



BRAZIL

Amazonia on the Rio Roosevelt

October 19 - November 1, 2026



On approach to the wilderness haven of Pousada Rio Roosevelt, our home for the week © Andrew Whittaker

Amazonia is a vast, mystical region representing the greatest treasure trove of biodiversity and tropical rainforests on the planet, with the majority of this immensely rich biome 60 percent located in Brazil! From the time such great legendary explorers as Henry Walter Bates and Alfred Russel Wallace entered the region in the 1840s, Amazonia has captivated naturalists and explorers alike, and continues to enthrall visitors today. Few other locations have the power to entice return visits as does Amazonia, in part because no two locations in this immense ecosystem (an incredible 2.1 million miles) are alike! Simply put, after crossing any major Amazon river system each bank is home to an exciting different array of uniquely exotic, often endemic birds,

animals, and plants. We will have the great opportunity of exploring both banks of the mighty Rio Madeira a major biogeographical barrier to fauna and flora.

In 1914, ex-president Theodore Roosevelt teamed up with the famous Brazilian explorer Cândido Rondon on a historic expedition to map the course of one of the Amazon's unknown rivers, the Rio da Dúvida (the famous River of Doubt). The expedition yielded exciting discoveries of many new species of birds and animals while pushing the collective endurance, courage, and will of its participants to the breaking point. Fast-forward to the



present, where the Rio Roosevelt (renamed in honor of Theodore) is still an unspoiled Amazonian wilderness—as wild, rugged and beautiful a destination as when Roosevelt first laid eyes on it, but with one huge difference: here now sits a plush wilderness lodge (situated on one of the very beaches where Roosevelt's expedition camped) offering the unique opportunity to visit and explore this exciting corner of Amazonia in great style.

Ornithologically speaking and most exciting is that we will be based in this truly incredible wilderness smack within what is now regarded as the mega-hotspot for Amazonian birds! The area of forest from the Rio Aripuanã to the Rio Ji-Parana, themselves bounded by the mighty Rio Madeira and Rio Tapajós, has recently emerged as a truly hotbed of endemism. Both of the larger rivers form natural barriers to countless birds and other fauna, allowing for heightened speciation in which sibling species are found on opposite river banks. Here, the resulting isolation has revealed an incredible TEN new species of birds discovered and described in the last few years! Your tour leader, Andrew Whittaker, was involved in several of these exciting discoveries and in fact opened up the Pousada Rio Roosevelt lodge for the first ever birders.

Pousada Rio Roosevelt offers private chalets with air-conditioning, hot water, and a refrigerator; 24-hour electricity; a wonderful panoramic air-conditioned restaurant that serves high quality Brazilian food including a fabulous variety of fresh caught and imaginatively prepared Amazonian fish dishes

(with locally collected to-die-for Brazil nuts), wonderful Brazilian steaks, and lots of exotic fruits and fresh juices. Adding to these pleasures, we'll explore the adjacent forests canopy , via an excellent canopy tower, and below, along a several well-kept trails accessing different habitats including towering terra firme forest to unique short stunted sandy-belt campinas; and enjoy comfortable boat trips along the serene Rio Roosevelt and some of its narrow tributaries, all the while taking in the incredible diversity of birds and wildlife of this unique region.

VENT is immensely proud to have pioneered the birding here through the process of Andrew opening forest trails way back in 2004, siting the location of the canopy tower, and bringing the fishing lodge its first ever birding groups. The whole effort culminated in 2008 when Andrew, after extensive research, published a preliminary bird list for the lodge of close to 500 species with more species being added every year!



The endemic Manicore Warbling-Antbird (male), described in 2013 © Andrew Whittaker

Early on the first morning, we will leave the bustling Amazonian town of Porto Velho (capital of Rondônia state) in our private charter plane, flying over a vast, green sea of virgin forest below, eventually landing on a private airstrip in the middle of this Amazonian paradise. The lodge is ideally located on the edge of the spectacular Rio Roosevelt, surrounded by rich forest where, in addition to more than 500 birds recorded (many new species), its recently become an incredible hotspot for the discovery of several new mammals and even megafauna! Over the last decade discoveries have included the Dwarf Black (Kabomani) Tapir, Fair Brocket Deer, a Dwarf Manatee, Black Dwarf Porcupine, and several new primates!

Being so privileged as being one of the few birding groups visiting the area, we may well make some exciting discoveries of our own. In fact, Andy and his VENT group in 2006 rediscovered the long lost White-tailed Tityra and on our 2017 trip after cutting a new forest trail a new stream and small waterfall! The complete lack of hunting in the area means that the fauna of larger birds, primates and other mammals is still intact, allowing us the rare opportunity to experience Amazonia as it used to be historically and simply at its best. On past tours we have located all of the recently described new bird

species; enjoyed sightings of groups of Dark-winged Trumpeters and/or Razor-billed Curassows; observed both Harpy and Crested eagles; encountered a huge Puma; and turned up eleven species of primates, some recently described to science! Our second-ever tour produced spectacular views of five Crimson Fruitcrows and the nearly mythical Pale-faced Bare-eye (rare). In addition, each of our visits to the area has yielded the recently rediscovered Buff-cheeked Tody-Flycatcher as well. Clearly, more opportunities for exciting new discoveries in this region remain.

Our stay on the Rio Roosevelt should produce hundreds of species of birds. Our efforts should also yield a host of birds only recently described to science including Cryptic Forest-Falcon (described by Andy in 2003), Eastern Striolated-Puffbird, Tapajos Scythebill, and Dusky-capped Woodcreeper. In fact, the Rio Madeira Stipplethroat and Aripuana Antwren, Manicore Warbling-Antbird, Alta Floresta Antpitta, and Chico's Tyrannulet were only described in 2013! On top of this, you may be lucky enough to have an opportunity to see an additional TWO NEW SPECIES yet to be named that Kevin Zimmer and I are working on!

This trip, however, is about more than specialty birds, as we have a chance to see some of the most distinctive and dazzling birds in the American Tropics. Representative are Zigzag and Agami herons; Chestnut-fronted, Scarlet, Blue-and-Yellow, and Red-and-green macaws; the poorly known Kawall's Parrot; the spectacular Crimson-bellied Parakeet; Gould's Toucanet; Red-necked Aracari; Green-and-rufous Kingfisher; Pavonine Quetzal; Blue-cheeked and Paradise jacamars; Black-girdled Barbet; the striking Rufous-necked and Collared puffbirds; Snow-capped and Flame-crested manakins; the endemic Para Foliage-gleaner; Rufous-tailed Xenops; endemic Hoffman's Woodcreeper; Pearly and Bamboo antshrikes; Pale-faced Bare-Eye and White-breasted Antbird; Black-bellied Gnateater (rare); Crimson Fruitcrow; Black-necked Red-Cotinga; Pompadour and Purple-breasted cotingas; and the lovely Rose-breasted Chat.



Collared Puffbird, a rarely seen forest dweller
© Andrew Whittaker

With luck we may even see a Brazilian Tapir, Giant Otters, mighty Jaguar or Puma, South America's two greatest predators.

Imagine yourself on an afternoon boat trip, drifting down the Rio Roosevelt at the end of a great day's birding, sipping an ice-cold refreshing drink as a spectacular Amazonian sunset unfolds in front of you. Meanwhile, a chorus of toucan yelp and croak from the forest, serenading the last flight of macaws and parrots as they thread their way across the river to their evening roosts with the sun waning on the horizon and Sand-colored Nighthawks dancing above the beaches, and a group of primates are going to sleep on the tallest emergent. Capping off yet another magnificent day in this Amazonia paradise. Simply life just doesn't get much better than this!



