

BRAZIL

The Pantanal and Atlantic Forest

16°37' S - 22°59' S



Sep 25 - Oct 8, 2026



Wild **LATITUDES**
WORLDWIDE NATURE TOURS

BRAZIL

The Pantanal and Atlantic Forest

Greetings, Fellow Explorer!

Travel with Wild Latitudes to experience the rich biodiversity of Brazil as we explore two of the country's top natural areas: the Pantanal and the Atlantic Forest.

The **Pantanal** is the largest freshwater wetland in the world. Its balance of wet and dry seasons supports an abundance of birds and other wildlife. Over 450 species of birds call this vast wetland home, including the **Hyacinth Macaw**, **Rufescent Tiger-Heron**, **Jabiru**, **Black-collared Hawk**, and **Sunbittern**. We'll explore the region by boat along various rivers and tributaries. Along the way, we'll also search for reptiles like the Yacare Cayman and mammals such as the Giant River Otter, Giant Anteater, and Black Howler Monkey. While in the heart of the Pantanal, we will make a special effort to find one of the region's most elusive inhabitants and the largest cat in the New World, the **Jaguar**.

During the second half of our trip, we will travel into the mountains of the **Atlantic Forest to Itatiaia National Park**. As the oldest national park in Brazil, Itatiaia protects areas of pristine southern rainforest, including the source of many important river basins for southern Brazil and some of the highest mountain peaks in the country. Though just 7% of its original 1 million square kilometers stands today, the endangered Atlantic Forest ecosystem holds some of the greatest biodiversity of plant and animal life in Brazil. Thus, we can expect to encounter a plethora of new bird species during our stay in Itatiaia. We'll enjoy a dizzying array of hummingbirds at our lodge's feeders, watching for **Violet-capped Woodnymph**, **Brazilian Ruby**, and **Frilled Coquette**. Amongst the lush vegetation and impressive waterfalls of this region, we'll be on the lookout for many colorful tanagers and toucans, including **Brazilian Tanager**, **Gilt-edged Tanager**, and **Saffron Toucanet**.

Finally, we head to **Rio de Janeiro** to enjoy the sights and sounds of this vibrant city. We'll visit the iconic **Christ the Redeemer** statue and stay right on the coast overlooking the beautiful beaches of **Ipanema**.

TRIP DETAILS

Start Date: September 25, 2026

Duration of Main Tour: 14 days

Number of participants: Max of 14

Price of Main Tour: \$5,895 per person

Deposit: \$3,000

Single Supplement: \$1,200

Trip Leaders: Chris & Rebecca Payne

Activity Level: Moderate

Included:

- Double-occupancy lodging
- Ground and water transportation
- Breakfasts, lunches, and most dinners
- Excursions and park fees
- Guiding services

Not Included:

- Airfare to/from Brazil at trip beginning/end
- Internal flights within Brazil
- Alcoholic beverages
- Personal items
- Optional gratuities for guides



Steve Robertson and Ivan Phillipsen
Co-owners and Lead Guides at Wild Latitudes

info@wildlatitudes.com 503-714-3504

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ITINERARY

Tentative and subject to change depending on weather, road, or other conditions.

Day 1 - Sep 25 - Arrive in São Paulo, Brazil

Flights will arrive in the morning to São Paulo, Brazil, where you'll be met by your guides **Chris** and **Rebecca Payne**. Once gathered together, we will make our way to our hotel near the airport. There will be time to rest after our flights or do some optional birding around the hotel, before enjoying our first group dinner together. We'll call it an early evening so we can get a fresh start for the next day.

Lodging: [Hotel Panamby](#)

Day 2 - Sep 26 - Fly to Cuiabá, travel overland into the Pantanal

After an early breakfast at the hotel's restaurant, we will begin our journey to the Pantanal! Our short morning flight will take us northwest to the city of Cuiabá, where we will load our vehicle and begin the drive to our first lodge on the outskirts of the Pantanal. We will watch for birds as we go, with the possibility of **Jabiru**, **Whistling Heron**, **Capped Heron**, and **Savanna Hawk** along the roadway. We will settle into our

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hotel in the late afternoon, enjoying a walk around the grounds to spot **Campo Flickers** and **Fork-tailed Flycatchers** before enjoying dinner at the lodge.

