



Discovering Our Planet Together



Brazil Jaguar & Wildlife Photo Expedition

A Peerless Pantanal Safari, with Jaguar Sightings on the Rise



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Trip Details:

Days
11 or 12 Days /
Jun-Sep

Price
From \$15695
(+Air)

Physical Requirements
Moderate

Brazil Jaguar & Wildlife Photo Expedition

A Peerless Pantanal Safari, with Jaguar Sightings on the Rise

If it's captivating jaguar images you're after, the Pantanal beckons. While the Amazon may be better known, the Pantanal offers South America's greatest wildlife photography extravaganza, with its largest cat atop the huge, intricate food chain. 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, most notably the charismatic jaguar—and our in-depth Pantanal adventure offers the world's best chance to photograph these elusive felines. On foot, by boat and 4x4, explore the verdant recesses of South America's largest wildlife sanctuary—you'll find no better Pantanal photo adventure!

Trip Highlights

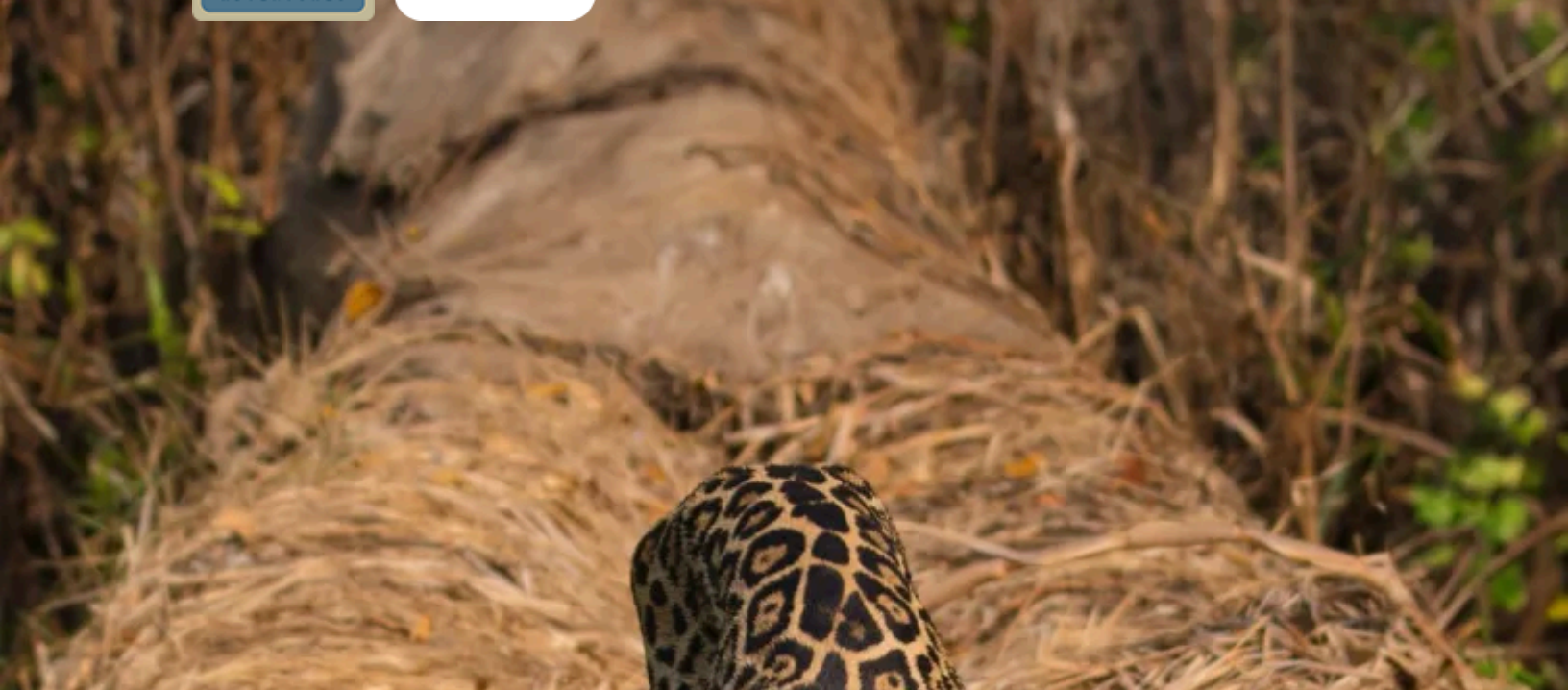
Alongside expert photographer-naturalist guides, make five separate boat excursions from Porto Jofre—the best place on the planet to spot jaguars in the wild

From boat excursions up north to 4x4 drives and guided walks in the south, you won't find a more varied and thorough encounter with the Pantanal and its wildlife

During our stay at Caiman Ecological Refuge, seek shots of tapir, giant anteater, ocelot and hyacinth macaw, and discover how your presence helps conserve them



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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 - 7**
Porto Jofre—Jaguar & Wildlife Viewing
- Day 8**
Porto Jofre / South Pantanal—Chartered Flight to Caiman Ecological Refuge
- Days 9 & 10**
Exploring the South Pantanal

Brazil Jaguar & Wildlife Photo Expedition Itinerary

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Day 1: Sao Paulo, Brazil

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





Itinerary At A Glance

Day 11

Caiman / Campo Grande / Sao Paulo

Day 12

Sao Paulo / Depart

Day 2: Sao Paulo / Cuiaba / North Pantanal

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 opportunity to photograph the wondrous biodiversity that awaits our exploration.

