Brazil
Para, Tocantins & Goias
10th to 25th September 2019 (16 days)
Belem Extension
25th to 30th September 2019 (6 days)

Kaempfer’s Woodpecker by Ciro Albano
Never heard of Tocantins? How about Goias? Few people realize that the capital of Brazil is not Sao Paulo, nor is it Rio de Janeiro. This tour kicks off in the actual capital of Brazil, Brasilia, established in 1960. It seems impossible that a country explored more than 500 years ago only just declared its capital 50 years back, but Brazil’s history is as mysterious and interesting as its birdlife. The latter is our focus of this tour, as we travel north from the capital of this vast country in search of the countless endemics of this staggeringly diverse region. Ranging from isolated mountain ranges amidst cerrado savanna on the central plateau, west to the only recently discovered Araguaia River plain and Bananal Island, into the vast rainforests of the eastern Amazon, this tour is among the most exciting pioneer tours on offer. This unique expedition offers a truly rural, though very comfortable, Brazilian experience headlined by some of the rarest species in the World including Horned Sungem, Ocellated Crake, Buff-fronted Owl, Golden, Pfrimer’s and Pearly Parakeets, Maranhao Hermit, Bananal and Manu Antbirds, Araguaia River Spinetail, Crimson-fronted (Araguaia) Cardinal, the amazing Kaempfer’s Woodpecker, Dark-winged Trumpeter, Harpy Eagle, Dot-eared Coquette, Fiery-tailed Awlbill, White-tailed Cotinga, Black-bellied and Hooded Gnat eaters, Red-and-black Grosbeak, and so many more!

THE TOUR AT A GLANCE...

THE ITINERARY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Day 1</td>
<td>Arrival in Brasilia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day 2</td>
<td>Brasilia area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day 3</td>
<td>Brasilia to São Domingos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day 4</td>
<td>Terra Ronca State Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day 5</td>
<td>São Domingos to Palmas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day 6</td>
<td>Palmas to Pium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day 7</td>
<td>Pium &amp; Cangucu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day 8</td>
<td>Pium to Dois Irmãos do Tocantins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day 9</td>
<td>Dois Irmãos do Tocantins to Caseara</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day 10</td>
<td>Caseara to Couto do Magalhaes/Conceicao do Araguaia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day 11</td>
<td>Couto Magalhaes to Carajas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Days 12 to 15</td>
<td>Carajas area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day 16</td>
<td>Final departures from Parauapebas (Carajas)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

THE EXTENSION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Day 1</td>
<td>Transfer from Parauapebas (Carajas) to Paragominas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Days 2 to 4</td>
<td>Paragominas area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day 5</td>
<td>Paragominas to Belem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day 6</td>
<td>Belem and final departure</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
TOUR MAP...
**THE TOUR IN DETAIL...**

**Day 1: Arrival in Brasilia.** Participants arrive today into Brasilia. Welcome to the Capital! Though not the economic hub, nor population centre, that Sao Paulo or Rio de Janeiro are, Brasilia is the 3rd largest metropolitan area and has become the important city it was meant to be, when founded in 1960. In an attempt to be more magnanimous and less southeast-coast-centric (where most of the population of the country lies), Brasilia was founded in the central west of the country, upon what is geologically known as the Central Plateau. Given its modern architecture, Brasilia was awarded UNESCO Heritage status a few years ago, and is touted by many Brazilians, warmly, as the White City. Guests arrive into this metropolis today and will be transferred to our local accommodations.

**Day 2: Brasilia area.** At an elevation between 1,000 and 1,200 meters above sea level, Brasilia is ideally situated for an introduction to the typical high savannah and cerrado habitats. The climate of Brasilia is tropical, with average monthly temperatures higher than 18°C and rainfall around 1,540 mm (mm) annually, concentrated between October and April. This region experiences extreme dry periods, and times of intense rains. Much of the surrounding area is, naturally, cleared for development as the city inexorably continues to grow in tandem with Brazil’s economic power. However, some fine birding can be had close to the city, and today we hope to visit Parque Nacional de Brasilia, and surrounding areas. This site occupies a large area of native, undisturbed cerrado, altiplano and gallery forest habitats adjacent to the city. They are packed with great birds!