Lodging: [Pousada Piuval](#)

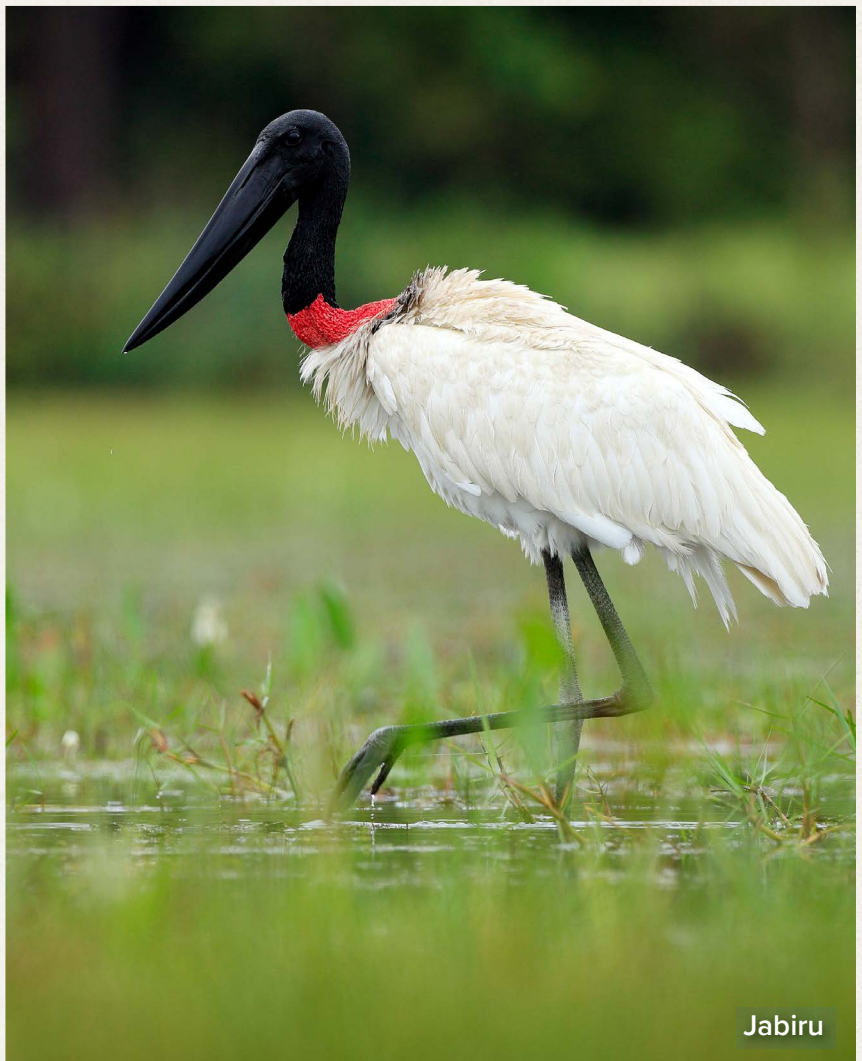
Day 3 - Sep 27 - Birds & Wildlife of the Pantanal

Our day will begin with an early-morning safari ride by open-air truck with the hope of observing a **Giant Anteater** amongst the many termite mounds. Along our ride, we'll also search the fields for **Greater Rhea**, **Red-legged Seriema**, and **Buff-necked Ibis**. After lunch, we'll venture out by open-air truck again to explore the varied upland habitats around the lodge. Here we may find **Southern Screammers**, **Gray-cowled Wood-Rails**, and **Crested Oropendolas**. We'll take in the sunset across the Pantanal as we return to the lodge and gather for dinner.

