



## Brazil: Southeast Atlantic Forest Endemics

October 17-November 5, 2024

Green-crowned Plovercrest



Planning a visit to Brazil can be a bit of an intimidating experience for birders who have never been there; actually it can be intimidating even for those who have. Brazil is the world's 5th largest country, nearly as big as the U.S., and that immense size alone presents a dizzying array of options. Compounding that dilemma is the country's lengthy bird list which currently stands at 1785 species, the third highest list of any country on earth. The truth is is that you could easily make 8-10 multi-week trips to Brazil and still not adequately cover all of its bases. It's simply too large and there are just too many endemic pockets separated either by enormous distances or impenetrable geographic barriers to allow easy and thorough coverage. How then does one decide where best to delve into this mammoth avian treasure trove without getting quickly overwhelmed by the size and diversity?

No doubt there is likely more than one good answer to that question, but one of them has to be a visit to the Atlantic forests of southeastern Brazil, an area where it is possible to find 170+ species endemic to this area and found nowhere else in the world. This endemic rich region of Brazil has to be on the short list of must-see destinations for any birder interested in maximizing their life lists and this tour will visit all of the area's best birding venues. Beginning in Sao Paulo and ending in Rio de Janeiro, the tour will spend time in a variety of habitats including coastal lowlands, montane cloud forest and high elevation grasslands. Though it requires moving around a fair bit, the habitat diversity and multiple venues will allow us to see a large percentage of the area's endemic birds, some of which are Brazil's rarest and most localized species.



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In addition to world class birding, this tour will also give participants who enjoy photography some excellent opportunities to capture images of many colorful tanagers, hummingbirds and psittacids at several elaborate feeding stations that we will visit. Many of these venues are geared towards "natural photography" with many constructed natural settings so that photos are not just of birds eating bananas on a flat board. Since this area lies south of the equator, our tour dates coincide with southeastern Brazil's spring season and many birds will be singing and preparing to breed. Migrants that depart during the winter months will be returning, so species numbers, diversity and breeding activities will be at their peak. Besides the innumerable birding possibilities, throughout the tour there will be magnificent scenery and excellent Brazilian cuisine. Perhaps after reading this you're still intimidated by the thought of where to begin in Brazil, but every journey has to begin somewhere. Why not begin this one with us next year in Brazil's southeastern Atlantic Forests. But be careful....birding in Brazil is addictive and this tour is surely going to make you want to return again and again to see the entire avian cast of characters that Brazil has to offer!



Gray-throated Warbling-Finch





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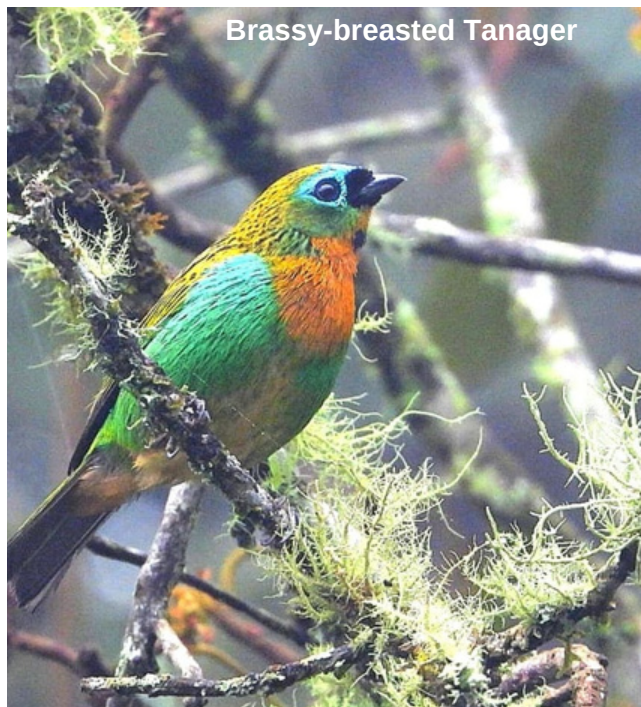
### DAILY ITINERARY