A typically amazing Amazonian sunset! © Andrew Whittaker

Following our exciting wilderness experiences at the Rio Roosevelt our private charter flight will return us to Porto Velho. Here we will be picked up by our driver and continue our exciting exploration of Amazonian Brazil. Our air-conditioned van will cross the mighty Rio Madeira on the newly constructed bridge and follow the trans Amazonian highway allowing us access to the exciting and different west bank avifauna found in the Inambari center of endemism. Our new base a well-positioned and comfortable hotel in Humaita allows us to bird extensive white-sandy belt forest and Amazonian Campinas.

The delightful mosaic of Amazonian Campos offers a completely different set of exciting species which again has several recently described new species! Targets include; Azure-naped (Campina) Jay, Long-tailed Ground-Dove, Golden-collared Toucanet, Inambari Gnatcatcher (which your leader described in 2013), Inambari Woodcreeper, Predicted Antwren to Black-bellied Gnateater. Other highlights should include Ocellated Crake, Undulated Antshrike, Reddish-winged Bare-Eye, Hairy-crested Antbird, Black Bushbird, Brown-banded Puffbird, Citron-bellied Attila, Black-whiskered Vireo, Sharp-tailed Tyrant and Fiery-capped and Blue-capped manakins, White-rumped Tanager and Black-masked Finch.

October 19-20, 2026 Days 1-2: Travel to Porto Velho; Afternoon Excursion to a nearby Parke in Porto Velho

Participants will need to arrive into the bustling Amazonian city of Porto Velho in time for lunch on October 20 and are encouraged to plan to arrive at least a day early (October 19). Regardless of the date of arrival into Porto Velho (airport code PVH), you will be met and transferred to our hotel where a room will be reserved in your name. VENT will arrange pre-tour lodging upon request.

Given the remoteness of location and help prevent a flight cancellation or misconnection causing you to miss the October 21 flight to Pousada Rio Roosevelt (see below), participants are encouraged to allow extra time to complete this journey. Non-stop intra-Brazil service to Porto Velho from São Paulo's Guarulhos International Airport (GRU) can be connected to from various U.S. airports (subject to change.) On October 20 at a time to be announced, the group will meet in the hotel lobby for a tour orientation followed by lunch.

After lunch, we will offer a wonderful introduction to the Amazonian avifauna of Rondonia in a nearby forested Park in Porto Velho. Offering a nice sample of more widespread species which could include Roadside Hawk, Amazonian Pygmy-Owl, Curl-crested and Chestnut-eared aracari, Channel-billed Toucan, Red-bellied Macaw, Blue-headed and Mealy Parrot, Dusky-headed Parakeet, Speckled Chachalaca, Black-eared Fairy, Yellow-tufted Woodpecker, Sulphury Flycatcher, Thrush-like Wren, Snow-capped Manakin, Bare-necked Fruitcrow, and Paradise, Masked, Swallow, and Turquoise tanagers.

NIGHT (October 20): Hotel Slavieiro Essential, Porto Velho (October 20)

October 21, Day 3: Morning private charter flight to Pousada Rio Roosevelt

This morning, we will transfer the short distance to the airport for our charter flight to the Pousada Rio Roosevelt. Leaving behind Porto Velho, the landscape abruptly changes as we fly over a sea of rainforest. This green carpet is interrupted only by silt-laden jungle rivers and occasional sandy-soil savannas known in Brazil as *campinas*. A little over an hour later, we'll have our first views of the famous Rio Roosevelt and its whitewater rapids. As we descend, we will make a circle over the pristine panorama below and spot the private runway and observe the beautiful sandy beach and the lodge, our home for the next week. After landing in this Amazonian paradise, we will be greeted by the wonderful staff, then make our way to the lodge birding using the same portage past Santa Rita rapids that the great Roosevelt himself took. Upon arrival at the delightful lodge, we'll take time to settle into our comfortable chalets.



Amazing blooms in the campina © Andrew Whittaker

Time permitting, we'll take a short late morning walk through the surrounding sandy-soil habitat before returning to the lodge for the first of many superb meals in the wonderful panoramic restaurant. After lunch, we'll take a siesta in our air-conditioned chalets during the hottest hours of the day. In the mid-afternoon we'll reconvene for a relaxing boat excursion along this secluded stretch of the river, which often culminates with a wonderful Amazonian sunset.

NIGHT: Pousada Rio Roosevelt

October 22-27: Days 4-9: Birding the incredible wilderness along the Rio Roosevelt by boat and on foot and from a canopy tower

Six full days to explore this fascinating Amazonian Paradise. There is not a more comfortable way to experience a true Amazonian wilderness than being based on the delightful banks of the Rio Roosevelt while staying at such a lovely lodge. Surrounding this small outpost of humanity are hundreds of miles of unspoiled Amazonian rainforest, jungle rivers, and forest streams! As we delve into the local birdlife, we do so with the knowledge that this is a true hotspot of endemism where many poorly-known Brazilian specialty birds are found. In fact, only recently have field ornithologists realized just how important the Rio Roosevelt and other major tributaries of the Rio Madeira have been in shaping Amazonian bird and mammal distribution. Given their sizes, these rivers have acted as barriers to avian distribution, and thus have influenced not only present-day distributions of birds, but also the radiation and evolution of a myriad new species, some of which have only now come to light and been described in the last few years!

With this pristine Amazonian wilderness right at our doorstep we can explore and immerse ourselves in this the world's greatest biome and experience to the full its mega flora and fauna that surround us.

Our daily activities will begin with an early pre-dawn hearty full breakfast, with freshly squeezed fruit juices to-die-for before either stepping onto one of the many well-kept forest trails that radiate from the lodge or taking a short boat ride to get to a trail further afield. Here, we can expect to experience the richness and complexity of understory and canopy mixed-species flocks, and hear the soul-touching voices of many of the world's best avian singers such as Musician Wren (multiple splits await) and Scaly-breasted Wren. Primates should also be a constant joy and we expect to see many and be able to observe their fascinating antics.

After a scrumptious lunch at the lodge, we'll break during the heat of the day to relax or to take a swim in the cool river or independently explore the excellent trail system right behind the lodge. As the afternoon temperatures cool, we will venture forth once more, this time in motorized boats to bird along the rivers or narrow *igarapés* (forested streams). Along these quiescent waterways, we'll scan the riverbanks for exquisite Agami Herons while keeping an eye on the canopy for colorful

cotingas, parrots, toucans, and any large raptors. As dusk falls, Ladder-tailed Nightjars appear along the river banks, Short-tailed Nighthawks feed over the forest canopy, and Sand-colored Nighthawks grace the river.



Immature Slaty-backed Forest-Falcon © Andrew Whittaker

Exploration of these rainforests will produce an astonishing number of bird and mammal possibilities including Gray, Brazilian, Brown, and Variegated tinamous; the bizarre Razor-billed Curassow; flocks of Dark-winged Trumpeter; or Sunbittern and Sungrebe along the streams. The forested riverbanks hold flocks of prehistoric looking Hoatzin, while a flash of color could prove to be a Green-and-rufous or tiny Pygmy kingfisher. Dawn and dusk are the optimum times for hearing and seeing the shy Starred Wood-Quail,

Cryptic and Slaty-backed forest-falcons, or tiny Zigzag Heron (which is almost common here!). In the mid-morning hours, raptors such as White-browed Hawk and Ornate Hawk-Eagle soar above the forest on rising thermals. Additionally, we hope to encounter a diversity of macaws and parrots including Chestnut-fronted, Red-bellied, Scarlet, Blue-and-Yellow, and Red-and-Green macaws; Yellow-crowned and endemic Kawall's Amazon; near endemic Crimson-bellied and Santarem parakeets; and fruit-eating birds such as Gould's Toucanet; Red-necked Aracari; and Channel-billed Toucan.