Lodging: [Pousada Piuval](#)



Black-tailed Marmoset



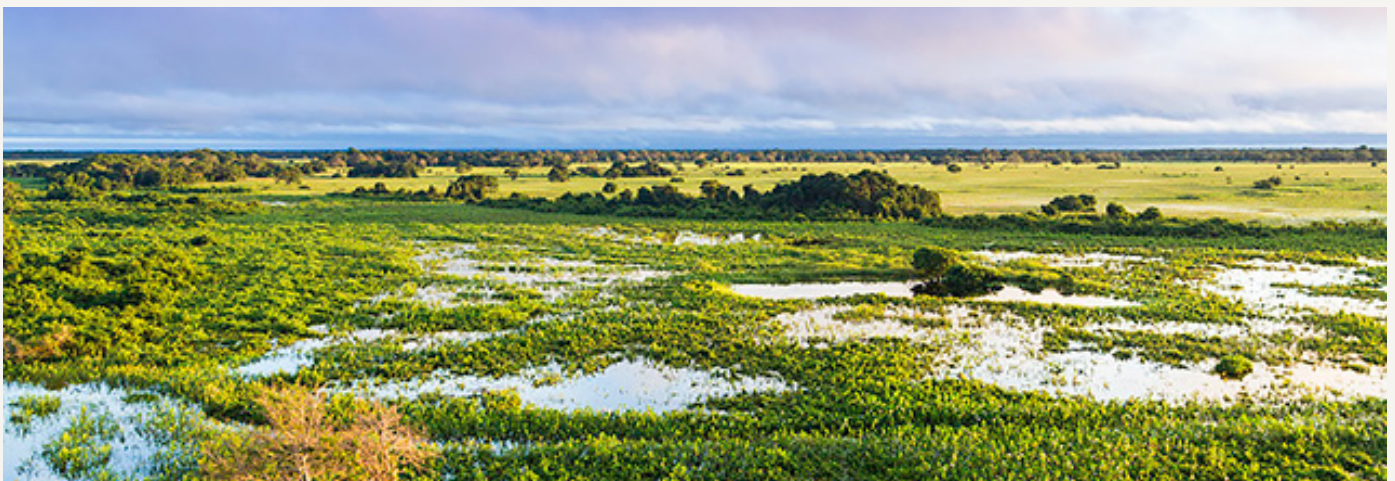
Jabiru

The Pantanal: A UNESCO World Heritage Site

The Pantanal is commonly considered the world's largest fresh-water wetland, encompassing an area of about 72,000 sq mi, making it larger than the State of Washington. It is located mostly within the Brazilian State of Mato Grosso, but also extends into Bolivia and Paraguay.

The name "Pantanal" comes from the Portuguese word *pântano*, meaning wetland or marsh, while the Brazilian highlands are locally referred to as *planalto*, meaning high plain. The Pantanal is a huge, gently-sloped basin that receives runoff from the surrounding *planalto*, and is also fed by the upper Paraguay River. It is not a true basin, meaning that the water within it is not trapped, or land-locked, but rather is slowly released through the lower Paraguay River and its tributaries. The geologic formation on which the Pantanal sits, is a large, concave depression in the Earth's crust that was formed several million years ago. Over time, an enormous internal river delta was formed by the aforementioned rivers and runoff. Additional water enters the basin directly via rainfall, as the Pantanal receives an average of 39–55 in each year. Roughly 80% of the Pantanal floodplains are submerged during the rainy seasons, nurturing an astonishingly diverse collection of aquatic plants, that in turn, support a rich array of animal species.

The vegetation of the Pantanal is a mixture of plant communities including Amazonian rainforest plants, semiarid woodland plants, savannah species, and grasslands, the latter covering the seasonally inundated areas. Regarding fauna, the Pantanal is home to nearly 1000 bird species, roughly 400 fish species, 300 mammalian species, more than 400 species of reptiles and almost 10,000 known species of invertebrates. Two of the rarest mammals to inhabit the wetlands are the Marsh Deer and the Giant River Otter. The area is home to the endangered the Hyacinth Macaw, Crowned Solitary Eagle, Maned Wolf, South American Tapir, and the Giant Anteater. The Pantanal also holds one of the largest and healthiest Jaguar populations in the world. The Pantanal is truly one of the most significant, biologically diverse ecosystems on Earth.



