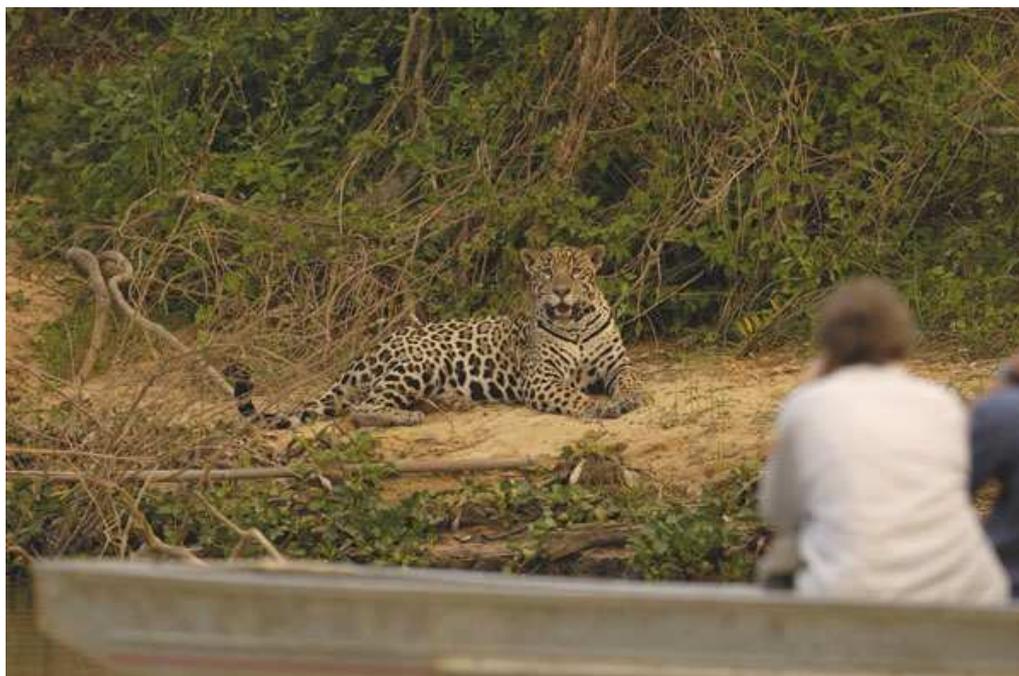




# Reef and Rainforest Tours



## **Quest for the Jaguars of Brazil**

Set Departures - Led by Local Naturalist Guides

10 – 18 June 2017

12 – 20 July 2017

31 July – 08 August 2017

10 – 18 August 2017

06 – 14 September 2017

14 – 22 September 2017

01 – 09 October 2017

11 – 19 October 2017

19 – 27 October 2017

03 – 11 November 2017

The jaguar is one of the most elusive big cats and one which few people have the privilege of seeing. However, Reef and Rainforest Tours are pleased to offer a group tour where sightings of jaguars are virtually guaranteed.

The key to the tour's success is that it visits a very remote and jaguar rich area of the northern Pantanal and employs a team of radio-equipped boats to locate jaguars, and direct the group to areas with the best sightings.

The base for the jaguar watching tours are two houseboats (flotels) totalling 18-cabins moored on the Cuiaba River. In addition there are 12 ensuite FLOATING SUITES located 5 metres upstream from the current Jaguar Flotel (and connected by a 5 metre long bridge near water level).

Since 2007 Reef and Rainforest clients have seen over 450 jaguars whilst staying on the Cuiaba River, with a 100% success rate over the last four years, a real testament to the effort put in to find this king of big cats. Some sightings have been brief whereas others have lasted for hours with many visitors returning with hundreds of photos and hours video of rarely seen behaviour such as hunting, swimming, mating, otter attacks and territorial fights.

Greater in area than Belgium, the vast seasonally flooded plain of the Pantanal is justly famed as being the most impressive wildlife location in South America. In addition to jaguars, the Pantanal has much to interest to the wildlife enthusiast: ostrich-like rhea, jabiru stork, capybara, coatimundi, crab-eating fox, burrowing and pygmy owls, coatimundi, puma, tamandua and giant anteater among others. Birds such as the toco toucan and the highly endangered hyacinth macaw (the world's largest parrot) are generally seen in good numbers, making perfect subjects for colourful pictures.

