



THE BEST BIRDWATCHING SPOTS – MATO GROSSO

CERRADO ECOSYSTEMS AND PANTANAL LOWLANDS

The heartland of Brazil covers an area equal to Western Europe (2,000,000 sq km), and its original vegetation is called “CERRADO”, considered the richest savanna in the world, due to its high plant diversity and endemism. Most of Brazil’s big rivers find their sources here. It’s an area of enormous ecological importance with many areas of spectacular beauty, as the National Park of “Chapada dos Guimarães”, only 55km North West from Cuiabá airport. Its biodiversity includes: 837 birds species, 161 mammals, 120 reptiles and over 10.000 vascular plants from which 44% are endemic.

The Pantanal, one of the last great wildernesses, is the largest contiguous wetland on the planet, declared a World Heritage Site and Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO, is South America’s primary wildlife sanctuary. With a total area of 240,000 sq km located in the center of the continent, the Pantanal is a biogeography mixing bowl, containing elements of the Amazon and Atlantic Rainforests, the Brazilian Savannah and the Paraguayan Chaco. This fantastic biodiversity includes: 698 birds species, 100 mammals, 177 reptiles, 40 amphibians and over 250 fish species.



BIRDWATCHING – 7 DAYS/6 NIGHTS

1st DAY – CUIABÁ AEROPORTO > PANTANAL

Arrival at Cuiabá/Várzea Grande Airport, reception and transfer to Poconé (105 Km), following on the Transpantaneira up to Araras Eco Lodge (32 Km). Bird watching along the way to the lodge. Welcome drink and accommodation. Afternoon trekking on the Rondon path. Dinner and overnight at Araras Eco Lodge.

2nd DAY- POUSADA ARARAS>TORRE POUSADA ARARAS

Early morning birding at the “arapacu” trail, (white-eyed parakeet, monk parakeet, rufous hornero, yellow-browed tyrant, purplish jay, sayaca tanager, saffron finch, red-crested cardinal, etc.). Lunch at Araras followed by a visit to the observation tower with possibilities of spotting herons, sun bittern, little blue heron, whistling heron, bare-faced ibis, snail kite, purple gallinule, yellow-billed tern, Amazon kingfisher, pygmy kingfisher, barred ant shrike, etc. Return to Araras Lodge in adapted vehicle for bird watching with possibilities to see black-crowned night-heron, nacunda nightjar, pauraquee, great horned owl, common potoo, etc. Dinner and overnight at Araras Lodge. (B, L, D)



3RD DAY- POUSADA ARARAS>SAFARI>POUSADA ARARAS



After early breakfast, departure towards Pixaim River (34 Km) in an open car. Birding along the Transpantaneira (Schoeniophylax phryganophilus, Amblyramphus holosericeus, southern screamer, lesser yellow-headed vulture, savanna hawk, black-colored hawk, roadside hawk, laughing falcon, greater rhea, Jabiru stork, American wood stork, etc.). Lunch at local lodge then hiking thru the forest with possibilities of spotting species such as Heliornis fulica, the rare Agamia agami, Chloroceryle aenea and others, after trekking motor boat trekking at Pixaim river. Dinner at local lodge then return doing a nocturnal birding along the Transpantaneira road (Bubo virginianus, Cochlearius cochlearius, Nyctibius griseus, Nyctidromus albicollis and others) return to the Araras lodge and overnight. (B, L, D)

4TH DAY- POUSADA ARARAS>SENTINELA>POUSADA ARARAS



Early morning birding at the lodge ground, (white-eyed parakeet, monk parakeet, rufous hornero, yellow-browed tyrant, purplish jay, sayaca tanager, saffron finch, red-crested cardinal, Sturnella superciliaris, Polistictus pectoralis, Psarocolius decumanus, etc.). After breakfast trip to the “Sentinela-camp” by the margins of Clarinho river for further birding in kayaks and paths (herons, sun bittern, little blue heron, whistling heron, bare-faced ibis, snail kite, purple gallinule, yellow-billed tern, Amazon kingfisher, pygmy kingfisher, barred ant shrike, etc.). Lunch by the campfire. Further birding on the savannah on the way back to the lodge. Dinner. Night tour to look for the night birds (black-crowned night-heron, nacunda nightjar, pauraquee, great horned owl, common potoo, etc.); return and overnight at Araras Lodge. (B, L, D)

5º DIA- POUSADA ARARAS>CHAPADA DOS GUIMARAES



Early morning birding at the lodge ground. After breakfast departure to Chapada dos Guimarães (170 Km). (Melanopareia torquata, Nystalus chacuru, Thamnophilus torquatus, Schistchlamys ruficapillus and others). Lunch at local restaurant in front of a beautiful high waterfall. Birding in its surroundings and on the Hummingbird trail, followed by the transfer to Chapada City. Stop at the Hell’s Gate and walk its trail. Overnight at Park Lodge. Dinner.

6TH DAY- CHAPADA DOS GUIMARAES



Early morning birding at the lodge ground. After breakfast departure through *Água Fria* road spotting birds as Melanopareia torquata, Nystalus chacuru, Thamnophilus torquatus, Schistchlamys ruficapillus and others. Lunch at *Morro das Ventos* restaurant followed by a visit to the look out view and geodesic centre. In the afternoon a visit to *Vale da Benção*. Return to the lodge for dinner and departure to observe nocturnal habits birds. Overnight at Park Lodge. (B,L,D)



7TH DAY – CHAPADA DOS GUIMARAES>CUIABA

Breakfast and departure to Cuiabá airport.

General Information:

Capacity

MINIMUM of 02 travelers & MAXIMUM of 16 travelers.

Included

Transfers, activities as mentioned, 4 nights in the Pantanal, 2 overnights at Chapada, expert guide with good knowledge on fauna & flora.

Not included

Air tickets to/from Cuiabá and Alta Floresta. Beverages. Medical expenses and hospitalization. Any type of insurance.

Type/Level

Eco-tourism Bird watching Type/Moderate Level Program.

Guide Languages

English and Portuguese (with possibility of Spanish, Italian, French, German and Dutch).

Recommended Gear

T-shirts, long sleeve shirt, tennis shoes or hiking boots, hat, jeans or tracksuit, sunscreen, mosquito repellent, binoculars or scope, field books, camera and film. Sweatshirt or jacket recommended in June through September.

Note:

We provide local guide with good birding knowledge

Our reference x 49465

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