With luck, we hope to find some cerrado (several types of Cerrado) species, such as Horned Sungem, White-eared Puffbird, Large-billed Antwren, Yellow-faced Parrot, Sharp-tailed Grass Tyrant, Sedge Wren and others. We can also search for wet forest and gallery forest species such as Rufous-capped Motmot, Helmeted Manakin and Southern Antpipit. In addition to the aforementioned species, it is important to highlight some of the rarer species that occur here: Brasilia Tapaculo, Chestnut-capped and Russet-mantled Foliage-gleaners, Ocellated Crake, White-striped Warbler and Minas Gerais Tyrannulet. Depending on the group’s disposition, there are some fine possibilities of finding nocturnal species in the region. More than 20 nocturnal species occur in Brasilia such as Striped Owl, Stygian Owl, Buff-fronted Owl.
the enigmatic Buff-fronted Owl and even the bizarre Sickle-winged Nightjar!

Day 3: Brasilia to São Domingos. Today we depart for the São Domingos and Terra Ronca State Park. Occupying some 57,000 hectares, Terra Ronca State Park was founded with the intent to preserve and study the amazing cave system formed in the limestone outcroppings here. As one of the oldest cave systems in the World (~620,000,000 years old), these caves are of scientific and touristic interest. Today’s drive is a bit over 400 kilometres, which will be broken up with the odd birding and rest stop as seen fit. The small town of São Domingos caters to tourism within the park and will be a quaint base for the following day.

Day 4: Terra Ronca State Park. One of the avian highlights of this fabulous route is the chance to see Pfrimer’s Parakeet. Today is the day! Besides being endemic and extremely local, the species is classified as globally endangered. Its distribution is restricted to dry forests present on the slopes of the limestone cliffs in this small corner of Goias. It will be our focus, though here we will have exposure to many new species more typical of habitats further east, including some Caatinga specialties.

Species found at Terra Ronca include Undulated and Tataupa Tinamous, Buff-necked Ibis, Scaled Dove, Picui Ground Dove, Sick’s Swift, Planalto Hermit, Amethyst Woodstar, Caatinga Puffbird, Toco Toucan, White-wedged Piculet, White Woodpecker, Yellow-chevroned and Jandaya Parakeets, Red-shouldered Macaw, Planalto Slaty Antshrike, Chestnut-capped Foliage-gleaner, Sooty-fronted Spinetail, Chapada and Suiriri Flycatchers, Cliff Flycatcher, Sao Francisco (Caatinga) Black Tyrant, Helmeted Manakin, White-naped Jay, Flavescent Warbler, Scarlet-throated Tanager (rare), Saffron-billed Sparrow, Ultramarine Grosbeak and more!!! For those interested, we may organize a short visit into the impressive caves system, given the geological interest of this special site.

Day 5: São Domingos to Palmas. We will depart early today for Palmas, some 500 kilometres to the north. Palmas is the capital of Tocantins State, which is relatively uninhabited by Brazilian standards. The city boasts less than 300,000 inhabitants, making it one of the smaller state capitals of this populous country. This might have to do with the fact that the city was established as a capital under the newest version of the constitution, in 1988, making this city but an infant. Palmas is an impressive place for birding due to its relatively
Brazil – Para, Carajas, Tocantins & Goias + Extension

Day 6: Palmas to Pium. We will spend the better part of the day (until late-afternoon) birding around Palmas. Pium is but a two-hour drive west, therefore we can enjoy a full day look for some of the following exciting cerrado species: Checkered Woodpecker, Blue Finch, White-banded and White-rumped Tanagers, Coal-crested Finch and Collared Crescentchest. In the riparian and gallery forests we hope to encounter Yellow-tufted Woodpecker, Black-tailed and Green-backed Trogons, Black-necked and Lettered Aracari, Pale-bellied Mourner, Fiery-capped Manakin, Spotted Puffbird, Pied Puffbird and White-throated Woodpecker. Additional species of interest we might find include Reddish Hermit, Long-billed Starthroat, Amazonian Motmot, Rusty-breasted Nunlet, Cream-colored, Ochre-backed and Red-necked Woodpeckers, Black-capped, White-fringed and Rusty-backed Antwrens, Greater Thornbird, Point-tailed Palmcreeper, Tawny-throated Leafletosser, Ochre-cheeked Spinetail, Dwarf and Pale-bellied Tyrant-Manakins, Band-tailed Manakin and Pectoral Sparrow among others.

In the evening we will head over to our accommodations at the biological station of the Reserva Particular de Patrimonio Natural Cangucu. This amazing reserve is set on the Rio Javaes in the great Rio Araguaia river valley. This area is also known as the Bananal, one of the most fascinating centres of endemism on Earth.

