

BRAZIL: HARPY EAGLE & SOUTHERN AMAZON EXTENSION

JULY 24-31, 2022

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Harpy Eagle, SouthWild Amazon © Jeri Langham

For many, seeing a Harpy Eagle is the top avian prize of a trip to the Neotropics. Regal in its bearing and a symbol of unspoiled nature, the Harpy ranks with the Jaguar as South America's ultimate predators.

On this new trip to west-central Brazil, we'll spend four days on the southern edge of the Amazon Basin seeking the rarely encountered Harpy Eagle and a range of wonderful rainforest birds and mammals. The centerpiece of the trip is a four-night stay at the new SouthWild Amazon Lodge, located within the confines of a 6,000-acre private forest reserve. The lodge owner, Dr. Charles Munn, and his associates have dedicated an extraordinary amount of time working with local landowners to

identify locations of Harpy Eagle nests. It is through their efforts that we have a very good chance to see a Harpy at one of the known nest-sites. Although success can never be guaranteed, we feel this opportunity to see a Harpy Eagle is among the best we've ever offered.

Beyond Harpy Eagles, this trip will be one of spectacles in which participants will see amazing things, such as trees full of macaws of several species, an array of seldom seen rainforest mammals at close range including South American Tapir and Woolly Monkey, and a gorgeous jungle river—the Rio Juruena—that teems with birdlife.

The SouthWild Amazon Lodge is a new facility that offers spacious air-conditioned rooms, good



food, and access to nearby habitats that include virgin primary forest, second-growth woodland, and reforested pastureland. In close proximity flows the Rio Juruena, a glorious blackwater river almost entirely devoid of human activity. We will have three full days here to enjoy an exciting mix of excursions that include birding amid different forest types, morning and afternoon boat trips on the river, and ascending a canopy tower to view birds of the treetops. Among the birds we'll seek are a range of widely occurring species and others more local in distribution, such as Razor-billed Curassow, Blackish Nightjar, Hoatzin, Black-girdled Barbet, Red-necked Aracari, Scarlet and Blue-and-yellow macaws, Red-necked Woodpecker, Flame-crowned Manakin, Amazonian Umbrellabird, Pompadour Cotinga, Black-collared Swallow, Paradise Tanager, and a bounty of kingfishers, woodpeckers, antbirds, flycatchers, and more.

This trip may be taken as an extension to our July 13-25, 2022 Brazil: Pantanal Safari or enjoyed as a short stand-alone departure.

July 24, Day 1: Flight to Alta Floresta; Transfer to Nova Bandeirantes (or Nearby Town). Those taking this tour as an extension to our July 13-25, 2022 Brazil: Pantanal Safari will have spent the night of July 23 at Pousada Piuval near the town of Poconé. Early today we will return to Cuiabá in time for a mid-morning flight to Alta Floresta, a small city in northern Mato Grosso state and the jump-off point for the southern Amazon region.

Those joining this trip as a stand-alone departure should spend the night of July 23 at a hotel in Cuiabá and meet the group on July 24 at the Cuiabá airport in time for the flight to Alta Floresta. The VENT office will assist with these arrangements.

Upon arrival in Alta Floresta we will be met by our ground operator who will escort us to our transportation.

At this point, our travels will be based around seeing a Harpy Eagle. The area between Alta Floresta and the SouthWild Amazon Lodge, located about four hours to the west, is known to host a number of Harpy Eagle nests.

The particular nest we visit will be determined by our host, Dr. Charles Munn, prior to our arrival in Alta Floresta. The decision will take into account a number of variables that include distance from our accommodations, age of the chick, whether adult birds are in attendance, ease of access, weather, and timing.

Departing Alta Floresta, the tentative plan is to travel west toward the rural town of Nova Bandeirantes, a trip that will take us across a stretch of the Brazilian interior characterized by forest patches, agricultural lands, and pasturelands. Regarding our activities this afternoon, flexibility is key. Options for the remainder of the day might include deviating from the highway to visit an eagle nest, visiting a macaw roost-site before spending the night in Nova Bandeirantes, or continuing all the way to the SouthWild Amazon Lodge, located twenty-four miles east of the town of Cotriguacu.

NIGHT: SouthWild Amazon Lodge, Cotriguacu or
Hotel Bandeirantes, Nova Bandeirantes

July 25-28, Days 2-5: SouthWild Amazon Lodge and the Rio Juruena. Our activities on the morning of Day 2 will be determined by our whereabouts. Should we have overnighted in Nova Bandeirantes, we'll complete the trip to SouthWild Amazon Lodge this morning, arriving in time for lunch. Should we have arrived at the lodge on the previous evening, we'll spend a morning around the clearing of the lodge complex familiarizing ourselves with our new surroundings and enjoying many of the common area birds.

Newly opened in 2019, the SouthWild Amazon Lodge is a multi-use facility located amid a 6,000-acre forest preserve owned by the French government as part of an international commitment to conserving the forests of the Amazon (now in question due to the practices of the current administration). Much of the habitat within the property consists of virgin primary forest while the greater area holds a mosaic of other habitats including second growth woodland, pastureland, forest-ringed wetlands, and the nearby Rio Juruena. We will have three full days and part of another to explore the lodge precincts and the surrounding habitats. Our activities will center on attempting to see a Harpy Eagle if we have not already seen the bird prior to our arrival at the lodge, but our visit allows for plenty of time to seek many of the other birds and mammals that are found here.

Following is an overview of the primary locations to which our field excursions will occur:

The Lodge: Constructed in a clearing on the edge of the forest, the lodge complex is the site of most of the human activity in the area. Right around our lodging accommodations and the restaurant, we are likely to find a number of species associated with edge-type habitat, which makes for an easy introduction to the birds of the area. Merely stepping outside of our rooms will yield a fine array of birds that includes Southern Lapwing, Guira Cuckoo, Pale-vented Pigeon, Reddish Hermit, Black-throated Mango, White-eyed Parakeet, Fork-tailed Palm-Swift, Streaked Flycatcher, Yellow-rumped Cacique, White-lined and Silver-beaked tanagers, and Grassland Sparrow to name a few.



