

Brazil

Primates and Parrots Wildlife Cruise

14-30 May 2024

Small vessel charter led by Chris Collins and Regina Ribeiro



Photo 1: Golden Parakeet © Chris Collins

Overview

Run in collaboration with our sister brand *Limosa Holidays*, this exciting cruise sails from Manaus to Santarem in the Brazilian Amazon, with one of the objectives being to find some of the highly localised primates and parrots that can be found in this region.

There is probably nowhere else on the planet where there is such a diversity of monkeys in such a comparatively small area and some of these, such as the Golden-white Tassel-eared Marmoset, not only have a tiny range, but are surely amongst the best-looking primates in the world. Twenty-six species were recorded on our trip in 2019 and the potential list is well over thirty species.

This trip is, however, about much more than just monkeys as we will also be looking for some spectacular and highly localised parrots including Golden Parakeet, Crimson-bellied Parakeet, Bald Parrot, and Vulturine Parrot. Indeed, we stand a decent chance of seeing over twenty species of

parrots and macaws on our cruise having exceeded this total on both previous voyages.

We will also expect to enjoy plenty of other spectacular and colourful Amazonian birds including hummingbirds, toucans, trogons and manakins!

With the trip also including a visit to an amazing eco-tourism project where we will have the opportunity to 'swim' with wild Pink Dolphins this holiday has much to offer so join **Chris Collins** and **Regina Ribeiro** on a truly unique adventure.

Highlights

- 13-night cruise on a comfortable river boat exploring Brazilian Amazonia.
- Visit to the 'meeting of the waters' where the Rios Negro and Solimões merge to form the mighty Amazon.
- Cruise past mile after mile of untouched forest.
- Looking for over 30 species of primates including some incredibly localised and spectacular species.
- Search for colourful parrots with more 20+ species likely to be seen, hopefully including the breath-taking Golden Parakeet.
- We can also expect to see macaws, trogons, hummingbirds, and a myriad of other species.

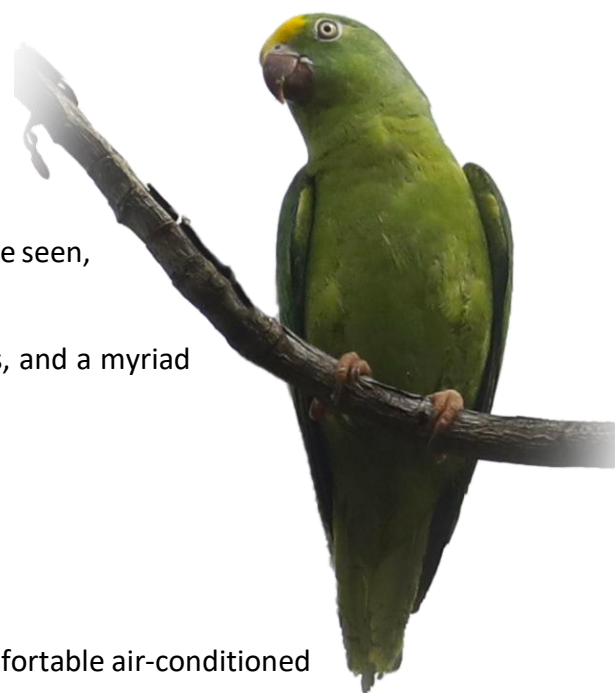


Photo 2: Tui Parakeet © Chris Collins

What's Included?

- Two WildWings/ Limosa Holidays Tour Leaders
- Expert resident wildlife guide
- 14 nights' accommodation in Brazil, including 13 on the comfortable air-conditioned river boat *Iracema*
- All main meals with drinking water provided during the day
- Visit to Canopy Tower on outskirts of Manaus
- All entry fees, all tour-based tips (including boat staff, drivers, local guides) and taxes

Outline Itinerary

Day 1

Depart UK for Manaus via Sao Paulo

Day 2

Arrive in Manaus with local afternoon birding and primate excursion if flight timings allow. *Manaus (1 night)*

Day 3

Early morning visit to nearby Canopy Tower. Board vessel (*Iracema*) and sail. *Night on Iracema*

Day 4-15

Exploring river systems including the Paraconi, Amana, Trombetas and Tapajos looking for primates, parrots, and other wildlife. *Iracema (12 nights)*

Day 16

Disembark in Santarem. Fly to UK via Sao Paulo.

