



BRAZIL BIRDING

E X P E R T S

WEST AMAZON – MANAUS TOUR

10 DAYS



Welcome to the Manaus Tour. This is the capital of Amazonas, where the famous Negro and Solimões rivers meet creating the world's largest river in water volume, the Amazon River. The city is one of the great destinations for birdwatchers due to its great location. It is embedded in the area of endemism known as the Guiana shield, but it is only just crossing the bridge over the Negro River and we can find dozens of different species of birds. Very little driving in a short period of time but with many many birds! Have fun!

MANAUS TOUR

(Amazonas)

Guide: To Be Defined...

SUMMARIZED ITINERARY

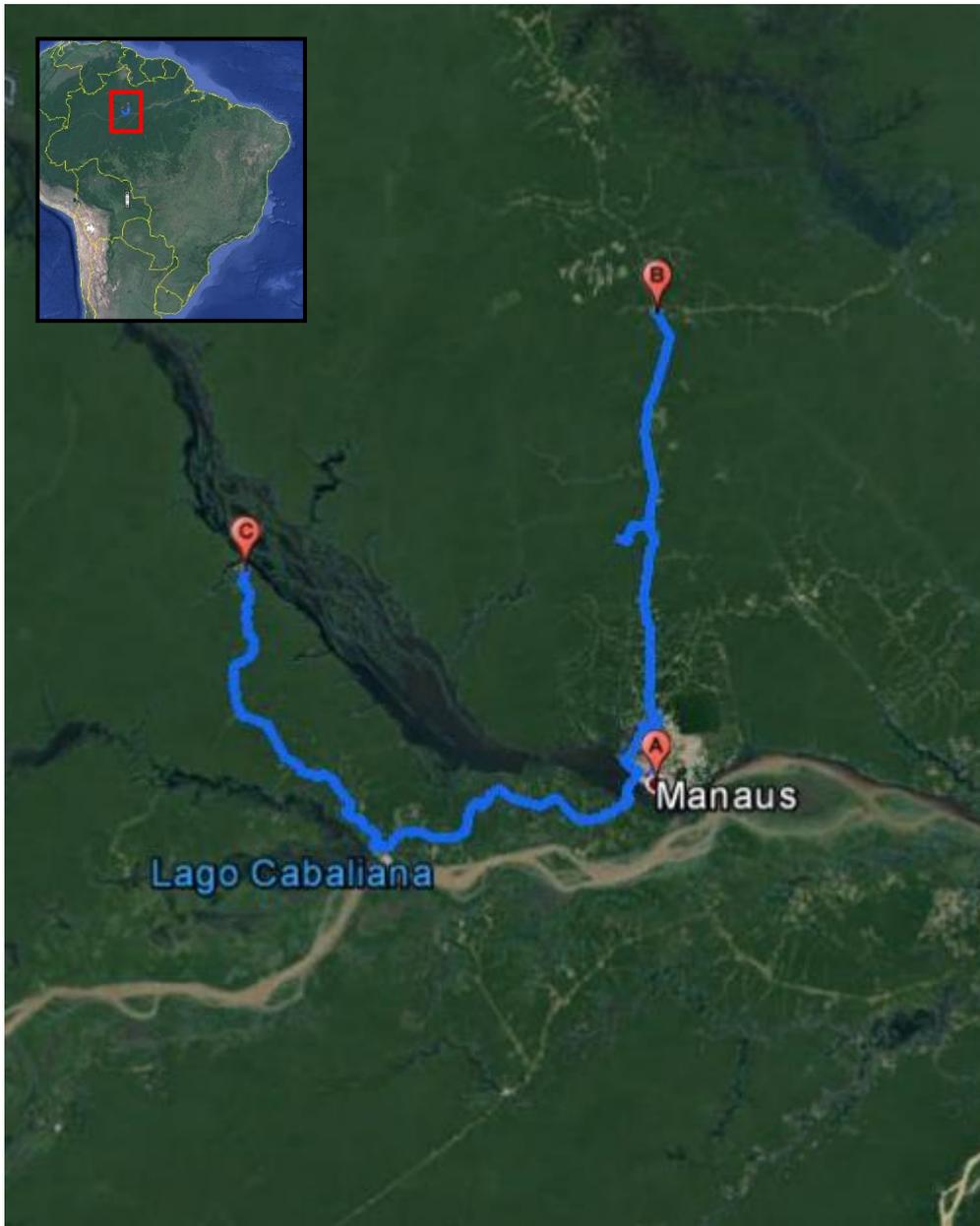
Day	Location (state)	Comments
1	Manaus	Arrival. PM Birding.
2	Manaus	Full Day Birding.
3	Manaus – Novo Airão (200Km)	AM Birding. Transfer.
4	Novo Airão	Full Day Birding.
5	Novo Airão – Manaus (200Km)	AM Birding. Transfer.
6	Manaus	Full Day Birding.
7	Manaus – Presidente Figueiredo (125Km)	AM Birding. Transfer. PM Birding.
8	Presidente Figueiredo	Full Day Birding.
9	Presidente Figueiredo	Full Day Birding.
10	Presidente Figueiredo – Manaus (125Km)	Departure.

