

# BRAZIL'S PANTANAL



Photo by C. Zapparoli

September 6-17, 2010

\$3985 without international air, \$4785 with

The Pantanal, state of Matto Grosso do Sul, Brazil, is a vast expanse of diverse landscapes, changing through cycles of flooding and drying, home to an amazing concentration of wildlife, the greatest in the new world! Our trip is during the dry season maximizing our opportunities for wildlife viewing

## Refugio Ecologico Caiman - Estancia San Francisco

*"The chances of getting over 200 birds are very good, and about the mammals, who knows we are not going to see more than 20 different species. The two lodges are only 1.5 hours drive from each other. Will be a pleasure to lead your group on the best wildlife destination in South America."*

*"This lodge (San Francisco) is the best I know for mammals on South America. The wildlife there is amazing. Of course I can not promise any animal for sure, but Ocelots are almost 100% guaranteed. Good chances to spot Maned Wolf, Tapir, and Jaguar as well; three very rare and endangered animals, as you probably know."*

*Zapa, Naturalist Guide/Photographer – our guide, author of soon to be released Pantanal field guide*

**Cost** \$3985 per person without international airfare, \$4785 included\*

**Included:** All in-country transportation including domestic airfares, private bilingual naturalist guide, all meals, entrance fees, accommodations in double-room, all tipping to guides and drivers

**Not Included:** International airfare(\* above) and departure tax, personal expenses, alcoholic beverages unless provided at meals, any service or activity contracted by you personally

**Guides** Linda Ingram, CNT owner/operator; C. Zapparoli, Brasil Aventuras Expediciones

**Questions** Please call Linda Ingram, 1-877-626-2456, or [info@ceibanaturetours.com](mailto:info@ceibanaturetours.com); [www.ceibanaturetours.com](http://www.ceibanaturetours.com); [www.caiman.com.br](http://www.caiman.com.br); [www.brasilaventuras.com.br](http://www.brasilaventuras.com.br)

**Registration:**

**Trip registrations with deposits are due June 24.** At that time non-refundable payments are made to our lodges.

Final payment due July 10 – please see Terms and Conditions and Cancellation policy at [www.ceibanaturetours.com](http://www.ceibanaturetours.com) or request a copy by mail or email.

*If the trip minimum number of participants is not reached, deposits will be returned in full.*

**Itinerary in Brief**

Sep. 6 Depart US on overnight flight

Sep. 7 Arrival Campo Grande, transfer overland to Bonito overnight Hotel Cabanas

Sep. 8 Explore Buraco das Araras, snorkeling at Rio da Prata, lunch and return to Buraco das Araras.

Sep. 9 Boca da Onca Eco-trail

(3 nights in Bonito at Hotel Cabanas)

Sep. 10 Early visit to the Blue Lake Cave and transfer to Refugio Ecologico Caiman

Sep. 11-13 Extraordinary bird and wildlife watching in Refugio Ecologico Caiman

Sep. 14 After lunch transfer to Fazenda San Francisco

Sep. 15 More birds and wildlife at Fazenda San Francisco

Sep. 16 Morning bird watching, after lunch transfer to Campo Grande for return flights.

Sep. 17 morning arrival US

**Flights:**

It is most desirable that we all travel on the same flights for arriving and departing unless you elect to extend your trip for some self-guided travel. If you choose an alternate schedule, plan on arriving in the airport no later than the selected group flight arrives and depart no earlier than the group departure, or be prepared to cover the expense of transfer costs to join our trip in progress. You will be advised of the group flight itinerary. Call me to discuss your options.

**Medical:**

See Center for Disease Control website, [www.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/brazil](http://www.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/brazil); 877-FYI-TRIP; contact your local immunization service (in Berks County at Reading Hospital 610-988-4761), or see your primary care physician. Our location, Mato Grosso do Sul, is not within the identified risk area for malaria; but it is in the yellow fever risk area. See the specific CDC website information and/or consult your physician of choice.

**Passport/Visa:**

Passports must be valid for 6 months beyond your entry date. You must have blank VISA pages. A current US passport, and Visa issued by Brazilian consulates in the US, are required. [www.state.gov/travel](http://www.state.gov/travel)

I used Travia Visa Service, 212-613-2223, [www.travisa.com](http://www.travisa.com) Another company is Pinnacle Travel Document Systems, 888-838-4867, [www.traveldocs.com](http://www.traveldocs.com)

The appropriate consulate for issuing visas for PA citizens is below. One way or another your passport must reach their offices by hand-carry - which makes the visa services above so useful.

**Insurance**

Trip cancellation and medical evacuation insurance is highly recommended. A TravelSafe policy will be included with your confirmation. However, you may choose

any insurance policy. Check with your home insurance provider for coverage you may have. Waivers for pre-existing conditions are available but usually require you purchase your policy soon after registering. See [www.insuremytrip.com](http://www.insuremytrip.com)

**Currency:**

Please note – CNT *will not* implement exchange rate or fuel surcharges for any participant after receipt of deposit.

