



BRAZILIAN ATLANTIC FOREST

From Rio de Janeiro to Santa Catarina
A Birder Dream

The Atlantic Forest is one of the largest tropical forests on the planet. It once spanned over nearly 1,400,000 km² (540,540 sq. mi.) of Brazil's eastern coast – an area first colonized by Portuguese explorers back in the 1500s. Some reports from that time depict this place as vast, humid broad-stripe of forest running along the coast, hosting an impressive diversity of wildlife. More than 75% of this habitat was originally pure forest, loosely-spattered with patches of scrubland, montane rocky grasslands and mangrove swamps, and fringed by moist, broadleaved Restinga forest along the coast. The Atlantic Forest stands alone as a unit, and it is not connected to the Amazon and the Andean forests – the other two large South American forest stands. Thriving in isolation in a territory boasting a considerable environmental diversity, the Atlantic Forest's unique animals and plants evolved accordingly, diversifying widely and yielding numerous endemic species. Birds are no exception to this rule here, and birding the Atlantic Forest is, by all means, a most rewarding experience for those who enjoy finding new, rare species.



The Atlantic Forest's wide latitudinal range –spanning over 27 degrees– combined with its altitudinal variation, do affect the geographic distribution of its birds, plants and other animals and therefore, they are not distributed homogeneously. Our goal on this fantastic 18-day journey is to explore many of the Atlantic Forest's subregions, each representing different centers of endemism, looking for their bird specialties.

One of these regions, Serra do Mar, stands out for its great biodiversity, especially in the state of Rio de Janeiro, where the concentration of endemic and threatened bird species is remarkable. It is here where Itatiaia, Brazil's first national park, was established in 1937. This is a place that we will explore thoroughly, as it hosts three important habitats. The green, exuberant forest covering the lower section of the park is the right habitat for Juçara (*Euterpe edulis*) – a native palm-tree playing an important role as key food supplier to several fruit-eating birds. Some birds dwelling this unique habitat include Saffron Toucanet, the tiny Frilled Coquette, Slaty Bristlefront, Half-collared Sparrow, the secretive Short-tailed Antthrush, Blue-winged Macaw, Tawny-browed Owl, Giant Antshrike, Brazilian Ruby and the beautiful Pin-tailed Manakin among many others. Going uphill, the forest changes. Juçara yields to Brazilian Monkey Puzzle (*Araucaria angustifolia*) and the bamboo understory becomes thicker and more exuberant. This distinct forest provides habitat for specialties like the astounding Black-and-gold Cotinga, Black-capped Piprites, Rufous-backed Antvireo, Ochre-

rumped Antbird, Bay-chested Warbling Finch, Large-tailed Antshrike, the colorful Brassy-breasted Tanager and many others. Finally, the highest part of the park is dominated by a completely new habitat; a rocky, shrubby grassland that hosts special birds like Itatiaia Spinetail, Mouse-colored Tapaculo, Diademed Tanager, Rufous-capped Antshrike and Velvety Black-Tyrant to name but a few.

South of Itatiaia, we will bird the Lowland Atlantic Forest around Ubatuba, where a different habitat called Restinga thrives on coastal sandy soils. Formed by a combination of humid forests with tall trees and sandy coastal thickets growing next to the Atlantic coast, the Restinga is a unique, flat habitat constantly threatened by human settlement and urbanization, ever since the first European explorers arrived in Brazil. Several Brazilian range-restricted birds like the Black-hooded Antwren, Unicolored Antwren, Black-legged Dacnis, Buff-throated Purpletuff, Squamate Antbird, Scaled Antbird and Gray-hooded Attila call the Restinga home.

With the compass pointing due south, our journey continues, reaching Serra do Mar once again. This 1,500-km (930-mile) long mountain chain is a geological landmark for wildlife and this time it'll give us chances for finding new birds like Helmeted Woodpecker, Black-fronted Piping Guan, Blue-bellied Parrot, Solitary Tinamou, Cryptic Antthrush, Atlantic Royal Flycatcher, Swallow-tailed Cotinga, Variegated Antpitta, Bearded Antshrike, Cinnamon-vented Piha, Ornate Hawk Eagle, Black-and-white Hawk Eagle and Black Hawk Eagle among others.



