

ITINERARY  
**SPECTACULAR SOUTHEAST BRAZIL**  
**Part I: North of the Tropic**  
*October 19-November 4, 2018*  
**Part II: South of the Capricorn**  
*November 2-18, 2018*  
**Iguazu Falls Extension**  
*November 17-22, 2018*



*One of our targets on this tour is the rare and beautiful Black-backed Tanager, found only in a small area of coastal Brazil. Photograph by guide Bret Whitney.*

*We include here information for those interested in the 2018 Field Guides Spectacular Southeast Brazil tours:*

- a general introduction to the tours
- a description of the birding areas to be visited on the tours
- 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 tours
- after the conclusion of the tours, a list of birds seen on the tours

**If** you have contacted us for this itinerary, you probably already have a pretty good idea of the birding treasure we're going after in southeastern Brazil. This region of South America has more species of birds restricted to it than any other, and many of them are among the rarest birds on the continent. The northern hemisphere fall—which is springtime in southern Brazil—is the best time of year to bird there and our start date has been carefully tweaked over many years to optimize

our probability of picking up all migrants returning to breed as well as our chances of having good weather: On average, we're not too early, not too late; not too dry nor too wet. And our guides are, shall we say, pretty "in-touch" with things down there; nobody else has our local network or depth of experience.

Starting in 2009, we split our traditional 26-day adventure into two slightly expanded tours at the Tropic of Capricorn (about 23° South latitude), the official division between the Tropics and the South Temperate Zone. These tours are perfectly complementary whether taken separately or in tandem. NORTH OF THE TROPIC, at 17 days (including travel to and from Brazil), takes you through the tiny but mighty (birdy, that is!) states of Espírito Santo and Rio de Janeiro plus far northern Sao Paulo. SOUTH OF THE CAPRICORN picks up from Sao Paulo and runs for another 17 days south through the *gaucho* country of Rio Grande do Sul, a region settled by Italian and German immigrants so culturally different from the north that you may wonder if we are truly still in Brazil! Thus, you can keep the legend alive with nearly a month in the field. So be sure your seat back's up and tray table stowed, and come on down! Oh, and if you're wondering why we didn't list a ton of bird names, we decided to put them in the detailed day-by-day section of the itinerary so you'll have time to read something else today ;-)

*The two tours described in this itinerary may be taken separately, or they may be combined for complete coverage of SOUTHEASTERN BRAZIL.*



*Restinga Tyrannulet is another specialty of the Atlantic Forest, found south of Sao Paulo. We'll watch for them on the southern portion of the tour. Photograph by guide Bret Whitney.*

**About the Physical Requirements & Pace:** These tours are designed to target the endemics of southeastern Brazil, and we will orchestrate our activities to maximize our chances of finding and seeing these species, with special effort to see as many of them on both tours as possible. This does not mean that there is no time for the more common and widespread species; indeed, even in southeastern Brazil, one still sees more widespread species than endemics. However, it does mean that we don't spend significant time during our SOUTH OF THE CAPRICORN (Part II) in southern wetlands (southern Rio Grande do Sul) well outside the Atlantic Forest—those are *all* species easily seen on other tours (we'll pick up a slew of these open-country/marsh birds on our final morning of birding). Our itinerary is ambitious (as is our checklist), and you should come well-rested and ready for a vigorous tour.

It gets light quite early in eastern Brazil, and a typical day might involve a 5:00 a.m. breakfast in order to be in the field near dawn (starts in warm, lowland areas will be earlier than in the cooler mountains). On some days, we'll have the opportunity for a post-lunch siesta or birding on our own around the hotel, as almost all of our hotels have good birding possibilities. We plan to do some important night-birding (there are some wonderful endemic owls and nightjars, and we want to see them all!) as well. There will be a couple of long travel days, of necessity. Almost all of the birding will be along good trails and roads, most of which are fairly level. We'll also do some moderate climbing on trails/roads on NORTH OF THE TROPIC (Part I) in the coastal *serras*, driving to a maximum of 7500 feet for part of one morning. Inside the forest we typically move quite slowly, walking quietly and listening. And, in the process, we'll do considerable standing around just watching, even relaxing at productive feeders for hummers and frugivores.

Our hotel on the Brazilian side at Iguazu is a large one, and rooms are often several hundred feet from reception and the dining areas. Also at Iguazu, access to the awe-inspiring Devil's Throat on the Argentine side requires a total of two-plus miles round-trip of walking on a level, metal walkway at a normal pace; access to other falls sites we regularly visit on both sides (the falls edge on the Argentine side and the spectacular falls walkway on the Brazilian side) requires walking down (and back up) significant numbers of steps and ramps over a couple of loop walkways that run about a mile to a mile-and-a-half each. 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.

## About the Birding Areas

**NORTH OF THE TROPIC** includes birding areas from the state of Espirito Santo south to northern Sao Paulo. We will discuss birding areas on a state-by-state basis, which will allow an understanding of the type of habitat and general terrain we will visit on each segment of the tour.



**Espirito Santo**—From the state of Paraiba in the northeast to extreme northern Rio Grande do Sul in the south, the coastal plain of Brazil was once almost completely covered in tall, luxuriant rainforest called “Atlantic Forest.” Atlantic Forest as a habitat or biome is “endemic” to this region of Brazil, adjacent eastern Paraguay, and northern Misiones Province in Argentina, sheltering a flora and fauna quite distinct from any other. As recently as the 1950s, however, a massive logging campaign, mostly clear-cutting concentrated in the tiny state of Espirito Santo, drastically

reduced the extent of Atlantic Forest. Today less than 5% (many say less than 2%) of the lowland Atlantic Forest remains, and this is in a highly fragmented condition. Some of South America's rarest birds maintain small populations in the beautiful forest reserves of Espirito Santo, and we will spend the first six days of our tour here in search of such exciting birds as Solitary Tinamou, Rusty-margined Guan, Red-billed Curassow, White-necked Hawk, Blue-throated and Maroon-faced parakeets, Red-browed Parrot, Minute Hermit, Frilled Coquette, Crescent-chested Puffbird, Black-headed Berryeater, White-winged and Banded cotingas, Bare-throated Bellbird, Wied's Tyrant-Manakin, and Plumbeous Antvireo plus a host of antbirds, flycatchers, hummers—and the ultra-rare Cherry-throated Tanager. We'll also want to do some night birding in hopes of Tawny-browed Owl, Variable (Black-capped) Screech-Owl, Long-tailed Potoo, Long-trained Nightjar, and Ocellated Poorwill.