Days 7-11: The Araguaia floodplain centre of endemism - RPPN Cangucu, Dos Irmaos de Tocantins and Caseara. Tocantins shares in its territory two of the biomes with the greatest biodiversity on the planet: Cerrado and the Amazon. These peculiar and contrasting biomes make the Tocantins a land of inestimable potential. The region is still marked by its socio-cultural aspect with the Indigenous Park of Araguaia, which brings together various indigenous peoples such as the Carajás, Javaés, Tapirapés, Tuxás and Avá canoeiros. The Canguçu Research Center is located 250 km from the capital, and is in a strategic region between the Cerrado and Amazon biomes, still possessing characteristics undisturbed surroundings. Palmas is home to a rich diversity of birds due to the great complexity of existing vegetation mosaics in the region, thus hosting impressive biodiversity. Among the areas of interest, we will visit is Taquaruçu, only 30 km from the capital. Taquaruçu district is a complex with more than 70 waterfalls and is home of a rich avifauna in its beautiful gallery forests and high-altitude savannahs. Though we will make a few birding stops en route, our hope is to arrive to Palmas with plenty of daylight to explore this rich region!
of the Pantanal due to the flood regime of the great plain of the Araguaia. This great ecotonal gradient and mosaic of environments creates high biological diversity, endemic species and an avifaunal composition of the three biomes mentioned above. Located on the banks of Bananal Island, the largest river island in the world, the Canguçu Research Centre is a Private Natural Heritage Reserve, which belongs to a protected area complex that includes the State Park of Cantão with over 830 lakes. The Lagoa da Confusão presents a singularity in the environment, that includes natural fragments of floodplain forests, called ‘Ipucas’. Featuring floristic, structural and physiognomic peculiarities of other vegetation types from its surroundings, this will be one of the many important sites we visit within the region.

The following days will be jam-packed with awesome endemics, and a staggering array of bird species corresponding to the numerous microhabitats within RPPN Cangucu, Dos Irmaos de Tocantins, Caseara, and the surrounding area. We will have a bit over three full days to explore this only recently-discovered remote gem of a birding site.

Some of the specialty species we will search for here include Maranhao Hermit, Bananal and Manu Antbirds, Araguaia River Spinetail and a new species of Certhiaxis spinetail as yet undescribed, Crimson-fronted (Araguaia) Cardinal, the amazing Kaempfer’s Woodpecker, Pearly Parakeet, and several others. A somewhat brief list of other interesting possibilities today (amongst the 350+ species known for the site) includes Cinereous and Little Tinamous, Orinoco Goose, Rusty-marginied and Chestnut-bellied Guans, Red-throated Piping Guan, Bare-faced Curassow, Jabiru, Horned Screamer, Agami, Capped and Boat-billed Herons, Black-collared, Crane, Tiny, Bicolored and Great Black Hawks, Giant Wood Rail, Hoatzin, Pheasant and Pavonine Cuckoos, Tawny-bellied and Tropical Screech Owls, Black-banded and Spectacled Owls, Sand-colored, Band-tailed and Short-tailed Nighthawks, Blackish and Ladder-tailed Nightjars, Great Potoo, all five species of South American kingfisher, Gould’s Toucanet, Santarem Parakeet, Blackfronted Nunbird, Brown and Rufous-tailed Jacamars, Black-tailed, Green-backed and Blue-crowned Trogons, Red-stained, Yellow-throated, Golden-green, Cream-colored, and Ringed Woodpeckers, Red-legged Seriema, Great, Glossy and Amazonian Antshrikes, Band-tailed Antbird, Long-billed, ‘Xingu’ Barred, Striped and Planalto Woodcreepers, White-lored and Rusty-backed Spinetails, Wing-banded and Pale-legged Horneros, Amazonian and Yellow Tyrannulet, Zimmer’s Tody-Tyrant, Ringed Antpipit,

Day 11: Couto Magalhaes to Carajas. Today we will take the long drive northwest to Parapuebas, our base of explorations for the immense wilderness that is Serra do Carajas. With approximately 500 kilometres to cover, we should have some time for light birding en route, and stops as needed.

