



VICTOR EMANUEL NATURE TOURS

ITINERARY

## SOUTHEASTERN BRAZIL: BEST OF THE ATLANTIC FOREST

OCTOBER 20–NOVEMBER 6, 2024\*

\*DATES DIFFER FROM THOSE THAT APPEAR IN VENT'S 2024 CATALOG

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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 four to 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 Bamboowren; Buff-throated Purpleuft; 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 [www.ventbird.com](http://www.ventbird.com)



this day will clear immigration 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 Intervalles. **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 four to five-hour drive to Intervalles (with lunch en route). We will hope to arrive at Intervalles 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.



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

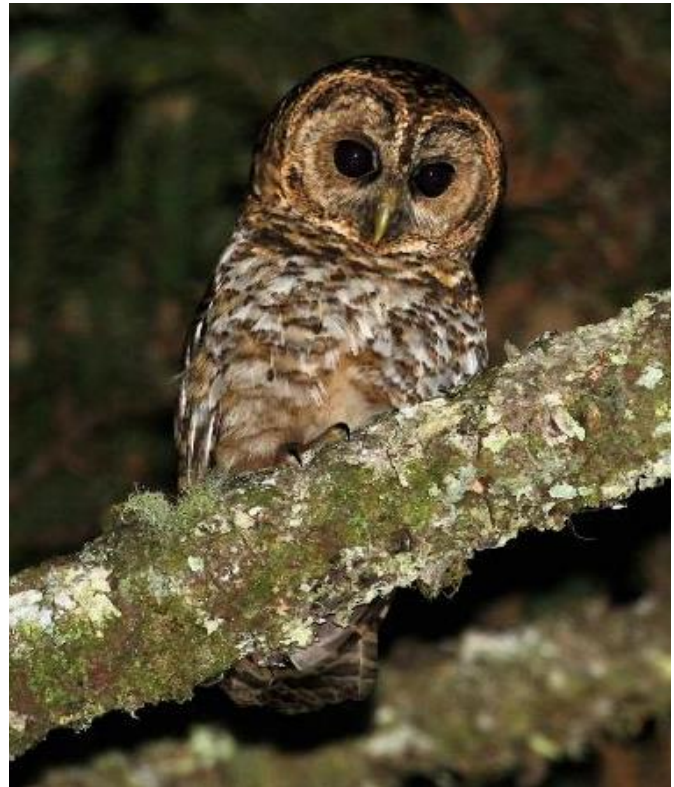


Intervalles State Park's Pica-Pau House © Andrew Whittaker

NIGHT (October 21): Intervalles State Park

**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, 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.



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



**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. Zimmer

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 Bamboowren, "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.



The Helmeted Woodpecker (male pictured here) is one of the rarest and most difficult to find of all of 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 adaptation to avoid aggression from similar looking, but larger and more dominant species. © 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 Interales State Park. © Andrew Whittaker



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



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



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

NIGHTS: Intervalles State Park

**October 27, Day 8: Intervalles 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 Intervalles 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

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 white sand 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 *leucophrus*), Squamate Antbird, Salvadori's Antwren, Black-cheeked Gnateater, Fork-tailed Pygmy-Tyrant and Black-legged Dacnis.



**Fork-tailed Pygmy-Tyrant is an uncommon and patchily distributed endemic that we often see in the Ubatuba area. This distinctive little flycatcher is strongly associated with thickets of native bamboo. © 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 (n 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**

We'll also plan to devote one afternoon to birding the highlands of the nearby Serra do Mar State Park, where possibilities could include, among other things, Large-tailed Antshrike, Speckle-breasted Antpitta, Bare-throated Bellbird, Green-throated Euphonia and Blackish-blue Seedeater. Depending on current conditions, we may also do some owling here, where the biggest potential draw is the rare Buff-fronted Owl, a pair of which nested at a private property adjacent to the park in 2017. Tawny-browed Owl and Striped Owl are also possible in this area.



**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 Gnateater, the male of which, is pictured here © Kevin Zimmer**



NIGHTS: Pousada Marazul, Ubatuba

**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 leaf-tossers, Black-capped Foliage-gleaner, Spot-backed Antshrike, Unicolored Antwren, Scaled Antbird, Black-cheeked Gnateater, Spotted Bamboowren, Slaty Bristlefront (northern vocal type), Bay-ringed Tyrannulet, Eye-ringed Tody-Tyrant and 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 Marquesa, Paraty

**October 31, Day 12: Morning Birding at Perequê, 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 Perequê. Our primary target will be the endangered and striking Black-hooded Antwren, a species long known from only ca. twenty 19<sup>th</sup> 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 Antwren, Fork-tailed Pygmy-Tyrant, Half-collared Sparrow and numerous species of tanagers.



