

Brazil

Remote Amazon Birds and Wildlife Cruise

2-18 September 2022 / 1-17 September 2023

30 August-15 September 2024

Small vessel charter led by Chris Collins and Regina Ribeiro



Photo 1: The Golden-faced Saki is one of a number of primates we hope to see on our tour © Chris Collins

Overview

Run in collaboration with our sister brand *WildWings*, this exciting and exclusive charter spends two weeks exploring one of the most biologically diverse places on the planet, the Brazilian Amazon. Whilst many visitors to the rainforest base themselves at a single lodge and then visit the surrounding area, this trip is very different, as we will travel and sleep on a comfortable air-conditioned river boat giving us the ability to explore more widely and visit a diverse range of remote habitats.

During our holiday, we will cruise side channels, larger tributaries, and the main rivers, visit river islands and both varzea (annually flooded) and *terra firme* (never flooded) forests, as well as cruising past mile after mile of untouched forest. This will allow us to look for a wide range of birds and animals including colourful macaws, parrots, trogons and manakins as well as several species of monkeys, both species of Amazon River dolphins, some amazing butterflies and much more.

One of the highlights of this amazing adventure is a visit an excellent eco-tourism project where there is an opportunity to stand in the water with wild Amazon (Pink) River Dolphins as they gently swim around us – a truly unique experience and one which previous participants have described as comparable with visiting the Mountain Gorillas in Africa or Grey Whales in Baja California!

Join **Chris Collins** and **Regina Ribeiro** for a birds and general wildlife holiday with a difference and explore one of the most untouched and amazing parts of our planet.

Highlights

- 13 nights cruise on a comfortable river boat exploring Brazilian Amazonia
- Visit to the 'meeting of the waters' where the Rios Negro and Solimões merge to form the mighty Amazon
- Cruise past mile after mile of untouched forest
- Explore the pristine Jaú National Park using our vessel's three comfortable motorised canoes
- Look for a spectacular range of birds including macaws, parrots, trogons and manakins
- Explore after dark looking for nocturnal mammals and birds
- Visit to an amazing canopy tower on the outskirts of Manaus where we will see canopy species at eye level
- Expertly led by Chris Collins and English-speaking Brazilian wildlife guide, Regina Ribeiro

What's Included?

- Two Limosa/WildWings Tour Leaders
- Expert resident wildlife guide
- 14 nights' accommodation in Brazil, including 13 on the comfortable air-conditioned river boat *Iracema*
- All main meals with drinking water provided during the day
- Visit to a canopy tower on outskirts of Manaus
- All entry fees, all tour-based tips (including boat staff, drivers, local guides) and taxes

Outline Itinerary

Day 1

Depart UK for Manaus via Sao Paulo

Day 2

Arrive in Manaus with local afternoon birding if flight timings allow. Manaus (1 night)

Day 3

Early morning visit to Canopy Tower. Board vessel (*Iracema*) and sail. Visit to the 'meeting of the waters' where the Rios Negro and Solimões meet to form the Amazon. Night on *Iracema*

Days 4-15

Explore river islands, varzea forest, terra firme forest along the Solimões and Negro and tributaries. Visit Anavilhanas, the world's largest river archipelago, explore Jaú National Park. Interact with wild river dolphins. *Iracema* (12 nights)

Day 16

Disembark in Manaus. Fly to UK via Sao Paulo

Day 17

Arrive in UK

Tour Overview

Often described as “the green lungs of the planet”, the Amazon rainforest is the most biologically diverse place on Earth and on this exciting tour run in collaboration with our sister brand *WildWings*, we plan to spend two weeks in this wildlife paradise.

Whilst many visitors to the rainforest base themselves at a single lodge and then explore the surrounding area, this trip is very different, as we will travel and sleep on a comfortable river boat giving us the ability to explore more widely and visit a diverse range of habitats.



Photo 2: We stand a good chance of seeing Black Skimmer on sandbars near Manaus © Chris Collins

Our adventure starts in Manaus, home of the famous 19th Century Opera House, where we will board our specially chartered live-aboard and home for the next two weeks. Manaus sits close to the confluence of the Rios Negro (a “black water” river) and Solimões (a “white water” river) and this is where the two merge to form the mighty Amazon. The rivers do not, however, mix for several miles and we plan to visit the ‘meeting of the waters’ to witness the extraordinary spectacle of the two seemingly flowing next to each other, separated only by their different temperatures, acidities and speeds.

We then plan to begin our adventure exploring side channels, larger tributaries, river islands and varzea (annually flooded) and terra firme (never flooded) forests. This will allow us to look for a wide range of birds and animals and our live-aboard comes equipped with motorised canoes to give us maximum flexibility. Whilst the vessel can carry 24 passengers, we are limiting this cruise to only

18. In addition, the motorised canoes can carry up to eight people, but we will limit these to six each plus a guide.

One of the places we plan to explore along the Rio Negro is Anavilhanas which is one of the world's largest freshwater archipelagos with 400 river islands and a maze of channels and waterways. Only accessible by boat, these islands are almost entirely uninhabited and home for many interesting birds.