#### October 17-18, Days 1-2: Travel to Rio de Janeiro

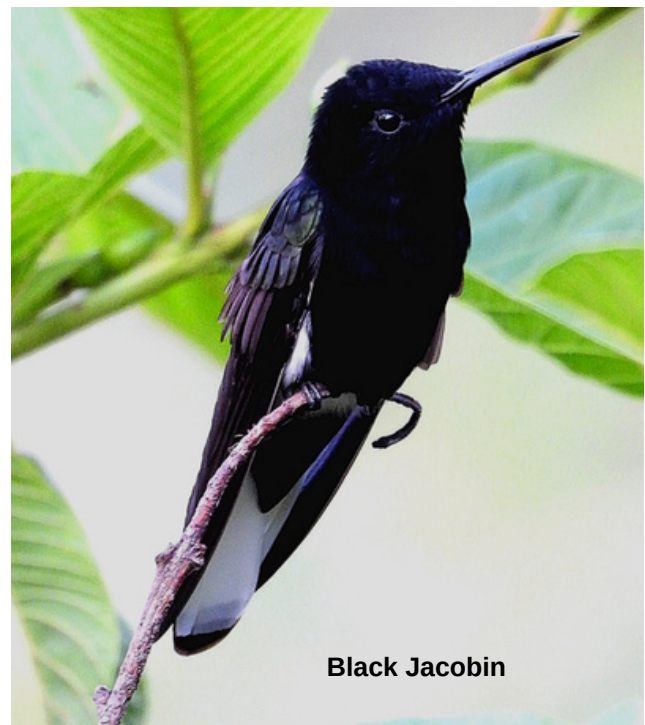
Most flights from the U.S. to Rio de Janeiro (airport code GIG) depart in the evening and arrive the following morning, so participants will need to leave the U.S. on October 17 in order to be in Rio de Janeiro on October 18th. Upon arrival you will transfer to our hotel, which has a free airport shuttle, and check in. Night of October 18 in Rio de Janeiro.

#### October 19, Day 3: Arraial do Cabo and Travel to REGUA

We'll begin our first full day with a 2.5 hour drive to Arraial do Cabo where we will search for the critically endangered Restinga Antwren. This species is confined to a few remnant patches of scrubby, seaside vegetation in Rio de Janeiro state, a habitat known as restinga, that is rapidly disappearing due to rampant coastal development. As of this writing the Restinga Antwren still maintains a foothold in this shrinking environment and our chances of seeing one are quite good. Other nice birds possible here include Hangnest Tody-Tyrant, Brazilian Tanager, Guira Cuckoo etc. But in the end our quarry here will be the Restinga Antwren and seeing such a rare and endangered bird will be a great way to begin this Brazilian adventure. By late morning, we will begin the drive to Reserva Ecologica de Guapiaçu (about 2.5 hours), a private family-owned reserve that protects over 9000 hectares of forest. Here we will look for one of the rarest birds available on the tour, the Shrike-like Cotinga. Finding this enigmatic cotinga will definitely be difficult and there will be no guarantees, but we will give it our best effort. Many other good birds are possible here, so there will be no lack of things to look at. Possibilities will include Yellow-eared Woodpecker, Rufous-capped Motmot, Southern Antpiper, Crescent-chested Puffbird,



Brassy-breasted Tanager



Black Jacobin



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### DAILY ITINERARY (CONT)

#### October 19, Day 3: Arraial do Cabo and Travel to REGUA

Sooretama Slaty-Antshrike, Chestnut-backed Antshrike, White-bibbed Antbird, Lesser Woodcreeper, Swallow-tailed Manakin, Ochre-lored Flycatcher, Moustached Wren, Chestnut-vented Conebill, Double-collared Seedeater and Maroon-bellied Parakeet. Night at Reserva Ecologica de Guapiaçu.

#### October 20-21, Days 4-5: Nova Friburgo

We'll have a bit of time this morning to a bit more birding around our lodge before driving about 1.5 hours to Nova Friburgo, our base for the next 2 nights. Like many of the venues on this tour, Nova Friburgo has a range restricted specialty, the Gray-winged Cotinga, that we will be our primary objective during our forays here. This is always a very difficult bird to find in the humid cloud environment it inhabits, but we will have an entire day and a half to devote to the hunt. We will be birding here at an elevation of over 6000 feet, the highest point we will reach during the tour, and there will many other birds available for us as we look for the cotinga. Black-and-gold Cotinga tends to be more conspicuous here than at other tour venues, so we will keep an eye out for that, as well as other species like Diademed Tanager, Buff-fronted and White-collared foliage-gleaners, White-browed and Robust woodpeckers, White-throated and Scaled woodcreepers, Bare-throated Bellbird and Red-ruffed Fruitcrow. Nights at Nova Friburgo.

