

The Orchid Conservation Alliance
564 Arden Drive
Encinitas, CA 92024



Proposed 'Orchids in the Wild' trip to Brazil to visit Reserva Serra Bonita,
Chapada Diamantina, and Salvador, Bahia

March 14 - March 29, 2014

As OCA members will know from the November 2014 newsletter, the OCA has recently invested in Reserva Serra Bonita, near Ilheus, Brazil, as part of our program to protect orchid habitat. Because interest in this reserve is high, we have designed a trip to visit there and to visit other orchid sites in the nearby region of Chapada Diamantina. There are many orchids in Chapada Diamantina but it is best known for the variety of rupicolous laelias that are found there. This trip is timed to see those plants in a prime bloom time. During our trip we will be led by Rosario Braga, OCA Director resident in Rio de Janeiro, and by Cecilia Azevedo, Professor in the Department of Natural Sciences, State University of Southeast Brazil, Vitoria da Conquista, Bahia. Prof. Azevedo is an expert in the orchids of the Chapada Diamantina. Finally, no visit to the region is complete without some time spent in the historic Brazilian cities of Ilheus and Salvador. Ilheus was once the center of the Brazilian Cacao industry. Salvador was once the main port of entry from Africa and the capital of colonial Brazil for almost four centuries.

The day by day itinerary of the trip is given in the table on the last page of this letter. We will meet at Miami International Airport on March 14 for an overnight flight to Salvador. In Salvador we will connect to a flight to Ilheus. After two nights and a day in Ilheus, we will travel overland to Reserva Serra Bonita (<http://www.uiracu.org.br/en/serrabonita.html>). We will stay in Serra Bonita for three nights, hiking to see and survey orchids during the days and staying at the Serra Bonita lodge at night. After that we will take off for the rest of the trip to several locations in Chapada Diamantina. We have arranged to stay several nights in the towns of Mucuge and Lencois, making day trips to see orchids around those towns. Finally we will fly from Lencois to Salvador, to spend two nights and a day sampling that historic city.

The cost of the trip is US\$2525 per person for double occupancy or US\$2925 per person for single occupancy. This fee covers all travel, lodging, meals, and entrance fees to parks and reserves (if there are any) in Brazil. Incidentals and most alcoholic drinks are not included in the trip fare. However, the exception to this rule is a caipirinha for you any time I have one.

You are responsible for the expense of traveling to Ilheus, Bahia, Brazil from your home, and for the expense of returning home from Salvador, Bahia. I will be traveling on American Airlines flight 239 from Miami to Salvador, Bahia, Brazil at 10:55 PM on March 14 and then traveling from Salvador to Ilheus on Gol flight 2009 on March 15. I recommend that you join me for this part of the trip. Your return to the US can be part of a round trip ticket from Miami to Salvador. You are welcome to stay longer in Salvador or Brazil independently of the OCA portion of the trip. Furthermore, you are responsible for obtaining a visa to enter Brazil. This can be done by you or, somewhat more conveniently but at greater expense, by a visa service.

Those of you who have previously traveled to Brazil with the OCA will find that this trip does not duplicate any of the locations we have been to in the past. Furthermore, we are not visiting Rio de Janeiro on this trip because the preparations for the world cup of 2014 are making that city just too expensive and crazy.

The trip will be limited to a total of 8 travelers, not including myself, Rosario Braga, or Cecilia Azevedo.

I realize that notice of this trip is short. We must have your refundable deposit of \$250 by February 1 to reserve your space on this trip. If we do not have 6 travelers by Feb 2, the trip will be cancelled and your deposit refunded. After Feb 2 your deposit will be non-refundable and we will need payment in full for the trip by Feb 10. This is to enable hotel, bus, and flight (Lençóis - Salvador) reservations to be made.

This trip does not include a visit to an orchid nursery and, in general, it is not possible to purchase plants for carriage back to the US. However, we will organize a group order with AWZ Orquideas to obtain plants that you may see on the trip. AWZ Orquideas is a superb nursery. I am personally familiar with Alek and Wladyslaw Zaslavsky, I have visited their nursery, and have purchased many, perhaps too many, plants from them. They sell only seed raised plants. Their web site is www.awzorchids.com.br. Please note that the OCA has a very strict policy against plant collecting on any of its trips.

I have attempted to cover all essential travel details but you should feel free to contact me by email (peter@orchidconservationalliance.org) or by phone (760-518-5120). The issue of immunizations often comes up. I am not qualified to offer an opinion on medical matters. You should consult your personal physician or a travel clinic on medical issues.

Having visited both Serra Bonita and Chapada Diamantina myself, I am looking forward to seeing it again and to showing it to you, my friends in the OCA. This will be a great trip!

Sincerely,

Peter Tobias

Brazil 2014 Itinerary		
Date	Day Activity	Night Location
Friday Mar 14	Fly from Miami on AA 239, dpt 10:55 PM to Salvador	On airplane
Saturday Mar 15	Arr Salvador @8:05AM. Catch Gol 2009 @3:02PM to Ilheus	In Ilheus
Sunday Mar 16	Visit park/reserve near Ilheus	In Ilheus
Monday Mar 17	Drive to Serra Bonita, ~ 3 hours	In Serra Bonita
Tuesday Mar 18	Hike in Serra Bonita	In Serra Bonita
Wednesday Mar 19	Hike in Serra Bonita	In Serra Bonita
Thursday Mar 20	Leave Serra Bonita for Vitoria da Conquista - most of day driving.	In Vitoria da Conquista
Friday Mar 21	Arrive in Mucuge. Visit town.	In Mucuge
Saturday Mar 22	Park/reserve near Mucuge.	In Mucuge
Sunday Mar 23	Park/reserve near Mucuge.	In Mucuge
Monday Mar 24	Drive to Lençóis. Visit town.	In Lençóis
Tuesday Mar 25	Park/reserve near Lençóis.	In Lençóis
Wednesday Mar 26	Park/reserve near Lençóis.	In Lençóis
Thursday Mar 27	Fly from Lençóis to Salvador.	In Salvador
Friday Mar 28	Day in Salvador.	In Salvador
Saturday Mar 29	Leave for US or stay on independently.	Home in bed ?