Pantanal Wetlands



Day 4 - Sep 28 - Adventuring deeper into the Pantanal

Today we will travel deep into the Pantanal, going to our next lodge located at the very end of the Transpantaneira Road. We'll make several stops along the way in search of new birds such as **Maguari Stork**, **Plumbeous Ibis**, and **Roseate Spoonbill**. After settling into our new lodge, we'll take our first boat ride in the hopes of encountering a Jaguar along the riverbanks. These big cats love to hunt fish and are often seen in and around the many waterways of the Pantanal during the dry season. As we search the riverbanks, we may also come across **Great Black Hawk**, **Rufous-tailed Jacamar**, and **Rufescent Tiger-Heron** perched in the trees along the water's edge. In the evening, we'll return to the lodge to enjoy another delicious dinner.

Lodging: [Hotel Pantanal Norte](#)

Day 5 - Sep 29 - Jaguars and Birding by Boat

Today, we'll enjoy a day cruising on the river by boat, an ideal way to bird and watch for other wildlife. We will have great chances of seeing Yacare Caiman basking on the banks and families of **Giant River Otters** swimming by. While exploring the many tributaries of this vast wetland, we'll find more than just wading and water birds. As

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we float downstream, there is always the possibility of **White-headed Marsh Tyrants** perching among the grasses, **Toco Toucans** calling from the tree canopy, and **Hyacinth Macaws**, the world's largest parrot species, flying by in gregarious flocks. In between these boat rides and our meals together, there will be time to relax or explore the grounds of the lodge on your own.

Lodging: [Hotel Pantanal Norte](#)

Day 6 - Sep 30 - Further Exploration of the Pantanal

After some optional morning birding around the lodge, we will travel back up the Transpantaneira Road as we begin to make our way out of Pantanal. Our next lodge is positioned along pristine waterways that we will make the most of exploring by boat during our stay. After settling in and enjoying lunch, we will venture out on the river for the afternoon. The thick vegetation along the banks provides the perfect cover for **Sunbittern** and **Sungrebe**, and numerous perches for five species of kingfisher, including the elusive **American Pygmy Kingfisher**. As we return to the dock at dusk, we may be treated to **Band-tailed Nighthawks** flying low over the water or the calls of the nocturnal **Undulated Tinamou**.

Lodging: [Pantanal Mato Grosso Hotele](#)



Jaguar

Day 7 - Oct 1 - Birding the River

In the morning, we'll take advantage of the trails around the lodge and do some birding by foot. Here we'll search for many species of **flycatchers**, **parrots**, and colorful **blackbirds**, such as the striking **Orange-backed Troupial**. After some relaxing downtime in the afternoon, we'll come together for one final boat ride in the Pantanal. We'll float to a different channel and watch for secretive songbirds such as **antshrikes**, **spinetails**, and **saltators**, as well as enjoy some close looks at the many species of wading birds we have gotten to know during our time in the Pantanal.

Lodging: [Pantanal Mato Grosso Hotele](#)

Our Commitment to Conservation

On every Wild Latitudes tour, we aim to make a positive conservation impact wherever we travel. We utilize the services of local guides and stay in environmentally-sensitive, locally-owned lodges. On every trip, we make a donation to a local conservation effort that works to protect native species or ecosystems. When you travel with Wild Latitudes, you're helping to protect the wild regions you visit and the amazing species that call them home.

Brassy-breasted Tanager



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Day 8 - Oct 2 - Travel Back to São Paulo

