

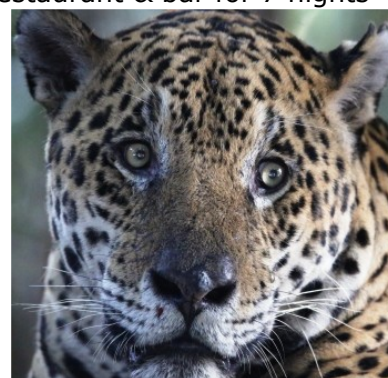
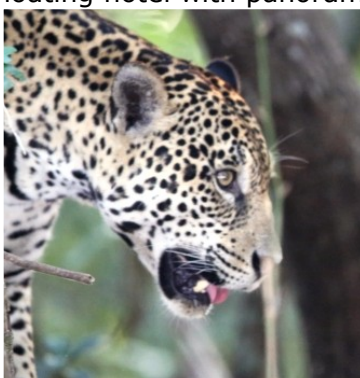
**Brazil – Jaguars, Giants & other Jewels of Pantanal’s Wildlife**  
**Unique itinerary with a full circle cruise in the Pantanal**



**Brazil** and within that **the Pantanal** is surely a dream destination for any nature enthusiast. There are more and more people who would like to visit, there are a few specialized tour companies who offer it, but only a handful options to make a full circle on the huge river systems in the Southern Pantanal. Our tour is one of those, visiting **Parque Estadual Encontro da Aguas, Parque Nacional Mato Grosso & Reserva Ecologia Taiama**. During the tour we will concentrate on mammal watching but will not forget to point out the incredible variety of colourful birds and other wildlife either. **All pics were made during our tours.**

**Fact File**

- 11 mammal & wildlife watching days in the world-famous Pantanal area, total 12 days+overnight flight
- start and finish in Cuiaba, Brazil
- using one of the best Pantanal Lodges for 3nights with excellent on site mammal & wildlife-watching possibilities & a spacious floating hotel with panoramic restaurant & bar for 7 nights



**Highlights**

- **Jaguars, Giant River Otters, Giant Ant-eater, good chance for Ocelot, Tapir** & other mammals, several unique bird species such as **Hiacynth Macaw, Jabiru, Sunbittern**
- thousands of Caimans, **amazing landscape, days without roads & settlements**
- wide variety of birds, mammals, reptiles, butterflies and habitats**

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## Accommodation

3 nights at Piuval Lodge & 7 nights on the floating hotel

### Our price includes

- all travel within the country as noted in the itinerary;
- all accommodation based on shared rooms, single rooms for extra charge;
- services of the leader(s);
- trip materials
- 3 meals per day, generally full breakfast, lunch & dinner (3 courses, usually buffet style)



## Activity level

Easy to moderate walks; some areas are hot and humid; rain is possible

Daily outings on small motorboats to search wildlife morning & afternoon & night drives

## Not included

- flights to and from Cuiaba, Brasil;
- optional programmes to places of interest and entrance fees involved;
- airport and other departure taxes, tips, drinks & food beyond generally 3 meals/day;
- excess baggage charges; telephone calls; other personal expenses;
- compulsory personal insurance.



## Itinerary

### Day 1

Arrive to **Cuiaba airport**, 1,5-2hours transfer on the **Transpantenera road to Piuval Lodge** where we can start **birding & wildlife watching** on site depending on the arrival time.

### Days 2-3

We spend 2 full days with searching birds, mammals, reptiles, butterflies & other wildlife at the huge area of the Piuval Lodge and alongside the Transpantenera road. Each evening we also venture out with safari style trucks and we should see different bats, nightjars & with some luck **Ocelot, Tapir** or other mammals. In a walking distance we should find such bird species as **Guira Cuckoo, Rufous Hornero, Grey-crested Cacholote, both Yellow-billed & Red-crested Cardinal, Baywing, Cattle Tyrant, Green-barred Woodpecker, Bare-faced Ibis, Wattled Jacana**. A beautiful Mango tree if fruiting at the time of our visit can attract **Thrush-like Wren, Blue-crowned & Yellow-chevrons Parakeet, Purplish Jay, Crested Oropendula & Chestnut-eared Aracari**. Also at the property at ponds and wet areas we should encounter **Woodstork, Jabiru, Plumbeous-, Bare-faced-, Buff-necked & Green**

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**Ibis, Amazon kingfisher, Striated & Whistling Heron, Limpkin, Brazilian Teal & Muscovy Duck.**

Another short walk in the drier grassland with patches of woods can result the incredible **Giant Ant-eater**. It is amazing to witness this specially adapted species searching food.



