

ITINERARY
**BRAZIL'S RIO ROOSEVELT:
BIRDING THE RIVER OF DOUBT**
June 15-30, 2024



*The Black-bellied Gnatcatcher is endemic to the dense lowland forests south of the Amazon in Brazil. It is the largest of its genus, and can be difficult to see, but we've had some excellent experiences with this beautiful bird.
Photograph by participant David Smith.*

We include here information for those interested in the 2024 Field Guides Brazil's Rio Roosevelt: Birding the River of Doubt tour:

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

Those who register for 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 website)
- a detailed information bulletin with important logistical information and answers to questions regarding accommodations, air arrangements, clothing, currency, customs and immigration, documents, health precautions, and personal items
- a Field Guides checklist for preparing for and keeping track of the birds we see on the tour
- after the conclusion of the tour, a list of birds seen on the tour

“On February 27, 1914, shortly after midday, we started down the River of Doubt into the unknown. We were quite uncertain whether after a week we should find ourselves in the Gy-Parana, or after six weeks in the Madeira, or after three months we knew not where.” So wrote Theodore Roosevelt to open Chapter VIII of his book, *Through the Brazilian Wilderness*, a remarkable diary of his experiences and survival traversing an uncharted sector of the vast Amazon basin. Over 100 years later, the Rio Roosevelt, as it is now called, remains one of the most pristine rivers in Amazonia, coursing through hundreds of kilometers of undisturbed forest. The upper regions of the river are as inaccessible as they were in

Roosevelt's day—except for one point in far southern Amazonas state just above the Mato Grosso border: the beautiful new Pousada Rio Roosevelt. We're ready to take you birding there!

The pousada was founded nearly 20 years ago to cater to sport (catch-and-release) fishermen looking to get into some of the best fishing in the Amazon. The owner has also invited a number of birding tour companies to visit the pousada, hoping to attract birders looking to get into remote wilderness and some of the best birding in the Amazon—folks like us! The pousada is a small, exclusive place, featuring six chalets with AC and private bathrooms with hot water, and a great bar and kitchen. In short, it's a truly luxurious headquarters for a week of exciting birding—Teddy would have *sooo* loved it!

The Roosevelt fringes the far upper Madeira-Tapajos interfluvium, a poorly known region replete with endemic species (and even more subspecies) of birds. Some of these make it east to the upper Tapajos basin around Alta Floresta (e.g., Black-girdled Barbet, Snow-capped Manakin, Tooth-billed Wren), but others are more restricted, such as Hoffmann's Woodcreeper, Rondonia Bushbird (still not 100% confirmed to occur around the pousada), White-breasted Antbird, Pale-faced Bare-eye, Black-bellied Gnateater (what a BIRD!), and Buff-cheeked Tody-Tyrant. Nightbirding should again be very exciting, with at least a couple of forays for Nocturnal Curassow, Rufous and White-winged potoos, and several species of owls. An excellent system of trails on both sides of the river, fishing boats with good motors and trusty local guides who know the bends and rapids, and a canopy tower in a spot specially picked out by Bret combine to give us everything we need to seek all the specialties and a fantastic list of other birds and mammals. Speaking of which, Brazilian Tapir, Jaguar, and Giant Otter are seen fairly frequently along the river near the pousada, several species of primates occur in the area, and Bret and colleagues have recently described, in the final, *Special Volume of The Handbook of the Birds of the World* (published June 2013) fifteen new species of Amazonian birds, ten of which we have a chance of finding on our tour!

But that's far from all. The tour starts in Porto Velho, capital of the state of Rondonia, on the east bank of the great Rio Madeira. Thus, we'll jump out of the blocks with five days of birding on the Madeira, longest tributary of the Amazon and a major divider of avian populations in the Amazon basin. We'll strive to see the difficult Ocellated Crake and a large number of other species that do not occur on the Rio Roosevelt, including several of the new species introduced to science in 2013.

To get yourself primed for this adventure, read Candice Millard's *The River of Doubt: Theodore Roosevelt's Darkest Journey* (and Teddy's first-hand account, cited above, if you're really into it), check out www.pousadarioosevelt.com.br, then join Bret and a small group for a fantastic journey to the Rio Roosevelt that's sure to be fun: *no doubt about that!*



The beautiful Rio Roosevelt is one of the least developed regions in the Brazilian Amazon, and the only way to reach it is by air. We'll have six days to enjoy birding along the river and in the nearby forest. Photograph by participant and tour manager Ruth Kuhl.

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 level of difficulty, please contact us 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.