Our next birding hotspot is Intervalles State Park, where we'll focus on finding birds like Long-trained Nightjar, Long-tufted Screech-Owl, Rusty-barred Owl, Purple-crowned Plovercrest, Serra do Mar Tyrant-Manakin and other specialties. This reserve has been included in UNESCO's list of Natural World Heritage Sites since 1999. Intervalles spans over a territory of 1,417 km² (103,000 acres), sitting on a 1,000 metres (3,300 feet) high escarpment at the highest part of Serra do Mar, This

remote area is considered one of Brazil's best birding locations. The Park sits within Serra do Mar, in the Continuum de Paranapiacaba, a mountain range that starts running south of Sao Paulo and connects with other protected areas, like Carlos Botelho State Park.

Our birding adventure continues south towards the State of Paraná, and up to highlands of Curitiba. Nestled between the remnants of Serra do Mar and the interior of the country, Curitiba fosters colder weather conditions, allowing for habitats like upland grasslands to thrive, providing shelter to birds like the impressive Sickie-winged Nightjar. Bamboo thickets in this area are home to other target species, including the elusive, bamboo specialist and near threatened Canebrake Groundcreeper.

But there's still one more hotspot left before our birding adventure ends – the southernmost one in our trip: Volta Velha Reserve. Sitting just across Serra do Mar, in the lowlands of the State of Santa Catarina and surrounded by palm plantations, this small 8.75 km² (2,162-acre) private reserve hosts a well-preserved patch of Atlantic Forest, home to several range-restricted birds like Kaempferi's Tody-tyrant, Paraná Antwren, Restinga Tyrannulet, Yellow-legged Tinamou, Russet-winged Spadebill, White-breasted Tapaculo, Black-backed Tanager and other tour targets.

No main birding hotspot in the area has been left out of the itinerary. Join us on a birding adventure of a lifetime exploring Brazil's fantastic Atlantic Forest!

Our tour itinerary in a glimpse

1 Arrival in São Paulo (Guarulhos) and transfer to Itatiaia National Park

2 Birding the lower part of Itatiaia National Park

3 Birding the upper part of Itatiaia National Park

4 Itatiaia National Park to Ubatuba (coast line)

5 Birding the lowland Atlantic Forest in Ubatuba

6 Birding the lowland Atlantic Forest in Ubatuba

7 Ubatuba to Tapiraí

8 Birding Tapiraí montane habitat

9 Tapiraí to Cananéia

10 Cananéia to PETAR and Devil's Cave State Parks

11 Iporanga to Intervalles State Park

12 Birding at Intervalles State Park

13 Birding at Intervalles State Park

14 Birding at Intervalles State Park

15 Intervalles to Curitiba

16 Curitiba to Itapoá

17 Birding at Volta Velha Reserve

18 Itapoá to Curitiba

Detailed Itinerary

Day 1. São Paulo to Itatiaia National Park

Our overland birding adventure commences in Sao Paulo, Brazil, where you'll meet your ManakinTours' leader at Guarulhos International Airport. From the airport we will drive to Itatiaia National Park, in the State of Rio de Janeiro, some 243 km (150 Miles) away – a distance that we plan to cover in roughly 3 hours. We'll make our first stop at the small town of Itatiaia, before entering the park, where we'll do some birding at a local marsh. After birding in town, we'll drive roughly 45 minutes to our hotel, strategically located inside Itatiaia National Park and check-in for

the following 3 nights. The balance of the day is to be spent birding in the surroundings of the hotel, looking for target birds including the beautiful Tawny-browed Owl. (LD)

Night in Do Ypé Hotel / <http://www.hoteldoype.com.br/>

Day 2. Lower part of Itatiaia National Park

Breakfast will be served just before sunrise, allowing for some early birding at the busy feeder outside the dining room, as we enjoy our first cup of Brazilian coffee. Some regular visitors to the feeders and surrounding trails include Saffron Toucanet, Frilled Coquette, White-throated Hummingbird, Slaty-breasted Wood Rail, Rufous-thighed Hawk, Yellow-browed Woodpecker, Magpie Tanager, Dusky-legged Guan, Brazilian Ruby, Brazilian Tanager, Blue-winged Macaw and Green-headed Tanager. We will spend the rest of the day exploring the lower areas of the park, looking for specialties like Half-collared Sparrow, Slaty Bristlefront, Oustalet's Tyrannulet, Buffy-fronted Seedeater and many others. (BLD)