Day 17

Arrive in UK

Tour Overview

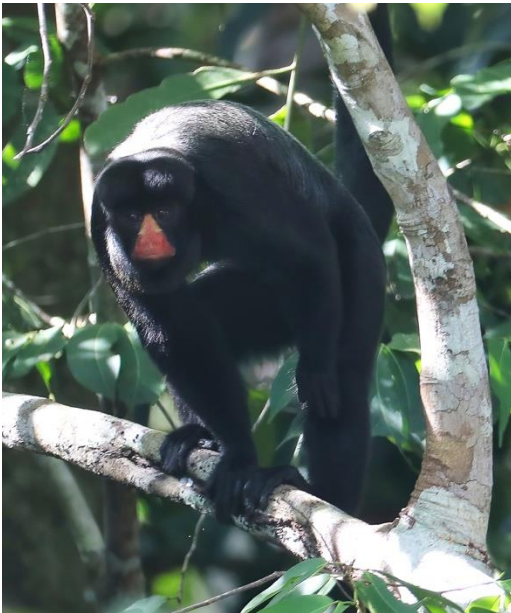


Photo 3: Red-nosed Bearded Saki © Chris Collins

In 2018, *Wildwings* offered the first sailing of this incredible "world first" expedition cruise which was followed by an equally successful second sailing a year later. We are delighted to be able to offer *Wildwings* clients another opportunity to join this exciting holiday in May 2024 when once again, we will sail from Manaus to Santarem in Amazonian Brazil looking for a spectacular range of localised wildlife.

In 2019, we saw 21 species of parrots, 26 different primates plus much more and our 2024 cruise plans to build on the success of the previous trips.

One of our goals is to find some of the least known monkeys in Amazonia and over the course of this expedition, we will visit areas which are home to over

thirty species, some of which are extremely localised. Many of these, especially the marmosets, are also fantastic looking animals and those we hope to see again include Golden-white Tassel-ear Marmoset, Sateré Marmoset, Maués Marmoset, Silvery Marmoset, Santarem Marmoset, Midas Tamarin, Pied Tamarin, Martin’s Bare-faced Tamarin, Lake Baptista Titi, Spix’s Black-headed Uacari and Amazon Black Howler. Other possibilities include White-faced Saki, Guianan Squirrel Monkey, Guianan Brown Capuchin, Spix’s White-fronted Capuchin and Spix’s (Red-handed) Howler.

As well as looking for monkeys, we will also spend some of our time searching for some of the unique birds which live in this rarely visited region and there are three special parrot species which we particularly want to find - Bald Parrot, Vulturine Parrot, and Golden Parakeet, all of which we saw in 2018. Other possibilities include six species of macaws, Blue-and-Yellow, Scarlet, Red-and-Green, Blue-winged, Chestnut-fronted and Red-bellied, as well as the amazing Red-fan Parrot and highly

localised Crimson-bellied Parakeet.

There are, however, literally hundreds of bird species in this region and we hope to find Sunbittern, Toco Toucan, Crimson-hooded Manakin and Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock, as well as hummingbirds, antbirds and tanagers. Indeed, on our 2019 departure we located a lek of the extraordinary Capuchinbird and intend to revisit this site in 2024.

During our expedition, we plan to make several excursions after dark and these will give us a very different perspective of the Amazon. Nocturnal creatures we could encounter include Brazilian Porcupine, both Three-toed and Two-toed Sloths, Amazon Bamboo Rat, Black and Spectacled Caimans, Red-tailed Boa, Northern Ghost Bat, Greater Fishing Bat as well as a selection of owls, nightjars and potoos. When exploring during daylight, we can also expect to see both Amazonian River Dolphin and the smaller Tucuxi daily, so irrespective of your wildlife interest, this exciting trip offers enormous potential.

Our tour will start in the city of Manaus (which is readily accessible from the UK and Europe) and will conclude in the equally convenient town of Santarem. As on our "Remote Amazon" tour, we plan to use a comfortable (but not luxurious), air-conditioned riverboat which has been specifically designed to allow us to explore areas many other vessels would find impossible to access. With a fantastic shaded top deck (which has been described by previous clients as akin to 'a mobile canopy tower'), a very low draft and a fantastic crew, this exclusive charter will be able to visit places few tourists have previously been to.