Days 12 to 15: Carajas area. Looking at a satellite image from space of the Carajás National Forest is, in a word, titillating. The following days will be nothing short of spectacular, as we explore the innumerable nooks and crannies of this vast series of protected national forests. Also very visible from space is the Carajas mining project. It is the biggest mining project in Brazil, where tons of iron, gold, manganese, granite and copper are extracted daily. As unsavoury as this aspect of the area might be, the offset of this ambitious mining project is the national forest itself, and two neighbouring forest reserves, that total an impressive 600,000 hectares. The conservation of biodiversity are the collateral goals here, and this area is home for many magnificent and range-restricted bird species of the far eastern Amazon basin. We will take the following days to peruse the variety of habitats here which range from hilltop primary down to seasonally flooded forests, gallery forest, short-stand terra firme…you get the idea. The microhabitats here are endless.

The following species will be of interest at this, our final destination of the tour: Grey, Variegated and Brazilian Tinamous, Rusty-margined and White-crested Guan, Razor-billed Curassow, Marbled Wood Quail, Rufous-sided Crake, Russet-crowned Crake, Dark-winged Trumpeter, Harpy Eagle, Ornate, Black-and-white and Black Hawk-Eagles, White Hawk, Pheasant and Pavonine Cuckoos, Ruddy and Scaled Pigeons, Blue Ground Dove, Amazonian Pygmy Owl, Black-eared Fairy, Fiery-tailed Awlbill, Black-bellied Thorntail, Dot-eared Coquette, Grey-breasted Sabrewing, Silky-tailed Nightjar, Amazonian and Black-throated Trogons, White-necked, Collared, Rufous-necked and Eastern Striolated Puffbirds, Rufous-capped Nunlet, Blue-cheeked and Great Jacamars, Red-necked Aracari, White-throated and Channel-billed Toucans, White-throated, Green-barred, Waved and Chestnut Woodpeckers, Barred, Cryptic and Slaty-backed Forest Falcons, Scarlet-shouldered Parrotlet, Golden-winged, Pearly and Santarem Parakeets, Vulturine and Red-fan Parrots, Hyacinth, Red-bellied,

Day 16: Final departures from Parauapebas. After an amazing two weeks, we must bid adieu to our Brazilian adventure. Except, of course, for participants carrying on northwards to Paragominas and the Belem centre of endemism.
Belem Extension

Day 1: Transfer from Parauapebas (Carajas) to Paragominas. Today we will depart Parauapebas fairly early to get a good start on our long drive north. We will head directly towards Paragominas, where one of the finest tracts of untouched land within the Belem endemism region remains intact. Much of the area was long-ago cut, farmed, mined and developed, given how long people have populated the region.

During our time in the Paragominas area, we will visit vast forests on Private Fazenda land, as well as making forays out from the property to adjacent habitats. Accommodations and food will be most enjoyable here, and basing our stay on a functioning Fazenda will add to the uniqueness of the experience.

Days 2 to 4: Paragominas area. Depending on how successful our time at Carajas was, there will likely be a bit of overlap between the two sites, as their share east Amazonian affinities. However, being located both farther north and east, we stand to add a number of regional specialties and exciting species to our already-impressive list! Some of the endemics we hope to find include Buff-browed Chachalaca, White-browed Hawk, (Dark) Black-winged Trumpeter, Ocellated Poorwill, Racket-tailed and Dot-eared Coquettes, Guianan Puffbird, Golden-spangled Piculet, Golden-winged, White-winged and Golden Parakeet, Dusky and White-bellied Parrots, Brown-breasted Barbet, Willis’s Antbird, Hooded Gnateater, Snethlage’s Antpitta, White-chinned Woodcreeper, Olive-green Tyrannulet, Maranhao-Piaui (undescribed) Pygmy Tyrant, Smoky-fronted Tody-Flycatcher, Cinnamon-crested and White-crested Spadebills, Crimson Fruiterow, Yellow-green Grosbeak, Red-and-black Grosbeak and Golden-sided Euphonia amongst many others. This seldom-visited part of the World deserves better coverage, and who knows what we will turn up?!?!

Day 5: Paragominas to Belem. Today we will depart early for Belem, in the hopes of picking up a few species along the drive to the city known as ‘The Metropolis of the Brazilian Amazon’. The metropolitan area of Belem is home to more than 2
million citizens and continues to grow. Founded in 1616, but not incorporated as part of Brazil for another 150 years, Belem was the first European colony on the Amazon River. Today most of the area around the capital city of Para has been cleared, with little exception. En route, we will make a few stops along the 300 kilometre drive to look for the remaining specialty species, which include some important, sure-to-be-split forms of currently recognized subspecies, as we enjoy our final day in Brazil. Golden-green ‘Belem’ Woodpecker, Todd’s Woodcreeper and Pale-tailed Barbthroat are a few possibilities. This evening will be rounded off with a delicious farewell dinner at our comfortable hotel, an excellent way to end the tour, and reflect upon the amazing adventure we just completed.