Night in Do Ypé Hotel / <http://www.hoteldoype.com.br/>



Day 3. Upper part of Itatiaia National Park

Today we'll get to the highest birding locations of the entire itinerary, reaching 2,470 metres (8,100 ft), so be prepared for cold weather conditions, especially in the evening before coming down from the mountain. We'll leave our hotel right after breakfast this morning and drive first to town and then along the highway to finally take the road to Agulhas Negras – the only one leading to the mountain top. Our birding day is to be carried out mainly along this road, making several stops to look for specialties including Green-crowned Plovercrest, Green-billed Toucan, Rufous-breasted Leaf-tosser, Sharp-billed Treehunter, Itatiaia Spinetail, Rufous-backed Antwren, Large-tailed Antwren, Rufous-tailed Antbird, Mouse-colored Tapaculo, Serra do Mar Tyrannulet, Crested Black Tyrant, Black-and-gold Cotinga, Brown Tanager, Diademed Tanager, Black-capped Piprites, Brassy-breasted Tanager, Bay-chested Warbling Finch and Buff-throated Warbling Finch to name but a few. We plan to start our way back to the hotel before sunset and get there in time for dinner. (BLD)

Night in Do Ypé Hotel / <http://www.hoteldoype.com.br/>

Day 4. Itatiaia to Ubatuba

We'll spend some more time birding Itatiaia right after breakfast to then check-out from our hotel and drive roughly 250 km (150 miles) to Angra dos Reis where we'll try for one of the main targets of this tour: the endangered and endemic Black-hooded Antwren. Other great birds like Fork-tailed Tody-tyrant, Spotted Bamboowren, Black-legged Dacnis, Black-backed Tanager, Squamate Antbird, are also possible here, so we will spend some time birding this area. We will resume driving after lunch and head for Ubatuba, in the State of São Paulo, following one of Brazil's most scenic highways

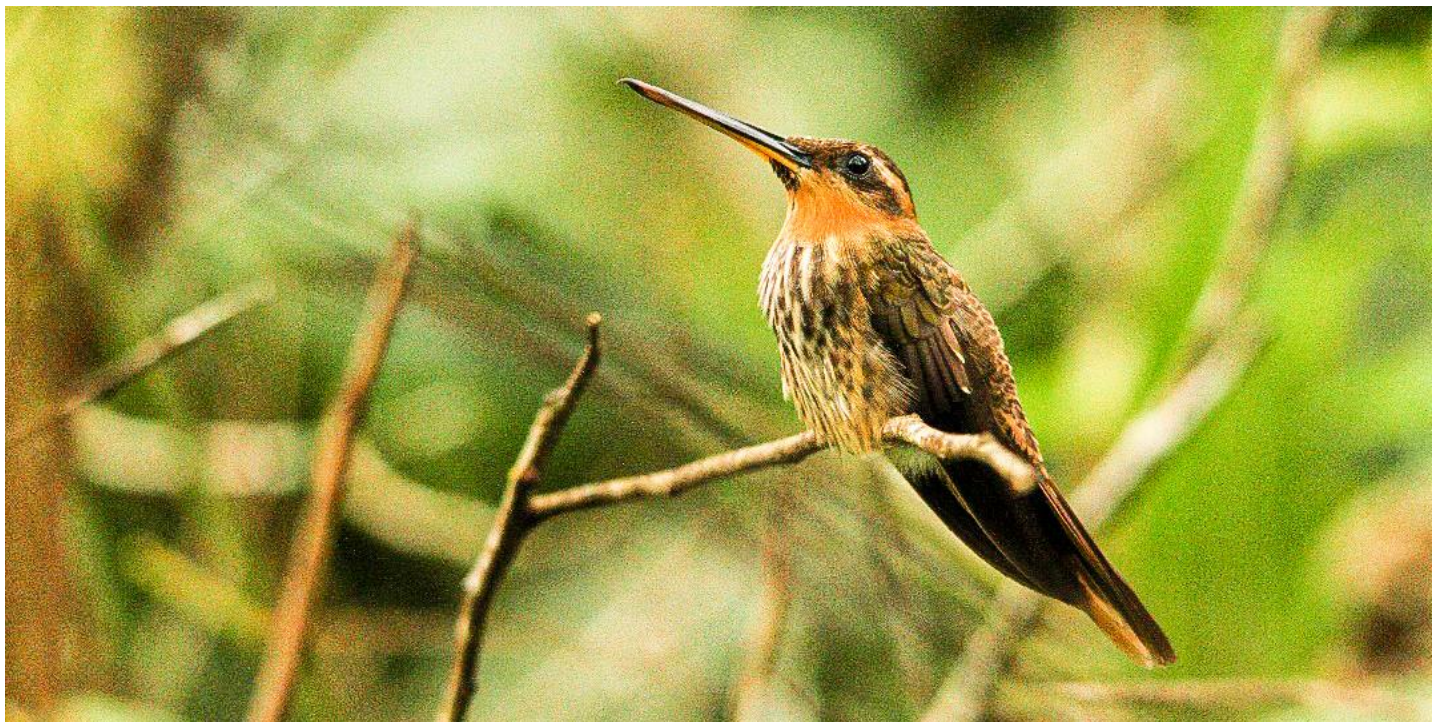
for nearly 170 kilometres (105 miles). Great views of the impressive forest cover of the Serra do Mar and the stunning island-spangled coastline of the South Atlantic Ocean will make this 3-hour drive very enjoyable. We plan to arrive in Ubatuba this evening and check-in to our hotel for the following 3 nights. (BLD)