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 Perequê. © Kevin J. Zimmer

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 feeders  
[www.ventbird.com](http://www.ventbird.com)



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

that attract a number of hummingbirds, tanagers, chlorophonias, euphonias and even a resident family of spectacular Saffron Toucanets. 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.

NIGHT: Hotel do Ypé, 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, 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 Leaf-tosser; 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



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





**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**

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 Tyrannulet; Olivaceous Elaenia; Brassy-breasted Tanager; Thick-billed Saltator; Bay-chested and Buff-throated warbling-finches; and many more.



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

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 Crane, Guira Cuckoo, Burrowing Owl, Toco Toucan, White-eared Puffbird, White Woodpecker, Band-tailed 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, flocks of Yellow-rumped Marshbirds, Wedge-tailed Grass-Finch, Chestnut-



**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**



capped and Unicolored blackbirds, and Cinnamon Tanager. A special effort will be made to search for the spectacular Giant Snipe (seen on our last three tours), whose roding displays begin at dusk and continue into the night.



**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 Coquettes are frequent visitors to flowering Lantana and the feeders at our lovely lodge in Itatiaia National Park. © Kevin J. Zimmer**

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. Depending on the availability of fruiting trees in the surrounding forest (which depends on rainfall and temperature patterns), fruit feeders at the lodge may also attract a steady stream of tanagers (Green-headed, Ruby-crowned, Black-goggled, and Olive-green), Blue-naped Chlorophonias, euphonias, and even Saffron Toucanets and Red-breasted Toucans.

NIGHTS: Hotel do Ypé, Itatiaia



The multi-colored Green-headed Tanager is one of the most common visitors to the lodge feeders at Itatiaia National Park.  
© Kevin J. Zimmer



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



**November 5-6, Days 17-18: Itatiaia to Rio de Janeiro; Departures for Home.** After some final early-morning birding at Itatiaia, and lunch en route to Rio (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 Rio's Galeão International Airport (airport code GIG) with plenty of time for participants to make their evening international flights. Participants can choose from a variety of overnight 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 Rio 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 assist with those arrangements.

**TOUR LEADER:** Kevin Zimmer and Brian Gibbons with the assistance of local guides



**Kevin Zimmer** has authored three books and numerous papers dealing with field identification and bird-finding in North America. His book, *Birding in the American West: A Handbook*, deals with finding and identifying birds in the western United States. Living in Alaska contributed to his affection for the Far North, where he has anchored VENT's tour program since 1986. For the past 30 years he has concentrated his attention on the Neotropics, particularly on Brazil, Costa Rica, Panama, Peru, and Venezuela. He has directed VENT's Brazil program since 1991. Kevin has a PhD in biology (research emphasis in Avian Evolutionary Ecology) from New Mexico State University, and is a Research Associate of the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History, an elective member of the American Ornithologists' Union, a longtime member of the A.O.U. South American Classification Committee (SACC),

and a former two-term member of the American Birding Association (ABA) Check-list Committee. He is a regular contributor to Cornell's Macaulay Library of Natural Sounds. He has authored numerous technical papers on the taxonomy, distribution, and behavior of Neotropical birds, particularly those of the Amazon Basin. In 2003 he completed (with co-author Mort Isler) the major chapter on the *Thamnophilidae* (antbirds) for the prestigious *Handbook of Birds of the World* series. In 2006, he and Curtis Marantz coauthored a six-CD compilation of *Bird Voices of Alta Floresta and Southeastern Amazonian Brazil* (produced by the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology's Macaulay Library of Natural Sounds) that represents the most comprehensive set of commercially available bird recordings for any part of the Amazon Basin. He and Andrew Whittaker are currently at work on a comprehensive field guide to the birds of Brazil, to be published by Princeton University Press. Kevin lives in Atascadero, California with his wife, Susan. Their daughter, Marina, is a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (MFT). She and her husband, Ryan, and their daughter, Brinn, are now living in Napa, California.



**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, Lacreia Johnson, and their son, Grayson.

**TOUR SIZE:** This tour will be limited to 10 participants. However, VENT reserves the right to increase the tour limit by one in order to accommodate a couple when only one space is available.

**FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS:** The fee for this tour is **\$7,995** per person in double occupancy from São Paulo (tour ends in Rio de Janeiro). The price includes all food from lunch on Day 2 to lunch on Day 17, all lodging as described in this itinerary, ground transportation during the tour, all park entrance fees, and guide services provided by the tour leaders. It does not include the flights between your home and São Paulo & return from Rio de Janeiro, airport departure taxes, alcoholic beverages, special gratuities, phone calls, laundry, or items of a personal nature. Rates are based upon group tariffs; if the tour does not have sufficient registration, a small party supplement may be charged.

