

Reef and Rainforest Tours



Pantanal Safari and Iguacu Falls Set Departures - Led by Local Naturalist Guides

07 – 20 July 2012
11 – 24 August 2012
18 – 31 August 2012
08 – 21 September 2011
15 – 28 September 2012
06 – 19 October 2012

Pantanal Safari and Iguacu Falls

Set Departures - Led by Local Naturalist Guides

Greater in area than Belgium, the vast seasonally flooded plain of the Pantanal is justly famed as being the most impressive wildlife location in South America, and is the best location in South America to see jaguars. In addition to jaguars, the Pantanal has much to interest the wildlife enthusiast: ostrich-like rhea, giant otters, jabiru stork, capybara, coatimundi, crab-eating fox, burrowing and pygmy owls, puma, tamandua and giant anteater among others. Birds such as the toco toucan and the highly endangered hyacinth macaw (the world's largest parrot) are generally seen in good numbers, making perfect subjects for colourful pictures.

This tour visits remote areas in both the southern and northern Pantanal, including a jaguar rich area of the northern Pantanal, and an intimate, wildlife-rich ranch reached by light aircraft in the southern Pantanal.

The tour visits a habituated family of giant river otters and also offers very good chances of seeing tapirs and giant anteaters at close quarters. Viewing towers are positioned close to fruiting trees giving good sightings of fruit-eating birds and primates including brown capuchin monkeys, black and gold howler monkeys, and silvery marmosets.

The tour ends with three nights at the Orient Express owned Hotel Das Cataratas, the only hotel within Iguacu National Park. Situated on the border between Brazil and Argentina, the falls are made up of 275 separate waterfalls which occupy an area 3 miles wide and 80 metres high, flanked by lush rainforest. There are national parks on both sides of the falls, with the Brazilian national park founded in 1939 and designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1986, and during this tour both sides of the falls will be explored.

The variety of wildlife seen on this tour plus the potential of seeing some of South Americas most elusive big mammals, and the might Iguacu Falls, makes this tour ideal for general wildlife enthusiasts, wildlife photographers and big cat aficionados.



Pantanal Safari and Iguacu Falls

14 DAYS – LED BY LOCAL NATURALIST GUIDES

TOUR IN BRIEF

- Day 01: Depart LONDON HEATHROW on TAM AIRLINES.
- Day 02: Arrive SAO PAULO and connect with flight to CUIABA. Transfer to lodge. O/n SOUTHWILD PANTANAL, FB.
- Day 03: Transfer to Jaguar Research Centre. Afternoon boat trip to spot Jaguars. O/n SOUTHWILD JAGUAR HOUSEBOAT, FB.
- Day 04: Full day search for Jaguars. O/n SOUTHWILD JAGUAR HOUSEBOAT, FB.
- Day 05: Full day search for Jaguars. O/n SOUTHWILD JAGUAR HOUSEBOAT, FB.
- Day 06: Boat transfer to airstrip and charter flight to Barranco Alto. Afternoon activities. O/n FAZENDA BARRANCO ALTO, FB.
- Day 07: Full day guided activities. O/n FAZENDA BARRANCO ALTO, FB.
- Day 08: Full day guided activities. O/n FAZENDA BARRANCO ALTO, FB.
- Day 09: Full day guided activities. O/n FAZENDA BARRANCO ALTO, FB.
- Day 10: Early morning activities. Charter flight to CAMPO GRANDE and connect with late afternoon flight to FOZ DO IGUACU. Met on arrival and transfer to hotel. O/n HOTEL DAS CATARATAS, BB.
- Day 11: Guided visit of the Brazilian falls with Devil's Throat boat ride. Afternoon at leisure. O/n HOTEL DAS CATARATAS, HB.
- Day 12: Full day guided visit of the Argentinean falls with lunch. O/n HOTEL DAS CATARATAS, BB.
- Day 13: Morning at leisure. Afternoon transfer to FOZ DO IGUACU and fly to SAO PAULO. Connect with late evening flight home.
- Day 14: Afternoon arrival into LONDON HEATHROW.

<i>Departure Dates from London</i>	<i>Adult Price</i>	<i>Single Supplement</i>
07 July 2012	£6,670	£730
11 August 2012	£6,770	£730
18 August 2012	£6,770	£730
08 September 2012	£6,555	£730
15 September 2012	£6,555	£730
06 October 2012	£6,555	£730

Minimum group size 2, max 9.

