

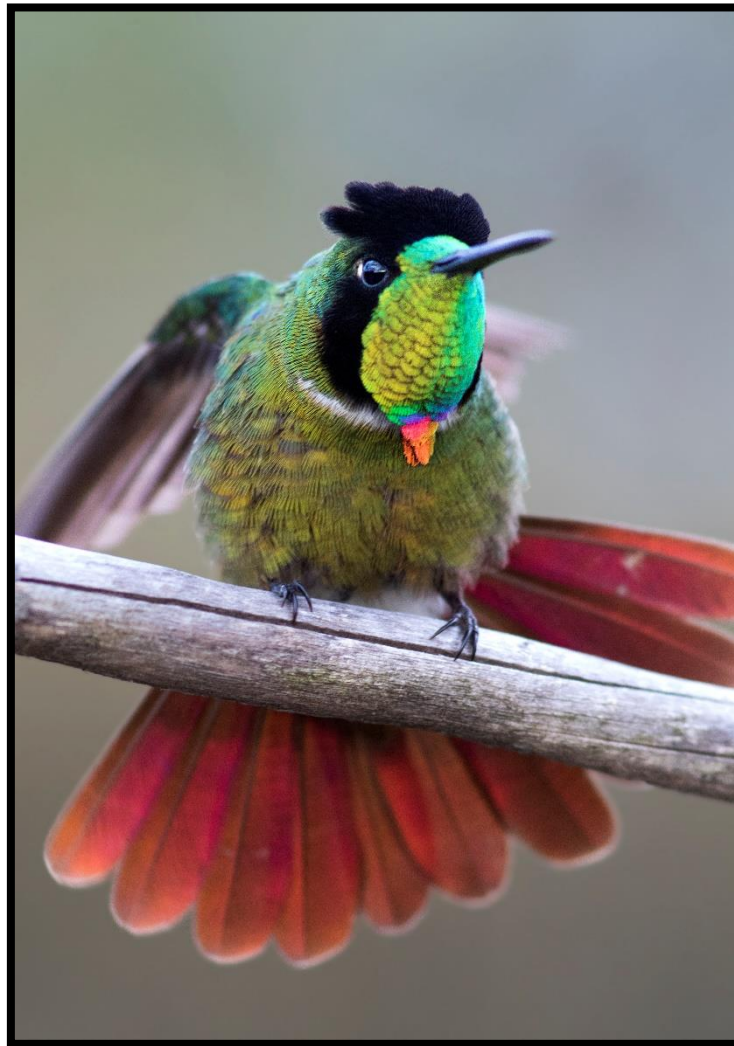


BRAZIL BIRDING

EXPERTS

NORTHEAST BRAZIL – POPULAR TOUR

14 DAYS



Welcome to the Northeast Brazil Popular Tour. If you have little time and want to cover many Brazilian endemics, this is the tour for you; the best of Northeast endemics in a short period of time. We go from the range-restricted Grey-breasted Parakeet in Guaramiranga to the Banded Cotinga in Porto Seguro, with a few stops along the way for some extraordinary birds like the Araripe Manakin, Lear's Macaw, Sincora Antwren, Hooded Visorbearer and many more.

NORTHEAST BRAZIL POPULAR TOUR

(Ceará, Bahia)

SUMMARIZED ITINERARY

Day	Location (state)	Comments
1	Fortaleza – Guaramiranga (150Km)	Arrival and transfer.
2	Guaramiranga – Quixadá (100Km)	AM Birding. Transfer. PM Birding.
3	Quixadá – Potengi (360Km)	AM Birding and transfer.
4	Potengi	Full Day Birding
5	Potengi – Crato – Canudos (430Km)	Transfer. AM Birding. Transfer.
6	Canudos – Lençóis (500Km)	AM Birding and transfer.
7	Chapada Diamantina	Full Day Birding.
8	Lençóis – Boa Nova (420Km)	AM Birding and transfer.
9	Boa Nova	Full Day Birding.
10	Boa Nova – Camacan (400Km)	AM Birding and transfer.
11	Serra Bonita Reserve (Camacan)	Full Day Birding.
12	Camacan – Porto Seguro (220Km)	AM Birding and transfer.
13	Porto Seguro	Full Day Birding.
14	Departure	Departure

Suggested period: From September to January



OVERVIEW OF THE COMPLETE ITINERARY

Fortaleza (A), Guaramiranga (B) Quixadá (C), Potengi (D), Crato (E), Canudos (F), Lençóis (G), Boa Nova (H), Camacan (I), Porto Seguro (J).



DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrival in **Fortaleza** and transfer to **GUARAMIRANGA** (+/-2hrs [150Km]). The ideal is to leave Fortaleza around noon to maximize our chances in Guaramiranga.

Area description: A moist mountain range located 150km south of Fortaleza. Guaramiranga is a city of the Maciço de Baturite. Surely one of the most intriguing areas of the state, along with the Araripe plateau. Like other wet forests, has a mild climate during the day and a little colder at night.

Summary: What makes this location particularly interesting are the species (subspecies) that are geographically isolated from the Amazon and the Atlantic Forest, which indicates a possible speciation process (many of these species are in split process and others await farther studies). As important species we highlight the **Grey-breasted Parakeet** (*Pyrrhura griseipectus*), one of the world's most endangered parrots and other species of great interest such as **Buff-breasted Tody-Tyrant** (*Hemitriccus mirandae*), Ceara Leaf-tosser (*Sclerurus cearensis*), **Ceara/Rufous Gnateater** (*Conopophaga cearae*), Northern Lesser Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus atlanticus*), Variable Antshrike (*Thamnophilus caerulescens cearensis*), Gould's Toucanet (*Selenidera gouldii baturitensis*), Spot-winged Wood-Quail (*Odontophorus capoeira plumbeicollis*), Red-necked Tanager (*Tangara cyanocephala cearensis*), Guianan Tyrannulet (*Zimmerius acer*), Ochraceous Piculet (*Picumnus limae*), Short-tailed Antthrush (*Chamaeza campanisona*), Gray-headed Spinetail (*Cranioleuca semicinerea*) and others.



Day 2: AM Birding in Guaramiranga and transfer to **QUIXADÁ** (+/-2hrs [100Km]).

Area description: municipality in the state of Ceará located two hours from Guaramiranga and three hours from the capital. One of its most striking features are rock formations, the monoliths, in various formats that "break" the apparent monotony of the countryside landscape. The hotel we stay in this location is one of the most admired by clients. Very calm, relaxing and comfortable rooms.

Summary: Here is a strategic stop to break down the long drive to Crato. Although there is nothing extremely special, we are able to see a few caatinga specialties like white-naped Jay (*Cyanocorax cyanopogon*), Cactus Parakeet (*Eupsittula cactorum*), **Pygmy Nightjar** (*Hydropsalis hirundinacea*), **Caatinga Cacholote** (*Pseudoseisura cristata*), Ochraceous Piculet (*Picumnus limae*), Ochre-backed Woodpecker (*Celeus ochraceus*) (recent split from Blond-



crested) and, if we are lucky, we might even see the rare and endemic **White-browed Guan** (*Penelope jacucaca*).



Day 3: AM Birding in Quixadá and transfer to **POTENGI** (+/-6hrs [360Km]).

Area description: Situated in the south of Ceará, one hour from Crato, Potengi is known as "the city that never sleeps", because of the large number of blacksmiths. As metallurgy produces a lot of heat, blacksmiths begin to work always after midnight, in the manufacture of metal parts (sickles, knives, etc.). The bangs cause a noise that silences only at daybreak. Most of what is produced is sold in the local market and exported to other cities of Ceará, Piauí and Maranhão.

Summary: unique place, where much of the dry forest birds are found. Here, the main targets are **White-browed Antpitta** (*Hylopezus ochroleucos*), Spotted Piculet (*Picumnus pygmaeus*), Golden-green Woodpecker (*Piculus chrysocloros*), **Great Xenops** (*Megaxenops parnaguae*), Red-shouldered Spinetail (*Synallaxis hellmayri*), Broad-tipped Hermit (*Anopetia gounellei*), Stripe-backed Antbird (*Myrmorchilus strigilatus*), Lesser Wagtail-Tyrant (*Stigmatura napensis bahiae*), Greater Wagtail-Tyrant (*Stigmatura budytoides gracilis*), White-naped Xenopsaris (*Xenopsaris albinucha*), Pygmy Nightjar (*Hydropsalis hirundinacea*).



