



**BIRDING AND WILDLIFE WATCHING BRAZIL:
PANTANAL AND CHAPADO DOS GUIMARÃES
CUSTOM TOUR**

24 September – 4 October 2022



Jaguar (photo Eduardo Ormaeche) is one of our targets on this trip.

Our Pantanal and Chapada dos Guimarães tour is designed to provide for our guests the most incredible birding and wildlife watching experience in this fabulous part of the planet.

We will start our tour in the city of Cuiabá and from there we will head to the famous Chapada dos Guimarães National Park, spending the whole morning looking for bird species like **Red-and-green Macaw**, **Blue-winged Macaw**, **Chapada Flycatcher**, **Coal-crested Finch**, **Guira Cuckoo**, **Toco Toucan**, and **Peach-fronted Parakeet**.



Toco Toucan

After lunch in town we will drive toward our accommodation, Pousada do Parque Lodge. Although basic, the lodge has much charm and is the only facility within the park. We will be thrilled with the birding opportunities that this place offers, with species such as **Planalto Hermit**, **Swallow-tailed Hummingbird**, **Red Pileated Finch**, **Chopi Blackbird**, **Pale-crested Woodpecker**, **Flavescent Warbler**, and a good number of night birds such as **Nacunda Nighthawk**, **Common Potoo**, **Rufous Nightjar**, **Scissor-tailed Nightjar**, **Little Nightjar**, **Pauraque**, and **Tropical Screech Owl**. The park is a habitat of the seldom-seen **Maned Wolf**, but sightings are rare, and we will be considered very lucky if we manage to encounter one of these exciting creatures.

The birding outside the park includes good targets such as **White-rumped Tanager**, **White-banded Tanager**, **Collared Crescentchest**, **Pavonine Cuckoo**, **Amazonian Motmot**, **Sharp-tailed Streamcreeper**, **Brown Jacamar**, **White-eared Puffbird**, and **Spot-backed Puffbird**. We might also have a chance to see the endemic **Crested Black Tyrant**, and we'll admire the famous Cachoeira Véu de Noiva (bridal veil waterfall). We will spend four days here in this most amazing landscape.



Bridal veil waterfall, Chapada dos Guimarães

After three nights at Pousada do Parque in the Chapada dos Guimarães National Park, we will drive to Poconé at the entrance to the largest wetland in the world, the Pantanal. During our stay in the Pantanal we will visit and stay at different lodges, which are carefully chosen to provide the best birding and wildlife opportunities.

Our first lodge is Pousada Piuval, where we will have chances to see our first splendid **Hyacinth Macaw**, **Greater Rhea**, **Red-legged Seriema**, **Greater Thornbird**, **White-fronted Woodpecker**, **Black-capped Antwren**, **Blue-crowned Parakeet**, **Cattle Tyrant**, **Buff-necked Ibis**, **Plumbeous Ibis**, **Southern Screamer**, and **Sunbittern**.

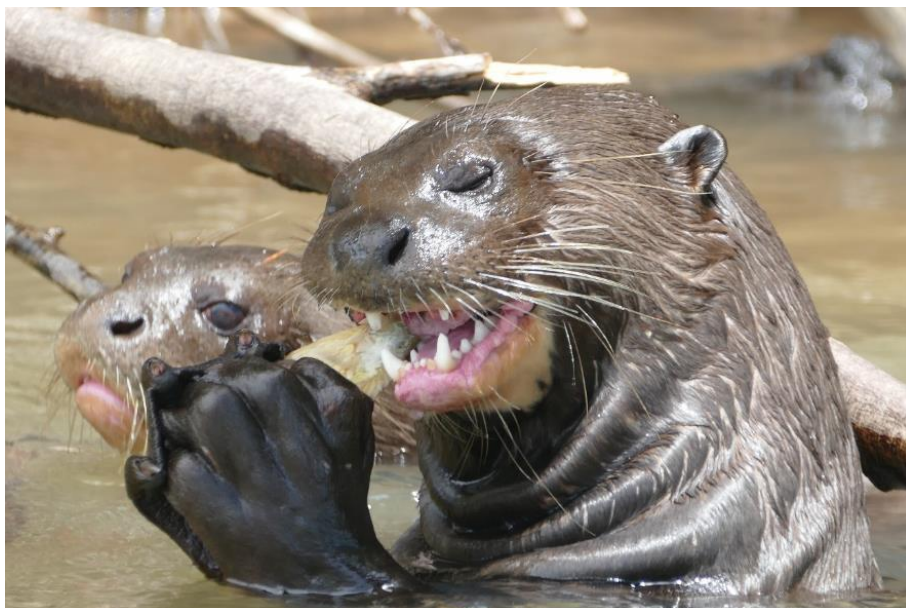
At night, we will drive around the property, exploring the Brazilian savanna and looking for the most-wanted and elusive **Giant Anteater** as well as for **Crab-eating Fox**. Other mammals that can be seen around Piuval include **Capybara**, **South American Coati**, **Azara's Capuchin**, and **Black Howler** monkey.