Silver-beaked Tanager © David Ascanio

Harpy Eagle Viewing: Dr. Munn, his team of guides, and other contacts work assiduously to locate Harpy Eagle nests both inside and outside the forest preserve. If we have not already seen a Harpy prior to arriving at the lodge, we will visit a known nest-site somewhere in the greater area. The nest could be as close as fifteen minutes from the lodge or it could lie an hour away. We simply won't know how we'll approach this endeavor until right before the trip commences. Depending on the location of the nest-site that we ultimately visit, we'll have an opportunity to view the nest from the ground level, at the very least. Even better, we may be able to view the nest at eye level from atop a viewing platform constructed an appropriate distance away to avoid disturbance.

The Forest: Stretching away from the lodge in all directions is a variety of forest-types, ranging from mature rainforest to regenerating pastureland. Mixed in are an assortment of edge-type habitats, granite outcrops, and two small forest-rimmed lakes. We will sample as many of these areas as we have time for in order to gain a fuller appreciation for the diversity of the southern Amazon region. Our excursions should yield encounters with birds of the upper, middle, and lower canopies, a small sampling of which includes Black-tailed Trogon, Blackish Nightjar, Red-necked and Chestnut woodpeckers, Flame-crowned Manakin, White-fronted Nunbird, Plain-winged and Chestnut-backed antshrikes, Red-headed Manakin, Screaming Piha, Rufous-tailed Flatbill, and White-winged Shrike-Tanager. The late afternoon is the ideal time to be positioned at the edge of the forest to witness the sight of macaws going to roost. Along the lodge entrance road where it passes by a small lake that forms a break in the forest, we should enjoy superb views of Scarlet, Blue-and-yellow, Chestnut-fronted, and Red-bellied macaws as they pass overhead, dazzling in the late-day light and raucous in proclaiming their unharnessed wildness.

The Canopy Tower: Within twenty minutes of the lodge is a 24-meter (79-foot) high canopy tower. Solidly constructed and engineered to precision, the tower offers rare access to the forest canopy and a different world than what we experience at ground level. Standing atop a spacious platform, we'll scan the surrounding boughs and treetops for birds and animals otherwise invisible from the forest floor. We'll likely visit the canopy tower at least twice and our visits could yield special birds such as Spix's Guan, Red-throated Piping-Guan, Gray-



Harpy Eagle, juvenile; SouthWild Amazon © Jeri Langham



Pompadour Cotinga, male © Brooke Smith

headed Kite, Pompadour Cotinga, Black-fronted Nunbird, White-throated Toucan, White-necked Puffbird, Chestnut-eared Aracari, Red-stained Woodpecker, Rondonia Woodcreeper, Red-throated Caracara, Black-girdled Barbet, Paradise Jacamar, Paradise and Opal-rumped tanagers, and more. The canopy tower also presents outstanding opportunities to see Scarlet and Blue-and-yellow macaws passing by at eye level, an inspiring sight, for sure.

The Rio Juruena: One of the great pleasures of a stay at SouthWild Amazon Lodge is the opportunity to spend time on the Rio Juruena, an exceptionally beautiful tributary of the Amazon River, far to the north. Unlike many other rivers in the Amazon Basin, the Juruena—at least this part of it—is lightly impacted by the hand of man. Here, one does not see the riverside development, residential communities, or fleets of fishermen's canoes on either bank for miles up and down the river. One of the few signs of human habitation is the station for the auto passenger ferry, which itself is an unobtrusive presence.

Instead, the visitor is treated to a beautiful blackwater river, forested on both sides and



Hoatzin on the Rio Juruena © Jeri Langham

peppered with islands, small rapids, and granite outcrops, all of which serve to braid the river into myriad channels. We will experience the river on several occasions through morning and afternoon boat rides. Our explorations will take us several miles both upstream and downstream as we search for birds and other wildlife. Of the many dozens of birds possible on any given boat trip, we'll especially be on the watch for Sungrebe, Sunbittern, Razor-billed Curassow, Red-throated Piping-Guan, Slate-colored Hawk, Pied Lapwing, Greater Ani, Hoatzin, several species of kingfishers, Bare-necked Fruitcrow, Amazonian Umbrellabird, Varzea Schiffornis, Red-necked Aracari, Black-fronted Nunbird, Glossy Antshrike, Silvered Antbird, Amazonian Streaked-Antwren, Rusty-margined Flycatcher, Black-collared and White-banded swallows, Black-faced Dacnis, and Swallow Tanager. These boat trips—beautiful, peaceful, and evocative—are among the real highlights of the trip.

Mammals: A sign of an intact ecosystem in Amazonia is the presence of primates and large mammals. Both occur in relative abundance in the forests of SouthWild Amazon. Between our birding field trips, our time on the river, and perhaps a night outing or two, we have realistic chances to observe Southern Tamandua (Lesser Anteater), South American (Brazilian) Tapir, White-lipped Peccary, and primates such as Brown Capuchin, White-nosed Bearded Saki Monkey (Red-nosed Bearded Saki Monkey),



Brazilian Tapir, SouthWild Amazon © Arthur Keates

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Gray's Bald-faced Saki Monkey, and Common Woolly Monkey. Some of these animals have become quite rare elsewhere.

NIGHTS: SouthWild Amazon Lodge, Cotriguacu

July 29, Day 6: Return to Alta Floresta; Flight to Cuiabá. This morning we will say goodbye to the forest as we make our way back to Alta Floresta in time to catch a midday flight back to Cuiabá. Our arrival in Cuiabá will occur in the early afternoon. In order to avoid the stress of a misconnection, we will overnight in Cuiabá rather than attempt to fly all the way to São Paulo in time to connect with international flights home.

NIGHT: Hotel Fazenda Mato Grosso, Cuiabá

July 30-31, Days 7-8: Departure for Home. We'll have some time for morning birding before transferring to the Cuiabá airport in time for the 11:45 a.m. departure of GOL Flight 4743 to São Paulo's Guarulhos International Airport (code GRU), which is scheduled to arrive at 3:00 p.m., enabling connections with overnight flights to the USA which arrive on July 31, allowing time for homeward connections (flight schedules subject to change).

