

# Reef and Rainforest Tours



## Quest for the Jaguars of Brazil

Set Departures - Led by Local Naturalist Guides

03 - 15 June 2009

01 - 13 July 2009

05 - 17 August 2009

18 - 30 September 2009

07 - 19 October 2009

# Quest for the Jaguars of Brazil

## Set Departures - Led by Local Naturalist Guides

The jaguar is one of the most elusive big cats and one which few people have the privilege of seeing. However, Reef and Rainforest Tours are now pleased to announce a new group tour where sightings of jaguars are virtually guaranteed.

The key to the tour's success is that it visits a very remote and jaguar rich area of the northern Pantanal and employs a team of trackers to locate jaguars, study their ecology and direct the group to areas with the best sightings. In the last two years more than 100 jaguars have been seen by Reef and Rainforest clients with some lucky clients also seeing ocelot and puma.

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. In addition to jaguars, the Pantanal has much to interest to the wildlife enthusiast: ostrich-like rhea, jabiru stork, capybara, coatimundi, crab-eating fox, burrowing and pygmy owls, coatimundi, 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.

The tour 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 open landscape of the Pantanal is complimented with the southern Amazonian rainforest which we will also visit. This is an area of staggering biological diversity with over 500 species of birds and an estimated 2000 species of butterflies. Mammal sightings are also common here; the lodge has its own tapir clay lick and 12 species of primates can be seen including the endemic Red-nosed Bearded Saki Monkey. This is also jaguar country; the animals are much harder to see but many have been lucky including a Reef and Rainforest staff member.

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.



# Quest for the Jaguars of Brazil

13 DAYS – LED BY LOCAL NATURALIST GUIDES

## TOUR IN BRIEF

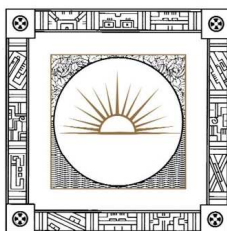
- Day 01: Depart LONDON HEATHROW on TAM AIRLINES.
- Day 02: Arrive SAO PAULO and connect with flight to CUIABA, connect with flight to ALTA FLORESTA. O/n FLORESTA AMAZONICA HOTEL, FB.
- Day 03: Morning search for harpy eagles, then continue by road and boat to jungle lodge. O/n CRISTALINO JUNGLE LODGE, FB.
- Day 04: Full day guided activities. O/n CRISTALINO JUNGLE LODGE, FB.
- Day 05: Full day guided activities. O/n CRISTALINO JUNGLE LODGE, FB.
- Day 06: Fly back to CUIABA, lunch and road transfer to lodge. O/n PANTANAL WILDLIFE CENTRE, FB.
- Day 07: Full day guided activities. O/n PANTANAL WILDLIFE CENTRE, FB.
- Day 08: Transfer to Jaguar Research Centre. Afternoon boat trip to spot Jaguars. O/n JAGUAR RESEARCH CENTRE, FB.
- Day 09: Full day search for Jaguars. O/n JAGUAR RESEARCH CENTRE, FB.
- Day 10: Full day search for Jaguars. O/n JAGUAR RESEARCH CENTRE, FB.
- Day 11: Return to Pantanal Wildlife Centre. Afternoon activities. O/n PANTANAL WILDLIFE CENTRE, FB.
- Day 12: Tfr to CUIABA and fly to SAO PAULO. Connect with flight home.
- Day 13: Arrive LONDON HEATHROW.

<i>Departure Dates from London</i>	<i>Adult Price</i>	<i>Single Supplement</i>
<b>03 June 2009</b>	<b>£4220</b>	<b>£465</b>
<b>01 July 2009</b>	<b>£4310</b>	<b>£465</b>
<b>05 August 2009</b>	<b>£4310</b>	<b>£465</b>
<b>18 September 2009</b>	<b>£4270</b>	<b>£565</b>
<b>07 October 2009</b>	<b>£4220</b>	<b>£465</b>

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:** Extensions are possible to other areas of Brazil such as Iguacu Falls, Chapada dos Guimarões, Bonito, Rio De Janeiro and the Atlantic coast - please call for details.