The single supplement for this tour is **\$840**. You will be charged a single supplement if you desire single accommodations, or if you prefer to share but have no roommate and we cannot provide one for you.

**REGISTRATION & DEPOSIT:** To register for this tour, please contact the VENT office. The deposit for this tour is **\$1,000** per person. If you prefer to pay your deposit using a credit card, the deposit must be made with MasterCard or Visa at the time of registration. If you would like to pay your deposit by check, money order, or bank transfer, your tour space will be held for 10 days to allow time for the VENT office to receive your deposit and completed registration form. The VENT registration form (available from the VENT office or by download at <https://ventbird.com>) should be completed, signed, and returned to the VENT office.

**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, 2024) prior to the tour departure date.

**EXCHANGE RATE SURCHARGES:** In the erratic global financial markets of today, it is difficult to predict foreign currency exchange rates over the long term or at the time of operation of a tour or cruise departure. Tour prices are based upon the rate of exchange at the time of itinerary publication. If exchange rates change drastically, it may be necessary to implement 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 are passed to VENT by its vendors and suppliers.

**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 unless the deposit is transferred to a new registration for another VENT tour that will operate within the next 12 months from the date of participant tour cancellation, in which case the cancellation fee will be **\$100** per person. 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:

Participant's deposit minus \$500\*

No refund of the deposit, but any payments on the balance of the tour fee will be refunded

No refund available



\*Unless the deposit is transferred to a new registration for another VENT tour that will operate within the next 12 months from the date of participant tour cancellation, in which case the cancellation fee will be \$100 per person. To qualify, cancellation must occur 180 days or more before departure date; deposit transfers must be made at the time of cancellation; and one transfer per deposit.

### **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.

**Victor Emanuel Nature Tours is not a participant in the California Travel Consumer Restitution Fund. California law requires certain sellers of travel to have a trust account or bond. This business has a bond issued by Travelers in the amount of \$50,000. CST #2014998-50.**

**FUEL AND FUEL SURCHARGES:** In the uncertain, often volatile oil market of late, it is difficult – if not impossible – to predict fuel costs over the long term, and more specifically, at the time of operation of this departure. Our prices are based upon the prevailing fuel rates at the time of itinerary publication. While we will do everything possible to maintain our prices, if the fuel rates increase significantly, it may be necessary to institute a fuel surcharge.

**TRAVEL INSURANCE:** 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 **Ripcord** plan. Designed for all types of travelers, Ripcord is among the most comprehensive travel protection programs available.

Critical benefits of Ripcord include a completely integrated program with a single contact for emergency services, travel assistance, and insurance claims; **medical evacuation from your point of injury or illness to your hospital of choice**; comprehensive travel insurance for trip cancellation/interruption, 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: <https://ripcordtravelprotection.com/ventbird>; or click the **Ripcord** logo on our website (click Help and 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 [www.ventbird.com](http://www.ventbird.com)

individual tour payments are made (deposit, mid-payment, 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 cost in order to maintain the CFAR benefit. Please refer to the policy for a full description of coverage.

### **Coronavirus (COVID-19):**

In line with the decision made by the federal government (including the CDC), 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.

Please visit the **Coronavirus FAQ** page at the following link: [https://redpointtravelprotection.com/covid\\_19\\_faq/](https://redpointtravelprotection.com/covid_19_faq/).

**AIR INFORMATION:** 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:** The airlines now strictly enforce baggage regulations. Excess baggage charges, which can be substantial, are the personal responsibility of each participant. Please consult your airline to find out specific weight restrictions. 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 the most updated information: <http://www.tsa.gov/>.

We request that tour participants limit their luggage to one checked bag and one carry-on bag if possible, as some of the vehicles have very limited luggage space. As a precaution, we recommend packing a change of clothes, your binoculars, toiletries, travel documents, and walking shoes in your carry-on.

**CLOTHING AND CLIMATE:** **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 (very rarely the high 40s) to highs commonly in the 70s-80s, 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 stumps into some marshy areas are strongly recommended.** There are two laundry stops on this tour: Intervales and Hotel do Ypé (Itatiaia).



**DIFFICULTY:** Many of our days will involve walking trails/jeep roads all morning. These are mostly level to moderate grade and easy walking, but do involve being on foot for several hours. This will be especially true of our time at Intervales and Itatiaia.

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 a variety of cold drinks) 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.

Our bus or van will always be outfitted with an ice chest with bottled water and soft drinks. 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.

