

NEOTROPICAL[®]

NATURE & BIRDING TRIPS



BRAZIL'S ATLANTIC FOREST



MATA ATLÂNTICA

ATLANTIC FOREST: ITATIAIA NATIONAL PARK & UBATUBA

SAMPLE ITINERARY 7D/6N

Brazil's Atlantic Forest is truly a jewel of the Continent. Designated as a World Biosphere Reserve, it is a complex region of tropical and subtropical rainforest, tropical dry forest, tropical savanna, semi deciduous and mangrove forests. It extends along the Atlantic coast of Brazil from sea level up into montane forest at Serra do Mar. The Atlantic Forest currently spans over 4000 km² along the coast of Brazil and is characterized by an enormous biodiversity. Long isolated from other major rainforest zones in South America, the Atlantic Forest has an extremely diverse and unique mix of vegetation and forest types inducing high specialization levels which make it a unique endemic hotspot.

This short tour can be either an easy add-on to our Pantanal tour, or a superb week-long getaway for people who can only travel for short periods of time. The tour concentrates on two distinct regions. First, the mountains, that host a unique set of birds. You'll stay at a lodge located close to Itatiaia National Park, with feeders and great birding on the grounds, and use it as a base to explore both the lower and upper elevations of this stunning National Park. Following, you'll move lower to the Brazilian coast to the picturesque lowland rainforests around Ubatuba, which arguably has the easiest and finest lowland birding in all of Southeast Brazil along with some of the best hummingbird feeders at Sitio do Jonas, in Folhas Secas.



BRAZIL'S ATLANTIC FOREST

TOUR SUMMARY

**7 Days / 6 Nights Wildlife & Birding
Atlantic Forest**

**Arrival and Departure Airport is
Guarulhos International (GRU)**

Itinerary

Day 1: Arrival to São Paulo, Brazil

Arrive in São Paulo, Brazil, at Guarulhos International Airport (GRU). No activities are planned for this day so you can rest up from your travels. The transfer to your hotel is included; the hotel is about twenty minutes away and we can organize an early check-in as an option for those that need it (usually, rooms can be available by noon; getting into a room earlier than that requires additional charges). Remember, you have at least 1.5 hours to get luggage and clear immigration and customs; there is a restaurant and public areas at the airport where you can relax if you don't want to pay an early room fee.

This evening you'll enjoy a welcome dinner, the chance to meet your guide and traveling companions; and learn more about our coming adventure. We invite you to sample Brazil's national cocktail, the caipirinha, made with cachaça (sugarcane liquor), sugar, and lime. We predict this may be the first of many.

Accommodations at Hotel Matiz Guarulhos (D)



BRAZIL'S ATLANTIC FOREST

Day 2: Itatiaia National Park.

After breakfast we'll drive to Itatiaia (around three and a half hours drive time). Itatiaia is mountainous and rocky with altitudes ranging from 540 to 2,791 metres (1,772 to 9,157 ft). The highest point is the Black Needles peak (Pico das Agulhas Negras).

Today we'll visit part of the oldest National Park of Brazil. The lodge that will serve as our accommodation for the following 3 nights is surrounded by forest and a great place for some easy afternoon birding, where we hope to find Frilled Coquettes feeding on flowers in the garden. Nectar feeders should attract a few different hummers such as Scale-throated Hermit and White-throated Hummingbird, Brazilian Ruby; fruit feeders often bring in colorful species like the unmatched Green-headed Tanager, Chestnut-bellied Euphonia and Blue-naped Chlorophonia along with many other species, but the most wanted will be the unique Saffron Toucanet, we hope for at least one sighting during our stay. You'll certainly love the activity around the lodge, Red-rumped Caciques, Maroon-bellied Parakeets make their presence very obvious.

Accommodation at Hotel do Ypé (B, L,D)

Day 3 Itatiaia National Park Lower Zone

After breakfast, you'll enjoy the activity around the hotel which is located inside the National Park, just around the lodge grounds we may find Dusky-legged Guans and Slaty-breasted Wood-Rails, or we might see Blue-winged Macaws departing from their roosting cavities. We'll then spend the rest of the day birding roads and trails not far from your hotel. Today we'll try to get good views of some remarkable antbirds like Ochre-rumped and White-bibbed Antbirds, and we'll be on the lookout for the scarce White-bearded and Giant Antshrikes. Bamboo patches hold Black-billed Scythebill, Black-capped Foliage-gleaner, Rufous-capped Spinetail, Fork-tailed Pygmy-Tyrant, and others We'll try our luck with some tough birds like Such's and Rufous-tailed Antthrushes. The elegant Swallow-tailed Cotinga is unpredictable this time of year, but with luck we may encounter one. Tawny-browed Owl often remains hidden in the forest near the hotel, and it's not unusual to be woken up by its otherworldly calls.