**Day 6: Belem and final departure.** After breakfast this morning, we shall head to the airport where the tour will conclude.

**FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS:**
Tour dates, prices, single supplement rates, approximate flight costs and spaces available for this tour are displayed on our website. Please see under IMPORTANT INFORMATION below.

The tour fee includes:
- All meals from dinner on day 1 to breakfast on day 16 of the Para, Tocantins & Goias tour; and from lunch on day 1 to breakfast on day 6 of the Belem extension;
- Drinking water;
- All lodgings;
- Ground transportation;
- Reserve entrance fees; and
- All guiding services (including tips for local guides and services.)

The tour fee does not include:
- Visa fees;
- ANY flights;
- Any drinks;
- Special gratuities; and
- Telephone calls, laundry and other items of a personal nature.

**Single Supplement:** The single supplement cost for this tour will be charged if you wish to have single accommodation. If RBL cannot provide you with a rooming partner for these nights although you choose to share, the single supplement will become applicable. We will make all reasonable efforts to ensure that a rooming partner is found if you do wish to share.

**IMPORTANT NOTES:**
a) Due to constantly fluctuating exchange rates, we quote our tours in 4 currencies. The tour price is however fixed only in the currency printed in bold, and the actual cost in the other currencies listed will be adjusted according to prevailing exchange rates at the time of final invoicing (usually 4 months before the tour.) The same applies to approximate flight and single supplement rates, which are also quoted in the respective fixed currency.

b) Rates are based upon group tariffs; if the tour does not have sufficient registration a small party supplement will have to be charged.
c) Furthermore, these costs are subject to unforeseen increases in tour related costs and may have to be adjusted as a result.

d) Lastly, we may be forced to change or alter the itinerary and/or the designated Rockjumper leader/s at short or no notice due to unforeseen circumstances; please be aware that we will attempt to adhere as close to the original program as possible.

Tipping: As noted above, gratuities (drivers, hotel staff, restaurants etc.) are included on this tour. However, this does NOT include your Rockjumper leader. If, therefore, you feel that he has given you excellent service, it is entirely appropriate to tip him.

Special Notes:
- We have timed our visit to coincide with the end of the wet season and beginning of the dry season and we can expect the weather conditions to be favourable, mostly dry and sunny. However, it is generally hot and very humid in the lowlands and foothills. On most mornings, we will be up and out early to take advantage of the cooler temperatures and wildlife activity.
- This Brazil tour does require a good level of fitness, and participants should be in good general health as some of the forest birding will be done on foot and may require walking for several hours at a time. Should you have any physical limitations or medical conditions please notify us in advance of departure.
- It is very important to note that we are covering vast distances on this tour, with many one night stays and limited down time between locations.
- The vehicles we use are comfortable. Most roads are of a good standard, although we should expect some bumpy conditions when leaving the paved road. Where necessary we use 4x4 vehicles, but some unpaved roads could still be impassable if they have been damaged by heavy rains.
- Accommodation is mostly of a comfortable to medium standard, but can be fairly basic.

ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE DETAILS:
This tour does not include ANY airfares. The Para, Tocantins & Goias tour will begin in Brasilia with a welcome dinner on the evening of day 1. The tour will conclude at Carajás Airport after breakfast on day 16.

The Belem Extension will begin at Carajás Airport on day 1 of the extension and conclude after breakfast on day 6 at Belem airport. The extension is only available to those who participate on the main tour.

The above information in respect of arrivals and departures is a guide only. Precise arrival and departure information will be sent to you in your Tour Confirmation package once the tour has been officially confirmed. If you wish to arrive early and/or depart late and would like assistance in this regard, kindly contact the Rockjumper office.

FLIGHTS:
Brasília–Presidente Juscelino Kubitschek International Airport (IATA: BSB) is the primary port of entry this tour and is well serviced by several airlines. Carajás Airport (IATA: CKS) is the port of departure for the main tour and is connected to the international hubs of Belo Horizonte by several Brazilian airlines including Azul Brazilian Airlines and Gol Airlines. Belém/Val de Cans–Júlio Cezar Ribeiro International
Airport (IATA: BEL) is the port of departure for those participating on the extension. **Please DO NOT book any flights until you have consulted the Rockjumper office for confirmation on the status of the tour.**

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