



VICTOR EMANUEL NATURE TOURS

ITINERARY

SOUTHEASTERN BRAZIL: BEST OF THE ATLANTIC FOREST

OCTOBER 20–NOVEMBER 6, 2026

© 2025



Pin-tailed Manakin (male), one of more than 150 Atlantic Forest endemic birds possible on this tour
Photographed at Itatiaia National Park © Kevin Zimmer

South America's largest country is also one of its richest for birds. Nowhere is this more apparent than in southeastern Brazil, where habitats range from coastal rain forest and wet pampas to montane cloud forest and plateau grassland. Long isolated from Amazonia by the dry brushlands of central Brazil (left in the wake of receding glaciers during the last ice age), the avifauna of southeast Brazil has radiated in a myriad of directions. Today there are more than

170 species of regional endemics that are confined to the Atlantic Forest and found nowhere else in the world. This truly is a must destination for birders.

This tour centers on what we consider to be the heart of Brazil's Atlantic Forest, and more specifically, the heart of the famed Serra do Mar. Our itinerary will spend time in both coastal lowlands and montane forest, as we seek a wide range of Atlantic Forest endemics, among them some of the rarest and most localized of Brazilian specialties. Although we will move around a fair bit, we'll enjoy extended stays of six and five nights at each of two primary locales, and there will be no internal flights to contend with. In the process, we'll spend extended time at what we consider to be the two finest locales for birding the Atlantic Forest, and, indeed, two of the very best birding areas in all of South America—Intervales State Park and Itatiaia National Park. This tour also includes time at Ubatuba, an area where VENT pioneered birding tours in the early 1990s, as well as a visit to nearby Pereque. Along the way, we should see an impressive number of regional endemics, among them such prizes as Mantled and White-necked hawks; Rusty-barred and Tawny-browed owls; Long-trained Nightjar; Saw-billed Hermit; Festive (endemic nominate subspecies) and Frilled coquettes; Purple-crowned and Green-crowned plovercrests; Crescent-chested Puffbird; Black-billed Scythebill; Orange-eyed and Orange-breasted thornbirds; Itatiaia Spinetail (*Thistletail*); Giant, Tufted, Large-tailed, Spot-backed and White-bearded antshrikes; Black-hooded and Unicolored antwrens; Black-cheeked Gnatcatcher; Slaty Bristlefront; Spotted Bambooowren; Buff-throated Purpletuft; Black-and-gold Cotinga; Black-capped Piprites; Fork-tailed Pygmy-Tyrant; Half-collared Sparrow; and more hummingbirds, tyrannulets and tanagers than you can shake a stick at! We'll also have excellent chances of finding some of the least predictable and hardest-to-find specialties of the region, including Black-fronted Piping-Guan, Blue-bellied Parrot, Helmeted Woodpecker, Salvadori's Antwren, Swallow-tailed Cotinga and Black-legged Dacnis.

A variety of habitats encompassing some spectacular scenery; a pleasant, largely temperate climate; good food and accommodations throughout; and one of the world's most unique and endangered avifaunas combine to make southeastern Brazil an unforgettable birding experience.

October 20-21, Days 1-2: Travel to São Paulo; Drive to Intervales State Park. There are direct overnight flights from Los Angeles, Dallas/Ft. Worth, Miami, and other cities which will depart on October 20 and arrive in São Paulo's Guarulhos International Airport (airport code GRU) on the morning of October 21. Participants arriving on this day will clear immigrations and customs, whereupon they will be met by representatives of our ground agent outside of baggage claim. **Participants should select flights scheduled to arrive no later than 10:30 a.m.** in order to coordinate with the group transfer to Intervales. **Participants wishing to avoid the risk of misconnecting should strongly consider arriving in São Paulo on or before October 20, and spending the night at an airport-area hotel, which would also provide an opportunity to begin the tour rested and recovered from the overnight air travel.** Upon request, VENT will be happy to assist with these arrangements.

Once the entire group has convened on October 21, we will allow a brief time for restroom breaks, money exchange, etc., before beginning our five-hour drive to Intervales (with lunch en route). We will hope to arrive

at Intervales in the late afternoon, with time to check into our rooms before dusk, which would allow (weather permitting) for a first try at seeing the Long-trained Nightjar and other nightbirds, prior to dinner.

NIGHT (October 21): Intervales State Park



The spectacular and endemic Long-trained Nightjar is one of the primary targets of our planned night birding excursion at Intervales State Park. © Kevin J. Zimmer



Intervales State Park's Pica-Pau House © Andrew Whittaker

October 22-26, Days 3-7: Intervales State Park.

We will have five full days to enjoy the avian riches of Intervales State Park. Our daily schedule will remain completely flexible, in order to take full advantage of current conditions on the ground, as well as to allow additional opportunities for finding some of the tougher target species. We will offer optional night birding excursions on two or more nights. Foremost among the nocturnal possibilities is the spectacular Long-trained Nightjar, whose tail has to be seen to be believed. Other night bird possibilities include Rusty-barred Owl, Mottled Owl, Stygian Owl (present some years, but not others) and Variable (Black-capped) (rare), Long-tufted (rare) and Tropical screech-owls.

Mornings will find us working a variety of jeep tracks through lush, foothill Atlantic Forest. These tracks are ideal for groups—wide enough to comfortably accommodate everyone, yet narrow enough to be part of the surrounding forest. Constantly moving mixed-species flocks of colorful tanagers (including Brassy-breasted, Chestnut-backed, Red-necked, Green-headed, Diademed and Azure-shouldered) and challenging woodcreepers, foliage-gleaners and tyrannulets will compete for our attention with the myriad of understory species, many of which will require special efforts to see. We will be especially alert to the presence of fruiting trees, which could serve as magnets for Black-fronted Piping-Guans or Blue-bellied and Pileated (Red-capped) parrots. The forest here is particularly rich in bamboo, whole stands of which periodically go to seed,



Rusty-barred Owl, yet another regional endemic that we hope to see at Intervales State Park © Kevin J. Zimmer

attracting numbers of nomadic bamboo-specialists such as Temminck's, Buffy-fronted, and Blackish-blue seedeaters; and Uniform Finch. In between seeding events, these species can be essentially missing in action, sometimes going several consecutive years without being seen at any given site.

Special attention will be devoted to searching for the Helmeted Woodpecker, one of the rarest and most localized of all Atlantic Forest endemics, but one which seems to be more often found at Intervales than elsewhere, and one which we've seen on more than 50% of our visits. We will plan to visit leks of two endemic hummingbirds, the Dusky-throated Hermit and the Purple-crowned Plovercrest.

