



Partnership for
International Birding

Rio Cristalino Amazon Basin Extension Detailed itinerary

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

Participants taking this extension normally link this tour with one of our options for birding Pantanal and Chapada dos Guimaraes. During the last birding day of your main trip, the Rio Cristalino extension starts 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 Cristalino 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 the Brazilian Amazon at one of the premier sites for southern Amazon birding.

The Cristalino Lodge and Alta Floresta are located on the southern edge of the Amazonian Rain Forest hosting 570 bird species. This is one of the best birding locations in the Neotropical Rain Forest. The Cristalino Lodge is situated along the confluence of the Rio Cristalino and Teles-Pires rivers. This famous resort offers superb Brazilian cuisine and a mega diverse array of birds and other wildlife.

As well as being known as one of the greatest rainforest sites for bird watching in South America, the Rio Cristalino 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. Some of the trails that we will have an opportunity to enjoy include the Serra Trail, Canopy Tower Trail, Borboletas Trail, Haffer Trail, Rochas Trail, Ilha do Cardoso Trail, Castanheira Trail, Cacao Trail, and Bananeira Trail.

The Teles-Pires River creates a barrier holding sister species on each side of its margins. The diversity is immense and includes insects, birds, monkeys and other fantastic wildlife. With so many choices, choosing only the best route for each day will leave most participants wanting to stay longer (or return for another visit!)

You will also enjoy the always breathtaking and very rewarding boat rides along both the Rio Cristalino and Teles-Pires rivers.

With easy access to so many different habitats close to the lodge, short, productive early morning trips will allow us to visit the Canopy Towers, Terra Firme Forest (second growth), the Serra (a rocky outcrop) and perhaps a river island early in the morning. 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, Pavonine Cuckoo, Black-banded Owl, Blue-cheeked Jacamar, Paradise Jacamar, Brown-banded Puffbird, Collared Puffbird, Spotted Puffbird, Black-girdled Barbet, Black-necked Aracari, Gould's Toucanet, Curl-crested Aracari, Curve-billed Scythebill, Cabanis's Spinetail, Chestnut-throated Spinetail, Point-tailed Palmcreeper, Peruvian Recurvebill, the endemic Glossy Antshrike, Manu Antbird, Wing-banded Antbird, Variegated Antpitta, Spotted Antpitta, Pompadour Cotinga, Amazonian Umbrellabird, Fiery-capped Manakin, Ringed Antpitt, Helmeted Pygmy-Tyrant, Tooth-billed Wren, Guianan Gnatcatcher, Gray-chested Greenlet and Red-billed Pied Tanager.



Giant Otter



Black-girdled Barbet

All of the different habitats, the various trails and boat rides, and your guide's leadership and expertise will help the group find over 200 new species for the trip in this area. Some of the additional species we may find include: Violaceous Quail-Dove, Crimson-bellied Parakeet, Red-fan Parrot, Pheasant Cuckoo, Ocellated Poorwill, Silky-tailed Nightjar, Red-necked Aracari, Red-billed Woodcreeper, Para Foliage-gleaner, Natterer's Slaty-Antshrike, Bare-eyed Antbird, Spotted Antpitta, Cinnamon-crested Spadebill, Spangled Cotinga, Flame-crowned Manakin, Red-headed Manakin, Blue-backed Manakin, Yellow-shouldered Grosbeak, White-winged Shrike-Tanager, Flame-crested Tanager, the extremely rare White-bellied Dacnis and Rose-breasted Chat. A list of birds found on similar trips is available upon request.



Fiery-capped Manakin

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

On this final morning, you will focus on any key species (if any) we have not yet found. He will otherwise plan to use the time to cover some areas where we can mostly likely add some good 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 trip adds a number of new species after birding in this patch. 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.

Extension Day 8: Transfers for International Flights.



Crimson-bellied Parakeets