Day 4: Full Day Birding in Potengi.

Day 5: Transfer to Crato region (80Km) for the Critically endangered **Araripe Manakin** and then drive 350Km to reach **CANUDOS**, home of the **Lear's Macaws**.



Area description: situated in the northern portion of the state of Bahia, near the borders with Pernambuco, Sergipe and Alagoas, Canudos is famous for its history: Antonio Conselheiro and the Canudos War.

Summary: one of the most exciting moments of the trip, the encounter with the Lear's Macaw! This amazing species only occur in this region, the "Raso da Catarina". We leave the hotel very early in the morning for the **Lear's (Indigo) Macaw** (*Anodorhynchus leari*) roosting site (always a thrill!). However, the macaws are not the only target here. We will also look for Scarlet-throated Tanagers (*Compsothraupis loricata*), Red-legged Seriema (*Cariama cristata*), Blue-crowned Parakeets (*Thectocercus acuticaudatus*) and others Caatinga specialties.



Day 6: AM Birding in Canudos and transfer to Lençóis (Chapada Diamantina) (+/-7hrs [500Km]).

Day 7: Full Day Birding in **CHAPADA DIAMANTINA**.

Area description: One of the most impressive places in Brazil, the landscapes are astonishing. The Chapada Diamantina is part of a long series of highlands linked to the Espinhaço mountain range, which extend from north of Minas Gerais through Bahia. There is a high diversity of habitats such as the Caatinga, Cerrado, Campo Rupestre (arid mountain shrubs),



Moist Forest, Gallery Forests and, along with that, of course, a high diversity of birds (over 350 species).

Summary: Some endemics from the region are the **Hooded Visorbearer** (*Augastes lumachella*) and the recently described **Sincorá Antwren** (*Formicivora grantsau*) (published just in 2007!). There are a few cerrado species such as the Collared Crescentchest (*Melanopareia torquata*), Black-throated Saltator (*Saltatricula atricollis*), **Rufous-sided Pygmy-Tyrant** (*Euscarthmus rufomarginatus*), Blue Finch (*Porphyrospiza caerulescens*), Horned Sungem (*Heliactin bilophus*) and others, “campo rupestre” birds such as Grey-backed Tachuri (*Polystictus superciliaris*), **Buff-throated Pampa-finch** (*Embernagra longicauda*), and Caatinga birds in case we have missed any along the trip. We will also search for the rare and endemic **Diamantina Tapaculo** (*Scytalopus diamantinensis*).

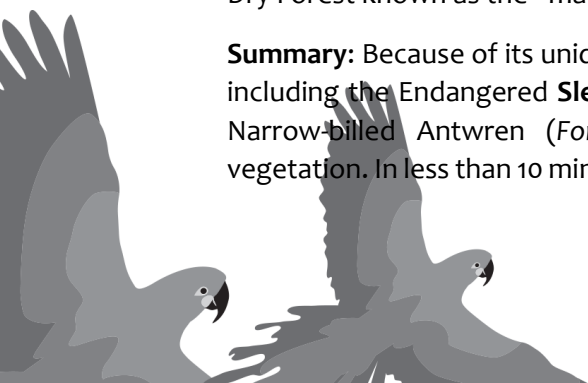


Day 8: AM Birding in Chapada Diamantina and transfer to Boa Nova (+/-7hrs [420Km]).

Day 9: Full Day Birding in **BOA NOVA**.

Area description: Boa Nova is located in the Southwestern part of Bahia and is famous among ornithologists due to its diverse bird community, with typical elements of montane Atlantic Forests, the Caatinga biome, and a unique transitional area between the Atlantic Forest and Dry Forest known as the “mata-de-cipó”.

