

# TRACKS SAFARIS

## WE GET YOU CLOSER



**EXPLORING THE NATURAL BEAUTY OF THE BRAZILIAN PANTANAL**  
**12 NIGHTS – 13 DAYS**

**A TAILORMADE WILDLIFE ADVENTURE TO THE NORTH AND SOUTH PANTANAL**



Embark on a journey through the heart of Brazil's rich biodiversity, as you venture into the pristine landscapes of Cuiabá, Pantanal Norte, Porto Jofre, and Pousada Refúgio da Ilha. This meticulously crafted itinerary promises an unforgettable experience, starting in Cuiabá, the gateway to the wild. Arrive in the city where you will spend the night before kicking off your Pantanal adventure.

Your journey starts with a scenic journey to Araras Lodge in Pantanal Norte, a haven nestled in the heart of the world's largest tropical wetland area. Spend three nights surrounded by the sounds of exotic birds and the rustling of the wetland vegetation. Explore the diverse ecosystems through guided tours with the chance to encounter caimans, capybaras, anteaters and a huge variety of bird species.

Continue your adventure by driving to Porto Jofre, known as one of the best location for spotting jaguars in the wild. Spend three nights at Porto Jofre Hotel, where the Pantanal's unique landscape converges with the Cuiabá River, and enjoy two four-hour boat safaris a day along the riverbanks.

Your journey then takes you to Pousada Refúgio da Ilha in the southern Pantanal - an idyllic retreat nestled on an island surrounded by crystalline waters where you will spend four nights enjoying the tranquillity of this natural paradise. Explore the nearby trails, engage in birdwatching, and unwind in the cosy accommodation. This extended stay allows for a deeper connection with the local flora and fauna.

As your wildlife adventure comes to an end, head to Campo Grande Airport with wonderful memories of Brazil's fabulous wild places. Reflect on the stunning landscapes, diverse ecosystems, and the captivating wildlife you have encountered.

**The best times to travel are from August to October which is high season – the very best time to view wildlife in the Pantanal!**



The vegetation in the Pantanal is terrestrial and aquatic, as this is one of the largest flooded plains in the world. The vegetation has a mosaic of forests, cerrados and savannas, with influence from three other important Brazilian biomes: Amazon, Cerrado and Atlantic Forest.

The fauna varies according to each lodge, region and time of year, but some possible species to see on this itinerary include:

Jaguar, Tapir, Giant anteater, Anteater, Caiman, Capybara, Howler monkey, Capuchin monkey, Canindé, Pantanal Deer, South American Tapir, Crab-eating Fox, Crab-eating Raccoon, Anaconda, Ocelot, Giant River Otter, Armadillo, Bush pigs, White-lipped peccary, Tuiuiu, Moorish Cat, and Southern Tamandua.



The Pantanal boasts around 740 species of birds – on your travels you may spot the following:

Hyacinth Macaw, Jabiru, Agami Heron, Band-tailed Antbird, Mato Grosso Antbird, Red and Blue Macaws, Blue Fronted Parrot, Capped Heron, Red-winged Tinamou, Chestnut-bellied Guan, Sungrebe, Red-legged Seriema, Green Ibis, Great Potoo, Pied Lapwing, Buff-necked Ibis, Long-tailed Ground-Dove, Buff-bellied Hermit, Toco Toucan, Sunbittern, Nacunda Nighthawk, Black Skimmer, Green and Rufous Kingfisher, Pygmy Kingfisher, Helmeted Manakin, Scarlet-headed Blackbird, Rufous-tailed Jacamar, Blue-crowned Trogon – amongst others!

## ITINERARY

### Day 1: Cuiabá

Arrival in Cuiaba and transfer to the hotel.

**Overnight at Hotel Deville Prime Cuiaba in Deluxe Room with breakfast (if you arrive early this night can be easily missed)**

### Day 2: Cuiabá - Pantanal Norte

Start your journey to Araras Lodge - this route goes through a section of the scenic Transpantaneira Park and while crossing the area you can enjoy the local flora and fauna. The transfer will take around 2.5 hours.

On arrival at Araras Pantanal Eco Lodge you will be met with a welcome drink and check in to your accommodation. After lunch you will meet your bilingual guide for your first activity: an afternoon hike within the surroundings of the lodge to the Mirante da Garça, a 12 m / 39.5 ft. high observation tower that offers fabulous views of the sunset. After dinner, enjoy a stargazing trek to the sounds of the PanPantanal.