The tour visits a habituated family of giant river otters and also offers very good chances of seeing tapirs at close quarters. Viewing towers are positioned close to fruiting trees giving good sightings of fruit-eating birds and primates including Brown Capuchin Monkeys, Black and Gold Howler Monkeys, and Silvery Marmosets.

The variety of wildlife seen on this tour plus the potential of seeing some of South Americas most elusive big mammals makes this tour ideal for general wildlife enthusiasts, wildlife photographers and big cat aficionados. There is also an opportunity to extend the tour, perhaps visiting the northern Amazon, the Atlantic rainforest, Iguacu Falls or the vibrant colourful cities of Rio de Janeiro or Salvador.



## Quest for the Jaguars of Brazil

9 DAYS – LED BY LOCAL NATURALIST GUIDES

### TOUR IN BRIEF

- Day 01: Depart LONDON HEATHROW and fly overnight to SAO PAULO.
- Day 02: Arrive SAO PAULO and fly to CUIABA. Transfer to lodge and visit ocelot hide. O/n SOUTHWILD PANTANAL, FB.
- Day 03: Tfr to accommodation on the Cuiaba River. Afternoon boat trip to spot Jaguars. O/n SOUTHWILD JAGUAR FLOTEL & SUITES, FB.
- Day 04: Search for Jaguars. O/n SW JAGUAR FLOTEL & SUITES, FB.
- Day 05: Search for Jaguars. O/n SW JAGUAR FLOTEL & SUITES, FB.
- Day 06: Search for Jaguars. O/n SW JAGUAR FLOTEL & SUITES, FB.
- Day 07: Return to SouthWild Pantanal. Afternoon activity and Night drive. O/n SOUTHWILD PANTANAL, FB.
- Day 08: Tfr to CUIABA and fly to SAO PAULO. Overnight flight home.
- Day 09: Arrive LONDON HEATHROW.

<i>Departures dates from London</i>	<i>Adult Price</i>		<i>Single Supplement</i>	
	<i>Flotel</i>	<i>Suites</i>	<i>Flotel</i>	<i>Suites</i>
10 June 2017	£4,028	£4,903	£460	£590
12 July 2017	£4,328	£5,203	£460	£590
31 July 2017	£4,328	£5,203	£460	£590
10 August 2017	£4,328	£5,203	£460	£590
06 September 2017	£4,028	£4,903	£460	£590
14 September 2017	£4,028	£4,903	£460	£590
01 October 2017	£4,028	£4,903	£460	£590
11 October 2017	£4,028	£4,903	£460	£590
19 October 2017	£4,028	£4,903	£460	£590
03 November 2017	£4,028	£4,903	£460	£590

Minimum group size 2, max 9

**NB:** Prices include full board accommodation, Economy class international and domestic flights, shared transfers, guided activities, drinking water at the lodges, and ATOL protection. Not included are drinks from the bar, gratuities, insurance or departure taxes.

**NB:** Flight prices are based on a specific economy fare class and may be higher subject to availability.



## QUEST FOR THE JAGUARS OF BRAZIL

### DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 01 Depart LONDON HEATHROW at 2210 on TAM AIRLINES flight JJ8085 to SAO PAULO.

Day 02 Arrive SAO PAULO at 0605. Depart mid-morning on domestic flight to CUIABA; the gateway to the Brazilian Pantanal. Met on arrival by naturalist guide and transfer to your lodge in the Pantanal stopping along the journey to see the abundant wildlife by the roadside.

The Pantanal is a UK-sized mosaic of seasonally-flooded savannahs and tropical forests that offer the finest wildlife viewing in Latin America. It harbours a record 82 species of large birds, 3,000-5,000 individuals of which can be seen on a one-hour vehicle ride on the raised Transpantaneira Road, the only road into the Pantanal, which begins one hour's drive from Cuiaba. Other wildlife includes giant otter, capybara, giant anteater, tapir, three monkey species, hyacinth macaw, 400 more bird species and tens of thousands of caimans. This evening (or on your last evening at SouthWild Pantanal) you will have the opportunity to visit a specially designed ocelot hide close to the lodge.



Ocelots are now regularly being attracted to a forest clearing close to the lodge by titbits. The clearing is overlooked by a purpose built elevated hide and the clearing is illuminated with floodlights providing an excellent opportunity to see and photograph this beautiful and normally very shy cat.



