

Reef and Rainforest Tours



Diverse Wildlife Highlights of Central Brazil

Set Departures - Led by Local Naturalist Guides

23 July – 07 August 2012
10 – 25 August 2012

Diverse Wildlife Highlights of Central Brazil

Set Departures - Led by Local Naturalist Guides

This 16-day itinerary combines not only the diverse wildlife highlights of Central Brazil, but also some of the wildlife highlights of South America – namely jaguars, maned wolves, giant otters, tapirs and hyacinth macaws.

Fives nights are spent in Hyacinth Valley within the little visited PARQUE NACIONAL DAS NASCENTES DO RIO PARNAÍBA national park in the northern state of PIAUÍ. Accommodation is in a series of three semi-permanent camps situated in a stunningly beautiful landscape of red sandstone escarpments, palm groves and endangered cerrado savannah.

The area is particularly known for its large flocks of hyacinth macaws which are very easy to photograph from a nearby hide, and is also one of the best places in Brazil to see maned wolves which arrive at night to feed on scraps left by the camps, giving fantastic photo-opportunities.

The sandstone escarpments provide great walking opportunities and are home to nesting red and green macaws. The base of the escarpments are home to capuchin monkeys which have recently been discovered to use specially selected stones to break hard palm nuts. This complex tool use has lead the monkeys to be dubbed 'Einstein Monkeys' and has featured in a number of articles and documentaries.

Six nights are then spent in the NORTHERN PANTANAL with a visit to a very remote and jaguar rich area where 100% of Reef and Rainforest clients saw jaguars in 2010. The tour also visits a habituated family of giant river otters and also offers very good chances of seeing tapirs 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 variety of wildlife seen on this tour plus the potential of seeing some of South Americas most elusive big mammals makes this tour ideal for general wildlife enthusiasts, wildlife photographers and big cat aficionados.



Diverse Wildlife Highlights of Central Brazil

16 DAYS – LED BY LOCAL NATURALIST GUIDES

TOUR IN BRIEF

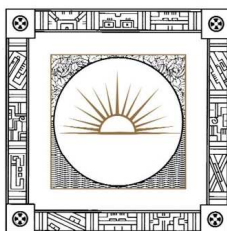
- Day 01: Depart LONDON HEATHROW on TAM AIRLINES.
- Day 02: Arrive SAO PAULO and connect with flight to BRASILIA . Afternoon at leisure for OPTIONAL activities. O/n TRYP 21 HOTEL, BB.
- Day 03: Tfr to AIRPORT and fly to BARREIRAS. Tfr to Hyacinth Valley. O/n HYACINTH VALLEY LODGE, FB.
- Day 04: Hyacinth macaw viewing and bird hikes. Afternoon tfr to Hyacinth Cliffs for maned wolf viewing. O/n HYACINTH CLIFFS LODGE, FB.
- Day 05: Tfr to Greenwing Valley to see the "Einstein monkeys". O/n HYACINTH VALLEY LODGE, FB.
- Day 06: Return to Greenwing Valley. O/n HYACINTH VALLEY LODGE, FB.
- Day 07: Explore the cerrado. O/n HYACINTH VALLEY LODGE, FB.
- Day 08: After lunch tfr to BARREIRAS and fly to CUIABA (via BRASILIA). Tfr to hotel. O/n HITS HOTEL, BB.
- Day 09: Transfer to lodge. O/n SOUTHWILD PANTANAL (formerly PANTANAL WILDLIFE CENTRE, FB).
- Day 10: Transfer to the Cuiaba River. Afternoon boat trip to spot Jaguars. O/n SOUTHWILD JAGUAR HOUSEBOAT (formerly JAGUAR RESEARCH CENTRE), FB.
- Day 11: Full day search for Jaguars. O/n SOUTHWILD JAGUAR HOUSEBOAT, FB.
- Day 12: Full day search for Jaguars. O/n SOUTHWILD JAGUAR HOUSEBOAT, FB.
- Day 13: Return to Pantanal Wildlife Centre. Afternoon activities. O/n SOUTHWILD PANTANAL, FB.
- Day 14: Full day guided activities. O/n SOUTHWILD PANTANAL, FB.
- Day 15: Tfr to CUIABA and fly to SAO PAULO. Connect with flight home.
- Day 16: Arrive LONDON HEATHROW.

<i>Departure Dates from London</i>	<i>Adult Price</i>	<i>Single Supplement</i>
23 July 2012	£5,750	£620
10 August 2012	£5,330	£620

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 Hyacinth Valley, or the Pantanal, can be combined with other areas of Brazil such as Iguacu Falls, Rio De Janeiro and the Atlantic coast - please call for details.



Diverse Wildlife Highlights of Central Brazil

DETAILED ITINERARY

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

Day 02 Arrive SAO PAULO GUARULHOS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (GRU) at 0605. Connect with TAM flight JJ3466 at 0810 to GOIANIA, arriving 0950. Connect at 1030 with flight JJ3578 to BRASILIA, arriving at 1111. Met at airport and tfr to hotel. Rest of day at leisure.

