WILDLIFE TRAVEL

all our profits are donated to nature conservation













6th to 22nd September 2027 (16 nights)

THE PANTANAL

Jaguars, macaws and the world's largest wetland

The Pantanal is a place of superlatives: the world's largest fresh-water wetlands, ten times the size of the Everglades, covering about 200,000 square kilometres.

"Pantanal" is derived from a Portuguese word meaning "swamp". It is a gently sloping basin with meandering rivers, which slowly releases water to a single drainage channel, the Paraguay River. During the dry season, the great wetland shrinks to more manageable pools and channels, and the animals are drawn to these waterholes.

The Pantanal is particularly famous as the best place in the world to see South America's big cat, the Jaguar, and we will be looking for our own encounter with this beautiful predator along the banks of the Cuiaba River near Porto Jofre, where we will be staying on a pleasant floating hotel. We also have a good chance of finding other 'megafauna' of the Pantanal including Giant Otter, Giant Anteater, Ocelot and South America's heaviest animal, the Lowland Tapir, along with various monkeys, deer and foxes, abundant Capybara, Yacaré Caiman and Yellow Anaconda, the world's largest snake.

We will, of course, be paying plenty of attention to the rich birdlife of the area. Even relaxed birding can yield more than a 100 species a day, and particular highlights should include Hyacinth Macaw, Toco Toucan, Greater Rhea and Red-legged Seriema, alongside plenty of herons and kingfishers, currasows and chachalacas, parrots and woodpeckers.

Our trip also includes time in the endemic-rich and highly threatened Atlantic Forest, east of São Paulo, home to an entirely different suite of tanagers, hummingbirds and more.

PRICE £8,450
single room supplement £550

Full Board

TOUR LEADERS Phil Saunders

PAYMENT
deposit £2,500
instalment £1,500
due on confirmation of holiday
balance due 7th June 2027

ITINERARY AT A GLANCE

Day 1 travel to Brazil
Day 2-4 Atlantic Forest
Day 5 Campo Grande
Day 6-8 South Pantanal
Day 9 transfer to Cuiaba
Day 10 Pouso Alegre
Day 11-13 Cuiaba River
Day 14-15 Transpantaneira
Day 16 return to London

Group size min 5, max 12

The Manor House, Broad Street, Great Cambourne, Cambridge CB23 6DH
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ITINERARY

Please note that the itinerary may be changed to suit the weather or other practicalities or at the discretion of the leaders.

Day 1 Monday 6th September. Our evening flight takes us from London, arriving in São Paulo early on **Day 2 Tuesday 7th September**, from where we head east into the lush Mata Atlãntica, the Atlantic Forest that stretches from northern Brazil down into the northern corner of Argentina. Our base for the next few days is a comfortable hotel in the lower reaches of the Itatiaia National Park, the oldest National Park in Brazil. o/n Hotel do Ype.

Days 3 and 4 Wednesday 8th/Thursday 9th September. Once the second largest rainforest on the planet and characterised by high levels of endemism (40% of its vascular plants and 60% of its vertebrates are found nowhere else, including over 140 species of endemic birds), over 85% of the original Mata Atlãntica has been deforested, making this one of the world's most endangered biomes.

We will be spending our time here exploring the various habitats within striking distance of our lodge, focussing on the endemic birdlife of the lush rainforests, enjoying the diversity of hummingbirds and tanagers, woodpeckers and parakeets, cotingas, manakins and hoping to catch up with secretive antbirds or flamboyant toucans. o/n Hotel do Ype.

Day 5 Friday 10th September. Our last morning to enjoy the birds at the feeders before we return to São Paulo for our internal flight heading 1,000km inland to the state of Mato Grosso and the city of Campo Grande. We should have time to explore a local park, home to Toco Toucan, Blue-and-yellow Macaws, and large groups of Capybara. o/n Hotel De Ville.

Days 6-8 Saturday 11th to Monday 13th September. This morning we will set off to travel westwards into the southern Pantanal, to our lodge, Fazenda San Francisco. The lodge is set on the Sao Domingo branch of the Miranda River. We will have a relaxed three days to explore the grounds, and familiarise ourselves with the wildlife of the southern Pantanal.