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O/n SOUTHWILD PANTANAL, FB. Owned and operated by a professional wildlife biologist, the lodge is found 2.5 kilometres off the Transpantaneira Road, on the forested banks of the wildlife-rich Pixaim River. With air-conditioned rooms and accessible riverine forest, SouthWild Pantanal offers some of the Pantanal's best accommodation for serious wildlife enthusiasts and photographers. Mobile canopy towers are often strategically placed at fruiting and flowering trees and there is a tower overlooking a habituated jabiru stork nest.



Day 03

This morning continue driving to the end of the Transpantaneira to the village of PORTO JOFRE on the CUIABA RIVER viewing wildlife along the journey such as marsh deer, coatis, tegu and caiman lizards, hyacinth macaws, raptors and huge flocks of storks, egrets, herons and waders. On arrival in Porto Jofre, transfer to a small speedboat and begin searching for jaguars. Later in the evening board the houseboat in the middle of the Pantanal's highest density area for jaguars. O/n SOUTHWILD JAGUAR HOUSEBOAT (FLOTEL) & SUITES, FB.

The SouthWild Jaguar Flotel & Suites is focussed on securing reliable and quality jaguar sightings for all its guests. Jaguars have historically been one of the most difficult of the big cats to see in the wild with sightings often restricted to brief glimpses in the jungles and rainforests of Latin America. However, over the years the SouthWild jaguar watching operation has been located in an area of Brazil's Pantanal where jaguars are found in very high numbers and are seemingly very comfortable with human presence. Since 2007, Reef and Rainforest clients have seen



over 450 jaguars whilst staying at the camps with a 100% success rate from 2010, a real testament to the effort put in to find this king of big cats. Some sightings have been brief whereas others have lasted for hours with many visitors returning with hundreds of photos and hours of video of rarely seen behaviour such as hunting, swimming, mating, otter attacks and territorial fights.

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The most common kills have been caiman taken at the river edge but capybara have been taken in the water and some lucky Reef and Rainforest clients have witnessed a stand-off between a large male and group of giant river otters that it had just tried to ambush. Key to the jaguar camps success is having all boats linked by radio and scouring different areas of the riverbank. They aim to have three boats searching for jaguars for at least five hours each day with scout boats used to make up numbers when there are fewer guest boats.



Much of your time will be spent in and around the 270,000-acre MEETING-OF-THE-WATERS STATE PARK, founded in December 2004, this is one of the largest and most pristine protected areas in the 50 million acres of the Pantanal. The riverine habitat, which is ideal for accessing the core of the park, no longer includes any ranching and the numerous jaguars that roam the area are free to hunt their favourite dry-season prey the abundant, four-to-seven feet long caimans and plump, 120-pound capybaras.



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Over the years, the SouthWild jaguar watching operation has shifted its location between a series of tented camps and large houseboats. Since 2012 jaguar watching has been operating from houseboats (flotels) with air conditioning, lower berths and private bathrooms (plenty of hot water).



There are currently a total of 10 flotel cabins on the main houseboat, with an additional eight cabins available in an adjacent flotel during periods of high demand. The cabins are small and quite spartan but the excellent location afforded by the houseboat and the quality of the jaguar sightings more than compensates for the simple accommodation.



There are also 12 ensuite FLOATING SUITES located 5 metres upstream from the current Jaguar Houseboat (and connected by a 5-metre long bridge near water level).

Each of the 12 guest rooms in the Jaguar Suites boasts more than 30 square metres of well-designed space and include a flow-through, quiet "exhaustor" fan; split air conditioning; free Wi-Fi; two oversized twin beds (1.28 metres wide); ample table and shelf space; lots of electrical plugs for charging cameras and laptops; private river views; and a large, roofed lounge deck on top of the craft. Meals will be taken in the houseboat dining room.



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SouthWild Jaguar Houseboat and Suites undoubtedly offers the best chance of observing jaguars anywhere in the world. As with all wildlife sightings, there is a large element of luck involved and factors such as weather can limit the number and



quality of sightings. Whilst searching for jaguars you will have plenty of time to see many of the Pantanal's other great wildlife highlights such as hundreds of capybaras, caiman, giant and neotropical otters, black howler and black-striped capuchin monkeys, and with a little more luck Brazilian tapir and yellow anaconda plus a huge number of birds.

Day 04

Small group excursions with your naturalist guide (details to be decided on the spot). Depending on group numbers and the river levels one guide may be shared between two boats which will travel together. O/n SOUTHWILD JAGUAR FLOTEL & SUITES, FB.



