

## BRAZIL OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2022 – The Blue Macaw Tour

Would you like to join **Steve Brookes** on a very special trip to **Brazil** with a chance to see up to **21 species of parrots** of which **8 are Macaws** including **Lear's Macaws (approx. 1800 in the wild)** and the **Hyacinth Macaw (approx. 5000-6000 in the wild)** along with many other **Brazilian Birds and wildlife** as we travel through a part of the state of Bahia and the Pantanal in this stunning South American country (full parrot list below).

Throughout this trip we are likely to see in excess of 200 bird species with many opportunities to photo, video or just observe them in their Natural Habitats.

We also have chances of some rare mammals such as the Giant Anteater and Giant River Otter with a very outside chance of Jaguar as we travel on the river in the Pantanal plus snorkelling in the Rio Prata likened to swimming in an aquarium.

**In all a unique journey with many exciting encounters around every corner. In previous years we have seen about 400 Lear's Macaws (about a third of their entire wild population) all together flying directly over us as well as Hyacinth Macaws everyday in the Pantanal.**



## ITINERARY

### 30<sup>th</sup> October 2022

Arrive in Brazil – this is usually an overnight flight so you would start late afternoon on the 29<sup>th</sup> October from your country of origin. It is normal to arrive in Sao Paulo followed by an internal flight to Paulo Afonso with a transfer to our hotel.

Depending how early we arrive in Paulo Afonso we may have some time to go to some local cliffs where a small population of **Lear's Macaws** live.

### Overnight Paulo Afonso



### 31<sup>st</sup> October

If we didn't have time to look for the **Lear's Macaws** on the previous day then we will check out the cliffs this morning and back to Paulo Afonso for our lunch.

After lunch we will look for the **Lear's Macaws** where they are feeding. Lear's can travel many miles to feed however the **Lear's Macaw Conservation team** will be monitoring them as when they feed, they usually feed for several days at the same place with groups of up to 60 individuals. We could be seeing them creating some of the damage they do to the farmer's corn-cob crops but hopefully see them eating their natural food source the Licuri Palms.



As well as the **Lear's Macaws** we are also likely to see **Cactus Conures, Blue-winged Parrotlets and Blue-fronted Amazons** in this area.

### Overnight Jeremoabo



### 1<sup>st</sup> November

Today we will watch the **Lear's Macaws** feeding again. We will also be visiting a place where conservation work is being carried out for the **Lear's Macaws** which includes planting Licuri Palms, the favoured food of these Macaws.



At the end of the day, we will be transferring to Canudos for our evening meal followed by an overnight at the Lear's Macaw Lodge in Canudos.

This lodge is next to the sandstone cliffs where the **Lear's Macaws** roost and nest.

### Overnight Lear's Macaw Lodge, Canudos



**2<sup>nd</sup> November**

A very early morning start (about 03.30 – 04.00am) to reach the top of the cliffs to wait for the **Lear's Macaws** to wake up then in the distance a buzzing sound like a swarm of bees develops into the calls of hundreds of **Macaws** as they come up over the edge of the cliffs and fly in a kind of slow-motion circling above us for some time before eventually flying off to their feeding grounds.



We photo and video these magnificent **Macaws** as they fly and sometimes perch in the trees around where we are standing.



After this we will go to the top edge of one of the valleys where there will be some **Lear's Macaws** still in their sandstone cliff nests rearing the last of their soon to fledge youngsters.



Then it will be back to the lodge for breakfast.

After breakfast we will walk down the valleys near the lodge where we should see **Blue-crowned Conures, Cactus Conures, Blue-winged Parrotlets and Blue-fronted Amazons.**



In the late afternoon we will drive to a roost and nesting site for **Blue-winged (Illiger's) Macaws** before driving back to Canudos for dinner.

**Overnight Lear's Macaw Lodge, Canudos**





### 3<sup>rd</sup> November

Another very early morning at the cliff tops watching the **Lear's Macaws** as they awaken – well we have got to see this spectacle one more time before we leave, it's so good.



### 4<sup>th</sup> November

Today we have a searching day for all the Parrots in this area which could include **Cactus Conure, Blue-winged Parrotlets, Blue-winged Macaws and Blue-fronted Amazons.**



We will also have the chance of watching the remaining few **Macaws** from the top of the valley



### Overnight Juazeiro



We reluctantly leave these **Macaws** and travel further west towards Juazeiro watching for parrots and all wildlife as we drive.



### Overnight Juazeiro

**5<sup>th</sup> November**

A new day will take us onto a new destination as we take an internal flight from Petrolina to Campo Grande.

We should arrive early enough to be able to visit some of the Macaw nesting sites within Campo Grande City. Over 400 active nests for **Blue and yellow Macaws** have been found and are being monitored in the city as well as many other Macaw species including some naturally occurring **Green-winged x Blue and yellow Hybrids**.

**Overnight Campo Grande**



**6<sup>th</sup> November** Leaving Campo Grande we excitedly make our way towards the Pantanal and arrive at our lodge for the next 4 nights, Pousada Aguape just in time for lunch. Who will spot the first **Hyacinth Macaw** either flying or in one of the roadside palm trees.



Each day after lunch we will have time to ourselves for siesta, a swim in the pool or check out the wildlife local to the lodge (it's a very hot time of day so not much wildlife will be about until later in the afternoon).

After our break we will be taking a walk around the lodge grounds and hopefully have our first close encounter with the **Hyacinths** as well as many other birds and wildlife including parrots such as **Blue crowned and White eyed Conures**.



Other birds will include Jabiru Storks, Tanagers and with some luck the Toco Toucan.

