



BRAZIL

PANTANAL & CERRADO

WITH IGUAÇU FALLS & AMAZON EXTENSIONS

Amazon pre-trip
Sept. 28-Oct. 2, 2024

Pantanal & Cerrado
October 2-12, 2024

Extension: Iguazu Falls
12-16 October 2022

Pre-trip: \$TBD per person sharing
\$TBD single supplement

Main tour: \$TBD per person sharing
\$TBD single supplement

Extension: \$TBD per person sharing
\$TBD single supplement

Guides: Adam Sell and local guide
Maximum 10 participants

[Click here for the trip webpage and photo gallery](#)

[Click here to register](#)

INTRODUCTION

The Pantanal is the best place in the Americas to see tropical wildlife, bar none. The vast wetlands, savannas, and forests are home to healthy populations of jaguar, tapir, anteater, not to mention the more common monkeys, deer, capybara, the rarer ocelot, porcupine, and tayras. And that's not to mention the birds! Hyacinth Macaw is the flagship bird of this region—

no doubt we will see many of this spectacular parrot—but the overall bird diversity here is mindboggling, and it's not unusual to see more than 100 species almost every day of the tour.

The Northern Pantanal, where this tour takes place, is conveniently bisected by the Transpantaneira road, allowing easy access to a network of eco-lodges that put you right where the birds and wildlife are. It is the best place in the world to find jaguar, and we will put in a real effort to get good views of them. In addition to the Pantanal, just to the north lies the dry plateau forests of the cerrado, and we will also spend a few days in Chapada dos Guimaraes National Park, which protects some of the best remaining cerrado habitat and its many endemic birds.

This is the only Red Hill Birding trip where two extensions are offered—a pre-trip extension to a wonderful lodge in the Amazon rainforest and a post-trip extension to the extraordinary Iguazu Falls. These extensions add additional dimensions to the tour, visiting different habitats with incredible birds and wildlife and offering fantastic and unique travel experiences. They are designed to seamlessly combine with the main Pantanal tour. In the Amazon, we will have access to a variety of trails and habitats while based at a fishing and birding lodge on the banks of the São Benedito River. In Iguazu, we will spend time on both the Brazilian and Argentinian side of the falls, with time built in for both enjoying the falls themselves and getting in plenty of birding in the excellent forest surrounding the falls.

When there are so many birds, it's hard to know which ones to list in the tour intro! In the Pantanal, we will search for birds like Red-legged Seriema, Agami and Zigzag Herons, Chestnut-bellied Guan, Sungrebe and Sunbittern, Hyacinth Macaw, White-fronted and Pale-crested Woodpeckers, Mato Grosso Antbird, and Helmeted Manakin. In Chapada, we will focus on looking for cerrado specialties, like Collared Crescentchest, Curl-crested Jay, Coal-crested Finch, Chapada Flycatcher, and White-eared Puffbird. And in the Amazon, we could come across several recently described species, including Bald Parrot, Kawall's Parrot, and Cryptic Forest-Falcon, as well as an incredible variety of parrots, antbirds, flycatchers, woodcreepers, and more. And in Iguazu, we will look for Atlantic Forest specialties, like Black-fronted Piping Guan, Black-capped Foliage-Gleaner, and Rufous-capped Motmot.

All along the way, we will be seeing classic tropical birds, including a wide variety of toucans, macaws, tody-tyrants, manakins, tanagers, tinamous, guans, and so, so much more.

During the 10 night/11 day Pantanal trip, we will be based in four different lodges, which give us the best chance to see the full spectrum of wildlife and birds of the region (for both of the extensions, we will have four nights at a single lodge). Our days will have early starts with full mornings exploring mostly easy terrain, followed by a siesta after lunch. Some nights will include optional excursions in search of mammals and nocturnal birds.

DAILY ITINERARY: PANTANAL & CERRADO (10 NIGHTS)

Day 1, Wed, Oct 2: Arrival to Cuiabá. Night: Cuiabá.

After a long day of traveling, you will be met at the airport and transferred to a hotel in Cuiabá for the night. Although no activities are planned for the arrival day, one year there was even a Common Potoo roosting across the street from our hotel, so our birding got a little head start. Night: Cuiabá.

Days 2-3, Thu-Fri, Oct 3-4: Cuiabá to Aymara Lodge. Nights: Aymara Lodge.

