



# BIRDING MATO GROSSO

Customized birding and natural history tours throughout Brazil.

---

## THE BEST OF SOUTH-EAST BRAZIL: CROWN JEWELS OF THE MATA ATLÂNTICA (17 days)

Our comprehensive South-east Brazil itinerary visits all of the best sites in the states of São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro, and together with our optional extension to Espírito Santo, covers virtually all of the Atlantic forest endemics which regularly occur in the south-east. In addition to having one of the longest bird lists of any country in the world, Brazil hosts an extremely high number of endemic birds, with 251 country endemics according to BirdLife International. Approximately 900 species occur in the Atlantic forests of Brazil, of which 213 are endemic to the biome, with another 17 species which are nearly endemic to the biome. Our itinerary begins in the Serra do Mar south of São Paulo, where we visit Intervales State Park and Trilha dos Tucanos in one of the best remaining blocks of montane Atlantic rain forest in the country. A short visit to the coastal *restinga* to look for three extremely range-restricted endemics completes our visit to the southern part of São Paulo state before we return north to visit the highland resort town of Campos do Jordão and the lowland forests around the beach resort of Ubatuba. From there we cross into Rio de Janeiro state to visit Perequê for the Critically Endangered Black-hooded Antwren en route to Itatiaia National Park, the oldest park in Brazil and one of the finest sites in the region. We also suggest spending two nights at the welcoming Fazenda Bacury in the interior of São Paulo state, where we can visit the extensive Tanquã marshes and bird in one of the last remaining tracts of *planalto* Atlantic forest to look for Violaceous Quail-Dove and the impressive Southern Muriqui, one of South America's largest and most endangered primates.

### Suggested Itinerary:

#### **Day 1: Arrival in São Paulo. Transfer to Trilha dos Tucanos.**

International arrivals into Guarulhos International Airport in São Paulo, where you will be met by our guide and vehicle. Drive to Trilha dos Tucanos Lodge in Tapiraí, about three hours depending on traffic crossing the megalopolis of São Paulo. Afternoon birding at Trilha dos Tucanos, where the fruit feeders are always very active; a late afternoon visit to a nearby hide where Brown Tinamou and Spot-winged Wood-quail are possible is an option.

*Night at Trilha dos Tucanos Lodge, Tapiraí.*

#### **Day 2: Trilha dos Tucanos**

We have a full day at Trilha dos Tucanos. The trail system covers a compact area where a number of desirable montane Atlantic rainforest endemics can be found: Saffron Toucanet, Speckle-breasted and Variegated Antpittas, White-breasted Tapaculo, Atlantic Royal Flycatcher, Salvadori's Antwren, Cinnamon-vented Piha and Half-collared Sparrow are all possible. Time spent at the feeders is likely to be rewarded with close views of Yellow-fronted Woodpecker, Blond-crested Woodpecker, and Green-headed, Olive-green, Azure-shouldered and Golden-chevrons Tanagers.

*Night at Trilha dos Tucanos Lodge, Tapiraí.*

**Day 3: Trilha dos Tucanos morning. Coastal restinga forests in the afternoon.**

After a final morning's birding at Trilha dos Tucanos, we depart for the small town of Cananéia, situated amidst lowland *restinga* forest and coastal mangroves. Near Cananéia we will search for the rare and endemic Red-tailed Parrot, which is restricted to coastal forests from southern São Paulo to northern Santa Catarina state. Other endemics we'll look for here include Restinga Tyrannulet, Long-billed Wren, and Black-backed Tanager.

*Night in Cananéia.*

**Day 4: Cananéia in the morning. Drive to Intervales.**

In the morning we can spend more time in the *restinga* forests around Cananéia if we missed any of the specialties the previous afternoon. By mid-morning we'll want to depart to make the drive to Intervales State Park. We drive up the Serra de Paranapiacaba through the Carlos Botelho State Park, where we shall make several birding stops along the way to look for Mantled Hawk, Giant Antshrike and Three-striped Flycatcher. In the afternoon we arrive at Intervales State Park where we'll stay four nights.

