



VICTOR EMANUEL NATURE TOURS

ITINERARY

BRAZIL: HARPY EAGLE & SOUTHERN AMAZON EXTENSION

JULY 23–30, 2024

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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 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 Jurueña—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 Jurueña, 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 12-24, 2024 Brazil: Classic Pantanal or enjoyed as a short stand-alone departure.

July 23, Day 1: Flight to Alta Floresta; Transfer to Nova Bandeirantes (or Nearby Town). Those taking this tour as an extension to our July 12-24, 2024 Brazil: Classic Pantanal will have spent the night of July 22 in Cuiabá and will be provided with a transfer to the Cuiabá airport 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 arrange to spend the night of July 22 in Cuiabá and meet the group at the airport in time for the flight to Alta Floresta.

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 several Harpy Eagle nests. The nest we visit will be determined by our host, Dr. Charles Munn, prior to our arrival in Alta Floresta. The decision will consider 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 24-27, 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.

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. 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-

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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, Dusky-capped 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 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



Hoatzin on the Rio Juruena © Jeri Langham

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



Brazilian Tapir, SouthWild Amazon © Arthur Keates

such as Brown Capuchin, White-nosed Bearded Saki Monkey (Red-nosed Bearded Saki Monkey), 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 28, 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: to be announced, Cuiabá

July 29-30, Days 7-8: Departure for Home. We may have some time for morning birding before transferring to the Cuiabá airport in time for an afternoon flight to São Paulo's Guarulhos International Airport (code GRU), enabling a connection with overnight flights to the USA which arrive on July 30, allowing time for homeward connections (flight schedules subject to change).

TOUR SIZE: This tour will be limited to 10 participants.

TOUR LEADER: Jeri M. Langham and a local leader



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, Borneo, South Africa, 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 **\$4,695** 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 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, other 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 **\$365**. Rooms are limited at both locations and singles may be asked to share. If so, you will be credited appropriately.

REGISTRATION & DEPOSIT: To register for this tour, please contact the VENT office. The deposit for this tour is **\$1,000** per person. If you prefer 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 (February 2, 2024) prior to the tour departure date.

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.

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.**

| <u>If participant cancels:</u> | <u>Participant's refund will be:</u> |
|--|--|
| 180 days or more before departure date | Participant's deposit minus \$500* |
| 179 to 151 days before departure date | No refund of the deposit, but any payments on the balance of the tour fee will be refunded |
| 150 days or less before departure date | No refund available |

*Unless the deposit is transferred to a new registration for another VENT tour that will operate within the next 12 months from the date of participant tour cancellation, 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.

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 its **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 from your point of injury or illness to your hospital of choice**; comprehensive travel insurance for trip cancellation/interruption, medical expense coverage, death of pet, and much more. Optional expanded insurance coverage is available and includes items such as evacuation coverage in case of a natural disaster or political or security reasons, 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: <https://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 15 days of making your first trip payment. 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 15 days, and insure all non-refundable trip cost in order to maintain the CFAR benefit. Please refer to the policy for a full description of coverage.

Coronavirus (COVID-19):

In line with the decision made by the federal government (including the CDC), Redpoint considers COVID-19 illness as any other seasonal respiratory illness. Providing only a positive Covid-19 test result will likely not be considered a covered event per the terms and conditions of the company's policy. Redpoint maintains a **Coronavirus FAQ** page on its website that addresses questions and concerns travelers may have regarding COVID-19 and Redpoint's policy. We strongly recommend that you visit the page for an overview of relevant topics.

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

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. Per person fees apply for each set of travel arrangements: \$50 domestic; \$75 international.* Many of our travelers choose to make their own air travel

arrangements, but we emphasize the benefits to using our services. If you book your air arrangements yourself, Victor Emanuel Travel is unable to provide support in managing any flight delays and/or cancellations that could occur before and during a tour. When you purchase air tickets through Victor Emanuel Travel, our staff has ready access to your air ticket record and can provide assistance as problems arise. 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 held responsible for any air ticket penalties.**

*An air ticket will be purchased by Victor Emanuel Travel on behalf of the traveler with the traveler's consent. A purchase is considered final upon receipt of payment. If a ticket is subsequently reissued at the behest of the traveler (i.e. voluntary change of plans), the same fee rates apply for the reissue process, in addition to any fees that may be charged by the airline.

IMPORTANT: Please note that most fares for intra-Brazil flights do not include fees for checked luggage. Expect these to be collected during online or airport check-in.

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.