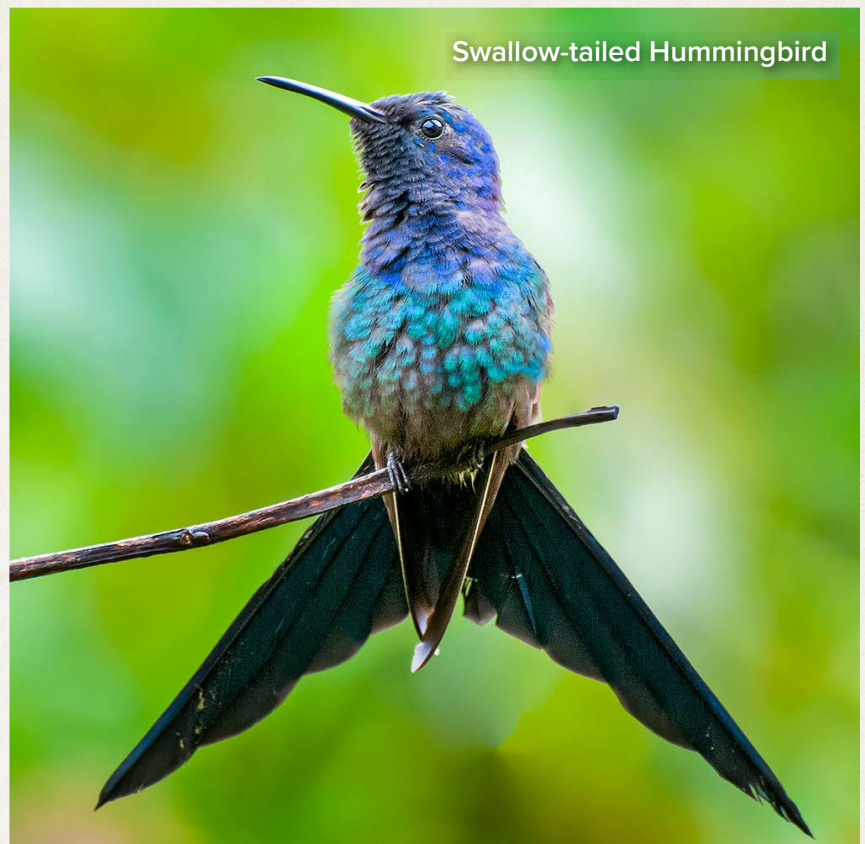
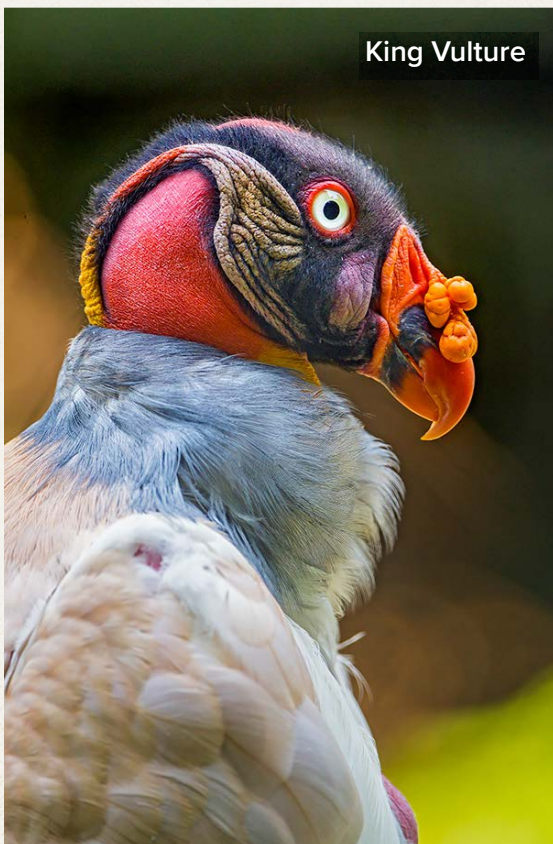
Some optional early morning birding will close out our time in the Pantanal as we make our departure from the region. We will fly back to São Paulo with time to relax at our hotel in preparation for tomorrow's travels. Those who wish may join in for some optional birding around the hotel to search for species we may have missed during our first stay, such as **Chestnut-vented Conebill** or **Swallow-tailed Hummingbird**.

Lodging: [Hotel Panamby](#)

Day 9 - Oct 3 - Travel to the Atlantic Forest

Today will primarily be one of travel, as we drive northeast to the Atlantic Forest, making a few birding stops along the way. The birdlife will change dramatically, as the species diversity shifts to colorful **tanagers**, **trogons**, **euphonias**, and **toucans** in this rich and endangered ecosystem. Upon our arrival to our lodge within the famous **Itatiaia National Park**, we will be welcomed by over ten species of hummingbirds at their feeders. **Violet-capped Woodnymph**, **Brazilian Ruby**, and **Friilled Coquette** are just some of the species that may be whizzing about. We will get settled into our rooms before having dinner overlooking the beautiful mountain vista.