**Rio de Janeiro**—Although it is one of the smallest states in Brazil, Rio de Janeiro boasts one of the richest avifaunas. The second week of our tour will find us birding a diverse array of habitats in Rio de Janeiro, ranging from Atlantic Forest to remnant semi-arid woodland to cloud forest at Pico de Caledonia, and grassland above treeline in the Serra da Mantiqueira along the highest-elevation road in all of Brazil (approximately 7500 feet).

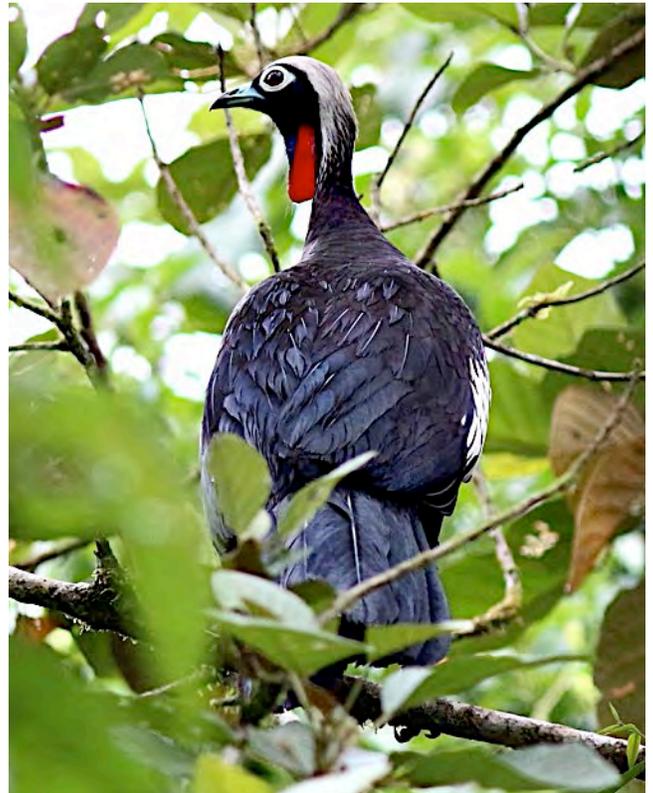
We'll be based in lovely Itatiaia National Park for three days, allowing ourselves plenty of time to explore the range of forest habitats from 1700 feet to the elfin forests below *Agulhas Negras* (the “Black Needles”). The climate in these parts is generally just about perfect, but like the coastal mountains of Sao Paulo, Itatiaia can be quite wet even during this relatively dry season. Mention of just a few of the Rio de Janeiro specialties must include Mantled Hawk, Rusty-barred Owl, Three-toed Jacamar, Green-crowned Plovercrest, Giant, Large-tailed, and White-bearded antshrikes along with lots of other antbirds, the bizarre Slaty Bristlefront, Black-and-gold and Swallow-tailed cotingas, the mysterious Gray-winged Cotinga, Hangnest Tody-Tyrant, and numerous dazzling hummers and tanagers.

**Sao Paulo**—In far southern Sao Paulo state, around Ubatuba, the Serra do Mar, with its steep, forest-cloaked mountains extends practically to the coast. Although weather is often clear and spring-like, it is also quite likely that we'll hit some rain spawned by moist sea breezes rising against the wall of the serra. Recent field work in this beautiful region, with its clearwater streams and shining white beaches, has revealed the presence of some of the most distinctive of southeastern Brazil's endemics, such as Buff-bellied Puffbird, Saw-billed Hermit, Squamate and Scaled antbirds, Black-cheeked Gnatcatcher, Spotted Bamboowren, Fork-tailed Pygmy-Tyrant, Sao Paulo Tyrannulet, and Buff-throated Purple-tuft. The highly endangered Black-hooded Antwren maintains a precarious existence in a small area of far southern Rio de Janeiro state, and we'll wrap up with a search for the handsome Sao Paulo Antwren (a brand-new species, described to science in 2014).

**SOUTH OF THE CAPRICORN** includes birding areas from southern Sao Paulo south to Brazil's southernmost state, Rio Grande do Sul. We will discuss birding areas on a state-by-state basis, which will allow an understanding of the type of habitat and general terrain we will visit on each segment of the tour.

**Sao Paulo**—As one moves south in the Atlantic Forest of the southeast, especially through Sao Paulo state, there is a significant change in the bird life as numerous species are replaced by their southern, sister-species. The Serra do Mar of southern Sao Paulo, with its steep, forest-cloaked mountains, offers some of the most pristine montane forest left in Brazil. Endemics to seek here, particularly in beautiful Intervales State Park, include the rare Black-fronted Piping-Guan, Red-and-white Crake, Mantled and White-necked hawks, Long-trained Nightjar, Tawny-browed and Rusty-barred owls, Crescent-chested and Buff-bellied puffbirds, Red-breasted Toucan, Saffron and Spot-billed toucanets, the very rare Helmeted Woodpecker and the huge Robust Woodpecker, White-throated Woodcreeper, Black-billed Scythebill, Orange-breasted Thornbird (*Phacellodomus ferrugineigula*, split from the more northerly Orange-throated, formerly called Red-eyed), Saw-billed Hermit, White-collared and White-browed foliage-gleaners, Tufted, Large-tailed, and White-bearded antshrikes, Squamate Antbird, Rufous Gnatcatcher, Mouse-colored Tapaculo, Spotted Bamboowren, an undescribed species of bristlefront(!), Bare-throated Bellbird, Red-ruffed Fruitcrow, Swallow-tailed Cotinga, Shear-tailed Gray-Tyrant, Oustalet's and Bay-ringed tyrannulets, and the little-known Black-legged Dacnis.