We hope to see several localised specialities here including Klages's and Leaden Antwrens but there are also many colourful and or spectacular species to look for, such as the gleaming red, black and yellow Wire-tailed Manakin or extraordinary looking Amazonian Umbrellabird.

Further upstream, we plan to visit the Jaú National Park which is considered one of the most pristine reserves in Brazilian Amazonia. There is plenty of wildlife to look for here too including the range-restricted Spix's Black-headed Uacari, an impressive black and chestnut monkey which we have seen on all our previous visits. The rare Rufous Potoo and Nocturnal Curassow were also both found on our inaugural tour (with the potoo seen again in 2018) but there should be plenty of colourful wildlife to enjoy as this region is, for example, an excellent place to find Blue-and-Yellow Macaws.

Cruising up the Rio Negro and its tributaries is certain to be a very special experience, with mile after mile of untouched forest and we plan to spend some of our time wildlife watching from the top deck as we travel along the river. Adopting this strategy in 2015 meant we found an extremely obliging Harpy Eagle which we watched for an hour at 20 metres range. Whilst we would be extremely fortunate to see this species so close again, the region does have a good population of this 'must see' raptor, so we certainly hope to find it on future tours.

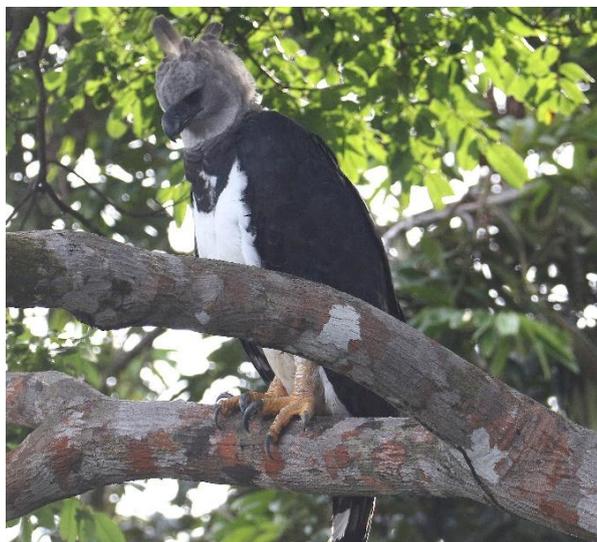


Photo 3: We were fortunate enough to have an incredible encounter with a Harpy Eagle on one of our previous Remote Amazon cruises © Chris Collins

Depending on the location, we also plan to go cruising after dark on a number of occasions and this will give us an opportunity to look for nocturnal birds and animals. These trips can be really fascinating and over the course of the trip, we hope to find both Crested and Spectacled Owls, the bizarre looking Great Potoo and a host of nightjars and night mammals. Mammalian possibilities include Common Silky Anteater, Grey Four-eyed Opossum, Three-toed Sloth, Spotted Paca – all of which have been found on previous trips.

The list of birds we could see during the tour runs into the hundreds and includes some of the most colourful species on the planet including macaws (Chestnut-fronted, Red-and-Green, Scarlet and Blue-and-Yellow), toucans and aracarís (Channel-billed and White-throated Toucans, Green and

Black-necked Aracaris), trogons, cotingas, and tanagers, as well as the more cryptically coloured antbirds, woodcreepers and flycatchers. This trip is, however, intended to be a general wildlife experience, rather than a hardcore birding tour, so it is important to appreciate that we will not be worrying about every 'little brown job' during our excursions.

This trip is also not just about birds, and we can expect to see both the Amazon (Pink) River Dolphin and the less well-known Tucuxi on a regular basis. Indeed, we hope to visit an excellent eco-tourism project where it is possible to interact with wild dolphins. It is possible to stand in the water with the dolphins as they gently swim around us – a truly unique experience and one which previous participants have described as comparable with visiting the Mountain Gorillas in Africa or Grey Whales in Baja California.



Photo 4: A Common Silky Anteater was a fantastic find on our 2018 cruise © Chris Collins

When quietly cruising or during our walks through the forest, we can also expect to see a range of monkeys as the rivers act as natural barriers and different species often occur on opposite banks with over twenty species being possible. We will count ourselves fortunate if we see even half of this total, but the possibilities include Guianan Bearded

Saki, Humboldt's White-faced Capuchin, Pied Tamarin, Humboldt's Squirrel Monkey, Guianan Red Howler and Spix's Night Monkey, so irrespective of your wildlife interests, this trip has plenty to offer.

