



**COMPREHENSIVE SOUTHEAST BRAZIL
PART II**

2 - 15 OCTOBER 2020



Streamer-tailed Tyrant (photo Oz Horine) is one of our targets on this trip.

When they first landed on its shores in the 1500s, the Portuguese discovered a vast stretch of verdant rainforest cloaking much of the Atlantic coast of what would one day be Brazil. Through centuries of deforestation, only 7% of this forest's original area remains in remnants scattered within the most densely populated region of Brazil. Despite the long history of human population growth and disturbance, these highly threatened pockets of Atlantic Rainforest harbor an incredibly diverse and often highly endangered collection of bird species. Due to being long isolated from neighboring Neotropical wet forest ecosystems by a dry grassland and thorn-scrub corridor in the interior of Brazil, these forests possess a diverse and fascinating range of species, many of which are found nowhere else. In a country with more than 200 endemic bird species (the third-highest total for a single country in the world), the vast majority are found in the Atlantic Rainforest.

We split the southeast Brazil itinerary into two separate tours that are perfectly complementary, forming a 26-day mega tour with up to 70 Brazilian endemics and an additional 90 Atlantic Rainforest endemics possible when the tours are taken together.

Part II of the Comprehensive Southeast Brazil itinerary begins in Vitória in the state of Espírito Santo. From here we drive southwest to the town of Cachoeira de Itapemirim to target two difficult endemics: **Plumbeous Antvireo** and **Wied's Tyrant-Manakin**. We then head north to the Vale do Rio Doce Natural Reserve near Linhares for a few days to see lowland endemics such as **Red-billed Curassow**, **Red-browed Amazon**, and **Black-headed Berryeater**. On the last two mornings we also try for the difficult, Critically Endangered (IUCN), and very beautiful **Cherry-throated Tanager** at a reserve near Venda Nova do Imigrante. We then fly to São Paulo for the last leg of our journey.

We save the best for last! Intervalles State Park is part of one of the largest remaining pieces of contiguous Atlantic Rainforest left in Brazil. Within this emerald paradise of deeply cut valleys, mossy forests, and trickling streams, we hope to have some of our best birding while we search for such delights as **Russet-winged Spadebill**, **Black-fronted Piping Guan**, and **Helmeted Woodpecker** among a dizzying array of tyrant flycatchers, antbirds, furnariids, and tanagers. This species-rich site can potentially produce our highest day list totals of the tour. Finally, we go to the coastal town of Cananéia for a few more endemic species like **Restinga Tyrannulet** and **Red-tailed Amazon**, and for **Azure Jay**, before driving to São Paulo, where the tour ends.

This tour can be combined with our **Heart of Brazil: Cerrado, Amazon, and Pantanal** tour, our **Brazil: Cerrado Endemics and Brazilian Merganser** tour, and our **Comprehensive Southeast Brazil, Part I** tour for an overall 51-day Brazil mega tour.

Itinerary (14 days/13 nights)

Day 1. Vitória to Cachoeiro de Itapemirim

After a short flight from Rio de Janeiro to Vitória, the state capital of Espírito Santo, for those clients having been with us on Part I of our Comprehensive Southeast Brazil tour, we continue to the town of Cachoeiro de Itapemirim for the night.

Overnight: Cachoeiro de Itapemirim

Day 2. Birding Cafundó Preserve, transfer to Venda Nova do Imigrante

Just a short drive from our hotel, our morning birding commences in the forests of Cafundó Private Preserve for two highly localized Brazilian endemics: **Plumbeous Antvireo** and **Wied's Tyrant-Manakin**. More open and marshy areas nearby contain a different set of birds, including the spectacular **Streamer-tailed Tyrant**. After a sumptuous lunch at the *fazenda* (ranch), we drive north to the Vale do Rio Doce Natural Reserve near Linhares, stopping en route at the Augusto Ruschi estate in Santa Teresa to enjoy the famous (and very active) hummingbird feeders.

Overnight: Vale do Rio Doce Natural Reserve (Linhares)

Day 3 – 4. Birding at Vale do Rio Doce Natural Reserve

We spend the next few days birding the lowland Atlantic Rainforest of the Vale do Rio Doce Natural Reserve. An early morning start at this location is essential, as activity peaks early and declines rapidly in the heat of the day. Fortunately, our beautiful accommodations are just minutes away from the forest. **Red-billed Curassow** (endemic) and **Solitary Tinamou** regularly cross the road at first light, while a variety of parrots such as the endemic **Red-browed Amazon**, **White-eared Parakeet**, and **Ochre-marked Parakeet** become active soon after. **Black-headed Berryeater** (endemic), **East Brazilian Pygmy Owl**, and **White-necked Hawk** (endemic) are among the more special birds of this site. If weather permits, we will do some night birding for nightjars such as **Ocellated Poorwill** and owls such as **Tawny-browed Owl**.