Day 05

Small group boat excursions with your naturalist guide (details to be decided on the spot). Depending on group numbers and the river levels one guide may be shared between two boats which will travel together O/n SOUTHWILD JAGUAR FLOTEL & SUITES, FB.

Day 06

Small group boat excursions with your naturalist guide (details to be decided on the spot). Depending on group numbers and the river levels one guide may be shared between two boats which will travel together O/n SOUTHWILD JAGUAR FLOTEL & SUITES, FB.

Day 07

Last opportunity for jaguar spotting as you return by boat to Porto Jofre where nesting pairs of hyacinth macaws and toco toucans can be seen amongst many other birds. Continue by road back along the Transpantaneira to SouthWild Pantanal in time for lunch.



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In the afternoon there will be a 2 hour motorboat excursion along the wildlife rich Pixaim River. This excursion provides a wonderful opportunity to get up close to many often very obliging wetland birds along a much smaller and quieter river. Here you can enjoy close views of many wetland birds such as ringed, green and Amazon kingfishers, capped and boat-billed herons, the beautiful agamai heron, sunbittern, great black and black-collared hawks and maybe even an anaconda.



Return to the lodge for dinner. After dinner there will also be a 1 hour night drive back along the entrance track and along some of the Transpantaneira where sightings could include Brazilian tapir, crab eating racoon and fox, scissor-tailed nightjar and nighthawks, striped and great-horned owls, and maybe even a southern tamandua (lesser anteater). O/n SOUTHWILD PANTANAL, FB.

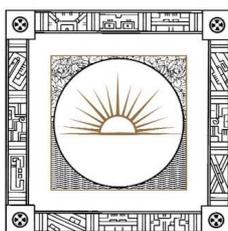


Day 08 After a final early breakfast at the lodge, and some time to enjoy the flocks of birds feeding in the grounds, take a leisurely drive back to CUIABA. There will be some more opportunities to view wildlife on the journey. Arrive at Cuiaba airport in time to catch the domestic flight to SAO PAULO. Depart SAO PAULO at 2345 on TAM flight JJ8084 to LONDON HEATHROW.

Day 09 Arrive LONDON HEATHROW at 1505.

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### QUEST FOR THE JAGUARS OF BRAZIL

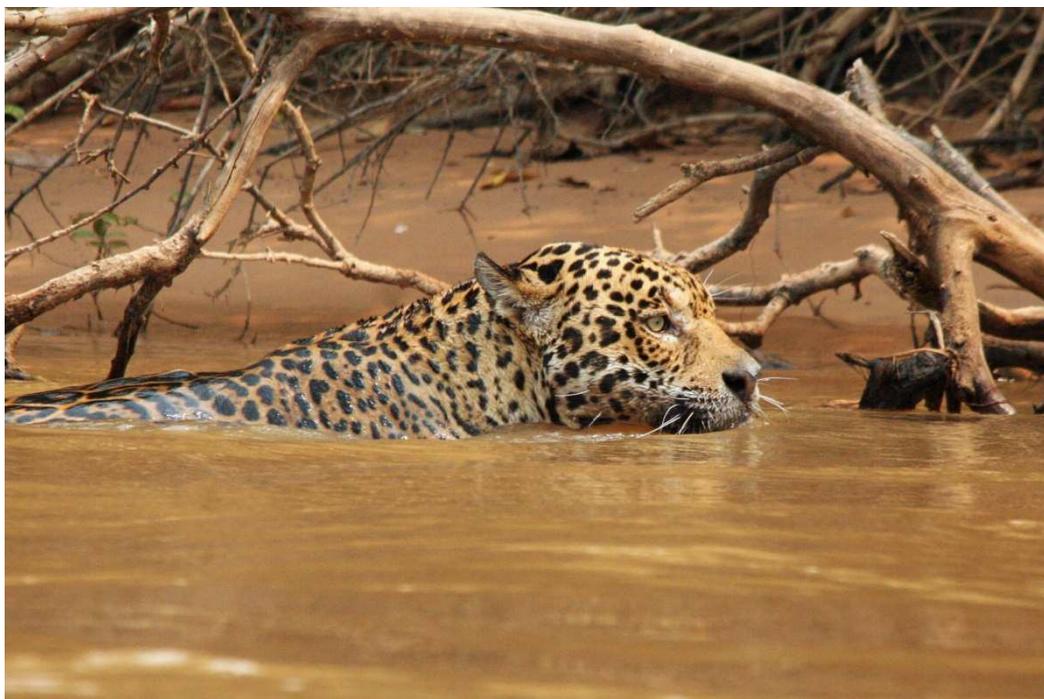
<i>Departures dates from London</i>	<i>Adult Price</i>		<i>Single Supplement</i>	
	<i>Flotel</i>	<i>Suites</i>	<i>Flotel</i>	<i>Suites</i>
10 June 2017	£4,028	£4,870	£460	£590
12 July 2017	£4,328	£5,170	£460	£590
31 July 2017	£4,328	£5,170	£460	£590
10 August 2017	£4,328	£5,170	£460	£590
06 September 2017	£4,028	£4,870	£460	£590
14 September 2017	£4,028	£4,870	£460	£590
01 October 2017	£4,028	£4,870	£460	£590
11 October 2017	£4,028	£4,870	£460	£590
19 October 2017	£4,028	£4,870	£460	£590
03 November 2017	£4,028	£4,870	£460	£590

