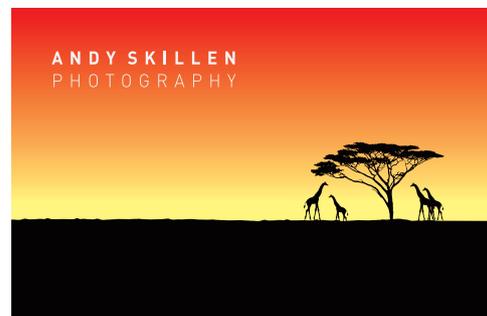


Paradise in the Pantanal

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)



Itinerary

Day 1-2 Arrive Cuiaba...and start your adventure! (2 nights)

After your flight to Brazil (preferably to Sao Paulo), you will have then connected onto a domestic flight to Cuiaba, where we will be waiting for you. Of course, this is likely to be a tired morning after a long overnight flight, and a domestic transfer, but we'll soon get rid of the cobwebs by getting some lunch in town before heading off to the start of the world-famous 'Transpantaneira' Road which bisects the Pantanal. Once we reach the start of the official route, we will transfer from our small coach into an open sided safari truck. The extra height this gives us is critical, as it permits us to look out across the landscape and spot animals and birds as we head towards our first lodge. If any situations arise that we wish to make more of, we'll simply pull-up, disembark with cameras in hand, and then head off to start shooting! The truck has a canopy to protect from the sun (and rain on occasion!), but is completely otherwise open at the back. This can be a blessing as the air sweeps across us, bringing down the temperatures, but also gives much of a feeling of "immersion" into the landscape as we go. We will then arrive at Southwild Pantanal Lodge – our home for 2 nights – where we will check in, discuss our plan for the next day and enjoy dinner. Our activities here are land-based looking for wildlife, but we will also use a small boat to check out the river here for otters and birdlife, and on one night, perhaps use a specially constructed hide where Ocelot are known to frequent for that "once in a lifetime" chance of snaring one of the world's most elusive and beautiful cats.

(2 nights Southwild Pantanal Lodge, B,L,D)

Days 3 – 8: The Jaguarland Flotel (6 nights)

An early start from our lodge as we head onwards to the ends of the Transpantaneira, stopping for any great sightings on the way. The road itself is a marvel, with over 130 bridges and the photographic opportunities are endless. By late morning, we will arrive at Porto Jofre, and after bidding a (temporary!) farewell to our Safari Truck, will transfer to our specially adapted photo-boat for the ride to the Flotel – a floating lodge, moored up river and away from the circus that is the main lodge area at Porto Jofre! Our boat is equipped with individual camera mounts for each person, with a swivel seat...in fact, you'll feel like you're on some military gunboat as we head off up-river. This will be our transport for the next 6 days of Jaguar (and other river wildlife) searching...and we'll be starting right after lunch that day. We will then follow a daily pattern of leaving early from the lodge, cruising the rivers and their smaller tributaries, and constantly searching for fantastic wildlife encounters. From a butterfly resting on a caiman's eyelid, to a Jaguar hunting in the shadows...all things are possible. At night we will be back on the Flotel – meaning that we get longer every single day than those who stay at Porto Jofre and have to "commute" 4 times a day (as they go home for lunch...when we will stay out!) and waste hours on non-productive parts of the river system. By being out as much as we can be (and obviously, sometimes logistics may dictate a short pit-stop back at the lodge in the middle of the day), and never away from the main action, we are certain to give the maximum possible chance for excellent wildlife sightings and photo ops. In fact, it gets me excited just even thinking about it!

(6 nights Jaguarland "Flotel", B,L,D)

Days 9-10: Pousa Alegre (2 nights)

After six days on the river, we will transfer after an early breakfast back to Porto Jofre, to re-connect with our Safari Truck (see...I told you the parting was only temporary ☺) and commence our journey back up the Transpantaneira road to our final accommodation at Pousa Alegre. This homely Fazenda (Estancia/Farm) is full of wildlife including coatis, marmosets, howler monkeys, anteater (giant and lesser), tapir (if we're lucky), deer and even pumas! The birdlife is also sensational, and there are some great encounters to be had with caiman as well. All in all, this is a great place to end our adventure for two nights, giving us the chance to try all sorts of different photography, on foot and from the truck, and feel the ground beneath our feet once again.

(2 nights Pousa Alegre, B, L, D)

Ultimately, though, our adventure will come to an end, and we will transfer onto our original vehicle to head back to civilization and Cuiaba airport. We can arrange to drop you here, or in the city itself, but this is where we will bid our last farewells and recall the amazing wildlife experiences we've shared for the last 11 days.

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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#wildlifeasitshouldbe