Immediately prior to joining our vessel, we plan to make an early morning visit to a 40+ metre canopy tower in a forest reserve not far from Manaus. This will give us a completely different perspective on the surrounding forest and on previous visits we have seen a host of exciting birds here including Black-faced Hawk, Paradise Jacamar, Guianan Toucanet, Red-fan Parrot and much more besides. The extremely localised and critically endangered Pied Tamarin is also another monkey we could see here.

Our holiday will also include an afternoon visiting a beach where it should be possible to swim with Amazon (Pink) River Dolphins. These are completely wild and whilst the local people do give them a small number of fish, invariably the dolphins stay with us a long time after this has all been eaten. This fantastic interaction has been described by previous participants as one of the major highlights of our Amazon cruises and has drawn favourable comparisons with the Grey Whales at Baja California and the Mountain Gorillas in Africa!

Once on our specially chartered expedition boat, our itinerary will remain flexible to maximise on

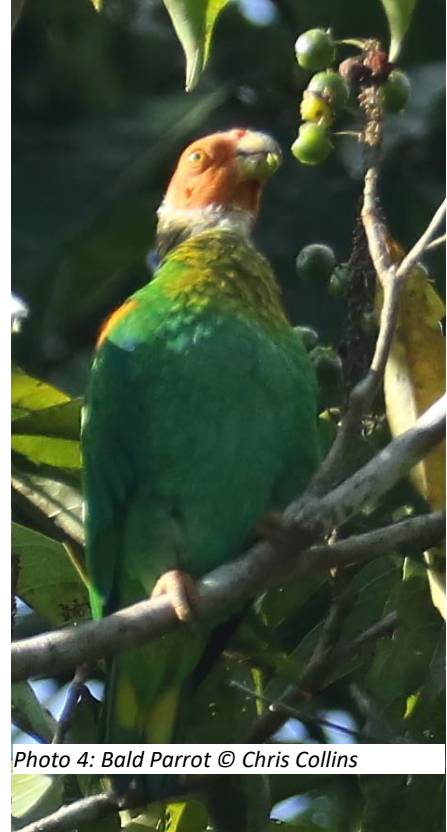


Photo 4: Bald Parrot © Chris Collins

our wildlife opportunities, but we will generally travel during the night and then spend our days exploring Amazonian tributaries visiting remote rivers such as the Madeira, Abacaxis, Maués, Amana and Erepucurú.

We will have three comfortable canoes with us and a maximum of eighteen participants, so each boat will have just six passengers plus a wildlife guide.

We are genuinely hopeful of making some significant discoveries on this trip and are very keen, for example, to relocate an interesting titi monkey we saw on our 2018 expedition which has so far defied identification. This trip is, therefore, sure to be a real adventure with the comfort of an excellent boat, great food, and a fantastic crew.



Photo 5: Long-billed Woodcreeper © Chris Collins

Daily Itinerary

Days 1 - 2

FLY TO MANAUS

Our birdwatching and wildlife holiday begins with an overnight flight to Sao Paulo, followed by an internal flight to the Amazonian city of Manaus, where we arrive on the afternoon of day 2.

We will make the short journey to our hotel where our Brazilian-based guide Regina Ribeiro will be waiting to meet us. If flight schedules allow, there will be a short (and entirely optional) trip to a remnant forest patch not far from our hotel where we will look our first birds, primates, and other wildlife of our trip. This site is one of the best we know for the highly localised Pied Tamarin and locating this critically endangered monkey will be our major priority for the afternoon. Golden-faced

Saki is also present, and we could also find a couple of species of sloths as well as Red-rumped Agoutis.