About the Physical Requirements & Pace:

- **TRAILS & WALKING:** Trails along the Rio Madeira are mostly level, but there is one trail that has a steep initial section and passes through a series of monstrous boulders (walking is not especially difficult). On the Rio Roosevelt, you'll need to climb up the steep banks to reach the trailheads; there will be steps cut in the bank with a hand-rail on one side. We'll be on our feet much of the day, traveling perhaps 3-4 miles.
- **POTENTIAL CHALLENGES:** We'll spend time standing and waiting for birds to come in; this can be tiring. We'll use small boats to cruise along the rivers; you will need to be able to get in and out of these boats. There is an observation tower at Rio Roosevelt; to reach the platform you will need to be able to climb about 100 feet.
- **PACE:** Please see "Additional Information", below.
- **ELEVATION:** Elevations are low on this tour.
- **WEATHER:** Climate in Amazonia is warm and humid; mid-day highs are in the upper 80s and low 90s F in the sun. Evenings and early mornings will be cooler, and you might feel chilly on early morning boat rides. Rain is a possibility at any time.
- **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:** There are no indoor restrooms on most of our excursions, so participants must be prepared to make comfort stops in nature.
- **OPTING OUT:** Where we are staying multiple days in the same lodging, participants can easily opt to sit out a day or sometimes a half-day. Of course, this will not be possible on days when we are changing locations.

Additional information: The days along the Rio Madeira will find us birding on both sides of the river on roads and some by hiking through grassland with scattered clumps of woody vegetation. On every day of the tour, we will be up quite early, having breakfast before dawn and getting into the field shortly after first light. Lunch will be at the hotel or pousada almost every day, followed by some optional hammock time before hitting the rivers and trails again in the afternoon. On the Rio Roosevelt part of the tour, there are great birding trails right by the lodge that you can explore during this post-lunch break if you'd like to do that instead of rest.

We will do a lot of walking on forest trails on almost every day. Trail walks are generally easy, and almost all are essentially level. One is steep for the first half, but not unduly challenging for anyone in reasonably good shape. However, most of the trailheads on the Roosevelt are on the banks of the river, and the first 20 feet up from the boat can be a bit of a scramble. Fortunately, our local guides will have cut steps into the bank and built temporary handrails, in their usual 5-star-service way. Speaking of which, the guys will always carry coolers with iced water and soft drinks—every step of the way on the Roosevelt, even miles back into the forest. On the Madeira, we'll have a cooler with cold drinks on the bus. Dinners will always be back at the hotel/pousada.

We'll be in modern, comfortable hotels for the Madeira portion of the tour (AC in the rooms, hot water). The Pousada Rio Roosevelt, on the other hand, has been described as "The Riviera in Amazonia." It's a beautiful place, with large, three-bed rooms (good beds, that is), AC (even in the dining area) and hot water, and delicious meals. All drinks except wine and hard liquor are included (*caipirinhas* are extra, darn it). Laundry is done every day; if you want it, just leave your dirty clothes in the basket on the porch. The charter flight to and from the pousada carries the whole group and is a treat, especially as we come in for landing and the Rio Roosevelt and Santa Rita rapids appear dramatically below. The pousada is an expensive place relative to other lodges in Amazonia, but it is worth it for the access and experience it offers.

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 Bret.



About the Birding Areas

Porto Velho, east bank of the Madeira—The mighty Rio Madeira is born in the snowfields of the Bolivian Andes and courses northward to bisect the Amazon basin before joining the Rio Amazonas slightly below the mouth of the Rio Negro (where Manaus is located). It is a major barrier to gene flow among understory birds, and numerous taxa currently ranked as species or subspecies replace each other across the river; multiple taxa are endemic to the east bank across much of the interfluvium to the Rio Tapajos. We'll concentrate on finding many of these (regardless of current taxonomic rank).

Humaita, west bank of the Madeira—Most of four days on the west bank will give us time to bird several distinctive habitats, from savannas and *cerrado*-like enclaves of woodland to forest. Some of these habitats are rare within Amazonia, and are concentrated to some extent in the Humaita area.

Porto Velho, east bank of the Madeira—We'll have two days east of the Madeira to explore some especially poorly known forests. Much of this region is seasonally flooded (*várzea*) forest, and we'll also have good access to a tall *terra firme* (never flooded) forest with an extensive bamboo understory that certainly merits careful exploration.

