



Natural Selections

BIRDING, WILDLIFE, AND PHOTO TOURS



Jaguar

The Brazilian Pantanal

11 Nights/12 Days

The Brazilian Pantanal is the world's largest tropical wetland at over 60,000 square miles in area. It is also home to the densest and most accessible populations of Jaguars (*Panthera onca*) on Earth. This unique habitat teems with life and is also home to emblematic species such as Yacare Caiman, Capybara, Brazilian Tapir, Giant Otter, Giant Anteater, and 440+ bird species including Hyacinth Macaws, Toco Toucans, and the nearly 5-foot-tall Greater Rhea!

Travel will be first by vehicle along the Trans-Pantanal Highway, and then by open boat along the Cuiaba, Tres Hermanos, and Piquiri Rivers. Lodging will be land-based for the first and last 2 nights, and the rest of the time on a floating hotel in the absolute center of maximum Jaguar activity, providing us access to a rich mix of Pantanal habitats, wildlife and birds.

On land as well as on the water, our guides, drivers and boat captains will be among the best Brazil has to offer. The acute spotting skills of our tour leader and local guide will help ensure encounters and stunning imagery of not only magnificent Jaguars, but of as much of the incredibly beautiful and diverse wildlife that the Pantanal has to offer.

Tour Overview

Day 1: Arriva Cuiaba Airport (CGB), transfer to Hotel Deville
Days 2, 3: Pouso Alegre Lodge
Days 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9: Flotel Panoramico, Pantanal
Days 10, 11: Pousada Piuval Lodge
Day 12: Depart Cuiaba (CGB)

11 Night/12 Day Itinerary:

Day 1, Arrival and transfer to hotel:

Arrive Cuiaba Airport and transfer (20 min drive) to the best hotel in all of Mato Grosso--the Hotel Deville. The Deville is quiet, clean, modern and located in a pleasant part of the city, with 80% of the

Yacare Caiman



best restaurants and bars in the entire state (which is 2.3 times the size of California!) within a 5 min walk of the hotel.

Dinner tonight is not included, but we can dine as a group at the hotel or at one of many restaurants that are a short walking distance from the hotel.

Meals: Dinner

Lodging at Hotel Deville

Day 2, Transfer to Pouso Alegre Lodge:

After a substantial buffet breakfast, we leave the Hotel Deville at 8:00 am sharp with our English-speaking naturalist guide and drive 2.5 hours to Pouso Alegre Lodge.

We'll arrive in time for lunch and refreshing ourselves before an afternoon-evening truck safari within the property of our lodge. Set within 8,000 hectares, Pouso Alegre contains many of Pantanal's typical habitats along the seasonal river Bento Gomez, surrounded by savannah, forests and swamps. Pouso Alegre is well-known for amazing wildlife opportunities, and our safari will be targeting Giant Anteater, Southern Tamandua, Brocket Deer, Coati, Peccaries, Capybara, and close to water holes, Brazilian Tapir.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Lodging at Pouso Alegre Lodge

Day 3, Pouso Alegre Lodge and wildlife:

We'll enjoy two safari outings this day....one from 7:00 am to roughly 10:00 am and another from 3:30 pm until sunset. Around the lodge, there is an enormous amount of activity at the fruit feeders including Chestnut-eared Aracari, Toco Toucan, Crested Oropendola, Yellow-billed Cardinal, and Bare-faced Curassaw, with Hyacinth Macaws sometimes nesting nearby, perched, or flying over. Our morning safari outing will take us to several ponds throughout the property that are full of birds, and great spots for Black Skimmer, Yellow-billed and Large-billed Terns, and Green, Amazon and Ringed Kingfishers. Sunbitterns are common in Pouso Alegre. Raptors such as Snail Kite, Black-collared Hawk, and Great-black Hawk are also common here. Jabiru stork and Wood Stork are



Toco Toucan

species such as Cocoli, Capped, Striated, Rufescent Tiger-Heron, Black-crowned Night-Heron, and sometimes Boat-billed Heron and Whistling Heron.

