



Discovering Our Planet Together



Jaguars & Wildlife of Brazil's Pantanal

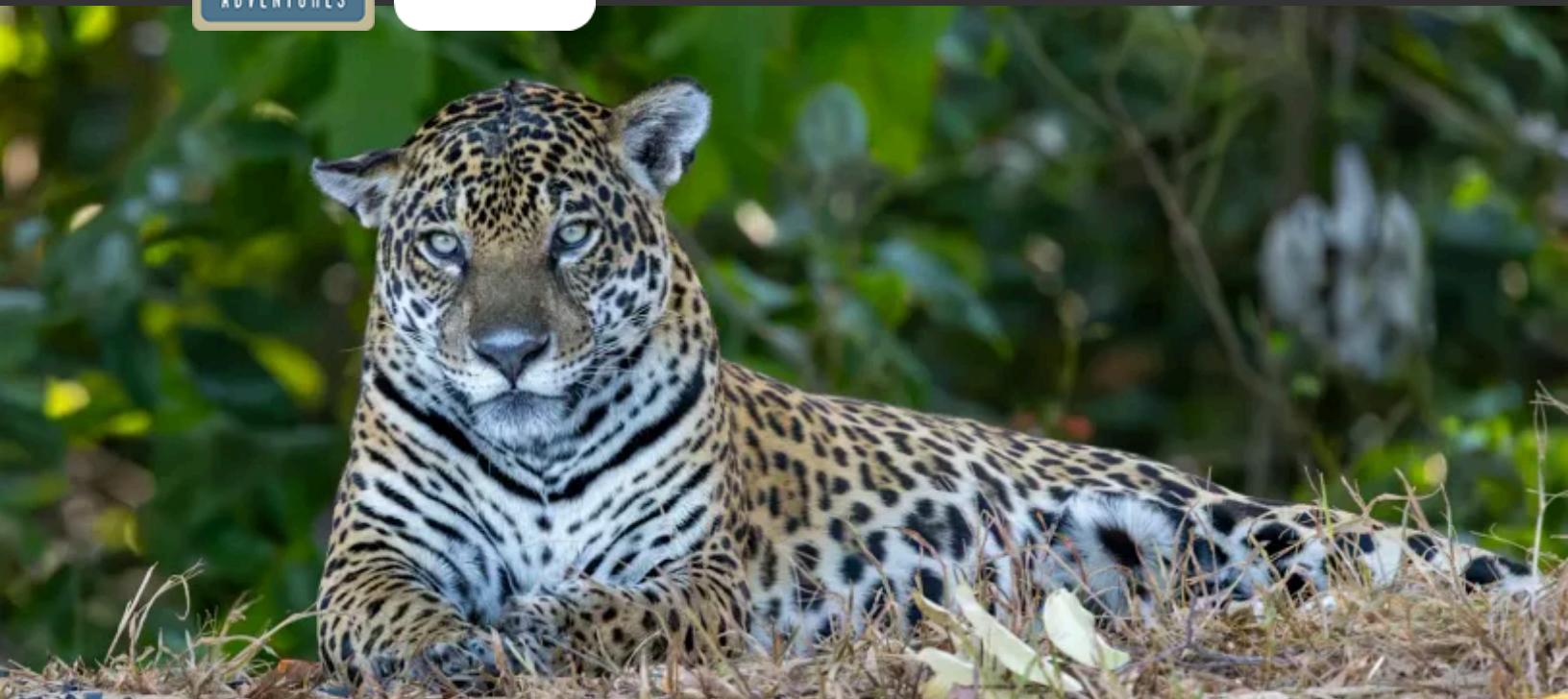
An In-Depth Foray into South America's Grandest Wildlife Realm



Discovering Our Planet Together

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Trip Details:

Days
11 Days /
May-Oct

Price
From
\$14395
(+Air)

Jaguars & Wildlife of Brazil's Pantanal

An In-Depth Foray into South America's Grandest Wildlife Realm

While the Amazon may be better known, the Pantanal offers South America's greatest wildlife extravaganza. This UNESCO Biosphere Reserve is the world's largest seasonal floodplain, sprawling over 75,000 square miles in the heart of the continent and containing its densest concentration of wildlife. The vast mosaic of marsh and islands is home to 10 million caiman, 650 bird species and 100 different mammals, including capybara, maned wolf and giant river otter. The Pantanal's freshwater wetlands support a profusion of aquatic fauna that attracts a host of predators, creating a huge, intricate food chain. At the top is the elegant and elusive jaguar—and our in-depth Pantanal adventure offers the world's best chance to see them! On foot, by boat and 4x4, explore the verdant recesses of South America's largest wildlife sanctuary—you'll find no more epic Pantanal safari!