Lodging: [Hotel do Ypê](#)



Atlantic Forest



Day 10 - Oct 4 - Birding Itatiaia National Park

After a breakfast within sight of the busy hummingbird feeders, we will venture down the road from the lodge entrance to get our first taste of Atlantic Forest birding. Flocks of colorful **Green-headed Tanagers** will greet us, with the possibility of other species mixed in, such as **Gilt-edged** and **Brazilian Tanagers**. Scanning through the trees may reveal **Streaked Xenops** and **White-barred Piculet** making their way up the tree trunks. A keen eye may spot a **Surucua Trogon** or **Rufous-capped Motmot** perched silently on a branch. After exploring the road and nearby trails, we will stop by the national park's visitors center to learn about the geography of the area and the many wildlife that can be found here. Back at the lodge, we'll enjoy lunch and bird the surrounding grounds in the afternoon. We'll finish the day with dinner at the lodge, perhaps to the calls of a nearby **Tawny-browed Owl**.

Lodging: [Hotel do Ypê](#)

Day 11 - Oct 5 - Exploring the Plateau Region of Itatiaia

This morning we'll have an early breakfast so that we can spend a full day amongst the high-elevation peaks of Itatiaia National Park. At over 8,000 feet, the habitat becomes

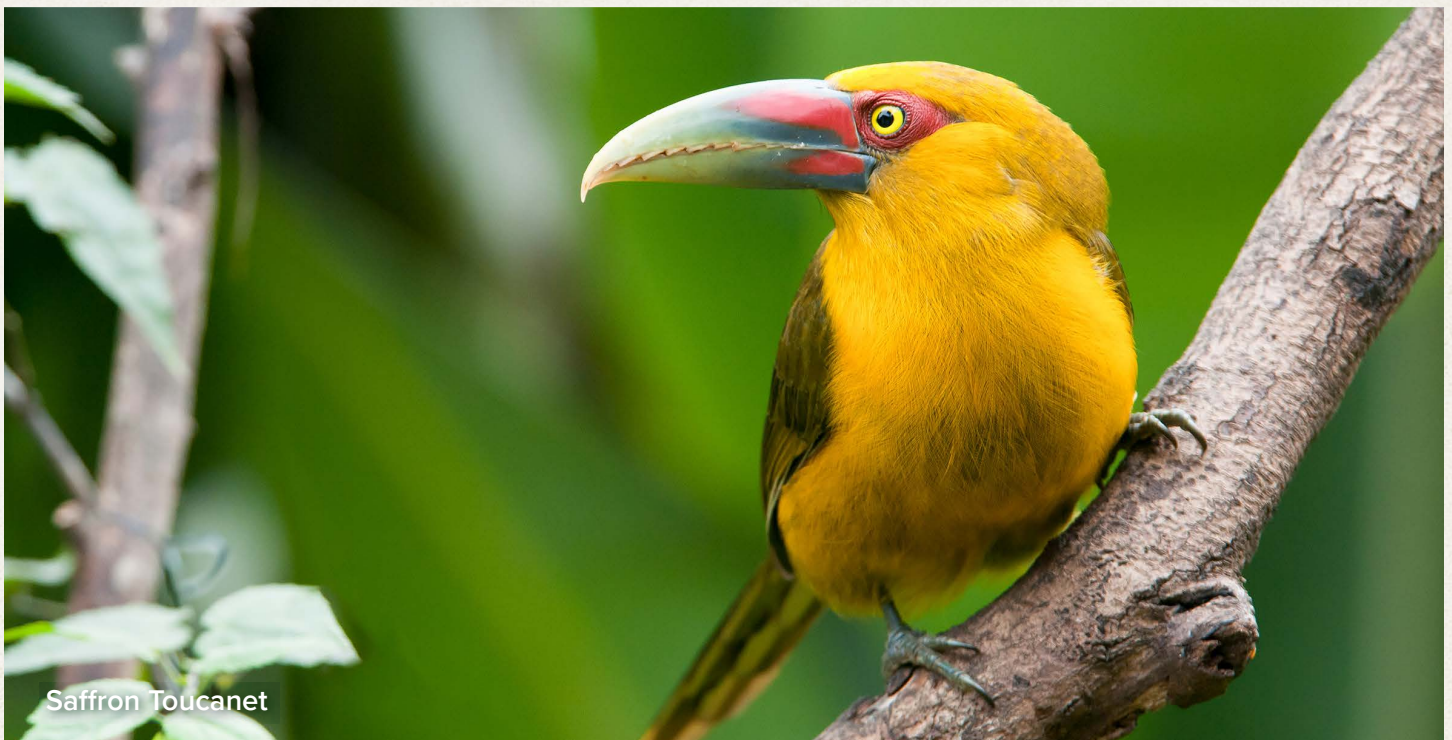
tundra-like, with specialty species of scrub-like bamboo adapted specifically for that climate. We'll take our time exploring the unique scenery, having lunch in the field to make the most of our stay. On the mountainsides we'll be watching for **Diademed Tanager**, **Buff-throated Warbling Finch**, **Velvety Black-Tyrant**, and soaring **White-tailed Hawk**. We may even spot the secretive **Itatiaia Spinetail**, an endemic species only recently new to science and restricted to the scrub habitat of mountainous southeastern Brazil. After a day exploring the open mountain peaks, we will return to our forested lodge in the interior of the national park to relax before dinner.