#### October 22, Day 6: To Itatiaia NP

After breakfast, we will begin driving to our next destination, Itatiaia NP (about 4 hours). Established in 1936, this was Brazil's first national park, and it is a magical place for serious birders. Our lovely hotel in Itatiaia is situated at about 3,500 feet and is surrounded by forest. From our roomy, private chalets, each with its own balcony and fireplace you will have a breathtaking view of the surrounding valleys and peaks. The balcony outside the dining area is littered with a variety of nectar and fruit



Red-and-white Crake





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### DAILY ITINERARY (CONT)

#### October 22, Day 6: To Itatiaia NP

feeders that attract a steady stream of colorful tanagers and hummingbirds. Here dozens of Dusky-legged Guans patrol the property and when darkness falls we will fall asleep to the throaty calls of Tawny-browed Owl. Night in Itatiaia NP at Hotel do Ype.

#### October 23, Day 7: The Highlands of Itatiaia NP

After another early breakfast, we will drive about 45 minutes to a highland area of the park to look for another very special bird, the Itatiaia Spinetail. This is another of Brazil's endemic birds with a tiny geographic range, but luckily they are fairly easy to find once you reach the higher elevation grasslands in the park. We will bird our way up to the spinetail area passing through humid deciduous forests and bamboo thickets where we can look for other park specialties like Rufous-backed Antvireo, Serra do Mar Tyrannulet, Mouse-colored Tapaculo, Rufous-tailed Antbird, Black-capped Piprites, Blue-billed Black-Tyrant, Bay-chested Warbling-Finch, White-spotted Woodpecker, Large-tailed Antshrike, Hooded Siskin, Shear-tailed Gray Tyrant, Thick-billed Saltator and more. The road into the highlands is also a great place to see the endemic Green-crowned Plovercrest, a peculiar crested high elevation hummingbird. We will check a known lek and hope that the birds are active as if males are displaying they can be seen at an arm's length away. At higher elevations, where the habitat is somewhat reminiscent of Andean paramo, we'll search the grasslands for Great Pampa-Finch and Long-tailed Reed-Finch and keep our ears open for the haunting whistles of Black-and-gold Cotinga. In the late afternoon, as we are returning to the lodge we will stop at a small marshy area where pastures and marshy wetlands host open country species such as Guira Cuckoo, Burrowing Owl, Toco Toucan, White-eared Puffbird, White Woodpecker, Firewood-gatherer, Rufous-fronted Thornbird, Streamer-tailed Tyrant, Crested Black-Tyrant, White-rumped



**Saw-billed Hermit**



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### DAILY ITINERARY (CONT)

#### October 23, Day 7: The Highlands of Itatiaia NP (cont)

Monjita, Curl-crested Jay, Black-capped Donacobius, Yellowish Pipit, Yellow-rumped Marshbird, Wedge-tailed Grass-Finch, Chestnut-capped and Unicolored blackbirds, Cinnamon Tanager and Wing-banded Hornero. Upon our early evening return to the lodge, we may spend time looking for Tawny-browed Owl, a large owl closely related to the more widespread Spectacled Owl, but with a much reduced range restricted mostly to Brazil's southeastern Atlantic forests. The possibilities at Itatiaia are endless and whatever the results turn out to be, there is no doubt that it will leave everyone with lasting memories of a special place. Night in Itatiaia National Park at Hotel do Ypé.

#### October 24, Day 8: Itatiaia NP to Paraty

We'll have a bit of time this morning to bird a few productive areas near the lodge in an attempt to find any species we are missing. Possibilities near the abandoned Hotel Simon include Swallow-tailed Cotinga, Cliff Flycatcher, Orange-eyed Thornbird, White-shouldered Fire-eye, Spix's Spinetail, Brown Tanager etc. By late morning we will depart and make the 4-hour drive to the beach resort town of Paraty, well known for its preserved colonial architecture and popular beaches. Here we will search for one of the tour's rarest birds, the Black-hooded Antwren. For many years, this species was known from only from a few 19th century specimens and was unrecorded for more than 100 years before it was rediscovered in 1987 in a few areas north of Paraty. Other good birds in this area include Crescent-chested Puffbird, Blond-crested and Yellow-eared woodpeckers, Orange-Thornbird, Pale-browed Treehunter, Scaled and Squamate antbirds, Chestnut-backed Antshrike, Unicolored Antwren, Spot-breasted Antwren, Fork-tailed Pygmy-Tyrant and Half-collared Sparrow. Night in Paraty.