Trip Highlights

Alongside expert naturalist guides, make five separate boat excursions from Porto Jofre—the best place on the planet to spot jaguars in the wild

Explore by boat in the north, then on 4x4 safari drives and guided walks in the south—you won't find a more varied or comprehensive Pantanal itinerary

Enjoy an exclusive stay at Caiman Ecological Refuge, our remote and secluded base to seek out the giant anteater, tapir, ocelot and hyacinth macaw



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Itinerary At A Glance

Day 1

Sao Paulo, Brazil

Day 2

Sao Paulo / Cuiaba / North Pantanal

Day 3

Exploring the North Pantanal

Day 4

North Pantanal / Porto Jofre—Jaguar Viewing

Days 5 & 6

Porto Jofre—Jaguar & Wildlife Viewing

Day 7

Porto Jofre / South Pantanal—Private Flight to Caiman Ecological Refuge

Days 8 & 9

Exploring the South Pantanal

Jaguars & Wildlife of Brazil's Pantanal Itinerary

An In-Depth Foray into South America's Grandest Wildlife Realm

Day 1: Sao Paulo, Brazil

Arrive in Sao Paulo and transfer to our boutique hotel in the upscale Jardins district, a leafy, low-rise enclave in the heart of this burgeoning city. Our Brazil adventure begins with a welcome dinner this evening.





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Itinerary At A Glance

Day 10

Caiman / Private Flight to Campo Grande / Sao Paulo

Day 11

Sao Paulo / Depart

Day 2: Sao Paulo / Cuiaba / North Pantanal

A full day of travel is in store to reach our destination as we first fly this morning to Cuiaba, then transfer by road to Araras Ecolodge in the northern Pantanal. Declared a World Heritage Site and Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO in 2000, the Pantanal's vast expanse of wet marshlands and dry islands is South America's primary wildlife sanctuary. Its name derives from the Portuguese word *pantano*, meaning "swamp." With rhythmic regularity, this vast depression in the center of South America floods with the annual rains, submerging most of its environs. As the waters recede during the dry season, they leave a mosaic of pools and marshes where a plethora of life flourishes in intense concentrations. Some 3,500 different plants thrive here, and the Pantanal is home to 10 million caiman, 650 bird species, 400 kinds of fish, myriad reptiles and amphibians, and more than 100 mammal species. Wandering the nature trails around the lodge, we get our first sense of the wondrous biodiversity surrounding us.

Day 3: Exploring the North Pantanal

Covering 75,000 square miles across Brazil, Bolivia and Paraguay, the Pantanal is the world's largest wetland, containing 12 subregional ecosystems including semi-arid woodland and tropical savanna. Our immersion begins with a morning nature walk with our Expedition Leader and local guides who are resident experts on the flora and fauna. We'll hope to see some of the region's threatened species, including giant armadillo and capybara, plus spectacular birdlife. While their habitat is under duress due to the expansion of ranching, mining and farming, it is reassuring to know our presence contributes to the economic value of conserving this incomparable wildlife realm. This afternoon, explore the Pantanal savanna by safari vehicle, then finish our day's adventures with a night drive, hoping to spot nocturnal wildlife en route to the lodge.

Day 4: North Pantanal / Porto Jofre—Jaguar Viewing

On a sunrise nature walk from our ecolodge, listen to the chorus of birdsong and monkey calls announcing a new day. After breakfast, depart on a scenic half-day drive to Porto Jofre via the Trans-Pantanal Highway, which traverses some of the best wildlife-viewing areas in the ecosystem. Along this remote dirt road that crosses 123 bridges, search for caiman, capybara, giant anteater, anaconda, jabiru stork, macaws and more. Our destination is Porto Jofre, where the highway ends at the Cuiaba River—an important port for transporting cattle and agricultural products from the Pantanal along the road artery to the town of Pocone and beyond. After lunch on arrival, set out in open skiffs for our first jaguar watch, scanning the riverbanks for glimpses of the stealthy feline hunters. This region has the highest density of jaguars in the entire Pantanal, and our odds of seeing them are excellent, especially from mid-June to mid-October. The jaguar—the largest wild cat in the Americas—is the top predator in the ecosystem, drawn to the abundance of food sources that thrive here.