Lodging: [Hotel do Ypê](#)

Day 12- Oct 6 - Birding Itatiaia National Park, continued

Our final day in Itatiaia National Park will be spent birding the grounds of the lodge and nearby hotspots before and after lunch. Our travels today will take us to lesser-known areas of the national park and beautiful overlooks above the tree canopy. With over 450 species recorded in the area, the birdlife is constantly changing and who knows what we may find! **Saffron Toucanets**, **Swallow Tanagers**, and numerous species of **antbirds**, including **White-shouldered Fire-eyes**, are just some of the many possibilities we will watch for. With luck, we may even encounter a **Swallow-tailed Manakin** lek amongst the trees or a flock of pint-sized **Cobalt-rumped Parrotlets**. Our day will conclude with dinner at the lodge while enjoying the spectacular view.

Lodging: [Hotel do Ypê](#)



Saffron Toucanet

Day 13 - Oct 7 - Travel to Rio de Janeiro

This morning, we will depart after breakfast to make the scenic drive to the city of **Rio de Janeiro**. Upon arrival, we will check into our hotel right along the famous **Ipanema Beach**, then head to a nearby restaurant for lunch. In the afternoon, we will visit the iconic **Christ the Redeemer** statue and take in the view of the beautiful city. After some time at the hotel to rest and freshen up, we'll enjoy each other's company for a final group dinner together.

Lodging: [Sol Ipanema Hotel](#)

Day 14 - Oct 8 - Explore the City and Farewells

Our final day of the tour will give us time to explore the city. We'll start off with some morning birding at the beautiful **Botanical Gardens of Rio de Janeiro**. Though in the middle of the city, these gardens are home to **Channel-billed Toucans**, **Red-shouldered Macaws**, **Violaceous Euphonias**, and **Flame-crested Tanagers**, just to name a few! After a delicious lunch at a café near the hotel, everyone will have the rest of the afternoon free to explore the city shops and green spaces. We'll regroup in the evening to travel to the airport and say our final farewells before flying home.



YOUR GUIDES

CHRIS PAYNE

Chris has been immersed in the natural world his entire life. Growing up in rural Pennsylvania with two naturalists for parents, his first interest in wildlife was anything he could catch: frogs, salamanders, snakes, and the like. Once Chris discovered the world of birds, he was hooked. He soon began making lists of all the birds he could identify, both at home and when his family traveled. Each new bird that Chris encountered left him wanting to learn more about them.

It was during Chris's sophomore year at West Virginia University that he decided that spending time in nature had to be more than just a hobby. After graduating with a degree in biology, he pieced together bird-related field work for several years, conducting surveys for Cerulean and Golden-winged Warblers, nest searching, hawkwatching, and assisting in geolocator research. After meeting his wife, Rebecca, Chris decided to return to school for an M.S. in biology, and graduated with an MS in Biology from Shippensburg University.

Leading nature tours is the best of both worlds for Chris: getting to work in nature surrounded by birds, but more importantly, getting to share that passion with others.