Minimum group size 2, max 9

**NB:** Prices include full board accommodation, Economy class international and domestic flights, shared transfers, guided activities, drinking water at the lodges, and ATOL protection. Not included are drinks from the bar, gratuities, insurance or departure taxes.

**NB:** Flight prices are based on a specific economy fare class and may be higher subject to availability.

**NB:** Domestic flight schedules are subject to change, so the exact itinerary and price of a specific departure may vary. Due to the domestic flight schedules it may also be necessary to have a long layover in Sao Paulo.



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## IMPORTANT NOTES TO ACCOMPANY THE ABOVE ITINERARY

**NB:** Jaguars are one of South America's most elusive mammals and most research biologists have only seen a handful in their lifetime. The Cuiaba River undoubtedly offers the best chance of observing these amazing animals anywhere in the world. As with all wildlife sightings, there is a large element of luck involved and factors such as weather can limit the number and quality of sightings.

**NB:** This tour will not have a specific tour leader throughout, however in each location you will be accompanied by a local naturalist guide.

**NB:** This tour involves some travel in remote areas. This adds to the adventure and increases the opportunity to enjoy a true wildlife experience. However, due to terrain, weather, road conditions, and other factors beyond our control, some elements of the tour may have to be altered. Times of some activities may need to be changed or even cancelled due to the conditions. If an activity is cancelled it will usually be replaced with an alternative activity that is more appropriate for the conditions. Advance notice will be given for any changes where possible, although at times changes may need to be made whilst the tour is in progress.

**NB:** Once the tour has been booked and a deposit paid, any further changes initiated by the client may be subject to additional charges.

**NB:** The quoted price for the above itinerary is based on current airline fares (both international and domestic), current exchange rates, fuel surcharges and flight taxes. These (and other tour costs) may be subject to unanticipated increases beyond our control at short notice, either before or after you have booked the tour, in which case the price would need to be revised accordingly.

**NB:** Prices are based on a specific airlines and specific economy seating classes. Flights are booked on an ad hoc basis and so early booking is recommended to take advantage of the cheapest fare availability. Prices may rise if a more expensive seat class needs to be booked. Please call for information on price variations for using alternative airlines or for seat upgrades.

**NB:** All itineraries are subject to change without notice to take into account possible airline flight schedule changes which can take place before departure date or during the tour, and other operational factors

**NB:** Adequate insurance cover is mandatory. Please supply us with details of your cover.

**NB:** It is a condition of booking that full travel insurance including Emergency Medical Repatriation is taken out by each person travelling. Your insurance cover must also include Missed Departure and/or Missed Flight Connection for both outbound and return flight sectors (such cover might be subject to a small additional premium – please confirm with your insurers). We ask that you send us a photo/fax/electronic copy of your policy document together with the 24hr medical assistance telephone number issued by your insurer.

**NB:** Before and after booking, clients must familiarise themselves with current UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) travel advisories so as to satisfy themselves as to the suitability of the destination(s) to be visited in this itinerary. All decisions relating to the tour will be based on UK FCO advisories, and not those of any other countries' governments. In the event of any emergency or other problem encountered in the destination, it is advisable if appropriate to contact the local UK Embassy, High Commission or Consulate for assistance. The FCO in London also has dedicated telephone call centres: Crisis Management Dept - 0207 008 5335 (during UK office hours), and Global Response Centre - 0207 008 1500 (out of UK office hours).

