

BRAZIL DECEMBER 2018 – Lear’s Macaws and much more

Would you like to join **Steve Brookes** on a very special trip to **Brazil** with a chance to see up to **17 species and sub-species of parrots** of which **7 are Endemic to Brazil** including **Lear’s Macaws, one of the rarest Macaws in Brazil** and another **6 Parrot sub-species also Endemic to Brazil** along with many other **Brazilian Birds and wildlife** as we travel the Eastern state of Bahia 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.

In all a unique journey with many exciting encounters around every corner, in 2013, 2015, 2016 and 2017 we saw about 400 Lear’s Macaws each time (about a third of their entire wild population) all together flying directly over us

Due to the logistics of this trip it is limited to a **maximum of 8 participants**



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ITINERARY

26th November

Our group meets in Salvador in the North-east of Brazil where we will be met by our guide and driver for a road transfer to Estância.

Here we will see our first parrots of the trip **Red-shouldered Macaws**, **Peach-fronted Conure** and the beautiful **Golden-capped Conure**.

Overnight at Estância.



We now start the eagerly awaited transfer to Canudos.

Along the road we expect to see the **Blue-winged Parrotlets** many times as well as a very important Brazilian endemic, the **Caatinga Parakeet** also known as the **Cactus Conure** and hopefully our first sightings of **Lear's Macaws**.

Who will be the first to spot one ?

27th November

Early morning watching the **Red-shouldered Macaws** flying back and fore in the Palm trees as well as in their nests just along the roadside – easy **Parrot Watching** also time to check out the **Golden-capped Conures**.

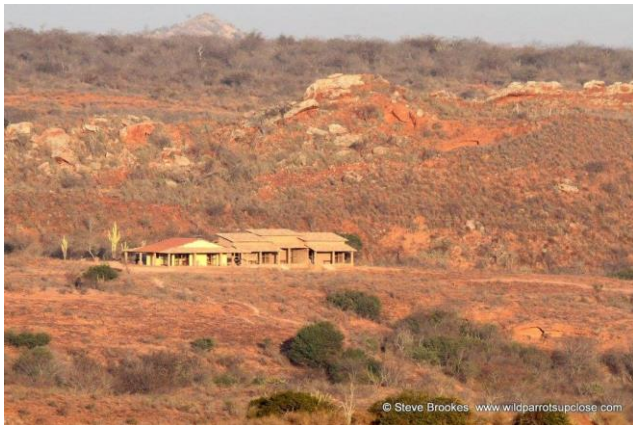
I think they appear to be a cross between **Golden-capped and Janday Conures** which seem to inter-breed here suggesting that they are probably sub-species instead of separate species. What do you think??

Back to the hotel for breakfast.



We will have our first night in the new lodge near the cliffs where the **Lear's Macaws** roost and nest.

It is here that we meet Camila Mendes who is the Coordinator of Projects for the Biodiversitas Foundation in charge of the land preservation for the **Lear's Macaws**. She will do a presentation about the project and escort us around the reserve which requires special government permits to visit. We will have these permits allowing us to see the **Lear's Macaws** in their nesting and roosting habitats.



Overnight at the **Lear's Macaw Lodge**.



28th November

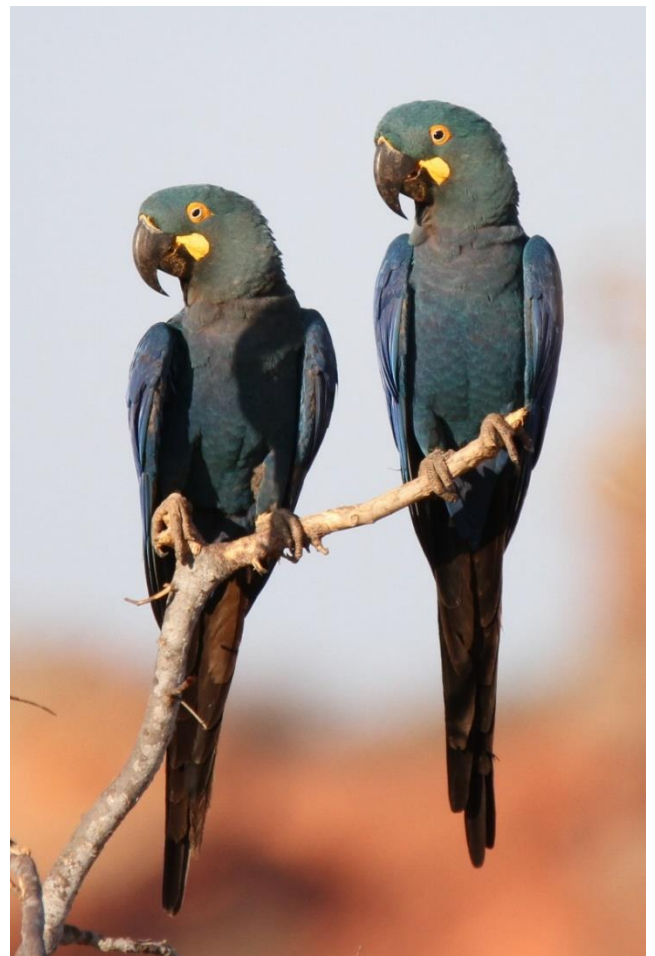
A very early wake up call for our 45 minute 4x4 slow drive to the top of the cliffs waiting for the **Lear's Macaws** to arrive.

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 more than an hour before eventually flying off to their feeding grounds. We photo and video these magnificent **Macaws** as they fly and sometimes perch in the trees.



