

# THE BRAZILIAN BIG 5 and beyond — Pantanal The Best of Mammals, Birds and Biodiversity of Central Brazil

Occupying a vast territory within South America, Brazil is an immense country with a huge variety of habitats and ecosystems. This tour is designed to thoroughly explore some of the richest Neotropical habitats: **The Brazilian Pantanal**, **the Southern Amazon Forest**, and the dry **Cerrado Woodland**.

This tour of the 5 great species of Brazil is focused on making a dream come true for many of the world's wildlife observers and photographers, seeing the five of the most important species of mammals in South America along with a large number of other species, Maned Wolf, Brazilian Tapir, Giant Otter, Giant Anteater and the Supreme Jaguar. of birds, other mammals, amphibians and reptiles, a tour focused on pure naturalism where the idea is to explode the senses in terms of what nature can offer us, this will be a tour where there will be five incredible and great satisfactions and many more.







Covering over 142,500 sq. kilometers, the Pantanal is about the size of the state of Georgia in the USA. Located in the middle of the continent on the border of Bolivia, the lowland plains are characterized by pronounced wet and dry seasons. Habitats range from semi-deciduous and evergreen forests to palm woodlands and true Pantanal (seasonally flooded grasslands with scattered clumps of Cerrado scrub on elevated patches of land). An enormous number of lakes and rivers dot and cross the region, constantly cleansing and renewing the wetlands.



The Pantanal is considered the easiest place to see and photograph a great variety of tropical animals in South America. Wide-open areas facilitate the spotting of animals such as the rare Marsh Deer, Giant Anteater, Capybara, Yellow Anaconda, Ocelot, Margay and Jaguar. While this impressive cat occurs over a wide range, the Pantanal is perhaps the only place on earth where one has reasonable chances to encounter Jaguars in the wild.

While mammals are impressive, it is the amazing abundance of birds that gives Pantanal its fame. It is a destination for three major South American migratory routes. The shrinking of vast flooded areas in the beginning of the dry season, concentrates fish for waders such as Jabiru, Maguari and Wood Storks, Great and Snowy Egret, numerous herons, five species of ibis and Roseate Spoonbills. Four species of kingfishers, Snail Kite, Black-collared and Roadside Hawks and several other raptor species, many parrots, parakeets and macaws and an array of other interesting birds make this a

favorite destination for bird watchers the world over. The ease with which birds can be seen is equally a bonus for the experienced birder and first-time nature tour participant.

Das Emas National Park, with a total area of 130.00 hectares, holds the largest patch of Cerrado habitat left in Brazil. Despite being completely surrounded by crop plantations, this park is unique for particular avifauna, including birds like Red-legged Seriema, Cock-tailed Tyrant, and several species of Macaws and Parrots.



# **Itinerary**

- **1 July Day 1.** Arrival to Guarulhos International Airport / Panambi Hotel
- 2 July Day 2. Flight to Campo Grande, transfer to Aguape / Pousada Aguape
- 3 July Day 3. Aguape full day jeep safari, ate afternoon transfer to Campo Grande / Vale Verde
- 4 July Day 4. Transfer to Emas National Park, afternoon wildlife camion safari / Pousada do Gloria
- 5 July Day 5. Full day Emas National Park camion safari / Pousada do Gloria
- 6 July Day 6. Transfer to Campo Grande, flight to Cuiaba overnight Pouso Alegre / Pouso Alegre
- **7 July Day 7.** Safari Pouso Alegre, transfer to Jofre / Porto Jofre
- 8 July Day 8. Full day Jaguar and other big mammals search / Porto Jofre
- 9 July Day 9. Full day Jaguar and other big mammals search / Porto Jofre
- 10 July Day 10. Transfer to Cuiaba, flight to Sao Paulo / Panambi Hotel

# **Detailed Itinerary**

#### 1 July - Day 1. Arrival to Guarulhos International Airport / Panambi Hotel

Our personal will be waiting for you in the airport to go at the hotel and receive instructions about the trip.

Night in Panambi Guarulhos Hotel - https://panamby.com.br/

#### 2 July - Day 2. Flight to Campo Grande, transfer to Aguape / Pousada Aguape

The tour commences this morning flying at the airport of Campo Grande, where you'll meet our local leader. From Campo Grande, we will drive nearly 250 kilometers eastwards on a paved road, to finally get to our lodge: Pousada Aguapé. Situated near the Aquidauana River, not far from the Bolivian border, this lodge has a reputation for being one of the best places in central Brazil for watching wild mammals. Among the species commonly seen, it is worth mentioning **Giant Anteater, Marsh Deer and Yellow Armadillo**. Birding is also quite rewarding here. Fantastic birds like Blue and Yellow Macaw, Nenday Parakeed, Blue-fronted Amazon, Chestnut-eared Araçari, and a wealth of passerines, including some very attractive ones, like for instance Crested Oropendola are all possible here.

Night in Pousada Aguape - https://www.pousadaaguape.com.br/



#### 3 July - Day 3. Aguape full day jeep safari, transfer to Campo Grande / Vale Verde

Aguapé Lodge. We will spend the day exploring Aguapé, searching for mammals, birding and enjoying nature photography. We plan to go on game-drives, including a night one, to improve our chances for watching and taking pictures of as many of the above-mentioned animals as possible. Birding will keep us busy at all times, and besides the species already mentioned, we will have excellent chances for the biggest bird in the Americas: **Greater Rhea.** 

Night in Vale Verde - http://www.hotelvaleverde.com.br/

#### 4 July - Day 4. Transfer to Emas National Park, wildlife camion safari / Pousada do Gloria

Aguapé to Das Emas. We will leave Aguapé this morning and drive to Das Emas National Park, where we plan to arrive in the early afternoon. We will spend the following two nights in a lodge near the park.