TOUR SIZE: This tour will be limited to 10 participants. However, VENT reserves the right to increase the tour limit by one in order to accommodate a couple when only one space is available.

TOUR LEADER: Jeri Langham with the assistance of local leaders



Jeri M. Langham has a Ph.D. in plant ecology from Washington State University, and after 38 years as a professor of biological sciences at California State University in Sacramento, retired in May 2008. He received the first Outstanding Teacher Award from the newly formed College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics in 1997; the Outstanding Faculty Award from the Science Educational Equity and Minority Organization of Science Students organizations in 2005; and his University's third annual Lifetime Achievement Award for Community Service in 2006. Jeri has ardently birded all over North America, as well as Mexico, Costa Rica, Panama, Venezuela, Ecuador, the Galapagos Islands, Peru, Brazil, Argentina, Kenya, South Africa, Borneo, and Australia. Born and raised in Venezuela, he speaks fluent Spanish. Known for his enthusiasm and boundless energy, Jeri thoroughly enjoys searching for birds and sharing them

with others. His passion for teaching and his natural teaching abilities soon become apparent as his tour participants enjoy learning more about the biological world around them. Jeri is a former member of the Bausch and Lomb Birding Council and the California Bird Records Committee. He is a Director for the Neotropical Grassland Conservancy.

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS: The fee for Brazil: Harpy Eagle & Southern Amazon Extension is **\$3,995** per person in double occupancy. This includes all food from lunch on Day 1 to breakfast on Day 7, all lodging during the tour, ground and water transportation during the tour, the roundtrip flights between Cuiabá & Alta Floresta and guide services provided by the tour leaders. It does not include airfare from your home to Cuiabá and return, internal Brazilian flights, airport departure taxes, alcoholic beverages, special gratuities, phone calls, laundry, or items of a personal nature. Rates are based upon group tariffs; if the tour does not have sufficient registration, a small-party supplement may be charged.

The single supplement for Brazil: Harpy Eagle & Southern Amazon Extension is **\$315**.

REGISTRATION & DEPOSIT: To register for this tour, please contact the VENT office. The deposit for this tour is **\$1,000** per person. If you would like to pay your deposit using a credit card, the deposit must be made with MasterCard or Visa at the time of registration. If you would like to pay your deposit by check, money order, or bank transfer, your tour space will be held for 10 days to allow time for the VENT office to receive your deposit

and completed registration form. The VENT registration form (available from the VENT office or by download at www.ventbird.com) should be completed, signed, and returned to the VENT office.

PAYMENTS: All tour payments may be made by credit card (MasterCard or Visa), check, money order, or bank transfer (contact the VENT office for bank transfer information). These include initial deposits, second deposits, interim payments, final balances, special arrangements, etc. Full payment of the tour fee is due 150 days prior to the tour departure date (February 24, 2022).

CANCELLATION & REFUNDS:

Cancellation by Participant:

Refunds, if any, for any cancellation by a participant are made according to the following schedule: If participant cancels 180 days or more before the tour departure date, a cancellation fee of **\$500** per person will be charged unless the deposit is transferred to a new registration for another VENT tour that will operate within the next 12 months, in which case the cancellation fee will be **\$100** per person. If cancellation is made between 179 and 151 days before departure date, the deposit is not refundable, but any payments covering the balance of the tour fee will be refunded. If cancellation is made fewer than 150 days before departure date, no refund is available. This policy and fee schedule also applies to pre- and post-tour extensions. **For participants' protection, we strongly recommend the purchase of travel insurance that covers trip cancellation/interruption.**

If participant cancels:

180 days or more before departure date

179 to 151 days before departure date

150 days or less before departure date

Participant's refund will be:

Participant's deposit minus \$500*

No refund of the deposit, but any payments on the balance of the tour fee will be refunded

No refund available

*Unless the deposit is transferred to a new registration for another VENT tour that will operate within the next 12 months, in which case the cancellation fee will be \$100 per person. To qualify, cancellation must occur 180 days or more before departure date; deposit transfers must be made at the time of cancellation; and one transfer per deposit.

Cancellation by VENT:

If VENT cancels a tour prior to departure without cause or good reason, VENT will provide the participant a full refund, which will constitute full settlement to the participant.

If VENT cancels or delays a tour or any portion of a tour as a result of any Force Majeure event, VENT will use its reasonable best efforts to refund any payments on the balance of the tour fee to participant; provided that, VENT will have no obligation to provide a participant with a refund and will not be liable or responsible to a participant, nor be deemed to have defaulted under or breached any applicable agreement, for any failure or delay in fulfilling or performing any term of such agreement. A "**Force Majeure**" event means any act beyond VENT's control, including, without limitation, the following: (a) acts of God; (b) flood, fire, earthquake, hurricane, epidemic, pandemic or explosion; (c) war, invasion, hostilities (whether war is declared or not), terrorist threats or acts, riot or other civil unrest; (d) government order, law or actions; (e) embargoes or blockades; (f) national or regional emergency; (g) strikes, labor stoppages, labor slowdowns or other industrial disturbances; (h) shortage of adequate power or transportation facilities; and (i) any other similar events or circumstances beyond the control of VENT.

This VENT Cancellation & Refunds policy does not apply to air tickets purchased through VENT or to any special arrangements, such as additional hotel nights, that fall outside of the services described in the tour itinerary.

Victor Emanuel Nature Tours is not a participant in the California Travel Consumer Restitution Fund. California law requires certain sellers of travel to have a trust account or bond. This business has a bond issued by Travelers in the amount of \$50,000. CST #2014998-50.

EXCHANGE RATE SURCHARGES: In the erratic global financial markets of today, it is difficult to predict foreign currency exchange rates over the long term or at the time of operation of a tour or cruise departure. Tour prices are based upon the rate of exchange at the time of itinerary publication. If exchange rates change drastically, it may be necessary to implement a surcharge. If a surcharge is necessary, every effort will be made to minimize the amount. In many cases, these additional foreign exchange rate surcharges are passed to VENT by its vendors and suppliers.