Suggested period: From June to January.



OVERVIEW OF THE COMPLETE ITINERARY

Manaus (A), Novo Airão (B), Presidente Figueiredo (C).



DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrival in **Manaus** where we sleep the night. If we have time, PM Birding around Manaus.

Day 2: Full Day Birding in the **MANAUS REGION**. AM Birding in the **MUSA Tower** and PM Birding in “**Ramal do Pau Rosa**”. Sleep in Manaus.

Area description: Created in January 2009, Musa occupies 100 hectares of the Adolpho Ducke Forest Reserve, of the National Institute of Amazonian Research - INPA in Manaus. An area of native upland forest that for more than 60 years is being studied with passion. The results of these surveys, gathered in catalogs on topics such as plants, birds and frogs, shows what Musa wants to show the visitor. To access the MUSA tower, there is a 250m walk where we might see some birds on the way. The tower is 42m high with 3 platforms in different heights to reach the wide variety of canopy species. This is a perfect location to see and photograph Amazonian canopy species. Ramal do Pau Rosa is only 21Km from Manaus and is a very nice place to look for Terra Firme species. Wonderful way to begin the trip.

Summary: Some of the targets in the MUSA Tower include Guianan Puffbird (*Notharchus macrorhynchos*), Paradise Jacamar (*Galbula dea*), Caica Parrot (*Pyrilia caica*), Glossy-backed Becard (*Pachyramphus surinamus*), **Guianan Toucanet** (*Selenidera piperivora*), Guianan Woodcreeper (*Lepidocolaptes albolineatus*), Black-spotted Barbet (*Capito niger*), Red-billed Pied Tanager (*Lamprospiza melanoleuca*), Black-faced Dacnis (*Dacnis lineata*), Spotted Tanager (*Ixothraupis punctate*).

And some special birds to search for in Ramal do Pau Rosa include Red-fan Parrot (*Deroptryus accipitrinus*), **Black-throated Antshrike** (*Frederickena viridis*), **Black-throated Antbird** (*Myrmophylax atrothorax*), Northern Slaty-Antshrike (*Thamnophilus punctatus*), Blue-backed Tanager (*Cyanicterus cyanicterus*), Dusky Antbird (*Cercomacroides tyrannina*).



Day 3: AM Birding once again in the Manaus region. However, on this morning we will cross to the **right margin** of the **RIO NEGRO RIVER**, where we will be birding all morning. Transfer after lunch to **Novo Airão** (+/-4hrs [200Km]). PM Birding around Novo Airão.



Area description: In the amazon region, the main rivers played and still play an important role in the geographic separation and consequently the speciation process of many species. For this reason, as we cross to the right margin of the Rio Negro river, there is a wide variety of different species that we do not see in the left margin. Amazing phenomena to observe in the field. We will begin our morning birding in “Balneário Cirandeira”, where there is an easy access trail that cuts the forest. There are many fruit trees in this location, so in the right time of the year it is a Tanager/Cotinga madness around the fruiting trees.