REBECCA PAYNE

From an early age, Rebecca has been avidly curious about the natural world. What started out as exploring the backyard of her childhood home led to an interest in exotic animals. While completing her B.A. in Zoo and Wildlife Biology, she was surrounded by teachers and mentors who nurtured her love for all things birds and birding. Through their encouragement, she focused her studies on the care of avian species. For several years, Rebecca worked in zoos across the country as an aviculturist, participating in breeding programs for endangered species, bird shows, and public outreach. Through these experiences, she discovered that her true passion lies in teaching others and fostering meaningful connections between people and wildlife.

This spring-boarded Rebecca into the world of environmental education. Combining this field with her love of exploring new places, she has enjoyed many fulfilling teaching roles, from New Jersey Audubon's Cape May Bird Observatory, to the Vermont Institute of Natural Science, to Pennsylvania State Parks. All the while, she has had her binoculars in hand, using birds and avian ecology to bring people closer to nature.

Rebecca is excited to bring her experience to the nature-tour industry and share her love of birds and the environment with others.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

THE PACE AND STYLE OF OUR TOURS

The primary goal of our trips is to experience and learn about the natural world, especially the region's birds and other wildlife, and of course, to have fun! As birding is often a primary focus of our tours, and birds are active in the morning, we will sometimes have early morning outings before breakfast. That said, our style of birding may not be ideal for hard-core "listers." We prefer to spend time observing the species we encounter, and learn a bit about their natural history, rather than rushing through the field to add the maximum number of species to our bird list. We also make diversions for interesting, non-avian wildlife, plants, geological wonders, and cultural activities. The pace of most of our trips is moderate, and we encourage anyone in good health to attend and enjoy the experience. Please contact us about if you need specific information on the types of physical activities on a tour and their physical requirements.

We strive to immerse participants in the local culture and to that end, wherever possible, we stay in locally owned and operated hotels that are designed and run in an environmentally sustainable way. Though some accommodations may be more basic than others, all are safe, clean and comfortable. We also utilize the services of local guides, visit local markets, and other culturally significant sites.

TOUR DATE AND TRIP LEADER CHANGES

Leaders and schedules are determined up to a year in advance of our tours. In the event that we have a change in a tour's dates or leaders, we reserve the right to do so, and will strive to inform participants as early in the process as possible. Additional leaders may be added to tours according to the group size, and will be specified in the tour itinerary. We also reserve the right to cancel any trip for which there are insufficient reservations.

HOW TO REGISTER FOR THE TOUR

When you're ready to sign up for the tour, please let us know by doing one of the following:

- Send us an email at info@wildlatitudes.com
- Call us at 503-714-3504

Then we'll send you the link to our online registration form. You can choose to pay your deposit by credit card or check. See 'Deposit Policy' below.

DEPOSIT POLICY

A deposit is due at the time of registration. ***A deposit is the only thing that guarantees your place on the trip.*** Registration can be made over the phone with a credit card: 971-361-4629.

Note: there is an additional 3.0% fee for credit card payments. This is only what we are charged by the credit card company.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Checks are happily accepted and should be made out to *Wild Latitudes LLC*. Include the tour name on the memo line of the check and send to:

Wild Latitudes, PO Box 25115, Portland, OR 97298.

PAYMENT POLICY

Full payment is required **90 days** prior to the tour departure date for international tours or any tour involving flights; and **30 days** prior to the tour departure date for local (i.e. in the Portland, Oregon area), van-based tours.

CANCELLATION POLICY

In the event a participant needs to cancel a reservation for any tour, the following policies will apply:

- **90 days** or more prior to tour departure date, the deposit will be refunded, minus an administrative fee of \$100.
- **Less than 90 days but more than 60 days** prior to tour departure date, all payments refunded, minus 50% of deposit.
- **Less than 60 days** prior to tour departure date, no refunds will be given.

We *strongly* recommend that you purchase trip cancellation insurance to protect yourself from unforeseen circumstances.

If for any reason Wild Latitudes cancels a tour prior to the start of the tour, full refunds—minus the cost of any internal/in-country airline tickets purchased and/or any non-refundable deposits or expenses already made by Wild Latitudes—will be given to all participants. In the event that the tour is canceled while underway due to unforeseeable events such as but not limited to natural disaster, military activities, social uprising, or other extremely dangerous conditions not within the control of Wild Latitudes, no refund will be issued.