*Night at Intervales State Park, Ribeirão Grande.*

**Day 5 – 7: Intervales State Park.**

Intervales is undoubtedly one of the finest sites in south-east Brazil, and perhaps one of South America's top five birding sites. With three full days in the park, we'll have time to explore the many forested tracks and trails in rich montane Atlantic rainforest. All visitors to the park must be accompanied by a local park ranger, and these skilled guides know the park and its birds extremely well. Given good luck with the weather, we should do well on Atlantic forest endemics and our long list of targets here includes Black-fronted Piping-Guan, Mantled Hawk, Red-and-white Crake, Pileated (Red-capped) Parrot, Blue-bellied Parrot, Least Pygmy-Owl, Rusty-barred Owl, Long-tufted Screech-Owl, Long-trained Nightjar, Silky-tailed Nightjar (rare), Dusky-throated Hermit, Ochre-collared Piculet, Helmeted Woodpecker (rare), Gray-bellied Spinetail, White-browed Foliage-gleaner, Ochre-breasted Foliage-gleaner, Scalloped Woodcreeper, Black-billed Scythebill, White-bearded Antshrike, Dusky-tailed Antbird, Variegated Antpitta, Such's (Cryptic) Anthrush, Spotted Bamboowren, White-breasted Tapaculo, Cinnamon-vented Piha, Serra do Mar Tyrant-Manakin, São Paulo Tyrannulet, Oustalet's Tyrannulet, Bay-ringed Tyrannulet, Brown-breasted Bamboo-Tyrant, Russet-winged Spadebill (rare), Atlantic Royal Flycatcher, Rufous-tailed Attila, Chestnut-backed Tanager, Black-legged Dacnis, Buffy-fronted Seedeater, Temminck's Seedeater, Uniform Finch, Green-chinned Euphonia.

*Nights at Intervales State Park, Ribeirão Grande.*

**Day 8: Drive to Campos do Jordão.**

We leave this morning after breakfast to make the long drive to the mountain resort town of Campos do Jordão. We will make a detour en route to a wetland area to look for the endemic and endangered Marsh Antwren. The northern populations of this species are isolated geographically and were actually described as a separate species level taxon from the southern populations, and is sometimes called São Paulo Antwren. We should arrive in Campos do Jordão by early evening, for a two night stay.

*Night in Campos do Jordão.*

**Day 9: Campos do Jordão.**

Campos do Jordão is located in the upper reaches of the Serra da Mantiqueira, and the montane Atlantic forest here is interspersed with humid grasslands and groves of *Araucaria angustifolia* conifers. The main reason for visiting this scenic area is to look for the endemic Vinaceous Amazon which is common here. Other species of interest include Swallow-tailed Cotinga, Black-capped Piprites, and Lesser Grass-Finch. Night birding in the area might produce Band-winged Nightjar, Rusty-barred Owl or even Long-trained Nightjar.

*Night in Campos do Jordão.*

**Day 10: Tremembé and travel to Ubatuba.**

We start early this morning, descending the Serra da Mantiqueira into the Vale do Paraíba where we will bird rice plantations near the town of Tremembé. The irrigated fields are quite productive for waterbirds and host a number of species which are rarely encountered on most of the standard birding tour itineraries to South-east Brazil: amongst the possibilities are Spotted Rail, Pinnated Bittern, and Comb Duck. This location is also one of

only a handful of sites in Brazil with confirmed records of the enigmatic and extremely poorly known Speckled Rail. From Tremembé we proceed down the Serra do Mar to the seaside resort town of Ubatuba, where we will arrive in time to go birding in the afternoon.

*Night in Ubatuba.*

**Day 11 – 12: Ubatuba area.**

In our two full days in Ubatuba we will focus on several good remnant patches of lowland Atlantic rainforest which offer terrific birding, in fact representing the best location in Brazil for some endemics including Buff-throated Purplethroat, Spotted Bamboo-wren, Tufted Antshrike and others. We'll make a point of looking for Slaty Bristlefront, which we are likely to see at Intervales, but the lowland and highland forms are probably separate species. A visit to a private home where a retired gentleman feeds hummingbirds and tanagers is always a highlight, and will produce point-blank views of Saw-billed Hummingbird, Festive Coquette, Swallow-tailed Hummingbird, Blond-crested Woodpecker, Violaceous and Chestnut-bellied Euphonias, and more.