Intervales is a particularly good spot for several of the more localized Atlantic Forest endemics, among them, Spot-winged Wood-Quail, White-bearded Antshrike, Squamate Antbird, Slaty Bristlefront (southern vocal type, soon to be described as a new species), Spotted Bambooowren, Atlantic Royal Flycatcher, Oustalet's Tyrannulet, Bay-ringed Tyrannulet, Red-ruffed Fruitcrow, and Half-collared Sparrow. Likewise,

the spectacular Swallow-tailed Cotinga and poorly known Black-legged Dacnis are perhaps better found here than anywhere else in their ranges and both species often nest near the clearing surrounding the dining hall. Southeast Brazil is known for being home to some spectacular large antshrikes—the so-called “Big Five” (Giant, Large-tailed, Tufted, Spot-backed and White-bearded)—and Intervales is an excellent spot for finding all five. All of our birding is likely to be conducted with the far-carrying and distinctive songs of Bare-throated Bellbirds, Rufous-tailed Attilas and Hooded Berryeaters as a vocal backdrop.

In between “target birds,” we’ll likely be up to our ears in the more common and widespread Atlantic Forest species. Intervales may provide the best cross-section of Atlantic Forest birds to be found in a single locale!



The endangered Black-fronted Piping-Guan is one of the most sought-after of the many regional endemics to be found at Intervales State Park. © Kevin J. Zimmer



Intervales State Park is one of the best places to see the unique (it has its own genus!), endemic, Blue-bellied Parrot, although we are only rarely lucky enough to get such great views of a perched male as this. © Kevin J.

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NIGHTS: Intervales State Park



The Helmeted Woodpecker (male pictured here) is one of the rarest and most difficult to find of all the Atlantic Forest endemics. It was only recently moved to the genus *Celeus*, after previously having been incorrectly placed in the genus *Dryocopus*. Its strong plumage similarities to the sympatric and much larger Robust and Lineated woodpeckers are thought to represent an example of Interspecific Social Dominance Mimicry (ISDM), an evolutionary adaption to avoid aggression from similar looking, but larger and more dominant species. © Kevin J. Zimmer



White-bearded Antshrike (male), a rare bamboo-specialist, and one that we have not failed to see on our Southeastern Brazil tours since 1993 © Kevin J. Zimmer

October 27, Day 8:
Intervales to Ubatuba, with Afternoon Birding Near Moji das Cruzes. Today will be devoted mostly to travel with a fairly early start, as we have a long drive from Intervales to Ubatuba, via São Paulo. We'll break up the drive with a stop at some marshes near Moji das Cruzes

and Biritiba-Mirim, where we will search for the recently described endemic “São Paulo” Antwren. This marsh-dwelling antwren is currently considered to represent a distinctive and previously unknown subspecies of the Marsh (Paraná) Antwren of Paraná and Santa Catarina, and is known from only a couple of marshes in São Paulo state. Other bird possibilities from these marshes include Red-and-white Crake, Blackish Rail, Orange-breasted Thornbird, Spix’s Spinetail, Rufous-capped Antshrike, Bran-colored Flycatcher, Masked Yellowthroat and Brazilian Tanager.



Red-and-white Crake, a lovely “phantom of the marsh” that we often connect with at one of our stops during the tour © Kevin J. Zimmer



The dazzling Purple-crowned Plovercrest is best found at leks, where multiple males appear daily to display for the purpose of attracting females. There are a couple of well-known leks of this species in Intervales State Park. © Andrew Whittaker

We expect to arrive at the lovely beach resort of Ubatuba, situated in the northern coastal lowlands of São Paulo state, by early evening. Here, the forested slopes of the Serra do Mar descend precipitously to the convoluted coastline, with its series of deep blue bays fringed by sandy beaches and sprinkled with forested near-shore islands.

NIGHT: Pousada Marazul, Ubatuba

October 28-29, Days 9-10:

Ubatuba Area. Although our exact schedule will remain somewhat flexible for these two days, one morning will be devoted to exploring the rich forests of Fazenda Angelim and possibly the adjacent Fazenda Capricornio. These are excellent spots for seeing the endemic Buff-throated Purpletuft, the tiniest member of the genus *Iodopleura*, a group formerly placed with the cotingas, but now considered to be of uncertain taxonomic affinities. Other possibilities here include Mantled and White-necked hawks, Spot-billed Toucanet, Buff-bellied and Crescent-chested puffbirds, Pale-browed Treehunter (subspecies *C. l. holti*, a likely split from more northern nominate *leucophrys*), Squamate Antbird, Salvadori's Antwren, Black-cheeked Gnatcatcher, Fork-tailed Pygmy-Tyrant and Black-legged Dacnis.



Spot-winged Wood-Quail is one of many elusive forest birds at Intervales that will require a focused effort to see. © Kevin J. Zimmer

Afternoon plans are certain to include a visit to Sítio Folha Seca, another privately owned property that boasts one of the most spectacular hummingbird shows that we have ever seen. Among the 10-15 species (and hundreds of individuals) that we can expect to see are the spectacular Saw-billed Hermit and Festive Coquette—in fact, this is arguably the best place in the world to see both of these Atlantic Forest endemics. In addition to the masses of hummingbirds swarming the feeders for sugar water, the fruit feeders at Folha Seca serve to attract a steady stream of various colorful frugivores, including Red-necked, Green-headed, and Ruby-crowned tanagers; Blue Dacnis; Green Honeycreeper; and Chestnut-bellied and Violaceous euphonias.



Festive Coquette (nominate subspecies) is probably more readily seen at Sítio Folha Seca than at any other location in the world. © Kevin J. Zimmer



Red-necked Tanager is, arguably, the most striking of the many colorful frugivores that attend the feeders at Sítio Folha Seca © Kevin J. Zimmer

NIGHTS: Pousada Marazul, Ubatuba



The Large-tailed Antshrike (male pictured here) is a sublimely beautiful endemic that is typical of higher elevation bamboo thickets and shrubby forest borders. © Kevin J. Zimmer



Several sites in the Ubatuba region are particularly good places to see the handsome Black-cheeked Gnatcatcher, the male of which, is pictured here © Kevin Zimmer

Bambooowren, Slaty Bristlefront (northern vocal type), Bay-ringed Tyrannulet, Eye-ringed Tody-Tyrant and ventbird.com

October 30, Day 11: Ubatuba to Paraty. We'll probably spend most of this morning birding the Ubatuba area, likely concentrating our efforts along the Folha Seca Road. The sandy soil here supports a somewhat stunted forest with a slightly different mix of birds from that found on the slopes of the nearby Serra do Mar. Among the possibilities are Orange-eyed Thornbird, Tawny-throated and Rufous-breasted leaffossers, Black-capped Foliage-gleaner, Spot-backed Antshrike, Unicolored Antwren, Scaled Antbird, Black-cheeked Gnatcatcher, Spotted

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Long-billed Wren. When our Ubatuba birding is concluded, we'll make the short (about one hour) drive north to the historic coastal town of Paraty, where we will plan to visit some stands of mangrove forest to look for Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Gray-cowled Wood-Rail and Bicolored Conebill, before checking into our hotel and enjoying a nice sea food dinner.