On the higher ground, known in the tropics as *terra firme*, we'll search for massive, mixed-species understory flocks, and a host of highly-sought forest dwellers such as the lovely Crimson Topaz Hummingbird; Needle-billed Hermit; Broad-billed Motmot; Ringed, Red-necked, and Cream-colored woodpeckers; Collared, Amazonian, Blue-crowned, Green-backed and Black-tailed trogons; Pavonine Quetzal; Paradise, Blue-cheeked, Brown, and Great jacamars; Black-girdled Barbet; Rufous-necked and Collared puffbirds; and many more.

The sudden appearance of a mixed-species flock is often revealed by the calls of the sharp-eyed White-fronted Nunbird, while the striking White-winged Shrike-Tanager and Cinerous and Saturnine antshrike lead the rest of the feathered legion through the forest, leaving no leaf unturned. We'll also seek the likes of Long-billed, Elegant, Mournful Long-tailed and Spot-throated woodcreepers; Striped Woodhaunter; Cinnamon-rumped and endemic Para foliage-gleaners; Rufous-tailed Xenops; Ruddy

Spinetail; Pearly Antshrike; Ornate and endemic Rio Madeira Stipplethroat; and Ferruginous-backed, Striated and Dot-backed antbirds.

Some of the more challenging-to-find species require patience and repeat attempts, but we think our chances are good for encountering dandies such as endemic Tapajos and Alta Floresta antpittas (described in 2012); huge endemic Black-bellied and smaller Black-breasted gnateaters; the odd sounding Rusty-belted Tapaculo; Golden-crowned, Cinnamon-crested and White-crested spadebills; stunning Snow-capped, Blue-backed (yellow-crowned regina subspecies), and Red-headed manakins; and Tropical Royal Flycatcher.



The lovely, terrestrial Ferruginous-backed Antbird (male)
© Andrew Whittaker

Another of the trip's attractions is ascending the lodge's canopy tower, atop of which we'll enjoy views of treetop species at eye-level, and where we can experience the forest awakening or going quiet on morning and afternoon visits. Highlights from previous tours include sightings of the breathtaking Crimson Fruitcrow; Spangled, Pompadour, and Purple-throated cotingas; White-bellied Parrot; Gould's Toucanet; Crested Owl; Amazonian Pygmy-Owl; Paradise Jacamar; White-necked and Pied puffbirds; the newly described Eastern Striolated Puffbird; Orange-cheeked Parrot; Sclater's Antwren; Dusky-capped (Rondonia) Woodcreeper; Tooth-billed Wren; Klages's Gnatcatcher; Yellow-shouldered Grosbeak; a kaleidoscope of tanagers including Paradise, Green-and-gold, Opal-rumped, and Red-billed Pied Tanager; Short-billed Honeycreeper; Yellow-bellied Dacnis; White-winged Shrike Tanager; and many others.



The near-endemic Black-girdled Barbet © Andrew Whittaker

If we're lucky enough to encounter an antswarm during our forest walks, we could be rewarded with sightings of two magnificent mega endemics, White-breasted Antbird, and perhaps even the poorly-known Pale-faced Bare-Eye (rare). Other possibilities include Black-spotted Bare-eye; Common Scale-backed and Spot-backed antbirds; Hoffman's, Amazonian Barred-, Strong-billed, Uniform, and White-chinned woodcreepers; or even a forest-falcon or a flock of trumpeters!

Given the total lack of hunting-pressure in the region, we have better chances here than most other places for seeing the immense Harpy Eagle (seen on one of our previous visits) or the rarely seen Crested Eagle, and, with luck, possibly even a Jaguar or a rarely seen Short-eared Dog (seen on our last trip).

Opportunities to see primates are numerous; in fact, the Rio Roosevelt region possesses some of the greatest primate diversity in Amazonia with many endemics. Possibilities include several recently described species such as the colorful Prince Bernhard's Titi Monkey (described in 2002) as well as the endearing and stunning Gold-and-white Marmoset. Other species recorded on previous trips include the very cute Common Woolly Monkey, Black-headed Spider Monkey, White-nosed (red nosed) Bearded Saki Monkey, Mittermeier's Saki, Black-headed Night Monkey, Spix's White-fronted capuchins, Golden-backed Squirrel Monkey, Rio Aripuana Marmoset and Columbian Red Howler. Meanwhile, our river trips give us a great opportunity to see Giant Otter, fish-eating bats, and even a Brazilian Tapir or a big cat!



Alta Floresta Antpitta, named after your tour leader and described in 2012 © Andrew

A night excursion will treat us to a spectacular star-filled sky, and may reveal a secretive Zigzag Heron, or a nightbird or two, such as Black-banded or Spectacled owl, Tawny-bellied Screech Owl, or even a Rufous, White-winged or Long-tailed potoo. Drifting along in the boat, we may well hear the lonely calls of the Gray Potoo, known in Portuguese as “Mãe da Lua” (“Mother of the Moon”); the odd calls of an Amazonian Bamboo-Rat; or the owl-like hoots of a Night Monkey troop.



Zigzag Heron, a highly-sought regional specialty © Andrew Whittaker

On one day we will explore the more distant Rio Maderinha stunted campina forest I located and cut the trail way back with the help of the boatmen way back in 2004. I even came face to face with a huge male Puma while birding the trail with a couple. The poor white-sandy soil and rocks make for much shorter forest ideal for finding the set of sandy belt forest species we all want to enjoy. Here we will look particularly for two range-restricted endemics Chico's Tyrannulet (named after Chico Mendes) and Aripuana Antwren. Others should include the striking Bronzy Jacamar and Flame-crowned Manakin, Plush-crested Jay (an isolated form), Natter's Slaty Antshrike, Southern White-fringed Antwren, Buff-cheeked Tody-Flycatcher, Pale-bellied Mourner. I have once even seen Crimson Fruitcrow here displaying! Another highlight today will be watching our boatmen catch our Peacock Bass (which give a tremendous fight) for our lunch. They will excellently prepare a delicious beach BBQ grill for us to enjoy in the forested shade!

As if all of this was not enough to keep us busy, anyone interested can try their hand at fishing (catch-and-release). This area is world-famous for its amazing variety of Amazonian fish including the famous Peacock Bass and, of course, the gigantic catfish the lovely Red-tailed (Pirarara), Jau and shark-like Piraiba! All can put up a truly sensational fight! Our boatmen certainly are wonderful and know the rivers rapids and eddies like the back of their hands and are also highly skilled fishermen too.

