



## **NORTHEAST BRAZIL: MEGA CAATINGA ENDEMIC BIRDING AND SERRA BONITA EXTENSION**

### **Trip Itinerary**

#### **Day 1. Arrival in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Transfer to Sao Paulo Hotel.**

Today we will be our gathering. We will have our trip orientation and confirm detailed plans for the following days.

#### **Day 2. Mid-morning arriving in Maceió and then transfer to Uniao dos Palmares. Night Uniao dos Palmares.**

Today we fly to Maceió, then drive to our hotel. If flight times are in our favor, we will arrive at our hotel during the afternoon and have time to bird the hotel grounds, then get organized for the following day. This will be our base to access the famous Murici forest.

Around the hotel, we will have a chance to see our first endemic birds, Tawny Piculet and Seven-colored Tanager.

### **Days 3 and 4. Full days birding the Murici Forest. Night in União dos Palmares.**

These two days will be devoted to birding the Murici Forest. The Murici Ecological Reserve and its surroundings is one of the last remnants of pristine forest in the region. Encompassing 6250 hectares, this reserve is the last stronghold for many rare and range-restricted species, a few of them only recently described to science. In order to visit the Murici Reserve at an appropriate time of day, we will have to begin before sunrise. The discomfort created by these early starts will be vastly compensated by views of the astonishing avifauna of the site.

The most important specialties here are White-collared Kite, Alagoas Foliage-gleaner (extremely rare), Alagoas Antwren (very rare, an extremely localized species), Orange-bellied Antwren (very rare), Alagoas Tyrannulet and Seven-colored Tanager. Other noteworthy species include East Brazilian Chachalaca, Collared Forest-Falcon, Ash-throated Crake, Red-shouldered Macaw, Reddish Hermit, Great-billed Hermit (aka Margaretta's Hermit), Black Jacobin, Long-tailed Woodnymph, Black-throated Mango, Black-eared Fairy, Stripe-breasted Starthroat, Black-necked Aracari, Rusty-breasted Nunlet, Golden-spangled Piculet, Pinto's Spinetail, Red-stained Woodpecker, Black-tailed Leaf-tosser, White-shouldered Antshrike (ssp. *distans*), Rufous-winged Antwren, White-fringed Antwren, Willis's Antbird, White-backed Fire-Eye (ssp. *pernambucensis*), Scalloped Antbird, Black-cheeked Gnatcatcher (ssp. *nigrifrons*), White-eyed Tody-Tyrant, Grayish Mourner, Bright-rumped Attila, Black-headed Berryeater, White-winged Cotinga, Buff-throated Purple-tuft (the rare and isolated subspecies *leucopyga*), Screaming Piha, Blue-backed Manakin, White-bearded Manakin, Red-headed Manakin, Long-billed Gnatcatcher, Yellowish Pipit, Opal-rumped Tanager, Red-necked Tanager, Red-legged Honeycreeper, Yellow-backed Tanager, Flame-crested Tanager, Violaceous Euphonia, Chestnut-bellied Euphonia and Black-throated Grosbeak.

### **Day 5. Early morning birding our hotel grounds in União dos Palmares before driving to Tamandaré. Night in Tamandaré.**

This morning we will spend the best birding hours of the day looking for any species we may have missed, especially the Murici endemics, before we drive to Tamandaré.

### **Day 6. Full day birding the Reserva do Saltinho and Trapiche. Night in Tamandaré.**

The 528 hectares Saltinho's Biological Reserve and the Uciná Trapiche forest are some of the small remnants of forest in an otherwise devastated forest region, and are home to rare species like White-necked Hawk, Golden-tailed Parrotlet, Pernambuco Pygmy-Owl, Racket-tailed Coquette, Pinto's Spinetail, Orange-bellied Antwren, Willis's Antbird (endemic subspecies *sabinoi*), Seven-colored Tanager, Yellow-faced Siskin and Forbes's Blackbird, among others.