Rio Roosevelt and Madeirinha—The Rio Roosevelt is something between a clearwater and a blackwater river; there is enough sand in the region, eroded from the ancient Brazilian Shield, that plenty of tannin leaches out of the leaf-litter, yet weathered clays over many *terra firme* uplands contribute mostly clear run-off. The river courses through a series of narrows and wider places, in some of the former creating thundering rapids that are just as formidable today as they were in Roosevelt's time. One such place, the Cachoeira Santa Rita, is very near the pousada, and it's a mighty impressive sight! The expedition had to portage these rapids, of course, and the very tree Roosevelt slept under (identifiable in photos) still stands just outside the pousada dining room. We'll walk from the airstrip to the pousada on the portage trail they opened in 1914. Sets of boats stationed both above and below the rapids (in case you were wondering!) will take us up and down the river to trailheads. The Rio Madeirinha is more toward whitewater than blackwater, and there are some excellent birding trails on it as well; it is a tributary of the Roosevelt coming in a short distance above the Santa Rita rapids.

We'll be at the pousada during the late dry season, and rain is likely on a few days, especially late afternoon. It's quite warm, of course, but one really doesn't feel the temperature inside the shady forest as much as the humidity. The biggest nuisances are the black flies around the river; some years they're scarce, some years there are lots. They're nasty little buggers, but normal precautions (ranging from repellent to long sleeves to bug jackets) are enough to keep them at bay. Biting insects inside the forest are much less prevalent. Depending on how much rain has fallen recently,

the savannas around Humaita could be shallowly flooded with short stretches of muddy walking. Some kind of high shoe or Goretex outer is usually plenty for the small amount of semi-wet walking we may do.

Radiating out from the lodge are three or four trails, and there are ten or so reached by boat, where we'll bird quietly for Dark-winged Trumpeters (a good chance of seeing this one here), curassows, and other shy species, and we'll seek both the specialties and more common birds of the area. In particular we'll spend some quality time on the new (first birded in 2019) tower, watching for such specialties as Crimson-bellied Parakeet, Black-bellied Cuckoo, Black-girdled Barbet, Gould's Toucanet, Uniform Woodcreeper, Crimson Fruitcrow, Tooth-billed Wren, and a variety of tanagers and honeycreepers. We'll also listen carefully for mixed-species feeding flocks, led by Saturnine and Cinereous antshrikes and White-winged Shrike-Tanagers and accompanied by a variety of woodcreepers, furnariids, and antwrens. And, perhaps most importantly, we'll be constantly on the alert for swarming army ants, whose attending birds often include Hoffmann's Woodcreeper, the striking White-breasted Antbird and the rarely seen Pale-faced Bare-eye. Finally, we'll be searching for the marvelous Black-bellied Gnateater—and the mysterious Rondonia Bushbird—using recordings and good “bushbird sense.” It has been reported from one of the pousada trails, but there is still no photo or recording from the Roosevelt area. If the territory where we saw Rondonia Bushbird on our 2023 tour is still active ahead of our 2024 tour, we will divert a day from the Humaitá portion of the tour to go for it.



Lettered Aracari is a resident of the lowland Amazonian forests. We'll see them, and many other Amazonian specialties during our time in the Rio Roosevelt region. Photograph by guide Bret Whitney.

Itinerary for Brazil's Rio Roosevelt: Birding the River of Doubt

Days 1-2, Sat-Sun, 15-16 Jun. To Sao Paulo, Brasilia, or Manaus and on to Porto Velho, Rondonia. If you're planning to arrive the day the tour starts, you'll leave home Saturday, and arrive in Brazil early on Sunday morning, (Sao Paulo and Brasilia are all possibilities for connections). From there you'll connect to Porto Velho, arriving late evening. You will be met at the airport and transferred to our hotel in town.

Participants arriving a day early on the evening of June 15 may want to join for an optional activity on June 16. Late afternoon of Day 2 we'll perhaps take a sunset cruise on the great Rio Madeira (the large boats that offer these two-hour trips work on irregular schedules). Night of Day 2 in Porto Velho.

Days 3-5, Mon-Wed, 17-19 Jun. West bank of the Madeira: Humaita. On the morning of Day 3 we'll take the new bridge across the Madeira to the west bank. The Madeira and most large rivers westward to the Andes are “whitewater” rivers, meaning that they carry a significant load of silt eroded from the Andes that is lacking in the “clearwater” and “blackwater” rivers farther east. The Madeira carries more silt than any other river in Amazonia; the amount is probably inestimable. However, a massive hydroelectric dam has recently opened on the Madeira immediately above Porto Velho.