After breakfast at the hotel, we will make the short drive, just 2 hours or so, to Aymara Lodge, stopping along the way as we see interesting birds. This will no doubt include our first long-legged waders, which are so abundant in the Pantanal, including Jabiru, Roseate Spoonbill, Rufescent Tiger Heron, several species of egrets, Plumbeous and Buff-necked Ibises, and Southern Screamer.

The birding right around the lodge is fabulous, and we will spend our mornings here birding around the lodge and the trails surrounding the lodge. Hyacinth Macaws sometimes nest in the forest at the lodge, while American Pygmy Kingfisher stalks the shaded river's edge. Other birds that we could find around the lodge and on the trails include Bare-faced Curassow, Yellow-collared Macaw, Dull-capped Atilla, Great Rufous Woodcreeper, Helmeted Manakin, Rufous-tailed Jacamar, White-lored Spinetail, Mato Grosso Antbird, Rusty-backed Antwren, and many other flycatchers, woodcreepers, tanagers, parrots, and more. We may get lucky and see the rare Buff-bellied Hermit as well, along with more common hummingbirds like Gilded Hummingbird and Glittering-throated Emerald.

One afternoon, we will take a boat ride on a different section of the Rio Claro. We will especially be looking for uncommon birds of dense riverbanks, including Agami Heron, Green-and-rufous Kingfisher, and Sungrebe. While searching, we should get great views (and photos) of many other river edge birds, like the unique Sunbittern, Great and Snowy Egrets, Cooi and Striated Herons, all five species of South American kingfishers, and several species of parrots. On the feeders near the boat launch, we might see Red-crested and Yellow-billed Cardinals, Shiny and Giant Cowbirds, Saffron Finch, Rufous Cachalote, Chestnut-eared Aracari, and the gorgeous Orange-backed Troupial.

Days 4-5, Sat-Sun, Oct 5-6: Pousada Piuval to Porto Jofre. Nights: Porto Jofre.

After a final morning of birding around Piuval, we will continue south along the Transpantaneira, with a planned stop at a hotel along the Pixaim River for birding and lunch. It is another area full of birds, and we could find Greater and Rufous-fronted Thornbird, Solitary

Black Cacique, White-bellied Seedeater, White-naped Xenopsaris, and Cinereous-breasted Spinetail, along with Greater Rhea, a variety of raptors, and the ever-present waterbirds.

After lunch here, we continue on to the southern end of the Transpantaneira at the Cuiabá River. There should be plenty of birds and wildlife along the road and we will stop frequently. Birds on this stretch of road could include the spectacular Scarlet-headed Blackbird, Boat-billed Heron, Ash-throated Crake, Subtropical Doradito, and Maguari Stork, along with countless herons, egrets, jacanas, and kingfishers. Besides birds, we will keep our eyes out along the drive for deer, anteaters, tapirs, and other animals. We end the day in the small town of Porto Jofre for a two night stay.

Most of our full day and last morning here will be spent on boat trips on the Cuiaba River and its tributaries in order to maximize our chances of seeing and photographing Jaguar. Although Jaguar sightings are not guaranteed, this region offers the best chances anywhere in the world to find these spectacular animals, which are among the most powerful and elusive of the world's large cats. Our outings will always be during the day, when we move along the rivers in search of cats that come to the river banks in search of food, water, or just a cool breeze.

Of course, the riverways offer lots of diversions during our search. We may come across groups of Giant Otters, and you never know when we might find a porcupine, tayra, or other animal. Birds are abundant along the riverbanks and sandbars, and not just waterbirds like Pied Lapwing, Black Skimmer, Large-billed and Yellow-billed Terns, and a variety of kingfishers, but also many landbirds, including Blue-throated Piping Guan, Toco Toucan, Black-capped Donacobius, and a variety of raptors. We will also quietly search the river edge forest for mixed flocks, which often include birds like White-wedged Piculet, Orange-backed Troupial, and Hooded Tanager.

Days 6-7, Mon-Tue, Oct 7-8: Porto Jofre to Pousada Piuval. Nights: Pousada Piuval.

Our final morning in Porto Jofre will be spent on a final Rio Cuiabá boat trip, so after returning, we will have lunch, pack up the bus, and start our return north. We will stop as we see interesting birds, but mostly we will be aiming to make it to Pousada Piuval by the afternoon.