For those wanting to maximize their 'Amazon experience,' we plan to visit an excellent canopy tower where we will be able to watch many forest bird species (and some mammals) at eye level on the morning of sailing and prior to the cruise, there will be an optional short extension to look for Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock.

Daily Itinerary

Days 1-2

FLY TO MANAUS

Our birdwatching and wildlife holiday begins with an overnight flight to Sao Paulo, followed by an internal flight to the Amazonian city of Manaus, where we arrive on the afternoon of day 2.

We will make the short journey to our hotel where our Brazilian-based guide Regina Ribeiro will be waiting to meet us. If flight schedules allow, there will be a short (and entirely optional) trip to a remnant forest patch not far from our hotel where we will look our first birds, primates, and other wildlife of our trip. This site is one of the best we know for the highly localised Pied Tamarin and locating this critically endangered monkey will be our major priority for the afternoon. Golden-faced Saki is also present, and we could also find a couple of species of sloths as well as Red-rumped Agoutis.

Although only a matter of acres in size and surrounded by the city of Manaus on three sides and the mighty Rio Negro on the other, this small area of habitat is also home to some great birds and will be a fantastic introduction to some of the species we can expect to see over the next couple of weeks. The possibilities include Little Chachalaca, White-throated Toucan, Black-necked Aracari, White-eyed Parakeet, Black Nunbird and Yellow-rumped Cacique. *Night Manaus*

Day 3

MANAUS CANOPY TOWER, BOARD IRACEMA, VISIT TO "MEETING OF THE WATERS"



Photo 5: Pied Tamarin is a highly localised and threatened monkey we will look for around Manaus © Chris Collins

We plan to depart our hotel an hour or so before dawn, so we are at an impressive canopy tower on the outskirts of Manaus as the first rays of the sun break the horizon. This 42-metre-high structure is located in a forest reserve on the edge of town and whilst we will have to climb the two hundred or so steps to reach the top, the views and the wildlife opportunities make this well worth the effort.

Whilst we will be able to see the city centre of Manaus distantly to our south, we will have forest surrounding us on all sides and the range of species that can be found here is extremely impressive. With the top of the tower being higher than most of the nearby trees, we will be looking down on canopy species which

usually one has to look up at from below making this a very special and different experience. We may well see a range of parrots and macaws flying by or perched in the treetops and species we have seen previously include Caica Parrot, Blue-headed Parrot and Red-bellied Macaw.

There may also be roving mixed flocks of fruit eating birds with colourful tanagers such as the amazing Turquoise Tanager amongst the possibilities. Toucans



Photo 6: The 'meeting of the waters' © Chris Collins

and aracarís could well be perched in an emergent tree warming themselves as the first rays of warming sun or we could see a bird of prey sitting quietly waiting for a potential meal to appear.

After a couple of hours or so at this special place, we will reluctantly retrace our steps and return to our hotel for a well-deserved breakfast. Having checked out of our rooms, we will then make the short journey to the wharf where our home for the next 12 nights awaits us, the comfortable river boat *Iracema*.

After an introduction to our vessel and crew which will probably be done whilst we sip a delicious *caipirinha* (the Brazilian lime cocktail), we will leave our moorings with our first destination likely to be the "meeting of the waters". As we cruise downstream, we should be able to see the famous 19th Century Opera House.

Our main objective is to reach the confluence of the Rios Negro (a "black water" river) and Solimões (a "white water" river) as this is where the two merge to form the mighty Amazon. The rivers do not, however, mix for several miles and we will see the extraordinary spectacle of the two seemingly flowing next to each other, separated only by their different temperatures, acidities, and speeds. There are likely to be river dolphins and both Large-billed and Yellow-billed Terns where the two rivers merge as different fish species tend not to swim from one river into the other.

As the light begins to fade, we are likely to see flocks of parrots flying over as they head for their roosts but after dark (and subject to weather) we will almost certainly head out in the canoes for our first nocturnal excursion. Every night trip is different, but we are likely to visit a place where the density of Great Potoos is exceptional and we could see at least a dozen of these large birds. Related to nightjars, the cryptic plumage makes these difficult to spot during the day as they sit on a branch out of sight but after dark the birds come to the water's edge, and we should get some great views.

Night Iracema

Days 4 - 15**EXPLORING RIO NEGRO, ANAVILHANAS, JAU NATIONAL PARK AND MUCH MORE**

We will keep our schedule as flexible as possible but over the twelve days we have aboard *Iracema*, we plan to explore side channels, larger tributaries, river islands and varzea (annually flooded) and terra firme (never flooded) forests. This will allow us to look for a wide range of birds and animals.