NIGHT: Pousada da Principe, Paraty

October 31, Day 12: Morning Birding at Perequ , Followed by Afternoon Drive to Itatiaia National Park.

This morning, we will journey a short distance north, to bird the second growth forest and overgrown plantations in the coastal lowlands near Perequ . Our primary target will be the endangered and striking Black-hooded Antwren, a species long known from only ca. twenty 19th century specimens, and then unrecorded for more than 100 years until its rediscovery in 1987. Besides being a great place for the antwren, this area is excellent for Crescent-chested Puffbird, Blond-crested and Yellow-eared woodpeckers, Orange-eyed Thornbird, Pale-browed Treehunter, Scaled and Squamate antbirds, Chestnut-backed Antshrike, Unicolored Antwren, Spot-breasted Antvireo, Fork-tailed Pygmy-Tyrant, Half-collared Sparrow and numerous species of tanagers.

Most of the rest of our day will be spent driving to Itatiaia (about four to five hours). Upon arrival at the park, we will wind our way up to near the top of the main park road. Our lovely hotel, to which we have been bringing groups since the 1980s, is family-owned and operated. Situated at about 3,500 ft. and surrounded by forest, with an expansive view of both the upper and lower slopes, it is an idyllic base for birders. We'll be quartered in roomy, private chalets, each with its own balcony and fireplace. The balcony outside of the dining room is lined with hummingbird feeders that attract a number of hummingbirds and some tanagers. We may fall asleep to the eerie calls of Tawny-browed Owls, and awaken to the pre-dawn wing-rattling of Dusky-legged Guans! This is truly a magical spot.



The Black-hooded Antwren, lost to science for over 100 years, was rediscovered in 1987, and now is a regularly seen attraction of our visits to Perequ . © Kevin J. Zimmer



Few woodpeckers are fancier in appearance than the aptly named Blond-crested Woodpecker, a species that we usually see at Intervales, Ubatuba, and Pereque.

© Kevin J. Zimmer

the endemic Itatiaia Spinetail (Thistletail), and the spritely endemic Gray-backed Tachuri, which was found for the first time on our 2017 trip, and then again in 2018. Most of our time will be spent farther down in the lovely, bamboo-rich forest. The list of special birds here is long and should begin with the spectacular Black-and-gold Cotinga. Other possibilities include Tawny-browed Owl; Rufous-capped Motmot; Saffron Toucanet; White-browed Woodpecker; Buff-fronted, White-browed, and Buff-browed foliage-gleaners; Rufous-breasted Leafosser; Large-tailed, Tufted, White-bearded and Giant antshrikes; Spot-breasted and Rufous-backed antvireos; Star-throated Antwren; Rufous-tailed, Ferruginous, Bertoni's and Ochre-rumped antbirds; White-shouldered Fire-eye; Rufous-tailed and Such's (Cryptic) antthrushes; Speckle-breasted Antpitta; Rufous Gnateater; Slaty Bristlefront (northern vocal type); Mouse-colored Tapaculo; Pin-tailed Manakin; Black-capped Piprites; Drab-breasted and Brown-breasted pygmy-tyrants (bamboo-tyrants); Fork-tailed Pygmy-Tyrant; Shear-tailed Gray-Tyrant; Rufous-tailed Attila; Serra do Mar Bristle-Tyrant; Olivaceous Elaenia; Tanager; Thick-billed Saltator; Bay-chested and Buff-throated warbling finches; and many more.

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NIGHT: Hotel do Ypê, Itatiaia National Park

November 1-4, Days 13-16:

Itatiaia National Park. Established in 1937, Itatiaia was Brazil's first national park. It protects more than 65,000 acres of montane Atlantic Forest in the Serra da Mantiqueira range, which straddles the border between the neighboring states of Rio de Janeiro and Minas Gerais. Four full days and part of a fifth morning here will give us a nice introduction to its avian riches and allow us to savor the park's scenic beauty and pleasant climate. A combination of roads and trails will enable us to cover various elevational levels of the park, each with its own special birds. On one day we'll ascend to the high paramo-like grasslands at over 7,000 ft. in search of the Green-crowned Plovercrest (a spectacular little hummer with a "punk-rocker" crest), Velvety Black-Tyrant, Great Pampa-Finch,



This magnificent Tawny-browed Owl was photographed from the parking lot at our lodge in Itatiaia National Park.

© Kevin J. Zimmer

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The Green-crowned Plovercrest, another denizen of the Agulhas Negras highlands, is arguably even more spectacular than its sibling species, the Purple-crowned Plovercrest. © Kevin J. Zimmer

flocks of Yellow-rumped Marshbirds, Wedge-tailed Grass-Finch, Chestnut-capped and Unicolored blackbirds, and Cinnamon Tanager. A special effort will be made to search for the spectacular Giant Snipe (seen on our last four tours), whose roding displays begin at dusk and continue into the night.

Even the grounds of our charming hotel are exceptionally productive for birds and nearby hummingbird feeders can produce a nearly non-stop show. Photographers will enjoy the opportunity to train their cameras at leisure on such jewels as Frilled Coquette, Black Jacobin, Violet-capped Woodnymph, and Brazilian Ruby.

NIGHTS: Hotel do Ypé, Itatiaia

November 5-6, Days 17-18: Itatiaia to Sao Paulo; Departures for Home. After some final early-morning birding at Itatiaia, and lunch en route to Sao Paulo (quite possibly followed by one more nearby birding stop), we will spend the afternoon of November 5 driving to Rio de Janeiro, where we will continue directly to Sao Paulo's Guarulhos International Airport (airport code GRU) with plenty of time for participants to make their evening international flights. Participants can choose from a variety of overnight

Open-country marshes and pasturelands outside the park offer an entirely different suite of species, some of which are more typical of the *campos* and *cerrados* to the west, but whose ranges have expanded into the Atlantic Forest region coincident with deforestation. Among the possibilities in these open-country habitats are Ash-throated Crake, Guira Cuckoo, Burrowing Owl, Toco Toucan, White-eared Puffbird, White Woodpecker, Wing-banded Hornero, Firewood-gatherer, Rufous-fronted Thornbird, spectacular Streamer-tailed Tyrants (their display has to be seen to be believed), Crested Black-Tyrant, White-rumped Monjita, Tawny-headed Swallow, Curl-crested Jay, Black-capped Donacobius, Yellowish Pipit,



Black-capped Piprites is one of several specialties that we'll search for in the Agulhas Negras high country. © Kevin J. Zimmer

flights to the U.S., which will arrive on the morning of November 6, in time for homeward connections. For participants wishing to extend their time in Sao Paulo to take in the sights and culture of this amazing city, separate arrangements can be coordinated through VENT's local ground agent. Upon request, VENT will be happy to help with these arrangements.



