



**Kaytee Avian Foundation
Sponsors the
Hyacinth Valley Tour
June 13 - 20, 2009**

Day 1, June 13 - Saturday

Depart from the United States (international airfare not included). **Meals on the plane.**

Day 2, June 14 - Sunday

Upon arrival in Sao Paulo, Brazil, (we suggest flying an AA via Miami to arrive at 5:15 am) proceed through the immigration desk and customs. Just outside of customs there will be an English speaking guide to assist you with boarding your 8:05 am TAM Airline's connecting flight to Brasilia, Brazil. ***Note that this domestic flight is not included in the trip cost.

On arrival in Brasilia at 9:45 am, you will be met and transferred to the Tryp/Melia Hotel Brasilia.

Tryp Brasil Hotel in Brasilia is within easy reach of the Esplanade of Ministries and Juscelino Kubitschek International Airport and offers 258 modern and well appointed guest rooms.

It is the first 5* hotel in the Brasil XXI complex, strategically placed in the Monumental Axis, between the Television Tower and 50 m from the City Park. It is also within easy reach from the Esplanade of Ministries and the Juscelino Kubitschek International Airport (13 km). The hotel is close to a number of leisure and entertainment venues, such as bars, restaurants and only 50 m distance from a shopping mall.

Facilities at the Tryp Brasil Hotel in Brasilia include Lucca's Restaurant, serving international specialities, lobby bar, swimming pool, sauna and a fitness centre.

This afternoon the group will visit the Brasilia National Park.

The Parque Nacional de Brasília (area 28,000 hectares/70,000 acres; only part open to public) lies in the north-west of the Federal District, 10km/6mi from Brasília. It offers a representative selection of the characteristic vegetation of the Brazilian middle west, from the low and crooked trees of the cerrado, the bush steppe of the Brazilian interior - including particularly the pau-terra (*Qualea cordata*), the gujak tree and the aricuri palm, a species of coconut palm - to the imposing trees of the gallery forests found particularly on the banks of rivers and the shores of lakes, among them Ipês-roxos (*Tabebuia impetiginosa*, a tree which yields dyewood) and jataís (*Hymenaea*



courbaril). There are also expanses of scrub and grassland, and veredas (swampy plains) with beautiful palms and buritis. The numerous source streams in this area supply the whole of Brasília with drinking water. The attractions of the park also include a number of mineral springs.

The park has a rich and varied fauna, with innumerable species of birds, rheas, wild pigs, capybaras, pampas deer, maned wolves, jaguars, caimans, anacondas, rattlesnakes, coral snakes and other species of snake. **Lunch included.**

Day 3, June 15 - Monday

This morning you will be transferred to the airport for your flight to Barreiras. On arrival in Barreiras you will be met by your bilingual, naturalist guide, Rafael Teixeira and begin the 150 miles drive north, driven in an air-conditioned vehicle, to the scenic cliff and valley region of Hyacinth Valley.

Every half-century or so, an amazing new wildlife destination bursts onto the South American scene. Such is the case for Hyacinth Valley, of the sunny, dry forests of central Brazil. No other destination in Brazil offers so much charismatic wildlife in so little time—and with so much comfort.

The Hyacinth Valley Lodge is located at Brazil's new, 1.9-million-acre (730,000-hectare) Parnaíba Headwaters National Park. At one-third the size of New Jersey, the PHNP is Brazil's largest park outside the Amazon and protects far more dry tropical forest than any other reserve on Earth. Only 10% of the world's original dry tropical forest remains today, while half of all wet tropical forest still stands. Therefore, the Parnaíba Headwaters National Park is exceptional conservation importance. To put this in perspective within the South American conservation scene, this is the sixth largest of Brazil's 52 national parks.

From the comfort of Hyacinth Valley, you can see some of the most exciting wildlife in Brazil. The park harbors more than 1,500 Hyacinth Macaws, or 50-100 times more than any other national park in the world. It also is the most important reserve for the endangered Maned Wolf, which is the world's largest and most beautiful canid. Finally, PHNP is the only place on Earth where Brown Capuchin Monkeys demonstrate the world's most complex tool use by nonhuman primates. Moreover, Hyacinth Valley is easy and fun to visit at any time of year, as it never floods and is virtually free of mosquitoes.

Enjoy a wildlife experience you thought was available only to National Geographic photographers, and at a surprisingly affordable price. We recommend 4 to 5 nights to view all four of the unique wildlife spectacles: Maned Wolves, tool-using Brown Capuchin Monkeys, and separate, large flocks of Hyacinth and Greenwinged (Red-and-Green) Macaws at close range. All the additional wildlife and world-class scenery represents "icing on the cake". These attractions peak during the



months of February through August, but there is excellent wildlife viewing in every month of the year.