*Nights in Ubatuba.*

**Day 13: Perequê en route to Itatiaia National Park.**

Located between Parati and Angra dos Reis, Perequê is known amongst birders as the last refuge of the Critically Endangered Black-hooded Antwren. We'll leave our hotel early this morning to reach the site by dawn; thankfully the antwrens are still relatively common here and can usually be found without too much trouble. We'll take as long as we need to get the antwrens, at which point we'll probably want to hit the road again as we have a drive of several hours to reach our destination, the famous Itatiaia National Park, where we should arrive in the early evening.

*Night at Hotel do Ypê, Itatiaia NP.*

**Day 14: Itatiaia National Park.**

Itatiaia National Park is Brazil's oldest national park, protecting just over 28,000 hectares of montane Atlantic rainforest and high altitude grasslands in the border areas between the state of Rio de Janeiro, Minas Gerais, and São Paulo. We'll be staying at a comfortable hotel inside the park, where fruit and hummingbird feeders near the restaurant inevitably keep us from hitting the trails in a timely manner: Saffron Toucanet, Green-headed Tanager, Golden-winged Cacique, Violet-capped Woodnymph, White-throated Hummingbird, and Brazilian Ruby are just a few of the gems at the lodge. Dusky-legged Guans are numerous on the grounds, while some night birding near the hotel could produce the endemic Tawny-browed Owl. On the trail system we can find specialties such as White-bearded Antshrike, White-collared Foliage-gleaner, Fork-tailed Tody-Tyrant, Black-billed Scythebill, and Cryptic Antthrush in the extensive bamboo patches within the montane forest.

*Night at Hotel do Ypê, Itatiaia NP.*

**Day 15: Agulhas Negras road (Itatiaia NP upper range).**

An early start will be needed to reach a high elevation road in the upper portion of the park (1550m to 2300m), known as the Agulhas Negras road. The stunted higher elevation forests and rocky grasslands up here offer a distinct species set, and we'll be looking for the likes of Black-capped Piprites, Sharp-billed Treehunter, Serra do Mar Tyrannulet, Serra Tyrant-Manakin, and Rufous-backed Antwren. Higher up we'll get to a more open area where Green-crowned Plovercrest and the endemic Itatiaia Spinetail are possible. The eerie whistles of Black-and-gold Cotingas are usually heard all around up here, and with some careful scanning of the treetops we may find a male perched up in the open. The groves of *Araucaria* pines here should hold a pair of *Araucaria* Tit-Spinetail or two.

*Night at Hotel do Ypê, Itatiaia NP.*

**(OPTIONAL) Day 16: Drive to Fazenda Bacury.**

A long drive today from Itatiaia to Fazenda Bacury in the interior of the state of São Paulo. We should arrive in time for an afternoon at Bacury, where we can spend time birding wet fields on the farm property to look for Streamer-tailed Tyrant, Yellow-rumped Marshbird, and Giant Snipe. If we still need it, we can try for Black-capped Screech-Owl in Bacury's forest reserve.

*Night at Fazenda Bacury, Piracicaba.*

**(OPTIONAL) Day 17: Fazenda Bacury and Tanquã marshes.**

Bacury hosts a 2200-ha reserve of primary Atlantic dry forest, home to a population of the ultra-rare and Critically Endangered Southern Muriqui, the largest primate in the Americas. Birdwise we are looking for Russet-winged Spadebill, Rusty-margined Guan and Violaceous Quail-Dove here. Bacury is also not far from the Tanquã wetlands of the Piracicaba river. An afternoon boat trip at Tanquã can produce a good variety of waterbirds, including local rarities such as Rosy-billed Pochard and Silver Teal, with chances for Yellow-breasted Crake and Crested Doradito.