FUEL AND FUEL SURCHARGES: In the uncertain, often volatile oil market of late, it is difficult – if not impossible – to predict fuel costs over the long term, and more specifically, at the time of operation of this departure. Our prices are based upon the prevailing fuel rates at the time of itinerary publication. While we will do everything possible to maintain our prices, if the fuel rates increase significantly, it may be necessary to institute a fuel surcharge.

TRAVEL INSURANCE: To safeguard against losses due to illness, accident, or other unforeseen circumstances, we strongly recommend the purchase of travel insurance as soon as possible after making a deposit. VENT has partnered with Redpoint Travel Protection as our preferred travel insurance provider. Through Redpoint, we recommend their **Ripcord** plan. Designed for all types of travelers, Ripcord is among the most comprehensive travel protection programs available.

Critical benefits of Ripcord include a completely integrated program with a single contact for emergency services, travel assistance, and insurance claims; **medical evacuation and rescue services** from your point of injury or illness to your **hospital of choice**; comprehensive travel insurance for **trip cancellation/interruption**, primary medical expense coverage, and much more. Optional expanded insurance coverage is available and includes items such as security evacuation coverage in case of a natural disaster or other security events, **waiver for pre-existing medical conditions exclusion**, and a “**Cancel for Any Reason**” benefit. Ripcord is available to U.S. and non-U.S. residents.*

For a price quote, or to purchase travel insurance, please visit: ripcordtravelprotection.com/ventbird; or click the **Ripcord** logo on our website (click Help and Trip Insurance); or call +1-415-481-0600. Pricing is based on age, trip cost, trip length, and level of coverage.

*To be eligible for the pre-existing medical condition exclusion waiver and the optional Cancel for Any Reason (CFAR) upgrade, you must purchase your policy within 14 days of making your tour deposit. The CFAR benefit provides reimbursement for 75% of covered costs, and increases the policy premium by approximately 50%. Policies may be purchased either for the full value of the tour fee at the time of deposit or in segments as individual tour payments are made (deposit, mid-payment, final balance, additional arrangements, etc.). The “pay as you go” approach reduces up-front expense and ensures that the amount paid toward your full policy premium is in proportion to the amount paid toward the full tour fee. If you choose to “pay as you go,” you must cover each deposit or payment within 14 days in order to maintain the CFAR benefit. The primary medical expense benefit is available to U.S. residents only. For this reason, non-U.S. residents will pay an adjusted premium when purchasing a comprehensive policy, which includes all of the other benefits available to U.S. residents. Please refer to the policy for a full description of coverage.

Coronavirus (COVID-19):

The coronavirus pandemic has brought uncertainty for many people currently holding travel insurance policies or who are considering future travel and purchasing such insurance. Redpoint has added a Coronavirus FAQ page to its website that addresses questions and concerns regarding its travel insurance and the impact of COVID-19. We strongly recommend that you visit the page for an overview of topics such as policy coverage and limitations, policy modifications, cancellation, refunds, and more. Among the most important points: 1) Trip cancellation solely for concern or fear of travel associated with COVID-19 is not covered; 2) Should you request cancellation of your policy, a full refund of your premium is available only under a limited set of conditions; and 3) Should you request cancellation, you may be eligible to receive a pro-rated refund of the unused portion of your premium

or a travel insurance credit. Travel insurance credit (“Premium Credit”) is for the value of the policy purchased and may be applied to future policies. Premium Credits have no expiration dates. Rules and regulations apply.

Please visit the Coronavirus FAQ page at the following link: https://redpointtravelprotection.com/covid_19_faq/

Additionally, as countries begin opening up for travel, many are instituting an array of COVID-19 entry requirements, including mandates to purchase travel insurance covering medical expenses due to COVID-19 Illness and accommodation in case of quarantine. Ripcord’s comprehensive travel insurance plans are designed to satisfy the various country-specific travel insurance entry requirements. Those who purchase a Ripcord policy will receive a “letter of confirmation” that affirms that the policy satisfies such requirements.

AIR INFORMATION: Victor Emanuel Travel is a full-service travel agency and wholly owned subsidiary of Victor Emanuel Nature Tours (VENT). Victor Emanuel Travel will be happy to make any domestic or international air travel arrangements from your home and return. Please feel free to call the VENT office to confirm your air arrangements. ***Please be sure to check with the VENT office prior to purchasing your air ticket to confirm that the tour is sufficiently subscribed to operate. VENT cannot be responsible for any air ticket penalties.***

BAGGAGE: The airlines now strictly enforce baggage regulations. Excess baggage charges, which can be substantial, are the personal responsibility of each participant. As a precaution against lost luggage, we suggest that you pack a change of clothes, essential toiletries, medications, important travel documents, optics, and any other essential items in your carry-on bag. Please consult your airline to find out specific weight restrictions.

Due to ever-changing circumstances in the government’s attempts to improve airport security we recommend that you check the websites of your airline and the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) for the most updated information regarding checked baggage and carry-on items: <http://www.tsa.gov/>.

CLIMATE & WEATHER: This trip will operate in a winter month in the Southern Hemisphere, a time of the year marked by mostly dry conditions and lower chances for rain. Expect the weather to be warm-to-hot and humid. We will always take breaks during the hottest times of the day. Normal daytime temperatures in the Amazonian lowlands average from 80-90°F, with pleasant nighttime lows down to 70 degrees. Although unlikely, a cold front from the south could bring overcast skies, cooler temperatures, and periods of rain. As this is the Amazon, even the “dry” time of the year can be wet.

CLOTHING: Lightweight field clothing is the rule. Several pairs of pants and shorts and comfortable shirts will be appropriate. Although shorts and short-sleeved shirts are appropriate for evenings and mid-day breaks around the lodge, we recommend trousers and long-sleeved shirts for wear in the field. Outdoor stores such as Cabela’s and REI carry field clothing that many birders find appealing. Pants and shirts made of lightweight, yet durable, materials with multiple pockets and ventilated seams are popular and more reasonably priced than in the past. A hat is recommended for protection from the sun. One set of warmer clothing (sweater, fleece or lightweight jacket) should be included in the event, however unlikely, of a cold front reaching the region. A waterproof jacket or parka is recommended in case we experience rain.