We then go over to the cliff edge to see the **Lear's Macaws** who are still rearing their chicks in the cliff walls their calls echoing throughout the valleys.



Back to the lodge for breakfast before going down into the valleys at the bottom of the Lear's cliffs to see the **Blue-crowned and Caatinga Parakeets**



29th November

We now go to the other side of the cliffs to see the **Parrots** in this area with more chances of **Cactus Conures** and **Blue-winged Parrotlets** and always looking out for more sightings of the **Lear's Macaws**



We can also see the **Blue-fronted Amazons** here as well although mostly these just fly over without stopping
After lunch in the town of Canudos we will go to an area where there are lots of **Blue-winged Parrotlets** possibly seeing more **Lear's Macaws** as they are feeding.

As we check out the local lanes and fields we are also in the range for the **Blue-winged (Illiger's) Macaws** which roost and nest in trees along the dry river banks but we need to be very quiet and hidden as much as possible because these medium sized **Macaws** are very shy.



Overnight at **Lear's Macaw Lodge**.

Overnight at the **Lear's Macaw Lodge**.

30th 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.



Kilma will take us to a valley where the **Lear's Macaws** feed but also to see how the Licuri Palm trees (the preferred diet of the **Macaws**) that we planted in May 2016 are developing. We planted 50 trees as part of the celebrations for the 50th anniversary of the Parrot Society UK and their involvement with the **Lear's Macaw** project.



We then transfer to Jeremoabo for our hotel in the town.

Overnight at Jeremoabo

We reluctantly leave Canudos but not these **Macaws** as we meet up with Kilma Manso who is President of ECO (Ecological Conservation Organisation) she assesses the damage done to the farmer's corn by the **Lear's Macaws** and compensates them in exchange for the farmers protecting the **Macaws**.



1st December

A full day to explore common feed sites for the **Lear's Macaws** and maybe see 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.



Kilma will tell us about the Corn Subsidy Project and as she is also involved with the **Spix's Macaw** project will tell us about the progress of this project to eventually release **Spix's Macaw** back into the wild within the next few years.

Overnight at Jeremoabo

2nd December

We have a long drive today from Jeremoabo to Tamandare but we will be able to stop at several locations to check out the birds along the route.

We spend the last 3 nights of this trip at Tamandare with a special hotel on the coast with its own pool so we can cool down at midday.

Overnight at Tamandare



3rd December

Besides the pretty beaches, the country side of Pernambuco and Alagoas were deforested to plant sugarcane, so do not expect a beautiful scenery, however there are a few small forest patches which hold pretty much everything as regards bird life so we can expect some good local endemics like, white collared kite, willi's antbird, orange bellied antwren, seven colored tanager as well as **many Parrots** such as **Reichnowis Parrot, Jandaya Conure, Blue-winged Parrotlet, Golden-tailed Parrotlet, Red-shouldered Macaw, White-eyed Conure, Plain Parakeet and Scaly-headed (Maximilian's) Parrot**



Our hotel is very close to the coconut plantation where Jandaya Conures overnight so we will be there to watch them come in on an evening and fly out in a morning.



Overnight at Tamandare

4th December

Today will follow a similar pattern to the previous day looking for the Parrots that reside in the local forests and if we have missed any then we will concentrate on looking for these but we can still include watching the **Jandaya Conures** again as they are special



5th December

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!!!

Alternatively we can continue onto REGUA (Reserva Ecologica de Guapi Assu) in the Atlantic rainforest to extend our **Parrot** adventure with some more amazing encounters.



PRICE - £ 3245 per person sharing a double/twin room £ 295 single supplement

Deposit £750

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

MAXIMUM 8 people on this trip

Includes all road transfers within Brazil, accommodation, meals (from dinner on 26th November to breakfast on 5th December), water, transport including driver, naturalist guide, and all entry fees to National Parks.

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

Please note:- We have access to internet most of the time on this trip as our driver has installed a mobile unit in his mini-bus.



Parrots to be seen on this trip

Lear's Macaw	<i>Anodorhynchus leari</i>	ENDEMIC
Red-shouldered Macaw (Hahn's)	<i>Diopsittaca nobilis cumanensis</i>	ENDEMIC sub-species
Blue-winged Macaw (Illiger's)	<i>Primolius maracana</i>	
Blue-crowned Conure	<i>Aratinga acuticaudata haemorrhous</i>	ENDEMIC sub-species
Golden-capped Conure	<i>Aratinga auricapillus auricapillus</i>	ENDEMIC
Jandaya Conure	<i>Aratinga jandaya</i>	ENDEMIC
Peach-fronted Conure	<i>Aratinga aurea</i>	
Caatinga or Cactus Conure	<i>Aratinga cactorum cactorum</i>	ENDEMIC
Caatinga or Cactus Conure	<i>Aratinga cactorum caixana</i>	ENDEMIC sub-species
Blue-winged Parrotlet	<i>Forpus xanthopterygius xanthopterygius</i>	
Blue-winged Parrotlet	<i>Forpus xanthopterygius flavissimus</i>	ENDEMIC sub-species
Golden-tailed Parrotlet	<i>Touit surdus</i>	ENDEMIC
Plain Parakeet	<i>Brotogeris tirica</i>	ENDEMIC
Blue-headed Parrot	<i>Pionus reichenowi</i>	ENDEMIC
Scaly headed Parrot (Maximilian's)	<i>Pionus maximiliani maximiliani</i>	ENDEMIC sub-species
Blue-fronted Amazon	<i>Amazona aestiva aestiva</i>	ENDEMIC sub-species
Orange-winged Amazon	<i>Amazona amazonica amazonica</i>	

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