Guests are accommodated in double occupancy brick bungalows, each with its own private, tiled bathroom with sun-heated warm showers from noon until mid-evening.

Meals are served in an open-air, thatched dining room where you sample delightful home cooking under luminescent night skies. Bird feeding platforms within a few feet of the headquarters draw a wide variety of tanagers and other small birds, making close range photography fun and easy.

Iced mineral water, soft drinks, beer and wine will be available at the camp (alcoholic beverages for an additional charge). If you're feeling a bit more adventurous, try Brazil's famous "caipirinha", made from local rum known as cachaça.

On arrival you will be assigned your cabin and have some lunch. After lunch you will visit the Hyacinth Blind. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included.**

Day 4, June 16 – Tuesday

Hyacinth Valley Lodge to Hyacinth Cliffs Lodge

Coffee and light breakfast are served when guests are awoken at 4:30 a.m. Daybreak is about 5:30 a.m. and we aim to be in the blind at this time, before the first macaws arrive to eat palm nut at this dry forest clearing. The blind, which accommodates up to 16 people, with eight front row seats, overlooks a feeding site for a large flock of Hyacinth Macaws.

Viewing dozens of the world's largest and most spectacular parrots in their natural environment is pure magic. And the perfect photo conditions will ensure the time you spend in this natural playground will stay with you forever. Rays of soft light illuminate the birds as they feed, rendering pictures of azure splendor. We watch them feed on their staple palm nut and playfully jockey for position on favorite perches in the trees that surround the blind.

Just a few years ago, these same birds were targeted by trappers. The success of the project ensures that these birds can now nest in unblemished cliffs and feed in the preserved dry forest without any interference.

The birds usually arrive at 6 a.m. and leave by 8:30 or 9 a.m. We then return to camp for a full, relaxing breakfast.

After breakfast we will drive 30 km out into the center of the 730,000-hectare Parnaíba River National Park, Brazil's largest national park outside the Amazon. The park is 1/3 the size of New Jersey. Enjoy the amazing cliff scenery and search for birds such as Burrowing Owls, Red-legged Seriemas, and Greater Rheas, and also nesting Blue-and-Gold Macaws. In the evening, you have a



good chance of seeing a beautiful and endangered Maned Wolf, the tallest (but not heaviest!) wild canid in the world.

Hyacinth cliffs Lodge is the only lodging in the national park, which is the largest piece of protected dry tropical forest in the world. We will overnight at Hyacinth Cliffs Lodge, in double-occupancy rooms with private bathrooms and hot showers. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included.**

Day 5, June 17 – Wednesday Hyacinth Cliffs Lodge to Greenwing Valley Tented Camp

After early breakfast at Hyacinth Cliffs Lodge we leave and drive back through Hyacinth Valley to the main asphalt highway running north-south (the Brazilian federal highway). In the late morning, visit an unusual dry forest with a small stream running through it. The reason for the visit is to see Black and Gold Howler Monkeys, many groups of which live in the forest there.

Then drive north 26 km to the town of Gilbués, continue another 5 km and turn left, and take a dusty, rocky road for 45 min in the direction of the town of Santa Filomena. Turn off onto a sand track to the right (north) of this road, and go 15 min more into the heart of Greenwing Valley.

Check into Greenwing Valley Tented Camp. Each of the large, 4-by-5-meter, canvas tents has a wooden floor, is sealed, has screened windows, and a screen door on hinges. No zippers to fool with. Each tented camp has a dry, eco-toilet inside a compartment at the back of the tent and it own warm shower outside the tent, in a shower stall, African-style.

In the afternoon, visit either the Red-and-Green Macaw feeding place or the famous, nut-cracking Brown Capuchin Monkeys that have appeared so many times now on international television.

Here we search for one of the two tame groups of wild Tufted Capuchin Monkeys, which are now famous for their use of heavy igneous, hammer rocks that they bring from hundreds of meters to crack hard palm nuts on much larger, sandstone anvils. We have nicknamed these crafty primates “the Einstein monkeys” for their ability to dead-lift large stones weighing half their body mass and smash them down on golf-ball-sized palm nuts that they place on large stone anvils. Although this unique behavior is demonstrated by this monkey species over a Texas-sized region of of NE Brazil, currently the only location in the world where you easily can view this behavior is Greenwing Valley. These monkeys have appeared over and over again in international TV documentaries by BBC and others, and have appeared in National Geographic Magazine.