Photo 7: Spix's Night Monkey has been seen on all our previous "Remote Amazon" birds and wildlife cruises © Chris Collins

Our comfortable air-conditioned vessel comes equipped with three motorised canoes to give us maximum flexibility and whilst *Iracema* can carry 24 passengers, we are limiting this cruise to only 18. In addition, the motorised canoes can carry up to eight people, but we will limit these to six each plus a guide.

One of the places we plan to explore along the Rio Negro is Anavilhanas which is one of the world's largest freshwater archipelagos with 400 river islands and a maze of channels and waterways. Only accessible by

boat, these islands are almost entirely uninhabited and home to many interesting birds. We hope to see several localised specialities including Klages's and Leaden Antwrens but there are many more widespread species such as the stunning red and yellow Wire-tailed Manakin, the extraordinary looking Amazonian Umbrellabird as well as Festive Parrot, Green-tailed Jacamar and much more.

Further upstream, we plan to visit the Jaú National Park which is considered one of the most pristine reserves in Brazilian Amazonia. There is plenty of wildlife to look for here including the range-restricted Spix's Black-headed Uacari, a spectacular black and chestnut coloured monkey which we have seen on all our previous visits. The rare Rufous Potoo and Nocturnal Curassow were also both found on our inaugural tour (with the potoo seen again in 2018) but there should be plenty of colourful wildlife to enjoy as this region is, for example, an excellent place to find Blue-and-Yellow Macaws.

Cruising up the Rio Negro and its tributaries is certain to be a very special experience, with mile after mile of untouched forest and we plan to spend some of our time wildlife watching from the top deck of *Iracema* as we travel along the river. Some of our previous clients have described this as akin to "birding from a floating canopy tower" and adopting this strategy in 2015 meant we found an extremely obliging Harpy Eagle which we watched for an hour at 20 metres range. Whilst we would be extremely fortunate to see this species so close again, the region does have a good population

of this ‘must see’ raptor, so we certainly hope to find it on future tours.

Depending on the location, we also plan to go cruising after dark on several occasions and this will give us an opportunity to look for nocturnal birds and animals. These trips can be really fascinating and over the course of the trip, we hope to find both Crested and Spectacled Owls, both Great and Common Potoos and a host of nightjars and night mammals. Mammalian possibilities include Common Silky Anteater, Grey Four-eyed Opossum, Three-toed Sloth, Spotted Paca – all of which have been seen on previous trips.

The list of birds we could see during the tour runs into the hundreds and includes some of the most colourful species on the planet including macaws (Chestnut-fronted, Red-and-Green, Scarlet and Blue-and-Yellow), toucans and aracarís (Channel-billed and White-throated Toucans, Green and Black-necked Aracarís), trogons, cotingas, and tanagers, as well as the more cryptically coloured antbirds, woodcreepers and flycatchers. This trip is, however, intended to be a general wildlife experience, rather than a hardcore birding tour, so it is important to appreciate that we will not be worrying about every ‘little brown job’ during our excursions.



Photo 8: Brazilian Porcupine is another largely nocturnal mammal we will hope to find © Chris Collins



Photo 9: Amazon (Pink) River Dolphin © Chris Collins

This trip is also not just about birds, and we can expect to see both the Amazon (Pink) River Dolphin and the less well-known Tucuxi on a regular basis. Indeed, we intend to visit an excellent eco-tourism project where it is possible to interact with completely wild dolphins. Standing in the water, the dolphins gently swim around us – a truly unique experience and one which previous participants have described as comparable with

visiting the Mountain Gorillas in Africa or Grey Whales in Baja California.



Photo 10: Green-tailed Jacamar © Chris Collins

When quietly cruising or during our walks through the forest, we can also expect to see a range of monkeys as the rivers act as natural barriers and different species often occur on opposite banks with over twenty species being possible. We will count ourselves fortunate if we see even half of this total, but the possibilities include Guianan Bearded Saki, Humboldt's White-faced Capuchin, Pied Tamarin, Humboldt's Squirrel Monkey, Guianan Red Howler and Spix's Night Monkey, so irrespective of your wildlife interests, this trip has plenty to offer. *Iracema* (12 further nights)

Day 16

DISEMBARK IRACEMA, FLY TO UK

During our final night aboard our helpful and expert crew will navigate *Iracema* back to Manaus and after breakfast, we will reluctantly disembark.

It is only a short drive to the airport, and we will fly to Sao Paulo where we connect with an overnight flight to the UK.

Day 17

ARRIVAL IN UK

Arrival in the UK where our birds and wildlife tour to the Brazilian Amazon concludes.

Trip Information

Group Size 18 participants with two leaders

What to Expect A 17-day birdwatching and general wildlife tour in association with our sister brand *WildWings* to the Brazilian Amazon with thirteen nights on the comfortable, but not luxurious, river boat, *Iracema*.