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 capture photos of 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 for 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. Keep your camera at the ready as we scan the riverbanks for glimpses of the stealthy cats. 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 - 7: Porto Jofre—Jaguar & Wildlife Viewing

The area around Porto Jofre offers exceptional wildlife encounters, and our photo itinerary offers an extra day to focus on sighting and photographing 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.

Please note that our 2026 itinerary will spend just three nights in Porto Jofre, rather than four nights as in 2025. In 2026, we will continue to the South Pantanal on Day 7 instead of Day 8.

Day 8: Porto Jofre / South Pantanal—Chartered Flight to Caiman Ecological Refuge

This morning, fly via chartered small plane directly to Caiman Ecological Refuge, capturing dramatic aerial views of the Pantanal and avoiding a rugged 10-hour drive. Deep in the green recesses of the South Pantanal, this renowned ecolodge is our base for private 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 Sao 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 9 & 10: 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, with plenty of stops to capture images of nocturnal animals when they're at their most active. 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 and photograph 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 and practice night photography around the campfire.

Day 11: Caiman / 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 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 with a chance to reflect on all the adventures we've had.

Day 12: 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.



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Accommodation Details:

- Araras Ecolodge
- Hotel Pantanal Norte
- Caiman Ecological Refuge
- Tivoli Mofarrej

For detailed descriptions, visit nathab.com/south-america/jaguars-brazil-pantanal-photo-expedition/accommodations

Brazil Jaguar & Wildlife Photo Expedition Accommodations

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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.

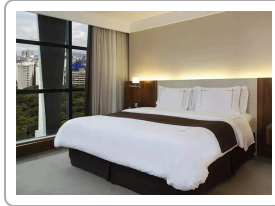


Caiman Ecological Refuge

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.



The Most Comprehensive Pantanal Photo Safari You'll Find

With the world's largest wetland at its heart—which also happens to be South America's largest wildlife realm—tropical Brazil is a prize for wildlife photographers. Our itinerary immerses you in the Pantanal in greater depth than any other trip we're aware of—meaning you won't find better photo opportunities anywhere else! See what sets this photo safari apart:

1

The Very Best Locations for Wildlife Photography

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 wildlife photographers, 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 offer you a full photography immersion in this UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. Photograph wildlife throughout 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 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.

4

Our Lodgings—including Caiman Ecological Refuge—Immerse You in Nature

We choose our accommodations based on the superb access they offer for nature photography. Spend three nights in the remote Porto Jofre region, where we find more jaguars than anywhere else. Another highlight is Caiman Ecological Refuge, part of an acclaimed private research, conservation and ecotourism initiative. Unlike more-touristed Pantanal locations, this exclusive ecolodge enjoys a remote private setting, with ever-increasing jaguar sightings in the vicinity.



5

A Small Group Facilitates Intimate Wildlife Photo Encounters

Our Photo Expedition is limited to 11 travelers, for a quieter presence in nature. A small group also ensures that your Photo Expedition Leader can offer you all the personalized attention and guidance you need—so you can go home with images you're thrilled with.

6

Your Expedition Leader is a Pro Photographer & Top Naturalist Guide

Nat Hab has a well-deserved international reputation for the highest-quality Expedition Leaders, and our photo safari guides are no exception. Our Brazil naturalist are equally accomplished photographers, photo instructors and wildlife experts, 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 Brazil Photo 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. Read our important promise.

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!



Make It Private with Your Family or Friends

Travel privately, exclusively with your immediate family, multi-generational family or group of friends. And when you choose a private departure, you're assured the most exclusive and authentic Brazil Jaguar & Wildlife Photo Expedition on offer. Request your private departure by completing the form below.

Please note that on Brazil Photo Expedition Make It Private departures we require a minimum group size of 4 travelers.

Also, please be aware that your per-person cost on a Make It Private trip will vary depending on the number of travelers in your group and may be as much as 10%-30% higher (ship-based trips may be even higher) than our normal trip cost unless you fill the trip.

This **Make It Private** option is available on nearly every Nat Hab trip for family and friend groups. Call an Adventure Specialist at 800-543-8917 or look for the "Make It Private" icon in the **pricing section** of a trip online at nathab.com to see prices based on your specific group size.