Night in Palace Hotel / <http://ubatubapalace.com.br/Home>

Day 5. Lowlands of Ubatuba

Our day starts birding a very busy hummingbird feeder not far from the hotel that sometimes attracts more than 10 species of these flying jewels at the same time, besides several tanagers and other striking birds. Some species commonly found here include Saw-billed Hermit, Brazilian Ruby, Festive Coquette, White-chinned Sapphire, Versicolored Emerald and Violet-crowned Woodnymph. The balance of the day is to be spent exploring the Lowland Atlantic Forest near Ubatuba, looking for birds like Slaty-breasted Wood Rail, Rufous-thighed Kite, Pileated Parrot, Orange-breasted Thornbird, Squamate Antbird, Slaty Bristlefront, Eye-ringed Tody-Tyrant, Fork-tailed Tody-Tyrant and Rufous-capped Motmot. (BLD)

Night in Palace Hotel / <http://ubatubapalace.com.br/Home>



Day 6. Lowlands of Ubatuba}

A second day birding Ubatuba's lowlands will help us securing most target birds in this area, but today we will also drive 20 minutes from the hotel to go exploring Angelin farm, where we will look for specialties including Black-legged Dacnis, Buff-throated Purpletuft, Orange-eyed Thornbird, Ochre-rumped Antbird, Squamate Antbird, Spotted Bamboowren, Spot-breasted Antvireo, Scaled Antbird, Slaty Bristlefront, Rufous-capped Antthrush and many others. (BLD)

Night in Palace Hotel / <http://ubatubapalace.com.br/Home>

Day 7. Ubatuba to Tapiraí

We'll spend some time birding Ubatuba this morning, looking for any target bird that we might have missed in previous days, to then start our 400-km (250-mile) drive to Tapiraí, where we'll spend the following 2 nights at Trilha dos Tucanos lodge. We plan to arrive in Tapiraí this evening in time to do some birding along the access road to the lodge, where birds like Helmeted Woodpecker, Atlantic Royal Flycatcher, Pin-tailed Manakin, White-collared Foliage-gleaner and Dusky-tailed Antbird are all possible. (BLD)

Night in Trilha dos Tucanos / <https://www.trilhadostucanos.com.br/>

Day 8. Tapiraí

We'll start our day very early this morning for exploring the local forest trails before breakfast. Our goal is to try for secretive birds like Solitary Tinamou, Brown Tinamou, Spot-winged Wood Quail, Rusty-breasted Nunlet, Atlantic Royal Flycatcher, Helmeted Woodpecker, Oustalet's Tyrannulet, White-bearded Antshrike and Swallow-tailed Cotinga when they start getting active. After breakfast, we will spend time birding another great feeder, visited regularly by birds like Saffron Toucanet, Green-billed Toucan, Olive-green Tanager and Brazilian Ruby among others. The balance of the day is to be spent birding different parts of this property, looking for key targets. (BLD)