**TRAVEL DOCUMENTS:** Effective April 10, 2024, for United States and Canadian citizens, in addition to a passport valid for the duration of your visit, an electronic visa will be required to enter Brazil. Please follow the directions on the following link. We suggest that you begin this process no later than six weeks prior your scheduled arrival into Brazil:

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

Non-United States or Canadian citizens should check with their local Brazilian consulate or embassy for instructions.

Please check the expiration date on your passport. **If it is not valid over the duration of your visit, you will need to get it renewed.** You will also want to make sure that you have at least two blank pages in your passport for stamps.

If you need a passport, you should get it well in advance of your trip departure date. For additional fees, a passport can be issued on an expedited basis. In the United States this can be done at the nearest passport office, most post offices, or the county clerk’s office. You may also visit [www.state.gov/travel/](http://www.state.gov/travel/) for information on how to get or renew a passport.

As a safety measure, photocopy the first two pages of your passport. Keep the photocopies in a safe place, so if your passport is lost you will have proof of identification. Your passport should be signed and easily available at all times. You will need it for check-in at the airport on your first day of departure, so **do not pack it in your checked luggage.**

**ITEMS TO BRING:** Pack a flashlight or headlamp, water bottle, alarm clock, and daypack. Your leader will have a spotting scope, but if you have one and wish to bring it, please feel free to do so. If you have battery operated equipment that need recharging, we recommend that you bring a travel kit with a converter as well as the full range of plug adaptors. **A supply of resealable plastic storage bags can be very handy for storing food items from the breakfast buffets, to be used as mid-morning snacks on the trails.**

**CURRENCY:** 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 verify your needs.

**INTERNET ACCESS:** Expect Wi-Fi to be available at all lodges and hotels except in Intervalas State Park.

**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 restriction 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.

Two mosquito-borne diseases, **Dengue** and **Zika**, occur in Brazil, but we believe the risk to VENT travelers is extremely low. These diseases are mosquito-borne infections transmitted by mosquitos of the genus *Aedes*, and are related to other tropical diseases: Yellow Fever, West Nile virus, and Chikungunya. This type of mosquito bites during the day and typically is found in areas of dense human habitation where sanitation and drainage of standing water is poor. We will not be in such areas.

Your safety is our highest priority, and we want to emphasize that the best way to avoid mosquito-borne diseases is to take appropriate precautions in avoiding mosquito bites:

- Stay informed about these diseases and recent outbreaks
- Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants, socks and shoes, and a hat
- Use effective insect repellents (those containing DEET) and reapply regularly

**Sun Exposure** is always a concern. The sun’s ultraviolet rays are dangerous under prolonged exposure (sometimes only a matter of minutes). 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. Please be sure  
www.ventbird.com



to bring an ample supply of high SPF sunscreen and lip balm. We strongly recommend the use of ultra-violet blocking, polarized sunglasses.

**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 regarding recommendations for avoiding COVID-19. Please visit the **Coronavirus Travel Update** page of our website <https://ventbird.com/covid-19> for our official statement regarding COVID-19 and the operation of our tours. Please visit the CDC website for the most up to date information about COVID-19 and associated guidance for proper health and hygiene: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>.

**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.

An 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 is best completed in advance of travel. Do-it-yourself pre-treatment has to 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 U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta, which operates a 24-hour recorded Travelers’ Information Line (800) CDC-INFO (800-232-4636). You can check the CDC website at <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel>. Canadian citizens should check the website of the Public Health Agency of Canada: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health.html>

**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.

### **MISCELLANEOUS:**

**Country Telephone Code:** 55

**Currency:** Real

### **IMPORTANT NUMBERS AND WEB SITES TO KNOW:**

**Health:** Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 800-CDC-INFO or <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel>

**Weather:** [www.weather.com](http://www.weather.com)

**Travel Advisories:** 202/647-5225 or

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories.html.html>

**SUGGESTED READING:** 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](http://www.amazon.com) which has a wide selection; [www.buteobooks.com](http://www.buteobooks.com) and [www.nhbs.com](http://www.nhbs.com) which specialize in ornithology and natural history books; and [www.abebooks.com](http://www.abebooks.com) for out-of-print and hard-to-find titles.

### ***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'Abrera, 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](http://www.birds.cornell.edu/lab_cds.html))

**TIPPING:** Tipping (restaurant staff, porters, drivers, local guides) is included on VENT tours. However, if you feel one or both of your VENT leaders or any local guides have given you exceptional service, it is entirely appropriate to tip. We emphasize that tips are not expected and are entirely optional. Tips should be given directly to your tour leader; they should not be sent to the VENT office.

**RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT:** 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 25, 2024, 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 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.

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