

# PANTANAL

— PHOTO TOURS —

## Atlantic Rainforest Travel Arrangements



## TOURIST VISA AND PASSPORTS

Currently Brazil requires a tourist visa (aka visit visa) from very few countries, and it should not be a problem for any traveler from the countries that normally comes to our tours.

- Afghanistan
- Bangladesh
- China
- Cuba
- Egypt
- Taiwan, among others.

If you are from these countries mentioned above, you **need** a visa to enter Brazil.

The visa is **NOT** required for most other countries, including most of Europe, South, Central and North America.

For the complete list of countries and requirements, [click here](#).

Besides the visa for the cases mentioned above, all tourists entering the country will need a passport valid for a minimum period of 6 months from the date of entry into Brazil. Your passport will be your ID while in Brazil and necessary to board domestic flights, for example.

## VERY IMPORTANT

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**Make at least one copy of your passport and put in on a different bag**, if you lose the original one, having a copy will make things easier.



# ATLANTIC RAINFOREST TOUR GUIDELINES

## TROPICAL DISEASES

Atlantic Rainforest is **Malaria Free**, so there is nothing to worry about that, and there's no need to take malaria prophylaxis medicine.

There is a very small risk of **yellow fever**, but most of our clients already have this vaccine (required for African trips), and it can be valid for lifetime or ten years, depending on the type. We recommend it, but it's not officially required in Brazil.

**Dengue** is also a very small risk and is actually a bigger risk in urban areas. While there is no vaccine for dengue, basic care with mosquito repellent should be enough. Vaccinations, CPR testing and all other travel or medically related arrangements are the responsibility of the participant.

**Spotted Fever** is an endemic disease transmitted by the bite of a specific tick, and it must be infected with a specific bacterium, which significantly reduces the risks. Is also a very small risk, but it considered a very rare disease. Common precautions, such as wearing boots and long pants during trails, are sufficient.

## Mosquito Repellents

The Atlantic Rainforest, especially during the dry season, can have a surprisingly small amount of mosquitoes, but you still want to be ready for those situations where mosquitoes are present. Bring an effective mosquito repellent containing DEET, picaridin, or another recommended active ingredient to protect yourself from mosquitoes.

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## COVID-19

**Brazil does not require any Covid-19 vaccination certificates or negative exams anymore.**

Any changes or updated information will be on this page:

[Covid-19 travel to Brazil and Chile](#)





## **ATLANTIC RAINFOREST TOUR GUIDELINES**

### **MEETING INSTRUCTIONS AT GUARULHOS AIRPORT**

Terminal 2 is a large terminal, so we meet roughly under the big signs of check-in B or E (pictured), depending on airline.

Terminal 1 is a smaller terminal operated only by Azul Airlines and detailed meeting place will be sent before the trip.

We will pick you up at your hotel of choice near the airport or at the airport, if you arrive on the same morning. If picking you up at the airport we meet at the Starbucks Coffee on the international disembark of Terminal 3, right after you leave the duana/customs, to your right side.



*Normally we create a temporary WhatsApp group to pass details before the trip, solve any questions and what not. It's also useful during the tour for quick communication at the hotels. After the trip we delete the group.*

*Of course this is not mandatory, but if you have WhatsApp it can be useful.*



## HEALTH CONDITIONS

Participants should be in generally good health. Any restrictions of a medical nature must be made known to us before booking a tour. You certify that you do not knowingly have any physical or other conditions of disability that would create a risk for you or other trip participants and you agree to inform our office in writing if changes in your health occur any time prior to the tour.

## FOOD

Any restrictions of a dietary nature must be made known to us well before departure. All the lodges offer a variety of food options on every meal, for example: different kinds of meat (chicken, fish, pork and beef), pastas, rice and beans, vegetables, potatoes, salads, etc.

## SMOKING

It is forbidden to smoke during most situations during our tours, and that includes all situations indoors, in vehicles and also in boats or any other activity with the group outdoors.

## VERY IMPORTANT

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*Our Atlantic Rainforest trips are considered, in general, as an easy trip as far as physical requirements. There's no difficult hikes or trails, **although you must have conditions to carry your own equipment**, for example.*

***Trails are optional.** We can provide you incredible photos on bird feeders and using multiframe technique for hummingbirds.*



## CLOTHING

Pack lightweight, breathable clothing suitable for the tropical climate. Prefer long-sleeved shirts and long pants to protect yourself from sunburn and mosquito bites. Light-colored clothing is recommended to deter mosquitoes. Don't forget a wide-brimmed hat, sunglasses, and comfortable walking shoes or boots.