Set in a working ranch, this fabulous area is chock full of birds and animals. This is likely to include several species of parrots, Greater Rhea in the surrounding fields, and a load of herons, egrets, shorebirds, and other waterbirds in the ponds surrounding the lodge.

Over our time here, we explore the wetlands, fields and forests in search of birds and mammals, never venturing too far from the lodge. Among the birds we could see are Hyacinth Macaw, Blue-fronted Parrot, Yellow-chevroned and Peach-fronted Parakeets, White-fronted and Blond-crested Woodpeckers, Chestnut-bellied Guan, Blue-throated Piping-Guan, and the terrestrial and primitive-looking Red-legged Seriema. Mixed flocks include a variety of flycatchers, antbirds, and tanagers. Mammals might include Black Howler and Capuchin Monkeys, Black-tailed Marmoset, Crab-eating Fox, and even Giant Anteater.

Day 8-10, Wed-Fri, Oct 9-11: Pousada Piuval to Chapada dos Guimarães. Nights: Chapada dos Guimarães National Park.

After breakfast we will transfer to Chapada dos Guimarães National Park, just a couple hours drive away. After the Pantanal, this is the region's leading attraction thanks to its natural beauty. It sits atop a rocky plateau, overlooking the flat plain of the Paraguay River and the Pantanal, at 2,600 feet above sea level, offers superb views, monolithic rock formations, caves, stunning waterfalls, and of course many special birds. These uplands provide some of the important water sources for the Pantanal marshlands below. Here we will stay at a small and cozy lodge right at the border of the national park, with excellent birding right outside the lodge doors and more excellent birding just a short drive away.

We will have nearly three full days birding the savannah-like cerrado (pronounced say-HA-doe) and chapada habitats. The cerrado ecosystem, with its rugged terrain, small and contorted trees, and lovely tablelands offers a rich biodiversity, including many endemic birds, with a scenery, flora, and fauna so rich and unique that the Brazilian government created this 33,000 hectare (81,500 acre) national park.

Flowers around the lodge swimming pool attract a variety of hummingbirds, including Swallow-tailed and Ruby-topaz. The grounds and surrounding forested trails are home to Amazonian Motmot, Blue-crowned Trogon, Southern Antpipit, Band-tailed and Helmeted Manakins, Planalto Slaty Antshrike, and Double-collared Seedeater. A nighttime excursion might yield Scissor-tailed and Little Nightjar, and Tropical Screech-Owl. The nearby cerrado habitat hosts White-eared Puffbird, Guira, White-rumped, and White-banded Tanagers, Coal-crested Finch, Plumbeous Seedeater, Black-throated Saltator, Collared Crescentchest, and the recently described Chapada Flycatcher, among others. We will also spend some time birding at Veu-da-Noiva Waterfall with chances to spot Lettered Aracari, White-collared and Biscutate Swifts, Blue-winged and Red-and-Green Macaw, Curl-crested Jay, Gray Monjita, Crested Black-Tyrant, and Blue Finch.

Day 11, Sat, Oct 12: Morning activities and transfer to Cuiabá airport

Today's activities will depend on the flight schedule of the group, but we might still have time to explore a bit more of the area and search of birds that we may not have seen yet.

At the appropriate time, we will be taken to Cuiabá airport, about a 1.5 hour drive from the lodge, to meet our onward flight to Iguazu Falls or departing for home.

For those continuing on to Iguazu, we will aim to arrive in Iguazu in the evening, though this depends on flights schedules (the cost of this flight will be added to the price of the tour after it is booked).

AMAZON THAIMAÇU LODGE PRE-TRIP (4 NIGHTS)

Just a 30-minute flight from Cuiabá is Alta Floresta, a small town that is a gateway to the mighty Amazon Rainforest. From the airport, it is just a three-hour drive, with a ferry crossing in the middle, to the wonderful Pousada Thaimaçu, set on the banks of the Rio São Benedito. Primarily a fishing lodge, Pousada Thaimaçu is starting to cater to birders as well, and has a fantastic set of trails and a top-class canopy tower allowing access to a variety of habitats and hundreds of species of birds, including recently described species like Bald Parrot, Kawall's Parrot, and Cryptic Forest-Falcon.

Days 1-4, Sat-Wed, Sept 28-Oct 2. Rio São Benedito Rainforest. Nights: Pousada Thaimaçu.