Days 5 & 6: Porto Jofre—Jaguar & Wildlife Viewing

The area around Porto Jofre offers exceptional wildlife encounters, and our focus is on sighting jaguars and giant otters. We look for them and a multitude of other Pantanal species, including caiman, capybara, toucans and howler monkeys, on private morning and afternoon small-boat excursions. Outings on the river also reveal scores of waterbirds, reptiles and plants that thrive in the sprawling mosaic of lakes, lagoons, rivers and marshes. Fish flourish in this freshwater sea, too, and as the water level drops seasonally in the lakes and channels, fishermen can sometimes catch dorado, pacu and traíra by hand. Birds large and small fly overhead and feed at eye level.

Day 7: Porto Jofre / South Pantanal—Private Flight to Caiman Ecological Refuge

This morning, fly via chartered small plane directly to Caiman Ecological Refuge, enjoying dramatic aerial views and avoiding a rugged 10-hour drive. Deep in the green recesses of the South Pantanal, this renowned ecolodge is our private base for exploration. It lies at the remote heart of a 130,000-acre sustainable cattle ranch, and the atmosphere reflects the distinctive local cowboy culture that taps 200 years of combined Portuguese, Paraguayan and indigenous traditions. The lodge was the first ecotourism operation in the region and remains a conservation leader. When the refuge was established, 10% of the ranch acreage was set aside as a private conservation area, off-limits to cattle but open to visitors. The protected area, chosen with the aid of research scientists from the University of São Paulo, is remarkably diverse, with habitats encompassing wooded and scrubby savanna, open pasture, stands of caranda palm, hammock forests, streams and seasonal channels—all providing sustenance for numerous Pantanal species, including Brazilian tapir. This afternoon, we head out on a private wildlife drive in the Caiman Ecological Refuge, perhaps providing our first jaguar sighting in the south.

Days 8 & 9: Exploring the South Pantanal

A range of activities in the refuge offers varied perspectives on the South Pantanal. Depending on seasonal conditions, we may take nature walks and day and night 4x4 safaris in open-sided trucks. Local guides join our Expedition Leader to reveal and interpret the area's many natural phenomena. Wildlife abounds in the vicinity, and the refuge is the site of the Onçafari Jaguar Project. This new conservation initiative aims to promote wildlife ecotourism in the Pantanal by habituating jaguars to vehicles so people can observe them while on safari. With patience and luck, we hope to be among the fortunate few to see wild jaguars here, as sightings continue to increase with concerted conservation efforts. On clear nights from mid-June to mid-October, the starry skies overhead are spectacular, and we may have the chance to view planets and constellations through powerful telescopes during evening astronomy programs around the campfire. Our last night at the lodge holds a special treat: enjoy a traditional Pantaneiro cowboy dinner outdoors, with spit-roasted meat and other favorite local dishes.



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Day 10: Caiman / Private Flight to Campo Grande / Sao Paulo

Awaken to the symphony of tinamous and parrots, and savor the South Pantanal's tranquility before departing our ecolodge on a private chartered flight to Campo Grande. From there, we fly to Sao Paulo, a cosmopolitan metropolis and cultural melting pot that is the largest city in South America. This evening, gather for a farewell dinner and reflect on all the adventures we've had.

Day 11: Sao Paulo / Depart

For guests not continuing on our Iguazu Falls Extension, enjoy some exploration on your own if time permits before your departure for the airport. Visit the Sao Paulo Museum of Art, considered to house the most important collection of European art in the Southern Hemisphere, or stroll through Trianon Park, a tropical forest oasis with myriad paths leading you to native palms and trees, including Pau Brasil (the Brasilwood tree, after which the country is named), and more than 29 species of resident birds. An airport transfer is provided to meet homeward flights.



Accommodation Details:

Araras Ecolodge

Hotel Pantanal Norte

Caiman Ecological Refuge

Tivoli Mofarrej

For detailed descriptions, visit nathab.com/south-america/brazil-adventure/accommodations

Jaguars & Wildlife of Brazil's Pantanal Accommodations

An In-Depth Foray into South America's Grandest Wildlife Realm



Araras Ecolodge

Located in the northern sector of the Pantanal, South America's premier wildlife sanctuary, this rustic lodge enjoys a superb location for exploring the region's varied habitats and intense biodiversity.