FOOTWEAR: A lightweight hiking boot or trail shoe is appropriate footwear for all birding outings. You may also prefer sandals and/or athletic shoes for our down times, such as when we’re spending time around the lodge.

LAUNDRY SERVICE: Laundry service is available at the SouthWild Amazon Lodge for an extra charge.

CONDITIONS: Our visit to the southern Amazon region begins with a scheduled flight from Cuiabá north to Alta Floresta (flying time about one hour). Upon arrival, and for the duration of the trip thereafter, our transportation means will likely include a variety of vehicle types suited for asphalt, dirt, and gravel. This may include travel by small bus, vans, or 4x4 trucks.

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Day 1 of the itinerary lists the night spent either in the town of Nova Bandeirantes or at SouthWild Amazon Lodge. We intentionally keep our plans for this afternoon flexible if it turns out that the best Harpy Eagle viewing opportunity is near Nova Bandeirantes and not at SouthWild Amazon Lodge. The location of our accommodations for this first night will be determined a couple of weeks prior to the start of the trip.

Harpy Eagle Viewing: We will visit a known nest-site of a Harpy Eagle, which could be located anywhere between Alta Floresta and the SouthWild Amazon Lodge. The particular nest-site we visit will be determined by a number of factors that include location, ease of access, likelihood of seeing a young eagle, likelihood of seeing an adult eagle, weather conditions, and timing. Harpy Eagles nest throughout the year, which means that the species overall is in different stages of chick rearing at all times. Following is the nesting cycle of the Harpy Eagle:

Months 1-2: Nest preparation and maintenance

Months 3-4: Egg incubation

Month 5-first half of month 6: Chick hatches; mother bird is in constant attendance caring for and protecting the chick through its first six weeks of life

Month 6 (second half)-month 9 (chick 1 ½ -5 months old): Chick grows, with parents visiting the nest from 5-60 minutes once every 2-3 days only

Months 9-12 (juvenile 5-8 months old): Chick becomes a juvenile; bird reaches full adult size and is flying, but hangs around the nest tree for most of the day; occasionally uses other trees in the area

Months 13-20: Juvenile bird still hangs around the nest tree but forays further and further afield

It goes without saying that everyone who seeks a Harpy Eagle wants to see an adult bird. We will do our best. Ideally, we'll visit a nest-site that gives us the best chance of seeing an adult, when it is tending a nest that contains a chick in its first six weeks of life. However, because this period in the chick-rearing cycle is so short, this is not something that can be expected nor counted on. At the least, we'll likely visit a nest-site with a juvenile bird (5-8 months old). If this is the case, we'll hope that the adult eagle makes one of its infrequent visits to the nest while we are on site. Ultimately, because seeing a Harpy Eagle in general is the top objective of our trip, we will visit the nest-site that gives us the best chance of accomplishing our goal.

Regardless of the nest-site we visit, we will be able to see the bird and the nest from the ground. Depending on the specific site we visit, we may have the opportunity to view the bird at eye-level. If the eagle nest is at SouthWild Amazon, we'll have the option to ascend an engineered staircase that leads to a viewing platform amid the forest canopy. The platform will be big enough to host the full group. Should we visit a nest-site away from SouthWild Amazon, such as one closer to Nova Bandeirantes or Alta Floresta, we will be able to view the nest-site from the ground, but with the possibility of ascending a tower via ropes and harness. In the latter case, the rope/harness system is operated by Dr. Munn's team and involves group members being hoisted one by one manually up to an elevated viewing platform in the forest canopy. This method is safe, but slow, and always optional. Some people appreciate the opportunity while others are not interested.

SouthWild Amazon Lodge: The SouthWild Amazon Lodge is the newest member of SouthWild's system of lodges and encampments. Constructed within the boundaries of a private forest reserve, the lodge is part of a multi-use facility. The guest rooms are spacious and comfortable and feature hot and cold water, full plumbing, and air conditioning. The guest rooms are immediately adjacent to the dining room where meals are served buffet style and feature an array of Brazilian cuisine. The quality of the food is good to very good, but not excellent.

Canopy Tower: A canopy tower sits on the property. The tower is 24m (76 ft.) tall and is precision engineered to provide visitors a stable and safe experience. The tower is custom constructed of steel and is anchored to the ground by a series of guy wires. We will make at least two visits to the tower. This said, we are aware that some people are bothered by heights. Although the trip up the tower offers a unique experience, we emphasize that the activity is entirely optional.

Walking Conditions: Our excursions on foot will occur mainly on established roads and trails. We will not rule out the possibility of a forest walk over a recently opened trail via machete. That said, no one will be asked or expected to participate in any physical demands that exceed their capabilities.

Rio Juruena: We will make two or three boat trips on the Rio Juruena, a lovely blackwater river. Our method of transport will be by small, motorized craft. The boats are safe and contain life preserver vests.

EQUIPMENT: One of the most important aspects of having an enjoyable travel experience is being prepared with proper equipment. The following items will come in handy during your trip to Brazil:

- Daypack – good for carrying extra clothing, field guides, supplies, and optical equipment
- Notebooks and pens
- Travel alarm clock
- Flashlight and/or headlamp
- Polarized sunglasses with good UV protection
- Sunglasses, sunscreen, lip balm, skin lotions
- Personal toiletries
- Cameras, lenses, memory cards, and extra batteries
- Collapsible walking stick – a highly recommended item for those who have trouble walking
- Folding stool – the light, portable types are recommended for those who have trouble standing for more than 10 or 15 minutes at a time
- Water bottle
- Tissue packs

BINOCULARS & SPOTTING SCOPES:

Binoculars – We strongly recommend a good binocular of either 7x42, 8x32, 8x42, 8.5x42 or 10x42 magnification. We recommend that you do NOT bring a mini-binocular of any kind. Some people like “minis” because they are small and lightweight, but they have an extremely small field of view and very poor light-gathering power. Trying to find a bird with your binocular using minis is like trying to read a book through a keyhole. You will be very frustrated, and even if you do manage to get the bird in your binocular before it flies, you will have a poor view. You will find that 7x, 8x, or 10x binoculars are compact and light enough.