**Overnight Pousada Aguape**





**7<sup>th</sup> November**

Morning walk where we shall see some of the birds mentioned previously plus a few more such as **Blue-fronted Amazons, Monk and Yellow-chevroned Parakeets** as well as woodpeckers, woodcreepers and with some luck the lovely Rufous-tailed Jacamar.

PM: We will do a Photo Safari by car, when, besides birds we might find some animals such the Marsh Deer and Giant Anteater.  
**Overnight Pousada Aguape**





**8<sup>th</sup> November**

Morning Forest walk in a different habitat in search of different species of parrots such as **Yellow-collared and Red-shouldered Macaws, and Scaly-headed (Maximillian's) Pionus Parrots** as well as more birds and mammals.



PM: Boat ride, when we might see lots of Kingfishers, Heron, Caimans, and with some luck Giant River Otters.

**Overnight Pousada Aguape**





**9<sup>th</sup> November**

This morning we will be joining the Hyacinth Macaw Project Team as they show us the work that they do



PM: We will be doing another Safari by car, with the hope of finding possible missing birds and mammals. We should stay out long enough to do some night driving in search of nocturnal animals and birds.

**Overnight Pousada Aguape**



### 10<sup>th</sup> November

An early morning visit to the edge of the river where we should find the **Blaze-winged Conures**. Usually in a group these Parakeets are an amazing encounter



After breakfast we will check out and Transfer to Bonito  
Afternoon visit to Buraco das Araras.



**Buraco das Araras** is a huge sandstone crater, a geological formation resulting from the collapse of boulders creating this enormous cavity of about 500m in circumference and 100m deep located in the middle of the cerrado in the State of Mato Grosso do Sul. It is home to a wide variety of birds, especially Araçari toucans and **Green-wing Macaws**, hence the name of the cave. The crater is part of the 29-hectares Private Reserve of Natural Heritage (RPPN) and is connected to the RPPN Rio da Prata with 307 hectares.



**Back to Bonito to our hotel to overnight**  
We may be in time to see the return of the **Orange-winged and Blue-fronted Amazons** to their roost site within the town.,



**11<sup>th</sup> November**

Another visit to Buraco das Araras but this time in the early morning to see the different activities of the **Macaws and Parrots** that are here and hopefully see some more species



Late morning we will have a tour of the Rio da Prata with a snorkelling experience not to be forgotten – it is said to be similar to swimming in an aquarium



In the grounds of Rio Prata there are also some **Parrots including Green-winged Macaws, Peach-fronted Conures, White-eyed Conures and the very rarely seen Yellow-faced Parrot**



After lunch we will be travelling back to Campo Grande



**Overnight Campo Grande**

## 12<sup>th</sup> November

Unfortunately all good things must come to an end and therefore today we have to transfer to the local airport and after a short internal flight we take our International flights home with all our Memories and Photos/Videos of all that we have seen.

**What will have been your highlight of this amazing journey??? – the Lear’s Macaws will take some beating on any trip!!!**



**PRICE of Parrot Watching Eco-tour.  
\$6700 per person sharing a double/twin room**

**\$600 single supplement**

**DEPOSIT \$1800**

Balance to be paid 45 days before the start of the trip.

Includes all accommodation, meals (from dinner on 30th October to breakfast on 12th November), water, English speaking local guide, all ground travel within Brazil, boat trips, visits to Buraco das Araras, snorkeling on the Rio Prata, a full morning with the Hyacinth Macaw Project, visits to the Lear's Macaw Conservation Projects and all permissions and entries into national parks.

NOT included:-

International and internal flights, insurance, drinks, souvenirs, tips, any additional activities not mentioned in the itinerary.



**Parrots to be seen on this trip**

Hyacinth Macaw	<i>Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus</i>	
Lear's Macaw	<i>Anodorhynchus leari</i>	ENDEMIC
Blue and Yellow Macaw	<i>Ara ararauna</i>	
Green-winged Macaw	<i>Ara chloropterus</i>	
Blue-winged Macaw	<i>Primolius maracana</i>	
Yellow-collared Macaw	<i>Primolius auricollis</i>	
Red-bellied Macaw	<i>Orthopsittaca manilata</i>	
Red-shouldered Macaw	<i>Diopsittaca nobilis</i>	
Blue-crowned Conure	<i>Thectocercus acuticaudata haemorrhous</i>	ENDEMIC sub-species
Blue-crowned Conure	<i>Thectocercus acuticaudata acuticaudata</i>	
Nanday Conure	<i>Aratinga nenday</i>	
White-eyed Conure	<i>Psittacara leucophthalmus</i>	
Peach-fronted Parakeet	<i>Aratinga aurea</i>	
Caatinga or Cactus Parakeet	<i>Aratinga cactorum caixana</i>	ENDEMIC sub-species
Monk Parakeet	<i>Myiopsitta monachus</i>	
Blaze-winged Conure	<i>Pyrrhura devillei</i>	
Blue-winged Parrotlet	<i>Forpus xanthopterygius xanthopterygius</i>	
Yellow-chevroned Parakeet	<i>Brotogeris chiriri</i>	
Scaly headed Parrot (Maximillian's)	<i>Pionus maximiliani siy</i>	
Yellow-faced Parrot	<i>Alipiopsitta xanthops</i>	
Orange-winged Amazon	<i>Amazona amazonica</i>	
Blue-fronted Amazon	<i>Amazona aestiva aestiva</i>	
Blue-fronted Amazon	<i>Amazona aestiva xanthopteryx</i>	

To enquire about this trip or book please contact:- **STEVE BROOKES**  
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