



# Natural Selections

**BIRDING, WILDLIFE, AND PHOTO TOURS**



Jaguar

## The Brazilian Pantanal

10 Nights/11 Days

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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: Southwild Pantanal Lodge

Days 4, 5, 6, 7, 8: Jaguar Suites, Pantanal

Days 8, 10: Southwild Pantanal Lodge

Day 11: Depart Cuiaba (CGB)

## 10 Night/11 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 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 on your own  
Lodging at Hotel Deville*

### Day 2, Transfer to Southwild Pantanal Lodge:

After a substantial buffet breakfast, we leave the Hotel Deville at 8:00

Yacare Caiman



am sharp with our English-speaking naturalist guide and drive 2.5 hours to Southwild Lodge.

We'll arrive in time for lunch and refreshing ourselves before afternoon wildlife viewing, birding and photography around the property of the lodge. This evening after dinner we'll head out for the lodge's well-known Ocelot blind. Southwild is well-known for amazing wildlife opportunities, and some other possibilities include Crab Fox, Southern Tamandua, Brocket Deer, Brown Capuchin, Coati, Peccaries, Capybara, and close to the river, Brazilian Tapir.

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

### Day 3, Southwild Lodge and wildlife:

We'll enjoy two safari outings this day....one a boat ride up the Rio Piquiri from 7:00 am to roughly 10:00 am and another from 3:30 pm until sunset, walking around the lodge or through the gallery forest near the lodge and along the river. Green, Ringed, Pygmy, Green and Rufous and Amazon Kingfishers are all seen here, as well as Black Collared Hawks, Howler Monkeys and other birds and wildlife. 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 Curassow, with Hyacinth Macaws sometimes nesting nearby, perched, or flying over.



Toco Toucan

Rufescent Tiger-Heron, Black-crowned Night-Heron, and sometimes Boat-billed Heron and Whistling Heron are seen here too as are Sunbittern and Jabiru.

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

**Day 4, Transpantanal Highway to the Rio Cuiaba:**

After breakfast we'll head south on the Transpantanal Highway (about 6 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 Suites Flotel for 30-45 min to the Flotel and Suites, our lodge for the next six nights.

After lunch at Jaguar Suites, 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 Jaguar Suites*

**Day 5, 6, 7, 8, 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-collard 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 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. Simply stated, this is an extraordinary experience that must be lived to be believed.

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner  
Lodging at Jaguar Suites*

**Day 9, Transpantanal Highway to Southwild Lodge:**

After breakfast, we'll bid farewell to Jaguarland, and boat to Porto Jofre before driving north along the Transpantanal Highway, taking the Transpantania back to Southwild Lodge. We plan to arrive Southwild Lodge for lunch. Once back at Southwild Lodge, we'll have an afternoon of relaxing or once again can enjoy the birds and wildlife around the lodge. The dry forest, ranchland and wetlands along the way (once again) are fantastic for birds and wildlife and we'll have opportunities for Giant Anteater, Greater Rhea, Red-legged Seriema, rare Hyacinth Macaws, and Blue and Yellow Macaws, among others.

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner  
Southwild Lodge*

Giant Anteater





Hyacinth Macaw

### **Day 10, Pousada Piuval Lodge:**

We'll do one morning boat safari today in search of riverine wildlife and birds including Capybaras, Coatis and some of the 440+ bird species registered in the area. The afternoon will be for relaxing and organizing, prior to dinner and an evening visit to the Ocelot blind.

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

### **Day 11, 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*

### **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, Southwild 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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