NIGHTS: Pousada Rio Roosevelt



A relaxed afternoon boat trip below Santa Rita Falls, with the lodge in the background © Andrew Whittaker

October 28 Day 10: Morning charter flight back to Porto Velho with van transfer to the west bank of the mighty Rio Madeira and onto bustling small town of Humaita

Following some early morning birding we will sadly have to say our fond wells to this Amazonian paradise and the wonderful staff who have looked after us so well. Boarding our charter flight and returning back over the pristine forest to bustling Porto Velho. Upon our arrival we will transfer into our air-conditioned van and begin our two-and-a-half-hour journey heading west into Amazonas state. Firstly, crossing over the impressive Rio Madeira, the largest tributary of the mighty Amazon flowing over 2000 miles with an average width of about half a mile accounting for some 15% of the water in the basin! We then head north along the trans Amazonian highway and onto Humaita situated along the banks of the Rio Madeira acting as an important hub for transportation and commerce in the region as well as agriculture. We will check into our hotel in this pleasant town where we will enjoy another great Brazilian lunch followed by a siesta. As afternoon temperatures drop, we will begin our exploration of the fascinating campos and natural grasslands.

NIGHT: Quality Hotel, Humaitá

October 29-30 Days 11-12: Birding the native grasslands, marshes, enclaves of stunted white-sandy-belt forests called Campinarana and rainforest

This fascinating area requires early starts for the best birding to allow us to get into the prime birding areas. Vast grasslands are home to several target species including the spectacular but skulky and beautiful Ocellated Crane which is rather common here, therefore we will have enough to pairs to play with! Other targets should include; Ash-throated, and Russet-crowned crakes, Spot-tailed Nightjar, Long-tailed Ground-Dove, White-eared Puffbird, Green-tailed Goldenthrout, Southern White-fringed and Rusty-backed antwren, Sharp-tailed Tyrant, White-browed Purpletuft, White-throated Kingbird, Cinereous-breasted Spinetail, Black-masked Finch, White-rumped Tanager, Plumbeous Seedeater as well as an odd breeding population of Dark-throated Seedeater!



White-browed Purpletuft © Andrew Whittaker

The taller Campinarana and taller forests are home to one of our main targets the low-density Azure-naped (Campina) Jays, which are always challenging to find. We will also concentrate on encountering a nice selection of recently described new endemics and near endemics including; Inambari Woodcreeper, Inambari Gnatcatcher (rare) and Predicted Antwren. Other goodies could include Mournful Long-tailed Woodcreeper, Peruvian Warbling-Antbird, Hairy-crested, Sooty, Humaita and Predicted antbirds, Black-bellied Gnateater (rare) and wintering Black-whiskered Vireos. Noteworthy too is as yet a new unnamed species of *Hemitriccus* Tody-tyrant.

Thankfully while searching for this highly roaming jay there will be several other exciting forest species to keep us happy; Bonaparte's Parakeet, Amazonian Pygmy-Owl, Golden-collared Toucanet, Guided Barbet, Curl-crested and Ivory-billed aracaris, Brown-banded and Western Striolated puffbird, Pale-tailed Barbthroat, Needle-billed Hermit, Banded Antbird, Rio Madeira Stipplethroat, Ocellated Woodcreeper, Cinnamon-rumped Foliage-gleaner, Point-tailed Palmcreeper, Citron-bellied Attila, Fiery-capped and Blue-crowned manakin and if luck is on our side maybe such rarities as Undulated Antshrike, Black Bushbird, Band-bellied Woodcreeper, Fulvous-chinned Nunlet or even Dotted Tanager.



Amazonian Pygmy-Owl © Andrew Whittaker

Time allowing, we may visit the Varzea Forest on the east bank of the Madeira for the likes of Slate-colored Hawk, Festive Parrot, Chestnut-capped Puffbird, Leaden Antwren and Masked Crimson-Tanager. One of our main targets will be Plain Softtail *obidensis* subspecies and a good future split which will become a Brazilian endemic!

NIGHTS: Quality Hotel, Humaitá

October 31-November 1, Days 13-14: Morning birding before we drive back to Porto Velho and catch departure for Home

After early morning birding around Humaita to catch up on anything we may have missed, we'll return to our hotel for an early lunch and then transfer to Porto Velho where day rooms will be provided. After an opportunity to clean up and pack, transfers will be provided for all departures out of Porto Velho (PVH) on the evening of October 31 or anytime on November 1.

Based on actual flight schedules, participants wanting to avoid the risk of misconnecting should consider spending the night of October 31 in Porto Velho, Brasilia or Manaus before departing for home on November 1st. Upon request, VENT will be happy to assist with these arrangements.

DAY ROOM (October 31): Hotel Slavieiro Essential, Porto Velho

Essential Tour Information

TOUR SIZE: This tour will be limited to 8 participants.

TOUR LEADER: Andrew Whittaker with the assistance of local guides



Andrew Whittaker was born in the UK and began his birding passion at the early age of seven (thanks to his parents) but resides in Brazil. Andy is also a true all-around naturalist with an innate fascination for all aspects of the natural world and simply loves sharing in the field his intimate bird, wildlife, and orchid knowledge in a fun and enthusiastic manner. A senior member of the VENT staff, Andy has led VENT tours worldwide since 1993 from dense South and Central American rainforests to the great White Continent of Antarctica, and throughout Europe to the deserts of the Middle East. More recently Andy can be found leading in the bird-rich rainforests of West Africa, the mammal-rich savannas of East Africa, or observing the cute Red Panda or exotic tragopan in the mighty Himalayas of Nepal. In 2024 Andy was able to show over 2,000 bird species to VENT clients on his tours! Andy is an excellent communicator and calm tour organizer who loves nothing better than hearing, finding, and sharing a rare poorly-known skulker, or telling one of his many fascinating and fun birding and travel stories. His enthusiasm in the field is simply contagious, and a combination of these traits has made him a favored leader amongst participants. Although born in England, Andy considers himself Brazilian, having lived more than 30 years in this mega biodiverse country, first working for the Smithsonian Institution, studying Amazonian rainforest birds in Manaus, as well as leading expeditions to remote corners of the Amazon; he feels privileged to have worked with the incredible Kayapo Indians. Andy is widely considered an authority on Amazonian birds, having authored numerous technical publications on the region's avifauna. He is well recognized for his amazing hearing and intimate knowledge of South American bird vocalizations. This trait has enabled him to discover several exciting new bird species (such as the Cryptic Forest-Falcon in 2002), as well as rediscover others thought to be extinct such as the White-tailed Tityra while on a VENT tour in 2006! He loves recording birds, too, with over 800 hours of recordings housed in the British Library Sound Archive. Andy is a qualified ringer/bander trained by the late Dr. Clive Minton (fondly known as the father of

shorebird studies). His lifelong fascination with bird migration has seen Andy working around the globe at several top bird observatories: Eilat, Israel; Long Point, Canada; and in the UK at Sandwich Bay and on Fair Isle, Scotland, as well as researching shorebirds in Borneo on their East Asian flyway. Andy had the honor of working with Sir David Attenborough in Brazil as a consultant for the prestigious BBC *Life of Birds* series. At present, Andy is working with Kevin Zimmer on a comprehensive field guide to the birds of Brazil to be published by Princeton University Press. Andy is an associate researcher at the Museum Goeldi, Belem, an active conservationist, and loves bird photography and taxonomy. He is also an avid football/soccer fan of Birmingham City FC and Real Madrid due to its worldwide mega star Jude Bellingham coming from his home team. Andy lives near Porto Alegre, Southern Brazil with his partner, Jaqueline, and their many orchids.