**NB:** Some service providers may require that guests sign an indemnity waiver form and may refuse services if these forms are not signed. Reef and Rainforest Tours cannot give refunds for services not provided due to a refusal to sign such forms.

**NB:** Domestic flight schedules are subject to change, so the exact itinerary and price of a specific departure may vary. Due to the domestic flight schedules it may also be necessary to have a long layover in Sao Paulo.

**NB:** Yellow fever vaccination is recommended for this country. This may not be suitable for people aged over 60 who have not been vaccinated before. If this applies to you, please seek medication advice prior to booking. Clients must ensure they seek medical advice prior to booking

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## COUNTRY MAP



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### **SELECTED CLIENT TESTIMONIALS**

I'd hoped, but didn't actually expect, to see a jaguar and was amazed by the numbers we saw and their apparent relaxed attitude to their observers. We saw them lounging in the sun, walking along the riverbank and even hunting: one jumped from the bank on to a caiman in the water (didn't get it) and another stalked a capybara family, following them into the water when they jumped in. Didn't get any but a couple of tiny infants were carried off downriver and I doubt if they got back to the family. The holiday was so full of interest that it seemed much longer. *Miss J G, Surrey*

The wildlife viewings were beyond our expectations. We hoped we would get at least a fleeting glimpse of a jaguar and we saw 8 during a 3 day period. We spent over two hours watching one jaguar and we watched him sleep, walking, swimming and hunting to which he was successful. It was truly incredible. We also watched a group of otters chase off a jaguar. *Mrs D K, Pennsylvania*

The highlight of our trip was eight individual jaguar sightings, two of which were significant with regard to duration and behaviour observed. A female was observed with her young cub. When one includes ocelot, neotropical and giant otters, three species of primates, two species of deer, foxes, tapir, capybara, two species of bats, porcupine, anaconda, iguana, tegu, caiman and a huge freshwater stingray, not to mention 157 species of birds, then one begins to appreciate the sheer quality of our experiences. *Mr J W, Scottish Borders*

Saw three jaguars in 2½ days! One jumped in the river trying to catch a caiman, then we followed it about half a mile along the bank and back again; one was eating a caiman in the shade; and the third was sunning himself on the river bank, but allowed us to watch him for about five minutes. We also watched two families of giant otters, one for about five minutes in the main river, and one family for about three quarters of an hour in total, following them from the main river where the adults were laying spraint and scent making on the bank, and then swam along a small side river where the youngsters were begging and head butting the parents, asking for the fish they were eating, but eventually went off and caught their own. Magic!! *Dr S A, Devon*

Superb!! We had to work hard but well rewarded with excellent photographs. We spotted five different jaguars and saw several close encounters with giant otters plus an anaconda. *Mr and Mrs H P, Nottinghamshire*

The wildlife was spectacular, and our guide was very knowledgeable, helpful, accommodating, patient and charming. He seemed to have a deep reverence for the environment and a sixth sense for the best sightings, and absolutely loved what he was doing – the perfect wildlife tour guide. *Mrs M K, Devon*

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### **OPTIONAL EXTENSION TO POUSO ALEGRE LODGE**

Day 08

After breakfast at SOUTHWILD PANTANAL Lodge take a private transfer with a private naturalist guide up the Transpantaneira viewing wildlife along the journey to POUSO ALEGRE LODGE.



Pouso Alegre is considered one of the best locations in the northern Pantanal to see giant anteaters, particularly along the lodge's private 7 km long raised driveway. Other wildlife that might be seen along this entrance road includes southern tamandua (lesser anteater) red brocket deer, bare-faced curassows and even Brazilian tapir. Other wildlife that can often be seen during a stay at Pouso Alegre by exploring the different habitats available includes marsh deer, Azara's agouti, Brazilian cavy, and a wide diversity of birdlife including macaws, toucans and storks. In the afternoon explore the area in search of anteaters with your private guide and perhaps take a night drive in the late evening once dark to look for nocturnal wildlife. All meals are included today.



O/n POUSO ALEGRE, FB. The simple lodge is located within an 11,000 hectare private reserve on a traditional Pantanal cattle ranch with a mixed landscape of seasonally flooded fields, native grasses, forests and waterways. There are 14 simply furnished ensuite rooms with screened windows, ceiling fan and air conditioning, a dining room serving tasty traditional Pantanal fare, and an outside hammock area for relaxing.