Although only a matter of acres in size and surrounded by the city of Manaus on three sides and the mighty Rio Negro on the other, this small fragment of habitat is also home to some great birds and will be a fantastic introduction to some of the species we can expect to see over the next couple of weeks. The possibilities include Little Chachalaca, White-throated Toucan, Black-necked Aracari, White-eyed Parakeet, Black Nunbird and Yellow-rumped Cacique. *Night Manaus*



Photo 6: Silvery Marmoset © Chris Collins

Day 3

MANAUS, CANOPY TOWER AND SOLIMÕES RIVER

We will make an early start to ensure we are at an excellent canopy tower on the outskirts of Manaus shortly after dawn. We have previously seen both Guianan Red Howler and Pied Tamarin here and other primate possibilities include White-faced Saki, Brown-backed Bearded Saki and Guianan Brown Capuchin. This tower is also excellent for birds, and we could find Black-spotted Barbet, Guianan Toucanet, Scarlet Macaw, Flame-crested Tanager, Red-legged Honeycreeper and a host of other birds.

We plan to sail from Manaus by late morning, as we want to spend the late afternoon looking for Spix's Black-headed Uacari.

Day 4

ARISU AND SOLIMÕES RIVERS

During the morning, we plan to look for Golden-backed Squirrel Monkey and Spix's White-fronted Capuchin and there is also a chance for Colombian Red Howler.

Our emphasis for the afternoon will be quite different, as we intend to visit a white sand beach where it should be possible to "swim" with Amazon (Pink) River Dolphins. These are completely wild dolphins, and some have described the interaction as being as memorable as visits to the Grey Whales at Baja California or Mountain Gorillas in Africa!

Day 5

MAMONI CHANNEL

Our morning excursion will be another opportunity to locate Golden-backed Squirrel Monkey and

we could also find Gray's Bald-faced Saki and Chestnut-bellied Titi here. Three-toed (or Brown-throated) Sloths are also reasonably numerous.

There are a number of new bird possibilities which could include Hoatzin, Black-throated Mango and Red-and-white Spinetail.



Photo 7: Wire-tailed Manakin © Chris Collins

By late morning, we will need to depart for the Madeira River, and we should have an opportunity to see the “meeting of the waters” where the Solimoes and Negro Rivers meet to form the mighty Amazon. As we cruise downstream and dusk approaches, it is likely that a range of parrot species will fly overhead on the way to their night-time roosts, and these could include White-eyed Parakeet, Festive Amazon, and Chestnut-fronted Macaw.

Day 6

MADEIRA RIVER

We plan to wake early as our targets today are two very special primates, the Lake Baptista Titi and Golden-White Tassel-eared Marmoset, both of which are highly range-restricted. Other primates that occur here include Spix's White-fronted Capuchin and Gray's Bald-faced Saki.

We also hope to find a few different parrot species which could include Chestnut-fronted Macaw, Short-tailed and Mealy Parrots as well as Tui and Golden-winged Parakeets. There are a number of other interesting birds here too with one of the possibilities being the stunning Crimson-hooded Manakin.

Day 7

ABACAXIS RIVER

This will be our opportunity to look for the extremely elusive Sateré Marmoset, a species which was only described in 1998. Another possibility is Ashy Titi, and we could also find Two-toed Sloth.

Depending on our success on our morning excursion, we may continue looking for Sateré Marmoset in the afternoon or cross to the opposite bank of the Abacaxis River and begin our search for Maués Marmoset.

Day 8

PARACONI RIVER

This is another area for Maués Marmoset, with Hoffman's Titi also being a possibility. On our 2018 trip, we found a different species of titi which showed characteristics of the recently described Vieira's Titi, but we are keen to get further views and photos.

We also hope to find Bald Parrot, Kawall's Amazon, and Crimson-bellied Parakeet amongst a host of bird possibilities.

Day 9

MAUES AND PARAUARI RIVERS

We plan a birding excursion in the morning and then, whilst our crew purchase further supplies, may make a short visit to the town of Maués. This is often known as 'Guaraná City' as there are extensive plantations of the berry which are used to make the famous Brazilian soft drink. In the afternoon we will begin the journey south to the Amana River and will use the excellent top deck to look for wildlife. As we continue south, this will be our first opportunity to find the stunning Golden Parakeet.

Days 10-11

AMANA RIVER

We hope to find both Amazon Black Howler and Red-nosed Saki with another possibility being Gray's Bald-faced Saki.

There are also some spectacular parrots here with our major target being Golden Parakeet which we saw exceptionally well here in 2018. Other potential species could include Vulturine and Bald Parrots, as well as White-crested Guan and White-tailed Cotinga.