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 an eaglet, 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 1.5–5 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 (79 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 good binoculars of either 7x42, 8x32, 8x42, 8.5x42 or 10x42 magnification. We recommend that you do NOT bring mini-binoculars 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 in your binoculars 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 binoculars 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.

DOCUMENTS: Effective January 10, 2024, for United States and Canadian citizens, in addition to a passport valid for the duration of your visit, an electronic visa will be required to enter Brazil. Procedures are still being finalized by the Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which will provide additional details when available. Non-U.S. or Canadian citizens should check with their local Brazilian consulate or embassy for instructions.

CURRENCY & MONEY MATTERS: Brazilian Real. MasterCard and Visa are more widely accepted than American Express, but all are useful, particularly in major population centers. Sometimes the credit card machines malfunction, and for that reason you should consider having some cash with you. You will want to bring enough cash to cover personal expenses not included in the program (and that might not be payable with credit card), such as gifts, laundry, gratuities, meals on your own, and personal items. Some places are reluctant to accept U.S. dollars, so it might be a good idea to exchange some dollars for Brazilian Reals before leaving home or at the arrival airport in Brazil.

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: We continually emphasize that our number one priority is the health and safety of our customers and employees. Although VENT no longer maintains any of its COVID-era prevention protocols, we strongly recommend best practices for protecting yourself and your fellow travelers against COVID-19 illness. These measures include receiving the primary series vaccinations for those eligible, staying “Up to Date” with COVID-19 booster shots, wearing high filtration N-95 or KN-95 masks when in airports and on airplanes, and avoiding risky social settings in the lead-up to your tour. These recommendations are firmly rooted in CDC guidance regarding recommendations for avoiding COVID-19. Please visit the **Coronavirus Travel Update** page of our website <https://ventbird.com/covid-19> for our official statement regarding COVID-19 and the operation of our tours. 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>.

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 Permethrin 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).

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
- 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.

A Note About Chiggers: This tour visits areas where chiggers are known to occur. Chiggers are tiny parasitic mites found in most warm weather areas of the southern United States and the world's tropics. They are especially numerous in grassy areas, where, in the immature stage, they attach themselves to other animals or humans who make contact with the grass as they pass by. Chiggers do not suck blood and the majority of species do not carry disease. They do feed on bodily fluids through a process in which a digestive enzyme is produced by the chigger which essentially liquefies the skin around the area where the chigger is attached. The chigger is not usually attached to the skin for more than a few hours before it either falls off or is knocked off. Our bodies respond by

producing a hardened area as a defense against the chigger's digestive enzyme. Though the chigger may be long gone, it is the presence of the hardened area, and the body's natural process of reabsorbing it that typically causes intense itching, often lasting for a week or more. Chiggers like to attach themselves to areas of thin skin, like around the ankles, beltline, undergarment lines, knees, and elbows.

Chiggers can be avoided by following these procedures:

- Avoid walking or standing in areas dominated by grass. These areas are where one is most likely to encounter chiggers.
- Tuck your pants into your socks to avoid direct skin-to-grass contact. Chiggers can find their way through clothing, but this is a standard and effective prevention technique.
- Apply insect repellent to your skin and clothing. Please refer to the Insect Repellent section that follows for important information about selecting and applying repellent.
- Powdered sulfur applied to waist, bottoms of pants, sock and boots is also effective at repelling chiggers. However, be warned that clothes will retain the sulfur odor for several washings. If using sulfur, never touch your eyes, nose, or mouth before washing your hands first.
- Shower at the end of each day in the field. Use a washcloth to vigorously rub your legs, feet, and ankles.

By following these methods, you should be able to avoid all chigger bites, as well as tick bites. If, however, you are bitten by chiggers anyway, you can reduce or eliminate the symptoms by applying benzocaine or hydrocortisone creams, calamine lotion, After Bite, or any number of anti-itch products.

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 trip 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.

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.

Birds:

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: Princeton University Press, 2006. USA. Generally good illustrations and useful written descriptions of the non-passerine birds of South America. A good complement to the two 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. (<http://birds.cornell.edu>; select "Audio Guides")

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. (<http://birds.cornell.edu>; select “Audio Guides”)

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: A Watcher's Introduction to Behavior, Breeding and Diversity.** Austin, TX: (2005). Originally published in 1996, this modern classic of tropical ecology is an exceptional complement to field guides; provides understanding of the tropical forest ecosystem with a focus on birds. Written for the non-scientist; easy to comprehend.

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.birds.cornell.edu/lab_cds.html)

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.birds.cornell.edu/lab_cds.html). 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 November 8, 2023 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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