## QUEST FOR THE JAGUARS OF BRAZIL

### DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 01 Depart LONDON HEATHROW at 2105 on TAM AIRLINES flight JJ8085.

Day 02 Arrive SAO PAULO at 0520 and connect with flight to CUIABA (via CAMPO GRANDE), arriving 1115. Connect with flight to ALTA FLORESTA at 1155 arriving 1345. Met by naturalist guide and transfer to hotel for late lunch. Afternoon walk in the fragment of rainforest near the hotel to try to spot harpy eagles.

O/n HOTEL FLORESTA AMAZONICA, FB. The hotel is on the outskirts of the 30-year old town, near the airport. It has a pool and pleasant gardens, and a sizeable fragment of rainforest in which may be found three species of primate and the magnificent, powerful harpy eagle which has nested here in the past.



Day 03 Revisit forest fragment to spot harpy eagles and other forest wildlife before transferring by road to Teles Pires. Board boat for 30 min river journey up the Cristalino River to your lodge, set in the southernmost tracts of the mighty Amazonian rainforests.

O/n CRISTALINO JUNGLE LODGE, FB. The family-owned lodge is located in a Private Reserve of primary rainforest adjacent to the newly-formed, 165,000 acre CRISTALINO STATE PARK, encompassing both sides of the Cristalino River in the far north of Mato Grosso State. The lodge stands in the *terra firme* forests of the highlands of the southern slopes



of the Amazon River basin: to the north is a vast area (21,000 sq km) of virgin forest protected under the auspices of the Brazilian Air Force. Accommodation in a STANDARD BUNGALOW (upgrades to VIP bungalows - as shown - are available).

## (2).../ QUEST FOR THE JAGUARS OF BRAZIL

The lodge has its own ecological foundation and field station nearby. The surrounding habitat is an internationally recognised prime area for bird watching and wildlife spotting, and the lodge also offers trail hiking, overnight camping trips, river swimming and canoeing. Throughout your stay you will be accompanied by an English-speaking guide to make the most of your wildlife encounters.



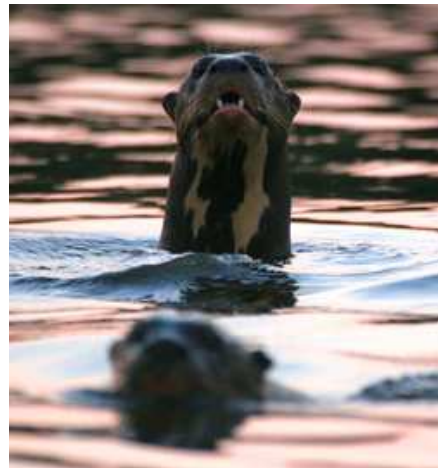
One may see Brazilian tapir (the largest wild mammal in South America), white-nosed bearded saki monkey, white-whiskered spider monkey (endemic), dusky titi, brown capuchin and red howler monkey. Jaguars also roam the forest trails and - although difficult to see - guests have been fortunate in the past (including one lucky Reef and Rainforest employee who took the picture shown here). Among the 500+ bird species to be seen are harpy eagle, potoo, spangled cotinga, channel-billed toucan, white-browed hawk and four species of macaw. There is a nocturnal hide for the tapir, and a 50 metre-high canopy tower offering views over the forest and good sightings of animals and birds.



- Day 04      A day spent on guided tours of the surrounding forest: there is exceptional plant and animal diversity to be seen. There is a 50mt high Canopy Tower with wonderful views over the surrounding forest. O/n CRISTALINO JUNGLE LODGE, FB.
- Day 05      Another day to enjoy the pristine river and jungle of CRISTALINO STATE PARK. Perhaps enjoy an evening's tapir watching from the clay lick hide. O/n CRISTALINO JUNGLE LODGE, FB.
- Day 06      After perhaps a last morning walk in the trails near the lodge, tfr by boat and road to ALTA FLORESTA. Catch TRIP flight at 1415 to CUIABA, arriving 1620. Met on arrival by naturalist guide and tfr to your lodge in the Pantanal.