Photo 8: Bat Falcon © Chris Collins

Day 12

PARANA ANDIRA

Our main target this morning will be the extremely localised Santarem (or Black-and-white Tassel-eared) Marmoset. We plan to explore an area where our excellent crew have found this species on previous occasions, and we saw it in both 2018 and 2019.

It is a long journey to the site we want to visit on the Trombetas River, a tributary which flows into the Amazon on the northern side of this mighty river, so we expect to leave by mid-morning. There

will be plenty of wildlife to look for and enjoy from the top deck as we travel with one of the possibilities being Toco Toucan.

Day 13**TROMBETAS AND EREPECURU RIVERS**

We intend to spend the early morning looking for the extremely localised Martin's Bare-faced Tamarin which we saw in 2019. We also located a lek for the extraordinary Capuchinbird and we will certainly visit this again in the hope of seeing this amazing species. We will then continue northwards up the Trombetas River and onto the Erepecurú. Possibilities whilst we travel could include Guianan Squirrel Monkey and Guianan Howler.

Day 14**EREPECURU RIVER**

We plan to spend the early morning looking for Midas (Golden-handed) Tamarin and Red-faced Spider Monkey with other possibilities including the Guianan Bearded Saki. We also hope to find the stunning Guianan Cock-of-the Rock.

By late morning, we will have to leave for Alter do Chão but there should be plenty of opportunities for wildlife watching as we travel back south with Amazon River Dolphin, Guianan Howler and Guianan Squirrel Monkey all being possible.

Day 15**ALTER DO CHAO**

Our reason for visiting this area is to look for Silvery Marmoset and Spix's (Red-handed) Howler and we hope to find both before departing in the late afternoon for Santarém. Another possible primate here is Red-bellied Titi and the birds could include Spot-backed Puffbird and Peach-fronted Parakeet.

Depending on our flight schedule, we may disembark in the late evening in the city of Santarem.

Day 16**DEPART SANTAREM. FLY TO UK**

We will reluctantly disembark from Iracema and fly to Sao Paulo where we will connect with an overnight flight to the UK.

Day 17**ARRIVAL IN UK**

Morning arrival in the UK, where our wildlife tour to Brazil concludes.

Trip Information

Group Size 18 participants with two leaders

What to Expect A 17-day wildlife holiday to the Brazilian Amazon with thirteen nights on the comfortable, but not luxurious, river boat, *Iracema*.

We will be spending much of our trip exploring remote regions well away from 'civilisation' with, for example, only occasional access to a mobile telephone signal!

Although focussing on seeing some of the region's highly localised primates and parrots, this is nevertheless a general wildlife holiday, and we can expect to see a fantastic range of birds and animals as well as cruising past many miles of rainforest.

Most of our excursions will be made using our vessel's three motorised canoes, although on some days we will go ashore to search for our target species with gentle walks in the forest. At times, we may be in the canoes for 3-4 hours at a time but are usually able to find somewhere to land to stretch our legs or for a "comfort break".

When we do occasionally offer longer walks, there will generally be a second option of a canoe ride for those who prefer this.

Boarding the motorised wooden canoes requires reasonable mobility but should not be a problem for average individuals. If in doubt, please contact us.

As with all wildlife tours to the tropics, be prepared for early starts, getting out in the field at daybreak, typically followed by a siesta during the hottest and least 'birdy' part of the day before venturing out again mid-late afternoon.

On some mornings, we are likely to have breakfast at approximately 05:30 but there will be other occasions when we go out for a couple of hours and then come back for breakfast, although there will invariably be coffee and cake available beforehand.

There is no compulsion to join the excursions and you may, of course, elect to stay onboard the main vessel at any time if you wish.

On some evenings, we will offer canoe rides after dinner to look for nocturnal birds and other wildlife. These trips may be for a couple of hours or so and occasionally longer.

There may periodically be the opportunity to go for a refreshing swim in the river and you will definitely want to bring some suitable clothes for our 'swim' with the river dolphins.

Birds and primates will be our primary focus on the tour, but we will also enjoy looking for other mammals and an array of butterflies.

WEATHER

As Manaus is just three degrees south of the Equator, the climate is tropical with daytime temperatures typically reaching a high of about 31C (87F) in Manaus in April-May, although we will generally be back on *Iracema* from late morning until the middle of the afternoon.

