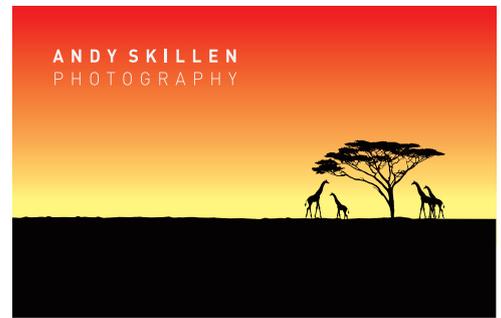


Paradise in the Pantanal

An exclusive, six person photographic expedition to the wildlife-rich Pantanal region of Brazil, taking in land-based and boat-based accommodation and photographic situations with Andy Skillen.

6-16 October 2018; 11 days, 10 nights

UK£5,195; US\$6,850 (per person based on double occupancy)



Questions and Answers...

What gear should I bring? (apart from the camera!)

For our safaris, you will want to bring light, comfortable clothing as well as a few layers. You don't need camouflage, but subtle neutral tones are advised (try not to pack the bright red sweatshirt!). It can be chilly in the mornings, especially when on the water, so do bear that in mind when it comes to bringing some warmer clothes; a fleece and or jacket should suffice. Hats are always a good idea – caps or sun-types or even woolly ones for those cooler mornings – as are snoods (mainly for dust) and a pair of light gloves. When on the land-based lodges, light walking boots/shoes would be a good idea. It is always an excellent notion to bring waterproofs too: both trousers, and a coat. Although this is the dry season, a weather front can sweep through the Pantanal at any time of the year, and bring with it rain and substantially colder temperatures. Be prepared for this eventuality! I've been in 40 degrees plus one day, and then rain and 5 degrees the next morning...so having some emergency cover is not a bad idea!

One of the beauties of this trip is that you will be arriving and leaving on scheduled flights, so avoid the usual issues of light aircraft transfers. However, if you do extend the trip to a location requiring such a flight, then bear that in mind! If you want some advice on what to bring camera-wise, then feel free to get in touch of course after you've booked and I can offer some opinions on what to put in the kit-bag.

What will the food be like?

Excellent. Home-cooked, freshly-prepared and plentiful...there is no need to worry here! Of course, **if you have dietary restrictions required by a medical condition or concern, please let me know at the time of booking, so that we can do our best to plan and prepare accordingly.** When on the river, we will usually have our lunches brought out to us so we don't have to return to the Flotel (unless sightings are quiet at the time). This is another great advantage of the trip: we stay in the field for as long as possible, concentrating on the wildlife and absorbing this incredible place!

Are there bugs?

Always consult your medical advisor with regards to necessary immunisations and the need for anti-malarials, but at present there is no malaria within the Pantanal. It is always recommended that you bring insect repellent but don't get too hung-on the prospect of being surrounded by thousands of biting insects! In the dry season the numbers of mosquitos and such like are dramatically reduced. As always, cover arms and ankles at dawn and dusk when they are likely to be most active...or put on a good DEET-based (or similar) repellent. Ticks can be present when walking through long grass, and it's therefore a good idea if you're concerned to ensure you tuck in your trousers, spray your socks (or treat with the likes of "Permethrin") or wear gaiters. However, as I say, don't get too stressed – insects are there and a key part of the ecosystem....and its not like being in a leech-infested rainforest!

What are the lodges like on the "Transpantaneira"?

We stay at two different properties on our roadtrip across the Pantanal: Southwolds Lodge and Pousa Alegre. Both of these are blessed with excellent wildlife (bird, reptile and mammal) and will give us the chance to

feel the ground under our feet for a couple of nights in each direction. There will be a whole host of possible photography targets, including Ocelot, and we will make sure we max these as much as possible. Both venues also give the chance for some R&R in the heat of the midday if you wish! Pousa is a rustic Estancia-style property, but very comfortable and with superb home-cooked, traditional food, whilst Southwilder is a more purpose-built facility with large, airy rooms. Both have enviable locations and are amongst the most sought-after properties in the region to stay at.

I have a group of friends...can we book the whole thing for ourselves?

Yes. This is a one-off trip catering to a maximum of six, therefore if you want to have complete exclusivity for your group, then please enquire straightaway. Note, such a reservation requires a 50% deposit at the time of booking.

Can I extend my trip?

Absolutely. Our partners and myself can advise on building extra parts to your itinerary either before or after your arrival in Brazil at a number of other sites, or even further afield on the continent. What about a few days at Iquacu Falls for example? Whilst we would not book this for you, we can certainly put you in touch with the right people to get you the best access and deal based on your interests.

What's the "Flotel" like?

This will be our home for six nights, giving us magical sunsets and sunrises, the chance to relax and a base from which to launch our photo-specialised boats each day. We are away from the clamour of the main lodges around Porto Jofre, and save hours every day in terms of pointless river-commuting to the main wildlife-rich zones. Whilst all the other boats head back earlier than us, we will be cruising back watching a magical sunset, weaving in and out of roosting birds and awakening bats...a very special end to every day. Cabins are small but comfortable with A/C and hot showers. Food is excellent, the numbers of residents are far fewer, and there is a bar where we can sit and unwind too should you wish to! Naturalists on the Flotel also give excellent presentations from time to time in the accompanying lounge area if you would like to know even more about this beautiful region.

Can I book a "single" cabin/room?

Yes, of course, but there is limited availability and an "at cost" charge for reserving. We will usually try and put people together, but if you definitely want a cabin for yourself, we can usually sort something out 😊

How do I book my/our place(s)?

TO RESERVE YOUR SPACE (ONLY 6 AVAILABLE), SIMPLY SEND AN EMAIL IN THE FIRST INSTANCE DIRECTLY TO ME on ANDY@FAUNAVISTA.COM

YOUR INTEREST WILL BE ACKNOWLEDGED, AND A BOOKING FORM DESPATCHED WITHIN A FEW WEEKS. SPACES ARE THEN AWARDED ON A FIRST COME, FIRST-SERVED BASIS ON RECEIPT OF FORMS WITH DEPOSITS.

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