We will be spending much of our trip exploring remote regions well away from 'civilisation' with, for example, only very occasional access to a mobile telephone signal! Please don't expect to be checking your emails on a regular basis on this holiday!

Our itinerary once aboard the vessel is flexible and we will adjust this to maximise on your experience with a short briefing every evening to outline our plans for the following day.

Most of our excursions will be made using our vessel's three motorised canoes, although there will be some opportunities for some, generally short walks in the forest. We may be in the canoes for 3-4 hours at a time but are usually able to find somewhere to land to stretch our legs or for a "comfort break".

When we do occasionally offer longer walks, there will generally be a second option of a canoe ride for those who prefer this.

Boarding the motorised wooden canoes requires reasonable mobility but should not be a problem for average individuals. If in doubt, please contact us.

As with all wildlife tours to the tropics, be prepared for early starts, getting out in the field at daybreak, typically followed by a siesta during the hottest and least 'birdy' part of the day before venturing out again mid-late afternoon.

On some mornings, we are likely to have breakfast at approximately 05:30 but there will be other occasions when we go out for a couple of hours and then come back for breakfast, although there will invariably be coffee and cake available beforehand. On at least one occasion, we will aim to leave well before daybreak to be out on the river as the forest birds and animals wake up for the start of the new day.

Many of our excursions whilst on *Iracema* will be by canoe but there will be some optional walks in the forest. There is no compulsion to join the excursions and you may, of course, elect to stay onboard the main vessel at any time if you wish.

On some evenings, we will offer canoe rides after dinner to look for nocturnal birds and other wildlife. These trips may be for a couple of hours or so and occasionally longer.

There may periodically be the opportunity to go for a refreshing swim in the river and you will definitely want to bring some suitable clothes for our 'swim' with the river dolphins.

Birds are inevitably the most conspicuous inhabitants of the forest, so will be our primary focus on the tour but we will also look for primates, other mammals, and an array of butterflies.

WEATHER

As Manaus is just three degrees south of the Equator, the climate is tropical with daytime temperatures typically reaching a high of about 33C (90F) in Manaus in August-September, although we will generally be back on *Iracema* from late morning until the middle of the afternoon.

Although we are not visiting during the wet season, we still may encounter an occasional and sometimes heavy downpour, so we would certainly recommend a poncho (to keep your gear dry) and an umbrella. Our experience is that "breathable" fabrics often do not work well in humid tropical conditions and your best option may be a cheaper plastic poncho.

We would certainly recommend bringing some protection against the sun and a hat with a wide brim (to protect the back of your neck) is advisable.

INSECTS

Although mosquitos and other biting insects are present and you will need to check with your GP Practice about malaria, our experience is that generally these types of insects are in lower numbers on the black water Rio Negro which is where we will spend most of our time.

BIRDS

220-260 species

MAMMALS

20-35 species



Photo 11: If there is sufficient demand, we plan to offer a short extension prior to the cruise to visit a lek of the extraordinary Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock © Chris Collins

ACCOMMODATION

Our vessel has cabins on two decks and an open but covered top deck which is great for wildlife watching. All decks are connected by a staircase which have handrails.

Each cabin is for two people with a private bathroom and air-conditioning, though this is only turned on at night for sleeping and during the heat of the day if we are travelling between locations. The private bathrooms have a sink, toilet and cool-water shower (the water is not heated but it is lukewarm and refreshing). There are also reading lights by each bed.

The cabins have comfortable bunk beds with a ladder to access the top bunk. There is also a cupboard in each cabin to store your possessions.

The main deck has eight of the cabins, the second deck has the other four passenger cabins, plus the bar/dining saloon/lounge and a small library.

A limited laundry service is available onboard although everything has to be line dried so there are no guarantees how long this will take.

We suggest that ideally you bring enough clothes for most of the trip. You can wash small items yourself and hang them on the top deck where there is usually a breeze or ask one of the crew to wash items for you. There are no set rates for the laundry service but they will certainly appreciate a tip for their efforts!

For our night in Manaus, we stay in a good quality tourist hotel where all rooms have private facilities.

MEALS

All main meals (and drinking water provided during the day) are included in the tour price, commencing with dinner at our hotel in Manaus on Day 2 and concluding with breakfast on Day 16 prior to disembarking *Iracema* and our flight home.

Meals on *Iracema* are buffet-style and usually comprise a tasty range of meat, fish and vegetarian options for lunch and dinner. Due to the remoteness of our trip, we are unable to cater for very specific dietary requirements but vegetarians, for example, should have no major problems.

Mineral water is available from a series of coolers, and we would encourage you to bring a suitable water bottle to fill this up.

There is a modest bar aboard which sells a range of alcoholic and soft drinks. This is run on a 'chit system' and you can pay in cash (US dollars or Brazilian Reals) or by credit card at the end of the trip.