TOUR COSTS & PAYMENT INFORMATION

TOUR FEE: **\$14,650** per person based on double occupancy or **\$16,585** for a person requiring single accommodation. This includes all meals from lunch on Day 2 through lunch on Day 13, accommodations as stated in the itinerary, all ground and charter flight transportation during the tour, and guide services provided by the tour leaders. It does **not** include airfare to nor from Porto Velho; however, flights within the tour (if any) are included. The fee also excludes laundry, personal expenses, and other items of a personal nature. For information about gratuities, please see the “TIPPING” sub-section below. If the minimum group size is not met, each participant will be charged a small-group supplement—shared equally and communicated in advance—to allow the tour to proceed.

REGISTRATION & DEPOSIT: You may register for this tour through the VENT [website](#) or by calling our office (512-328-5221). The initial deposit for this tour is **\$1,000** per person. At 180 days VENT will collect a second deposit that brings the total deposit amount to 40% of the tour price. We accept MasterCard and Visa for both deposits.

PAYMENTS: All tour payments may be made by credit card (MasterCard or Visa), check, money order, or bank transfer (contact the VENT office for bank transfer information). These include initial deposits, second deposits, interim payments, final balances, special arrangements, etc. Full payment of the tour fee is due 120 days (June 21, 2026) prior to the tour departure date.

EXTRA ARRANGEMENTS: Should you wish to make arrangements to arrive early or extend your stay, please contact the VENT office at least two months prior to your departure date. We can very easily make hotel arrangements and often at our group rate, if we receive your request with enough advance time.

EXCHANGE RATE SURCHARGES: Tour prices are based on the rate of exchange at the time of itinerary publication. If rates change drastically, it may be necessary to impose a surcharge. If a surcharge is necessary, every effort will be made to minimize the amount. In many cases, these additional foreign exchange rate surcharges have been passed to VENT by its vendors and suppliers.

FUEL SURCHARGES: Our prices are based on fuel prices at the time of itinerary publication. While we will do everything possible to maintain our prices, it may be necessary to institute a fuel surcharge.

TIPPING: An important part of the value of a VENT tour is knowing that tips for local service providers at our destinations—restaurant staff, hotel staff, drivers, local guides, and various other support staff—are included in your tour fee. If you would like to offer any of your local guides an additional tip, \$5 to \$10 a day is a common amount.

Tips for your VENT tour leader(s) are **not** included, but it is customary to tip one or both if you feel that you have received exceptional service. To assist in your planning, we recommend tipping your VENT tour leader(s) \$15 to \$20 per day, or the equivalent of approximately 2–4% of the tour fee.

If you plan to give tips by cash, they should be given directly to your tour leader at the end of the tour and **not** sent to the VENT office. Some of our tour leaders use mobile payment applications such as Venmo, PayPal, and Wise. If you would like to use this method, please ask your tour leaders directly whether they can accept tips through such an application.

We emphasize that tipping is optional and that these amounts are only recommendations. The amount you decide to tip is based entirely on your experience and at your discretion.

CANCELLATION & REFUNDS

CANCELLATION BY PARTICIPANT:

- **More than 120 days prior to the tour start date:** A refund of all monies paid will be issued, less 50% of the deposit (including initial and second deposit)
- **120 days or fewer prior to the tour start date:** No refund will be provided.
- **Optional add-ons:** Some tours offer optional add-ons that are designated as non-refundable. Any such add-ons are clearly identified as non-refundable at the time of booking. By selecting and purchasing an optional add-on, the participant acknowledges and accepts its non-refundable status. Fees paid for non-refundable add-ons are not refundable under any circumstances, regardless of when the tour is cancelled.

This cancellation policy applies to all participants and all tours (Pre-Tours and Extensions are considered self-contained tours separate from the main tour). Because unexpected events can occur, we strongly recommend the purchase of travel insurance.

CANCELLATION BY VENT:

If VENT cancels a tour prior to departure without cause or good reason, VENT will provide the participant a full refund, which will constitute full settlement to the participant.

If VENT cancels or delays a tour or any portion of a tour as a result of any Force Majeure event, VENT will use its reasonable best efforts to refund any payments on the balance of the tour fee to participant; provided that, VENT will have no obligation to provide a participant with a refund and will not be liable or responsible to a participant, nor be deemed to have defaulted under or breached any applicable agreement, for any failure or delay in fulfilling or performing any term of such agreement. A **“Force Majeure”** event means any act beyond VENT’s control, including, without limitation, the following: (a) acts of God; (b) flood, fire, earthquake, hurricane, epidemic, pandemic or explosion; (c) war, invasion, hostilities (whether war is declared or not), terrorist threats or acts, riot or other civil unrest; (d) government order, law or actions; (e) embargoes or blockades; (f) national or regional emergency; (g) strikes, labor stoppages, labor slowdowns or other industrial disturbances; (h) shortage of adequate power or transportation facilities; and (i) any other similar events or circumstances beyond the control of VENT.

This VENT Cancellation & Refunds policy does not apply to air tickets purchased through VENT or to any special arrangements, such as additional hotel nights, that fall outside of the services described in the tour itinerary.

Victor Emanuel Nature Tours is not a participant in the California Travel Consumer Restitution Fund. California law requires certain sellers of travel to have a trust account or bond. This business has a bond issued by Travelers in the amount of \$50,000. CST #2014998-50.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

MEDICAL EVACUATION INSURANCE/PROTECTION REQUIREMENT: This tour visits remote locations where immediate access to primary medical care may not be available. **For this reason, travel insurance/travel protection which covers you for emergency evacuation is required for participation on this tour.** This coverage is included in the **Ripcord Rescue Travel Insurance™** program. Alternatively, comparable service can be obtained through **Medjet** and its **MedjetAssist** plan. If you choose not to purchase insurance/travel protection through Ripcord or Medjet, you are required to obtain it through another provider. Please refer to the TRAVEL INSURANCE/TRAVEL PROTECTION section for additional information.

SUGGESTED OPTIONS: To safeguard against losses due to illness, accident, or other unforeseen circumstances, we strongly recommend the purchase of travel insurance as soon as possible after making a deposit. VENT has partnered with **Redpoint Travel Protection** as our preferred travel insurance provider. Through Redpoint, we recommend its comprehensive Ripcord plan, which includes a medical evacuation benefit. With this in mind, it is important to note that medical evacuation is not offered by Redpoint as a stand-alone policy or benefit. For travelers not interested in comprehensive travel insurance, VENT recommends **Medjet** and its **MedjetAssist®** plan. Medjet is not an insurance company, and Medjet Assist is not an insurance product; rather, Medjet is a membership-based air-medical transport company specializing in moving hospitalized travelers from an admitting hospital to a medical facility of choice. Medjet does not provide medical evacuation service from the point of injury or illness; yet, the MedjetAssist plan offers robust enough travel protection to satisfy the medical evacuation insurance requirement in place for many VENT tours.

About Redpoint Travel's Ripcord Plan

Ripcord is a completely integrated travel insurance program with single contact for emergency services, travel assistance, and insurance claims. Critical benefits include comprehensive travel insurance for trip cancellation/interruption, medical evacuation from your point of injury or

illness to your hospital of choice; medical expense coverage, death of pet, and much more. Optional expanded insurance coverage is available and includes items such as evacuation coverage in case of a natural disaster or political or security reasons, waiver for pre-existing medical conditions exclusion, and a “Cancel for Any Reason” benefit. Ripcord is available to U.S. and non-U.S. residents.*

For a price quote or to purchase travel insurance, please visit: [Ripcord Travel Insurance](#); or click the **Ripcord** logo on our website (click Help > Preparation and Insurance > Trip Insurance); or call +1-415-481-0600. Pricing is based on age, trip cost, trip length, and level of coverage.