Later we will continue to the rustic Pouso Alegre Lodge, which, although it is a rather simple and basic accommodation, is worth to spend at least one night, because the woodlands around the property are good to look for birds such as **Red-billed Scythebill**, **Bare-faced Curassow**, **Great Rufous Woodcreeper**, and at night **Stygian Owl**. The night drives around Pouso Alegre are good for species like **Giant Anteater**, **Marsh Deer**, and **Lowland Tapir**, and even some guests have even seen **Ocelot** and **Puma** on the property



Hyacinth Macaw (photo Eric Schroeder)

Later we will transfer to the Pantanal Mato Grosso Hotel, which is strategically located next to the Pixaim oxbow lake. During our stay at the Pantanal Mato Grosso Hotel we will do boat trips searching for aquatic species such as **Amazon, Ringed, Green, Green-and-rufous, and American Pygmy Kingfisher, Agami Heron, Jabiru, and Cocoi Heron**. Here we also might see **Blue-throated Piping Guan, Golden-collared Macaw, Black-collared Hawk, Sungrebe, and Giant Otter**.



Giant Otter (photo Eric Schroeder)

Before dusk here, we will try for the elusive **Zigzag Heron**. The gallery forest behind the hotel is good for **Blue-crowned Trogon, Buff-throated Woodcreeper, Stripe-necked Tody-Tyrant, White-lored Spinetail, Rusty-backed Spinetail, Mato Grosso Antbird, Black-backed Water**

Tyrant, and **Helmeted Manakin**. The grassland around the hotel is good also for **Chotoy Spinetail**, **Log-tailed Ground-Dove**, **Picui Ground-Dove**, **Scaled Dove**, **Red-crested Cardinal**, **Yellow-billed Cardinal**, **Chaco Chachalaca**, and with luck **Great Potoo** roosting at daytime.

After two nights at the Pantanal Mato Grosso Hotel, we will drive all the way along the Transpantaneira, which is the only road that passes through the northern Pantanal and ends on the Cuiabá River. Here we will stay for two nights at the comfortable Hotel Pantanal Norte – Porto Joffre, which will be our base to look for the majestic **Jaguar** along the Cuiabá River. The chances to see this legendary animal are very high in the Pantanal, and we should be rewarded with more than one sighting. After two nights at Porto Joffre, we will return to Cuiabá, from where you can connect with your domestic flights back to São Paulo and home from there.

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1.

Arrival at Cuiabá and transfer to the hotel

Overnight: Hotel Taina

Day 2.

Transfer to the Chapada dos Guimarães National Park, birding en route

Overnight: Pousada do Parque

Day 3.

Birding Chapada dos Guimarães National Park, including the Geladeira Road and Vale da Benção

Overnight: Pousada do Parque

Day 4.

Birding Chapada dos Guimarães National Park, including Agua Fria Road

Overnight: Pousada do Parque

Day 5.

After a last morning birding in the park, we will leave Chapada dos Guimarães and head via Poconé to the Pantanal. We will have a night drive around our lodge to look for nocturnal animals.

Overnight: Pousada Piuval

Day 6.

Full morning of birding around Pousada Piuval. We will be looking for **Nanday Parakeet** and **Blue-crowned Parakeet**. We will then transfer to the basic and rustic Pouso Alegre Lodge, which offers good chances to see nocturnal wildlife around the property. With a bit of luck we could find elusive species such as **Lowland Tapir**, **Ocelot**, **Crab-eating Fox**, and **Giant Anteater**.

Overnight: Pouso Alegre Lodge

Day 7.

Morning birding around Pouso Alegre. By mid-morning, we will transfer to Hotel Mato Grosso. In the afternoon, we will have a boat ride to look for aquatic birds and the elusive **Zigzag Heron**, **Agami Heron**, **American Pygmy Kingfisher**, **Blue-throated Piping Guan**, and with luck our first encounter with giant **River Otters**.

Overnight: Pantanal Mato Grosso Hotel

Day 8.

Full day birding in the grassland of the old airfield and gallery forest of the Pantanal Mato Grosso Hotel, looking for species such as **Helmeted Manakin**, **Rusty-backed Spinetail**, **Blue-crowned Trogon**, **Amazonian Motmot**, **Chotoy Spinetail**, and **Mato Grosso Antbird**. We will have a night drive along the Transpantaneira to look for nocturnal animals.

Overnight: Pantanal Mato Grosso Hotel

Day 9.

After a final morning birding around the Pantanal Mato Grosso Hotel, we will transfer to Porto Jofre. In the afternoon, we will have our first boat trip to look for **Jaguar** along the Cuiabá River.

Overnight: Hotel Pantanal Norte – Porto Jofre

Day 10.

Another boat excursion to keep looking for **Jaguars** in the morning, and in the afternoon we will be birding around the property, where **Hyacinth Macaw** is virtually guaranteed.

Overnight Hotel Pantanal Norte – Porto Jofre

Day 11.

After breakfast in Porto Jofre we will transfer, back to Cuiabá to connect with a domestic flight out of Cuiabá or spend a night here (not included in the tour price).

Duration: 11 days/10 nights

Dates: 24 September – 4 October 2022

Tour Leader: Eduardo Ormaeche

Tour Start: Cuiabá

Tour End: Cuiabá

Price: US\$ 4990 per person sharing

Single Supplement: US\$537

Donation to the GGAS: US\$200 per person

Price includes:

Accommodation as described in the itinerary (except where indicated)

Private transportation

Private bilingual tour guide

Admission fees

All meals (except when indicate)

Transfers from and to the airport

Price excludes:

All flights

Any activity not described in the itinerary

Personal expenses such as drinks, alcoholic drinks, laundry services, internet, phone calls, etc.

Any meals on day 1 and dinner on day 11

Accommodation in Cuiabá on day 11