The southern coast of Sao Paulo features a series of barrier islands covered with a dense, low-stature woodland called *restinga*, which is habitat for the endangered (and beautiful!) Red-tailed Parrot, Restinga Tyrannulet, and the nominate subspecies of Fuscous Flycatcher.



*Black-fronted Piping-Guan.*  
 Photograph by participant John Drummond.

**Parana**—Neighboring Sao Paulo to the south is Parana. We'll get our first taste of temperate southeastern Brazil in the highlands here (still, temperatures in the low 70s). Bizarre *Araucaria* ("Monkey Puzzle") trees lend a most distinctive aspect to the landscape, and we'll note an almost completely different appearance to the forest in general. At elevations of about 1900 to 3300 feet we will seek such fascinating birds as Slaty-breasted Wood-Rail, Violet-crowned Plovercrest, White-spotted Woodpecker, Pale-browed Treehunter (*C. l. holti*, a sure split from northern *C. l. leucophrus*), Sharp-billed Treehunter, Hooded Berryeater, Azure Jay, Brown Tanager, Red-necked and Brassy-breasted tanagers, Glaucous-blue Grosbeak, and, especially, the secretive Canebrake Groundcreeper. We've ensured that we'll have sufficient time to search for Parana Antwren (aka Marsh Antbird), Kaempfer's Tody-Tyrant (known from two specimens and recent records of a few birds), the strange Sickie-winged Nightjar (very rare but we stand an excellent chance of success), and—with some patience and lots of luck—maybe even a Wetland Tapaculo (another recently described species). Most recently, the Parana region has become a fairly sure bet for the spectacular Black-backed Tanager.

**Rio Grande do Sul**—Brazil's southernmost state neighbors both Uruguay and Argentina. So different is Rio Grande do Sul from the rest of southeastern Brazil that it may seem like a different country. Quaint little towns seem to have been transported straight out of eastern Germany! Rolling, green grasslands and *Araucaria*-dominated woodland here and in the highlands of neighboring Santa Catarina state form a quilt-work on the land, and the far-carrying cries of Red-winged Tinamous and Red-legged Seriemas come from remnant native campos. In open areas and marshy swales we'll see Long-tailed Cinclodes, Straight-billed Reedhaunter, Firewood-gatherer, Bearded Tachuri, Sharp-tailed Tyrant, Long-tailed Reed-Finch, Gray-cheeked (Lesser) Grass-Finch, Grassland Yellow-Finch, Great Pampa-Finch, Black-and-rufous Warbling-Finch, several rare seedeaters, Yellow-rumped Marshbirds, and small groups of rare Saffron-cowled Blackbirds accompanied by satellite pairs of handsome Black-and-white Monjitas. With luck, we'll also see Giant and South American snipes, Plumbeous and Blackish rails, and Rufous-sided Crake. Forested areas harbor many other special birds, such as Vinaceous Parrot, the very rare Red-spectacled Parrot, the bizarre Blue-bellied Parrot, the rarely seen Mottled Piculet, Rufous-breasted Leaf-tosser, Scalloped Woodcreeper, Short-tailed Antthrush, Speckle-breasted Antpitta (soon to be named as a new species), Olive Spinetail, Araucaria and Striolated tit-spinetails, Greenish Tyrannulet, Chestnut-backed and Chestnut-headed tanagers, and the distinctive Green-throated Euphonia. *Wow!*

## Itinerary for Spectacular Southeast Brazil

### ***NORTH OF THE TROPIC***

**Day 1, Fri, 19 Oct. Overnight flights to Sao Paulo.** American Airlines and TAM Brazilian Airlines offer direct flights from the US to Sao Paulo with onward connections to Vitoria. We do encourage participants to arrive in Vitoria a night early to catch up on your sleep (and start the tour fresh!). We are happy to assist you with hotel arrangements.

**Day 2, Sat, 20 Oct. Sao Paulo to Vitoria, Espirito Santo; drive to Monte Verde.** Upon arrival in Sao Paulo this morning, you'll clear customs and then take a connecting flight north to the capital city of Vitoria on the coast of Espirito Santo. If you are arranging your own flights, please plan to arrive in Vitoria by 11:00 this morning. We'll load our bus and drive to a countryside restaurant for lunch that also has some excellent birding opportunities, and we'll stop at a very impressive waterfall this afternoon where we should see nesting Great Dusky and White-collared swifts, among numerous other species at nearby feeders – *let the lifers begin!!* We'll make it to our lovely hotel in the mountains of southern Espirito Santo late this afternoon, and plan to get to bed in time for a good night's sleep after the long flights and this active afternoon of birding in Brazil. Night Monte Verde.

**Days 3-4, Sun-Mon, 21-22 Oct. On the trail of the Cherry-throated Tanager.** Our birding gets off to an exciting start as we go for some of the most special passerine endemics of southeast Brazil—foremost among them, the ultra-rare Cherry-throated Tanager. We were very fortunate to find the tanager near the end of our two-day search on our most recent (2016) tour, and we'll certainly hope to do equally as well this year. Before October 1996, this remarkable bird was known only from a single specimen (housed in Berlin) and a couple of sight records. Following its exciting rediscovery near Conceicao do Castelo in 1996, and searches for it in nearby areas, the Cherry-throated Tanager remains known from but two fragments of native foothill forest in southern Espirito Santo, where fewer than two dozen birds appear to be holding their own (but for how long?). The birds are usually feeding young in late-Oct/early Nov, and are tough to find. Records have been few and far between in the past several years, but the birds *are* being seen occasionally, which is great.