Hotel Pantanal Norte

Situated in the heart of the Pantanal's best jaguar habitat, this remote family-run hotel is optimally located for jaguar tracking and wildlife viewing along the rivers that lace the region.

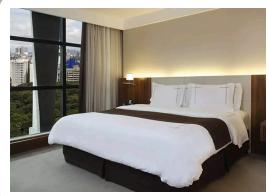


Caiman Ecological Refuge

Located within an enormous private reserve deep in the heart of the Pantanal, this ecolodge offers comfortable accommodations, varied activities, and by far the best wildlife viewing in the area.



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Tivoli Mofarrej

Located in São Paulo's upscale Jardins neighborhood, this award-winning luxury hotel maximizes sweeping city views from the rooftop bar, restaurant and swimming pool.



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No One Shows You the Pantanal in This Much Depth

With the world's largest wetland at the heart of tropical Brazil, the country is a mecca for wildlife lovers. And our intensive itinerary immerses you in the Pantanal in greater depth than any other trip we're aware of. See what sets this adventure apart:

1 The Very Best Locations for Wildlife Viewing

In the Pantanal, wildlife is even more abundant than in the Amazon. We may see Brazilian tapir, capybara, giant armadillo, giant river otter, maned wolf, caiman and the top prize for most wildlife watchers, the elusive jaguar. But you can't stay just anywhere in this massive marsh and expect those rewards. An itinerary must be strategically based around the best wildlife-viewing locations, and this one won't let you down.

2 More Time in the Pantanal from Multiple Perspectives

We spend *seven full days* at three different locations in both the north and south Pantanal to fully immerse you in this UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. You'll explore this vast mosaic of flooded marshlands, dry islands and savanna via multiple means, from nature walks and 4x4 drives to boat rides and canoe safaris—each mode revealing a new vantage point on the varied landscapes and their wild inhabitants.

3 Private Chartered Flight from North to South—a Nat Hab Exclusive!

Getting from the northern part of the Pantanal to the south can be a challenge. But rather than subject you to what most travelers must endure—a 10-hour drive over rough roads, plus two short commercial flights in between—we charter private planes to fly directly to Caiman Ecological Refuge. It's not only a far more comfortable and efficient option, but you'll get a 360° aerial view that reveals the vastness of the Pantanal—a perspective few visitors get to see.

4 Our Lodgings—Including Caiman Ecological Refuge—Immerse You in Nature

We choose accommodations for their superb locations where wildlife viewing is best. We spend three nights in the remote Porto Jofre region, where more jaguars are seen than anywhere else. Another highlight is Caiman Ecological Refuge, part of an acclaimed private research, conservation and ecotourism initiative. Unlike more-touristed Pantanal accommodations, this exclusive ecolodge enjoys a remote, private setting, with ever-increasing jaguar sightings.

5 A Very Small Group (11 Travelers Max) Ensures Intimate Wildlife Encounters

To foster the most meaningful nature encounters, we limit our group to no more than 11 travelers. A small group also ensures that your needs and expectations are attentively met with personalized care from our Expedition Leader.



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6 Your Expedition Leader is a Top Professional Naturalist

Nat Hab has a well-deserved international reputation for the highest-quality Expedition Leaders. Our Brazil naturalist guides average 10 years of experience, with additional training and resources from WWF scientists. In the Pantanal, we are also joined by local guides from each lodge who are resident experts in their region's flora and fauna. [See Expedition Leader bios](#) and traveler comments regarding the quality of our leaders.

7 Our Quality-Value Guarantee Ensures Your Exceptional Brazil Adventure

With Natural Habitat Adventures, you receive our exclusive guarantee that clearly states that we will meet the high expectations we set forth in our promotional materials. To our knowledge, this is the most ambitious guarantee made by any adventure travel company.