With three full days, plus two partial days (depending on flight times), we will have plenty of time to explore. One morning, we will arrive at the canopy tower for sunrise, enjoying the dawn chorus, watching parrots flying over the canopy, and seeing what comes in to the giant treetop that is eye level with the tower. We might see canopy dwelling birds like Tooth-billed Wren, Black-girdled Barbet, Spangled Cotinga, Paradise Tanager (and many other tanagers), Guianan and White-lored Tyrannulet, Kawall's and Red-fan Parrot, several species of macaws, and various swifts.

We will also spend time walking trails, visiting various rainforest habitats, including short-stature forest and scrub on sandy soil, which hosts a unique set of birds, including Brown-banded Puffbird, Red-shouldered Tanager, Pale-edged Mourner, Rufous-crowned Tyrannulet, Zimmer's Tody-Tyrant, and the spectacular Pompadour Cotinga.

As we wander through the forest, we will no doubt run into many antbirds, antwrens, woodcreepers, tody-flycatchers, manakins, hermits, woodpeckers, nunbirds, puffbirds, aracaris, and so many other Neotropical birds. As we boat along the Rio São Benedito, we could find the bizarre and unique Hoatzin, along with many other river-edge birds and raptors sitting on snags.

This can be a great place to see mammals, and is one of the best areas, especially this time of year, to see Brazilian Tapir. Several species of monkeys bound through the trees, and we might get lucky with a sighting of an anteater, armadillo, or other shy animal. On at least one evening, we will go out at night, hoping to find owls, nightjars, and mammals.

IGUAÇU FALLS EXTENSION (4 NIGHTS)

Upon seeing Iguaçu, the United States First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt reportedly exclaimed "Poor Niagara!" The name Iguaçu comes from the Tupi and Guarani languages, and means "Big Water". And big it is! In the rainy season, there will be more than 300 falls along the basaltic edge of the

Paraná plateau. Although the falls are divided between Brazil and Argentina, most of it is in the Argentinean side. And, because of that, the best view of the falls is from Brazil! But the Argentinean side is definitely worth a visit, especially if you intend to have a close-up view of the “Devil’s Throat”, the most powerful and impressive of the falls. A few kilometers downstream from the falls, the Iguazu River flows in to the Paraná River, marking the triple border between Brazil, Argentina and Paraguay. The area around the falls is protected by two national parks, both recognized as Unesco World Heritage Sites, on either side of the border, and holds a great variety of wildlife. The birds include many endemics of the Atlantic Forest, including tanagers, toucans, woodpeckers and antbirds. Mammals are diverse here, too, including Jaguar, Puma, and Tapir, though we are more likely to spot monkeys and coatis.

Day 12, Sun, Oct 13: Brazil side of Iguazu Falls

Here we have a full day to explore the Brazilian side of the falls, with fantastic views of this magnificent spectacle. We will be birding while walking here with chances to find birds such as Yellow-fronted Woodpecker, Scaly-headed Parrot, Toco Toucan, Chestnut-eared Aracari, Plush-crested Jay, Green-headed Tanager, and a few more. Lunch will be at a nice restaurant inside the park. In the afternoon we will have an optional visit to the Bird Park, which has a nice collection of native and exotic birds, and may offer good photo opportunities of some of the most beautiful Brazilian birds. Clients also have the option to do a helicopter ride over the falls (not included), an astounding and unforgettable experience!

Day 13, Mon, Oct 14: Argentina side of Iguazu Falls

This morning we will leave the hotel at 7:00am to visit the Argentinean side of the falls, which will complete our experience here. We may spend a couple of hours birding a forest area before entering the park. In the park we will visit the higher part of the falls and go all the way (by train and foot) to the Devil’s Throat, the most impressive of the falls. On the way we may find the Magpie Tanager, Saffron-billed Sparrow, and a few others. At the falls, great numbers of Great-dusky Swifts are often seen. We will then return and walk to the lower part of the falls, with the option of taking a Zodiac for a fun and adventurous boat ride (not included) to the bottom of the falls! After leaving the park we will stop by the Hummingbirds Garden, a private garden in the Argentinean town of Iguazú with a few bird feeders that attract a good number of species such as Black-throated Mango, Glittering-bellied Emerald, Swallow-tailed Hummingbird, Versicolored Emerald, Ruby-crowned Tanager, Blue Dacnis, Chestnut-bellied Euphonia, and many more.