**Overnight at Araras Eco Lodge on a full board basis**



## **NORTH PANTANAL**

*Considered a World Natural Heritage Site and Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO, the Pantanal concentrates one of the greatest diversities of fauna and flora on the planet. This exuberant Brazilian biome stretches across the states of Mato Grosso and Mato Grosso do Sul and has distinctive characteristics.*

*The Northern Pantanal, located in the state of Mato Grosso, offers visitors an unusual experience in nature. The main access by plane to this region is via Marechal Rondon International Airport, located in the city of Cuiabá, its capital. Although modest, its remote location gives some indication of what your adventure will be like. Unlike the Southern Pantanal, the Northern Pantanal is wilder and receives fewer visitors.*

*The region has numerous swamps, winding rivers, is rich in riparian forests and has abundant wildlife. Around 250 species of fish, 80 mammals, 50 reptiles and more than 650 birds - birdwatching is a highlight with the opportunity to spot rare and migratory species in their natural habitat.*

*Poconé is the gateway to the Pantanal, a town of just over 30,000 inhabitants that preserves traditional 19th century architecture and offers a variety of adventure and leisure activities all year round.*

*A little about the climate of the area - during the flood season, which runs from December to March, the region is flooded and there is a greater chance of spotting waterfowl, as the mammals seek higher ground. From April to June there is the ebb season, when the rainfall decreases significantly and the waters begin to recede, allowing land mammals, including jaguars, to return to the lower areas. From July to October is the dry season, the best for observing wildlife, including mammals. The rivers offer plenty of food on their banks and some species of birds enter their reproductive period, acquiring spectacular colours. From November to December, the rainy season is excellent for birdwatching, as there is plenty of food available for them, and some species take the opportunity to teach their young to fly.*





**Day 3: Pantanal Norte**

After breakfast, you will head to Rio Clarinho River, exploring the banks of riparian forest and mangroves. You will have the chance to spot different species of otters swimming and playing. It is possible to do some piranha fishing - a fun and challenging activity as they have the ability to steal the bait from the hook!

A barbecue style lunch will be prepared at the campsite down by the river and after a rest in the hammocks set up at the campsite, you will return to the pousada. Later in the afternoon enjoy a walk to the Torre do Bugio, the tallest observation tower - 25 m high - that offers a spectacular view of the Pantanal plains, and after dinner enjoy a safari in search of nocturnal animals.

**Overnight at Araras Eco Lodge on a full board basis**

**Day 4: Thursday 12/09/24, Pantanal Norte**

After breakfast, you will have the option to either relax at the lodge, enjoy a boat trip on the river, or horse riding along trails that pass through various habitats and through water. Afterwards, return for lunch and a rest break at the pousada. In the afternoon, walk down the Rondon Trail to the Tuiuiú Observation Tower.

**Overnight at Araras Eco Lodge on a full board basis**

**Day 5: Pantanal Norte**

Early this morning, enjoy a walk at dawn to experience the awakening of this incredible ecosystem. Breakfast and depart to Porto Jofre – a three-hour road transfer, arriving in time for lunch. During the transfer you will have the chance to see a variety of birds, mammals, and reptiles.

On arrival at the hotel there will be a presentation of the lodge and of the activities, followed by free time to enjoy the leisure area. This is a brilliant lodge to view jaguar!

**Dinner and overnight at Hotel Pantanal Norte on a full board basis**



**Day 6: Pantanal Norte**

After breakfast you will start your jaguar expedition on Rivers Cuiabá, Piquiri, São Lourenço e Corixós. The expedition lasts around 8 hours with a lunch break. The chances of spotting jaguar are high in the area – this is one of the best areas in the Pantanal to find jaguars and watch their behaviour.

**Overnight at Hotel Pantanal Norte on a full board basis**

**Day 7: Pantanal Norte**

Another full day on the river enjoying the fabulous wildlife with a lunch break between the 4-hour boat safaris.

**Day 8: Pantanal Norte - Cuiabá - Pantanal Sul**

A last boat safari on the river before lunch, then check out according to flight time. You will travel back to Cuiabá by road where you will catch your flight to Campo Grande. From there, another transfer will take you to the Refugio da Ilha Lodge.

During the next few days you will experience a variety of activities – there are two activities included per day: one in the morning, just after breakfast until lunch, and another in the mid-afternoon. The activities will be carefully selected depending on the climate and time of year and you will be notified of your schedule the evening before.

To avoid the intense heat of the day activities take place in the early morning and mid-afternoon. The groups have no more than 6 guests, ensuring that the group is small and quiet enough for wildlife viewing. Activities: Boat Tour, Jeep Tour, Canoeing, Horseback Riding and Hiking

**Overnight at Pousada Refúgio da Ilha on a full board basis**

**SOUTH PANTANAL**

Considered a World Natural Heritage Site and Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO, the Pantanal concentrates one of the greatest diversities of fauna and flora on the planet. This exuberant Brazilian biome stretches across the states of Mato Grosso and Mato Grosso do Sul and has distinct characteristics.