Often in this valley we can get good looks at other interesting birds, such as the Great Potoo and Horned Screamer. This location is also famous, of course, for its many Greenwinged (Red-and-Green) Macaws), which give the valley its name.

The favorite food of this macaw, the nut of the “Piqui” tree, is falling to the ground in the forests in December through February. In May it is not 100% guaranteed we would still have nuts



available to put out for the macaws, to make them easier to observe and photograph at close range. But it is guaranteed that we will see a lot of these macaws flying back and forth across the valley.

Greenwing Valley Tented Camp. Breakfast, lunch and dinner included.

Day 6, June 18 - Thursday

We will have a least the morning exploring the amazingly scenic valley, seeing the nutcracking Capuchin Monkeys, Red-and-Green Macaws, Horned Screamers, and other fauna.

The group may decide to stay longer, but we will leave by the afternoon back to the Hyacinth Valley Lodge. On the way we stop at a lovely, century-old grove of mango trees, where groups of Black-and-Gold Howler Monkeys (*Alouatta caraya*) perch in trees. In the afternoon, you will have a chance to view the Hyacinth Macaws near the blind. **Hyacinth Valley Lodge. Breakfast, lunch and dinner included.**

Day 7, June 19 - Friday

Coffee and light breakfast are served when guests are awoken at 4:30 a.m. Daybreak is about 5:30 a.m. and we aim to be in the blind at this time, before the first macaws arrive to eat palm nut at this dry forest clearing.

Return for breakfast you will begin your return journey to Barreiras (approximately 3.5 hours), in time to catch the 11:25 am TAM 1457 (Operated by Passaredo Airlines) flight to Salvador.

On arrival at 1:10 pm you will be met and taken directly to old town Salvador where you will have a quick lunch and then a historical tour of the city.

You can't go to Salvador, a major city located on a peninsula on Bahia's coast, without spending time in the old city of colorful colonial buildings, cobblestoned streets and a sense of history clustered around the Largo do Pelourinho, also known as Praça José de Alencar. This part of Salvador is known as Pelourinho, the city within a city. (Read more about Salvador, Bahia in Exploring Brazil's northeast.

Nicknamed *Pelo* by residents this area is in the older part of the upper city, or *Cidade Alta*, of Salvador. It encompasses several blocks around the triangular Largo, and it is the location for music, dining and nightlife.

Pelourinho means whipping post in Portuguese, and this was the old slave auction location in the days when slavery was common. Slavery was outlawed in 1835, and over time, this portion of the city, though home to artists and musicians, fell into disrepair. In the 1990's, a major restoration effort resulted in making the area a highly desirable tourist attraction. Pelourinho has a place on the national historic register and named a world cultural center by UNESCO.



Easily walk able, Peló has something to see along every street, including churches, cafes, restaurants, shops and the pastel-hued buildings. Police patrol the area to ensure safety.

Return to the hotel, the **Mar Brasil Hotel**, where you have the opportunity to rest before dinner, which is on your own tonight. There are two very good restaurants within safe walking distance of the hotel for dinner. You'll have a very early wake-up call for your 5:00 am transfer to the airport to catch the 7:45 am American airlines flight to Miami. **Breakfast and lunch included.**

Day 8, June 20 – Saturday

Transfer to the airport for your 7:45 am flight back to the USA. Connect to your home city in Miami and arrive home later in the day.

Cost per person in double accommodation with 8 to 9 passengers traveling is **\$1926.00**

Cost per person in double accommodation with 10 to 12 passengers traveling is **\$1841.00**

Single supplement is \$516

The above price includes:

Meet/assist in the Sao Paulo airport; Transfer in/out in Brasilia; 1 overnight Tryp Brasilia with dinner; Tour Parque Nacional Brasilia with lunch; Private guide package to Hycinth Valley, Cliffs and Greenwing Valley lodges for 5d/4n with three meals a day; Transfer in/out in Salvador; 1 overnight at Mar Brasil Hotel with lunch; Tour to Pelourinho. Entrance tickets; Local bilingual guides

The price does not include:

International airfares
Domestic airfare Sao Paulo to Barreiras (via Brasilia) or Barreiras to Salvador
Domestic airport taxes
Excess baggage charges
Meals unless indicated
Alcoholic beverages at mealtimes
Gratuities
Items of a personal nature (such as telephone and fax charges, internet charges, laundry services and hotel minibar).
Travel insurance

To book this trip a \$250 per person deposit is required with your completed application form, followed by full payment 45 days before departure. Refunds can be given up until 30 days out, minus a \$100 per person booking fee (included in the price). No refunds can be given less than 30 days



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before departure, regardless of circumstances. Any changes to the itinerary made by the client while in South America are the responsibility of the client.

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