Summary: Some of the species we will look for are the Gilded Barbet (*Capito auratus*), Brown-winged Schiffornis (*Schiffornis turdina*), Yellow-browed Antbird (*Hypocnemis hypoxantha*), **Common Scale-backed Antbird** (*Willisornis poecilinotus*), **Blue-crowned Manakin** (*Lepidothrix coronata*).

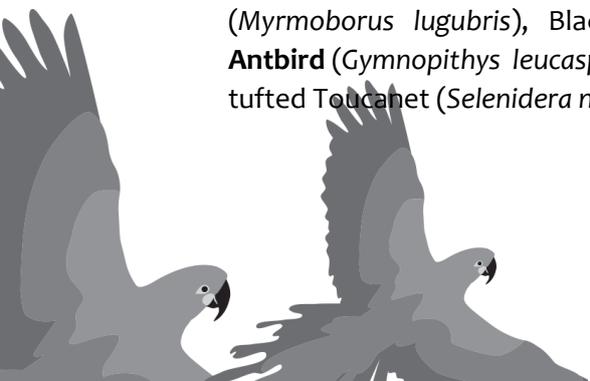


Day 4: Full Day Birding in **NOVO AIRÃO**. Our focus on this day in Novo Airão will be the Terra Firme birds.

Day 5: AM Birding in the islands of **ANAVILHANAS NATIONAL PARK**. Differently from the day before, our focus on this day will be the igapó specialties. Most of our birding will be on a boat.

Area description: one of the largest fluvial archipelagos in the world, Anavilhanas National Park has more than 340 islands comprising its natural beauty. There are numerous archaeological sites not yet studied in the region. The unit became a National Park by the Law 11799 of October 29, 2008. The Park comprises 70% of upland forests and 30% of Igapó areas and islands that are legally protected. The park has an area of 350,000 hectares, which includes the archipelago of Anavilhanas in the Negro River and an extensive strip of land on the left bank of the river. The archipelago covers an area of 100,000 hectares, dominated by Igapó, a forest that floods seasonally, by black water that is relatively low in nutrients.

Summary: Home to endless species of fantastic birds like the beautiful **Wire-tailed Manakin** (*Pipra filicauda*), Blackish-gray Antshrike (*Thamnophilus nigrocinereus*), Cherrie's (*Myrmotherula cherriei*) and Klage's Antwrens (*Myrmotherula klagesi*), Ash-breasted Antbird (*Myrmoborus lugubris*), Black-headed Parrot (*Pionites melanocephalus*), **White-cheeked Antbird** (*Gymnopithys leucaspis*), Chestnut-belted Gnateater (*Conopophaga aurita*) Tawny-tufted Toucanet (*Selenidera nattereri*), **White-plumed Antbird** (*Pithys albifrons*).





Day 6: AM Birding in the **MARCHANTARIA ISLAND** and two other islands beside this one, which are located in the Solimões River. Transfer after lunch to Manaus (+/-4hrs [200Km]). PM Birding once again in Ramal do Pau Rosa to search for species that we have missed. Night in Manaus.

Area description: The Marchantaria Island is 1h up the Solimões River and presents different stages of regeneration. It is one of the islands with the greatest bird diversity in the Amazon. This is the perfect location to search for várzea birds.

Summary: we will focus our search on the island specialists, such as Brownish Elaenia (*Elaenia pelzelni*), Black-and-white Antbird (*Myrmochanes hemileucus*), River Tyrannulet (*Serpophaga hypoleuca*), **Riverside Tyrant** (*Knipolegus orenocensis*), Olive-spotted Hummingbird (*Leucippus chlorocercus*), Red-and-white Spinetail (*Certhiaxis mustelinus*), White-bellied Spinetail (*Mazaria propinqua*), Castelnau's Antshrike (*Thamnophilus cryptoleucus*), Black-and-white Antbird (*Myrmochanes hemileucus*) and many others.

Day 7: Leave early to reach the famous **ZF-2 TOWER** for AM Birding. The tower is on our way to Presidente Figueiredo. Bird until around 10h30min and head to Presidente Figueiredo, where we have lunch (+/-2hrs [125Km]).

Area description: with more than 40 meters, located 50km north of Manaus, the tower is a perfect spot for canopy surprises.

