

Brazil – Atlantic Forest - Endemics

Join us on a captivating 5-day adventure through the lush Atlantic Forest of Brazil. As you arrive in São Paulo, get ready to embark on a birdwatching journey like no other. The magic begins at Itatiaia National Park, where a rich tapestry of biodiversity awaits. Our early mornings are filled with the melodies of Southern Crested Caracaras and the graceful flight of White-tailed and Crane Hawks. Delight in the vibrant spectacle of White-eyed Parakeets dancing overhead. The Atlantic Forest reveals its wonders as we encounter a colorful array of birdlife. From the charming Curl-crested Jay to the majestic Red-breasted Toucan, every moment will leave you in awe.



Dedicate two days to exploring the park's midlevel and high-altitude regions, where flocks of exotic birds abound. Capture the elegance of Surucua Trogons, the striking Rufous-capped Motmot, and the mesmerizing antbirds and antshrikes. As we journey through unique plant communities, you'll witness the breathtaking diversity of this pristine forest.

Don't miss this opportunity to immerse yourself in the captivating beauty of Brazil's Atlantic Forest. Reserve your spot now and let the spirit of adventure take flight!

Itinerary

DAY 1: ARRIVAL IN SAO PAULO

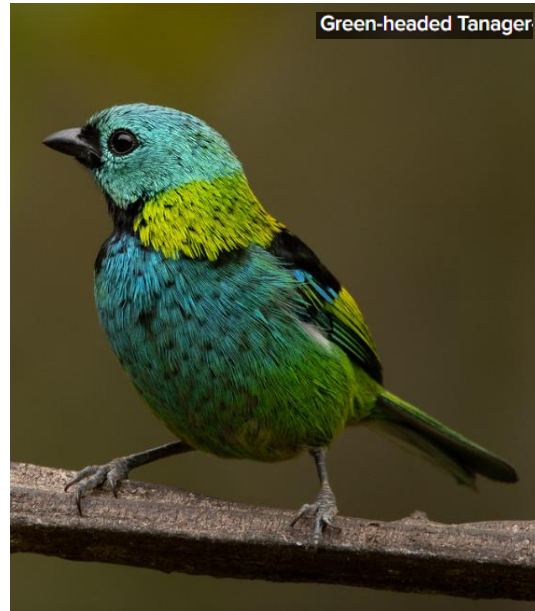
You arrive today in São Paulo for our Atlantic Forest pre-tour extension. After gathering your bags and going through customs please take the convenient shuttle to the hotel. Rest up from the long flight and get to know the others in the group at dinner tonight. Accommodations in at a convenient airport [Hotel Hampton by Hilton](#) (D)

DAY 2: ITATIAIA NATIONAL PARK – ATLANTIC FOREST

We want an early departure after breakfast so we can arrive at Itatiaia National Park (170 miles) before noon. Along the highway we look for Southern Crested Caracara and both White-tailed and Crane Hawks. Our stop at the park's entrance station provides us with our first opportunity to bird the Atlantic Forest.

White-eyed Parakeet put on a show as they jet overhead, while we look for Curl-crested Jay, Chalk-browed Mockingbird, Campo Flicker, Savannah Hawk, Ruby-crowned Tanager, Grey Monjita, and Crested Black-Tyrant. We have lunch, check into our rooms and then enjoy the stunning vista with an array of feeders and birds in the foreground. For birders and photographers alike, this is just such a treat to see so many of the colorful birds of this park, and so close: Red-breasted Toucan, Dusky-legged Guan, Green Honeycreeper, White-throated Hummingbird, Brazilian Ruby, Chestnut-bellied Euphonia, Green-headed and other tanagers, Crested Oropendola, and Red-rumped Cacique. This is a fine introduction to some of the species of the Atlantic Forest.

Accommodations at [Hotel Do Ype](#) (B, L, D)



DAY 3-4: MIDDLELEVEL & HIGH-ALTITUDE EXPLORATION OF ITATIAIA NATIONAL PARK

These two days are dedicated to exploring the trails and roads of the central part of the



park. We stop for flocks as we climb the road to the higher elevations of the park where we should find Maroon-bellied Parakeet, Planalto Hermit, Surucua Trogon, Black-throated Trogon, Rufous-capped Motmot, Tufted Antshrike, White-bearded Antshrike, Variable Antshrike, Spot-breasted Antwreio, Plain Antwreio, Star-throated Antwren, White-shouldered Fire-eye, Ferruginous Antbird, Ochre rumped Antbird, White-bibbed Antbird, Rufous Gnateater, Black-and-

gold Cotinga, Blue-backed Manakin, Gray-capped Tyrannulet, Bay-chested Warbling-Finch, Buff-throated Warbling-Finch, Diademed Tanager, Olivaceous Woodcreeper, White-throated Woodcreeper, and Scaled Woodcreeper.