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Day 09

In the morning explore the area accompanied by your private guide and perhaps focus on trying to find anteaters in the dry savannah when they are most active. If lucky you may even be able to approach one within a few meters on foot as they rely so heavily on their sense of smell and have very poor eyesight. After lunch perhaps explore the nearby wetland areas where huge gatherings of wood storks, roseate spoonbills, herons and egrets can be seen. The grassland areas are also good for sightings of Azara's agouti, capybara, cavy and groups of coatis and the yellow anaconda is also seen quite frequently here. In the evening take another safari along the entrance track in search of anteaters and other wildlife. O/n POUZO ALEGRE, FB.



Day 10

Enjoy a final morning activity from the lodge with your private guide. Later transfer back to CUIABA. There will be some more opportunities to view wildlife on the journey. Arrive at Cuiaba airport in time to catch the domestic flight to SAO PAULO. Depart SAO PAULO at 2345 on TAM flight JJ8084 to LONDON HEATHROW.



Day 11

Arrive LONDON HEATHROW at 1505.

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Pouso Alegre Extension Price per person £950.00

The above price is based on 2 travellers sharing a double/twin room with a private English speaking naturalist guide and vehicle at your disposal throughout. Please enquire for prices based on a single room.

**NB:** Prices include full board accommodation, Economy class international and domestic flights, shared transfers, guided activities, drinking water at the lodges, and ATOL protection. Not included are drinks from the bar, gratuities, insurance or departure taxes.

**NB:** Flight prices are based on a specific economy fare class and may be higher subject to availability.

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## **OTHER OPTIONAL EXTENSIONS**

### **SOUTHERN PANTANAL**

The southern Pantanal is drier, and the species diversity tends to be higher than the north, with better opportunities for viewing some of the larger mammal fauna such as giant anteaters, rheas and giant armadillo. We recommend staying at one of the small, intimate lodges such as Fazenda Barranco Alto or Embiara Lodge that can only be reached by a scenic flight over the Pantanal (or a very long overland transfer!).

### **IGUACU FALLS**

In our opinion the most impressive falls in the world, Iguacu is not one but a full series of cascades. Shared by Brazil, Argentina and Paraguay, the falls stretch a good distance along the Rio Iguacu, along which boat rides can be taken (you will get very wet). On the Brazilian side, one walks through woodland to various viewpoints. On the Argentine side, ride a small train before crossing a long walkway across shallows to the amazing Devil's Throat cataract with its thunderous drop into the river far below. Spend two or three nights in the Orient Express owned Hotel Das Cataratas, the only hotel inside the national park on the Brazilian side of the falls. Or perhaps stay on both sides of the falls with a night or two in a Falls View room at the Sheraton Iguazu Hotel and Resort – the only hotel inside the national park on the Argentinean side.

### **AMAZON**

Brazil contains the vast majority of the forest and rivers of Amazonia. The sheer scale of the Amazon basin is truly awesome, yet good wildlife viewing is only found in a few choice locations. Around Manaus and in many other parts of Amazonia, it is very difficult to spot wildlife satisfactorily, often due to hunting or human encroachment. But further afield, in the south and west, natural history lovers can fully experience the thrill of spotting the startling white uakari monkey, flocks of macaws, the powerful harpy eagle or a shy Brazilian tapir in the depths of the seemingly impenetrable rainforest.

### **RIO DE JANEIRO**

Rio needs no introduction, having been a popular destination since the 1950s. Most will have heard of Copacabana and Ipanema beaches, Christ's statue on Corcovado and the cable car to Sugarloaf Mountain. Less well known would be the Botanical Gardens and Tijuca National Park, on the re-forested slopes above Rio. We recommend a two or three night stay in a beachfront hotel (our preferred beaches are Ipanema and Leblon), or a boutique hotel in one of Rio's charming neighbourhoods.

### **ATLANTIC RAINFOREST**

The Atlantic rainforest, or Mata Atlantica, stretches from north-east Brazil south along the Brazilian coastline to Uruguay, and inland into north-east Argentina and eastern Paraguay. Centuries of deforestation have left just 7% of the original forest remaining, with only an estimated 2% primary rainforest. Yet despite this, the Atlantic rainforest is still ranked in the top five of the world's biodiversity hotspots with many unique species including 72 endemic birds and 160 endemic mammals. Excellent birding can be found in the Atlantic rainforest less than two hours from Rio de Janeiro at Guapi Assu Bird Lodge, or at Serra dos Tucanos lodge in the Tres Picos State Park.