**Day 7. Early morning birding the Reserva do Saltinho and Trapiche before driving to Recife to catch our flight to Fortaleza. After arriving in Fortaleza, we will head south to Serra do Baturité. Night in Guaramiranga.**

We will have one last morning to search Saltinho's Reserve before we head to Recife to catch our flight to Fortaleza and transfer to Serra do Baturite.

The Serra do Baturité is an isolated mountain range carpeted with semi-arid woodland and some evergreen woodland. The area provides habitat for a set of endemic species, as well as many other widespread species, including Laughing Falcon, Yellow-chevroned Parakeet, Ruby-topaz Hummingbird, Gould's Toucanet, Ochraceous Piculet, Little Woodpecker, Wing-banded Hornero, Pale-legged Hornero, Pinto's Spinetail, Ochre-cheeked Spinetail, Gray-headed Spinetail, Rufous-breasted Leaf-tosser, Great Antshrike, White-fringed Antwren, Short-tailed Antthrush, Rufous Gnatcatcher (ssp. *cearae*), Buff-breasted Tody-Tyrant, Band-tailed Manakin, Orange-headed Tanager, Red-necked Tanager (ssp. *cearensis*) and Pectoral Sparrow.

**Day 8. Morning birding in Serra do Baturité and midmorning transfer to Serra do Araripe. Night in Crato.**

This morning will be spent looking for some of the species that might have eluded us the previous day. The hottest part of the day will be devoted to travel, with a few worthy stops, on the way to Serra do Araripe. During these stops, we will especially be looking for the local Pygmy Nightjar, Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Comb Duck, Yellow-chinned Spinetail, Rufous-fronted Thornbird and Caatinga Cachalote.

**Day 9. Full day birding in the Serra do Araripe. Night in Crato.**

While the Serra do Araripe National Park was the first National Park to be set aside in Brazil (in 1946), it is amazing that the striking Araripe Manakin remained unknown to science until recently.

The 39,260,000 hectare park is an escarpment standing out in the dry Caatinga, providing the proper set up for various habitats where we will be looking for White-browed Guan, Tropical Screech-Owl, Common (Gray) Potoo, Little Nightjar, Cinnamon-throated Hermit, Tawny Piculet, Gray-headed Spinetail, Great Xenops, Red-shouldered Spinetail, Silvery-cheeked Antshrike, Planalto Slaty-Antshrike, Caatinga Antwren, White-browed Antpitta, Tawny-crowned Pygmy-Tyrant, Ash-throated Cuckoo, Araripe Manakin, Pale-bellied Tyrant-Manakin, Gray-eyed Greenlet, White-naped Jay, Moustached Wren, Ultramarine Grosbeak and Cinnamon Tanager.

**Day 10. Early morning birding the Serra do Araripe before driving to Canudos for the night.**

In the early morning, we will be birding in the Serra do Araripe, looking for some of the species that may have eluded us. By mid-morning we will start our travel to Canudos, where we will spend the night.

**Day 11. Early morning birding Canudos Reserve and late morning drive to Estancia.**

Only 400+ individuals of the critically endangered Lear's Macaw are known to exist in the wild, and the reserve we will be visiting is in the core of their range. The reserve is also home to Red-legged Seriema, Blue-crowned Parakeet, Cactus Parakeet, Caatinga Puffbird, Spotted Piculet, Green-barred Flicker, Narrow-billed Woodcreeper, Silvery-cheeked Antshrike, Barred Antshrike, Stripe-backed Antbird, Black-bellied Antwren, White Monjita, Long-billed Wren, Hooded Tanager, Pileated Finch, Red-cowled Cardinal and Campo Oriole. Later today, we will start our drive to the coastal town of Estancia, in the state of Sergipe.

**Day 12. Morning birding the Fringe-backed Fire-eye preserve, between Santa Luzia de Itanhi and Crasto. After lunch drive to Salvador.**

We will make another early morning start, so that we have the best chance of finding the rare and local Fringe-backed Fire-eye, along with Sooretama Slaty-Antshrike, the rare Pectoral Antwren and Cinnamon-vented Piha. After lunch, we will continue south to Salvador to end the main part of the trip.