Night in Trilha dos Tucanos / <https://www.trilhadostucanos.com.br/>

Day 9. Tapiraí to Cananéia

We'll spend some more time birding around our lodge before leaving for Cananéia. This nice little town located 154 km (96 miles) south of Trilha dos Tucanos, sits on the estuary of the river Mar Pequeno, on the shore of the Atlantic Ocean. We plan to arrive in Cananéia in time for lunch, and check-in to our lodge for 1 night. Birding starts after lunch and we'll look for local specialties focusing on targets like the endangered and range-restricted Red-tailed Amazon. This beautiful species of parrot occurs along a tiny coastal strip, ranging from southern São Paulo to northern Santa Catarina, with a total population estimated in less than 4,000 birds still living in the wild. Other interesting birds possibly found here include Magrove Rail, Azure Jay, Olive-green Tanager and Black-backed Tanager among others. (BLD)

Night in Trilha dos Papagaios / <https://www.facebook.com/pg/trilhadospapagaios/photos>



Day 10. Cananéia to Iporanga

We'll have a busy morning birding the Restinga habitat, trying for extra views of Red-tailed Amazon and also looking other endemics like Dusky-throated Hermit, White-necked Hawk, Restinga Tyrannulet, Black-checked Gnateater, Black-backed Tanager, Black-legged Dacnis and more. We will then take a 2-hour boat tour to go exploring the nearby mangroves, looking for birds like Scarlet Ibis, Royal Tern, South American Tern, Brown Booby and several waders. Chances are also there for other wildlife, including Bottle-nosed Dolphin. We'll leave Cananéia after lunch and drive towards Iporanga, passing through PETAR and Devil's Cave State Parks along the way. These two parks are nestled in the heart of a huge forest area, and they form part of the last big stand of pure Brazilian Atlantic Forest left. Our main target this afternoon is the elusive Variegated Antpitta. We plan to arrive in Iporanga this evening, and check-in to our lodge for 1 night. (BLD)

Night in Gamboa Eco Refugio / <http://www.gamboaeorefugio.com.br/site/home>

Day 11. Iporanga to Intervalles State Park

Another busy morning birding around Iporanga, looking for targets including Cryptic Antthrush, Blue-bellied Parrot, East Brazilian Pygmy Owl and hopefully Ornate Hawk Eagle, since this is the best spot for finding it in the whole country. Bird habitat in this place is just stunning and the forest holds so many species that an entire month wouldn't suffice to see them all! But our journey must continue right after lunch, when we'll depart for one of the best birding locations in Brazil: Intervalles State Park, where we'll spend the following 4 nights. (BLD)

Night in Pousada Pica Pau / https://www.tripadvisor.com.br/Hotel_Review-g1632650-d2675418-Reviews-Pousada_Pica_Pau-Urubici_State_of_Santa_Catarina.html

Days 12 to 14. Intervalles State Park

These three days are to be spent birding different areas inside Intervalles, including Carmo Road, which has a reputation for being the best birding spot inside the Park. This 20-km (12.5-mile) long road cuts through prime forest habitat, offering great birding opportunities. A couple of trails off Carmo Road are a fairly reliable for the endemic White-bearded Antshrike. Another interesting birding hotspot that we plan to go visiting here is Barra Grande. Birds likely to be found in Carmo Road and Barra Grande include Mantled Hawk, Silky-tailed Nightjar, Crescent-chested Puffbird, Saffron Toucanet, Slaty Bristlefront, Star-throated Antwren, Scaled Antbird, Squamate Antbird, Such's Antthrush, Speckle-breasted Antpitta, White-collared Foliage-Gleaner, Pale-browed Treehunter, Helmeted Woodpecker, Sharpbill, Swallow-tailed Cotinga, Black-fronted Piping Guan, Gray-capped Tyrannulet, Pin-tailed Manakin, Cinnamon-vented Piha, Brown Tanager, Temminck's Seedeater, Black-legged Dacnis, and Golden-winged Cacique to name but a few. Secretive targets like Helmeted Woodpecker, Blue-bellied Parrot and Swallow-tailed Cotinga are also possible here, and we'll put a special effort to try and find them as well. Exploring the local trails can be really rewarding, and we can expect to find birds like Solitary Tinamou, Brown Tinamou, Purple-crowned Plovercrest, Rufous-thighed Kite, Buff-bellied Puffbird, Rusty-breasted Nunlet, Pileated Parrot, Rufous-breasted Leaf-tosser, White-browed Foliage-gleaner, White-bearded Antshrike, Short-tailed Antthrush, Variegated Antpitta, Slaty Bristlefront, São Paulo Tyrannulet, Oustalet's Tyrannulet, Brown-breasted Bamboo Tyrant, Hooded Berryeater, Bare-throated Bellbird, Serra do Mar Tyrant-Manakin, Atlantic Royal Flycatcher, Chestnut-backed Tanager, Black-legged Dacnis and Buffy-fronted Seedeater. We will also do some owling while at Intervalles, to look for such stunning birds as Long-tufted Screech Owl, Rusty-barred Owl, Black-capped Screech-Owl, Buff-fronted Owl and others. (BLD)