### Plain Parakeet







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### DAILY ITINERARY (CONT)

#### October 25, Day 9: Paraty to Ubatuba

This morning we'll spend a few hours birding the coastal areas around Paraty looking for species we have yet to see. Possibilities in the coastal mangroves will include Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Bicolored Conebill, Slaty-breasted Wood-Rail, Kelp Gull, Yellow-headed Caracara, Sandwich and South American terns and possibly some migrant shorebirds. After lunch we'll drive about an hour south to Ubatuba located in the northern coastal region of São Paulo state. Ubatuba is a place where the mountains literally meet the sea, as the slopes of the Serra do Mar descend precipitously to the shoreline and we will spend the next two nights in this lovely venue. Night in Ubatuba.

#### October 26, Day 10: All day birding the Ubatuba area

The forests around Ubatuba are considered to have some of the best birding in the entire Atlantic Forest region of Brazil and we will have an entire day to explore the area in search of its specialties. While in Ubatuba we will stay at nice family owned lodge with an excellent feeding program that attracts a nice variety of tanagers and hummingbirds. Some of the regular visitors to the feeders here include Saw-billed Hermit, Brazilian Ruby, Festive Coquette, Black Jacobin, Glittering-throated Emerald and White-chinned Sapphire. In the forested areas near Ubatuba, most of which are protected by Serra do Mar State Park we can search for Fork-tailed Pygmy-Tyrant, São Paulo Tyrannulet, Mantled Hawk, Slaty Bristlefront, Black-cheeked Gnateater, White-barred Piculet, Yellow-throated Woodpecker, Unicolored Antwren, Scaled Antbird, Salvadori's Antwren, Pin-tailed Manakin and Buff-throated Purpletuff. It is sure to be a full day filled with many first time avian encounters for everyone. Night at Ubatuba.



Long-tufted Screech-Owl



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### DAILY ITINERARY (CONT)

#### October 27, Day 11: Morning at Ubatuba and Transfer to Campos do Jordão

After a bit of cleanup birding around Ubatuba, we will drive about 2.5 hours to Campos do Jordão. The area around Campos do Jordão is characterized by the extensive araucaria forests. Araucaria trees are peculiar looking evergreen, coniferous trees of which several species are endemic to Brazilian highlands. This unique Brazilian habitat hosts a particular set of birds that are best found in the areas around Campos do Jordão and we will begin our quest for them upon our arrival this afternoon. Some of the species we hope to see here include Araucaria Tit-Spinetail, Black Hawk-Eagle, Brown-breasted Pygmy-Tyrant and Greenish Tyrannulet. Night in Campos do Jordão.

#### October 28, Day 12: Campos do Jordão and Transfer to Salesópolis

Though there will be many exciting birds available this morning at Campos do Jordão, our primary target will be the globally threatened Vinaceous-breasted Parrot, a near Brazilian endemic whose range barely enters neighboring Paraguay. This parrot is closely associated with araucaria forests and a decent sized population occurs in these woodlands around Campos do Jordão, and with luck we will be able to find one. While searching for Vinaceous-breasted Parrot we will also have chances to see Black-capped Piprites, Serra do Mar Tyrannulet, Thick-billed Saltator, Diademed Tanager, Hellmayr's Pipit, Hooded Siskin and if we are very, very fortunate, Swallow-tailed Cotinga. After a full morning of birding at Campos do Jordão we will drive 2.5 hours to our next destination, Salesópolis. Night in Salesópolis.