Summary: we will have chances for many canopy birds, including birds that we might have missed in the MUSA Tower, such as the beautiful Crimson Fruitcrow (*Haematoderus militaris*) and more Guiana endemics, such as Guianan Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila guianensis*), Guianan Trogon (*Trogon violaceus*), **Guianan Puffbird** (*Notharchus macrorhynchos*), Golden-collared Woodpecker (*Veniliornis cassini*), Scale-breasted Woodpecker (*Celeus grammicus*), Black-bellied Cuckoo (*Piaya melanogaster*), Red-lored Parrot (*Amazona autumnalis*), Ash-winged Antwren (*Euchrepomis spodioptila*), Painted Tody-Flycatcher (*Todirostrum pictum*), Olive-green Tyrannulet (*Phylloscartes virescens*), **Pompadour Cotinga** (*Xipholena punicea*), **Spangled Cotinga** (*Cotinga cayana*), Short-billed Honeycreeper (*Cyanerpes nitidus*), Dotted



Tanager (*Ixothraupis varia*) and **Green Aracari** (*Pteroglossus viridis*). In addition, keep an eye out for large hawks flying over.



Day 8: Full Day Birding in **PRESIDENTE FIGUEIREDO**.

Area description: The city of Presidente Figueiredo, 100km north of Manaus, has unique characteristics due to its rugged terrain. A real paradise with over 50 waterfalls and, most important, is home of the spectacular **Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock** (*Rupicola rupicola*). We will visit the lek of this wonder, and search for sites with females in their nests.

Summary: Other than the Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock, several species have this region as the southernmost part of their distribution limits, such as the Painted Parakeet (*Pyrrhura picta*), White-breasted Wood-wren (*Henicorhina leucosticta*) and Dusky Purple-tuft (*Iodopleura fusca*). We will also visit a Campina environment (White sand soil Forest) with its unique birds, such as **Black Manakin** (*Xenopipo atronitens*), **Pale-vented Mourner** (*Rhytipterna immunda*), **Northern Slaty-Antshrike** (*Thamnophilus punctatus*), not to mention the emblematic Pelzel's Tody-Tyrant (*Hemitriccus inornatus*).



AM Birding in Cachoeira da Onça, where our main targets will be the legendary **Musician Wren** (*Cyphorhinus arada*), Capuchinbird (*Perissocephalus tricolor*) and others.

PM Birding in Cachoeira das Lages, in an environment with white sand, in a vegetation known as “campinarana”.

* Other targets in Cachoeira da Onça: Rufous-throated Antbird (*Gymnopithys rufigula*), Black-headed Antbird (*Percnostola rufifrons*), Cinereous Antshrike (*Thamnomanes caesius*), Capuchinbird (*Perissocephalus tricolor*), Yellow-crowned Manakin (*Heterocercus flavivertex*), Musician Wren (*Cyphorhinus arada*).

* Other targets in Cachoeira das Lages: Green-tailed Goldenthrout (*Polytmus theresiae*), Bronzy Jacamar (*Galbula leucogastra*), White-naped Seedeater (*Sporophila fringilloides*), Black Manakin (*Xenopipo atronitens*), Pale-bellied Mourner (*Rhytipterna immunda*).

Day 9: AM Birding in Ramal do Mari-mari, a Terra Firme Forest with many understory bird species. After a good time birding we will visit the Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock (*Rupicola rupicola*) lek. We will dedicate our last afternoon to look for the targets that have not yet been seen.

Among the many birds we might see, here are a few of the targets: **Crimson Topaz** (*Topaza pella*), Black Curassow (*Crax alector*), Guianan Warbling-Antbird (*Hypocnemis cantator*), Mouse-colored Antshrike (*Thamnophilus murinus*), Cinnamon Manakin-Tyrant (*Neopipo cinnamomea*), Double-banded Pygmy-Tyrant (*Lophotriccus vitiensis*), **Wing-banded Wren** (*Microcerculus bambla*), Guianan Red-Cotinga (*Phoenicircus carnifex*), **White-fronted Manakin** (*Lepidothrix serena*).

Day 10: Transfer to Manaus (+/-2hrs [125Km]) and departure.