In the meantime we can add to our birdlist **Campo Flicker, White Woodpecker, Epaulet Blackbird, Great Rufous Woodcreeper, Fork-tailed Flycatcher, Saffron Finch** and a number of raptors such as **Southern Crested Caracara, Savanna Hawk, Black-collared Hawk, Plumbeous Kite & Crane Hawk**.

Even **Hyacinth Macaws** fly across every day, but to be sure we will visit & admire them at their nesting area from a safe distance. **Peach-fronted & Monk Parakeet** could be new ones and we will surely find the huge flightless **Greater Rea** as well. We will hear from large distance **Southern Screamers**.

If you are ready for an early morning drive out we should search **Brazilian Tapir, Crab-eating Fox** and at a nearby forest **Black-tailed Marmoset, Brown-nosed Coati & Black-and-Gold Howler Monkey** endemic only to the Pantanal and surrounding areas of neighboring countries.

We can add to the bird-list **Solitary Cacique, Grayish Saltator, Fork-tailed Woodnymph & Picui Ground Dove, Red-legged Seriama, Sunbittern**, large number of **Jabirus & Woodstorks** among hundreds of Caimans. In the local forest we will search **Ferruginous Pygmy Owl, Scaled Dove, Bare-faced Curassow**.

One day we pay a visit to a local dry gallery forest alongside a river from where we walk on a boardwalk to a tall lookout tower, offering a panoramic view of the region dotted with huge Woodstork & Jabiru colonies. The small shady forest with some old trees resulted **Red-billed Scythebill, Buff-throated Woodcreeper, Epaulet Oriole, Orange-backed Troupial & Thrushlike Wren**. Depending on the water level we might do a boat tour on a river as well which gives a chance to see **Southern Screamer, Ringed & Green Kingfisher, Wattled Jacana, Greater Ani, Neotropical Cormorant, Yellow-headed Caracara**. But last time the highlights were **Orange-winged Amazons** & a pair of **Golden-collared Macaws**, plus an up close hunting **River Otter**.

#### **Days 4-10**

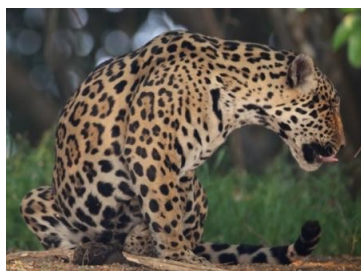
On day4 if you wish we can go out early for a dawn safari ride to look for any mammals we perhaps missed before, have breakfast, checkout and leave around 8. We drive South on the Transpantenera road, crossing a very exciting habitat, stopping at the best points: at huge flocks of waterbirds, at a roosting site of **Great Horned Owls** which also produced **Great Antshrike, White-lored Spinetail, Pale-legged Hornero & Yellow-billed Cardinal**. During our travel we stop for **Scarlet-headed Blackbird, Black-capped Donacobius, Peach-fronted Parakeet**. We also have a chance to spot the rare and localized **Marsh Deer**. Around midday or early afternoon we arrive to Porto Jofre from where we continue on a small boat to our floating hotel. Within half an hour we will reach a point in the **Parque Estadual Encontro da Aguas** where 3 big rivers meet, this is the best base where we are at the area

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which boasts of **the World's highest concentration of Jaguars**. We spend this afternoon and another 2 full days here to discover the main riverside areas and small side channels. Upon arrival we get our cabins, refresh ourselves and get ready for our excellent lunch in the spacious restaurant with panoramic windows. After lunch we can go out with a smaller boat for the first Jaguar encounter. There is very high chance to find our first **Giant Otters** as well.

We will have 6 full days to enjoy searching & finding **Jaguars, Giant River Otters, Capibaras**, perhaps **Tapirs** & wonderful birds & other wildlife. Generally the daily routine is to have breakfast at 6am, so we can leave with smaller boats at 7am when it is still cooler and wildlife activity is bigger. Another benefit is to be at the place before other people arrive to the area from more distant lodges. We come back to our base, the floating hotel latest around noon, have a little siesta and a great lunch (perhaps a bit of siesta after lunch as well ☺) and then around 3pm we go out again till dusk. In this way we can maximize the chance to see jaguars and other wildlife regularly.

Beside the sought after mammals and the already mentioned bird species we should see **White-winged & White-rumped Swallow, Chaco Chachalaca, Black-fronted Nunbird, Common Piping Guan, Yellow-rumped Cacique, Great Black Hawk, Rufescent Tiger Heron, Water Tyrant, Rufous-tailed Jacamar, Anhinga, Yellow-billed Cardinal, Cocoi Heron, Blue-headed Trogon, Smooth-billed Ani, Rusty-collared Seedeater, Unicolored Blackbird, Glittering-bellied Emerald, Common Tody Flycatcher** & of course different **Parrots & Parakeets**. We should check the sky for raptors as well, such as **Osprey, Plumbeous Kite, Pantanal Roadside Hawk or Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture**. At dusk we should hear **Great Tinamu** and see **Band-tailed Nightjars** hunting above the water.