Giant Snipe is not an Atlantic Forest endemic, but this striking, crepuscular snipe is uncommon and patchily distributed throughout its range, and is rarely seen anywhere. We've enjoyed excellent luck with this iconic bird during each of our recent visits to the Itatiaia region. © Kevin J. Zimmer



The aptly named Giant Antshrike is nearly as large as a Squirrel Cuckoo. It could turn up at either Intervales or Itatiaia, and is an instant trip highlight when it does! © Kevin J. Zimmer



Streamer-tailed Tyrant is another spectacular bird to be found in the marshes and open country in the Itatiaia region. The displays of duetting pairs or family groups of these birds are simultaneously comical and impressive. © Kevin J. Zimmer



Frilled Colettes are frequent visitors to flowering Lantana and the feeders at our lovely lodge in Itatiaia National Park.

© Kevin J. Zimmer



Saffron Toucanets are also regular visitors around the lodge at Itatiaia National Park. © Kevin J. Zimmer



The multi-colored Green-headed Tanager is one of the most common visitors to the feeders along our route
© Kevin J. Zimmer

Essential Tour Information

TOUR SIZE: This tour will be limited to 10 participants.

TOUR LEADERS: Brian Gibbons & Raphael Santos, with the assistance of local guides at Intervales



Brian Gibbons grew up in suburban Dallas where he began exploring the wild world in local creeks and parks. Chasing butterflies and any animal that was unfortunate enough to cross paths with the Gibbons boys occupied his childhood. A wooden bird feeder kit sparked a flame that was stoked by a gift of the *Golden Guide* and family camping trips to Texas state parks. Twenty-five years ago Brian attended two VENT camps for young birders. Birds are now his primary interest, but all things wild continue to captivate him. After college, Brian undertook a variety of field biology research jobs that have taken him to the Caribbean, the Bering Sea, and the land of the midnight sun, arctic Alaska. He enjoys working with kids, hoping to spark environmental awareness through birds. For many years Brian's field research has involved bird banding.

His most amazing recoveries were a female Wilson's Warbler that had been banded in Alaska and was captured by Brian in Colorado, and a Sooty Tern that perished after a hurricane on the Texas coast; it had plied the Gulf of Mexico and the oceans of the world for 24 years. Brian's recreational bird-seeking has taken him to Machu Picchu in Peru, the Great Wall in China, the plains of East Africa, and the Himalayas in Nepal. Brian leads birding trips in the United States, Central America, the Caribbean, and Europe. As well as being a fanatical birder, he loves capturing birds with photography. He lives in Tucson, Arizona with his wife, Lacrezia Johnson, and their son, Grayson.



Raphael Santos is a highly accomplished field ornithologist and birding tour leader with over 23 years of experience guiding groups all across Brazil and other sites in South America. A trained biologist and a leading expert on Brazilian birdlife, he has spent years working with scientific collections in museums, publishing books, conducting technical reports, and banding wild birds. His sharp identification skills, deep knowledge of vocalizations, and ecological expertise make him an exceptional guide. Beyond the species list, Raphael crafts immersive birding experiences, connecting participants to the landscapes, cultures, and conservation stories behind each bird. A full-time guide and tour designer, he is known for his leadership, patience, and engaging style. Fluent in English, Spanish, and Portuguese, Raphael is widely regarded as one of Brazil's top birding professionals.

TOUR COSTS & PAYMENT INFORMATION:

TOUR FEE: : The main tour is **\$9,195** per person based on double occupancy. This includes all meals from dinner on Day 2 to breakfast on Day 17, accommodations as stated in the itinerary, all ground transportation during the tour, and guide services provided by the tour leaders. It does **not** include airfare to nor from the starting/ending city. The fee also excludes alcoholic beverages, laundry, personal expenses, and other items of a personal nature. For information about gratuities, please see the “TIPPING” sub-section below. If the minimum group size is not met, each participant will be charged a small-group supplement—shared equally and communicated in advance—to allow the tour to proceed.

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: If you request single accommodations on the main tour, a single supplement of **\$995** will be added to your tour fee.

REGISTRATION & DEPOSIT: You may register for this tour through the VENT [website](#) or by calling our office (512-328-5221). The initial deposit is **\$1,000** per person. We accept MasterCard and Visa. If you choose not to register online, you may pay your deposit by credit card, check, money order, or bank transfer. If not paying online, or by card, your tour space will be held for 10 days pending receipt of your deposit.

PAYMENTS: All tour payments may be made by credit card (MasterCard or Visa), check, money order, or bank transfer (contact the VENT office for bank transfer information). These include initial deposits, second deposits, interim payments, final balances, special arrangements, etc. Full payment of the tour fee is due 150 days (May 23, 2026) prior to the tour departure date.

EXTRA ARRANGEMENTS: Should you wish to make arrangements to arrive early or extend your stay, please contact the VENT office at least two months prior to your departure date. We can very easily make hotel arrangements and often at our group rate, if we receive your request with enough advance time.

EXCHANGE RATE SURCHARGES: Tour prices are based on the rate of exchange at the time of itinerary publication. If rates change drastically, it may be necessary to impose a surcharge. If a surcharge is necessary, every effort will be made to minimize the amount. In many cases, these additional foreign exchange rate surcharges have been passed on to VENT by its vendors and suppliers.

FUEL SURCHARGES: Our prices are based on fuel prices at the time of itinerary publication. While we will do everything possible to maintain our prices, it may be necessary to institute a fuel surcharge.

TIPPING: An important part of the value of a VENT tour is knowing that tips for local service providers at our destinations—restaurant staff, hotel staff, drivers, local guides, and various other support staff—are included in your tour fee. If you would like to offer any of your local guides an additional tip, \$5 to \$10 a day is a common amount.

Tips for your VENT tour leader(s) are **not** included, but it is customary to tip one or both if you feel that you have received exceptional service. To assist in your planning, we recommend tipping your VENT tour leader(s) \$15 to \$20 per day, or the equivalent of approximately 2–4% of the tour fee.

If you plan to give tips by cash, they should be given directly to your tour leader at the end of the tour and **not** sent to the VENT office. Some of our tour leaders use mobile payment applications such as Venmo, PayPal, and Wise. If you would like to use this method, please ask your tour leaders directly whether they can accept tips through such an application.

We emphasize that tipping is optional and that these amounts are only recommendations. The amount you decide to tip is based entirely on your experience and at your discretion.