Let's keep our fingers crossed that Mother Nature doesn't like that plan, because this dam on the Madeira will soon become a disaster for seasonally flooded habitats, especially ephemeral river islands, the formation and maintenance of which depend on natural river fluctuations and course changes; there are dozens of such islands in the Madeira.

We'll spend the day birding our way north to Humaita. Among other birds, we'll make a concerted effort to actually **see** an Ocellated Crake. It won't be easy, but we'll sure give it a solid attempt. To get yourself prepared for this, practice bending over and staring at some low object, like your dog's food bowl, and try not to blink for several minutes. The good part is the bird is common over there, including around Humaita, so we'll have no trouble finding some to try to outsmart. And, what the heck, let's see if we can produce a Russet-crowned Crake while we're at it!

We'll have adequate time to bird parts of the extensive *cerrado* enclave (open, savanna-like association of grass and low, corky-barked, fire-resistant trees) around the small town of Humaita. There are quite a few birds typical of the *cerrado* biome in this area, in addition to others of Amazonian origin that inhabit taller forest. Unfortunately, these open habitats around Humaita have recently (especially the past 20 or so years) come under great pressure from farmers who are plowing them up to plant soybeans, rice, and other crops. A huge amount of land was converted to rice just in the period 2019-2021. Thus, we'll bird several habitats, seeing many species that do not occur east of the Madeira, in the region of the Pousada Rio Roosevelt. A few examples in tall, humid forest include Brown-banded Puffbird, Ivory-billed and Curl-crested aracaris, Golden-collared Toucanet, Gilded Barbet, Bluish-fronted Jacamar, Dusky-headed Parakeet, Inambari Woodcreeper, Black Antbird, Predicted Antwren, and Short-billed Honeycreeper. Even the rarely seen Fulvous-chinned Nunlet, Campina Jay, Inambari Gnatcatcher, Spotted Tanager, and White-bellied Dacnis are possibilities. Nights in Humaita.



*The Humaita Antbird (this is a female) is just one of many antbirds that we'll see on the tour.
Photograph by participant Jonathan Newman.*

Day 6, Thu, 20 Jun. Humaita to Porto Velho. We'll have this morning to bird around Humaita and then drive back to Porto Velho. Stops at Mauritia palm swamps could produce Red-bellied Macaw, Fork-tailed Palm-Swift, Sulphury Flycatcher, and the fantastic Point-tailed Palmcreeper. We'll plan to do some late-afternoon birding on the east bank of the Madeira to give us a chance at finding a couple of birds endemic to the Madeira-Tapajos interfluvium that do not extend down the Madeira past the Rio Machado, which is approximately the border between the states of Rondonia and Amazonas: Rondonia Warbling-Antbird and Southern Chestnut-tailed Antbird (these do not occur on the Rio Roosevelt). Depending on the weather, we may opt for some owling this evening as well. Night outside Porto Velho.

Day 7, Fri, 21 Jun. East bank of the Madeira: Porto Velho. Today will be an active one, starting with a boat trip to access at least tall *várzea* (seasonally flooded, *whitewater* forest), a habitat lacking on the clearwater Rio Roosevelt, where we could find Lemon-throated Barbet. Following a break for lunch and rest, afternoon birding will find us in tall *terra firme* forest with a dense understory of bamboo. Night outside Porto Velho.

Day 8, Sat, 22 Jun. Charter flight to Pousada Rio Roosevelt. After an early breakfast on Saturday morning, we'll make our way back to the airport in Porto Velho to board our charter plane for the one-and-a-half hour flight to the Pousada Rio Roosevelt. The plane seats the entire group and carries a generous amount of luggage. We recommend, however, that you pack as lightly as possible because you can have laundry done *every day* at the pousada (drop-off in the morning is virtually always dry and back to you that afternoon), and lighter bags are not so hard on the backs of the guys carrying them to the rooms, etc. There is also power 24/7, so you can use rechargeable batteries for everything.

As we leave the city behind, the Rio Madeira winding toward the Amazon out the left window, the flight traverses a half-hour of disturbed habitats before crossing a huge enclave of natural *campos* and scrub. There is a large gold-mining operation here, which represents a scar in this vast, forested landscape. The most exciting moments of the flight come as we descend toward the Rio Roosevelt, making a wide swing over the lodge and fantastic Santa Rita rapids to find the narrow, dirt-and-grass airstrip where our guys will be waiting for us. A new round of excitement begins as the doors open and we step off the plane! We'll walk along the wide (even clean-swept!) path from the airstrip to the pousada, the original path opened to portage the rapids on the Roosevelt-Rondon Expedition in 1914. It's an amazing feeling to walk under many of the same trees, to step over the same roots and boulders those men would have touched over 100 years earlier. We'll settle into our rooms, have our first delicious Poussada lunch, and then begin our birding of the Rio Roosevelt this afternoon, hoping for an early encounter with an antswarm! Night at Pousada Rio Roosevelt.