Among the many other wonderful birds of the Atlantic Forest we could see here are Spot-winged Wood-Quail (difficult to see, of course, but not impossible), Pileated Parrot, Plain Parakeet, Spot-billed Toucanet, Yellow-eared Woodpecker, White-throated Woodcreeper, Black-billed Scythebill, Pale-browed Treehunter (nominate *C. l. leucophrus*, a sure split from southern *C. l. holti*), White-collared Foliage-gleaner, the unbelievable Giant Antshrike, Spot-breasted Antwren, White-



*The Shrike-like Cotinga can be difficult to find, but we have been able to see it on our tours!  
Photograph by guide Bret Whitney.*

bibbed and Ochre-rumped antbirds, Oustalet's Tyrannulet, Sharpbill, Cinnamon-vented Piha, the fabulous Swallow-tailed Cotinga, Shrike-like Cotinga (aka Brazilian Laniisoma; very difficult), Bare-throated Bellbird, the gorgeous Blue and Pin-tailed manakins, and glowing Gilt-edged Tanagers. Swallow-tailed Cotinga and Long-trained Nightjar are also among the possibilities. Temperatures in the upper 60s to mid-70s make for pleasant conditions, but rain is always a possibility in the areas of Espirito Santo we will visit, so don't forget to have your rain gear handy (we've hit non-stop rains on a couple of past tours). Birding along wide roadbeds mostly inside rainforest, we'll be watching for mixed-species flocks of tanagers and other birds on these really exciting introductory days in foothill Atlantic Forest. Nights Monte Verde.

**Day 5, Tue, 23 Oct. Monte Verde to Linhares Natural Reserve.**

After another early morning of mountain birding (hopefully having seen the tanager, but we'll have this morning to look again if need be), we'll drive to the Linhares Natural Reserve, in the lowlands about three hours north of Vitoria. Time and road construction conditions permitting, we'll make an exciting stop at the famous Ruschi hummingbird feeders in the little town of Santa Teresa. The Linhares Reserve will be our base for birding the next few days. You will be delighted with the beautiful rooms just minutes away from the forest! Night in the Linhares Reserve.

**Days 6-7, Wed-Thu, 24-25 Oct. Linhares Reserve.** We'll have most of three days to bird rich lowland Atlantic Forest. We'll rise early each morning to be on the scene at dawn as bird activity gets underway. Temperatures are dependent on cloud cover, but clear conditions will make for highs in the upper 80s or low 90s. This tall, lowland forest is on essentially level ground, and we'll be birding along an excellent system of roads and trails. The reserve roads are quite narrow, and the canopy is often closed overhead. This is great for birding—but if it has been windy or rained overnight, we may find that trees have fallen across roads and closed them.

Solitary Tinamou, the very rare Red-billed Curassow, White-necked Hawk, Blue-throated and Maroon-faced parakeets, Red-browed Parrot, Least Pygmy-Owl, Minute Hermit, Ringed Woodpecker (rare endemic subspecies *tinnunculus*), Black-headed Berryeater, and White-winged and (very rarely seen) Banded cotingas are among the most special birds of this area. On at least a couple of evenings or early mornings (depending on the weather and moon) we'll offer nighttime excursions for the owls and nightjars mentioned above for Espirito Santo. Nights in the Linhares Reserve.

**Day 8, Fri, 26 Oct. Flight to Rio de Janeiro; drive to Nova Friburgo.** We'll have to devote most of today to travel, but it will pay off grandly over the next few days. Departing early from Linhares will get us to Vitoria in time for our flight to Rio de Janeiro. The airport is on the "right" side of the city for us, so we won't lose much time getting up into the mountains of the Serra do Mar. We'll make a couple of good birding stops along the way to Nova Friburgo this afternoon. This is a very old town of about 190,000 people, situated at about 2700 feet in a rather narrow mountain valley below our birding destination of Pico de Caledonia. Night in Nova Friburgo.

**Day 9, Sat, 27 Oct. Pico de Caledonia: Gray-winged Cotinga.** We'll hit the trail early this morning to get an auspicious start in the focused search for the ultra-rare Gray-winged Cotinga. It's one of the least-known of all South American birds, living only in the stunted forests below treeline in the Serra dos Orgaos area of central Rio de Janeiro state. We have a territory that has been reliable for the past few of years, so our chance of finding the bird is good! We'll use 4WD vehicles to climb the very steep, narrow road as far up Pico de Caledonia as necessary. Weather conditions will play a major role in the birding success: we're probably going to have some mix of sun and cloud, but rain and fog could shut us out completely. We will, of course, be highly alert to all other birds along the way, watching especially for soaring White-rumped Hawk and listening for such skulkers as Large-tailed and Giant antshrikes.

This afternoon we will drive to another old, montane-valley town in the state of Rio, called Teresopolis, birding in remnant semideciduous woodland in the valley of the Rio Paraíba do Sul to visit a colony of the endangered Three-toed Jacamar. There is also a chance for Stripe-breasted Starthroat, Hangnest Tody-Tyrant, and Gray-eyed Greenlet, among



*We've gotten great views of the endemic Crescent-chested Puffbird on previous tours. Photograph by guide Bret Whitney.*

other dry-forest birds. Since deforestation of most of the Paraiba do Sul valley more than 200 years ago, numerous species of birds characteristic of the central Brazilian *cerrados* have invaded the region. Thus, we'll keep an eye open for such birds as Toco Toucan, White-eared Puffbird, White Woodpecker, Tail-banded Hornero, White-rumped Monjita, and Curl-crested Jay. Birding will be along mostly level roads. Night in Teresopolis.