Night in Pousada Pica Pau / https://www.tripadvisor.com.br/Hotel_Review-g1632650-d2675418-Reviews-Pousada_Pica_Pau-Urubici_State_of_Santa_Catarina.html



Day 15. Intervalles to Curitiba

We'll spend the early morning hours birding the grounds of our lodge at Intervalles and then start our 435-km (270-Mile) drive south to Curitiba, in the State of Paraná. This drive is pretty much straight through and there are no interesting birding spots along the way so we'll try getting to Curitiba as early as possible, check in to our lodge for 1 night, and get ready for a night birding expedition, to look for Sickie-winged Nightjar. This bird is very scarce throughout its whole range, but we'll work hard to try to find it! (BLD)

Night in Bourbon Dom Ricardo /

<https://www.bourbon.com.br/hotel/bourbon-dom-ricardo-hotel/>

Day 16. Curitiba to Itapoá

We'll start birding early this morning to try for specialties including Marsh Tapaculo, Mottled Piculet and Purple-crowned Plovercrest at a local marsh. We will then move on to a different area for trying with Canebrake Groundcreeper and other local birds. We'll finally leave Curitiba after lunch, and drive 150 km (93 miles) to Volta Velha Reserve, where we plan to arrive in time for some evening birding, looking for specialties including Marsh Antwren. After spending time birdwatching this reserve, we will continue to Itapoá where we'll check in to our lodge for the last 2 nights of the tour (BLD)

Night in Volta Velha Reserva / <https://www.reservavoltavelha.com.br/>

Day 17. Volta Velha Reserve

We'll spend the last full day of the tour birding Volta Velha Reserve, exploring the lowlands, trying for birds like Yellow-legged Tinamou, Scaled Chachalaca, Dusky-throated Hermit, White-necked Hawk, Buff-bellied Puffbird, Unicolored Antwren, White-breasted Tapaculo, Restinga Tyrannulet, Kaempfer's Tody-Tyrant, Russet-winged Spadebill, Black-backed Tanager, Uniform Finch and many more. (BLD)

Night in Volta Velha Reserva / <https://www.reservavoltavelha.com.br/>

Day 18. Itapoá to Curitiba – Tour Conclusion

Depending on your flight schedule, we will spend a few more hours birding around Volta Velha, to then transfer to Curitiba airport in time for bidding farewell to your Manakin Nature Tours' leader and taking your departure flight. Our Brazil birding adventure ends here, but we look forward to showing you more birds in Latin America... or anywhere else around the world! (BL)

Price 2021

4 Pax: 7.130 USD – Net Price Per Person

5 Pax: 5.310 USD – Net Price Per Person

6 Pax: 4.770 USD – Net Price Per Person

7 Pax: 4.385 USD – Net Price Per Person

8 Pax: 4.225 USD – Net Price Per Person

9 Pax: 3.985 USD – Net Price Per Person

10 Pax: 3.795 USD – Net Price Per Person

Single Room Supplement: 890 USD

What is included?

Main Tour

- 2 Full time Manakin Nature Tours English-speaking birding/naturalist leaders from arriving day 1 until departure on day 14.
- Private transportation for all transfers and excursions.
- Accommodations on DBL/ SGL room basis with breakfast included. All rooms en-suite.

- All lunches, boxed-lunches and dinners from Lunch on day 1 until Breakfast on day 14 of the tour. No drinks included.
- Admission fees to all national parks and nature reserves.
- Local guides where required by law.
- Drinkable water on board the vehicles while on tour.
- 01 Boat trip (2 hours) at Rio Claro on day 5
- 02 full days navigation at Porto Jofre for Jaguar searching on days 7 & 8.
- 01 navigation (02 hours) at Pixaim river on day 10.
- Manakin Nature Tours leaders expenses.

Is not included!

- International and domestic airfares and airport taxes.
- Personal travel and medical insurance.
- Beverages
- Tips of any kind
- Anything not stated on "Included services".