

Rio Azul Amazon Basin Extension

Detailed itinerary

Extension Day 1: Mid-Day Flight to Alta Floresta and Transfer to Rio Azul

Participants taking this extension normally link this tour with one of our options for birding Pantanal and Chapada dos Guimaraes. On the last birding day of your main trip, the Rio Azul extension begins with a transfer to Cuiabá airport to catch your mid-day flight to Alta Floresta.

Upon arrival in Alta Floresta, you will be immediately transferred to Rio Azul Jungle Lodge for some post check-in late afternoon birding.

Extension Days 2 to 5: Rio Cristalino Southern Amazon Birding for Four Full Days

You will spend the next four days exploring and birding the Brazilian Amazonian Rainforest at the unique sites at the Rio Azul Sport Fishing Reserve.

The Rio Azul Jungle Lodge and Alta Floresta are located on the southern edge of the Amazonian Rain Forest holding pockets of stunted Campirana habitats growing on nutrient-poor, white-sand soils, and hosting over 500 bird species. The Rio Azul Jungle Lodge lies in extreme south of the State of Pará, and is about a four hour drive by car from Alta Floresta. The lodge itself is a charming, family owned-and-operated facility, which offers an intimate Amazonian experience.

Nestled along the crystal-clear Rio Azul, which forms the boundary between lodge property and the pristine forests of the vast Serra do Cachimbo Reserve which is protected by the Brazilian Air Force. The Rio Azul area includes many microhabitats with various well-developed trails allowing easy access. Over our four-day visit, we will be able to select new routes taking advantage of different microhabitats and locations to maximize our opportunity to find new species each day.

You will also enjoy the always breathtaking and very rewarding boat rides along the crystal waters of the Rio Azul River.



Black-girdled Barbet

With easy access to so many different habitats close to the lodge, short, productive early morning trips will allow us to visit, Terra Firme Forest, Riverine Forest, and the stunted Campirana habitats growing on nutrient-poor with white-sand soils and perhaps some more open areas toward the agricultural frontier at the entrance road to the lodge.

Some of the most interesting target birds include: Zigzag Heron, Dark-winged Trumpeter, White-browed Hawk, Cryptic Forest-Falcon, Razor-billed Curassow, Santarem Parakeet, the endemic Kawall's Parrot, the bizarre looking Bald Parrot, Hyacinth Macaw, Pavonine Cuckoo, Crimson Topaz, Tapajos Hermit, Green-tailed Goldenthrout, Amethyst Woodstar, Pavonine Quetzal, Rusty-breasted Nunlet, Blue-cheeked Jacamar, Paradise Jacamar, Brown-banded Puffbird, Collared Puffbird, Spotted Puffbird, Black-girdled Barbet, Black-necked Aracari, Gould's Toucanet, Curl-crested Aracari, Layard's Woodcreeper, Curve-billed Scythebill, Chestnut-throated Spinetail, Point-tailed Palmcreeper, Para Foliage-gleaner, the endemic Glossy Antshrike, Natterer's Slaty-Antshrike, Spix's Warbling-Antbird, Black-faced Antbird, Rufous-faced Antbird, Bare-eyed Antbird, Variegated Antpitta, Spotted Antpitta, Cinnamon Manakin-Tyrant, Pale-bellied Mourner, Pompadour Cotinga, Amazonian Umbrellabird, Black Manakin, Fiery-capped Manakin, Ringed Antpipit, Helmeted Pygmy-Tyrant, Tooth-billed Wren, Guianan Gnatcatcher, Gray-chested Greenlet, Red-billed Pied Tanager, and Dotted Tanager.



Giant Otter

With all the different habitats, the various trails and boat rides, and your guide's leadership and expertise, the group find over 200 new species for the trip in this area. Some of the additional species we may find include: Red-fan Parrot, Ocellated Poorwill, Red-necked Aracari, Black-necked Aracari, Red-billed Woodcreeper, White-crested Spadebill, Spangled Cotinga, Flame-crowned Manakin, Snow-capped Manakin, Red-headed Manakin, Blue-backed Manakin, Flame-crested Tanager, the extremely rare White-bellied Dacnis and Rose-breasted Chat. A list of birds found on past similar trips is available upon request.



Fiery-capped Manakin

Extension Day 6: Final Day Birding at Rio Azul and Off to Alta Floresta

On this final morning, you will focus on any key species we may have not yet found. This day will allow us some time to cover some areas where we will likely be able to add some additional trip birds.

After a full morning of birding and final lunch at the lodge, we will likely use the mid-day hot period to get back to Alta Floresta. There are a few good birding spots along the way and we will use the late afternoon hours to check these sites.

Extension Day 7: Final Day of Birding at Alta Floresta and Transfer to flights to Cuiaba and Sao Paulo

Trip participants are often stunned by how good birding can be at this forest patch behind your Alta Floresta hotel. Each of our trips has added a number of new species birding in this small area. The patch is reliable for Crimson-bellied Parakeet and Black-girdled Barbet. At times, Rufous-necked Puffbird and Collared Puffbird can be found here. Your guide will put in the effort to assure this final pre-flight birding is worthwhile.



Your flight to Cuiaba normally takes place a little after 2:00 PM; we will make sure will get to the airport shortly after noon to check into our flight to Cuiaba.

You should reach Cuiaba airport by mid-afternoon and take your connecting flight to Sao Paulo City where you will spend your last night of this extension.

Crimson-bellied Parakeets

Extension Day 8: Transfers for International Flights.