Spotting Scopes – Your tour leader will have a scope available for group use throughout the trip, but if you have one and wish to bring it, please feel free to do so.

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS: A passport valid for the duration of your visit is required to enter Brazil. Visas are no longer required for United States and Canadian citizens. Non-U.S. citizens should check with their local Brazilian consulate or embassy for instructions.

Please check the expiration date on your passport. **If it is not valid over the duration of your visit, you will need to get it renewed.** You will also want to make sure that you have at least two blank pages in your passport for stamps.

If you need a passport, you should get it well in advance of your trip departure date. For additional fees, a passport can be issued on an expedited basis. In the United States this can be done at the nearest passport office, most post offices, or the county clerk's office. You may also visit www.state.gov/travel/ for information on how to get or renew a passport.

As a safety measure, photocopy the first two pages of your passport. Keep the photocopies in a safe place, so if your passport is lost you will have proof of identification. Your passport should be signed and easily available at all times. You will need it for check-in at the airport on your first day of departure, so **do not pack it in your checked luggage.**

CURRENCY & MONEY MATTERS: Your trip to the southern Amazon includes all necessary expenses. As there are no opportunities for shopping or other culturally based activities, there will be no need to obtain local currency specifically for this trip. However, should you extend your time in Brazil beyond what is offered in the program, you'll want to obtain local currency. Please check with your bank and credit card issuer for more information regarding banking and the use of ATM and credit cards overseas.

The official currency of Brazil is the Brazilian Real (BRL). You can check the latest currency conversion rate by visiting "XE-The World's Favorite Currency Site" at <http://www.xe.com/>.

ELECTRICITY: The electrical current in Brazil ranges from 110V to 220V, depending on the region of the country. Electrical outlets are one of four standard socket types: "A," "B," "C," and "N." The "A" and "C" types are similar; both are ungrounded and receive two-pronged plugs. The "A" plug is outfitted with two parallel blades, and the "C" plug is equipped with pins instead of blades. Many outlets in Brazil are a hybrid between the two types and accept either plug. The "B" type socket is the American 3-prong style and is less common. The "N" plug is something like the "C" plug but with a third pin added as a ground. The lodge at SouthWild Amazon provides guests with plug adapters to accommodate American-style plugs. Still, if you have concerns, you should consider bringing a set of plug adapters (available at a wide range of stores, including most airport terminal gift shops that sell travel accessories). An electrical current converter may be required as well. Please check the adaptability of your electronics and electrical appliances to verify your needs.

INTERNET: Free Wi-Fi is available at the lodge, but mainly in the main dining room area.

LANGUAGE: Portuguese is the official language of Brazil. English is spoken here and there but certainly not commonly.

TIME: The Alta Floresta region of Brazil is on Amazon Time (AMT) and is on the same time zone as Eastern Daylight Time (EDT).

HEALTH: VENT follows Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations for standard travel precautions, which includes vaccination against a variety of preventable diseases. Among these so-called Routine Vaccinations are measles/mumps/rubella (MMR) vaccine, diphtheria/pertussis/tetanus (DPT) vaccine, poliovirus vaccine (boosters for adult travelers), and Varicella (Chickenpox). You should also be up-to-date with Hepatitis A and Hepatitis B vaccinations.

If you are taking personal medication, prescription or over-the-counter, be sure to bring an ample supply that will allow you to get through the tour safely. Please consult your physician as necessary. Remember to pack all medication in your carry-on baggage, preferably in original containers or packaging. As airline baggage restrictions can change without warning, please check with your airline for procedures for packing medication.

COVID-19: The world has been in the grip of a pandemic since early 2020, a result of the uncontrolled spread of SARS-CoV-2, the novel coronavirus that causes the illness COVID-19. COVID-19 is transmitted through person-to-person contact, almost always through inhaling respiratory aerosols or droplets exuded from an infected person. Common signs of COVID-19 illness include fever or chills, fatigue, shortness of breath, cough, loss of taste or smell, and more. Based on what is known about the disease, COVID-19 is far more serious than seasonal flu. Few places in the world have been unaffected. The impact on travel has been substantial, as demonstrated by the fact that VENT did not operate a tour between late March 2020 and late April 2021. The development and deployment of COVID-19 vaccines, particularly in the United States, has allowed VENT to return to tour operations. We emphasize that our number one priority is the health and safety of our customers and employees. **With this in mind, VENT instituted a COVID-19 vaccination requirement.** All tour participants and tour leaders must be fully vaccinated in order to travel with us while we are still in a declared public health emergency. In accordance with the latest guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), full vaccination is defined as an individual being 14 days beyond having received the required amount of vaccine for reaching full immunity to the degree specific vaccines confer. In the United States, so far, this means either the two-shot sequence for the

Moderna or Pfizer vaccines or the one-shot Johnson & Johnson vaccine. Proof of vaccination must be provided to our office at least one week before the start of the tour and kept with you while on the tour. Because the world is a very different place than it was before the pandemic, we've made a number of important adjustments to our processes to ensure that our tours can operate as safely as possible. Please visit the **Coronavirus Travel Update** page of our website <https://ventbird.com/covid-19>, where you may view our **COVID-19 Protocols for VENT Tours** document, which details the guidance VENT will follow in the operation of its tours in the time of pandemic. Our decision and policy are firmly rooted in the latest CDC guidance regarding recommendations for avoiding COVID-19. As we move forward, VENT will continue to follow the latest information from the CDC and will update our policy accordingly. Please visit the CDC website for the most up to date information about COVID-19 and associated guidance for proper health and hygiene: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>.