We must recommend you to bring also warm and waterproof clothes. The accommodations have an electric heater, but they don't have central heating and are not well prepared for low temperatures. Because of this, it can be important to dress warmly, even inside the accommodations.

## WEATHER

The Atlantic Rainforest normally has a comfortable climate. The dry season (or less wet season) typically lasts from May to September, with lower chances of rain, but it can also occur. Some strong cold fronts can reach the region during the entire year, and temperatures can drop to 05°C (41°F) or even less. Rain showers are expected, mostly between October to March.

## VERY IMPORTANT

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*As the name itself suggests, it can rain a lot in the Atlantic Rainforest. Sometimes more than 2000mm of rain a year.*

***Bring a raincoat and a good waterproof jacket.***

***The Atlantic Rainforest can be very cold in the early morning and at night, so it's important to bring good warm clothes, especially during the winter.***



## Photography equipment

Consider bringing the following gear: a camera with a versatile zoom lens or a good prime lens, extra batteries, memory cards, lens cleaning equipment, and a waterproof bag to protect your equipment from potential rain.

- **Camera bodies**

Full frame DSLR's or full frame mirrorless cameras are recommended because of greater image quality (specially at higher ISOs) and usually better auto focus. Greater control of depth-of-field is also a factor of importance for choosing full frame versus cropped sensors. Ideally you should bring 2 bodies, to be used simultaneously with different lenses and as a backup in case one of them fails to work.

- **Lenses**

Now we come to where most people have doubts, lenses. Being a wildlife photo trip, it's natural that most attention goes to what long lenses to bring.

A 500 to 600mm lens is useful for birds, especially when they are at the canopy. But for good quality photos on bird feeders and using multiframe you don't need a lot of reach most of the time, 300 to 500mm can work better, for multiframe specially you won't need much reach.

By short lenses on this context we consider anything under a 200mm. The range between 100 and 200mm is not very used, except for eventual habitat shots. Under this might have some use, but mostly we'd go with wide angle (24mm and under) for unique perspectives of wildlife that will allow us to get that close, like a tapir, for example. This is something we have been trying to do more and more and when it works out, it definitely creates very special images that stand-out. We recommend to bring a wide angle for this.

Most Atlantic Rainforest tours are during the Winter, when there're not many frogs around, but still we might see some, so if you like it bring a macro lens, especially for trips earlier or later in the season.



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- **Flashes**

There can be some situations where you would like a flash, and we might do some night time photography as well – but not a lot. There is a good chance to photograph owls and some mammals during the night, for such situations you would prefer a TTL flash and able to fire remotely as well.

At our tours we do use a multiframe setup to photograph hummingbirds and we have that setup there for our clients, so you don't need to bring any multiframe equipment.

- **Tripod**

We recommend you to bring a tripod. You will use it most of the time, for multiframe technique and also for bird feeders.

- **Miscellaneous**

Bring enough spare batteries and memory cards. Consider water resistant cover for your equipment. Bring a backup hard disk for your photos, don't count on backing up photos on the cloud – wifi connection on our lodges is slow due to the remote locations.





## Safety

The lodges we visit and other places we go during the tours are safe from a criminal point of view. Of course, in airports and other urban areas, always pay attention to your belongings.

## Tipping

Tips are expected in a few situations during our tours, such as:

- Car or van drivers, local guides and Hotel staff (for this there is usually a tip box)

Tips at restaurants are included on the bill as 10%, paying it is optional, of course. If you don't want to pay the tip at restaurants you must inform, because it's already included on the final price.

Normally local money (Real - singular; Reais - plural) is better for tipping, but it can also be in Dollars or Euros.

We are now including tips for the staff on all our trip prices. Check if tips are already included or not in your trip. If they are not and you wish to include it, please contact us and we can included that for your final payment, if you wish. We will then take care of all the tipping for the personel working for us during the trips.

We understand tipping is personal and the amount given, if anything at all, is up to each person. Please feel free to ask this to your guide during the tour. Below are a few rough suggestions of what we would consider an "average" tip, per person, per day of work for group tours. Please note that for custom tours or small groups, these amounts per person are expected to be higher.

**Car or van driver:** BRL 30

**Local guides:** BRL 70

**Hotel staff:** difficult to say per day, as it depends on number of people and the degree of attention given to the group specially or just as part of their daily routines with the hotel, but roughly around BRL 20.