#### October 29, Day 13: Salesópolis and Transfer to Peruipe

The main target bird in the Salesópolis is the São Paulo form of the Marsh Antwren. Though currently considered conspecific with the Marsh Antwren found in the Brazilian state of Paraná, this wetland antwren is thought by many taxonomists to be a distinct species and is a likely candidate for



Black-goggled Tanager





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### DAILY ITINERARY (CONT)

#### October 29, Day 13: Salesopolis and Transfer to Peruipe (cont)

a future split. Even without an impending split, the entire Marsh Antwren complex is endemic to Brazil and the Sao Paulo form is known from only a few small marshes in São Paulo state, so it is a highly desirable species to find. We will spend a few hours this morning in a wetland area outside Salesopolis trying to catch a glimpse of this elusive bird. Near the town of Salesopolis there is another excellent feeding station that we will visit where normally shy birds like Red-and-white Crake and Brown Tinamou are possible to see at close range. Other specialties of the Salesopolis area we might encounter include Blackish-blue Seedeater, Black-legged Dacnis, Orange-breasted Thornbird, Spix's Spinetail and Rufous-capped Antshrike. After a full morning in and around Salesopolis we will drive south 3.5 hours to the coastal town of Peruipe with plans to arrive in time for some late afternoon birding where exciting possibilities like Saw-billed Hermit, Red-tailed Parrot, Spot-billed and Saffron toucanets, Buff-bellied Puffbird and Chestnut-bellied Euphonia can be seen. If the weather cooperates and the group energy allows, we may stay out until sunset and look for Black-capped Screech-Owl. Night in Peruipe.

#### October 30, Day 14: Morning at Peruipe and Transfer to Piracicaba

This morning we will have the pleasure of visiting Mochileiros Hostel e Observação Aves, one of the most impressive tropical bird feeding sites you will ever witness. The hostel's owner, Fabio Barata, who will also serve as our local guide, has spent years developing and nurturing this site and it will surely be one of the highlights of your Brazilian experience. The banana, nectar and seed feeders here attract an incredible diversity of species including Plain Parakeet, Blond-crested and Green-barred woodpeckers, Sombre Hummingbird, Bananaquit, Saffron Finch, Chestnut-bellied and Violaceous euphonias, Slaty-breasted Wood-Rail, Creamy-bellied and Pale-breasted thrush and Green-headed, Sayaca, Golden-chevroned, Olive-green and Brazilian tanagers. After sampling the birds at the hostel we will spend some time birding the residential streets around the hostel in search of species like Long-billed Wren, Rufous-margined Antwren,





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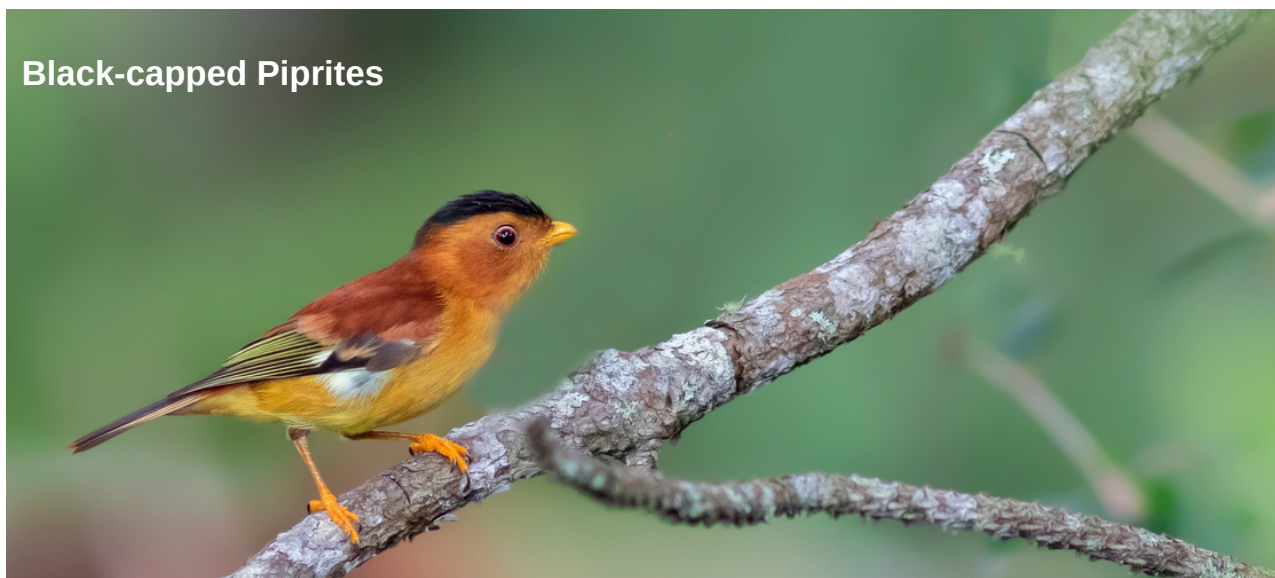
### DAILY ITINERARY (CONT)