Overnight: Vale do Rio Doce Natural Reserve (Linhares)

Day 5. Linhares to Venda Nova do Imigrante

After driving from Linhares to Venda Nova do Imigrante (with a stop at the Andre Ruschi feeders for the endemic **Minute Hermit**), we will be in position for the beautiful and tantalizing Cherry-throated Tanager.

Overnight: Venda Nova do Imigrante

Day 6. Birding all day near Venda Nova do Imigrante

Perhaps the rarest species possible on this itinerary, the Critically Endangered **Cherry-throated Tanager** appears to persist in only a few fragments of foothill forest in Espírito Santo, despite intensive searches to find more populations. The known global population is only about a dozen birds. Boldly and distinctively marked in silver, black, white, and red, this tanager is a potential tour highlight due to its combination of rarity and beauty. It merits a special effort! While searching for this species we can observe a variety of other birds in mixed feeding flocks, such as **Black-billed Scythebill** and **Sharpbill**.

Overnight: Venda Nova do Imigrante

Day 7. Birding near Venda Nova do Imigrante, transfer to Intervalles State Park

We spend an extra morning of birding in the foothill forest near Venda Nova do Imigrante, giving us another chance for the tanager if we missed it on the previous day, before driving back to Vitória to catch our flights to São Paulo. Once in São Paulo, our next destination is Intervalles State Park (literally meaning 'between the valleys' due to the deeply cut ravines typical here) where we stay for the next four days. Our lodging here is literally at the doorstep of great birding!

Overnight: Intervalles State Park

Day 8 – 11. Birding Intervalles State Park

Birding from the extensive mountain roads and trail system, we search for **Black-fronted Piping Guan**, **Mantled Hawk**, **Helmeted Woodpecker**, **Squamate Antbird** (endemic), **Rufous-capped Motmot**, and **Buff-bellied Puffbird**, among others, for the next few days. Special targets such as the endemic **Slaty Bristlefront**, **Variegated Antpitta**, and **Russet-winged Spadebill** inhabit the deeply forested gullies, while mixed feeding flocks of tanagers around the lodge can include beauties like **Azure-shouldered Tanager**, **Black-legged Dacnis**, and **Chestnut-backed Tanager**. Night birding is potentially productive. **Rusty-barred Owl** and **Long-trained Nightjar** are our main targets on the evening shift.

Overnight: Intervalles State Park

Day 12. Birding Intervalles State Park in the morning, transfer to Cananéia

After one more round of birding in the early morning we have to pull ourselves away from Intervalles State Park in order to reach our next destination, the old coastal town of Cananéia.

Overnight: Cananéia

Day 13. Birding Cananéia

The area around the resort town of Cananéia features a series of barrier islands with a low, dense forest growing on sandy soils called restinga (visually very different from the restinga around Praia Seca in Rio de Janeiro state). A unique set of Atlantic Rainforest endemics live in this highly endangered ecosystem, including **Red-tailed Amazon**, **Restinga Tyrannulet**, and **Azure Jay**, all of which we target at this site.

Overnight: Cananéia

Day 14, Birding Cananéia in the morning, transfer to São Paulo

After some early morning birding around Cananéia for any misses from the previous day we drive back to São Paulo, where the tour ends.

Please note that the itinerary above cannot be guaranteed as it is only a rough guide and can be changed (usually slightly) due to factors such as availability of accommodation, updated information on the state of accommodation, roads, or birding sites, the discretion of the guides and other factors.

Duration: 14 days
Limit: 2 – 8
Date: 2 – 15 October 2020
Start: Vitória
End: São Paulo

Price: US\$8151
Single supplement: US\$948

Price includes:

Meals
 Accommodation
 Guiding fees
 Entrance fees
 All transport while on tour
 Tolls

Price excludes:

International flights

Domestic flight Rio do Janeiro – Vitória for guest having been on Part I of this tour (Please contact us before booking flights. We can help book those for you, and we also need all participants to be on the same flight.)

Items of a personal nature, e.g. gifts

Alcoholic drinks

Personal insurance

Gratuities