*Large birds such as the Red-throated Piping-Guan are shy, but we've seen them well in the forests around the pousada.
Photograph by participant Steve Rannels.*

Days 9-14, Sun-Fri, 23-28 Jun. The Rio Roosevelt and the Rio Madeirinha. There are so many trails and other places to bird, such as concentration points for parrots, that we'll have no trouble staying active every day. In fact, we will probably come away after a week wishing we had another week to bird! This is a remote place, accessible only by air except for a couple of months in the wet season (mainly March-April) when a slow barge can pass the lower rapids to make the three-day trip down from a road in Mato Grosso, carrying heavy equipment (generators, refrigerators and freezers, etc.). As such, during our week in the area, we are unlikely to see a single soul who is not associated with the pousada.

The forest is pristine, exactly as it was in Roosevelt's day, and the rivers are full of giant fish. There are enough boats and guides at the pousada that it will also be possible for participants to have more autonomy than is usually the case on a birding tour. Thus, anyone especially interested in fishing or photography, for example, could spend part or even all of a

day apart from the group. The pousada and air-conditioned dining/reading area is also quite a comfortable place for relaxing if you would like to skip some of the group activities. Nights at Pousada Rio Roosevelt.

Day 15, Sat, 29 Jun. Charter flight back to Porto Velho; connections to Sao Paulo and home. We'll usually have a couple of hours to bird around the pousada, then head to the airstrip to fly back to Porto Velho midday – but timing of our charter flight will not be definitely determined until shortly before the tour (this is normal). Time permitting, we'll plan to do some late afternoon birding before our last dinner in Porto Velho. Flights home will be after midnight tonight so we will have hotel rooms for the group in town for resting and getting cleaned up before departure (again, via either Sao Paulo or Brasilia, depending on schedules in place at tour time). Depending on your international carrier, it may be possible to check your bags all the way to your first stop in the US from Porto Velho (assuming your ticket was not purchased in separate segments). *Uma boa viagem para todas!*

Day 16, Sun, 30 Jun. Arrival home. Most flights arrive in the US this afternoon, allowing for connections home by late evening.

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 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 (everybody's invited, last Sunday in April; 2016 is the 18th annual). Oh yes, and by stirring cauldrons of Brazilian *moqueca* at the Field Guides business meeting.

Visit <https://fieldguides.com/our-staff/> for a complete tour schedule for Bret; just click on his photo.

"This trip surpassed all of my wishes! It was simply an amazing experience! The setting is spectacular and really gave a glimpse of what it must have been like 100 years ago. Seeing birds that not many have seen was really an honor. Bret has so much knowledge—of the birds, the history, and Brazil—and he shares so much that it is a full experience. I just loved this trip! D.F., Brazil's Rio Roosevelt

Financial Information

FEE: \$10,875 from Porto Velho (includes charter flight to Pousada Rio Roosevelt from Porto Velho and return)

DEPOSIT: \$1075 per person

FINAL PAYMENT DUE: December 18, 2023

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (Optional): \$1975

LIMIT: 8

All participants will be required to confirm they will have completed a full COVID vaccination course at least two weeks prior to the tour (which includes a booster for those eligible to have one). Note too, that many travel destinations may still require proof of vaccination for entry to bypass testing delays or quarantine, and that entry requirements for a destination can change at any time. Proof of a booster shot, too, may be a requirement for some travel destinations.

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 and with at least one blank page available for the visa stamp to enter Brazil. In addition, US citizens will need a **visa** to enter Brazil. As of December 1, 2023, 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.

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

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 \$10,875 for one person in double occupancy from Porto Velho. It includes all lodging from Day 2 through Day 15, all meals from lunch on Day 2 through dinner on Day 15, the flights from Porto Velho to Pousada Rio Roosevelt and return, 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 Porto Velho, 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 \$1975. 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, 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 \$1075** 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 December 18, 2023. We will bill you for the final payment at either 180 days or when the tour has reached sufficient subscription to operate, whichever date comes later.**

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

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 180 days before departure. If cancellation occurs between 179 and 90 days before the departure date, 50% of the tour fee is refundable. 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.

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