*Night at Fazenda Bacury.*

**\*\* For those wishing to have a shorter trip, Days 16 and 17 may be omitted from the itinerary.**

**Day 18: Return to São Paulo or drive to Campinas to fly to Vitória for Espírito Santo extension.**

**SOUTH-EAST BRAZIL  
OPTIONAL EXTENSION – ESPÍRITO SANTO  
(9 DAYS)**

The Espírito Santo extension begins with three nights in the lowland *tabuleiro* forests of Linhares where we search for a host of rare and endangered endemics including such iconic species as Red-billed Curassow and the Atlantic forest race of White-winged Potoo. Our next stop is a lovely little pousada in the hills around the small town of Santa Teresa which boasts some of the best hummingbird feeders in all of Brazil. The remnant forests near the town are good for several rarely encountered endemics, and our two nights in Santa Teresa are bound to fly by. We finish the tour in the Pedra Azul area, where a visit to the fabulous Caetés forest will target the stunning Cherry-throated Tanager, one of Brazil's most threatened birds.

**Day 1: Fly to Espírito Santo.**

Today is a travel day. We drive to the city of Campinas, from where we'll take a direct flight (1.5 hour flight) to Vitória, the capital of the state of Espírito Santo. We arrive in mid-afternoon and will have time to visit the mangroves at a local university to try for Mangrove Rail.

*Night in Vitória.*

**Day 2: Vitória to Linhares.**

We will head north from Vitória, stopping outside the city to look for Pygmy Nightjar at a traditional day roost. We should arrive at the private Linhares reserve, administered by the Brazilian mining giant Vale, around mid-day. Together with the neighbouring Sooretama reserve, Linhares comprises part of the largest block of lowland *tabuleiro* forest in the state of Espírito Santo in addition to being one of the most important forest reserves of the Rio Dove sub-centre of endemism between the south of Bahia and northern Rio de Janeiro. An afternoon walk around the grounds of our lodgings may well produce White-eared Parakeet, Reichenow's Parrot, or Red-browed Parrot, all endemics.

*Night at CVRD Linhares.*

**Day 3 and 4: Linhares.**

Linhares is chock full of lowland Atlantic forest endemics, and we'll have two full days to bird the many sandy tracks looking for the key birds. Foremost amongst these is the endangered Red-billed Curassow, which is nowadays seen only here and at one or two more sites. Driving slowly along the park roads early in the mornings and in late afternoon is the best way to see this species; such drives occasionally turn up other big surprises – on one visit a couple of years ago we had several tapirs and a jaguar one evening! Other key species at Linhares include White-necked Hawk, Blue-throated Parakeet, Least Pygmy-Owl, Black-headed Berryeater, Plumbeous Antvireo, Black-cheeked Gnateater, Plumbeous Antvireo, and Band-tailed Antwren (rare). Linhares also holds mega-rarities like Harpy Eagle, the endemic *dulcis* race of Rufous-vented Ground Cuckoo, and even the

previously unknown-in-life Atlantic forest form of Cryptic Forest-falcon was seen here in 2012. Night birding could produce Tawny-browed Owl, Black-capped Screech-Owl, Ocellated Poorwill, Solitary Tinamou, and with some luck perhaps also the Atlantic form of White-winged Potoo.

*Nights at CVRD Linhares.*

**Day 5: Linhares to Santa Teresa.**

We drive from Linhares up into the Espírito Santo uplands to the small town of Santa Teresa. En route we can stop at a scenic park where the endemic Serra Antwren and Velvety Black-Tyrant occur. King Vulture is often seen flying over the cliffs here, and there is even an outside chance for Orange-breasted Falcon. Sites around Santa Teresa hold East Brazilian Chachalaca, Wied's Tyrant-Manakin and Rufous-browed Solitaire, while the hummingbird feeders at our hotel on the outskirts of town are amongst the best in all of Brazil.

*Night at Pousada Vita Verde, Santa Teresa.*

**Day 6: Santa Teresa area.**

A visit to the Mello Leitão Museum in Santa Teresa should produce 8 and 12 species of hummers, including a couple which might not show up at our hotel. If we need another try for Wied's Tyrant-Manakin, we'll spend time at the best sites for the species. We can spend any down time enjoying the activity at the hummingbird feeders at the hotel, where more than 15 species of hummer have been recorded, including the fabulous Frilled Coquette.

