

Paradise in the Pantanal

10 September - 20 September 2021

21 September – 01 October 2021

Location: Pantanal region, Brazil

Group size: 6; Cost GBP 6,495 per person

ANDY SKILLEN
PHOTOGRAPHY



AN **11 DAY, 10 NIGHT PHOTOGRAPHIC AND WILDLIFE VIEWING ADVENTURE** TO THE SPECTACULAR PANTANAL WETLAND IN BRAZIL. THIS TRIP IS **ESCORTED THROUGHOUT** BY A **FULL-TIME PROFESSIONAL WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHER** WHO HAS WORKED WITH ANDY SKILLEN, AND A **LOCAL EXPERT NATURALIST**, AND IS GEARED TO GIVE YOU **A SUPERIOR PHOTOGRAPHIC EXPERIENCE IN UNCROWDED SHOOTING CONDITIONS.**

WITH A **GROUP SIZE OF JUST 6**, YOU ARE **GUARANTEED PLENTY OF TUITION TIME, AND ALSO PLENTY OF ROOM IN WHICH TO WORK.**

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

- **SMALL GROUP SIZE** OF JUST 6 GUESTS
- **EXCLUSIVE USE OF THE ONLY SPECIALISED PHOTO BOAT ON THE RIVER** WITH CAMERA MOUNTS/SWIVEL SEATS AND **WIMBERLEY TRIPOD HEADS**
- **11 DAYS AND 10 NIGHTS** IN THE **PRIME TIME** FOR WILDLIFE VIEWING
- **6 NIGHTS** IN A FLOATING LODGE IN THE **HEART OF THE “JAGUAR ZONE”**
- **FULL DAYS** ON THE RIVER...**OUR LUNCH COMES TO US** SO WE DON'T MISS A MOMENT!
- **4 NIGHTS** IN TWO DIFFERENT RANCHES, **RICH IN TERRESTRIAL BIRDS AND MAMMALS**
- **NIGHTLY USE** OF A RESEARCH HIDE FOR **OCELOT VIEWING AND TAPIR HIDE (NEW!)**
- ACCESS TO A **PHOTO TOWER** TO ALLOW **EYE-LEVEL PHOTOS** WITH **NESTING JABIRU STORKS**
- CHANCE TO USE OF A REMOTE FLOATING HIDE AT A LAKE – WITH **HUGE PHOTOGRAPHIC POTENTIAL**
- USE OF AN **ADAPTED “SAFARI TRUCK”** THROUGHOUT OUR PANTANAL CROSSING
- AS MUCH, OR AS LITTLE, **PHOTOGRAPHIC TUITION** AS NEEDED!

COSTS AND LOGISTICS

- **Group size:** 6 guests only
- **GBP 6,495** per person, based on twin-share accommodation throughout*
- **Start Point:** Cuiaba Airport, Brazil
- **End Point:** Cuiaba Airport, Brazil

Note: Single accommodation WILL require a supplement. There is also an upgrade opportunity to a “Jaguar Suite” on the Flotel, which we can book for you and pass on at cost – no problem!

WHAT'S INCLUDED...

- 2 nights accommodation at Pousa Alegre
 - 6 nights accommodation at the floating jaguar lodge – the Flotel
 - 2 nights accommodation Santa Theresa Lodge
 - Photo-truck use throughout
 - All photographic tuition and access to a full-time naturalist
 - Use of the photo-boat; complete with free-to-use gimbal heads
 - All meals throughout the itinerary
 - All transfers to/from Cuiaba as per the itinerary
 - Access to Ocelot viewing hide and Jabiru nest photo tower as well as a new Tapir hide
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WHAT'S NOT...

- International and/or any domestic flight to/from the itinerary start/end points
 - Items of a personal nature
 - Visa fees as appropriate
 - Drinks at lodges and Flotel (cash bar system)
 - Gratuities
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YOUR ITINERARY....

Day 1-2: Arrive Cuiaba, transfer to Pousa Alegre, 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. Our first two nights will be spent 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 start 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. **(2 nights Pousa Alegre, 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 thinking about it! We will also explore the potential to access “Jaguar Lake” – a floating hide on a remote lake that we would have to ourselves and could yield any number of fantastic sightings for those wanting to spend a patient day. **(6 nights Jaguarland “Flotel”, B,L,D)**

Days 9-10: Santa Teresa Lodge (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 Santa Teresa Lodge – our home for 2 nights – where we will check in, discuss our plan for the remaining days 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. We have excellent kingfisher photography at this lodge also, and will make the most of that too as well as access to a Tapir hide where regular nighttime sightings occur around a mango tree. **(2 nights Santa Teresa Pantanal Lodge, B,L,D)**

Day 11: Depart for Cuiaba...and onward

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.

EXTENSIONS...BEFORE AND AFTER...

If you're heading to Brazil, you may well want to keep experiencing that samba rhythm for a few days more at the end of your trip, and as such we have a number of fantastic photographic options that we can set you up with using our tried and trusted network of hides, locations, guides and contacts. Some of these include extensions to photograph Harpy Eagles at nest height, close up encounters with Golden Lion Tamarins, or tracking Maned wolves and watching tool-using Capuchins in remote areas of Brazil's grasslands. We also have access to some spectacular locations outside Brazil too, and can advise and arrange accordingly. All of these extensions will not have Andy or one of our other photographers on board, but will still operate **EXACTLY** as if they were. It's about providing **YOU** with a quality experience, and the chance to capture memorable images.

If you're interested in extensions, mention it when you reserve your space and we'll discuss some of the ideas with you once we know the kind of thing you want to do.

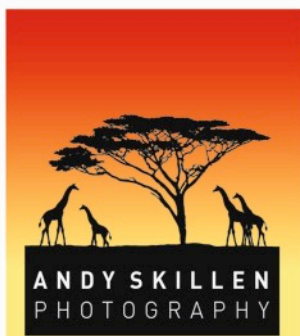
WHAT DO I DO NEXT?

To reserve your space on this very special adventure, either:

- a. send an email to Andy@faunavista.com or Carrie@faunavista.com to register your interest and receive a booking form
- b. download the generic booking form using the link on the page from where you obtained your itinerary, fill it out, and send it to either email address as above.

Charity...a permanent winner

Andy's photography is all about giving something back; back to a world that has given him such a wealth of memorable experiences and opportunities. As a result, a proportion of all the profits we make from every perspective of Andy's work is donated to some of the world's leading wildlife charities. These include the David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation (DSWF), Animals Asia and the Bushlife Foundation – for which Andy and Carrie are the UK ambassadors. Your holiday is not just therefore an adventure for yourself, your friends and your family, but a true contributor to the frontline of wildlife conservation.



**CHANGING THE IMAGE
OF WILDLIFE TRAVEL...**