



**BRAZIL AND ARGENTINA: THE PANTANAL AND IGUAZU
FALLS
TOUR-SPECIFIC INFORMATION**



*We will be searching for **Jaguar** in the Pantanal (photo Ricard Boschetti).*

**PLEASE CLICK HERE FOR GENERAL INFORMATION PERTAINING TO OUR
BRAZIL TOURS**

TOUR OUTLINE

This tour, taking in the Pantanal and Iguazu Falls, is simply outstanding, both in terms of quality and diversity of species, and is one of our most popular Neotropical tours. Brazil's Pantanal is a unique destination which has become mandatory in recent years due to the high probability of seeing **Jaguar** and other unique wildlife. The itinerary is designed to provide you with the best experience of the Pantanal and the Atlantic Forest. We will bird the Atlantic Forest around Iguazu Falls in Argentina, which protects the area's largest tract of Atlantic Forest. Here, you will be able to experience the mighty waterfalls while enjoying the many birds on offer.

ARRIVAL INFORMATION

Please e-mail us (or contact us by another means if preferred) before you book any flights, as the information shown here is just an initial guide. Our tour will start in the city of Cuiaba at Marechal Rondon domestic airport (CGB), which can be reached with a direct flight from São Paulo, Brazil. You might wish to consult your travel agent to book your most convenient flight (and please contact us if you need any guidance). Your tour leader will wait for you (with a small board with the Birding Ecotours logo) at Cuiaba airport and will then transfer you to your hotel. Please be aware that most international flights arrive in Cuiaba in the afternoon, so we don't have any birding activities planned for Day 1. In case you arrive on an early flight, you will be transferred to the hotel but may have to wait until check-in is available. For an early check-in, you might be charged extra directly by the hotel; this cost is excluded from the Birding Ecotours tour price.

Please remember to keep your luggage tags, as they are required to exit the terminal at Cuiaba airport.

When filling out the customs declaration form, please use the address below for the hotel:

Hotel Aeroporto, Av. João Ponce de Arruda, 860 - Centro Norte, Várzea Grande - MT, 78110-375, Brazil

Please note: When booking flights, be sure your international flight arrives at the Guarulhos airport (GRU) in São Paulo and your domestic flight to Cuiaba (CGB) leaves from the same airport. You don't need to change airport. If you book through a travel agent, please be sure your connection to Cuiaba leaves from the same Guarulhos airport.

DEPARTURE INFORMATION

Our tour will end in the city of Foz de Iguazu, with a domestic flight from Foz de Iguazu to São Paulo, where participants can catch international flights or spend an additional night in São Paulo

between tours. Upon completion of the tour, your tour leader will transfer you to the Foz de Iguazu airport, from where you will fly back to Guarulhos airport in São Paulo. These domestic flights are included in the tour price.

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS AND PACE

We categorize this trip as easy to moderate, the latter because of hot weather only. Most of the birding consists of walking along flat and smooth roads, although will include some uneven terrain and a few forest trails. At Iguazu we need to walk just over two miles (3.5 kilometers) from the parking lot to our birding spot and back.

Keep in mind that we need to be awake very early in the mornings, and pre-dawn starts are in order each day. We normally spend the whole morning out birding in the field, returning to the lodge for lunch, and then providing opportunities for a little rest before continuing our birding in the afternoon. Your guide will sometimes invite you to look for owls and other wildlife at night, but this is an optional activity that you can skip if you feel tired. Some people prefer to rest, skipping birding in the afternoon; this can be done at lodges where we are staying more than one night.

We have some boat trips scheduled in the Pantanal to explore rivers, so participants need to be able to get in and out of boats and be able to deal with a few hours in boats for most days while in the Pantanal.

We have a few 4x4 open-top safari drives scheduled, to explore the Pantanal grasslands and savannas. Participants need to be able to get up into the vehicle with or without help. Both boat and 4x4 safaris are optional but important, as river tours are the only way to approach certain wildlife.

Brazil is a big country, and the tour includes some lengthy drives along the Pantanal. We move from lodge to lodge, having a maximum of two nights at each lodge. These drives are part of the birding schedule since birds and wildlife are found all along the Pantanal Road. We drive for a maximum of two to four hours between lodges.

This trip may be difficult for people with back, walking or balance problems, or for those who are not used to the early starts involved.

MEALS

During Pantanal leg of this tour most of our meals will be buffet style. These buffets serve fresh meals with meat, rice, beans, pasta, fresh and cooked vegetables, soups, etc. At Iguazu, depending on lodging, the meals available may have two or three different kinds of menus, always with a vegetarian option. When vegetarian food is available during the tour, it may unfortunately be bland. We do encourage meal providers to be more creative in their menus, but often the vegetarian food selection is only adequate, and not amazing. If you have any food restrictions, please check with us before booking the tour as other restrictions may be difficult to provide.

WEATHER

Cuiaba and the Pantanal experience hot weather, with an average of 95-104°F (35-40°C), with added humidity, during October (when we run this tour). Even though it is not the rainy season, we may experience a rainy morning or afternoon while visiting the Pantanal. In the Atlantic Forest around Iguazu, the temperature is normally around 86°F (30°C), with added humidity. The area can be affected by rainstorms at any time of the year and our schedule could be affected by rain and fog.

MONEY AND ATMS

ATM machines are available in São Paulo, Cuiaba and Foz de Iguazu airports, please keep in mind that these are the only ATMs available on the itinerary. Unfortunately, there will not be time to look for ATMs while on tour, so please be sure to plan your cash needs based on ATM availability.

Please note that international bank cards might have a limit of US\$200 per transaction, or even a US\$200 limit per day. This depends on your bank, so check with them in advance before your tour, alternatively, you may bring cash to avoid withdrawals.

LAUNDRY

Laundry service is available at the lodges (Piuval, Mato Grosso and Hotel Pantanal Norte, as well as at Iguazu). We recommend you bring clothes that dry easily, if you do your own laundry while on tour. Laundry fees are not included in the tour price.