*Night at Pousada Vita Verde, Santa Teresa.*

**Day 7: Santa Teresa to Pedra Azul.**

After a last look at the hummingbirds in the morning, we leave for the drive to Pedra Azul. If we missed Serra Antwren on Day 20, we can visit an area for that species. We may stop there for lunch anyway, and it's worth checking the feeders at the restaurant for East Brazilian Chachalaca amongst the more common thrushes and tanagers. Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle nests in this area annually, so we'll want to scan the rocky slopes for perched birds and watch the sky for soaring birds. In the afternoon we arrive at our hotel near the Pedra Azul State Park. We can try here for Giant Snipe in the early evening.

*Night at Pousada Vale da Mata, Pedra Azul.*

**Day 8: Mata dos Caetés.**

We have a full day to look for the enigmatic and Critically Endangered Cherry-throated Tanager. The tanager hangs on to existence by a thread, with only a couple of known locations for the species. The birds have only been spotted once or twice a year on average over the past few years, so our chances are rather slim. The forest at this site is terrific though, so we will have plenty else to look at while we're searching for the tanagers.

*Night at Pousada Vale da Mata, Pedra Azul.*

**Day 9: Return to Vitória.**

Depending on flight schedules, we may be able to spend another morning searching for Cherry-throated Tanager. The drive back to Vitória will take between 2 and 3 hours; if the group books international flights for Day 8, there likely won't be time for birding as we'll need to return in time to catch a flight to São Paulo for outbound international connections.

*End of tour.*

**PRICE:**

*Please enquire by email ([bradley@birdingmatogrosso.com](mailto:bradley@birdingmatogrosso.com) or [birdingmatogrosso@gmail.com](mailto:birdingmatogrosso@gmail.com)) for an up to date quote for this itinerary.* When you write, please indicate your ideal travel period and the number of participants in your party.

## VISAS AND ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A valid passport is required for entry into Brazil. It must be valid for at least six months past the time of your scheduled return. U.S., Canadian, and Australian citizens must obtain a visa before traveling to Brazil; if you do not have a visa, you will not be allowed to board the airplane. **British and South African citizens do not need a visa.** Other nationalities should check with the Brazilian consulate.

**Important:** You need to wait until 90 days prior to arrival in Brazil before applying for your visa.

For US citizens, please go to this website for more info on how to obtain a visa:

[http://cgwashington.itamaraty.gov.br/en-us/visa\\_general\\_information.xml](http://cgwashington.itamaraty.gov.br/en-us/visa_general_information.xml)

You will be given an entry card at immigration upon arrival; keep it with your passport for the entire trip in case the authorities ask to inspect it. By law you are required to carry your passport with you at all times. It is a good idea to make a photocopy of your passport photo pages and visa page, and to keep the copy in a different place from the passport during the tour.

## TIME ZONES

Throughout this itinerary we will be on Brasilia time (the time zone which covers the national capital and eastern Brazil), which is UTC-02:00.

## CURRENCY

Brazil's national currency is the Real (pronounced *hay-OW*, and pluralized as *reais*). The colourful banknotes each have a creature from the Brazilian fauna and come in denominations of: R\$1, R\$2, R\$5, R\$10, R\$20, R\$50 and R\$100. As of May 2017, the exchange rate against the U.S. Dollar was USD:BRL = 3.25 : 1

The Real is the only widely accepted currency in Brazil, although U.S. dollars may be accepted in more upscale tourist hotels and travel agencies (but expect any change to be given in local currency). The easiest way to obtain local currency is to use a debit or credit card at an automated bank machine linked to the Cirrus/Mastercard or Visa/Plus networks; most banks charge a nominal fee for these transactions. Otherwise you may want to change money at a foreign exchange kiosk in the airport where you arrive to Brazil.

Credit cards are fairly widely accepted in hotels, restaurants, and shops. Visa and Mastercard are the most popular cards. Traveler's cheques are nearly impossible to use these days in Brazil.