8 Feel Good About Your Carbon-Neutral Journey

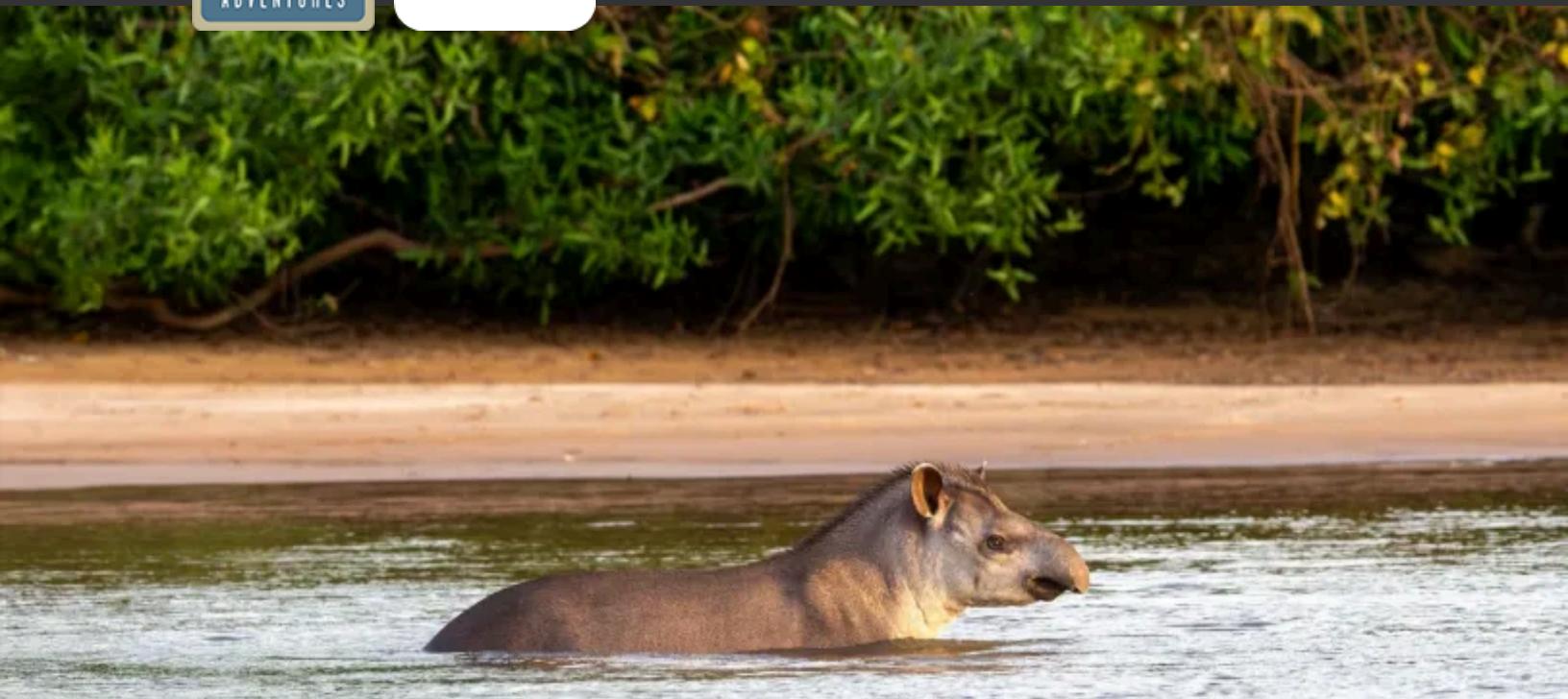
We care deeply about our planet, as we know you do. When you travel with us, the carbon emissions from your trip are 100% offset—including your round-trip flights from home. Natural Habitat Adventures has been the world's first carbon-neutral travel company since 2007.

9 Natural Habitat Adventures is WWF's Travel Partner

Because of our commitment to environmentally friendly travel, as well as the exceptional quality of our small-group nature adventures, World Wildlife Fund, the world's leading environmental conservation organization, has named Natural Habitat Adventures its worldwide travel partner—a designation that makes us exceedingly proud!



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Dates & Pricing
Summary:

Prices:
From \$14395
(+Air)

Group Size:
Limited to 11
Travelers

Jaguars & Wildlife of Brazil's Pantanal Dates, Pricing & Info

An In-Depth Foray into South America's Grandest Wildlife Realm



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Extension Details:

Iguazu Falls Extension
\$2595

Jaguars & Wildlife of Brazil's Pantanal Extensions

An In-Depth Foray into South America's Grandest Wildlife Realm



Iguazu Falls Extension

A privately guided adventure to experience one of the world's mightiest waterfalls up close, including both the Brazil and Argentina sides of this massive cataract with hundreds of individual cascades.

\$2595 (+air)



Natural Habitat & WWF: Discovering Our Planet Together

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