*To be eligible for the pre-existing medical condition exclusion waiver and the optional Cancel for Any Reason (CFAR) upgrade, you must purchase your policy within 15 days of making your first trip payment. The CFAR benefit provides reimbursement for 75% of covered costs, and increases the policy premium by approximately 50%. Policies may be purchased either for the full value of the tour fee at the time of deposit or in segments as individual tour payments are made (deposit, second deposit, final balance, additional arrangements, etc.). The “pay as you go” approach reduces up-front expense and ensures that the amount paid toward your full policy premium is in proportion to the amount paid toward the full tour fee. If you choose to “pay as you go,” you must cover each deposit or payment within 15 days, and insure all non-refundable trip costs in order to maintain the CFAR benefit. Please refer to the policy for a full description of coverage.

Redpoint considers COVID-19 illness as any other seasonal respiratory illness. Providing only a positive Covid-19 test result will likely not be considered a covered event per the terms and conditions of the company's policy. Redpoint maintains a [Coronavirus FAQ page](#) on its website that addresses questions and concerns travelers may have regarding COVID-19 and Redpoint's policy. We strongly recommend that you visit the page for an overview of relevant topics.

About Medjet’s MedjetAssist Plan

MedjetAssist is a membership program that functions like AAA for motorists. The company’s primary service is air medical transport. Critical benefits of MedjetAssist include a staff on call and ready to provide assistance 24 hours a day, 7 days a week; all-expenses-paid air medical transport in the United States and internationally to medical facility of choice, regardless of medical necessity; repatriation of remains; and no exclusions for pre-existing conditions.

For travelers under 75, MedjetAssist may be purchased as Short-Term Memberships of 8, 15, 21, and 30 days, or Regular Annual Memberships from 1 to 5 years. For travelers 75–84, Medjet offers a Diamond Membership that is the same program but with a few additional conditions.

For a price quote or to purchase MedjetAssist, please visit: [Medjet.com/VentBird](https://www.Medjet.com/VentBird) or call 1-800-527-7478. Pricing is based on type and term of membership.

GETTING THERE & REQUIRED TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

AIR TRAVEL: Victor Emanuel Travel is a full-service travel agency and wholly owned subsidiary of Victor Emanuel Nature Tours (VENT). Victor Emanuel Travel will be happy to make any domestic or international air travel arrangements from your home and return. Per person fees apply for each set of travel arrangements: \$50 domestic; \$75 international.* Many of our travelers choose to make their own air travel arrangements, but we emphasize the benefits to using our services. If you book your air arrangements yourself, Victor Emanuel Travel is unable to provide support in managing any flight delays and/or cancellations that could occur before and during a tour. When you purchase air tickets through Victor Emanuel Travel, our staff has ready access to your air ticket record and can provide assistance as problems arise. Please feel free to call the VENT office to confirm your air arrangements. **Please be sure to check with the VENT office prior to purchasing your air ticket to confirm that the tour is sufficiently subscribed to operate. VENT cannot be held responsible for any air ticket penalties.**

*An air ticket will be purchased by Victor Emanuel Travel on behalf of the traveler with the traveler's consent. A purchase is considered final upon receipt of payment. If a ticket is subsequently reissued at the behest of the traveler (i.e. voluntary change of plans), the same fee rates apply for the reissue process, in addition to any fees that may be charged by the airline.

BAGGAGE: Please limit baggage to one piece of luggage and one carry-on. The airlines now strictly enforce baggage regulations. Excess baggage charges, which can be substantial, are the personal responsibility of each participant. Please consult your pre-departure materials and/or airline to find out specific weight restrictions.

As a precaution against lost luggage, we suggest that you pack a change of clothes, toiletries, medications, important travel documents, optics, and any other essential items in your carry-on

bag. Due to ever-changing circumstances in the government's attempts to improve airport security, we recommend that you check the website of the [Transportation Security Administration \(TSA\)](#) for information pertaining to permissible carry-on items.

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS:

PASSPORTS: A passport valid for through the planned duration of your stay is required to enter Brazil.

VISAs: An electronic visa is also required to enter Brazil. Information on how to apply can be found on the following website: <https://brazil.vfsevisa.com/>

IMPORTANT: The visa details above are current for U.S. citizens as of June 17, 2026. Because entry requirements can change without notice, we kindly remind all participants to double-check the latest information before traveling. Travelers using non-U.S. passports are responsible for confirming any entry requirements that apply to their home country.

CLOTHING: Lightweight field clothing is the rule. **Please be SURE not to bring white or brightly-colored clothes, including hats or bright raingear, as it WILL defiantly frighten shy, secretive Amazonian forest birds.** We suggest loose-fitting khaki clothing or other cotton clothing in dark green, dark blue, gray, or brown shades. Also, please avoid nylon or plastic jackets and/or rainwear of similar materials. "Noisy" clothing is annoying to others and may frighten birds and animals. **Please note:** a good fold up umbrella is much more suitable to Amazonian birding that can fit into a fanny pack or small backpack. Although, long pants and long-sleeved shirts are recommended for most of this tour, biting insects are not normally a problem; however, on occasions we could have a few small biting midges along the river. A hat, preferably wide-brimmed, is recommended for protection from the sun. **During our early morning boat trips, temperatures can feel chilly when speeding along the river so please bring a wind proof.** A swimsuit is also suggested if you want to take a refreshing dip in the Rio Roosevelt or in the hotel pool. Dress will be casual throughout.

FOOTWEAR: Be sure to have one pair of good waterproof hiking boots and a second pair of walking shoes to change into. Flip flops are comfortable to walk in your rooms and the lodge restaurant.

LAUNDRY SERVICE: Laundry service is FREE and available every day at the Rio Roosevelt Lodge (you will just need to leave dirty laundry outside your room). At Humaita it should be available too but will be charged for.

EQUIPMENT: In addition to the items listed below, you should pack a pair of binoculars (see below) that are in good condition, along with a belt pack or daypack (for carrying books, sunscreen, camera, etc.). Your leader will have a spotting scope available for group use, but if you have one (or want to do a lot of digiscoping) and wish to bring it, please feel free to do so. For night birding activities, please bring either a rugged flashlight with extra batteries, a small light such as an LED style or a small head lamp. A **short folding black umbrella** is highly recommended in the event we encounter rain while on the trail:

- **Notebooks and pens**
- **Travel alarm clock/PHONE**
- **Polarized sunglasses with good UV protection**
- **Sunscreen, lip balm, skin lotions** – At least SPF 30
- **Personal toiletries**
- **Water bottle**, essential
- **Cameras, lenses, memory cards, and extra batteries**
- **Collapsible walking stick** – a highly recommended item for those who have trouble walking
- **Folding stool** – a recommended item for those who have trouble standing for more than 10 or 15 minutes at a time. Can come in handy. The typical folding stool is small, lightweight and portable, consisting of three aluminum legs connected by a central bolt, with a sturdy but pliable material seat.
- **Tissue packs**

Binoculars – We strongly recommend good binoculars of at least 7x35, 8x42, 10x40, or 10x42 magnification. We recommend that you do NOT bring mini-binoculars of any kind. Some people like “minis” because they are small and lightweight; but they have an extremely small field of view and very poor light gathering power. Trying to find a bird in your binoculars using minis is like trying to read a book through a keyhole. You will be very frustrated, and even if you do manage to get the bird

in your binoculars before it flies, you will have a poor view. You will find that 7x35 or 8x42 binoculars are compact and light enough.