Although we are not visiting during the wet season, we still may encounter an occasional and sometimes heavy downpour, so we would certainly recommend a poncho (to keep your gear dry) and an umbrella. Our experience is that “breathable” fabrics often do not work well in humid tropical conditions and your best option may be a cheaper plastic poncho.

We would certainly recommend bringing some protection against the sun and a hat with a wide brim (to protect the back of your neck) is advisable.

INSECTS

Although mosquitos and other biting insects are present and you will need to check with your GP Practice about malaria, our experience is that generally these types of insects are in lower numbers on the black water Rio Negro which is where we will spend most of our time.

BIRDS

220-260 species

MAMMALS

20-30 species of primates and c.10 other species potentially including sloths, porcupine, bats and rodents.

ACCOMMODATION

Our vessel has cabins on two decks and an open but covered top deck which is great for wildlife watching. All decks are connected by a staircase which have handrails.

Each cabin is for two people with a private bathroom and air-conditioning, though this is only turned on at night for sleeping and during the heat of the day if we are travelling between locations. The private bathrooms have a sink, toilet, and cool-water shower (the water is not heated but it is lukewarm and refreshing). There are also reading lights by each bed.

The cabins have comfortable bunk beds with a ladder to access the top bunk. There is also a cupboard in each cabin to store your possessions.

The main deck has eight of the cabins, the second deck has the other four passenger cabins, plus the bar/dining saloon/lounge and a small library.

A limited laundry service is available onboard although everything must be line dried so there are no guarantees how long this will take.

We suggest that ideally you bring enough clothes for most of the trip. You can wash small items yourself and hang them on the top deck where there is usually a breeze or ask one of the crew to



Photo 8: Our Brazil Primates and Parrots cruise will be based on the comfortable river boat *Iracema*. With her covered top deck, she is perfectly suited to our needs with previous clients describing this viewing area as akin to a 'floating canopy tower' © Chris Collins

wash items for you. There are no set rates for the laundry service, but they will certainly appreciate a tip for their efforts!

For our night in Manaus, we stay in a good quality tourist hotel where all rooms have private facilities.

MEALS

All main meals (and drinking water provided during the day) are included in the tour price, commencing with dinner at our hotel in Manaus on Day 2 and concluding with breakfast on Day 16 prior to disembarking *Iracema* and our flight home.

Meals on *Iracema* are buffet-style and usually comprise a tasty range of meat, fish and vegetarian options for lunch and dinner. Due to the remoteness of our trip, we are unable to cater for very specific dietary requirements but vegetarians, for example, should have no major problems.

Mineral water is available from a series of coolers, and we would encourage you to bring a suitable water bottle to fill this up.

There is a small bar aboard which sells a range of alcoholic and soft drinks. This is run on a 'chit system' and you can pay in cash (US dollars or Brazilian Reals) or by credit card at the end of the trip.

WALKING

Most of our excursions will be in *Iracema's* three motorised canoes and we may not land on all excursions. Where we do, walks are taken at a gentle pace, however, there are only a handful of places we visit with forest trails. Most of the trails we are likely to be following are on relatively flat terrain.

Comfortable shoes or sandals should be fine when we are aboard *Iracema*, but we would strongly recommend bringing some wellington boots for our walks as it can be muddy stepping from the canoe onto the shore and in the forest, with the possibility of occasionally having to stand in shallow water/mud to get in and out of the canoes.

TRAVEL

Despite the end of most pandemic restrictions, it is still proving extremely difficult to predict future flight prices and schedules. As a result, we have taken the decision to continue to price our holidays as excluding international flights.

To keep the process as simple as possible, we are working very closely with a dedicated agent at Travel Counsellors, Sacha Barbato, who is essentially now our "in house" flight consultant.

Sacha will be able to advise you which flights we are recommending for each holiday, and he will be able to book these for you.

GROUND TRANSPORT

We will travel by private air-conditioned minibus between Manaus airport and our hotel and then when we disembark for the slightly longer ride to Santarem airport at the end of the trip. When on our cruise, almost all excursions will be by canoe with occasional landings.