Arriving at our lodge, we hope to encounter one of the iconic birds of the Pantanal: South America's largest parrot, the Hyacinth Macaw. Inquisitive Nanday Parakeets and comical Black-bellied Whistling Ducks also visit the lodge, while additional flashes of colour are produced by Orange-backed Troupial and Chopi Blackbird, Turquoise-fronted Amazon and Blue-crowned Trogon.

We will no doubt make an excursion by boat, out onto the quiet waterway, in the company of Black-collared Hawk, Roseate Spoonbill, the enormous Jabiru, and noisy Black-capped Donacobius. Monkeys in the area include Black-and-Gold Howler Monkey and Hooded Capuchin, while we should encounter plenty of Yacaré Caiman, the common crocodile of the region. Two species of otter and four species of kingfisher make their home on these waterways, along with a variety of herons, including the shy Boat-billed Heron, while more than ten species of parrot are found in the area, and will provide noisy entertainment for us.

Away from the wetlands, we will venture out onto the surrounding *campo* to look for some of the characteristic animals of the drier plains: Red-legged Seriema, South American Coati, Pampas Deer and the bizarre Giant Anteater will all be on our 'wish list', and we hope to have some close-up encounters with these wonderful characters.

After dinner we will head out on a night excursion to search for some of the nocturnal inhabitants of the area: Crab-eating Fox, Brazilian Cavy and the elegant Marsh Deer may all show up in our spotlights, as well as various night birds, but our fingers will be firmly crossed that we stumble across one of the region's stars: Ocelot, Puma or even Maned Wolf are all possibilities, if our luck is really in. o/n Fazenda San Francisco.

Day 9 Tuesday 14th September. Depending on flight times, we may take one more excursion into the Refugio's private reserve. From here, we will set off for the drive back to Campo Grande, arriving in time to catch a domestic flight some 550km north, to Cuiabá. o/n Hotéis Amazon.

Day 10 Wednesday 15th September. This morning we head south to Pocone, the gateway to the northern Pantanal. Here we will set off on the famous 'Transpantaneira', a 150km long unsurfaced road that takes us deep into the Pantanal, complete with a photo opportunity gateway.

Today we are heading just 40km south to Pouso Alegre Lodge, set within 8,000 hectares of dry forest, cerrado, swamp and gallery forest. Exploring the network of trails at the lodge we may encounter Lowland Tapir, Giant Anteater or Coatis, along with many of the birds of the northern Pantanal. o/n Pouso Alegre Lodge.

Day 11 Thursday 16th September. We head deeper into the Pantanal this morning, striking out along the Transpantaneira. While we will be stopping along the way to enjoy the huge numbers of wetland birds and whatever mammals we may come across, we will all be eager to arrive at our destination, Porto Jofre, and our floating hotel, home for the next three nights. o/n Porto Jofre.

Days 12-13 Friday 17th to Saturday 18th September. We will spend two busy days on the Cuiabá River focussing on the South American 'king of the jungle', the mighty Jaguar. The Pantanal is home to one of the densest populations Jaguar in all of the Americas, and the banks of the Cuiaba River and its many side streams have become famous as the best place in the world to see this apex predator. The animals here feed on Capybara and Yacare Caiman, both of which will be a common sight during our boat trips.

We will spend our days exploring the quiet side channels, scanning the river banks and sand bars where the cats hunt, rest and socialise, with our fingers firmly crossed. The same waterways are home to several families of Giant Otters, and we can expect to be distracted from our big cat hunt by these equally-impressive animals, along with plenty of other animals and birds, perhaps even including the beautiful Agami Heron. At night, large Fishing Bats skim the water beside our 'flotel' while the calls of night birds echo from the forested riverbanks.

During our final afternoon on the river we will travel by boat (~2 hours) to a research station on the Piquiri River where Maned Wolf, the world's tallest canid, frequently visits during the evening. o/n Porto Jofre

Day 14 Sunday 19th September. Depending on our successes over the past couple of days, we may have one last early morning boat trip out onto the 'three brothers' rivers, before it is time to bid farewell to the river and to Porto Jofre.