Hotel do Ype (B,L,D)



BRAZIL'S ATLANTIC FOREST

Day 4: Algulhas Negras Itatiaia National Park

After an early breakfast, we'll drive about 1 hour to a back road that accesses the higher zones of the National Park. The stunted forest and scrub here host a very different set of birds, and the unmistakable calls of Black-and-gold Cotingas ring out through the mist. Hearing them is easy! Seeing them often takes a lot of persistence and patience. We'll target several species along the lower parts of the road like Rufous-tailed Antbird, Large-tailed Antshrike, Serra do Mar Tyrannulet, and Black-capped Piprites. Forest patches can be quiet until a mixed species flock comes whirling through, and then we can be inundated with birds like Diademed and Brassy-breasted Tanagers, Buff-throated and Bay-chested Warbling-Finches, Pallid Spinetail, Rufous-backed Antvireo, Sharp-billed Treehunter, and White-browed Woodpecker. We'll check a regular lekking site for Green-crowned Plovercrest, where several males of this superb-looking hummingbird usually perch and chirp incessantly. Further up, the forest becomes shorter, and we'll try various spots for the endemic Itatiaia Spinetail, and for sure we'll try to look for Araucaria Tit-Spinetail. After a picnic lunch, we'll bird a side road lower down the valley that passes through pastures and light woodland. The birding here is easy and offers very different birds like Toco Toucans, screeching Curl-crested Jays, handsome White-eared Puffbirds, dancing Streamer-tailed Tyrants, among others.

Hotel do Ype (B,L,D)



UBATUBA SITIO FOLHA SECA

Day 5: Itatiaia to Ubatuba

Today you'll have a scenic drive from Itatiaia to Ubatuba (4 and a half hours drivetime), where the forest-covered mountains that come down to the sea make this part of the Atlantic coast truly beautiful. Various private reserves and quiet side roads at the base of the mountains offer easy birding with some of the best species the Atlantic Forest has to offer. Numerous antbirds are possible, many of which are truly handsome and often surprisingly easy to see compared to other parts of the Neotropics – a few in particular that we will be looking for are Scaled and Ferruginous Antbirds, Spot-breasted Antwreos, Tufted and Spot-backed Antshrike, and Star-throated Antwren, the strikingly patterned Spotted Bamboowren and the perky Slaty Bristlefront with its unforgettable song. Bare-throated Bellbird with its unique distinctive call will be one of our target species as well.

We'll stop at Folha Seca Reserve which has hummingbird and fruit feeders. Swarms of hummers are always present with the startling Festive Coquette often being the favorite. Others that visit include Saw-billed Hermit, Violet-capped Woodnymph, Brazilian Ruby, Sombre Hummingbird, Versicolored Emerald, and White-chinned Sapphire. The fruit feeders attract amazing visitors such as Green-headed, Ruby-crowned, Brazilian and Red-necked Tanagers. We'll then head to a suburb of the beach town of Ubatuba where we will spend the next 2 nights at Hotel Porto do Eixo (B,L,D)



UBATUBA - FACENDA ANGELIM

Day 6: Ubatuba - Facenda Angelim

After breakfast we'll drive to Facenda Angelim (50 min drive time).

There's a fair amount of remaining lowland forest there with an impressive amount of Atlantic Forest endemics, like Rufous-headed and Gilt-edge Tanagers.

If weather allows this is one of the most reliable locations for Buff-Bellied Puffbird and Buff-Throated Purple-tuft.

Mantled Hawk sometimes can be seen perched in the trees right along the clearings waiting to ambush their prey. Here we'll try to find the unique Spotted Bamboowren that sometimes call softly from the overgrown clearing along the entrance road.

Hotel Port do Eixo (B,L,D)

Day 7 Ubatuba - Guarulhos (GRU)

Our last morning in Ubatuba. We'll have time to enjoy and relax on the beautiful beach of Ubatuba or take a short visit to Sitio do Folha Seca to try to get anything we've missed in the previous days.

After lunch we'll drive back to Guarulhos (3 hour drive).

We'll arrive in the international airport by 6:00pm, in time for evening departures on several airlines, or if you require an overnight stay, we can arrange an additional night in an airport hotel. (B,L)



ATLANTIC FOREST

PRICE PER PERSON: USD \$ 2750 per person

Price listed in double occupation room.

Single supplement \$260 USD



TRIP CONSIDERATIONS

PLEASE NOTE:

This is a sample itinerary subject to change due to weather conditions, safety, and particular interests of guests. Changes and additions are made in order to maximize your experience and wilderness enjoyment.

OVERVIEW:

Max group size: 8 + Tour leader

Length: 7 days

Starting city: São Paulo

Ending city: São Paulo

Pace: Moderate

Physical difficulty: Moderate

Focus: Natural history, birding and photography

INCLUDED:

- Private service of a specialized birding & naturalist bilingual guide
- Private transportation
- Accommodation in double or triple occupation in Hotels listed in the itinerary. Single room adds a fee
- All meals listed in the itinerary with soft drink or purified water
- Transfers in-out
- All excursions and activities listed in itinerary
- Entrance fees to all the reserves and activities
- All accommodations listed in the itinerary

NOT INCLUDED:

- International airfare
- Alcoholic Beverages
- Additional drinks
- Tips
- Any other item not specified

Contact information:

info@neotropicalecuador.com

CLIMATE: Usually pleasant to warm in the lower elevations, and cool to occasionally cold in the mountains. Sometimes cold fronts bring cooler temperatures into the region. Some rain can be expected.

TIME ZONE: UTC/GMT -3 hours

VISA: Starting on June 17, 2019, tourists from the US, Canada, Australia, and Japan will no longer need visas to visit Brazil. (Citizens of the UK, EU, South Africa, New Zealand, and various other countries were already exempt from tourist visa requirements.)

CUSTOMIZED TOUR

We can easily set up a custom tour to virtually anywhere you can imagine. With a custom tour, you can travel with friends and family on dates that are convenient for your schedule, and the tour will be ran at the pace and difficulty you desire.

PLEASE ASK FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES AND DESTINATIONS.

NEOTROPICAL[®]
BIRDING & NATURE TRIPS

www.neotropicalecuador.com