Day 14, Tue, Oct 15: Birding day

There is great birding around the falls themselves, but there are also a lot of tourists and it can be difficult to access the best quality forests. New for this year’s tour, we will extend the extension by a day so that we have some time to explore some of the excellent Atlantic Forest remnants that are away from the falls but within striking distance of our hotel. There is great potential to see many Atlantic Forest endemics, and depending on where we spend the day, could include some fantastic birds like Black-fronted Piping-Guan, Tufted Antshrike, Band-tailed

Manakin, Rufous Gnateater, Chestnut-headed Tanager, Sharp-tailed Streamcreeper, and many others.

Day 15, Sun, Oct 16: Departure from Foz do Iguacu

Today will be a relaxing morning, perhaps birding in the hotel garden in the morning, before heading to the airport for our departing flights.



The Hyacinth Macaw, a flagship species in the Pantanal, is readily found on this tour. Photo by guide Adam Sell

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Timing

The Pantanal trip will **begin in Cuiabá, Brazil, on Wednesday, October 2, 2024**. This is an arrival day, with no activities planned, though if the group arrives early enough we may do a bit of birding in town. The main trip will **end in Cuiaba, Brazil, on Saturday, October 12, 2024**. You can schedule your flight for any time this day. It is a 10-night, 11-day trip.

The Amazon pre-trip extension (4 nights) starts with a flight from Cuiabá to Alta Floresta on **Saturday, September 28, 2024**. As of this writing, the only route to fly to Alta Floresta is from Cuiabá. Depending on your international arrival and the timing of the Cuiabá-Alta Floresta flight, you may need to arrive to Cuiabá on September 27 in order to fly to Alta Floresta the next day (contact us if you'd like help with hotel arrangements for that night). You will return to Cuiabá on October 2 to meet the group.

The Iguazu Falls post-trip extension **ends in Foz do Iguazu, on Wednesday, October 16, 2022**. For those joining this extension, we will fly from Cuiabá to Foz do Iguazu on October 12.

Because of the changing nature of the cost of airline tickets, tickets for internal flights to/from the extensions is not included in the tour price. We will purchase the tickets for the group and add the cost to your final invoice.

We cannot book international flights for you; however, we are happy to give advice on routes and timing. There are no international flights to Cuiabá. Generally, the best routing from the United States to Cuiabá is through São Paulo, Brasília, or Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Price

The price of the trip is \$TBD and the single supplement is \$TBD. This price **includes** all meals (including soft drinks and bottled water), from dinner on Day 1 to breakfast on Day 11; all transportation and accommodation during that period; a Red Hill Birding guide throughout; local guides throughout; boat trips as mentioned in the itinerary; tips at meals, tips for local guides, and tips for hotel porters; and all entrance fees. It **does not include** alcoholic beverages; any flights; optional activities such as extra boat trips; snacks, laundry, tips apart from those mentioned in the "included" section, or other items of a personal nature.

The price of the Iguazu Falls post-trip extension is \$TBD and the single supplement is \$TBD. The price for the **extension includes** all meals from lunch on Day 1 to breakfast on Day 5; it **does not include** airfare from Cuiaba to Foz do Iguazu for now, but will be added to invoice at a date closer to the trip (cost was ~\$300 in 2022); otherwise the inclusions and exclusions are as in the main tour.

The price of the Amazon Rainforest pre-trip extension is \$TBD and the single supplement is \$TBD. The price for the **extension includes** all meals from lunch on Day 1 to lunch on Day 4; it **does not include** round-trip airfare between Cuiaba to Alta Floresta (cost was ~\$180 in 2022); otherwise the inclusions and exclusions are as in the main tour.

A deposit of \$1000 will secure your place on the trip. The deposit for the Amazon pre-trip is \$700 and for the Iguazu Extension is \$400. Final payment is due by June 2, 2024. We will send a reminder about two weeks before the final payment is due. We accept payment by check, bank transfer, or through the app Zelle. Our prices include a cash discount; we accept credit cards with a 3.1% service fee. Your spot on the trip will be confirmed upon our receipt of the [booking form](#) and the deposit.