Night in Pousada do Gloria - <a href="https://www.instagram.com/pousadadogloriaecoturismo">https://www.instagram.com/pousadadogloriaecoturismo</a>

#### 5 July - Day 5. Full day Emas National Park camion safari / Pousada do Gloria

Das Emas National Park. We will devote one full day to explore the spectacular Das Emas National Park. We will drive along the park, searching its narrow trails and tall, extensive grasslands for the elusive **Maned Wolf, Giant Anteater, Tapir, and Pampas Deer** to name but a few of the local mammals. Birds will be present at all times, and this is where we will be delighted by dozens of Cerrado Dwellers. Depending on weather, we will either eat a picnic lunch at the field or return to the hotel for lunch, with the possibility of taking a siesta to recover from the morning expedition before returning to the field. At sunset we will search for birds like White—winged Nighjar and Common Potoo, while spotlighting for mammals that we might have lost during the day.

Night in Pousada do Gloria - https://www.instagram.com/pousadadogloriaecoturismo







#### 6 July - Day 6. Transfer to Campo Grande, flight to Cuiaba overnight Pouso Alegre / Pouso Alegre

We will drive this morning to Campo Grande to take our flight to the capital city of the state of Mato Grosso: Cuiabá. The first part of the road will be all paved until the small village of Poconé, the last village before entering the Transpantaneira, which is the only road across northern Pantanal. From Poconé we will continue 30 km on dirt along the Transpantaneira birding on-route to finally reach our lodge and check in for the following one night in where we will have an amazing wildlife safari at night.

Night in Pouso Alegre - https://www.pousoalegrepantanal.com/

#### 7 July - Day 7. Safari Pouso Alegre, transfer to Jofre / Porto Jofre

The Safari of Pouso Alegre will be to explore the northernmost section of the Transpantaneira Road, which is somehow drier and quite different in terms of wildlife than its southern section, next to the Cuiabá River. We expect to find a wide variety of localized birds here including for instance Red-legged Seriema, Chestnut-bellied Guan, Sungrebe, Sunbittern, Long-tailed Ground-Dove and Red-winged Tinamou, all difficult or unlikely seen in the Cuiabá River area. Mammals are quite widespread at the Pantanal, but given the open savanna-like vegetation of this particular area, species like **Brazilian Tapir**, **White-lipped Peccary and Marsh Deer** are easier to spot here than further to the south. Chances for mammals like **South American Coati**, **Brown Capuchin**, **Crab-eating Fox**, **Bare-eared Marmoset and Crabeating Raccoon** are also quite high.

Night in Porto Jofre Hotel - http://portojofre.com.br





### 8-9 July - Day 8-9. Full day Jaguar and other big mammals search / Porto Jofre

We will spend two full days exploring the Porto Jofre—Southern Transpantaneira area, searching for mammals, Birding and enjoying local wildlife. Our main goal here is to look for **Jaguars**, and this is the main reason why we are spending quite a long time in this particular spot. The Brazilian government has decided to protect the local Jaguar population, so sightings of this striking cat have suddenly become fairly regular in the last few years. From our lodge at the Porto Jofre area, we will have the chance to make four half day boat trips along the Cuiabá River, and get to some isolated areas where Jaguars are frequent. Most sightings are made from the boat, and the animals normally offer good photo opportunities, like the one in the image on the frontpage of this tour itinerary. The boat tours also offer excellent chances for other mammals and, of course, for a diverse arrange of colorful birds. We will also have more chances for **Giant Otter**, **and capybaras** will be a constant sighting on the riverbanks.

Night in Porto Jofre Hotel - <a href="http://portojofre.com.br">http://portojofre.com.br</a>



10 July - Day 10. Transfer to Cuiaba, flight to Sao Paulo / Sao Paulo

If possible, we will do some birding and mammals search in the morning and then we will drive to Cuiaba City airport to take a flight to Sao Paulo, where you'll bid farewell to local leader and the tour ends. Night in Panambi Guarulhos Hotel - <a href="https://panamby.com.br/">https://panamby.com.br/</a>



## Prices 2024

2 Pax: \$ 8.130 USD - Net Price Per Person 3 Pax: \$ 7.110 USD - Net Price Per Person 4 Pax: \$ 6.220 USD - Net Price Per Person 5 Pax: \$ 5.550 USD - Net Price Per Person 6 Pax: \$ 5.150 USD - Net Price Per Person 7 Pax: \$ 4.850 USD - Net Price Per Person 8 Pax: \$ 4.580 USD - Net Price Per Person

Single Room Supplement: \$595 USD

#### **Included services:**

- Full time 2 professional guides English-speaking birding/naturalist local leader
- Private transportation for all transfers and excursions
- Domestic airfares and airport taxes / Sao Paulo Campo Grande Cuiaba Sao Paulo
- Accommodations on a twin/double room basis with breakfast included. All rooms in-suite
- All lunches, boxed-lunches and dinners from Lunch on day 1 until lunch on day 10 of the tour
- Drinks with each meal, 1 bottle water + soda or juice (No alcoholic)
- Admission fees to all national parks and nature reserves
- Local guides where required by law
- Drinkable water on board the vehicles while on tour
- Safari Jeep in Pousada Aguape
- Safari track at Emas National Park
- Safari Track at Pouso Alegre
- 4 half-day boat trips at Cuiabá River to search for jaguars and general wildlife

#### Not included:

- International airfares and airport taxes
- Personal travel and medical insurance
- Tips of any kind
- Anything not stated on "Included services