CLIMATE & WEATHER: Although our Amazonian experience is scheduled for the end of the dry season, however we may well still encounter some rain. Expect the weather to be warm and humid (we will always take afternoon breaks during the hottest times of the day). Normal daytime temperatures in the Amazonian lowlands average from 80-90 °F, with nighttime lows dropping to a pleasant 70. During our early morning boat trips, temperatures can feel chilly when speeding along the river so please bring a wind proof.

CONDITIONS: Although walking conditions are generally along flat and dry terrain, we may have to negotiate a slightly muddy landing along the Rio Roosevelt, or we may encounter the occasional bit of mud on a forest trail. Forest trail walks will be relaxed and at a slow pace and will not be too strenuous with a maximum length of 3-4 km. Our visit to the well-constructed canopy tower involves climbing up multiple flights of stairs (about 200 steps) with railing all the way. For morning visits to the tower, we will plan to depart in the pre-dawn (still dark outside) via the forest trail behind the lodge, so as to arrive at the tower in time to experience the forest awakening. On another day we will visit the tower in the late afternoon to experience a sunset, this time returning to the lodge in the dark. Your tour leader will have a strong spotlight in hand to lead the way. On many days we will take breakfast very early in order to be at the prime birding spots at dawn, the peak time for bird song. To counter the early departures, every day we will always take afternoon breaks/siestas in our air-conditioned rooms during the hottest times of the day. This means breakfasts in general will be pre-dawn in order to experience the dawn chorus and have the best chance for forest-falcons and large woodcreepers and to optimize our birding. All of our boat trips will be in small skiffs with comfortable cushioned swivel seats and with an experienced boat driver.

CURRENCY & MONEY MATTERS: The official currency of Brazil is the Brazilian Real (BRL). You can check the latest currency conversion rate by visiting “XE-The World’s Favorite Currency Site” at:

<http://www.xe.com/>.

Master Card and Visa are more widely accepted than American Express, but all are useful, particularly in major centers.

ELECTRICITY: The electrical current in Brazil is 110V in the largest cities, and 220 volts elsewhere.

Outlets are often a combination of Type A and C designs, and can accept either plug. In some places voltage may even be 127V or 240V.

We recommend that you bring a plug adapter set and an all-purpose transformer if your appliances are not suitable for higher voltage or if there is any doubt.

TIME: This part of Brazil operates on Amazon Standard Time (AMT) and is one hour ahead of Eastern Daylight Time (EDT).

INTERNET ACCESS: Expect Wi-Fi to be available at our hotels in Porto Velho and Humaitá but not at Pousada Rio Roosevelt.

HEALTH & SAFETY

HEALTH: VENT follows Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations for standard travel precautions, which includes vaccination against a variety of preventable diseases. Among these so-called Routine Vaccinations are measles/mumps/rubella (MMR) vaccine, diphtheria/pertussis/tetanus (DPT) vaccine, poliovirus vaccine (boosters for adult travelers), and Varicella (Chickenpox). You should also be up-to-date with Hepatitis A and Hepatitis B vaccinations.

Yellow fever vaccination is highly recommended for most individuals (some people may have medical conditions for which vaccination is contraindicated). **Malaria** has been confirmed in Brazil, including the chloroquine-resistant strain but it's not found at the lodge. There have been some recent changes in recommendations for malaria prophylaxis. Mefloquine (Lariam) is now the drug of choice in all areas where chloroquine-resistant malaria is present. A single dose should be taken one week before the start of the tour, continued during the tour, and for four weeks after its conclusion. Mefloquine is available by prescription only and may not be suitable for those using cardio-vascular medication; consult your physician.

Cholera has been reported in Brazil, but is highly unlikely to be contracted anywhere along our route. No country requires cholera vaccination for direct travel from the USA and no vaccinations are required to return to the USA. Please consult your physician for any recommended preventative treatment.

If you are taking personal medication, prescription or over-the-counter, be sure to bring an ample supply that will allow you to get through the tour safely. Please consult your physician as necessary. Remember to pack all medication in your carry-on baggage, preferably in original containers or packaging. As airline baggage restrictions can change without warning, please check with your airline for procedures for packing medication.

COVID-19: We continually emphasize that our number one priority is the health and safety of our customers and employees. Although VENT no longer maintains any of its COVID-era prevention protocols, we strongly recommend best practices for protecting yourself and your fellow travelers against COVID-19 illness. These measures include receiving the primary series vaccinations for those eligible, staying “Up to Date” with COVID-19 booster shots, wearing high filtration N-95 or KN-95 masks when in airports and on airplanes, and avoiding risky social settings in the lead-up to your tour. These recommendations are firmly rooted in CDC guidance for avoiding COVID-19.

SUN EXPOSURE: The sun’s ultraviolet rays are dangerous under prolonged exposure (sometimes only a matter of minutes), even in winter and early spring. Anytime you are outdoors you will want to protect your skin, including your lips, eyes, nose, and ears. A severe sunburn is potentially very painful and will affect your level of enjoyment. Always protect yourself when outdoors and be sure to bring an ample supply of high SPF sunscreen and lip balm. We strongly recommend the use of ultra-violet blocking, polarized sunglasses.

BITING INSECTS: Remove if not a concern, otherwise expand on it.

INSECT REPELLENTS: There are insect repellents for the skin and an insect repellent used to treat clothing that should not be applied to the skin.

Insect repellents for the skin are commonly available in three forms:

- **DEET:** (N,N-diethyl-meta-toluamide): A chemical compound that is marketed under various brand names (OFF!®, Cutter™, Ultrathon™, etc.) and offered in a variety of formulations including sprays, lotions, time-release preparations, and disposable wipes. The formulations will state a percentage of the active ingredient DEET on the packaging. DEET may be applied to exposed skin directly and/or sprayed on clothing. Please be careful when applying DEET as it can damage plastics and lens coatings.

- **Picaridin:** A synthetic formulation that is derived from piperine, a substance found in plants that produce black pepper.
- **Herbal insect repellents:** Various mixtures of organic ingredients such as oils from eucalyptus, citronella, cedar, and other herbs. The herbal repellents are more difficult to categorize because of the difference in ingredients from one brand to another. There is considerable variation in their effectiveness.

Insect repellent for clothing is marketed in one approved formulation:

- **Permanone® (Permethrin):** is an odorless spray-on repellent that may be used for pre-treatment of clothing, gear, and tents. It should not be used directly on the skin or sprayed on clothing while it is being worn. The pre-treatment process requires a number of hours to complete and must be done outdoors, so it is best completed in advance of travel. Do-it-yourself pre-treatment must be repeated more often than commercial treatment using Insect Shield® technology. It is available at various outdoor stores and can easily be found online.
- **Insect Shield® apparel:** Clothing pre-treated with Permanone is made by a variety of manufacturers. It is available for purchase from some sporting goods suppliers. The clothing is advertised as retaining its repellency for up to 70 washings.

The US EPA offers a search tool to help choose a repellent that is best for a particular situation. For example, some repellents work for mosquitoes, but not for ticks.

<https://www.epa.gov/insect-repellents/which-insect-repellent-right-you>

In addition to your physician, a good source of general health information for travelers is the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta Georgia. The CDC operates a 24-hour recorded Travelers' Information Line at 800-CDC-INFO (800-232-4636), or you can check their website at www.cdc.gov/travel. Canadian citizens should check the website of the Public Health Agency of Canada: www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/new_e.html (click on travel health).