NB: Prices include full board accommodation, Economy flights, transfers, guided activities and the peace of mind of knowing that your payments are fully protected by ATOL. Not included are drinks from the bar, gratuities, insurance or departure taxes.

NB: The per person cost in twin/double accommodation without a visit to Iguacu falls is from £5,605.



PANTANAL SAFARI AND IGUACU FALLS

Day 01: Depart LONDON HEATHROW at 2235 on TAM AIRLINES flight JJ8085.

Day 02: Arrive SAO PAULO at 0605 and connect with flight to CUIABA (via CAMPO GRANDE), arriving 1203. Met on arrival by naturalist guide and transfer to your lodge in the Pantanal.

The Pantanal is a UK-sized mosaic of seasonally flooded savannahs and tropical forests that offer the finest wildlife viewing in Latin America. It harbours a record 82 species of large birds, 3,000-5,000 individuals of which can be seen on a one-hour vehicle ride on the raised Transpantaneira Road, the only road into the Pantanal, which begins one hour's drive from Cuiaba. Other wildlife includes giant otter, capybara, tapir, three monkey species, hyacinth macaw, 400 more bird species and tens of thousands of caimans.



O/n SOUTHWILD PANTANAL, FB. Formally known as the Pantanal Wildlife Centre, the SouthWild Pantanal lodge is owned and operated by professional wildlife biologists. The lodge is found 2.5 kms off the Transpantaneira Road, on the forested banks of the wildlife-rich Pixaim River. With air-conditioned rooms and accessible riverine forest, the SouthWild Pantanal (Pantanal Wildlife Centre) offers comfortable accommodation for serious wildlife enthusiasts and photographers.

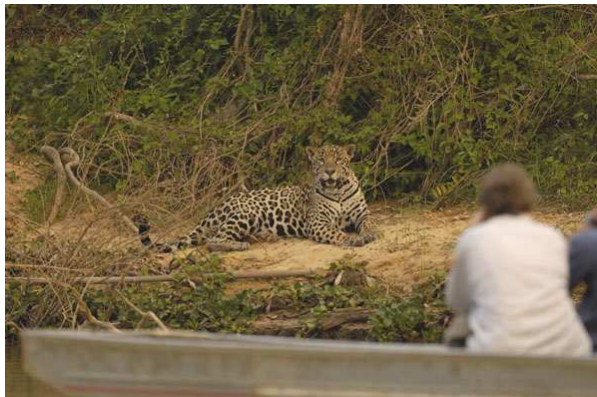


(2).../ PANTANAL SAFARI AND IGUACU FALLS

Day 03: Continue driving (2 hrs 30 mins) to the end of the Transpantaneira to the village of PORTO JOFRE on the CUIABA RIVER. Board boat (45 mins) to your houseboat in the middle of the Pantanal's highest density area for jaguars. O/n SOUTHWILD JAGUAR HOUSEBOAT (formerly THE JAGUAR RESEARCH CENTRE), FB.



The SouthWild Jaguar Houseboat (formerly the Jaguar Research Centre) is focussed on securing reliable and quality jaguar sightings for all its guests. Jaguars have historically been one of the most difficult of the big cats to see in the wild with sightings often restricted to brief glimpses in the jungles and rainforests of Latin America. However, over the years, the camps have been located in an area of Brazil's Pantanal where jaguars are found in very high numbers and are seemingly very comfortable with human presence. Since 2007, Reef and Rainforest clients have seen over 350 jaguars whilst staying at the camps with a 100% success rate in 2010 and 2011, a real testament to the effort put in to find this king of big cats. Some sightings have been brief whereas others have lasted for hours with many visitors returning with hundreds of photos and hours video of rarely seen behaviour such as hunting, swimming, mating, giant otter attacks and territorial fights.



The most common kills have been caiman taken at the river edge but capybara have been taken in the water and two lucky Reef and Rainforest groups have witnessed a stand-off between a large male and group of giant river otters that it had just tried to ambush. Key to the jaguar camps success is having all boats linked by radio and scouring different areas of the river bank. They aim to have three boats searching for jaguars for at least five hours each day with scout boats used to make up numbers when there are fewer guest boats.

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Much of your time will be spent in and around the 270,000-acre MEETING-OF-THE-WATERS STATE PARK, founded in December 2004, this is one of the largest and most pristine protected areas in the 50 million acres of the Pantanal. The riverine habitat, which is ideal for accessing the core of the park, no longer includes any ranching and the numerous jaguars that roam the area are free to hunt their favourite dry-season prey the abundant, four-to-seven feet long caimans and plump, 120-pound capybaras.