CANCELLATION & REFUNDS

CANCELLATION BY PARTICIPANT: Refunds, if any, for any cancellation by a participant are made according to the following schedule: If participant cancels 180 days or more before the tour departure date, a cancellation fee of **\$500** per person will be charged. If cancellation is made between 179 and 151 days before departure date, the deposit is not refundable, but any payments covering the balance of the tour fee will be refunded. If cancellation is made fewer than 150 days before departure date, no refund is available. This policy and fee schedule also applies to pre- and post-tour extensions. **For participants' protection, we strongly recommend the purchase of travel insurance that covers trip cancellation/interruption.**

If participant cancels:

180 days or more before departure date

179 to 151 days before departure date

150 days or less before departure date

Participant's refund will be:

Your deposit(s) minus \$500*

No refund of the deposits, but any payments on the balance will be refunded

No refund available

CANCELLATION BY VENT: If VENT cancels a tour prior to departure without cause or good reason, VENT will provide the participant a full refund, which will constitute full settlement to the participant.

If VENT cancels or delays a tour or any portion of a tour as a result of any Force Majeure event, VENT will use its reasonable best efforts to refund any payments on the balance of the tour fee to participant; provided that, VENT will have no obligation to provide a participant with a refund and will not be liable or responsible to a participant, nor be deemed to have defaulted under or breached any applicable agreement, for any failure or delay in fulfilling or performing any term of such agreement. A **"Force Majeure"** event means any act beyond VENT's control, including, without limitation, the following: (a) acts of God; (b) flood, fire, earthquake, hurricane, epidemic, pandemic or explosion; (c) war, invasion, hostilities (whether war is declared or not), terrorist threats or acts, riot or other civil unrest; (d) government order, law or actions; (e) embargoes or blockades; (f) national or regional emergency; (g) strikes, labor stoppages, labor slowdowns or other industrial disturbances; (h) shortage of adequate power or transportation facilities; and (i) any other similar events or circumstances beyond the control of VENT.

This VENT Cancellation & Refunds policy does not apply to air tickets purchased through VENT or to any special arrangements, such as additional hotel nights, that fall outside of the services described in the tour itinerary.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

MEDICAL EVACUATION INSURANCE/PROTECTION REQUIREMENT: This tour visits remote locations where immediate access to primary medical care may not be available. **For this reason, travel insurance/travel protection which covers you for emergency evacuation is required for participation on this tour.** This coverage is included in the **Ripcord Rescue Travel Insurance™** program. Alternatively, comparable service can be obtained through **Medjet** and its **MedjetAssist** plan. If you choose not to purchase insurance/travel protection through Ripcord or Medjet, you are required to obtain it through another provider. Please refer to the TRAVEL INSURANCE/TRAVEL PROTECTION section for additional information.

SUGGESTED OPTIONS: **To safeguard against losses due to illness, accident, or other unforeseen circumstances, we strongly recommend the purchase of travel insurance as soon as possible after making a deposit.** VENT has partnered with **Redpoint Travel Protection** as our preferred travel insurance provider. Through Redpoint, we recommend its comprehensive **Ripcord** plan, which includes a medical evacuation benefit. With this in mind, it is important to note that medical evacuation is not offered by Redpoint as a stand-alone policy or benefit. For travelers not interested in comprehensive travel insurance, VENT recommends **Medjet** and its **MedjetAssist®** plan. Medjet is not an insurance company, and Medjet Assist is not an insurance product; rather, Medjet is a membership-based air-medical transport company specializing in moving hospitalized travelers from an admitting hospital to a medical facility of choice. Medjet does not provide medical evacuation service from the point of injury or illness; yet, the MedjetAssist plan offers robust enough travel protection to satisfy the medical evacuation insurance requirement in place for many VENT tours.

About Redpoint Travel's Ripcord Plan

Ripcord is a completely integrated travel insurance program with single contact for emergency services, travel assistance, and insurance claims. Critical benefits include comprehensive travel insurance for trip cancellation/interruption, medical evacuation from your point of injury or illness to your hospital of choice; medical expense coverage, death of pet, and much more. Optional expanded insurance coverage is available and includes items such as evacuation coverage in case of a natural disaster or political or security reasons, waiver for pre-existing medical conditions exclusion, and a "Cancel for Any Reason" benefit. Ripcord is available to U.S. and non-U.S. residents.*

For a price quote or to purchase travel insurance, please visit: [**Ripcord Travel Insurance**](#); or click the **Ripcord** logo on our website (click Help > Preparation and Insurance > Trip Insurance); or call +1-415-481-0600. Pricing is based on age, trip cost, trip length, and level of coverage.

*To be eligible for the pre-existing medical condition exclusion waiver and the optional Cancel for Any Reason (CFAR) upgrade, you must purchase your policy within 15 days of making your first trip payment. The CFAR benefit provides reimbursement for 75% of covered costs, and increases the policy premium by approximately 50%. Policies may be purchased either for the full value of the tour fee at the time of deposit or in segments as individual tour payments are made (deposit, second deposit, final balance, additional arrangements, etc.). The "pay as you go" approach reduces up-front expense and ensures that the amount paid toward your full policy premium is in proportion to the amount paid toward the full tour fee. If you choose to "pay as you go," you must cover each deposit or payment within 15 days, and insure all non-refundable trip costs in order to maintain the CFAR benefit. Please refer to the policy for a full description of coverage.

Redpoint considers COVID-19 illness as any other seasonal respiratory illness. Providing only a positive Covid-19 test result will likely not be considered a covered event per the terms and conditions of the company's policy. Redpoint maintains a [Coronavirus FAQ page](#) on its website that addresses questions and concerns travelers may have regarding COVID-19 and Redpoint's policy. We strongly recommend that you visit the page for an overview of relevant topics.

About Medjet's MedjetAssist Plan

MedjetAssist is a membership program that functions like AAA for motorists. The company's primary service is air medical transport. Critical benefits of MedjetAssist include a staff on call and ready to provide assistance 24 hours a day, 7 days a week; all-expenses-paid air medical transport in the United States and internationally to medical facility of choice, regardless of medical necessity; repatriation of remains; and no exclusions for pre-existing conditions.

For travelers under 75, MedjetAssist may be purchased as Short-Term Memberships of 8, 15, 21, and 30 days, or Regular Annual Memberships from 1 to 5 years. For travelers 75–84, Medjet offers a Diamond Membership that is the same program but with a few additional conditions.

For a price quote or to purchase MedjetAssist, please visit: [Medjet.com/VentBird](#) or call 1-800-527-7478. Pricing is based on type and term of membership.