Back on dry land, we have a long drive ahead of us as we travel back up the Transpantaneira, stopping at the roadside where ever we find concentrations of birds and hoping to find Yellow Anaconda, the world's largest snake somewhere along the way. Our last nights in the Pantanal will be spent at the Pantanal Mato Grosso Hotel, on the banks of the wildlife-rich Rio Pixaim. o/n Pantanal Mato Grosso Hotel.

Day 15 Monday 20th September. We have a day to explore our surroundings with plenty of trails and a viewing tour to appreciate the variety of birdlife, and we may take another boat trip on the river as Capybara graze on the lawn nearby. The area is famously home to a high density of the beautiful Ocelot, and we will have our fingers firmly crossed for an evening sighting of this handsome cat. o/n Pantanal Mato Grosso Hotel.

Day 16 Tuesday 21st September. Today we will head back to Cuiabá, and fly on to São Paulo for our flights home, arriving **Day 17 Wednesday 22nd September.**

TOUR LEADER

Phil Saunders is a professional ecologist and excellent all-round naturalist with a particular interest in birds and invertebrates. He joined Wildlife Travel in 2018 and has led a number of our holidays from Dorset to Costa Rica.

ACCOMMODATION AND MEALS

All of the lodges and hotels are of a good standard, some with very attractive settings. In Porto Jofre we will be staying in a floating hotel. All the rooms have private bathrooms with hot water and are either air-conditioned or have ceiling fans where needed. Some lodges may have a swimming pool available. Single rooms are available in all locations. The exact lodge or hotel used may be changed if local conditions change or if we feel a different choice would suit our needs better.

All meals are included from lunch Day 2 to lunch Day 16 - lunches will usually be at our lodge, some lunches will be in local restaurants, and we may take a picnic on some days.

TRANSPORT

We will do our best to ensure that our travelling is as comfortable as possible. There will be days when we are transferring from one area to another where the journey may take much of the day but we will take plenty of stops for comfort breaks and to enjoy interesting areas. Some excursions will be by 4X4 vehicles or open top truck: we will also be taking several boat trips, notably during our time on the Rio Cuiaba, when we will be looking for Jaguars.

GROUP TRAVEL

The group flights will be with LATAM from London Heathrow to São Paulo, returning from Cuiabá, via São Paulo:

6th September	depart London Heathrow 21.20, arrive São Paulo 04.45 (7th)
22nd September	depart Cuiabá 16.20, arrive São Paulo 19.35 depart São Paulo 23.50, arrive London Heathrow 15.05 (23rd)

Internal flights are scheduled flights with LATAM.

WEATHER

The Pantanal is fantastic year-round, but cyclical water levels mean that wildlife watching varies considerably with the season.

The height of the rainy season is between December and March, when temperatures also reach their peak: during the wet season, dry land becomes the scarce resource, and mammals congregate on raised areas.

We will be visiting at the end of the dry season, when temperatures are at their most pleasant, travel on the Transpantaneira is simplest, colourful flowering trees are in full bloom, and the wildlife is concentrated around the dwindling water sources. Jaguar sightings on the 'three brothers' rivers peak in September.

The days will be warm, with expected temperatures between 25° and 35°C and (hopefully) dry, although there is always the chance of some early rains. Evenings will be cooler. The Atlantic Forest is likely to be cooler and wetter.

HEALTH AND FITNESS

You will need to have a **reasonable level of general fitness** to be able to participate in the holiday. The tour visits several locations and travelling in the tropics can be tiring if you are not used to it. However, the trip is designed to be relatively comfortable so please discuss any concerns with us.

Although most of the walks are not long, we will sometimes be walking on **rough or wet ground**. Walking boots (lightweight ok) are essential for most areas. There are a few occasions when we walk uphill but this is not excessive.

As we are in the tropics, the sun is very strong, even when it appears overcast. Sun protection (hat, sunglasses and suncream) is essential. Where possible, we will avoid walking in the hottest part of the day.