## HEALTH

**A current Yellow Fever vaccination is useful, as occasional outbreaks in remote areas of the country happen from time to time, but is no longer a requirement for travelers to Brazil unless you arriving directly from another country where Yellow Fever is endemic.** The shot is good for at least ten years (recent research shows that the vaccination actually provides protection for much longer), and your clinic or travel doctor should give you a stamped and dated yellow card that serves as proof of vaccination. Always keep your basic shots such as tetanus, polio, and diphtheria up to date. **Always consult a travel doctor in your home country well before the start of your trip for qualified professional advice on vaccination requirements.**

Bring all prescription and over-the-counter medicines with you in sufficient quantities to last the entire trip, as well as a copy of your prescriptions with generic drug names.

**All participants are urged to ensure they are covered with comprehensive travel insurance for the duration of the tour. We ask that you provide your policy number and insurer's contact information together with the participant details form sent to each member of the group separately.** There are parallel health providers in Brazil, with a public option and a private option. The public option is woefully underfunded and overcrowded, and any treatment or procedures required during the tour will be sought at private hospitals with all costs covered by the client.

## **ZIKA VIRUS**

The outbreak of the Zika virus garnered quite a lot of attention in the international media and amongst health professionals from around the world. In early 2016, the World Health Organization declared a global emergency due to its rapid proliferation in the Americas and suspected links between the virus and various birth defects; in November 2016 the WHO decided the Zika epidemic was no longer an emergency. The virus is spread by the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, a day-flying mosquito which typically lives near human habitation, particularly in more urbanized areas lacking in basic sanitation. Zika and its effects are still poorly understood, but in the majority of cases it appears to be a mild infection causing skin rash, fever, joint pains and headaches, with symptoms lasting up to a week. Given the suspected link between Zika and birth defects, it stands to reason that pregnant women – particularly those early in their terms – should carefully consider against any visit to a region where the disease is prevalent. *Aedes aegypti* is not typically encountered in pristine natural areas, and it is not a mosquito

## **CLIMATE**

Expect comfortable temperatures in montane regions such as at Trilha dos Tucanos, Intervalles, and Itatiaia, with daytime highs between 20 and 25 °C and lows between 10 and 15 °C. In lowland areas such as Cananéia and Ubatuba high temperatures reach the low 30s (mid to high 80s F).

It rains frequently in Atlantic forests of SE Brazil. The driest months are from May to September, with the most rain falling between December and February. It can rain at any time, and constant drizzle in montane areas is a frequent occurrence.

## **CLOTHING**

Dress casually and pack lightly. It can often be quite cool in the mountains in early mornings and at night, so a light jacket and layers are highly recommended. A good rain jacket or an umbrella you can use while birding is essential, as rain is to be expected at any time of year. A warm layer to wear under a light rain jacket is quite useful for cool and drizzly days. Avoid brightly coloured clothing when birding on forest trails. A wide-brimmed hat, preferably one that shades both your face and the back of the neck, is essential for sunny days.

Comfortable hiking boots or shoes are adequate for all terrain on this tour. Rubber boots (wellingtons) are not absolutely essential, but are typically useful, particularly between October and April. It is also a good idea to bring a pair of light footwear such as sandals or loafers to wear in the evenings and during travel days.

Long sleeves and trousers are best for forest trails. Chiggers (the larval form of harvest mites) and ticks are present at times on forest trails. To avoid being bitten, tuck your trouser cuffs into your socks and spray your ankles and waistband with insect repellent. The use of treated clothing such as Insect Shield field wear is also recommended.

There are swimming pools at a few of the hotels and lodges we will stay at during the tour. Bring swimwear if you would like to do a bit of swimming.

## **LAUNDRY**

Laundry service is available for a fee at most of the hotels where we will stay multiple nights, where charged on a per-piece basis. However, please note that in many cases laundry will be line-dried and thus same day service is often not possible.