#### October 30, Day 14: Morning at Peruibe and Transfer to Piracicaba (cont)

Gray-headed Tody-Flycatcher and White-bearded Manakin. We will conclude our time in Peruibe in a coastal mangrove forest where species like Black-backed Tanager, Bicolored Conebill and Little Wood-Rail are possible. It will be difficult to extract ourselves from all of the great birding in Peruibe, but around lunchtime we will have to start the 4.5 hours drive to Tanqua, located on the edge of a large wetland area formed by flooding from the Piracicaba River. This area was nearly lost to birders about 10 years ago when proposed government dam projects threatened to inundate the entire wetland with an enormous lake. This proposed project energized Brazilian birders and environmentalists and widespread protests resulted in the abandonment of the dam project. Since then, the wetlands around Tanquã have become an important birding destination for all birders visiting this part of Brazil. We will try to arrive in time to spend a few hours exploring the margins of the wetland where we might see species like Fulvous, White-faced and Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks, Silver Teal, White-cheeked Pintail, Rosy-billed Pochard, Blackish and Plumbeous rails, Pantanal Snipe, Rufescent Tiger-Heron, Cocoi and Whistling herons, Purple Gallinule, Limpkin and much more. Night in Tanqua.

#### October 31, Day 15: Morning at Tanqua and Transfer to Intervalles SP

Early this morning we will take a short boat trip into the Tanquã wetlands where our primary target bird will be the tiny and secretive Yellow-breasted Crake. This small sparrow-sized crake usually skulks in dense wetland vegetation and is notoriously difficult to see, but birders at Piracicaba have had unusually good luck seeing it and we will do our best to get satisfactory views this morning. Of course birding wetlands vis boat is always exciting and generally produces a lengthy list so this is sure to be an enjoyable morning. At the conclusion of our boat trip we will begin driving to one of the tour's most exciting venues, Intervalles SP where we will spend the next three nights. Night at Intervalles.







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### DAILY ITINERARY (CONT)

#### November 1-2, Days 16-17: Intervalles SP

. Intervalles is surely one of Brazil's best birding venues with over 500 species having been recorded to date and we will have almost 3 full days to explore all that the park has to offer. Here we will also have the help of a local guide who is intimately familiar with the park trails and knows exactly where to look for some of the more difficult species like Slaty Bristlefront, Variegated Antpitta, Araucaria Tit-Spintail, Serra do Mar Tyrant-Manakin, White-breasted Tapaculo, Purple-crowned Plovercrest, White-collared Foliage-gleaner, Blond-crested Woodpecker, Black-cheeked Gnateater, Half-collared Sparrow, Slaty-breasted Wood-Rail and São Paulo Tyrannulet. Intervalles hosts a rich variety of Thamnophilids and while we are there we will have chances for Giant, White-bearded, Large-tailed, Tufted, Variable and Spot-backed antshrikes and Bertoni's, Dusky-tailed, Ferruginous, Ochre-rumped and Squamate antbirds. While at Intervalles we will stay a guesthouse inside the park with excellent birding opportunities right outside our doors. Our meals will be taken at a small family run restaurant just outside the park boundaries and there a couple of strategically placed bananas will attract an amazing variety of birds including Azure-shouldered, Magpie, Brazilian, Black-goggled, Olive-green and Green-headed tanagers, Golden-winged and Red-rumped caciques and Green-winged Saltator. Furthermore, the local guides at Intervalles have several feeding stations in the park that allow birders to get excellent views of seldom seen species like Spot-winged Wood-Quail, Solitary Tinamou and Red-and-white Crake. And if all of that is not enough, evening forays in the park might produce Long-tufted Screech-Owl, Rusty-barred Owl and Long-trained Nightjar. The only guarantee we can make about Intervalles is that when it comes time to leave, three days will have seemed woefully inadequate. Nights at Intervalles State Park.