As of this writing (November 2021), a negative result from RT-PCR COVID-19 test taken within 72 hours of departure is required for entry into Brazil.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends vaccination against a variety of preventable diseases, including the so-called **Routine Vaccinations** (if you are not up-to-date), which are measles/mumps/rubella (MMR) vaccine; diphtheria/pertussis/tetanus (DPT) vaccine; and poliovirus vaccine (boosters for adult travelers who have received a primary series with either inactivated poliovirus vaccine (IPV) or oral polio vaccine (OPV); they should receive another dose of IPV before departure). You should also be up-to-date with your hepatitis A and hepatitis B vaccinations.

Yellow fever vaccination is highly recommended for most individuals. Some individuals may have medical conditions for which vaccination is contraindicated.

Malaria has been confirmed in Brazil, including the chloroquine-resistant strain, but is highly unlikely on this tour. We suggest that participants consult their physician as well as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for current recommendations before beginning a prophylaxis regimen.

Cholera has been reported in Brazil but is highly unlikely to be contracted anywhere along our route. No country requires cholera vaccination for direct travel from the USA and no vaccinations are required to return to the USA. Please consult your physician for any recommended preventative treatment.

Two mosquito-borne diseases, **Dengue** and **Zika**, occur in Brazil, but we believe the risk to VENT travelers is extremely low. These diseases are mosquito-borne infections transmitted by mosquitos of the genus *Aedes*, and are related to other tropical diseases: Yellow Fever, West Nile virus, and Chikungunya. This type of mosquito bites during the day and typically is found in areas of dense human habitation where sanitation and drainage of standing water is poor. We will not be in such areas.

Your safety is our highest priority, and we want to emphasize that the best way to avoid mosquito-borne diseases is to take appropriate precautions in avoiding mosquito bites:

- Stay informed about these diseases and recent outbreaks (There is currently an outbreak of Dengue in Brazil, but again not in the areas we visit)
- Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants, socks and shoes, and a hat
- Use effective insect repellents (those containing DEET) and reapply regularly

Sun Exposure is always a concern. The sun's ultraviolet rays are dangerous under prolonged exposure (sometimes only a matter of minutes). Anytime you are outdoors you will want to protect your skin, including your lips, eyes, nose, and ears. A severe sunburn is potentially very painful and will affect your level of enjoyment. Please be sure to bring an ample supply of high SPF sunscreen and lip balm. We strongly recommend the use of ultra-violet blocking, polarized sunglasses.

Insect Repellents – There are insect repellents for the skin and an insect repellent used to treat clothing that should not be applied to the skin.

Insect repellents for the skin are commonly available in three forms:

- DEET (N,N-diethyl-meta-toluamide): A chemical compound that is marketed under various brand names (OFF!®, Cutter™, Ultrathon™, etc.) and offered in a variety of formulations including sprays, lotions, time-release preparations, and disposable wipes. The formulations will state a percentage of the active ingredient DEET on the packaging. DEET may be applied to exposed skin directly and/or sprayed on clothing. Please be careful when applying DEET as it can damage plastics and lens coatings.
- Picaridin: A synthetic formulation that is derived from piperine, a substance found in plants that produce black pepper.
- Herbal insect repellents: Various mixtures of organic ingredients such as oils from eucalyptus, citronella, cedar, and other herbs. The herbal repellents are more difficult to categorize because of the difference in ingredients from one brand to another. There is considerable variation in their effectiveness.

An insect repellent for clothing is marketed in one approved formulation:

- Permanone® (Permethrin) is an odorless spray-on repellent that may be used for **pre-treatment** of clothing, gear, and tents. It should not be used directly on the skin or sprayed on clothing while it is being worn. The pre-treatment process requires a number of hours to complete and must be done outdoors, so is best completed in advance of travel. Do-it-yourself pre-treatment has to be repeated more often than commercial treatment using Insect Shield® technology. It is available at various outdoor stores and can easily be found online.
- Insect Shield® apparel: Clothing pre-treated with Permanone is made by a variety of manufacturers. It is available for purchase from some sporting goods suppliers. The clothing is advertised as retaining its repellency for up to 70 washings.

The US EPA offers a search tool to help choose a repellent that is best for a particular situation. For example, some repellents work for mosquitoes, but not for ticks.

<https://www.epa.gov/insect-repellents/which-insect-repellent-right-you>

In addition to your physician, a good source of general health information for travelers is the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta, which operates a 24-hour recorded Travelers' Information Line (800) CDC-INFO (800-232-4636). You can check the CDC website at <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel>. Canadian citizens should check the website of the Public Health Agency of Canada: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health.html> (click on Travel Health).

SUGGESTED READING: A number of traditional booksellers and online stores list excellent inventories of field guides and other natural history resources that will help prepare you for this tour. We recommend www.amazon.com which has a wide selection; www.buteobooks.com and www.nhbs.com which specialize in ornithology and natural history books; and www.abebooks.com for out-of-print and hard-to-find titles.

Field Guides:

Van Perlo, Ber. *A Field Guide to the Birds of Brazil*. Oxford University Press, 2009. **The most important field guide for this trip.** This guide has minimal text, and somewhat uneven quality of illustrations, but it is a significant improvement on all previous attempts at a Brazilian field guide, and does offer range maps, text and illustrations for virtually all of Brazil's birds in a single volume.

Erize, Francisco, Jorge Rodriguez Mata, and Maurice Rumboll. *Birds of South America, Non-Passerines: Rheas To Woodpeckers*. Princeton, New Jersey, USA: Princeton University Press, 2006. Generally good

illustrations and useful written descriptions of the non-passerine birds of South America. A good complement to the three volumes by Ridgely and Tudor listed below.

Ridgely, Robert S., and Guy Tudor. *The Birds of South America, Volume I: The Oscine Passerines: Jays, Swallows, Wrens, Thrushes and Allies, Vireos, Wood-warblers, Tanagers, Icterids and Finches*. Austin: The University of Texas Press, 1989. Very useful reference, with range maps and illustrations of many species not previously illustrated.

Ridgely, Robert S., and Guy Tudor. *The Birds of South America Volume II: The Suboscine Passerines: Ovenbirds and Woodcreepers, Antbirds, Gnateaters, and Tapaculos, Tyrant Flycatchers, Manakins and Cotingas*. Austin: The University of Texas Press, 1994. Very useful reference, with range maps and illustrations of many species not previously illustrated.