GETTING THERE & REQUIRED TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

AIR TRAVEL: Victor Emanuel Travel is a full-service travel agency and wholly owned subsidiary of Victor Emanuel Nature Tours (VENT). Victor Emanuel Travel will be happy to make any domestic or international air travel arrangements from your home and return. Per person fees apply for each set of travel arrangements: \$50 domestic; \$75 international.* Many of our travelers choose to make their own air travel arrangements, but we emphasize the benefits to using our services. If you book your air arrangements yourself, Victor Emanuel Travel is unable to provide support in managing any flight delays and/or cancellations that could occur before and during a tour. When you purchase air tickets through Victor Emanuel Travel, our staff has ready access to your air ticket record and can provide assistance as problems arise. Please feel free to call the VENT office to confirm your air arrangements. **Please be sure to check with the VENT office prior to purchasing your air ticket to confirm that the tour is sufficiently subscribed to operate. VENT cannot be held responsible for any air ticket penalties.**

*An air ticket will be purchased by Victor Emanuel Travel on behalf of the traveler with the traveler's consent. A purchase is considered final upon receipt of payment. If a ticket is subsequently reissued at the behest of the traveler (i.e. voluntary change of plans), the same fee rates apply for the reissue process, in addition to any fees that may be charged by the airline.

BAGGAGE: Please limit baggage to one piece of luggage and one carry-on. The airlines now strictly enforce baggage regulations. Excess baggage charges, which can be substantial, are the personal responsibility of each participant. Please consult your pre-departure materials and/or airline to find out specific weight restrictions.

As a precaution against lost luggage, we suggest that you pack a change of clothes, toiletries, medications, important travel documents, optics, and any other essential items in your carry-on bag. Due to ever-changing circumstances in the government's attempts to improve airport security, we recommend that you check the website of the [Transportation Security Administration \(TSA\)](#) for information pertaining to permissible carry-on items.

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS: In addition to a passport valid for the duration of your planned visit, an electronic visa is required for U.S. and Canadian citizens to enter Brazil. Information on how to apply can be found on the following website:

<https://brazil.vfsevisa.com/>

WHAT TO BRING

CLOTHING: Light field clothing (drab colors such as olive or khaki preferred), including several pairs and sometimes in the 90s. Light field clothing (drab colors such as olive or khaki preferred), including several pairs of pants and comfortable shirts, will be appropriate, but you should also pack a warm sweater and/or jacket, as well as gloves. A hat, sunglasses, and sunscreen are also recommended for protection. Be sure to have a pair of good hiking boots or comfortable walking shoes and a second pair to change into. A swim suit is also suggested (there are swimming pools at some hotels on the route). **Raingear is essential, as is a pocket umbrella.** We usually encounter rain on at least a few days of the trip. Dress will be casual throughout. **Rubber boots for possibly muddy trails and one or two stomps into some marshy areas are strongly recommended.**

EQUIPMENT: Pack a flashlight or headlamp, water bottle, alarm clock, and day pack. Your leader will have a spotting scope, but if you have one and wish to bring it, please feel free to do so. Many electrical outlets in Brazilian hotels and lodges require a different plug type than the standard outlets in the United States. Therefore, a set of plug adaptors (available at a wide range of stores, including most airport terminal gift shops that sell travel accessories) is recommended for participants wishing to charge camera batteries and other appliances. The Pica Pau House, the hotel at Intervales State Park DOES NOT SUPPLY soap or shampoo to guests anymore.

Binoculars: We strongly recommend you bring a pair of good binoculars of 8x32, 8x42, or 10x42 magnification. Please do not bring mini-binoculars of any kind. Some people like them because they are small and lightweight; but they have an extremely small field of view and very poor light gathering power. You will find that 8x32 binoculars are compact and light enough.

Spotting Scopes: Your tour leaders will have scopes available for group use throughout the trip, but if you have one and wish to bring it, please feel free to do so.

DESTINATION INFORMATION & LOCAL CONDITIONS

CLIMATE & WEATHER: Weather will be generally mild, but evenings and early mornings in the mountains (mainly Itatiaia NP) can be very chilly. Occasionally it can be hot in lowland areas. Temperatures generally vary from lows in the 50s (to the high 40s) to highs commonly in the 70s-80s, and sometimes in the 90s.

CONDITIONS: Many of our days will involve walking trails/jeep roads all morning. These are mostly level to moderate grade, but the ground is often uneven, and although the walking conditions are generally of easy to moderate difficulty, many days will involve being on foot for several hours. This will be especially true of our time at Intervales and Itatiaia. A small folding stool is handy during waits for birds to appear. Intervales and Itatiaia hotels have stairs and many uneven surfaces, especially Itatiaia's Hotel do Ype.

On most mornings, we will try to be in the field early. This is the time when tropical birds are most active and most vocal. Many of the more elusive species are unlikely to be seen unless we first hear them, and this requires early starts. On a few days (particularly our day on the Agulhas Negras Road in Itatiaia National Park), we must drive for some distance from our hotel to reach the birding areas. To arrive at these locations anywhere near dawn will require departures in the neighborhood of 4:00-5:00 a.m. Most days will involve more civilized (although still early) starting times, with breakfast frequently at 5:30 a.m.,

and subsequent departure around 6:15 a.m. Typical non-travel days will involve a full morning of birding, followed by lunch and a mid-afternoon break of a couple of hours, during which participants may rest. These hours are quite often unproductive times for birding, and allow you to “recharge your batteries” prior to going out again in the latter part of the afternoon. On non-travel days, afternoon birding is mostly optional, and those that wish to return early to the hotel for rest may do so. This is not an option on the Agulhas Negras Road, where the distance from the hotel precludes an early return for less than the full group. It should be emphasized that our bus/van (outfitted with snacks and bottled water) will be with us at all times on those particular days, and participants wishing to rest in the vehicle may do so at any time.

FOOD & WATER: Our bus or van will always have a supply of bottled water. In many areas we will also have snacks available, and this will certainly be the case on full days afield when we are also planning on a picnic lunch. In other areas, it may be difficult to provide snacks. Many participants have found it useful on those days to pack snacks for mid-morning from the extensive breakfast buffets that are standard at virtually all of our hotels and lodges. These typically include fruit, luncheon meats, cheeses, and various types of cakes and breads. **A supply of resealable plastic storage bags can be very handy for storing these items.**

CURRENCY & SPENDING: Brazilian Real. MasterCard and Visa are more widely accepted than American Express, but all are useful, particularly in major centers.

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.” The “A” and “C” types are similar; both are ungrounded and receive two-pronged plugs. The “A” plug is outfitted with two parallel blades, and the “C” plug is equipped with pins instead of blades. Many outlets in Brazil are a hybrid between the two types and accept either plug. The “B” type socket is the American 3-prong style and is less common. The “N” plug is something like the “C” plug but with a third pin added as a ground. Although each lodge can probably provide guests with plug adapters to accommodate American-style plugs, to be safe, you should consider bringing a set of plug adaptors (available at a wide range of stores, including most airport terminal gift shops that sell travel accessories). An electrical current converter may be required as well. Please check the adaptability of your electronics and electrical appliances to of your electronics and electrical appliances to verify your needs.