Around Day8 we start our journey with the floating hotel towards & through the **Parque Nacional Mato Grosso**. **From now on for days it will be very rare to see any other sign of humans** than occasionally a local fisherman, we will be surrounded by pure nature. First we will travel on the **Rio San Lorenzo** which is the natural border between **Mato Grosso do Sul & Mato Grosso**. As we travel West suddenly the scenery will change: we will see some beautiful hills covered with dense forests. This is where we leave Rio San Lorenzo, reach **River Paraguay** and continue on that. Soon we will arrive to the huge **Uberaba Lagoon** where we will actually visit the **border of Brazil and Bolivia**. We can admire some ancient, pre-historic carvings on rocks & breathtaking scenery.



If water level and dirt road conditions will allow then we visit an area where we try our chance to find a very rare and localized mammal species, the **Chacoan Titi Monkey**, *Callicebus pallescens*.

During this part of the journey we still have a good chance to see **Jaguars & Giant Otters**. We also can add to the list **Silver-beaked Tanager, Grey Tinamu, Chestnut-bellied Guan, Barred Anthshrike, Rufous-browed Peppershrike, Picazuro Pigeon, Southern Screamer, Orange-winged Parrot, Undulated Tinamu, Blue-fronted Parrot/Turquoise-fronted Amazon, Black-crowned Night Heron**

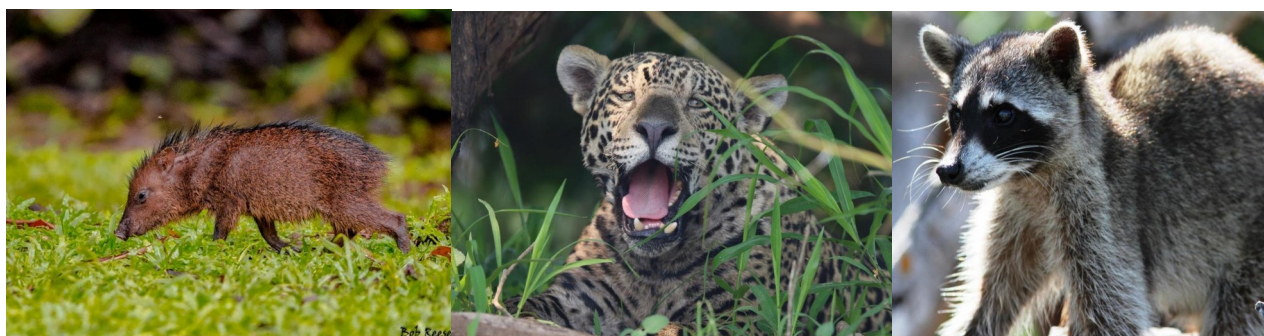
**& American Pygmy Kingfisher, Golden-collared Macaw, Blue-crowned & Yellow-chevroned Parakeet** beside the regular things.

Later on we continue on River Paraguay to North towards **Reserva Ecologica Taiama**. Here we can find **Red-throated Piping Guan** which is a rare member of the Guan family, mentioned on the Red List. It is a very good area for raptors, such as **Savanna Hawk, Plumbeous, Gray-headed & Rufous-tighed Kite**. We had seen here **Jaguars, Giant Otters** & of course lot of **Capibaras**.



Every day we will visit small, isolated bays, little lagoons and side channels. These offer excellent photography possibilities of **Sunbittern, Sungrebe, Rufous-tailed Jacamar, Toco Tucan, Buff-necked Ibis, Limpkin, Grey-necked Woodrail** & many more.

On one of the last days we reach some ranch areas where we have a short walk to give a second chance for **Hyacinth Macaw & Black Hooded/Nenday Parakeet**. Other species here can be **White-rumped Monjita, Rufous-rumped Seedeater, Creamy-bellied Thrush**. If we find a sandy island on the river that can be full with birds such as **Large-billed & Yellow-billed Terns, Black Skimmer, Pied Lapwing**, but during migration we had seen even **Wilson's Phalarope**. Other birds in the area include **Southern Lapwing, Spotted and Upland Sandpiper, Pied Plover**.



## Days 11

Today we arrive to Caceres from where we will have with about a 2-hour-long transfer to Cuiaba where we provide a hotel room if you need, depending on your flight schedule. You can catch international connection next day in Sao Paulo or Brasilia and arrive back home either on Day12 or Day13 depending on your final destination.



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