For our time on the Cuiaba River and for some excursions elsewhere, we will travel in small boats on the canals and rivers. Safety regulations will be adhered to when travelling in this way. Safety guidelines must also be followed when travelling by open-top vehicles, taking night walks and regarding other natural risks. Safety advice given by the leader and guides must be heeded at all times.

There are a number of serious insect-borne diseases present in Brazil: we will be travelling in areas where both **malaria** and **yellow fever** are present, and Dengue Fever and Zika Virus are both widespread. You should take precautions against mosquito bites, and discuss the options for malaria prophylaxis and yellow fever vaccination with your GP or travel health clinic at least eight weeks prior to travelling.

PASSPORT AND ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

To enter Brazil, your passport must have an expiry date at least 6 months after the date you arrive. You can visit Brazil without a visa for up to 90 days for tourism.

For up to date information, please check **www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/brazil** where you can also sign up for email alerts for your destination.

Holders of non-UK passports should check with the relevant embassy.

PRICE

£8,450 per person, £550 single room supplement, full board

INCLUDED: Flights from London Heathrow to São Paulo, São Paulo to Campo Grande, Campo Grande to Cuiabá, Cuiabá to São Paulo, São Paulo to London. Local transport as specified in itinerary. 14 nights' accommodation (two nights extra on overnight flights), full board basis (all meals from lunch day 2 to lunch day 16). Entry fees. Services of leader and local guides.
NOT INCLUDED: Drinks with evening meals, refreshments. Gratuities. Travel insurance.

PAYMENTS

Deposit amounts are shown on page 1 of the holiday information pack. **Payments should be made by bank transfer to Sunvil,** using the details given on the booking form, or by posting a cheque made payable to Sunvil Holidays, to the address given on the booking form. Please **DO NOT post any payments to our Cambourne address.**



BOOKING YOUR HOLIDAY

If you have any queries about your holiday or need to talk to someone about your booking, please contact us here at Wildlife Travel. We can make sure that you are given the correct the information and get your questions answered more quickly. We would ask that you **please DO NOT contact Sunvil direct**, to avoid confusion.

COMPLETING THE BOOKING FORM

We do sometimes have more than one set of dates for the same destination, so please make sure you fill in the 'destination' and 'dates' for the holiday you wish to book on.

Please also make sure you complete the section concerning health and fitness: write 'none' if this is the case, but please don't leave that section blank.

If possible, **please fill in the booking form electronically**, by typing directly into the pdf form, save your changes, and then **email the form back to us at wildlifetravel@wildlifebcn.org**. Alternatively, you can post a paper copy to Sunvil Holidays, using the address given on the booking form. Please **DO NOT post bookings to our Cambourne address.**

SUNVIL HOLIDAYS

This holiday is booked through our tour operator, Sunvil Holidays, CAA-ATOL Licence 808, a member of ABTA (V6218), IATA and AITO. All payments are made to them, and your money and booking are protected accordingly.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Please ensure you have read all the information given in the holiday leaflet and booking pack, paying particular attention to the entry requirements, health and fitness information, and details of what is and isn't included in the holiday price.

In order to ensure that this holiday suits you, it is imperative that you read the information on health and fitness in the holiday leaflet, and in the 'general information' section of the booking pack, and **let us know of any issues that may affect your participation in the holiday PRIOR TO BOOKING**.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Travel insurance is compulsory for our trips outside the UK. You should ensure that any pre-existing medical conditions are covered. We recommend having insurance in place as soon as your booking is confirmed, in the event of your cancellation.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

Your booking should be acknowledged with a week, usually sooner. **If you have not heard back from us within a week of sending your booking form, please let us know**: emails and post both go astray, and we wouldn't want you to lose your place on a trip.

You will receive a welcome letter from us, which will tell you if the holiday has already reached minimum numbers or not. Please **DO NOT arrange any additional travel or accommodation that you may need** until the holiday has been confirmed as going ahead.

When the holiday reaches the minimum numbers to be confirmed, we will send you a confirmation letter, including a confirmation invoice from Sunvil, with details of payments due, flights or trains included in your booking, and an ATOL certificate where appropriate.

thank you for travelling with us

www.wildlife-travel.co.uk

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