We drive through the area, making “specialty stops” to areas that have Violet-capped Woodnymph, Black Hawk-Eagle, and Collared Forest-Falcon. Higher elevation stops allow us to look for Araucaria Tit-Spinetail, Itatiaia Spinetail, and Rufous-capped Antshrike. A number of different species occur along the transition zones of the various elevation-dependent habitats as we climb the road to the top. These include a long list: White-barred Piculet, Yellow-eared Woodpecker, Plain-winged Woodcreeper, Black-billed Scythebill, Rufous-capped Spinetail, Pallid Spinetail, White-collared Foliage-gleaner, Ochre-breasted Foliage-gleaner, Buff-fronted Foliage gleaner, White-browed Foliage-gleaner, Yellow Tyrannulet, Gray-hooded Flycatcher, Cliff Flycatcher, Black-tailed Flycatcher, White-throated Spadebill, Velvety Black-Tyrant, Long-tailed Tyrant, White-browed Warbler, Golden-crowned Warbler, Rufous-crowned Greenlet, Golden winged Cacique, Black-goggled Tanager, Rufous-headed Tanager, Golden-chevroned Tanager, and Ruby-crowned Tanager. We should also find monkeys: Black Capuchin along with Black-striped Capuchin.



One of the fascinating aspects of climbing this road is the different plant communities and species. We bird in Araucaria Forest, a unique, high-elevation conifer of the park; the tundra-like plants found in the shrubby lands at the top of the park; and lower elevation cloud forest, complete with salvias, bromeliads, and orchids. Lower elevations have intermittent forests embedded with grasslands and streams. All of these habitats provide ample opportunity to experience this well-known and diversity-rich part of Brazil.

Accommodations at [Hotel Do Ype](#) (B, L, D)

DAY 5: MORNING IN ITATIAIA NATIONAL PARK – RETURN TO SAO PAULO

This morning we enjoy an early breakfast, and then drive to the Agulhas Negras Road into the highlands on the far side of the park. This road gives us access to higher elevation habitat where some specialty birds are found. Notable among these are White-rumped Hawk, Rufous-thighed Hawk, Araucaria Tit-Spinetail, Itatiaia Thistletail, Buff-browed Foliage-gleaner, Rufous-tailed Antbird, Black-and-gold Cotinga, Black-capped Piprites, Brown-breasted Bamboo Tyrant, Shear tailed Gray Tyrant, Diademed Tanager, Gray-throated Warbling-Finch, and Bay-chested Warbling Finch.



After we finish birding here, we drive back to São Paulo where we meet up with our companions, overnight before the start of our main trip (and in-country flight) to the Pantanal!

Accommodations at an airport [Hotel Hampton by Hilton](#) (B)

Important Notes and Information:

Brazil – Atlantic Forest - Endemics - Highlights

This itinerary has been designed to guarantee the best wildlife-viewing opportunities at several of the most gorgeous reserves and landscapes in Brazil Atlantic Forest.

- ° Embark on a birdwatching paradise at Itatiaia National Park.
- ° Witness the dance of White-eyed Parakeets and the flight of majestic Red-and-green Macaws.
- ° Immerse yourself in the captivating biodiverse of the Atlantic Forest.
- ° Explore unique plant communities and discover the forest's hidden treasures.
- ° Discover the midlevel and high-altitude regions, where exotic species like Surucua Trogons and Roufus-capped Motmots grace the foliage.
- ° Be attracted to the synergy between flora and fauna that makes this forest a haven of biodiversity.
- ° Scan for night birds under intense southern skyconstellations; spotlight for mammals, too!

Departs: All year round. Arrival and Departure Airport is Guarulhos International (GRU) in Sao Paulo.

Grading: Low. Day walks only. To enjoy the trip to the full you should enjoy spending time in the fresh air on foot.

Weather: The climate is subtropical with annual precipitation between 1,200 and 1,600 mm. In the dry season, from April through September, frosts frequently occur.

Clothing: Proper hiking gear, a rain jacket, comfortable shoes, a backpack with essential things such as warm clothes and waterproof gear.

What's included:

- ° Expert guidance and transport service
- ° Airport transfers and visits described in the itinerary
- ° Accommodation (in a standard room) and meals, as described in the itinerary
- ° Entrance fees to all natural reserves described in the itinerary

Not included:

- ° Soft and alcoholic beverages
- ° Tips
- ° Wi-Fi (due to the remote location of some of the places we will visit, internet connection may be intermittent and low-bandwidth)
- ° Personal expenses (extra nights, late checkout, laundry, gifts, etc.)
- ° Accommodation and meals not described in the program

Conditions:

*Please note that the itinerary offers our planned program of excursions. However, adverse weather & other local considerations can necessitate some re-ordering of the program during the course of the tour, though this will always be done to maximize the best use of the time and weather conditions available.

*Please be aware that this is a sample itinerary. We can customize the package based on your request and send you a quote. This program and its accommodation options are subject to availability.

*All entrance fees are subject to change without prior notice.

*Rates for domestic flights included in this program (if any) are subject to change until we have issued the tickets according to the requested travel date.

General notes:

*Baggage is handled in accordance with the airlines' regulations and tariffs. The current limits are usually 50.6 lbs (23 kg) for checked items, 17 lbs (8 kg) for hand luggage and 1 personal item (handbag, camera bag, laptop, etc.) Please keep in mind that airlines are strict with their baggage limitations.

*All baggage must be securely packed, and be properly, clearly labeled. Liquid, fragile, perishable and/or other items that are not packed as such will be transported at the guests' own risk.

*We recommend that you keep important travel documents (passport, visa), important medication and/or valuables on you at all times. These items are the full responsibility of the guest at all times.

*We are not liable for loss or damage to baggage and/or any other personal item during air travel. We are not liable for baggage stored in shore-side facilities.

*We are not liable for the loss of, or damage of, of any aforementioned personal items. We reserve the right to charge for the return of personal items left at the hotels.