INTERNET ACCESS: Expect Wi-Fi to be available at all lodges and hotels except in Intervales State Park, common areas only at Itatiaia. NOTE: It was somewhat intermittent at ALL locations in 2025

LAUNDRY SERVICE: The only reliable laundry stops on this tour are in Ubatuba (self-service) and at Hotel do Ype (Itatiaia).

HEALTH & SAFETY

HEALTH: VENT follows Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations for standard travel precautions, which includes vaccination against a variety of preventable diseases. Among these so-called Routine Vaccinations are measles/mumps/rubella (MMR) vaccine, diphtheria/pertussis/tetanus (DPT) vaccine, poliovirus vaccine (boosters for adult travelers), and Varicella (Chickenpox). You should also be up-to-date with Hepatitis A and Hepatitis B vaccinations.

If you are taking personal medication, prescription or over-the-counter, be sure to bring an ample supply that will allow you to get through the tour safely. Please consult your physician as necessary. Remember to pack all medication in your carry-on baggage, preferably in original containers or packaging. As airline baggage restrictions can change without warning, please check with your airline for procedures for packing medication.

Yellow fever vaccination is highly recommended for most individuals. Some individuals may have medical conditions for which vaccination is contraindicated.

Malaria has been confirmed in Brazil, including the chloroquine-resistant strain, but is highly unlikely on this tour. We suggest that participants consult their physician as well as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for current recommendations before beginning a prophylaxis regimen.

Cholera has been reported in Brazil but is highly unlikely to be contracted anywhere along our route. No country requires cholera vaccination for direct travel from the USA and no vaccinations are required to return to the USA. Please consult your physician for any recommended preventative treatment.

COVID-19: We continually emphasize that our number one priority is the health and safety of our customers and employees. Although VENT no longer maintains any of its COVID-era prevention protocols, we strongly recommend best practices for protecting yourself and your fellow travelers against COVID-19 illness. These measures include receiving the primary series vaccinations for those eligible, staying “Up to Date” with COVID-19 booster shots, wearing high filtration N-95 or KN-95 masks when in airports and on airplanes, and avoiding risky social settings in the lead-up to your tour. These recommendations are firmly rooted in CDC guidance for avoiding COVID-19.

SUN EXPOSURE: The sun’s ultraviolet rays are dangerous under prolonged exposure (sometimes only a matter of minutes), even in winter and early spring. Anytime you are outdoors you will want to protect your skin, including your lips, eyes, nose, and ears. A severe sunburn is potentially very painful and will affect your level of enjoyment. Always protect yourself when outdoors and be sure to bring an ample supply of high SPF sunscreen and lip balm. We strongly recommend the use of ultra-violet blocking, polarized sunglasses.

BITING INSECTS: Remove if not a concern, otherwise expand on it.

INSECT REPELLENTS: There are insect repellents for the skin and an insect repellent used to treat clothing that should not be applied to the skin.

Insect repellents for the skin are commonly available in three forms:

- **DEET:** (N,N-diethyl-meta-toluamide): A chemical compound that is marketed under various brand names (OFF!, Cutter™, Ultrathon™, etc.) and offered in a variety of formulations including sprays, lotions, time-release preparations, and disposable wipes. The formulations will state a percentage of the active ingredient DEET on the packaging. DEET may be applied to exposed skin directly and/or sprayed on clothing. Please be careful when applying DEET as it can damage plastics and lens coatings.
- **Picaridin:** A synthetic formulation that is derived from piperine, a substance found in plants that produce black pepper.
- **Herbal insect repellents:** Various mixtures of organic ingredients such as oils from eucalyptus, citronella, cedar, and other herbs. The herbal repellents are more difficult to categorize because of the difference in ingredients from one brand to another. There is considerable variation in their effectiveness.

Insect repellent for clothing is marketed in one approved formulation:

- **Permanone® (Permethrin):** is an odorless spray-on repellent that may be used for pre-treatment of clothing, gear, and tents. It should not be used directly on the skin or sprayed on clothing while it is being worn. The pre-treatment process requires a number of hours to complete and must be

done outdoors, so it is best completed in advance of travel. Do-it-yourself pre-treatment must be repeated more often than commercial treatment using Insect Shield® technology. It is available at various outdoor stores and can easily be found online.

- **Insect Shield® apparel:** Clothing pre-treated with Permanone is made by a variety of manufacturers. It is available for purchase from some sporting goods suppliers. The clothing is advertised as retaining its repellency for up to 70 washings.

The US EPA offers a search tool to help choose a repellent that is best for a particular situation. For example, some repellents work for mosquitoes, but not for ticks.

<https://www.epa.gov/insect-repellents/which-insect-repellent-right-you>

In addition to your physician, a good source of general health information for travelers is the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta Georgia. The CDC operates a 24-hour recorded Travelers' Information Line at 800-CDC-INFO (800-232-4636), or you can check their website at www.cdc.gov/travel. Canadian citizens should check the website of the Public Health Agency of Canada: www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/new_e.html (click on travel health).

A Note About Chiggers: This tour visits areas where chiggers are known to occur. Chiggers are tiny parasitic mites found in most warm weather areas of the southern United States and the world's tropics. They are especially numerous in grassy areas, where, in the immature stage, they attach themselves to other animals or humans who make contact with the grass as they pass by. Chiggers do not suck blood and the majority of species do not carry disease. They do feed on bodily fluids through a process in which a digestive enzyme is produced by the chigger which essentially liquefies the skin around the area where the chigger is attached. The chigger is not usually attached to the skin for more than a few hours before it either falls off or is knocked off. Our bodies respond by producing a hardened area as a defense against the chigger's digestive enzyme. Though the chigger may be long gone, it is the presence of the hardened area, and the body's natural process of reabsorbing it that typically causes intense itching, often lasting for a week or more. Chiggers like to attach themselves to areas of thin skin, like around the ankles, beltline, undergarment lines, knees, and elbows.

Chiggers can be avoided by following these procedures:

- Avoid walking or standing in areas dominated by grass. These areas are where one is most likely to encounter chiggers.
- Tuck your pants into your socks to avoid direct skin-to-grass contact. Chiggers can find their way through clothing, but this is a standard and effective prevention technique.
- Apply insect repellent to your skin and clothing. Please refer to the Insect Repellent section that follows for important information about selecting and applying repellent.
- Powdered sulfur applied to waist, bottoms of pants, sock and boots is also effective at repelling chiggers. However, be warned that clothes will retain the sulfur odor for several washings. If using sulfur, never touch your eyes, nose, or mouth before washing your hands first.
- Shower at the end of each day in the field. Use a washcloth to vigorously rub your legs, feet, and ankles.