O/n TRYP 21 HOTEL, BB. This modern hotel is located on the MONUMENTAL AXIS of Brasilia, a wide avenue which is home to a range of modernist sculptures and national buildings, many of which were designed by the famous architect Oscar Niemeyer.



Highlights include the Cathedral of Brasília (shown here), National Museum, National Library, National Gardens and the Plaza of the Three Powers. The hotel also benefits from air-conditioned rooms, restaurant and swimming pool.



Day 03 Pickup from hotel and transfer to airport. Board PASSAREDO AIRLINES flight 2230 at 0929 to BARREIRAS, arriving 1025. Meet at the airport and transfer to local restaurant for lunch. Continue to HYACINTH VALLEY in the afternoon.

Located within the little visited PARQUE NACIONAL DAS NASCENTES DO RIO PARNAÍBA national park within the northern state of PIAUÍ, Hyacinth Valley is a series of three semi-permanent camps situated in a stunningly beautiful landscape of red sandstone escarpments, palm groves and endangered cerrado savannah.



(2).../ WILDLIFE HIGHLIGHTS OF CENTRAL BRAZIL, 2012

The camps derive their names from two of the four species of macaw seen here: hyacinth; blue and gold; red bellied and red and green (green winged) with both the hyacinth and red and green macaws coming to feed in large numbers. The area is particularly known for its particularly large flocks of hyacinth macaws which are very easy to photograph from a nearby hide.



This area is also one of the best places in Brazil to see maned wolves which arrive at night to feed on scraps left by the camps, giving fantastic photo-opportunities.

The sandstone escarpments provide great walking opportunities and are home to nesting red and green macaws. Ascending the escarpments is not for the faint hearted but those who do are rewarded with spectacular views often accompanied by passing macaws.

The base of the escarpments are home to capuchin monkeys which have recently been discovered to use specially selected stones to break hard palm nuts. This complex tool use has led the monkeys to be dubbed 'Einstein Monkeys' and has featured in a number of articles and documentaries. Other species less commonly seen here include marmosets, howler monkeys, rheas, king vultures and giant anteaters (rare).



The camps are pretty basic being constructed from either simple block rooms or small safari tents. All have en suite bathrooms and have very limited amounts of hot water (often solar heated). Only one camp (Hyacinth Valley) has electricity so bring torches and plenty of camera batteries!



(3).../ WILDLIFE HIGHLIGHTS OF CENTRAL BRAZIL, 2012

This importance of this area as a wildlife location is only just being realised and very few people have the privilege of visiting here. The exact itinerary and combination of camps will be decided whilst there



as this depends on recent sightings and guest occupancy. What follows is a description of a typical stay. O/n HYACINTH VALLEY LODGE, FB.

Day 04

Early morning visit to a blind overlooking a feeding site for a large flock of Hyacinth Macaws. Viewing scores of the world's largest and most spectacular parrots at such close range in their natural environment is pure magic. Rays of golden morning sun illuminate the birds as they feed, yielding views and photos of electric blue splendour. Watch them feed on their staple palm nut and playfully jockey for position on favourite perches in the trees that surround the blind.



Return to camp for a full, relaxing breakfast. The balance of the day is enjoyed hiking from the camp to look for birds or perhaps cooling off in the nearby, 10-meter-wide Gurgeia River, which flows out of the adjacent, 1.7-million-acre Parnaiba River Headwaters National Park (which is 30% the size of New Jersey). In the afternoon, drive for 30 km stopping to observe wildlife into the core of this national park to the Hyacinth Cliffs Lodge, where there is a good chance to see maned wolves in the evening near the camp. O/n HYACINTH CLIFFS LODGE, FB.



Day 05

After early breakfast at the lodge, drive back looking for savannah species to Hyacinth Valley to again see the hyacinth macaws from the specially constructed hide. (Cont.../)

(4).../ WILDLIFE HIGHLIGHTS OF CENTRAL BRAZIL, 2012

(Cont.../)

In late morning, drive for approximately two hours to the breathtaking Greenwing Valley and Lodge, which is ringed by red rock cliffs and buttes. Search for one of the two tame groups of wild Tufted Capuchin Monkeys, which are now famous for their use of heavy igneous, hammer rocks that they bring from hundreds of meters to crack hard palm nuts on much larger, sandstone anvils.

Nicknamed as “Einstein monkeys” for their ability to dead-lift large stones weighing half their body mass and smash them down on golf-ball-sized palm nuts that they place on large stone anvils. Although this unique behaviour is demonstrated by this monkey species over a Texas-sized region of NE Brazil, currently the only location in the world where you easily can view this behaviour is Greenwing Valley. These monkeys have appeared over and over again in international TV documentaries by BBC and others, and have appeared in National Geographic Magazine. Often in this valley you can get good looks at other interesting birds, such as the Great Potoo, burrowing owl and Horned Screamer.