### (3).../ QUEST FOR THE JAGUARS OF BRAZIL

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 Transpantaneiro Road, the only road into the Pantanal, which begins one hour's drive from Cuiaba. Other wildlife includes giant otter, capybara, giant anteater, tapir, three monkey species, hyacinth macaw, 400 more bird species and tens of thousands of caimans.



O/n FAZENDA SANTA TEREZA (PANTANAL WILDLIFE CENTRE), FB. Owned and operated by professional wildlife biologists, the lodge is found 2.5 kms off the Transpantaneiro 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 horse riding, cattle drives, guided trail walks, research lectures, mammal spotlighting and scanning the night sky using a star chart.



Day 07 Daily excursions with your naturalist guide. O/n FAZENDA SANTA TEREZA (PANTANAL WILDLIFE CENTRE), FB.

Day 08 Tfr to your lodge in the middle of the Pantanal's highest density area for jaguars. O/n THE JAGUAR RESEARCH CENTRE, FB.

The Jaguar Research Centre (JRC) is based around a house boat (*flotante*) with two small air-conditioned bedrooms (bunk beds), two bathrooms, open dining area and small air-conditioned lounge. Additional accommodation is provided in large safari tents with good beds, wash basin, fan, mosquito net and earth closets. In addition to open-air showers at the camp, warm showers can also be taken on the boat.



#### (4).../ QUEST FOR THE JAGUARS OF BRAZIL



The boat is anchored at a location that has the highest density of jaguars and highest incidence of jaguar sightings in the entire Pantanal, on the banks of the Three Brothers River in the core of the new state park. The 270,000-acre MEETING-OF-THE-WATERS STATE PARK, founded in December 2004, is one of the largest and most pristine protected areas in the 50 million acres of the Pantanal. It includes three private ranches, all of which stopped cattle ranching a number of years ago. The wildest part of this park is an abandoned 70,000-acre ranch that includes most of the forests and savannah along the Three Brothers River. The riverine habitat, which is ideal for accessing the core of the park, no longer includes any ranching or cattle. 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.



(5).../ QUEST FOR THE JAGUARS OF BRAZIL

Visitors can walk on trails through the private forest, but the main advantage of being anchored there comes from being able to use small, open, aluminium boats to cruise up and down the river visiting side channels to monitor jaguar movements and habitat use.



The lodge is continuing to intensify jaguar research and monitoring in the core of the park, using its floating hotel/research centre as the base from which to send out small, radio-equipped scout boats to search for fresh jaguar signs and for the jaguars themselves along this river and adjacent wild rivers. Over the last two years (2007 and 2008), Reef and Rainforest clients have seen over 100 jaguars whilst staying at the camp, a testament to the effort put in to find this king of big cats.



Jaguars are one of South America's most elusive mammals and most research biologists have only seen a handful in their lifetime. The JRC undoubtedly offers the best chance of 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. However, your time here will still reveal many of the Pantanal's other great wildlife highlights such as capybaras, caiman, giant river otters, monkeys and a huge amount of birds.

- Day 09 Daily tours and excursions with your naturalist guide (details to be decided on the spot). O/n THE JAGUAR RESEARCH CENTRE, FB.
- Day 10 Daily tours and excursions with your naturalist guide (details to be decided on the spot). O/n THE JAGUAR RESEARCH CENTRE, FB.
- Day 11 Last opportunity for jaguar spotting as you return by boat and road to the Pantanal Wildlife Centre in time for lunch. Afternoon guided excursions with your guide. O/n FAZENDA SANTA TEREZA (PANTANAL WILDLIFE CENTRE), FB.
- Day 12 Drive to CUIABA in time to catch TAM flight JJ3805 at 1645 (via CAMPO GRANDE) to SAO PAULO, arriving 2120. Connect with TAM flight JJ8084 at 2345 to LONDON.
- Day 13 Arrive LONDON HEATHROW at 1535.

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(6).../ QUEST FOR THE JAGUARS OF BRAZIL



**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. The Jaguar Research Centre 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. However, your time here will still reveal many of the Pantanal's other great wildlife highlights such as capybaras, caiman, giant river otters, monkeys and a huge amount of birds.

**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.

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**Reef and Rainforest Tours Ltd.**

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