SEE-U Brazil
The Atlantic Forest & Serra do Mar State Park

6 credits, 5 weeks
Summer 2018: June 1–July 1
Instructor: Dr. Tim Kittel, University of Colorado Boulder

Students participating in the SEE-U Brazil course spend 5 weeks learning about tropical forest ecology and conservation practices in the Atlantic Forest. The Atlantic Forest is geographically and ecologically distinct from the Amazon Forest. The ecosystems within this region include evergreen tropical rainforests, semideciduous tropical forests, mangroves, and high-altitude grasslands. The Atlantic Forest is one of Conservation International’s 35 Biodiversity Hotspots, exhibiting both floral and faunal biodiversity and home to over 20,000 species of plants and 2,200 species of mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians.

In Brazil, you will visit several conservation areas, including Serra do Mar State Park. Here, the rainforest meets the ocean in the largest contiguous protected area of the Atlantic Forest. Containing over 40% of all amphibians, birds, reptiles, and mammals in the region, Serra do Mar State Park is a fascinating location in which to learn about the coastal Atlantic Forest and marine ecosystems of Brazil. While visiting the park, you will also have the opportunity to explore nearby historic Paraty, a preserved Portuguese colonial and Brazilian Imperial town on the Green Coast of Brazil.

The course is hosted by Instituto de Pesquisas Ecológicas (IPÊ), one of the largest environmental non-governmental organizations in Brazil. IPÊ has over 20 years of experience in the successful implementation of mammal, bird, and landscape conservation programs and IPÊ scientists are internationally-recognized experts in species and landscape conservation. IPÊ programs serve as case studies for the SEE-U Brazil course, providing examples of successes in linking efforts to support both environmental sustainability and socioeconomic development. Members of the scientific staff interact with SEE-U students on a daily basis, serving as instructors, guest lecturers, or advisors on individual projects.

For more information about the Brazil course and to view an example syllabus, please visit http://eices.columbia.edu/education-training/see-u/see-u-brazil/. For more information about the SEE-U program and to apply, please visit http://eices.columbia.edu/education-training/see-u/. Please email EICES at eices@columbia.edu with questions.