WALKING

Most of our excursions will be in *Iracema's* three motorised canoes and we may not land on all excursions. Where we do, walks are taken at a gentle pace, however, there are only a handful of places we visit with forest trails.

Comfortable shoes or sandals should be fine when we are aboard *Iracema* but we would strongly recommend bringing some wellington boots for our walks as it can be muddy stepping from the canoe onto the shore and in the forest, with the possibility of occasionally having to stand in shallow water/mud to get in and out of the canoes.

GROUND TRANSPORT

We will travel by private air-conditioned minibus between Manaus airport and our hotel and then when we return to the airport at the end of the trip. When on our cruise, almost all excursions will be by canoe with occasional landings.

The canoes are open, with wooden bench seats, on which two participants will sit. Cushions are available onboard. The seats have back support.

Tour Cost

2022, 2023 and 2024 (17-day tour):

Land only cost: £4,295 (2022) £4,895 (2023) £5,195 (2024)*

Deposit: £1,000 (2022) £1,250 (2023) £1,500 (2024)

Single Supplement: £1,350 (2022) £1,400 (2023) £

Please note that only two cabins are available at the single supplement price quoted above. Once these are sold, singles will only be available at the full cabin price.

*- please note that the price for 2024 is provisional and will be confirmed in mid-2023.

Cost includes

- Two Limosa/ WildWings Tour Leaders
- Expert resident wildlife guide
- 14 nights' accommodation in Brazil, including 13 on the comfortable air-conditioned river boat *Iracema*
- All main meals with drinking water provided during the day
- Visit to Canopy Tower on outskirts of Manaus
- All entry fees, all tour-based tips (including boat staff, drivers, local guides) and taxes
- Checklist of birds and mammals

Cost excludes

International and internal flights, insurance, drinks, airport meals/snacks and other items of a personal nature.



Photo 12: Black-capped Donacobius © Chris Collins



Photo 13: We hope to find the elusive Sungrebe during the main part of our holiday © Chris Collins

Extension

Subject to demand, we plan to offer a short extension (three additional nights) to visit a modest lodge 2-3 hours north of Manaus where it is possible to visit a lek of Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock and look for a number of other species which we are unlikely to see on our cruise including Guianan Red and Purple-breasted Cotingas.

Day 1 Arrive Manaus

Depending on flight schedules, we should arrive at our hotel in Manaus by the middle of the afternoon and after an opportunity to freshen up, we will explore a remnant forest patch not far from our hotel where we will look our first birds, primates and other wildlife of our trip. This site is one of the best we know for the highly localised Pied Tamarin and locating this critically endangered monkey will be our major priority for the afternoon. Golden-faced Saki is also present, as well as Red-rumped Agouti.

Although only a matter of acres in size and surrounded by the city of Manaus on three sides and the mighty Rio Negro on the other, this small area of habitat is also home to some great birds and will be a fantastic introduction to some of the species we can expect to see over the next couple of weeks. The possibilities include Little Chachalaca, White-throated Toucan, Black-necked Aracari, White-eyed Parakeet, Black Nunbird and Yellow-rumped Cacique. *Night Manaus*

Day 2 Depart for Presidente Figueiredo

As soon as the sun rises, we will have another opportunity before breakfast to explore the forest habitat near our hotel and if we failed to find any of the primates the previous afternoon, we will have a second chance to locate them as on some occasions they can be tricky to find. Other possibilities include a couple of species of sloths plus a surprisingly good range of birds.

After breakfast, we will leave Manaus and head north towards the small town of Presidente Figueiredo where we will base ourselves at a small rural lodge for a couple of nights. Although modest in nature (eg no air conditioning), it is perfectly comfortable with mosquito nets on all the beds, private bathrooms etc.

The journey from Manaus should take 2-3 hours but we may make a few stops along the way if we see any interesting wildlife or habitat, but our plan is to arrive at our accommodation in time for lunch.

Our reason for coming here is because there is a lek of the stunning Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock only a few minutes' walk from our accommodation and we plan to make at least one visit during our stay to enjoy the spectacle of the stunning males as they congregate only a matter of metres away. For much of the time, the birds are likely to be silent but, occasionally, we may hear their extraordinary calls and should a female show up, their behaviour can become somewhat frenzied.

To minimise disturbance to the birds, visits to the lek are limited to 40 minutes (and flash photography is not allowed) but this should give us ample time to enjoy and photograph these amazingly colourful birds before walking back to our lodge.



Photo 14: Bronzy Jacamar is one of the species we hope to see at Presidente Figueiredo © Chris Collins

Other possibilities could include Bronzy Jacamar, Black-spotted Barbet and White-lored Euphonia and after dark, we will explore to see if we can find any nocturnal mammals, owls, nightjars or potoos. *Night Presidente Figueiredo*

Day 3 Presidente Figueiredo

We have a full day to explore around our lodge and the environs of Presidente Figueiredo and will,

no doubt, want to make a second visit to the lek.