In the afternoon we'll embark on another truck safari and focus on Giant Anteater, Southern Tamandua, Brocket Deer, Coati, Peccaries, Capybara, Brazilian Tapir, and any other wildlife and birds we happen to encounter.

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Lodging at Pouso Alegre Lodge*

Day 4, Transpantanal Highway to the Rio Cuiaba:

After breakfast we'll head south on the Transpantanal Highway (about 4 hours in an AC vehicle depending on how often we stop for photos of birds and wildlife). At the end of the drive, we reach the north bank of the 200-meter-wide Cuiaba River and then travel in our Jaguar observation boat for 30-45 min to the Panoramico Flotel and Suites, our lodge for the next six nights.

After lunch on the Panoramico, we'll take our first four-hour boat outing on the 100 km of river channels that we ply on the Jaguar-rich rivers of Jaguarland.

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Lodging at Panoramico Flotel and Suites*

Day 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, Jaguar Suites and Jaguars:

The next several days will be an adventure, and hopefully jam-packed with Jaguars!

We'll enjoy two, four-hour boat outings per day along the Three Brothers, Cuiaba, and Piquiri Rivers in search of Jaguars, Giant Otters, Capybaras, Marsh Deer, and myriad bird species such as Black-collared Hawk, Jabiru Stork, Capped Heron, Green and Rufous Kingfisher, Rufous-tailed Jacamar, Hyacinth Macaw, and more. Thousands of Yacare Caiman live along these rivers (and are a main jaguar food source), and we may

frequently seen as are many heron also spot a Yellow Anaconda or two. Typically, our guests see 8-12 different Jaguars during such an itinerary, seen over 14-22 different sightings. These numbers were the running average for the entire 2019 Jaguar season. Simply stated, this is an extraordinary experience that must be lived to be believed.

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Lodging at Panoramico Flotel and Suites*

Day 10, Transpantanal Highway to Pousada Piuval Lodge:

After breakfast, we'll bid farewell to Jaguarland, and boat to Porto Jofre before driving north along the Transpantanal Highway to Piuval Lodge for lunch. The dry forest, ranchland and wetlands around Piuval are fantastic for birds and wildlife and we'll have an afternoon safari at Piuval Lodge for Giant Anteater, Greater Rhea, Red-legged Seriema, rare Hyacinth Macaws, and Blue and Yellow Macaws.

Giant Anteater



Other bird species here are similar to Pouso Alegre, with the exception of Black-banded Owl, which occurs here and is seen with luck.

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Lodging at Piuval Lodge*

Day 11, Pousada Piuval Lodge:

We'll do two safaris today, morning and afternoon, in search of Tapir, Giant Anteater, Tamandua, Armadillos, Marsh and Brocket Deer, and Crab-eating Foxes. Piuval also has several trails and two observation towers to help us find up Black and Gold Howler Monkey, Brown Capuchin Monkey and Black-tailed Marmosets, Capybaras, Coatis and some of the 450+ bird species registered in the area, including the largest bird of the Americas, the Greater Rhea, and the Red-legged Seriema, which is equivalent to Africa's Secretary Bird; a terrestrial predator!

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Lodging at Pousada Piuval Lodge*

Day 12, Departure:

Today we'll transfer for 2 hours back to the Cuiaba (CGB) airport in time for the mid-day flights to São Paulo, which allows connecting with almost all flights that leave Sao Paulo for the Northern Hemisphere.

Meals: Breakfast



Hyacinth Macaw

Included in this itinerary:

Accommodations from arrival at Hotel Deville on the first day of the tour to drop off at the Cuiaba airport on the last day of the tour. Meals from breakfast on day two to breakfast on final day, all ground transportation, Pouso Alegre and Piuval safaris, Cuiaba, Tres Hermanos, and Piquiri river trips, local guides, photographic support, instruction, and wildlife spotting and identification of tour leader and local guides.

Not Included:

Dinner on night of arrival, alcohol, additional soft drinks other than juice and water, laundry, souvenirs, or similar items of a personal nature.

Travel insurance:

We highly recommend purchasing travel insurance. In the event that you need to cancel your trip due to medical or other reasons, this insurance will protect you.



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