**Day 10, Sun, 28 Oct. Teresopolis to Itatiaia National Park.** We'll bird near Teresopolis early this morning, looking especially for Biscutate Swift, Dusky-tailed Antbird, Serra do Mar Tyrant-Manakin, Chestnut-headed Tanager, Half-collared Sparrow, and, with luck, Blackish-blue Seedeater. We'll then make the approximately three-hour drive to Itatiaia National Park, with lunch en route, which should give us some productive birding time in the lower elevations of the park as we arrive late afternoon.

Our hotel is situated on a forested slope at about 3500 feet elevation, with a grand overview of the lower elevations of the park. The rooms are private chalets complete with fireplace (the staff will build your fire, if desired) and a super view from the balcony. Night in Itatiaia National Park.



*The Saffron Toucanet is a regional endemic that we'll look for on Part I of the tour.  
Photograph by participant Ken Havard.*

**Days 11-12, Mon-Tue, 29-30 Oct. Itatiaia National Park, Rio de Janeiro.** There is no better place in South America to enjoy a few days of birding than at beautiful Itatiaia National Park. Springtime weather is typically cool and calm, with occasional showers (that three-day rains can occur in even dry seasons of the year, however, was evidenced by a couple of past tours!). In the highest areas around *Agulhas Negras* we are likely to encounter some cool (as low as the low 60s) and windy weather. Itatiaia is the oldest Brazilian national park, established in 1937 to protect some 65,000 acres of montane forest straddling the Rio de Janeiro/Minas Gerais border. This is the Serra da Mantiqueira (an outlier of the Serra do Mar), home to most of the species of birds endemic to montane southeastern Brazil.

These days of birding at Itatiaia may well prove to be the highlight of our trip. By now we will be familiar with most of the common birds, and we'll have seen many of the rarities, allowing us to channel our efforts toward finding the many montane specialties Itatiaia has to offer. Just a few of them are Dusky-legged Guan (all over the place, now that they're feeding them), Slaty-breasted Wood-Rail, Rufous-capped Motmot, Surucua Trogon, Brazilian Ruby, Green-crowned Plovercrest, Red-breasted Toucan, Saffron Toucanet, Robust Woodpecker, Black-and-gold and Swallow-tailed cotingas, Black-capped Piprites, Itatiaia Thistletail, Rufous-breasted Leaf-tosser, Tufted, Large-tailed, and White-bearded antshrikes, Rufous-backed Antvireo, Bertoni's and Rufous-tailed antbirds, Such's and Brazilian antthrushes, Variegated Antpitta, Rufous Gnateater, Mouse-colored Tapaculo, Slaty Bristlefront, Blue-billed and Velvety black-tyrants, Drab-breasted and Brown-breasted bamboo-tyrants, Bay-chested Warbling-Finch, Cabanis's Warbling-Finch (recently split from southern, nominate Red-rumped which is now called Gray-throated), Olive-green, Brown, and Brassy-breasted tanagers, and Thick-billed Saltator. Birding will be along roads, some level and some hilly, for part of the time, and we will also hike some hilly trails specifically to get away from the roads. We'll have lunch in the field on at least one day.

**Day 13, Wed, 31 Oct. Itatiaia National Park to Ubatuba, Sao Paulo. Happy Halloween!** After a final morning in the park, we will make our way across the valley of the Rio Paraiba do Sul and then over a pass in the Serra do Mar, to reach the southern coast of Rio de Janeiro state. Our target here is the ultra-rare Black-hooded Antwren, which has a precariously small world population centered in an unprotected, and fairly heavily populated region. A couple of other birds that would be good to pick up in this area are Orange-throated Thornbird and Chestnut-backed Antshrike.

Later this afternoon we'll drive south to the town of Ubatuba in far northern Sao Paulo state, making a couple of stops along the way to scan mudflats and view and photograph the gorgeous coastline in this region of Brazil. Ubatuba is a tourist town, well known for its extensive beaches and variety of nice hotels and restaurants. Night in Ubatuba.

**Days 14-15, Thu-Fri, 1-2 Nov. Ubatuba, northern Sao Paulo.** The northern, coastal lowlands of Sao Paulo are typically warm and sunny with cool breezes coming in from the sea. The scenery is wonderful, with forested islands ringed by white-sand beaches scattered through deep-blue bays. The area is not highly disturbed, though development is increasing rapidly. We'll be birding mostly along roads, but we will also hike some trails inside the forest that have a few short, steep sections and a couple of places where one has to wade streams a few inches deep, or hop across on stones. Rubber boots make these crossings easy, though you can get by with Gore-Tex hiking shoes/boots. Among the target birds of this area are Mantled Hawk, Buff-bellied Puffbird, Saw-billed Hermit, Festive Coquette, Squamate and Ferruginous antbirds, Unicolored and the very rare Salvadori's antwrens, Black-cheeked Gnateater, Spotted Bamboowren, Pale-browed Treehunter (*C. l. holti*, a sure split from northern *C. l. leucophrus*), Black-capped Foliage-gleaner, Buff-throated Purplethroat, Sao Paulo and Bay-ringed tyrannulets, and Fork-tailed Pygmy-Tyrant. We're also going to enjoy one of the greatest hummingbird-feeder shows anywhere—the action is non-stop, the diversity amazing! It's the best place in the world to see the incredible Festive Coquette (nominata, endemic subspecies). Nights in Ubatuba.



*The Festive Coquette is one of many fancy hummingbirds we'll see on Part I of the tour.  
Photograph by guide Marcelo Padua.*

**Day 16, Sat, 3 Nov. Ubatuba to Sao Paulo.** We'll plan to head up the winding mountain road toward Sao Paulo to make some new birding stops, including a very important one to pick up the newly described "Sao Paulo Antwren". The bird inhabits certain remnant marshes on the outskirts of the city, and is challenging to locate and see well. It is especially closely related to the Parana Antwren (described to science only in 1996), and is currently considered a subspecies of it, though it may well receive full species status. That a distinctive antbird could remain undiscovered just outside the huge city of Sao Paulo until 2005 is truly amazing, and goes to show just how much there is yet to learn about the complex Brazilian avifauna.