There is a modest trail network in the forest around the lodge but it is also well worth spending time in the clearing around the lodge as a great range of birds can also be found here including both Guianan Red and Purple-breasted Cotingas and should there be any fruiting trees here, Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock will also sometimes come here to feed.

As well as looking for birds, we will also go exploring in our bus and hope to find the Midas, or Golden-handed, Tamarin. *Night Presidente Figueiredo*

Day 4 Depart Presidente Figueiredo for Manaus

We will spend the early part of the morning exploring around the lodge and will then set off back to Manaus where we will aim to arrive in the middle of the afternoon in order to meet up with those who did not come on the extension. *Night Manaus*

The extension costs for 2022 are £750 per person (twin sharing) with a single supplement of £195. The prices for 2023 and 2024 will be confirmed in due course.

This includes:

- Limosa/ WildWings Tour Leader
- One night at a comfortable hotel in Manaus and two nights at a rural lodge near Presidente Figueiredo
- Transport between Manaus and Presidente Figueiredo in a private bus plus excursions
- All main meals with drinking water provided during the day
- All entry fees, all tour-based tips (including drivers, local guides) and taxes

Not included: insurance, drinks and other items of a personal nature.

Please note: the number of participants who can come on the extension is restricted (less than on the cruise) as there are only a limited number of rooms at the lodge where we plan to base ourselves. Places on the extension will, therefore, be offered strictly on a "first come, first served" basis. To minimise disturbance at the Cock-of-the-Rock lek flash photography is not permitted.

About your Guides

Chris Collins is Managing Director and owner of Birds and Wildlife Limited, the company that now owns Limosa Holidays (and WildWings) and is based in Surrey.

He is a highly experienced wildlife guide and over the last 20 years has led tours to a wide variety of destinations around the world including Antarctica, the Russian Far East, Brazilian Amazon, Mexico, New Zealand subantarctic islands and the West and Central Pacific.

Working with Regina Ribeiro, Chris has led all our previous Amazon cruises and our 2022 departure will be the fourth time he has guided this itinerary.

Regina Ribeiro is a Brazilian wildlife guide who has been guiding for over 20 years and has worked with *WildWings* since 2004.

She has led to trips to many places in the Atlantic Rainforest, Pantanal and Amazon often focusing on showing clients sought after mammals such as Jaguar, Ocelot, Giant Armadillo, Giant Anteater, Giant Otter, Maned Wolf and Brazilian Tapir and has co-led the Remote Amazon and Primates & Parrots trips with Chris Collins since 2015.

Besides her native language, Portuguese, Regina is also fluent in English and Spanish.



Photo 15: Our "Remote Amazon" birds and wildlife cruise will be based on the comfortable river boat Iracema. With her covered top deck, she is perfectly suited to our needs with previous clients describing this viewing area as akin to a 'floating canopy tower' ©

Financial Security

Limosa Holidays (which is a division of Birds and Wildlife Limited) has financial failure insurance provided by Travel Vault which fully protects you should Birds and Wildlife Limited cease trading.

All passenger bookings are fully insured including the initial deposit and balance payments. The policy also includes repatriation, arising from the cancellation or curtailment of your travel arrangements in the unlikely event of the insolvency of Birds and Wildlife Limited.

For full details please see www.limosaholidays.co.uk/about/financial-protection

How to book

Check availability on our website or with our office. We are happy to hold a provisional reservation for up to 7 days. After this, we require a booking form and deposit to confirm your place on a tour.

Book online, by phone or by post

You can book and pay the deposit simply and securely via our website using the “Book this Tour” button on the relevant tour page. Telephone bookings must be confirmed in writing by completion of a booking form (available to download from our website) and emailed or posted to us.

Please be sure to read our booking conditions and general information prior to booking. Links to this can be found from the footer on every page of our website.

When to book

Early booking is advised as all our tours have small group sizes and so they can fill very quickly; indeed, occasionally this can happen before we have even uploaded details to the website.

The number of single rooms is sometimes limited, and these are often taken quickly so we encourage you to plan ahead if you would like one.

When a trip becomes a ‘guaranteed departure’ early on, this also means that everyone can book flights which is advantageous for all.

Last-minute bookings

We inevitably receive a few unexpected cancellations over the course of a season, so it is always worth enquiring about availability on any tour – even at short notice.