Passport and visa information

It is **always best** to check on the **latest visa and passport information** before you travel, as requirements can change. Please contact us if you have any concerns. As of this writing, **Americans do not need to arrange a tourist visa ahead of time to visit Brazil**. You must have two blank consecutive facing pages available in your passport.

If you are joining the Iguazu Falls extension, we will be spending a full day in Argentina. A visa is not required for United States passport holders to visit Argentina; crossing the border between Brazil and Argentina is typically very easy here.

Physical difficulty

This trip is **physically easy**. Most of our walking will be on flat trails or on roads, and while we may be on our feet for extensive periods, we will be walking at a “birding pace.” Some of the trails could be muddy, rocky, or uneven in stretches. Some of our birding will be done along roads, driving and stopping frequently. Some birding will also be done from boats.

The Pantanal is a hot environment, and much of our activity will be in the early morning and late afternoon. However, we will occasionally be out during the heat of the day. The roads in this part of Brazil are mostly of good quality, though the Transpantaneira Road can get bumpy by the end of the dry season, when this trip is.

On the **Amazon pre-trip extension**, we will be taking some longer walks, possible as long as 5km (3.6 miles). This is a very hot and humid environment. We will have mid-day siestas to rest during the hottest part of the day.

Pace

The pace of the trip is **moderate**. A typical day will have us up early to catch the peak early morning bird activity and to beat the heat. The typical start time will be 5-5:30am. Some days will have us returning for breakfast at the lodge where we are staying; some breakfasts will be in the field or before heading out. Lunches will sometimes be picnics and sometimes will be in restaurants or at our lodge. Most days, we will have the opportunity for an afternoon siesta before returning for more birding in the evening. There are many nocturnal birds and animals and there will be opportunities for nighttime excursions to look for owls, nightjars, and nocturnal animals.

After the arrival night in Cuiabá, all hotel stays are at least two nights. Both extensions are staying at a single hotel for all four nights. The vehicles will have air conditioning and plenty of space for all participants. We will compile our daily bird and animal checklist, which your guide will provide at the beginning of the tour, around dinner time.

Hotels

The hotels we use in Brazil are **generally very good**. All have en suite bathrooms, hot showers, electrical outlets for charging electronics, good service, and air conditioning. They have excellent birding right on the grounds. Most hotels have wireless internet, which is usually very reliable, although the signal may only be in common areas. Electrical outlets are “Type N”, so an adapter is necessary (see photo below). Most modern electronics do not need a voltage converter.



Photography

The **photographic opportunities** on this tour are **excellent**. There is almost nowhere in the American tropics better for bird and wildlife photography. If you are a photographer, you are sure to go home with many great photos. That said, this is primarily a birdwatching tour, so while there will be ample opportunities for photography along the way, we will not be making special considerations for photographers.

Bird photography is considerably more difficult in the Amazon, which primarily consists of dense forest. However, especially when we are on the canopy tower, on the river, and around the lodge, there will be some excellent opportunities for photography.

Weather

This trip is scheduled to coincide with the region’s **dry season**. The weather will generally be **mild and comfortable** in the mornings and hot or very hot in the middle of the day and afternoon. Early morning temperatures could be as low as the 50°F if a cold front has come through and the high temperature could be as high as 100°F by early afternoon. Typical early morning temperatures will be in the 60s-70s and typical daytime highs will be in the 80s-90s. Rain is unlikely but possible, so an umbrella or light raincoat is a good thing to bring. Rain is

more likely in the Amazon and around Iguazu than in the Pantanal. Temperatures will be a bit cooler at Iguazu Falls for the post-trip extension.

Food

The food is generally of a **high standard** on this tour. The food is distinctly Brazilian, with an emphasis on rice, beans, meat, and fresh fruits and vegetables. And lots of desserts! Vegetarian and other dietary restrictions are easily accommodated; please let us know of any when you complete the booking form. Many of the hotels and lodges will have buffet meals, and restaurants are typically buffet-style as well. There will be a few opportunities to buy snacks along the way or to take them from the hotel, but if there's a particular birding snack you like at home, feel free to bring some along.

Packing considerations

You will generally want to wear **comfortable, light-weight clothing**. The dress for the tour is entirely casual. **Lightweight clothing, with layers**, and long pants and long-sleeved shirts are recommended for protection from the sun and to be prepared for various weather conditions. Comfortable walking shoes are a must, but rubber boots are not necessary. There may be some uneven terrain, so hiking boots could be useful if you think you may need the ankle support. It's nice to have sandals and/or cros for when we're around the lodge and on our boat rides. A mid-weight jacket or sweater for cold mornings is also important. Most lodges have swimming pools, so a bathing suit is recommended if you think you might take advantage. Laundry service is available at every hotel, though is relatively expensive compared to some places (\$20-\$30 per load).