Over the years, the SouthWild Jaguar (Jaguar Research Centre) has shifted its location between a series of tented camps and large houseboats. For 2012, the camp will be operating from a ten-cabin houseboat with air-conditioning, lower berths and private bathrooms (plenty of hot water).

As well as offering comfortable accommodation, the boat has the added advantage of that it can move its position as sightings change through the season.



SouthWild Jaguar Houseboat undoubtedly offers the best chance of observing jaguars anywhere in the world. As with all wildlife sightings, there is a large element of luck involved and factors such as weather can limit the number and quality of sightings. Whilst searching for jaguars you will have plenty of time to see many of the Pantanal's other great wildlife highlights such as capybaras, caiman, otters, monkeys and a huge number of birds.



Day 04: Jaguar watching by boat in a small group accompanied by a naturalist guide. O/n SOUTHWILD JAGUAR HOUSEBOAT, FB.

(4).../ PANTANAL SAFARI AND IGUACU FALLS

Day 05: Jaguar watching by boat in a small group accompanied by a naturalist guide. O/n SOUTHWILD JAGUAR HOUSEBOAT, FB.

Day 06: Transfer by boat to nearby airstrip. Board PRIVATE CHARTER FLIGHT and fly 70 minutes to your ranch in the southern Pantanal.

O/n FAZENDA BARRANCO ALTO, FB. One of the smallest and most personal lodges in the Pantanal, Barranco Alto offers only four rooms. The rooms are fairly simple but are equipped with private bathroom, fan, air conditioning and a private veranda. Outside there is a shaded patio built around a large mango tree with hammocks, tables and chairs. From here there are open views to the Rio Negro and it is not uncommon to see peccaries, rheas and capybaras grazing on the grassland by the river.



A particular highlight here are the Brazilian owners (of Swiss descent): Lucas, Marina and their young family. Biologists and ardent conservationists, Lucas usually guides guests and is eager to share his love and knowledge of the Pantanal. Marina also sometimes guides, though is based in Campo Grande during term time where her daughters attend school.

They have carried out research on the local population of giant otters that inhabit the RIO NEGRO, on which the ranch is situated. Therefore the otters are used to human contact and allow one to approach quite closely, and the use of an electric motor on the boat minimises disturbance. Jaguars are here but it is still rare to see more than their tracks; puma and ocelot are also sometimes seen.

The food is prepared by two talented local cooks who have developed over the years a delicious mix of local and international cuisine. Most of the lettuce, vegetables and fruits are grown on the ranch and the bread, jams, cheese, and many other foods are home made.

Day 07: Full day of guided activities in small group. The lodge provides a full but flexible programme (early starts). You might ride horses, take an electric boat ride, paddle a canoe or enjoy a nature walk, all with guide. Nocturnal spotlighting is also offered.



(5).../ PANTANAL SAFARI AND IGUACU FALLS

(Cont.../) The guiding is usually shared between a resident biologist guide, Lucas, and Fernando, a local Pantaneiro guide. There is also often an opportunity to assist one of the resident biologists with their fieldwork. Current research projects are on giant otters, giant anteaters, jaguars, ecology (seed dispersal), biodiversity and geology (salt lakes), though researchers are not always present at the ranch. O/n FAZENDA BARRANCO ALTO, FB.

Day 08: Full day of guided activities in small group. O/n FAZENDA BARRANCO ALTO, FB.

Day 09: Full day of guided activities in small group. O/n FAZENDA BARRANCO ALTO, FB.

Day 10: In the morning fly (55 mins) by light aircraft to CAMPO GRANDE. Depart at 1325 on TAM AIRLINES flight JJ3571 to BRASILIA, arriving at 1556. Connect at 1848 on JJ3151 to FOZ DO IGUACU, arriving at 2220. Met on arrival and transfer to hotel. Met on arrival and transfer to hotel.



O/n HOTEL DAS CATARATAS, BB. The only hotel located within the Brazilian section of the IGUACU NATIONAL PARK, and only a few hundred metres from the first set of cascades.



In front of the hotel there is a footbridge with a panoramic view heading toward the lookout area, quite close to the Devils Throat, where the water flow is greatest. The IGUACU NATIONAL PARK preserves the last continuous area of tropical forest in Southern Brazil and is home to 340 bird and 40 mammal species, including the jaguar, the ocelot and the capybara.

Day 11: Situated on the border between Brazil and Argentina, the falls are made up of 275 separate waterfalls which occupy an area 3 miles wide and 80 metres high, flanked by lush rainforest. There are national parks on both sides of the falls, with the Brazilian national park founded in 1939 and designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1986.