Ridgely, Robert S., and Guy Tudor. *Field Guide to the Songbirds of South America: The Passerines*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 2009. This book condenses the text from the two previous references into a single volume with many additional illustrations (400+ species). It has more of a field guide format and provides consistently excellent illustrations and text for the vast majority of Brazilian passerines. This plus the Erize, Mata & Rumboll guide to the Non-Passerines would give good coverage of the vast majority of Brazilian birds.

Birding Resources:

Hilty, Steven L. *Birds of Tropical America*. Shelburne, VT: Chapters Publishing Ltd., 1994. Subtitle: "A watcher's introduction to behavior, breeding and diversity." (Paperback: April 1996.) This wonderful guide delves into the ecology of tropical birds beyond "What is it?" Written for the lay person, this is a highly "readable" book that avoids overly technical jargon and that does not bog down in heavy science. A valuable resource and an excellent field guide companion.

Butterflies:

D'Abrera, Bernard. *Butterflies of South America*. Australia: Hill House, 1984. Good pocket guide; covers many genera; nice pictures.

Mammals:

Emmons, Louise H. *Neotropical Rainforest Mammals*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1997 (second edition). Good pictures and excellent text. An audio field guide CD also available from this author: see below.

General Nature:

Caufield, C. *In the Rainforest*. Chicago: Random House, 1985.

Forsyth, Adrian, Ken Miyata et al. *Tropical Nature*. Scribner, 1987. Another modern classic of tropical ecology.

Kricher, John. *A Neotropical Companion*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1999.

Recording:

Emmons, Louise H., Bret M. Whitney and David L. Ross. *Sounds of Neotropical Rainforest Mammals*. Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. (http://www.sapsuckerwoods.com/category_s/1822.htm)

Marantz, Curtis A., and Kevin J. Zimmer. *Bird Voices of Alta Floresta and Southeastern Amazonian Brazil*. Six CDs. Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY.
(http://www.sapsuckerwoods.com/category_s/1822.htm). This 6-CD set provides vocalizations of more than 450 species of birds from the Alta Floresta region.

TIPPING: Tipping (restaurant staff, porters, drivers, local guides) is included on VENT tours. However, if you feel one or both of your VENT leaders or any local guides have given you exceptional service, it is entirely appropriate to tip. We emphasize that tips are not expected and are entirely optional. Tips should be given directly to your tour leader; they should not be sent to the VENT office.

RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT: Victor Emanuel Nature Tours, Inc., a Texas corporation, and/or its agents (together, “*VENT*”) act only as agents for the participant in regard to travel, whether by railroad, motorcar, motorcoach, boat, or airplane and assume no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay, or irregularity which may be occasioned either by reason of defect in any vehicle or for any reason whatsoever, or through the acts or default of any company or person engaged in conveying the participant or in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. VENT accepts no responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in airfare or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, terrorism, or other causes. All such losses or expenses will be borne by the participant, as tour rates only provide for arrangements for the time stated.

VENT reserves the right (i) to substitute hotels of similar category, or the best reasonable substitution available under the circumstances, for those indicated and (ii) to make any changes in the itinerary that are deemed necessary by VENT or which are caused by third party transportation schedules (i.e. railroad, motorcar, motorcoach, boat, airplane, etc.).

VENT reserves the right to substitute leaders or guides on any tour. Where VENT, in its sole discretion, determines such substitution is necessary, it will notify tour participants.

VENT reserves the right to cancel any tour prior to departure. If VENT cancels a tour prior to departure without cause or good reason, VENT will provide the participant a full refund, which will constitute full settlement to the participant. Notwithstanding the foregoing, VENT will not provide any participant with a refund and will not be liable or responsible to any participant, nor be deemed to have defaulted under or breached any applicable agreement, for any failure or delay in fulfilling or performing any term of such agreement, when and to the extent such failure or delay is caused by or results from acts beyond VENT’s control, including, without limitation, the following force majeure events: (a) acts of God; (b) flood, fire, earthquake, hurricane, epidemic, pandemic or explosion; (c) war, invasion, hostilities (whether war is declared or not), terrorist threats or acts, riot or other civil unrest; (d) government order, law or actions; (e) embargoes or blockades in effect on or after the date of the scheduled tour; (f) national or regional emergency; (g) strikes, labor stoppages, labor slowdowns or other industrial disturbances; (h) shortage of adequate power or transportation facilities; and (i) any other similar events or circumstances beyond the control of VENT.

If a participant cancels any tour or any portion of a tour, VENT will have no obligation to refund or reimburse any participant for any tour payments or deposits previously paid by any participant (see VENT Registration & Deposit policy and Cancellation & Refunds policy contained in the itinerary). Tour prices are based on tariffs and exchange rates in effect on December 6, 2021 and are subject to adjustment in the event of any change thereto.

VENT reserves the right to decline any participant’s Registration Form and/or refuse to allow any participant to participate in a tour as VENT deems reasonably necessary, in its sole discretion. VENT also reserves the right to remove any tour participant from any portion of a tour as VENT deems necessary, in its sole discretion, reasons for such removal include but are not limited to, medical needs, injury, illness, inability to meet physical demands of a tour, personality conflict or situations in which such removal is otherwise in the best interest of the tour, the tour group and/or such participant. If a participant is removed from a tour, such participant will be responsible for any expenses associated with such removal, including but not limited to, transportation, lodging, airfare and meals, and VENT will have no obligation to refund or reimburse any such removed participant for any tour payments or deposits previously paid by such participant.

Baggage is carried at the participant's risk entirely. No airline company, its employees, agents and/or affiliates (the "***Airline***") is to be held responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time participants are not on board the Airline's aircraft. The participant ticket in use by any Airline, when issued, will constitute the sole contract between the Airline and the purchaser of the tickets and/or the participant. The services of any I.A.T.A.N. carrier may be used for VENT tours, and transportation within the United States may be provided by any member carrier of the Airlines Reporting Corporation.

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