



BRAZIL BIRDING

E X P E R T S

NORTHEAST BRAZIL - SHORT TOUR

(9 DAYS)



Welcome to the Northeast Brazil 9-Day-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 Sincora Antwren in Chapada Diamantina, with a few stops along the way for some extraordinary birds like the Araripe Manakin, Lear's Macaw and many more. Tie your boots fellows! Here we go!

NORTHEAST BRAZIL TOUR – 9 DAYS

(Ceará, Bahia)

SUMMARIZED ITINERARY

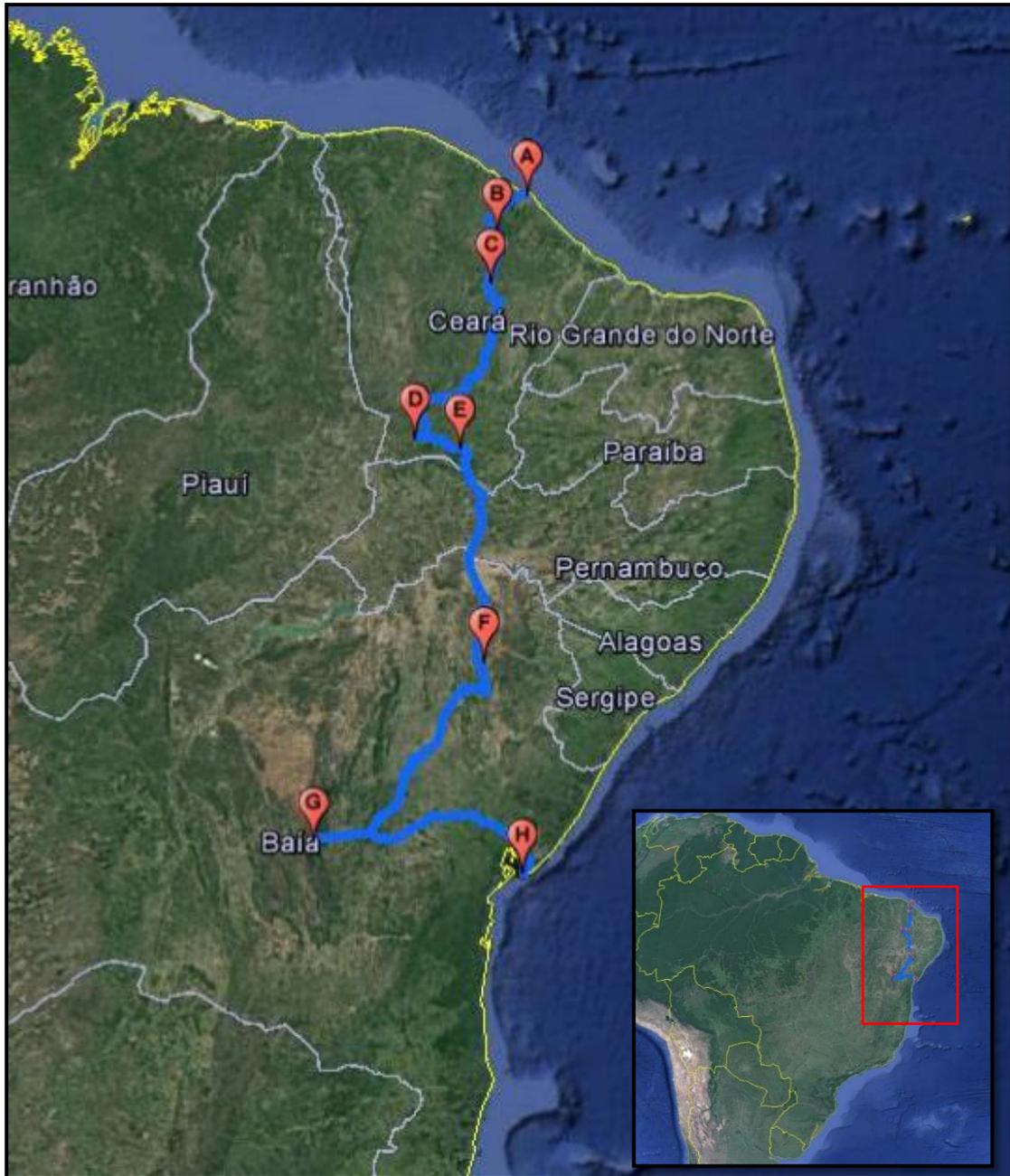
Day	Location (state)	Comments
1	Fortaleza – Guaramiranga (150Km)	Arrival and transfer.
2	Guaramiranga – Quixadá (100Km)	AM Birding. Transfer. PM Birding.
3	Quixadá – Potengi (360Km)	AM Birding and transfer.
4	Potengi	Full Day Birding
5	Potengi – Crato – Canudos (430Km)	Transfer. AM Birding. Transfer.
6	Canudos – Lençóis (500Km)	AM Birding and transfer.
7	Chapada Diamantina	Full Day Birding.
8	Chapada Diamantina	Full Day Birding.
9	Salvador – Departure (430Km)	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), Salvador (H).



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.

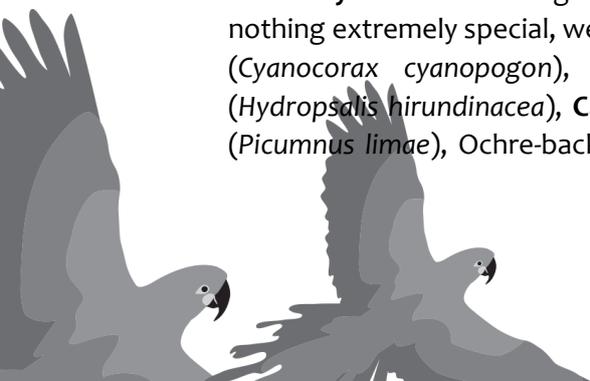
Summary: What makes this location particularly interesting are the species (subspecies) that are geographically isolated from the Amazon and the Atlantic Forest, which indicates a possible speciation process (many of these species are in split process and others await farther studies). As important species 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 chrysochloros*), **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 grantsaui*) (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: Full Day Birding in **CHAPADA DIAMANTINA**.

Day 9: Early transfer to Salvador (+/-6hrs [420Km]). **DEPARTURE**.

OBS: If there are only early flights from Salvador on our last day, we will transfer the day before.