In the morning explore the Brazilian side of the falls with your private guide. A scenic walk provides you with a panoramic view of the whole falls.



(6).../ PANTANAL SAFARI AND IGUACU FALLS

(Cont.../) See smaller waterfalls until reaching the biggest spectacle: the Garganta do Diabo or 'DEVILS THROAT', where two river branches meet with one another and free fall, often to be framed by several rainbows. You will also go on a 'MACUCO SAFARI' where you can view the falls from below on the river aboard a RIB boat, after taking an open wagon on a guided 2km ride through the rainforest learning of the flora and fauna. Watch out: you will get soaked on the boat! The afternoon is at leisure to relax or explore the Brazilian falls on your own. Dinner is included in the hotel today. O/n HOTEL DAS CATARATAS, HB.

Day 12: After breakfast depart from the hotel for a private guided excursion to the Argentinean side of the Falls. After a short drive you will cross the TANCREDO NERVES BRIDGE over the IGUAZU RIVER that forms the border between ARGENTINA and BRAZIL. Once in ARGENTINA travel up the scenic highway to the ARGENTINEAN IGUAZU NATIONAL PARK to visit the UPPER ARGENTINE FALLS and the SAN MARTIN FALLS. One can get closer to the



falls on the Argentinean side. Setting out from the visitors centre, there are trails through the forest with suspended footbridges and several lookouts. Lunch is included today. O/n HOTEL DAS CATARATAS, BB.

Day 13: The morning is at leisure to relax, or arrange OPTIONAL activities such as a visit to the Bird Park, or Itaipu Dam. In the afternoon transfer to FOZ DO IGUAZU AIRPORT in time to catch TAM flight JJ3168 at 1930 to SAO PAULO INTERNATIONAL, arriving 2120. Connect with TAM flight JJ8084 at 2340 to LONDON.

Day14: Arrive LONDON HEATHROW at 1500.



IMPORTANT NOTES TO ACCOMPANY THE ABOVE ITINERARY

NB: Jaguars are one of South America's most elusive mammals and most research biologists have only seen a handful in their lifetime. SouthWild Jaguar Houseboat undoubtedly offers the best chance of observing these amazing animals anywhere in the world. As with all wildlife sightings, there is a large element of luck involved and factors such as weather can limit the number and quality of sightings.

(7).../ PANTANAL SAFARI AND IGUACU FALLS

NB: Ten percent of days during the May – September “dry season” are cold and sometimes even rainy, with high and low temperatures of 9 – 12 degrees centigrade. For windy, cold boat rides, bring rainwear and warm winter coats and hats. Ninety percent of the days are hot and sunny.

NB: This tour will not have a specific tour leader throughout, however in each location you will be accompanied by a local guide where indicated.

NB: All itineraries are subject to change without notice to take into account possible airline flight schedule changes which can take place before departure date or during the tour, and other operational factors.

NB: The quoted price for the above itinerary is based on current airline fares (both international and domestic), current exchange rates, fuel surcharges and flight taxes. These (and other tour costs) may be subject to unanticipated increases beyond our control at short notice, either before or after you have booked the tour, in which case the price would need to be revised accordingly.

NB: This tour involves some travel in remote areas. This adds to the adventure and increases the opportunity to enjoy a true wildlife experience. However, due to terrain, weather, road conditions, and other factors beyond our control, some elements of the tour may have to be altered. Times of some activities may need to be changed or even cancelled due to the conditions. If an activity is cancelled it will usually be replaced with an alternative activity that is more appropriate for the conditions. Advance notice will be given for any changes where possible, although at times changes may need to be made whilst the tour is in progress.

NB: Prices are based on a specific airlines and specific economy seating classes. Flights are booked on an ad hoc basis and so early booking is recommended to take advantage of the cheapest fare availability. Prices may rise if a more expensive seat class needs to be booked. Please call for information on price variations for using alternative airlines or for seat upgrades.

NB: Once the tour has been booked and a deposit paid, any further changes initiated by the client may be subject to additional charges.

NB: Meals are provided as follows B = breakfast, L = lunch, D = dinner.

NB: Activities described as OPTIONAL are not included in tour price.

NB: Adequate insurance cover is mandatory. Please supply us with details of your cover.

NB: Some service providers may require that guests sign an indemnity waiver form and may refuse services if these forms are not signed. Reef and Rainforest Tours cannot give refunds for services not provided due to a refusal to sign such forms.



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