The canoes are open, with wooden bench seats, on which two participants will sit. Cushions are available onboard. The seats have back support.

Tour Cost

2024 (17-day tour):

Land only cost: £4,995

Deposit: £1,500

Single Supplement: £1,500*

*Please note that only two cabins are available at the single supplement price quoted above. Once these are sold, singles will only be available at the full cabin price.

Cost includes

- Two WildWings/Limosa Holidays Tour Leaders
- Expert resident wildlife guide

- 14 nights' accommodation in Brazil, including 13 on the comfortable air-conditioned river boat *Iracema*
- All main meals with drinking water provided during the day
- Visit to Canopy Tower on outskirts of Manaus
- All entry fees, all tour-based tips (including boat staff, drivers, local guides) and taxes
- Checklist of birds and mammals

Cost excludes

International and internal flights, insurance, drinks, airport meals/snacks and other items of a personal nature.

About your Guides

Chris Collins is Managing Director and owner of Birds and Wildlife Limited, the company that now owns Limosa Holidays and WildWings and is based in Surrey.

He is a highly experienced wildlife guide and over the last 20 years has led tours to a wide variety of destinations around the world including Antarctica, the Russian Far East, Brazilian Amazon, Mexico, New Zealand subantarctic islands and the West and Central Pacific.

Working with Regina Ribeiro, Chris has led all our previous Amazon cruises and our 2024 departure will be the third time he has guided this itinerary.

Regina Ribeiro is a Brazilian wildlife guide who has been guiding for over 20 years and has worked with *WildWings* since 2004.

She has led to trips to many places in the Atlantic Rainforest, Pantanal and Amazon often focusing on showing clients sought after mammals such as Jaguar, Ocelot, Giant Armadillo, Giant Anteater, Giant Otter, Maned Wolf and Brazilian Tapir and has co-led the Remote Amazon and Primates and Parrots trips with Chris Collins since 2015.

Besides her native language, Portuguese, Regina is also fluent in English and Spanish.

Financial Security

WildWings (which is a division of Birds and Wildlife Limited) has financial failure insurance provided by Travel Vault which fully protects you should Birds and Wildlife Limited cease trading.

All passenger bookings are fully insured including the initial deposit and balance payments. The policy also includes repatriation, arising from the cancellation or curtailment of your travel arrangements in the unlikely event of the insolvency of Birds and Wildlife Limited.

For full details please see <https://wildwings.co.uk/about/financial-protection/>

How to book

Check availability on our website or with our office. We are happy to hold a provisional reservation for up to 7 days. After this, we require a booking form and deposit to confirm your place on a tour.

Book online, by phone or by post

You can book and pay the deposit simply and securely via our website using the “Book this Tour” button on the relevant tour page. Telephone bookings must be confirmed in writing by completion of a booking form (available to download from our website) and emailed or posted to us.

Please be sure to read our booking conditions and general information prior to booking. Links to this can be found from the footer on every page of our website.

When to book

Early booking is advised as all our tours have small group sizes and so they can fill very quickly; indeed, occasionally this can happen before we have even uploaded details to the website.

The number of single rooms is sometimes limited, and these are often taken quickly so we encourage you to plan ahead if you would like one.

When a trip becomes a ‘guaranteed departure’ early on, this also means that everyone can book flights which is advantageous for all.

Last-minute bookings

We inevitably receive a few unexpected cancellations over the course of a season, so it is always worth enquiring about availability on any tour – even at short notice.

Payments

- **Deposit:** the amount of booking deposit per person is shown alongside every tour. We accept deposit payments by electronic bank transfer (please ask for our bank details), UK debit/credit cards and cheques (made payable to *Birds and Wildlife Ltd* and drawn on a UK bank in GB£ sterling)
- **Balance:** full payment of the tour balance is due no later than 12 weeks prior to departure or 20 weeks in the case of certain tours and cruises. We will send you an invoice before the balance is due. We accept payments of balances by electronic bank transfer or cheque.
- **Payment by overseas customers:** These must be in GB£ Sterling and made by electronic bank transfer (please ask for our bank details).
- We do not accept cheques on US banks in US\$ or cheques in Euros or Eurocheque. For customers living outside of the UK and the European Economic Area, we can accept balance payments by Visa and MasterCard credit cards but with an additional charge of 3% to help offset credit card company charges.