This location is also famous, of course, for its many Greenwinged (Red-and-Green) Macaws, which give the valley its name. Large flocks of these macaws can be seen here and there is a good hide from which to see them feeding. Return to Hyacinth Valley in the early evening. O/n HYACINTH VALLEY LODGE, FB.



Day 06

Return to Greenwing Valley and spend the morning at the macaw hide and then climb one of the escarpments in the late afternoon to photograph the red and green macaws in. O/n HYACINTH VALLEY LODGE, FB.



(5).../ WILDLIFE HIGHLIGHTS OF CENTRAL BRAZIL, 2012

Day 07 Drive through the cerrado at dawn to try to encounter maned wolves and giant anteaters returning from their night time wanderings. Stop to photograph burrowing owls and then continue to a palm forest to see nesting blue and yellow macaws. In the afternoon, we will venture out by foot to see some of the smaller inhabitants of the savannah before spending a final evening with the maned wolves. O/n HYACINTH VALLEY LODGE, FB.



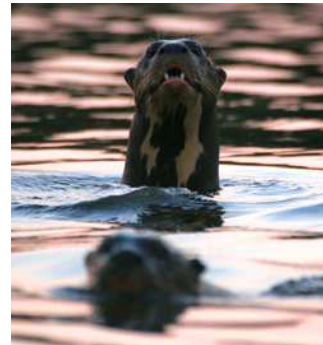
Day 08 A last morning at the hyacinth macaw hide. Lunch at the camp and then set off for your return journey to BARREIRAS. Check-in for PASSAREDO AIRLINES flight 2231 at 1827 to BRASILIA, arriving 1918. Connect with TAM flight JJ3596 at 2324, arriving CUIABA at 0005. Met and transfer to hotel. O/n HITS HOTEL, BB.

Day 09 Pick up from hotel and drive to the entrance gate for the TRANSPANTANEIRA ROAD. Follow the road (stopping for lunch and to observe wildlife en route) to your lodge.

O/n SOUTHWILD PANTANAL (formerly PANTANAL WILDLIFE CENTRE), FB. 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, PWC offers some of the Pantanal's best accommodation for serious wildlife enthusiasts and photographers.



Your stay includes daily excursions, including boat outings, perhaps to see South America's tamest giant otters, often in a silent, electric river catamaran (excellent for tripods and long lens photography). Mobile canopy towers are strategically placed at fruiting and flowering trees. Other possibilities include guided trail walks, research lectures, mammal spotlighting and scanning the night sky using a star chart.



Day 10 Continue driving to the end of the Transpantaneira to the village of PORTO JOFRE on the CUIABA RIVER. Board boat to the houseboat in the middle of the Pantanal's highest density area for jaguars. (Cont.../)



(6).../ WILDLIFE HIGHLIGHTS OF CENTRAL BRAZIL, 2012

(Cont.../)

O/n SOUTHWILD JAGUAR HOUSEBOAT (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 both 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 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 Reef and Rainforest groups have witnessed exciting standoffs between jaguars and packs of giant river otters.



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.



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 Camp (Jaguar Research Centre) has shifted it's 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).

(7).../ WILDLIFE HIGHLIGHTS OF CENTRAL BRAZIL, 2012

(Cont.../) As well as offering comfortable accommodation, the boat has the added advantage 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 11 Jaguar watching by boat in a small group accompanied by a naturalist guide. O/n SOUTHWILD JAGUAR HOUSEBOAT, FB.

Day 12 Jaguar watching by boat in a small group accompanied by a naturalist guide. O/n SOUTHWILD JAGUAR HOUSEBOAT, FB.



(8).../ WILDLIFE HIGHLIGHTS OF CENTRAL BRAZIL, 2012

- Day 13 Enjoy an early breakfast and your last morning of jaguar watching as you head back to Porto Jofre. Time permitting spend some time watching the hyacinth macaws that nest here then board your shared safari vehicle back up the Transpantaneira to your lodge. O/n SOUTHWILD PANTANAL (PANTANAL WILDLIFE CENTRE), FB.
- Day 14 Small group excursions with your naturalist guide. O/n SOUTHWILD PANTANAL, FB.
- Day 15 Pick up from the lodge and transfer to CUIABA. Catch JJ3639 at 1440 to SAO PAULO, arriving 1750. On arrival, connect with JJ8084 at 2340 to LONDON HEATHROW.
- Day 16 Arrive LONDON HEATHROW at 1500.



IMPORTANT NOTES TO ACCOMPANY THE ABOVE ITINERARY

NB: Extensions can be taken to visit other areas of Brazil. This tour can also be followed on a private basis, prices on request.

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

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: 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.

Reef and Rainforest Tours Ltd.

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