Brazilian Real. Check [www.oanda.com](http://www.oanda.com) for exchange rate. Currently 1.67R to \$1  
Master Card and VISA are more accepted than American Express. Travelers checks are less readily used.

**Books**

Neotropical Rainforest Mammals by Louise H. Emmons

Birds of Southern South America and Antarctica by Martin R. de la Pena

Traveler's Wildlife Guides: Brazil, Amazon and Pantanal by David L. Pearson and Les Beletsky

Frommer's Brazil – latest edition

Lonely Planet Brazil - – latest edition

**Weather:**

Expect 68-88F with no rain. However, like home, occasional highs and lows may occur. The Pantanal is a flat plain, naturally open without big mountains to block cold fronts.

**What to Bring:**

Pack like you're going to summer camp in August. Packing list is provided.

**EcoTravel:**

All three locations exemplify 'ecotourism' with Refugio Ecologico Caiman as the flagship Pantanal destination. Sustainability is practiced throughout operations, visits to the Hyacinth Macaw Project, Blue-fronted Parrot Project, and Jaguar Conservation Project are included in your itinerary. We have local guides at each location as well as our own guide C. Zaparoli, Zapa, accompanying us throughout our tour. We will not miss anything there is to see!

**More on Our Itinerary:**

**Pantanal Description**

The vast wetlands of the Pantanal are a third major biozone of Brazil. This region spans much of southwestern Brazil in the state of Mato Grosso south of Cuiaba and extends westward into eastern Bolivia and south into much of central Paraguay. The Pantanal is the largest wetland in the world, encompassing an area the size of France. As much as 2/3 of the area is covered with water at the height of the rainy season, which begins in October and lasts until late March. During the dry season, primarily June through September, the area dries out until much of the standing water has shrunk into isolated pools. Because much of the area is unsuitable for agriculture, this vast area is largely undeveloped and remains home to abundant bird and animal life. It is a vast mish-mash of wetlands, grasslands, and dry forests and is home to over 350 bird species. In addition to aquatic birds such as Jabiru and Sunbittern, the Pantanal is inhabited by several species of Macaws including the endangered and much sought-after Hyacinth Macaw. Other birds include numerous raptors and owls, guans, shorebirds and plovers, parrots, hummingbirds, and a great variety of songbirds. It is also home to Jaguars, which are regularly seen on night excursions by visitors to the area.

Description from Refugio Ecologico Caiman

*“Dry Season (July through October): The best time to observe wildlife. The lack of rain diminishes the lagoons, revealing the flat grounds and aiding transportation by land. The fields begin to dry, providing vast grazing areas where mammals search for food and water in the remaining water puddles. From August on, the Tabebuia trees blossom – locally known as Piuvas (pink flowers) and Paratudos (yellow flowers). This is the breeding season for birds – their plumage is at their best condition and their calls can be heard throughout the Pantanal. This is also the best season to observe Giant Anteaters, Crab-eating Foxes and Racoons, and South American Coatis.”*

**From National Geographic Adventure April 2008**

*“The world’s largest wetlands were rapidly becoming grazing ground for the beef industry until Caiman Ecological Refuge, a working cattle station on 132,000 acres of forest, fields, and meandering waterways, took a novel tack: protecting the Pantanal region with a sustainable approach to ranching. The 21-year-old refuge’s four ecolodges are setting international standards in a place where ramshackle hunting camps were once the norm. Other ranches caught on, and now more than 30 private nature refuges form a mosaic of wildlife corridors. Caiman continues to house scientific teams, and guests can participate in jaguar and hyacinth macaw projects.”*

**From Brazil Nuts**

*Bonito” (“beautiful”) is not enough to describe the wonders created by nature in this region. This humble city in the heartlands of Mato Grosso do Sul surprises everyone with its crystalline water rivers with plentiful fish, grottos and waterfalls that attract tourists from the world over. The great concentration of limestone in the soil around the area where Bonito is located is responsible for the transparency of waters creating natural aquariums, and the existence of a wide variety of geological formations. The Boca da Onça Eco Trail is situated in the Bodoquena Hills. Here a path will guide through the bush and forest about 5.5km (3.1 mi) and passes through unique flora and twelve waterfalls, including the highest of the State of South Mato Grosso, with 156m (512 ft) of height. The tour includes stopping at natural swimming pools with hydro massage, which the Indians already enjoyed.*

**Our Guide:** Zapa has worked in the Pantanal as a natural history and bird watching guide for 5 years. He discovered his passion for bird photography when, as a co-guide of a group, he found and photographed the beautiful Spectacled Owl, which the group was dying to see. After that he invested in photography equipment and has developed into one of the best wildlife photographers and naturalist guides in Brazil. In his spare time, he enjoys trying to capture photos of rare birds that have not been photographed yet in the Pantanal and Cerrado regions. [www.brasilaventuras.com.br](http://www.brasilaventuras.com.br)

**Questions?**

Linda Ingram

610-326-9531; 877-626-2456

[info@ceibanaturetours.com](mailto:info@ceibanaturetours.com)

Ceiba Nature Tours, 29 Unionville Road, Douglassville PA 19518