SUGGESTED READING & TRIP PREPARATION

A number of traditional booksellers and online stores list excellent inventories of field guides and other natural history resources that will help prepare you for this tour. We recommend www.amazon.com which has a wide selection; www.buteobooks.com and www.nhbs.com which

specialize in ornithology and natural history books; and www.abebooks.com for out-of-print and hard-to-find titles.

Birds:

The most important field guide for this tour is for practical use and less weight is the MERLIN BIRD ID app that can be downloaded for Amazonian BRAZL prior to the trip. Excellent images and maps for all the species possible. Also, thankfully up to date taxonomic name changes too.

Van Perlo, B. ***A Field Guide to the Birds of Brazil***. Oxford University Press, 2009. **At present, this is the best available complete field guide to the birds of Brazil.**

Other Birding Resources:

Hilty, Steven. ***Birds of Tropical America: A Watcher's Introduction to Behavior, Breeding and Diversity***.

Shelburne, VT: Chapters Publishing Ltd., 1994. A wonderful introduction to the ecology and evolution of tropical birds, with superb treatments of topics ranging from lekking to flock behavior at antswarms.

Hilty, S.L. and W.L. Brown. ***Guide to the Birds of Colombia***. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1986.

Ridgely, R. S. and G. Tudor. ***Field Guide to the Songbirds of South America: The Passerines***. The University of Texas Press, 2009.

Ridgely, R.S. and G. Tudor. ***Field Guide to the Songbirds of South America***.
utpress@utexas.edu/index.php/books/ridfie, University of Texas at Austin

Mammals

Emmons, Louise H. ***Neotropical Rainforest Mammals***. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1997. Good plates and excellent text. (An audio field guide CD also available from this author: see under Multimedia)

Butterflies

D'Abrera, Bernard. *Butterflies of South America*. Australia: Hill House, 1984. Good pocket guide, covers many genera; nice pictures.

General Nature

Caufield, C. *In the Rainforest*. Chicago: Random House, 1985.

Forsyth, Adrian, Ken Miyata et al. *Tropical Nature*. Scribner, 1987.

Kricher, John. *The New Neotropical Companion*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2017. An excellent introduction to all you needed to know about the complex Neotropics.

Stap, Don. *Parrot without a Name: The Search for the Last Unknown Birds on Earth*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1991. An account of field expeditions in Peru with Ted Parker and John O'Neill, among others.

History:

Millard, Candice. 2005. *The River of Doubt: Theodore Roosevelt's Darkest Journey*. Doubleday. New York.

This is a gripping narrative of the famous Roosevelt-Rondon exploration of the River of Doubt, part of which took place on the same ground that we will cover on our tour. An essential read.

Multimedia:

Emmons, Louise H., Bret M. Whitney and David L. Ross. *Sounds of Neotropical Rainforest Mammals*. Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. (http://www.birds.cornell.edu/lab_cds.html).

Marantz, Curtis M. and Kevin J. Zimmer. *Bird Voices of Alta Floresta and Southeastern Amazonian Brazil*. The Macaulay Library, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, 2006. (http://www.birds.cornell.edu/lab_cds.html). This 6-CD-set is the single most comprehensive commercially available compilation of bird voices of the Brazilian Amazon. It covers nearly 450 species of birds, and an additional 10 species of mammals.

Naka, L. N. Stouffer, P. C., Cohn-Haft, M., Marantz, C., Whittaker, A., and Bierregaard. *Voices of the Brazilian Amazon* Jr. R.O. Editora INPA, 2012 (second edition). 4 CDs containing 340 bird and 7 primate species + booklet (40 pp.) (English, Portuguese and scientific names for each species,

followed by the type of vocalization (song, call, etc.). Excellent recordings with a minimum of two recordings per species. Most recordings were made in the region of Manaus.

CLO Apps

eBird. Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Among the largest and most successful citizen science projects in existence, eBird is an essential tool in promoting bird study and conservation. Among a range of benefits, eBird allows users to keep a variety of lists in a single application. When taxonomic splits are incorporated, lists are automatically updated. Additionally, trip leaders can share daily lists, so one only need accept a shared list and it will upload to your files. **Highly recommended.**

Merlin Bird ID. Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Merlin is an app designed as a birding coach for beginning and intermediate birdwatchers. Excellent for use in the field, Merlin asks the observer a series of questions about his or her bird sighting, including date and location, and color, size, and behavior of a bird. Merlin then processes the viewer's responses to present a shortlist of possible identifications, from which the user can choose the likely bird. Species profiles include a brief physical description, photographs, and sound samples. The Photo ID feature allows anyone with a camera to snap a photo and obtain a list of suggestions. Merlin's Sound ID feature allows identification of birds through audible recognition. To use Merlin, download the app and the appropriate regional "pack." For this trip, please download the pack Europe. Highly recommended.

TERMS, CONDITIONS & RESPONSIBILITIES

Victor Emanuel Nature Tours, Inc., a Texas corporation, and/or its agents (together, "**VENT**") act only as agents for the participant in regard to travel, whether by railroad, motorcar, motorcoach, boat, or airplane and assume no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay, or irregularity which may be occasioned either by reason of defect in any vehicle or for any reason whatsoever, or through the acts or default of any company or person engaged in conveying the participant or in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. VENT accepts no responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in airfare or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, terrorism, or other causes. All such losses or expenses will be borne by the participant, as tour rates only provide for arrangements for the time stated.

VENT reserves the right (i) to substitute hotels of similar category, or the best reasonable substitution available under the circumstances, for those indicated and (ii) to make any changes in the itinerary that are deemed necessary by VENT or which are caused by third party transportation schedules (i.e. railroad, motorcar, motorcoach, boat, airplane, etc.).

VENT reserves the right to substitute leaders or guides on any tour. Where VENT, in its sole discretion, determines such substitution is necessary, it will notify tour participants.

VENT reserves the right to cancel any tour prior to departure with or without cause or good reason. See the VENT Cancellation & Refunds policy set forth above.

Tour prices are based on tariffs and exchange rates in effect on June 3, 2026 and are subject to adjustment in the event of any change thereto.

VENT reserves the right to decline any participant's Registration Form and/or refuse to allow any participant to participate in a tour as VENT deems reasonably necessary, in its sole discretion.

VENT also reserves the right to remove any tour participant from any portion of a tour as VENT deems necessary, in its sole discretion, reasons for such removal include but are not limited to, medical needs, injury, illness, inability to meet physical demands of a tour, personality conflict or situations in which such removal is otherwise in the best interest of the tour, the tour group and/or such participant. A participant may also voluntarily depart from a tour. If a participant is removed from a tour or voluntarily departs from a tour, such participant will be responsible for any expenses associated with such removal or departure, including but not limited to, transportation, lodging, airfare and meals, and VENT will have no obligation to refund or reimburse any such removed or departed participant for any tour payments or deposits previously paid by such participant.

Baggage is carried at the participant's risk entirely. No airline company, its employees, agents and/or affiliates (the "**Airline**") is to be held responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time participants are not on board the Airline's aircraft. The participant ticket in use by any Airline, when issued, will constitute the sole contract between the Airline and the purchaser of the tickets and/or the participant. The services of any I.A.T.A.N. carrier may be used for VENT tours, and transportation within the United States may be provided by any member carrier of the Airlines Reporting Corporation.

View the complete [Terms and Conditions](#) on our website.

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