Late booking payments: for us to guarantee hotel rooms etc, full payment is required at the time of booking (ie bookings made within 12 weeks of departure).

Passports and Visas

For UK passport holders your passport must be valid for at least 6 months beyond the last day of the tour.

Current entry requirements for UK citizens travelling abroad can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice>

Health and Vaccinations

For full and up to date information on vaccines visit <https://travelhealthpro.org.uk/countries> and select your destination country.

General information on travel vaccinations and a travel health checklist is also available on the NHS 'Fit for Travel' website. You may then wish to contact your health adviser or pharmacy for advice on other preventive measures and managing any pre-existing medical conditions while you are abroad.

Your safety and travel advice

An unavoidable aspect of travelling abroad is the risk it may pose to your safety and security. The best advice on current risks is provided by the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO).

To assess and protect against any risks in your chosen destination, we strongly advise that you refer to the relevant FCDO travel advice both prior to booking and regularly before you travel. This information can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice>.

"Travel aware" is a travel safety campaign run by the FCDO and another useful resource and details can be found at <https://travelaware.campaign.gov.uk>.

Travel Insurance

Good travel insurance is essential before setting off on any overseas trip. In common with all responsible tour operators, it is a condition of booking that all clients are fully and adequately insured before travelling with us.

Be aware that some destinations may require you to produce proof of comprehensive travel insurance (e.g., a valid insurance certificate) at Immigration on arrival in the country, so you should carry your documentation with you.

Your travel insurance should cover against cancellation, curtailment, missed departure, delay, personal accident, death, loss of baggage and valuables (see note below), personal liability and legal expenses.

Most importantly, your insurance must cover you fully in respect of medical care and repatriation should you become too ill to continue with the tour, including the cost of emergency evacuation by helicopter or air ambulance should this be necessary.

Note that passenger liability insurance covering the transportation that we hire, particularly in less developed countries, may be inadequate; it is, therefore important that your insurance cover includes sufficient provision for your dependents in the event of an accident.

We recommend that you obtain travel insurance as soon as possible after booking your holiday to ensure you are fully protected in the event of unexpected cancellation prior to departure. You must inform your insurers of any pre-existing medical conditions (including those of persons not necessarily travelling but upon whom your holiday may depend) that may require treatment during a period of overseas travel or might cause you to cancel the trip.

Once you have arranged your insurance, please be sure to send us the following essential details: name and contact details of your insurance provider, your policy number, expiry date and your insurers 24hr emergency assistance number.

Important things to note about insurance

Travel insurance does not normally provide sufficient cover for valuable optical equipment, which is often best protected under your own household insurance policy. If in doubt, ask your insurers for advice prior to travel.

Most travel insurance policies limit the amount of cover, typically up to a maximum tour cost of £5000 per person. If the tour you are booking exceeds this amount, additional cover can usually be provided upon payment of an additional premium. We recommend all travellers check their individual policy limit to ensure the full cost of their holiday is covered.

Arranging your insurance

Due to UK government legislation, we are not allowed to offer or recommend travel related insurance. Premiums can vary widely according to your age, needs, health, choice of destination and other factors, while many people nowadays have annual travel insurance cover.

General Information

www.wildwings.co.uk

Our website gives easy access to detailed tour itineraries (tour info packs), trip reports, trip photos and the latest Limosa News.

Special diets and other requests

We pass on all such requests to the hotels and other suppliers, and do our best to ensure (but, of course, cannot guarantee) that your needs will be met. Please be sure to tell us about these (in as much detail as possible) at the time of booking, to allow good time to make the necessary arrangements.

Smoking and vaping

Almost all our clients prefer a smoke-free environment. For the enjoyment and comfort of all, we ask that smokers refrain from smoking in proximity to the group and respect our no smoking policy in the vehicle, at mealtimes and when watching wildlife.

Any questions?

If you have any questions, please email us at tours@wildwings.co.uk or call the office and we will do our best to assist you.

Our office is open 09:00-17:00 Monday to Friday. In the event we are unable to take your call, please leave a message on our answerphone (24 hrs) and we will contact you as soon as we can.

Thank you for your interest in our tours. We do hope that you will be able to join us.