**Day 13. Transfer to the airport to catch our flights back home.**

**Serra Bonita Extension**

**Day 1. Morning transfer to the airport for flight to Ilheus, then drive to Camacan.**

After arriving in Camacan, we will transfer to 4-wheel drive vehicles for the drive to the supreme Serra Bonita private reserve. If we arrive early enough, we can look for some of the target species on the way to the lodge. As we enter the reserve, we will look for Eastern Striped Manakin (endemic, a certain future split from Striped Manakin), White-crowned Manakin, Red-headed Manakin and Yellow-fronted Woodpecker. We will spend the night at the Serra Bonita Reserve.

**Day 2. Full day birding Serra Bonita Reserve.**

Serra Bonita has several trails that are worth exploring. There are several Brazilian endemic birds found here, including Plumbeous Antvireo, Ferruginous Antbird, Pallid Spinetail, Pale-browed Treehunter, Gray-headed (Yellow-lored) Tody-Flycatcher, Cinnamon-vented Piha, Pin-tailed Manakin, as well as the regional endemic Spot-billed Toucanet.

We will also search for Least Pygmy-Owl, Rufous-breasted Hermit, Reddish Hermit, Sombre Hummingbird, Violet-capped Woodnymph, Black-throated Trogon, Crescent-chested Puffbird, Yellow-throated Woodpecker, Spot-backed Antshrike, White-shouldered Fire-eye, Variegated Antpitta, Drab-breasted Pygmy-Tyrant (aka Drab-breasted Bamboo Tyrant), Tropical Pewee, Sharpbill and Rufous-browed Solitaire.

Around midday, we will return to lodge to enjoy lunch and birdwatching at the feeders. Some of the species attending the feeders are Green-headed Tanager and Red-necked Tanager. During the afternoon, we will explore the trails again in search of more endemics: Rufous-headed Tanager, Gray-hooded Attila and Bahia Tyrannulet. Other species possible include Pectoral Sparrow, Azure-shouldered Tanager, Grayish Mourner, Golden-chevroned Tanager, Planalto Woodcreeper, Sepia-capped Flycatcher, Gray-capped Flycatcher and Yellow-olive Flycatcher. We will spend another night at Serra Bonita Reserve.

### **Day 3. Morning birding Serra Bonita Reserve, afternoon birding transfer to Porto Seguro.**

Today we plan to drive to higher altitude areas in the reserve. Our list of endemics will continue to grow, as we look for Salvadori's Antwren, White-bibbed Antbird, Bahia Spinetail, Striated Softtail, Pink-legged Graveteiro, Fork-tailed Pygmy-Tyrant and the regional endemic Spot-breasted Antwren.

Other birds present here include Black Jacobin, Golden-spangled Piculet, Green-barred Woodpecker, Rufous-winged Antwren, Three-striped Flycatcher, Blue Manakin, White-necked Thrush, Black-throated Grosbeak, Green Honeycreeper, Golden-crowned Warbler, Chestnut-bellied Euphonia and Blue-naped Chlorophonia.

After lunch, we will start our drive towards Porto Seguro, where we will spend the night.

### **Day 4. Full day birding Estação Veracel.**

This morning and afternoon, we will visit Estação Veracel. Some of the species from this site include Double-toothed Kite, Plain Parakeet, Rufous-throated Sapphire, Swallow-winged Puffbird, Black-necked Aracari, Red-stained Woodpecker, Band-tailed Antwren, Eared Pygmy-Tyrant, Turquoise Tanager, Silver-breasted Tanager, Opal-rumped Tanager, Red-capped Manakin, White-crowned Manakin and Rufous-capped Antthrush. Endemic birds to be found here include Ochre-marked (Blue-throated) Parakeet, Red-browed Parrot, Sooretama Slaty-Antshrike, White-winged Cotinga, and the spectacular Banded Cotinga.

Overnight in Porto Seguro.

### **Day 5. Morning birding Estação Veracel, afternoon birding transfer to Porto Seguro airport for flights home.**

This morning we will have one more visit to Estação Veracel in search of any species that might have eluded us the previous day. Then we will return to Porto Seguro for our lunch before heading to the airport for flights home.