



**BRAZIL: THE AMAZON – PRE-TOUR TO THE
BEST OF BRAZIL TOUR**

16 – 21 September 2020



Ladder-tailed Nightjar – one of the birds we will target on this trip

The Amazon, certainly on each world-birder's wish list of destinations, is a vast forest deserving of many superlatives. With its astonishing list of nearly 600 bird species there are few better places to explore this incredible eco-region than the vast reserve centered on Cristalino Lodge. Here an extensive network of forest trails provides opportunities to see over 40 species of antbird, 18 species of woodcreeper, and foliage-gleaners, forest falcons, and manakins. The forest's most colorful denizens can be seen from the lodge's two canopy towers, including **Spangled** and **Pompadour Cotingas**, **Scarlet** and **Blue-and-yellow Macaws**, **Paradise** and **Opal-rumped Tanagers**, and maybe even **Harpy Eagle**. Numerous hard-to-find or highly-localized species are easier to find here than anywhere else: **White-browed Hawk**, **Tapajos Hermit**, **Black-girdled Barbet**, **Crimson-bellied Parakeet**, **Kawall's Amazon**, **Glossy Antshrike**, **Bare-eyed Antbird**, **Cryptic Forest Falcon**, **Tooth-billed Wren**, and many more to look out for at one of the best birding sites in the world.

This pre-tour to our **Birding Tour Brazil: The Best of Brazil 2020** can also be booked as a stand-alone tour.

Itinerary (6 days/5nights)

Day 1. Alta Floresta to Cristalino Lodge

Arrival by 2 p.m. at the latest in Alta Floresta. From here we travel by van along a dirt track to the Teles Pires River, stopping at a palm swamp along the way to seek out **Point-tailed Palmcreeper** and **Sulphury Flycatcher**. Once we reach the river we board a motorized canoe and slowly work our way up a tributary of the Teles Pires, the Cristalino River. Flanked by beautiful primary forest, this section of the Cristalino River serves as an excellent introduction to the southern Amazon. **White-winged** and **White-banded Swallows** skim the surface of the water right by our boat, **Lowland Tapir** often lounges lazily along the riverbank, and **Scarlet** and **Blue-and-yellow Macaws** may make a synchronized flyby overhead before we reach the lodge.

Overnight: Cristalino Lodge

Days 2-5. Cristalino Lodge

Although birding is rather challenging at Cristalino Lodge, the rewards will be great. We will take full advantage of our four full days of birding here to explore trails that sample all the various habitats at the reserve, including:

Varzea and Igapo Forest: Seasonally-flooded forests that harbor various difficult and rare species, such as **Flame-crested Manakin**, **Bronzy Jacamar**, and **Long-billed Woodcreeper**. The lower height of the forest canopy provides easier viewing of feeding flocks as well as our best chance to see the recently-described **Cryptic Forest Falcon**. Nearby, river islands in the middle of the Teles Pires River provide our best chances at seeing **Restinga Tyrannulet**, **Glossy Antshrike**, **Amazonian Umbrellabird**, **Ladder-tailed Nightjar** on its day roost, and many more.

Terra Firme Forest: A staggering diversity of birds inhabits the understory. Although they are often not easy to see, we will spend plenty of time walking the trails in search of a nearly endless list of potential species: woodcreepers such as **Red-billed Woodcreeper** and **Tapajos Scythebill** (a newly-described species not yet recognized by all authorities), antbirds such as

Bare-eyed Antbird and **Black-spotted Bare-eye**, jacamars such as **Paradise Jacamar** and **Blue-necked Jacamar**, foliage-gleaners such as **Para Foliage-gleaner** and **Chestnut-winged Hookbill**, etc. Patches of bamboo contain localized specialties such as **Rose-breasted Chat**, **Manu Antbird**, and **Rufous-capped Nunlet**. The two canopy towers at Cristalino will give us a chance at seeing a host of colorful species that are often hard to see elsewhere: **Pompadour Cotinga**, **Red-fan Parrot**, and **Gould's Toucanet** are just a few of the many tantalizing possibilities.

Serra: The reserve at Cristalino includes several weathered, geologically-old, rocky outcrops that rise above the forest. These rocky knolls function as islands of deciduous dry forest. Thus they also contain their own unique subset of birds, including **Natterer's Slaty Antshrike**, **Spotted Puffbird**, and **White-fringed Antwren**. When the trees here are in bloom they attract a variety of rare hummingbirds, including **Fiery-tailed Aowlbill** and **Tapajos Hermit**.

Finally we will spend time cruising the beautiful Cristalino River in the afternoon and into the evening in search of both birds (**Razor-billed Curassow** and **Green-and-rufous Kingfisher**) and mammals (**Lowland Tapir**, **Giant Otter**, and **Paca**).

As you can see, there will be plenty to observe and experience during our time at Cristalino Lodge!

Overnight: Cristalino Lodge

Day 6. Final birding and departure

We transfer to Alta Floresta, from where you will either start your flights home or fly to Cuiabá to join our The Best of Brazil tour.

Please note that the itinerary 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: 6 days/5 nights
Limit: 6 - 8
Date: 16 – 21 September 2020
Start: Alta Floresta
End: Alta Floresta

Price: US\$2880 per person sharing assuming availability of standard rooms, upgrades available on request (These are 2019 prices, 2020 prices are expected to be 5 – 10% higher.)

Single supplement: US\$549

Price includes:

Transfer Alta Floresta – Cristalino Lodge and back

Accommodation

Three meals per day

Bilingual Cristalino birding guide (our international tour leader does not accompany the group)

Price excludes:

Flights to and from Alta Floresta

Alcoholic drinks

Travel insurance

Items of a personal nature, e.g. laundry, gifts, etc.

Gratuities