This will be the day of departure for anyone not participating in Part II of the tour (South of the Capricorn). We'll plan to say good-bye to these folks after our final dinner together, at our hotel near the international airport. This evening we'll also be meeting those folks who are joining us for Part II. Night near the Sao Paulo international airport.

**Day 17, Sun, 4 Nov. Arrival home.** International flights arrive in Miami (for example) early this morning, allowing plenty of time for connecting flights home.

## ***SOUTH OF THE CAPRICORN***

**Day 1, Fri, 2 Nov. Overnight flights to Sao Paulo.** American Airlines and LATAM Brazilian Airlines offer direct flights from the US to Sao Paulo.

**Day 2, Sat, 3 Nov.** You'll arrive and clear customs by mid-morning, leaving the balance of the day to rest up or perhaps bird a little around the city.

Bret and Marcelo with the NORTH OF THE TROPIC group will drive into Sao Paulo from Ubatuba late this afternoon, so please plan to be back at the hotel by 5:30 p.m. to get the plan for the evening. Night near the Sao Paulo international airport.

**Day 3, Sun, 4 Nov. Sao Paulo to Intervales State Park.** We'll need to devote most of today to the drive to Intervales State Park. Traffic is generally light on Sunday morning, which certainly helps as we wend our way around the largest city in South America! It will be well worth it to get to Intervales State Park, one of the most productive birding areas in all of Brazil. We should arrive in time for some good late-afternoon birding around the lodge. Night in Intervales State Park.



*Spotted Bamboowren is one of the endemics we'll seek on Part II.  
Photograph by guide Bret Whitney.*

**Days 4-6, Mon-Wed, 5-7 Nov. Intervales State Park.**

Intervales State Park encompasses some 160,000 square miles of forested lands, from the lowlands to nearly 4000 feet elevation. Some of the overlooks from the roads are really breathtaking! Walking along these roads or wide trails will be most productive most of the time, but we will occasionally need to get inside under the canopy to lure secretive undergrowth species into view. Mention of a few of the target birds here must include the very rare Black-fronted Piping-Guan, Blue-bellied Parrot (difficult), Rufous-capped Motmot, Red-breasted Toucan, Buff-bellied and Crescent-chested puffbirds, the very rare Helmeted Woodpecker (seldom seen), Sharp-tailed Streamcreeper, White-bearded Antshrike, Squamate Antbird, Variegated Antpitta, Black-cheeked Gnateater, Slaty Bristlefront (the one here is being described as a new species), Spotted Bamboowren, Gray-hooded Attila, Shear-tailed Gray-Tyrant, and Red-ruffed Fruitcrow. Rufous-tailed Attila will have arrived on its breeding grounds by now, and two rare

flycatchers, [Atlantic] Royal Flycatcher (distinctive subspecies *swainsoni*) and Sao Paulo Tyrannulet, are also possible here. A couple of endemic hummers should be on active leks at this season: Dusky-throated Hermit and Violet-crowned Plovercrest. Owling is great at Intervales, and we'll definitely take advantage of clear nights to look for Rusty-barred and Mottled (very different from the much more familiar bird in Middle America) owls, Variable (Black-capped) and Tropical screech-owls, and Long-trained Nightjar. Even Stygian Owl could show up! We'll try to find Least Pygmy-Owl (endemic to the Atlantic Forest) during the day. Nights in Intervales State Park.

**Day 7, Thu, 8 Nov. Intervales State Park; drive to Cananeaia.** After a final morning of productive birding in and around Intervales, we'll drive to the coast of southern Sao Paulo to overnight at a nice hotel near the little resort town of Cananeaia, which will position us well for seeing Red-tailed Parrot tomorrow morning. Night in Cananeaia.

**Day 8, Fri, 9 Nov. Coastal birding and drive to Curitiba.** The endangered and beautiful Red-tailed Parrot is top-priority this morning; it's another of the several distinctive, endemic parrots we plan to see on the tour. Other species of interest this morning include the recently described Restinga Tyrannulet, the nominate subspecies of Fuscous Flycatcher, Highland Elaenia, and Long-billed Wren. Those important birds under our belts, we'll head south to the city of Curitiba, the attractive capital of Parana state. Let's hope for good weather so we can try for the rarely seen Sickle-winged Nightjar at dusk. Night in Curitiba.

**Days 9-10, Sat-Sun, 10-11 Nov. Parana.** Our first morning will see us out early (temp's could be in the low 60s) to drive to the coastal lowlands in search of the handsome and rarely seen Black-backed Tanager. We'll then work our way along the coast and scenic Guaratuba Bay to look for the recently described Parana Antwren and the little-known Kaempfer's Tody-Tyrant. Our birding for these two days in Parana may also produce Spot-backed Antshrike, White-breasted and Wetland (extremely difficult to actually see) tapaculos, Red-necked Tanager, Plush-crested Jay, Thick-billed Saltator, Gray-throated Warbling-Finch (southern nominate, formerly called "Red-rumped", split from northern *P. cabanisi* which is now called Buff-throated), and Glaucous-blue Grosbeak. We'll bird marshes, rice fields, lowland forest, montane forest, drier woodland, and open grassland during our time based in Curitiba. Much of it is quite scenic, and you'll want your camera along. We'll also break one day at a fine Brazilian B-B-Qs (*churrascaria*). The overflowing salad bar and spreads of meats and desserts are truly impressive. These days will be long and memorable ones we can assure you! We'll be based at our comfortable hotel in Curitiba for these nights.



The Speckle-breasted Antpitta is found in the Atlantic forest.  
 Photograph by guide Marcelo Padua.