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Dates & Pricing Summary:

Prices: From \$15695 (+Air)

Group Size: Limited to 8 Travelers

Physical Requirements: Moderate

Brazil Jaguar & Wildlife Photo Expedition Dates, Pricing & Info

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2025 Departures

Departure	Return	Notes
Jun 9, 2025	Jun 20, 2025	
Jul 7, 2025	Jul 18, 2025	
Aug 4, 2025	Aug 15, 2025	
Sep 8, 2025	Sep 19, 2025	

2026 Departures

Departure	Return	Notes
Jun 8, 2026	Jun 18, 2026	
Jun 23, 2026	Jul 3, 2026	
Jul 11, 2026	Jul 21, 2026	



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Departure	Return	Notes
Aug 7, 2026	Aug 17, 2026	
Aug 25, 2026	Sep 4, 2026	
Sep 9, 2026	Sep 19, 2026	
Sep 27, 2026	Oct 7, 2026	



Pricing

2025 Prices

Mouse over or tap dates above to view prices for specific departure dates.

- **Photo Expedition Price**
\$15695 to \$15995 (+internal air)



Internal Air Cost: \$2939 per person (this will be listed separately on our invoicing).

Single Occupancy: For a single room add \$2995. **Click here** to learn how you can avoid the single supplement.

Deposit: \$500 per person (nonrefundable)

Trip prices are per person based on double occupancy and are given in U.S. dollars.

Please read our Payment & Refund Policy here.

2026 Prices

Mouse over or tap dates above to view prices for specific departure dates.

- **Photo Expedition Price**
\$15695 to \$15995 (+internal air)

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Deposit: \$500 per person (nonrefundable)

Trip prices are per person based on double occupancy and are given in U.S. dollars. **Please read our**

Payment & Refund Policy here.

Included

- **Trip price includes:** Accommodations, services of Nat Hab's professional Expedition Leader(s), local guides and lodge staff, all meals from dinner on Day 1 through breakfast on Day 11, some gratuities, airport transfers on Day 1 and final day, all activities and entrance fees, all taxes, permits and service fees.
- **Internal air cost includes:** All scheduled and private charter flights within the itinerary (this will be listed separately on our invoicing).

Not Included

Travel to and from the start and end point of your trip, alcoholic beverages, some gratuities, passports and visa fees, optional activities, items of a personal nature (phone calls, laundry and internet, etc.), airline baggage fees, airport and departure taxes (if any), required medical evacuation insurance, optional travel protection insurance.



Physical Requirements

Easy/Moderate

The overall nature of this itinerary is more sedentary than active, with most of our time spent searching for wildlife from boats and vehicles. Much of our time is spent tracking, viewing and photographing the prime highlight of our itinerary—the jaguar. However, while this trip does not require a substantial degree of physical fitness, the itinerary can feel arduous, with many very early morning starts and long, full days of activities with little downtime. Brazil can also be hot and humid, which can feel tiring in and of itself. In order to participate fully, guests should be able to manage several walks and hikes that are typically one to two miles long, over mostly flat and dry but sometimes uneven terrain. The longest walk, at Caiman Ecological Refuge, is about 2.5 miles long. For safety reasons, in some areas it is not possible to do much walking at all. Where it's possible to explore on foot, we try to arrange more and/or longer walks for guests who wish, but we can't always accomplish that given schedule logistics, weather and safety concerns due to wildlife proximity.

Mandatory Insurance

Since the areas we travel to are remote and wild (that's why we go there!), we require that all guests have, at minimum, medical evacuation insurance for this program. This is for the safety of all guests. We require that your chosen independent insurance plan includes at least \$250,000 in medical evacuation coverage.

To protect your investment and to provide peace of mind while you travel, we also strongly recommend purchasing comprehensive travel insurance. Plans may cover everything from medical treatment to trip cancellations and delays and lost luggage. Please contact our office if you would like more information about the medical evacuation and comprehensive travel insurance policies we offer by calling 800-543-8917.

Getting There & Getting Home

Arrival: Arrive in Sao Paulo by 4 pm in order to attend a welcome orientation and dinner beginning at 6 pm on Day 1.

Departure: You may depart Sao Paulo at any time on Day 11.

We can best serve you if our Natural Habitat Adventures Travel Desk makes your reservations, as we are intimately familiar with the special requirements of this program and can arrange the most efficient travel. Please call us at 800-543-8917. Note that while we offer you the best possible rates available to us on airfare and additional nights' accommodations, you may find special web rates or better fares online.



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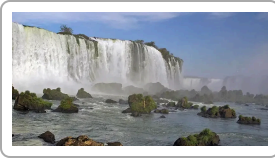


Extension Details:

Iguazu Falls Extension
\$2595

Brazil Jaguar & Wildlife Photo Expedition Extensions

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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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USA & Canada: 800-543-8917 • International: 303-449-3711

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WWF's membership travel program is operated by Natural Habitat Adventures (Nat Hab). To date, Nat Hab has provided more than \$6 million in support of WWF's mission and will continue to give 1% of gross sales plus \$175,000 annually through 2028. WWF® and ©1986 Panda Symbol are owned by WWF. All rights reserved.