## Brazil: Southeast Atlantic Forest Endemics

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### DAILY ITINERARY (CONT)

#### November 3, Day 18: Intervalles to PETAR

We'll take an early breakfast this morning and then drive about 2 hours north to the Touristic State Park of Alto Ribeira, known to Brazilians by the acronym PETAR. Besides offering great birding, this park is well known for its numerous caves, waterfalls and archaeological sites. Encompassing approximately 250,000 hectares, it is one of Brazil's largest state parks and will provide a fabulous conclusion to our Atlantic Forest tour. With the help of a guide from one of the local indigenous communities, we will search here for species like Such's Anthrush, Variegated Antpitta, Fasciated Tiger-Heron, Bay-ringed Tyrannulet, Blue-bellied Parrot, Pavonine Cuckoo and many more. The local guides here often know where active raptor nests are located and if we are lucky we may have chances to see Ornate Hawk-Eagle feeding chicks. PETAR is also the best place on our tour route to see the endemic Black-headed Berryeater, a large endemic canopy dwelling cotinga found only in Brazil's southeastern humid forests. Though much of the morning will be spent driving to PETAR, we will have the entire afternoon to begin delving into the park's birdlife. Night at Alto Ribeira State Park.

#### November 4, Day 19: PETAR and transfer to Sao Paulo

We'll spend several final hours at PETAR this morning before making the long 5-hour drive to Sao Paulo where we will have a farewell dinner, do a final bird tally and prepare for the flights home. Night in Sao Paulo.







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### DAILY ITINERARY (CONT)

#### November 5, Day 20 : Flights home

The tour ends today with flights back to the U.S. Participants can plan their travel home from São Paulo at anytime today.

### TOUR INFORMATION

#### Tour Size

This tour will be limited to 7 participants.

#### Tour Cost

The cost for this tour will be \$6295 double occupancy from Rio de Janeiro. There will be a \$600 single supplement charge for anyone wishing to room alone or for whom we cannot arrange a roommate. The price includes all lodging beginning with Day 2 in Rio de Janeiro through Day 19 at San Pãulo guide serve and ground transportation throughout, all boat trips and park entrance fees, meals beginning with dinner on Day 2 through breakfast on Day 20. It does not include international airfare, tips, alcoholic drinks, laundry or any items of a personal nature.

#### Tour Registration

To register for this tour, please send a signed and completed registration form to Otus asio Tours at 900 Hillsborough Road in Chapel Hill NC 27516. The deposit for this tour is \$500 per person. The deposit is payable by check; credit cards are not accepted. The balance of the tour fee is due 90 days prior to the tour departure date and final invoices will be sent in July 2024.

### Cancellations & Refunds

Cancellation penalties and refunds are based on the following schedule:

90 or more days before the tour departure date (July 17, 2024 or before): 50% of the deposit will be refunded

Less than 90 days before the departure date (July 18, 2024 or later) and after full payment has been received, refunds will be limited to that which can be recouped from vendors, airlines and booking agencies. This may be as little as 25% of the amount paid.

Registrants are strongly encouraged to consider purchasing trip insurance to protect them from financial loss due to their cancellation of the tour less than 90 days prior to departure.



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## Tour Information (CONT)

### Travel Insurance

Otus asio Tours strongly recommends the purchase of travel insurance to protect you against illness, injury or any unexpected or unforeseen situation that would prevent you from participating in a tour for which you have made deposits or payments. Most policies require that purchase be made soon after your initial deposit. There are many reputable travel insurance vendors, but we recommend Ripcord which can be purchased through Redpoint Travel Protection.

<https://redpointtravelprotection.com/plan/ripcord/>

Currently Redpoint is treating Covid related illness as it would any other illness that might prevent someone from traveling. Further information regarding their Covid policies can be found at their Covid FAQ page: [https://redpointtravelprotection.com/covid\\_19\\_faq/](https://redpointtravelprotection.com/covid_19_faq/)

### Climate

The weather during this tour will be variable due to the elevational gradients we will spend time in. Expected temperatures will range from the 50's (mornings) to possibly as high as the 90's. Rain is not common at this season, but showers can occur at anytime especially higher in the mountains, so having rain gear is essential. In the coastal areas it will be warm to hot. Appropriate footwear will be a good sturdy pair of hiking boots that should suffice most of the time. Some of the trails at Intervalles might be a bit muddy, so bringing a pair of mud boots is a good idea.