**Days 11-12, Mon-Tue, 12-13 Nov. Curitiba (Parana) to Porto Alegre, Rio Grande do Sul.** This morning we'll go for Canebrake Groundcreeper, if anyone needs it (just kidding) then fly to Porto Alegre, bustling capital of Rio Grande do Sul, where we'll enjoy another potentially massive lunch at a traditional gaucho *churrascaria* (find control, people!) and a two-hour drive up the eastern escarpment to the little town of Sao Francisco de Paula. Our lodging here is especially charming, located outside town in an old *Araucaria* forest, with Long-tufted Screech-Owls and Speckle-breasted Antpitta (actually an undescribed species to be named shortly) right on the grounds! Other species we'll hope for here and in other forested areas nearby include Slaty-breasted Wood-Rail, Red-spectacled, Vinaceous, and Blue-bellied parrots, Mottled Piculet, Olive Spinetail, Araucaria and Striolated tit-spinetails, Sharp-billed Treehunter, Rufous-breasted Leaf-tosser, Rufous Gnatcatcher, Brown-breasted Bamboo-Tyrant, Eastern Slaty-Thrush (a late-arriving breeder), the spectacular Chestnut-backed Tanager, and Green-throated Euphonia. Nights in Sao Francisco de Paula.

**Days 13-15, Wed-Fri, 14-16 Nov. Highlands of the far South.** The highlands of southeastern Brazil are typically cool and comfortable, but sometimes quite chilly, especially in the early morning, with temperatures in the mid-50s. Sunny days, however, are common, and daytime highs often approach 80 degrees. Scenery in this region is wonderful, so you'll probably want to keep your camera handy. Most of our birding will be along roads in open country, but we will definitely be walking through some marshy places, too, so your rubber boots should be available on the bus. Most of the open-country specialties of the far south are listed above, under the Rio Grande do Sul "Birding Areas" heading. There is a good chance that several late migrants—Ochre-breasted Pipit, Bearded Tachuri, and Tawny-bellied and Black-bellied seedeaters—will have arrived on breeding territories. A very rare bird to be sought in this region is a highly distinctive new species of seedeater that received its formal name in October 2013—*Sporophila beltoni*, Tropeiro Seedeater; we'll have an excellent chance of seeing it! On one day we'll do some significant hiking through hilly grasslands in search of these birds. Nights in Sao Francisco de Paula.

**Day 16, Sat, 17 Nov. Porto Alegre (Rio Grande do Sul) to Sao Paulo; flights home.** We'll have this morning to bird the lowland marshes, campos, and rice fields near Porto Alegre to see a wide variety of herons, storks, and ibises, along with many passerine birds typical of these far southern latitudes, most of which are not available on the rest of the tour (but are common south into Uruguay and Argentina). We'll make a special effort to find Rufous-sided Crake, Blackish Rail (if these have not already been seen well), Chotoy Spinetail, and White Monjita. We'll hope for time for a final delicious *churrascaria* lunch (depends on flight schedules) before flying direct to Sao Paulo, arriving in plenty of time to check in for international flights. *Que tenham uma boa viagem!*

**Day 17, Sun, 18 Nov. Arrival home.** International flights arrive in Miami early this morning, allowing for convenient connecting flights home.

**Note:** Folks continuing on the **Iguazu Falls Extension** will fly there with Marcelo and spend the night (**Day 1**) at our wonderful lodge on the Argentina side of the falls (see below).



*Iguazu Falls, as seen from the Brazilian side, is an amazing sight! Photograph by participant Bonnie Schwartz.*

## ***Iguazu Falls Extension***

**Days 1-4, Sat-Tue, 17-20 Nov. Iguazu Falls.** Lowland rainforest interspersed with great tracts of bamboo is the habitat around Iguazu Falls. The climate is quite tropical, with daytime highs sometimes reaching the upper 90s, though it can also be quite a bit cooler. If it has been raining in the past couple of days, the birding roads could be muddy.

Upon our arrival, we will make the approximately 90-minute drive to the Argentine side, where we will check in to our lovely jungle lodge and bird the forest that surrounds our rooms. The following day will be dedicated to visiting the falls on the Argentine side as we search for some of the most special birds to be found here, such as the Toco Toucan, the endangered Black-fronted Piping-Guan (less likely here than at Intervalles, but it's great to have another chance for it!), Ochre-collared Piculet, Robust and the spectacular Blond-crested woodpeckers (and Helmeted Woodpecker is a very rare possibility); Spot-backed Antshrike, Red-ruffed Fruitcrow (rare), and Plush-crested Jay.

On Day 3 we will take advantage of the early morning to bird a level but quite possibly muddy road through bamboo dominated woodland, where we may come across several bamboo specialists such as the Chestnut-headed Tanager, Uniform Finch, and Yellow Tyrannulet as well as many other Atlantic Forest specialties that may include the rarely seen Rusty-breasted Nunlet, Buff-bellied Puffbird, Tufted Antshrike, and several others. After a lovely Argentine lunch, we'll make our way back to the Brazilian side where we'll also spend two nights. We're staying quite near the falls, and this afternoon we'll bird the scenic circuit of the waterfalls.

On Day 4, we'll get an early start to bird for most of the day on a trail inside the national park, where we are sure to encounter a host of little known passerines including Russet-winged Spadebill, Creamy-bellied Gnatcatcher, and Southern Bristle-Tyrant—three Atlantic Forest endemics not usually seen on the Southeast Brazil tours. Beyond these, the area's bird life is rich indeed, and there will be plenty to keep us busy. Nights at Iguazu Falls (Days 1-2 on Argentine side; Days 3-4 on Brazilian side.)