In terms of gear, apart from the usual binoculars, hat, field guide, etc., it is important to bring a flashlight or (preferably) a head lamp. An umbrella is very useful for both when it rains and for sun protection, especially when we are on uncovered boats looking for birds and jaguars. Most people appreciate having a camera along. A trekking pole can be helpful for our walks, especially if the trail is uneven. Sunscreen is definitely necessary and bug repellent is good to bring, even though biting insects are rarely a problem on this dry season tour.

Health considerations

Please consult a doctor before making any decisions regarding vaccines, anti-malarial prophylaxis, or other health decisions regarding traveling.

Malaria is very rare in the areas we will be traveling. Malaria is a potentially dangerous disease carried by mosquitoes. Prophylaxis should not be necessary, but we recommend you take precautions to avoid mosquito bites such as wearing long sleeves and applying insect repellent.

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that visitors to Brazil have vaccines against Typhoid and Hepatitis A in addition to “routine vaccines.” Yellow Fever vaccine is also recommended.

Please visit their website for more information:

<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/brazil>

Resources

There are several good field guides and wildlife resources for the Pantanal. The primary bird field guide is *Birds of Brazil: The Pantanal and Cerrado of Central Brazil* by John Gwynne, Robert Ridgely, Guy Tudor, and Martha Argel. The companion volume *Birds of Brazil: The Atlantic Forest of Southeast Brazil* by Ridgely and co-authors is the best guide for Iguazu Falls, even though the falls is outside its range of coverage. For the Amazon, the only current field guide available for that region is *A Field Guide to the Birds of Brazil* by Ber Van Perlo. The Merlin App is an excellent resource and phone-based field guide. Merlin Bird ID has “bird packs” that you can preinstall that include excellent photos and recordings for almost all species covered on this tour. We recommend downloading it before arriving in Brazil.

There is an excellent mammal guide for the Pantanal, but it may not be available outside of Brazil. It is *Non-volant Mammals of the Pantanal and Surroundings*, by Hannibal and co-authors. *Pantanal Wildlife: A Visitor's Guide to Brazil's Great Wetland* by James Lowen is a good general wildlife guide, though it is not a field guide.

Money

The Brazilian currency is the real (plural is reals or *reais*, pronounced something like hay-ICE). You can easily change money upon arrival at the airport Brazil. Alternatively, ATMs are available in towns and accept most American debit cards. Credit cards, especially Mastercard and Visa, are widely accepted.

eBird

Your Red Hill Birding guide and/or local guides will be eBirding the entire tour. If you have an eBird account, they will collect your username/email address in order to share those lists, and will share them when it is convenient. You are welcome to edit your lists to add/remove species, edit text, or change numbers as much as you would like, since any edits you make to your lists do not change others' lists. And we love it when participants add photos and sound recordings to the checklists!

The leader will also provide an eBird Trip Report after the tour and will add participants who have an eBird account to the report; this way, you can see your own personal trip details and those of the whole group. These trip reports are accessible to anyone who has the link, so participants who do not have eBird accounts can still view the report to see the trip list, photos, and any added text.

Tipping

We aim to provide **exceptional service**, using guides that are knowledgeable, interesting, personable, and experienced. While tipping is never expected, if you feel that your guides went above and beyond, you are welcome to leave them a gratuity. Tips at restaurants and for all local guides and drivers is included in the tour price.

Travel insurance

We do not require travel insurance for trips to Brazil. However, we recommend purchasing it to help protect you against the unexpected. For your convenience, we offer travel protection through Travelex Insurance Services. For more information on the available plans or to enroll, go to www.travelexinsurance.com or contact Travelex Insurance Services at 800-228-9792 and reference location number 13-0441.

Travelex Insurance Services, Inc CA Agency License #0D10209. Travel Insurance is underwritten by, Berkshire Hathaway Specialty Insurance Company, NAIC #22276. 55Y

Note that to be eligible for some benefits, travel insurance must be purchased within 1-2 weeks of paying the trip deposit.