### Clothing

Light weight field clothing and casual attire are appropriate for this tour. A couple of pairs of quick dry lightweight pants and shirts that can be washed in the evening will help minimize your packing. We recommend long-sleeved shirts and long pants for protection from biting insects and the sun. Please refrain from wearing brightly colored or white clothing as it tends to frighten the birds. Mosquitoes should not be much of an issue, since we will be visiting during the dry season, but one should always be prepared, so be sure to pack a good supply of insect repellent as well as plenty of sunscreen. Rubber boots are not mandatory, however they may come in handy especially at Intervalles. Laundry service will be available at some of our lodges, but note that there are several one night stays on this tour.

### Equipment

The only essential equipment for this tour is a good pair of binoculars. The leader will have a spotting scope for the group to use, but feel free to bring along if you wish to do so. Other important items would be sunglasses, lip balm, sunscreen and a refillable water bottle.





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## Tour Information (CONT)

### Pace

In general terms this is not a physically demanding tour. Most of our birding will be from vehicles or along solid dirt tracks and decent trails. At Nova Friburgo we will do some hiking at elevations over 6000 feet that will involve some up and down, but anyone in reasonably good condition should have no trouble. The hardest part of the tour will be the long days as we will begin early on a daily basis and will be in the field much of the day. It can be very tiring to be on your feet for hours at a time and moving at a birder's pace, but nothing we do will require extreme physical exertion. However everyone should be prepared for long, full days and some long drives. The drives should not be overly uncomfortable as Brazil has a well-maintained road system and we will be traveling in an air-conditioned van. On many days the option of simply relaxing at the hotel will be available, but this will only be possible when we are staying multiple nights at the same lodge. There will always be drinking water available in the vehicle so most of the time it will not be necessary to carry water.

## Entry into Brazil

Beginning in October 2023, U.S. citizens will be required to obtain a visa for entry into Brazil. Instructions for visa application will be sent to all registrants later this year. The only other document needed is a passport that is valid for 6 months beyond the date of your departure from Brazil. You will need to check the U.S. embassy website to learn of any current entry requirements related to Covid i.e. vaccination status etc.

## Health

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that all travelers be up to date on routine vaccinations. These include the measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine, the diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis vaccine, the varicella (chickenpox) vaccine, the polio vaccine, and your yearly flu shot. They further recommend that most travelers have protection against Hepatitis A and Typhoid. Please contact your doctor well in advance of your tour's departure as some medications must be initiated weeks before the period of possible exposure.

The most current information about travelers' health recommendations can be found on the CDC's Travel Health website at <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/>.

**Malaria:** Malaria is present, including the chloroquine-resistant strain. Please consult your doctor or local travel clinic for recommendations.

Yellow Fever is recommended for most individuals, but not required for entry.

Tap water in Brazil is not potable and should be avoided.



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## Tour Information (CONT)

### Electricity

The electrical current in Brazil ranges from 110V to 220V, depending on the region of the country. Electrical outlets are one of four standard socket types: "A," "B," "C," and "N." Types of outlets vary widely across the country, so it is strongly recommended that you purchase a plug adaptor kit. These are available through Amazon or at any store that sells travel related equipment.

### Internet Access

Wifi will be available throughout the tour although the signal may be poor at times. Generally the lodges we are using have very good connectivity, but the wifi often is only available in the restaurant areas or in the hotel lobby.

### Field Guides

The suggested field guide to use for this tour is:

Robert S. Ridgely, John A. Gwynne, Guy Tudor & Martha Argel. Wildlife Conservation Society Birds of Brazil: The Atlantic Forest of Southeast Brazil including São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro. Ithaca and London: Comstock Publishing Associates, 2016. This guide will cover the birds at Itatiaia NP. It's taxonomy is a bit more current than the previous book, but again you will be furnished with a list of current taxonomic updates.

Merlin App: If you're technically inclined and prefer your Smartphone to a hard field guide, Merlin's Brazil: Central-West & Brazil: Southeast packs will cover all of the birds encountered on this tour.

In recent years this has become a very popular option among birders and it eliminates the need to carry a heavy guide in the field. Once the Merlin app has been downloaded onto your smartphone, it will work anywhere with or without an internet connection.

### Information

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