*(Note: All other hotels on the Brazilian side of the falls, though likely less expensive, are located outside the park and require a significant bus ride to and from the falls and passage through the park checkpoint.)*

**Day 5, Wed, 21 Nov. Birding the hotel grounds; afternoon flight from Iguazu to Sao Paulo and home.** The hotel grounds and nearby trails are great for birding, too, so we'll spend some time around our hotel in the morning and get back to our rooms in plenty of time to shower and pack up before having lunch and heading to the airport to check-in for our flights to Sao Paulo and continuing home. **Please be sure the flight from Iguazu Falls (IGU) to Sao Paulo is included in your international ticket.**

**Day 6, Thu, 22 Nov. Arrival home.** The overnight flights from Brazil will get you into airports in the US and elsewhere early in the morning today, with good homeward connections.

## About Your Guides

**Part One—Bret Whitney and Marcelo Barreiros**

**Part Two—Bret Whitney and Marcelo Barreiros**

**Extension—Marcelo Barreiros and local 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. Over the past 16 years, he has probably spent more time researching the avifauna of the upper Tapajos region than anyone else. 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. Oh yes, and by stirring cauldrons of Brazilian *moqueca* at the Field Guides annual business meeting!

*"This trip surpassed all of my wishes! It was simply an amazing experience! Seeing birds that not many have seen was really an honor. Bret Whitney has such knowledge of the birds and of the history of Brazil and he shares so much that it is a full experience. I just loved this trip!" D.F., Brazil's Rio Roosevelt*

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

**Marcelo Barreiros** is a native of Sao Paulo, Brazil, who became fascinated with birds when he entered college in 2005, graduating with a degree in biology in 2009. He then moved to Manaus to work with conservation of Harpy Eagles and other large forest raptors, monitoring nests in both the Amazon and the Atlantic Forest regions. Today, Marcelo's depth of expertise in finding and identifying even the rarest species in has earned him an outstanding reputation among the leading fieldmen in Amazonia and, increasingly, all of Brazil. He and his wife have recently (2015) moved back to Sao Paulo to be closer to family and the wonderful beaches and Atlantic Forest. Marcelo is a friendly, generous guide with an even temperament and ready laugh, who truly enjoys showing birds to tour participants. His English is good and improving with study and increased experience with foreign birders.

## Financial Information

**FEE: Full Tour—\$12,950 from Vitoria and ending in Sao Paulo**

**Part I only—\$6475 from Vitoria and ending in Sao Paulo**

**Part II only—\$6475 starting and ending in Sao Paulo**

**Extension—\$2350 from Porto Alegre and ending in Iguazu Falls**

**DEPOSIT:** \$1300 per person for full tour; \$650 per person (Part I only); \$650 per person (Part II only)

**FINAL PAYMENT DUE:** June 21, 2018 (Full tour or Part I only); July 5, 2018 (Part II only)

**SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (Optional):** \$1700 (Full Tour); \$950 (Part I); \$750 (Part II); \$900 (Extension)

**LIMIT:** 12

## 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:** Our lodging in Brazil is in comfortable hotels throughout, varying from first-class by US standards to simple, clean, small hotels. All have private bathrooms with hot water, and most (but not all) have air conditioning (those without air conditioning have either ceiling fans or are located in cool climates). While at Intervales (Part II), most of the group will be housed at one lodge, but as it only has 7 rooms, some participants and the guides may be housed at

another lodge near the main lodge. The accommodations for the extension are very nice.

**DOCUMENTS:** A current **passport** is necessary for US citizens to enter Brazil. In addition, you will need a **visa** to enter Brazil. Our office will forward you visa application instructions.

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 present in some areas of Brazil, and we recommend all travelers to Brazil be vaccinated against the disease. Please check <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/alert/yellow-fever-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:** Please check with our office for the best schedule from your home airport.

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 pack light!** Space will be limited in the tour vehicle. If you think you need to bring an item, you probably don't. **Please only bring what you know you will need**, and plan to pack it all into a soft sided duffel bag. Hard cases are discouraged. Please also 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 fee for the **full tour** is \$12,950 for one person in double occupancy from Vitoria. It includes all lodging from October 20 through November 16, all meals from lunch on October 20 through lunch on November 17, **all flights within Brazil**, 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 Vitoria at the start of the tour and from Sao Paulo**, 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 full tour is \$1700\*.

The fee for **NORTH OF THE TROPIC (Part I)** is \$6475 for one person in double occupancy from Vitoria. It includes all lodging from October 20 through November 2, **flight from Vitoria to Rio**, all meals from lunch on October 20 through dinner on November 3, all ground transportation, entrance fees, tips for baggage handling and meal service, and the guide services of the tour leader(s).

The above fee does not include your airfare to Vitoria and from Sao Paulo, 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 Part I is \$950\*.

The fee for **SOUTH OF THE CAPRICORN** (Part II) is \$6475 for one person in double occupancy from Sao Paulo. It includes all lodging from November 3 through November 16, all meals from dinner on November 3 through lunch on November 17, **all flights within Brazil**, all ground transportation, entrance fees, tips for baggage handling and meal service, and the guide services of the tour leader(s).

The above fee does not include your airfare to and from Sao Paulo, 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 \$750\*.

The fee for the **IGUAZU FALLS POST-TOUR EXTENSION** is \$2350 for one person in double occupancy from Iguazu. It includes all lodging from November 17 through November 20, **flight from Porto Alegre to Iguazu Falls**, all meals from dinner on November 17 through lunch on November 21, all ground transportation, entrance fees, tips for baggage handling and meal service, and the guide services of the tour leader(s).

The above fee does not include your airfare to Sao Paulo and from Iguazu Falls, 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 extension is \$900\*.

\*Please note that 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 REGISTRATION:** To register for this tour, complete the Registration/Release and Indemnity form and return it with a **deposit of \$1300 per person for the full tour; \$650 per person (Part I only); \$650 per person (Part II only)**. 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 21, 2018 (Full tour or Part I only); July 5, 2018 (Part II only)**. **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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