By following these methods, you should be able to avoid all chigger bites, as well as tick bites. If, however, you are bitten by chiggers anyway, you can reduce or eliminate the symptoms by applying benzocaine or hydrocortisone creams, calamine lotion, After Bite, or any number of anti-itch products.

SUGGESTED READING & TRIP PREPARATION

A number of traditional booksellers and online stores list excellent inventories of field guides and other natural history resources that will help prepare you for this tour. We recommend www.amazon.com which has a wide selection; www.buteobooks.com and www.nhbs.com which specialize in ornithology and natural history books; and www.abebooks.com for out-of-print and hard-to-find titles. We also recommend Andrew Isles books for the Asia-Pacific region at <http://www.andrewisles.com> for difficult to find and out of print books for Australia.

Birds:

Erize, Francisco, Jorge Rodriguez Mata, and Maurice Rumboll. *Birds of South America, Non-Passerines: Rheas to Woodpeckers*. Princeton, New Jersey, USA: Princeton University Press, 2007. Generally good illustrations and useful written descriptions of the non-passerine birds of South America. A good complement to the two volumes by Ridgely and Tudor listed below.

Hilty, Steven L. *Birds of Tropical America*. Shelburne, VT: Chapters Publishing Ltd., 1994. Subtitle: “A watcher's introduction to behavior, breeding and diversity.” (Paperback April 1996.)

Ridgely, Robert S., John Gwynne, Guy Tudor and Martha Argel. *Wildlife Conservation Society Birds of Brazil: The Atlantic Forest of Southeast Brazil*. Ithaca, New York, USA: Cornell University Press, 2016. At the time of this printing, this is the best single field guide to the birds of this region, and covers virtually all species likely to be encountered in the states of Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo. The illustrations and text are almost uniformly excellent, and the book is much more portable than the larger Ridgely and Tudor volumes covering all of South America.

Ridgely, Robert S., and Guy Tudor. *The Birds of South America, Volume I: The Oscine Passerines: Jays, Swallows, Wrens, Thrushes and Allies, Vireos, Wood-warblers, Tanagers, Icterids and Finches*. Austin: The University of Texas Press, 1989. Very useful reference, with range maps and illustrations of many species not previously illustrated. (<http://birds.cornell.edu>; select “Audio Guides”)

Ridgely, Robert S., and Guy Tudor. *The Birds of South America Volume II: The Suboscine Passerines: Ovenbirds and Woodcreepers, Antbirds, Gnateaters, and Tapaculos, Tyrant Flycatchers, Manakins and Cotingas*. Austin: The University of Texas Press, 1994. Very useful reference, with range maps and illustrations of many species not previously illustrated. (<http://birds.cornell.edu>; select “Audio Guides”)

Ridgely, Robert S., and Guy Tudor. *Field Guide to the Songbirds of South America: The Passerines*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 2009. This book condenses the text from the two previous references into a single volume with many additional illustrations (400+ species). It has more of a field guide format, and provides consistently excellent illustrations and text for the vast majority of Brazilian passerines. This plus the Erize, Mata & Rumboll guide to the Non-Passerines would give good coverage of the vast majority of Brazilian birds.

Butterflies:

D'Abra, Bernard. *Butterflies of South America*. Australia: Hill House, 1984. Good pocket guide, covers many genera, nice pictures.

Mammals:

Emmons, Louise H. *Neotropical Rainforest Mammals*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1997. Good pictures and excellent text. (An audio field guide CD also available from this author: see below.)

General Nature:

Caufield, C. *In the Rainforest*. Chicago: Random House, 1985.

Forsyth, Adrian, Ken Miyata et al. *Tropical Nature*. Scribner, 1987. (paperback)

Kricher, John. *A Neotropical Companion*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1999.

Pierson, David L., and Les Belesky. *The Ecotravellers' Wildlife Guide Brazil Amazon and Pantanal*. Academic Press, 2001.

Stap, Don. *Parrot without a Name: The Search for the Last Unknown Birds on Earth*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1991. An account of field expeditions with Ted Parker and John O'Neill, among others.

Recording:

Emmons, Louise H., Bret M. Whitney and David L. Ross. *Sounds of Neotropical Rainforest Mammals*. Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. (http://www.birds.cornell.edu/lab_cds.html)

TERMS, CONDITIONS & RESPONSIBILITIES

Victor Emanuel Nature Tours, Inc., a Texas corporation, and/or its agents (together, “VENT”) act only as agents for the participant in regard to travel, whether by railroad, motorcar, motorcoach, boat, or airplane and assume no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay, or irregularity which may be occasioned either by reason of defect in any vehicle or for any reason whatsoever, or through the acts or default of any company or person engaged in conveying the participant or in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. VENT accepts no responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in airfare or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, terrorism, or other causes. All such losses or expenses will be borne by the participant, as tour rates only provide for arrangements for the time stated.

VENT reserves the right (i) to substitute hotels of similar category, or the best reasonable substitution available under the circumstances, for those indicated and (ii) to make any changes in the itinerary that are deemed necessary by VENT or which are caused by third party transportation schedules (i.e. railroad, motorcar, motorcoach, boat, airplane, etc.).

VENT reserves the right to substitute leaders or guides on any tour. Where VENT, in its sole discretion, determines such substitution is necessary, it will notify tour participants.

VENT reserves the right to cancel any tour prior to departure with or without cause or good reason. See the VENT Cancellation & Refunds policy set forth above.

Tour prices are based on tariffs and exchange rates in effect on January 19, 2026 and are subject to adjustment in the event of any change thereto.

VENT reserves the right to decline any participant's Registration Form and/or refuse to allow any participant to participate in a tour as VENT deems reasonably necessary, in its sole discretion. VENT
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also reserves the right to remove any tour participant from any portion of a tour as VENT deems necessary, in its sole discretion, reasons for such removal include but are not limited to, medical needs, injury, illness, inability to meet physical demands of a tour, personality conflict or situations in which such removal is otherwise in the best interest of the tour, the tour group and/or such participant. A participant may also voluntarily depart from a tour. If a participant is removed from a tour or voluntarily departs from a tour, such participant will be responsible for any expenses associated with such removal or departure, including but not limited to, transportation, lodging, airfare and meals, and VENT will have no obligation to refund or reimburse any such removed or departed participant for any tour payments or deposits previously paid by such participant.

Baggage is carried at the participant's risk entirely. No airline company, its employees, agents and/or affiliates (the "**Airline**") is to be held responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time participants are not on board the Airline's aircraft. The participant ticket in use by any Airline, when issued, will constitute the sole contract between the Airline and the purchaser of the tickets and/or the participant. The services of any I.A.T.A.N. carrier may be used for VENT tours, and transportation within the United States may be provided by any member carrier of the Airlines Reporting Corporation.

View the complete [Terms and Conditions](#) on our website.

BG/11/24/2025
P/EL/SB/02/05/2026