## **PACKING LIST**

- Binoculars and telescope (**note: the leader will carry a scope at all times**);
- Insect Repellent (DEET-based is the most effective);
- Sunscreen (SPF 30+ is recommended) and lip balm with sunscreen;
- All prescription and other medications in sufficient quantities to last the entire trip, packed in your hand luggage. Also bring a copy of any prescriptions (preferably with generic medication names, as generics are widely available in Brazilian pharmacies);



- Small backpack or waist pack;
- Small flashlight and spare batteries;
- Portable alarm clock;
- Universal travel adaptor for electronics, in addition to battery chargers for your phone, cameras, and computer;
- Small re-sealable plastic bags to store equipment if we get caught in the rain;
- Dry bags for cameras and other equipment;
- Personal first aid kit with band-aids, anti-septic wash, pain medicines, anti-histamines, motion sickness pills, anti-itch cream, etc.
- An extra pair of glasses or contact lenses, if necessary;
- Notebooks and pencils for keeping notes during the trip;
- **Your passport and one or more photocopies of your passport, to be kept separately from the original document in case of loss or theft.**

## ACCOMMODATIONS

All accommodations on this tour are en-suite with hot showers. Hotels at lowland sites have air-conditioning in the rooms. Not all hotels in the highland areas have air-conditioning, but night-time temperatures are typically cool enough that air-conditioning isn't really necessary.

## ELECTRIC CURRENT

Electric current is not standardized in Brazil and is either 110V or 220V. Receptacles accept both round- and flat-pinned plugs. Three-prong plugs may need a three-to-two prong adaptor for use in some receptacles in Brazil. Recent changes in building code legislation have mandated the universal use of plugs with 3 round pins (see image); some but not all buildings have adapted to the new laws. A universal adapter is a very good idea in light of these changes. Simple adapters complying to the new legislation which fit 2-flat, 2-round, and 3-pin plugs are inexpensive and readily available in shops in Brazil.



*Most outlets at lodges are 110V; any 220V outlets are clearly labeled.*

## INTERNET

Internet access (wi-fi) is available at most lodges and hotels visited during the tour; with the exception of at Intervales State Park, . While things have improved markedly over the past 5 years, internet connections are still typically quite slow at Brazilian hotels, especially in rural area. If this is the case during your trip, it is worth taking a step back to remember we are here for the wildlife, not the wi-fi!



## SUGGESTED READING

### Birds:

**van Perlo, B. A Field Guide to the Birds of Brazil. Oxford University Press, 2009.**

This is the only field guide covering all of Brazil's birds (with the exception of the quirky All the Birds of Brazil by Deodato Souza), and as such is the guide preferred by most birders. It has its limitations, but illustrates most species with reasonable accuracy, has fairly good range maps, and is portable enough to fit into a day pack.

**Ridgely, R.S., J.A. Gwynne, G. Tudor, and M. Argel. Wildlife Conservation Society Birds of Brazil: The Atlantic Forest of Southeast Brazil. Cornell University Press, 2016.**

An excellent regional field guide with detailed maps and good descriptions which covers almost all of the birds we will see during this trip, with the possible exception of vagrant waterbirds we may find at Bacury. Carrying this and the van Perlo guide (see above) will ensure adequate coverage of the birds to be found on this tour. \*\* This is the recommended field guide for this itinerary.

**Ridgely, R.S. and G. Tudor. Field Guide to the Songbirds of South America: the Passerines. University of Texas Press, 2009.**

This abridged version of the landmark 2-volume publication The Birds of South America is an invaluable resource for dealing with the confusing furnarids, antbirds, and tyrant-flycatchers that proliferate in South America. Small enough to bring on a trip and leave in the hotel room, the plates and text are unrivalled and the book makes for interesting reading if only for the insights into the life history of many species, obtained during the authors' many years of fieldwork.

**Erize, F., J.R. Mata, and M. Rumboll. Birds of South America, Non-Passerines: Rheas to Woodpeckers. Princeton University Press, 2007.**

A 'pocket'-sized guide to the non-passerines of the entire continent. Taxonomy is fairly conservation, and the tiny maps are of little use, but the drawings are generally OK and this serves as a reasonably useful complement to Ridgely and Tudor.

### Mammals:

**Emmons, L.H. Neotropical Rainforest Mammals: a field guide. University of Chicago Press, 1997.**