The Southern Pantanal is located in the northwest of the state of Mato Grosso do Sul, the state capital. It is one of the best places in Brazil for observing wildlife, especially jaguars and caimans. Among the region's main attractions are the Negro, Aquidauana and Paraguay rivers, the Pantanal train, and the beautiful city of Corumbá, considered the capital of the Pantanal. The local cuisine is rich in fish and barbecue, and at the

markets you can buy handicrafts made from clay and wood. Canoeing, horseback riding, cycling and the Vazante and Murucututu trails are some of the activities you can enjoy.

**Day 9: Pantanal Sul**

The experiences take place very early in the morning or late in the afternoon. This is mainly due to the heat of the region and favours the best times for wildlife watching.

**Overnight at Pousada Refugio da Ilha on a full board basis**

**Day 10: Pantanal Sul**

A second full day to enjoy the activities at the lodge.

**Overnight at Pousada Refúgio da Ilha on a full board basis**

**Day 11: Pantanal Sul**

A third full day to enjoy the activities at the lodge.

**Overnight at Pousada Refúgio da Ilha on a full board basis**

**Day 12: Pantanal Sul - Campo Grande**

This morning you will check out and transfer back to Campo Grande.

**Overnight at hotel Deville Prime Campo Grande in luxury room with breakfast**



**DETAILS OF THE HOTELS YOU WILL BE STAYING IN ON THIS ITINERARY**

**Hotel Deville Prime Cuiabá**

Hotel Deville Prime Cuiabá offers modern accommodation with LCD cable TV and free Wi-Fi, also featuring a pool and a spa, and varied gastronomy options are available. The 5-star rooms at Hotel Deville Prime Cuiabá have air conditioning, safe and minibar and telephone. All rooms and the entire property are 100%



non-smoking. Guests can use a well-equipped gym and a games room with billiards. Naga Spa offers relaxation choices such as reflexology, massage, and facial massage.

### **Pousada Araras Eco Lodge**

Dates: 10/09/24 - 13/09/24

In this wonderful country guesthouse you will find comfortable rooms to rest after a long day of adventure through the Pantanal wetlands. Set in the heart of the largest floodplain on the planet and built in harmony with the environment, Araras Eco Lodge is 132 km south of Cuiabá, the capital of Mato Grosso, in rural Poconé. Its spacious guest rooms have a rustic decor with a modern feel, all equipped with split air conditioning, ceiling fan, window screens, sommier bed and private bathroom with hot shower.

In the evening at the restaurant and bar you can enjoy Pantanal cuisine paired with a good wine list. Breakfast and lunch are served by the pool, to the sound of macaws. Here you will have the opportunity to bird watch, hike through primary forest trails, canoe, horseback ride, and enjoy land safaris with expert guides.

### **Hotel Pantanal Norte**

The Hotel Pantanal Norte offers guests a comfortable base whilst they enjoy river safaris, fish and relax.

### **Refugio da Ilha**

Discover rural Brazil in comfort - located in the Salobra River Delta, 113 km from Bonito Airport in Mato Grosso do Sul - this simple and charming guesthouse offers sustainable tourism with just 8 air-conditioned rooms with ceiling fans, large beds, screened windows, and private bathrooms with hot shower.

The rate includes full board of three meals – homemade regional dishes with a diverse and vegetarian-friendly menu. Guests have free Wi-Fi internet access and can enjoy included activities such as jeep and boat rides, canoeing, horseback riding and hiking through the Pantanal, considering weather conditions and your preferences – with professional guides.

### **Hotel Deville Prime Campo Grande**

Boasting an outdoor restaurant, Deville Prime Campo Grande is located in Campo Grande, only 221 m from Parque das Nações Indígenas Park. Free WiFi access is available. Rooms have air conditioning, a flat-screen TV, satellite channels and a telephone with ensuite bathroom. Extras include a desk, a safety deposit box, and a laptop safe. Daily breakfast is served at the restaurant. Campo Grande International Airport is 6.2 mi away.

**This itinerary can be extended to take in Rio de Janeiro, the Amazon, São Paulo, Fernando de Noronha Archipelago, Jalapão or Iguazu Falls – please ask!**

**Want to spend more time looking for wildlife? Then we recommend spending some time at the lovely Hotel Baiazinha set on the banks of the Paraguay River and close to the Taiama Ecological Reserve. Quieter than Porto Jofre – the area around the lodge offers the chance to enjoy the wildlife without the crowds.**





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