



Land of the Jaguar Trip Notes

Trip Overview

The Pantanal straddles the borders of Brazil, Paraguay and Bolivia and is the world's largest wetland region. Its plains and low scrubby forests are home to over 1000 species of bird and 300 different mammals, including tapirs, anteaters, Jabiru storks and the striking Hyacinth macaw. Concentrating on the incredibly rich northern Pantanal in the southwest of Brazil, we divide our time between two lodges in different areas of the Pantanal, journeying deep into the Pantanal in search of the jaguar, the largest and most elusive feline in the Americas. These solitary predators, as well as being formidable opponents on land, are strong swimmers and are known to frequent the waterways we will explore.

At a Glance

- 4 nights Hotel Baiazinha Lodge with en suite facilities, 3 nights Araras Lodge and 1 night hotel in Cuiaba
- 9 days land only / 11 flight inclusive
- Travel by minibus, 4WD safari vehicle and motorised canoe

Trip Highlights

- 7 boat trips to maximise chances of Jaguar sightings
- 90% success in jaguar sightings to date
- Explore a more off the beaten path part of the Pantanal
- Wetland bird-watching
- Good chances of seeing capybaras, Giant anteaters, Jabiru storks and other wildlife

Is This Trip for You?

This trip as an activity level grade of 1 and a safari rating of 5. Although the accommodation used on this trip is of a good standard, you should note that we are in a remote area with limited access to luxuries. The trip involves several long drives on dirt roads - these roads are generally in good condition (although sometimes bumpy) during the dry season when this trip operates, but in heavy rain journeys may be significantly delayed. We spend much of the trip in boats, and those with seasickness should be aware that these small vessels have a relatively shallow draft which means any movement would be more noticeable than in larger vessels, though the likelihood of feeling nausea is much lower on rivers than open water. The area's rich wildlife also includes lots of insects such as mosquitoes so good repellent is a must. When on excursions there are specific spots where we will be able to get off the boats but only accompanied by the guides. Mosquitoes are always plentiful in the Pantanal so you should come prepared with long sleeves and adequate repellent.



Land Only Itinerary

Day 1

Start Cuiaba.

The group flights should be arriving in the early afternoon. The rest of the day is free to relax after the long journey. Taina Hotel or similar

Day 2

To Hotel Baiazinha Lodge on the Paraguay River

This morning we head towards the remote Paraguay River in the Pantanal. We start by driving 205kms towards the town of Caceres before continuing a further 100kms on dirt roads to our lodge located on the banks for the Paraguay River where we will spend the next 4 days exploring the region for jaguars and other wildlife.

This area is further off the beaten path and the ideal place for jaguar spotting and, with fewer visitors than other areas of the Pantanal, is also much quieter.

This afternoon we will board our small motorboats to go on our first jaguar safari exploring the river and its tributaries for the elusive big cat as well as tapirs, monkeys, macaws, anacondas, capybaras, Giant otters and any other wildlife we can find.

Whilst no guarantees can be made when it comes to wildlife, there is a 95% chance of seeing jaguars.

Hotel Baiazinha Lodge or

similar Meals included:

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Days 3-5

Morning and afternoon boat safaris on the Paraguay River searching for jaguar and other wildlife.

We spend the next three days on morning and afternoon boat safaris looking for jaguars and other local wildlife and learning about the delicate ecosystem of the area. The exact lengths of the outings will, of course, vary depending on the sightings and you should be prepared to be flexible with the timetable. Make sure to bring all you'll need including sun protection, insect protection, rain protection, water and, of course your cameras and/or binoculars.

Hotel Baiazinha Lodge or

similar Meals included:

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 6

Final morning boat safari in search of jaguars; to Araras Lodge.

This morning we retrace our steps towards Caceres and on to Pocone and finally Araras Ecolodge. Surrounded by pristine forest, the lodge offers a range of activities designed to showcase the flora and fauna of the Pantanal, including jeep safaris, trail walks, nocturnal safaris, canoeing and horse riding. The lodge's expert bilingual naturalist guides accompany us on all excursions to truly enhance our wildlife viewing.

Araras Lodge or similar

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Days 7-8

Search for Giant anteaters and capybaras.

The next two days we have a full programme of activities around the lodge. Hundreds species of bird, and dozens of mammals and reptiles have been recorded in the immediate surroundings, and if we are lucky, we will catch sight of the striking Hyacinth macaw (Portuguese: Arara jacinta) after which the lodge is named. The largest of the macaws, its dark blue plumage and the bright yellow skin around its eyes and beak make it instantly recognisable.

Araras Lodge or similar or

similar Meals included:

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 9

To Cuiaba; end.

After breakfast we head back to Cuiaba where the trip ends. Those on the group flights

will be departing this afternoon. Meals included: Breakfast

Accommodation

Lodges & Hotels

On this trip we spend 4 nights at the Hotel Baiazinha Lodge on the banks of the Paraguay River. The Lodge has en suite air conditioned rooms and a swimming pool. We also spend three nights at Araras Eco Lodge, which is designed in a rustic regional style and has 19 comfortable rooms, all with air conditioning, ceiling fans and private bathrooms. The lodge has a bar, swimming pool and gift shop, as well as a spacious restaurant whose excellent dishes feature lots of local fruits, vegetables, meat and fish. Single supplement available

Food & Transport

Eating & Drinking

All breakfasts, 7 lunches, 7 dinners

All meals are included in Hotel Baiazinha Lodge and Araras Lodge. Food is likely to be a mix of dishes using a lot of local produce. The local fruit is normally very good. Meat is a staple part of the Brazilian diet, but vegetarians can be catered for throughout the trip. Please advise us at the time of booking if you have any special dietary requirements, especially since the remote nature of the places we stay means that special supplies can be difficult to obtain without prior arrangement.