Payments

- **Deposit:** the amount of booking deposit per person is shown alongside every tour. We accept deposit payments by electronic bank transfer (please ask for our bank details), UK debit/credit cards and cheques (made payable to *Birds and Wildlife Ltd* and drawn on a UK bank in GB£ sterling)
- **Balance:** full payment of the tour balance is due no later than 12 weeks prior to departure or 20 weeks in the case of certain tours and cruises. We will send you an invoice before the balance is due. We accept payments of balances by electronic bank transfer or cheque.
- **Payment by overseas customers:** These must be in GB£ Sterling and made by electronic bank transfer (please ask for our bank details).
- We do not accept cheques on US banks in US\$ or cheques in Euros or Eurocheque. For customers living outside of the UK and the European Economic Area, we can accept balance payments by Visa and MasterCard credit cards but with an additional charge of 3% to help offset credit card company charges.

Late booking payments: for us to guarantee hotel rooms etc, full payment is required at the time of booking (ie bookings made within 12 weeks of departure).

Passports and Visas

For UK passport holders your passport must be valid for at least 6 months beyond the last day of the tour.

Current entry requirements for UK citizens travelling abroad can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice>

Health and Vaccinations

For full and up to date information on vaccines visit <https://travelhealthpro.org.uk/countries> and select your destination country.

General information on travel vaccinations and a travel health checklist is also available on the NHS 'Fit for Travel' website. You may then wish to contact your health adviser or pharmacy for advice on other preventive measures and managing any pre-existing medical conditions while you are abroad.

Your safety and travel advice

An unavoidable aspect of travelling abroad is the risk it may pose to your safety and security. The best advice on current risks is provided by the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO).

To assess and protect against any risks in your chosen destination, we strongly advise that you refer to the relevant FCDO travel advice both prior to booking and regularly before you travel. This information can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice>.

"Travel aware" is a travel safety campaign run by the FCDO and another useful resource and details can be found at <https://travelaware.campaign.gov.uk>.

Travel Insurance

Good travel insurance is essential before setting off on any overseas trip. In common with all responsible tour operators, it is a condition of booking that all clients are fully and adequately insured before travelling with us.

Be aware that some destinations may require you to produce proof of comprehensive travel insurance (eg a valid insurance certificate) at Immigration on arrival in the country, so you should carry your documentation with you.

Your travel insurance should cover against cancellation, curtailment, missed departure, delay, personal accident, death, loss of baggage and valuables (see note below), personal liability and legal expenses.

Most importantly, your insurance must cover you fully in respect of medical care and repatriation should you become too ill to continue with the tour, including the cost of emergency evacuation by helicopter or air ambulance should this be necessary.

Note that passenger liability insurance covering the transportation that we hire, particularly in less developed countries, may be inadequate; it is, therefore important that your insurance cover includes sufficient provision for your dependents in the event of an accident.

We recommend that you obtain travel insurance as soon as possible after booking your holiday to ensure you are fully protected in the event of unexpected cancellation prior to departure. You must inform your insurers of any pre-existing medical conditions (including those of persons not necessarily travelling but upon whom your holiday may depend) that may require treatment during a period of overseas travel or might cause you to cancel the trip.

Once you have arranged your insurance, please be sure to send us the following essential details: name and contact details of your insurance provider, your policy number, expiry date and your insurers 24hr emergency assistance number.

Important things to note about insurance

Travel insurance does not normally provide sufficient cover for valuable optical equipment, which is often best protected under your own household insurance policy. If in doubt, ask your insurers for advice prior to travel.

Most travel insurance policies limit the amount of cover, typically up to a maximum tour cost of £5000 per person. If the tour you are booking exceeds this amount, additional cover can usually be provided upon payment of an additional premium. We recommend all travellers check their individual policy limit to ensure the full cost of their holiday is covered.

Arranging your insurance

Due to UK government legislation, we are not allowed to offer or recommend travel related insurance. Premiums can vary widely according to your age, needs, health, choice of destination and other factors, while many people nowadays have annual travel insurance cover.

General Information

www.limosaholidays.co.uk

Our website gives easy access to detailed tour itineraries (tour info packs), trip reports, trip photos and the latest Limosa News.

Special diets & other requests

We pass on all such requests to the hotels and other suppliers, and do our best to ensure (but, of course, cannot guarantee) that your needs will be met. Please be sure to tell us about these (in as

much detail as possible) at the time of booking, to allow good time to make the necessary arrangements.

Smoking and vaping

Almost all our clients prefer a smoke-free environment. For the enjoyment and comfort of all, we ask that smokers refrain from smoking in proximity to the group and respect our no smoking policy in the vehicle, at mealtimes and when watching wildlife.

Any questions?

If you have any questions, please email us at tours@limosaholidays.co.uk or call the office and we will do our best to assist you.

Our office is open 09:00-17:00 Monday to Friday. In the event we are unable to take your call, please leave a message on our answerphone (24 hrs) and we will contact you as soon as we can.

Thank you for your interest in our tours. We do hope that you will be able to join us.