Summary: Because of its unique vegetation, the region is home to over 400 bird species(!), including the Endangered **Slender Antbird** (*Rhopornis ardesiacus*) and the near-threatened Narrow-billed Antwren (*Formicivora iheringi*), both confined to the “mata-de-cipó” vegetation. In less than 10 minutes of driving we leave the Dry forest to an exuberant Atlantic



Forest. We bird there for species such as the **Striated Softtail** (*Thripophaga macroura*), Pin-tailed Manakin (*Ilicura militaris*), **Bahia Spinetail** (*Synallaxis whitneyi*), **Rio de Janeiro Antbird** (*Cercomacra brasiliana*), Fork-tailed Tody-Tyrant (*Hemitriccus furcatus*), White-collared Foliage-gleaner (*Anabazenops fusca*), Scaled Woodcreeper (*Lepidocolaptes squamatus*), Pallid Spinetail (*Cranioleuca pallida*), Ferruginous Antbird (*Drymophila ferruginea*), Ochre-rumped Antbird (*Drymophila ochropyga*), Gray-hooded Attila (*Attila rufus*), Cinnamon-vented Piha (*Lipaugus lanioides*), Gilt-edged Tanager (*Tangara cyanoventris*) and many others. Here, we also have good chances of seeing the threatened **Wied's Tyrant-Manakin** (*Neopelma aurifrons*).



Day 10: AM transfer to **SERRA BONITA RESERVE (CAMACAN)** (+/-4hrs [250Km]).

Day 11: Full Day Birding in **CAMACAN (Serra Bonita Reserve)**.

Area description: The Serra Bonita Reserve is a pioneering, innovative private conservation enterprise, protecting sub montane forest in Southern Bahia. It aims to protect the Brazilian Atlantic Forest through a consortium of several rural property owners, whose properties contain RPPNs (private reserves). Altogether, currently they protect 2,500 ha, the second largest privately protected area of the Central Biodiversity Corridor of the Atlantic Forest. The RPPNs contained in each property are managed by Instituto Uiraçu, through agreements with the owners. In addition to managing these private reserves and its own, purchased



through donations, the Institute aims to extend the protection to the entire Serra Bonita, one of the last remnants of sub montane forest in the region, which covers an area of about 7,500 hectares in the municipalities of Camacan and Pau Brasil, Bahia.

Summary: Some of the main targets are the unique **Pink-legged Graveteiro** (*Acrobatornis fonsecai*), **Bahia Tyrannulet** (*Phylloscartes beckeri*) and many more rarities such as **Plumbeus Antvireo** (*Dysithamnus plumbeus*), **Salvatori's Antwren** (*Myrmotherula minor*); the rare Atlantic race (to be split) of **Rufous-brown Solitaire** (*Cichlopsis leucogenys*), Atlantic Forest Birds such as the beautiful Blue Manakin (*Chiroxiphia caudata*), Eastern-striped Manakin (*Machaeropterus regulus*), Spot-backed Antshrike (*Dysithamnus stictothorax*), Spot-billed Toucanet (*Selenidera maculirostris*), Sombre Hummingbird (*Aphanthocroa cirrochloris*), etc. They have feeders for hummers and Tanagers (Red-necked, Green-headed, Golden-chevroned and Azure-shouldered Tanagers are some frequent visitors).



Day 12: AM Birding in Camacan and transfer to Porto Seguro (+/-3hrs [210Km]).

Day 13: Full Day Birding in **PORTO SEGURO**.

Area description: municipality located in the south of Bahia, Brazil. Shares with the neighboring municipalities of Santa Cruz Cabrália and Prado, the primacy of being the point of arrival of the Portuguese in Brazil in 1500. The village that gave birth to the city of Porto Seguro was founded in 1534. It has an estimated population of 141 006 inhabitants in 2013 and is considered almost entirely as historical heritage, not being allowed the construction of tall buildings (over two floors). When not on vacation periods, it is a very nice place.

Summary: One of the famous beaches in the southern coast of Bahia, but this is not our aim; we are birding in the lowland Atlantic forest near the town, here is one of the best places for the rare Banded (*Cotinga maculata*) and White-winged (*Xipholena atropurpurea*) Cotingas. The **Hooked-billed Hermit** (*Glaucis dohrnii*) and the Red-browed Parrot (*Amazona rhodocorytha*) are also around. Sooretama Slaty-Antshrike (*Thamnophilus ambiguus*), Bahia Antwren (*Herpsilochmus pileatus*), Band-tailed Antwren (*Myrmotherula urosticta*) will be other birds we will look for.





Day 14: AM Birding in Porto Seguro and departure.

