets will be everywhere, with good numbers of White-winged Parakeets and Chestnut-fronted Macaws around as well. Some years there are hundreds or thousands of Purple Martins in the skies here, having recently arrived on migration from North America. There is likely to be some muddy walking at our various landing points along the Solimoes, so rubber boots are a good (ahem, excellent) idea. Don't worry about tracking mud on the boat—the crew will happily clean your boots every time you come aboard. This afternoon we'll pass by the "meeting of the waters," where the Negro flows into the Amazonas—with Manaus off in the background. The different temperatures and densities of the two rivers cause them to run in parallel for many miles before gradually mixing far downriver. We'll make a late-afternoon arrival into Manaus, docking at a small port that provides easy access to the MUSA tower we will visit tomorrow morning. Night aboard the boat.



Five kingfisher species are possible on this tour, including the gorgeous Green Kingfisher. Photograph by guide Marcelo Barreiros.

**Day 14. MUSA tower and afternoon or evening flights to Miami.** We'll be away early to visit the INPA (MUSA = Museum of the Amazon) tower for a last, exciting morning of birding.

After birding at the tower and some trail birding in that area, we'll get back to the boat for lunch and time to pack up. We'll have this afternoon to visit the beautiful Manaus Opera House and perhaps do some shopping downtown. We'll probably have our last *caipirinhas* and dinner on the boat, and then get to the airport for late flights home.

**Day 15. Arrival in the States with connections home.** *Que tenham uma otima viagem!*

## 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 but 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

*"This was a wonderful tour! **Bret Whitney** has such amazing hearing and knowledge—he is like a bird maestro, and he shares so much as the tour unfolds. The different habitats and cities were amazing, beautiful, and with opportunities to learn about the country and culture while birding. We had amazing views of the birds, with the endemics really showing well...and Bret is so much fun to travel with. D.F., Nowhere But Northeast Brazil*

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. Oh yes, and by stirring cauldrons of Brazilian *moqueca* and playing lots of rowdy blowball at the Field Guides business meeting, excellent for the c-v pump and eye-mouth coordination.

**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 fieldsmen 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.

*"The tour was phenomenal! Marcelo P was quick with humor and [his] expertise in hearing and identifying the birds was awesome. **Marcelo B** is more quiet, but he has a wealth of knowledge to be shared. We are already planning another trip to Brazil in Fall 2019." K.D., Brazil Nutshell*

Please visit <https://fieldguides.com/guides> for a look at the complete tour schedules of all the guides.

## Financial Information

**FEE:** \$6750 from Manaus

**DEPOSIT:** \$675 per person

**FINAL PAYMENT DUE:** Tour I: May 4, 2018; Tour II: May 19, 2018

**SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (Optional):** \$350 (singles aboard the boat cannot be guaranteed but will very likely be available)

**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!

**ACCOMMODATIONS:** In Manaus, we will stay in the very nice Hotel Tropical. Our hotel in Presidente Figueiredo is basic but very comfortable. The main dining area is a short walk from our cabins, so participants should be able to manage a few flights of wide, sturdy stairs at each mealtime. 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 \$6750 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 \$350; 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 \$675** 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 May 4, 2018 (Tour I), or May 19, 2018 (Tour II). 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, 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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