

Join the Houston Zoo for a very special trip:

**Brazil's Pantanal:
South America's Savannah**



Sunday July 19 to Monday July 27, 2020

**Cost per person is \$7,999
Single supplement is \$1,500 per person**

The Pantanal is the largest inundated plain in the world and is a refuge for endangered species like the jaguar, hyacinth macaw, the giant anteater and the giant otter. The dry and wet seasons are a remarkable characteristic of this ecosystem and dictate the rhythm of the incredible wild life sheltered in its ecosystem. There are an estimated 3,500 species of plants, 124 species of mammals, 177 species of reptiles, 41 species of amphibians and at least 423 species of birds.

On this safari we can be fairly certain you will see wild jaguar. At Fazenda Baia das Pedras and Hotel Porto Jofre located in the Brazilian section of the Pantanal, you will also have the opportunity to spot numerous species like the marsh deer, pampas deer, capybara, caimans, howler monkeys, tapir, peccaries, toucans, jabiru stork and of course both red and yellow macaws, and the stunning hyacinth macaw.

Day 1: Sunday July 19th – arrival to Campo Grande, Brazil

You are picked up on arrival at the Morelia airport and transferred to the We are met on arrival at the airport and transferred to our hotel for the night. Overnight at Grand Park MS Hotel (D). This sleek modern hotel is centrally located next to the major shopping district. All rooms have LCD cable TV, hair dryer, personal safe, air conditioning, tiled floors, fridge and telephone. The

suites also feature a super king bed, spa bath and balcony. There is free WiFi and a gym, sauna and a swimming pool.

Day 2: Monday July 20th – Campo Grande to Pantanal

Today we will drive from Campo Grande to our base for the next three nights, the very comfortable Pousada Baía das Pedras. We will depart in a mini-bus for the first segment of the journey, and when we reach the dirt roads at the edge of the Pantanal we transfer into 4-W-D vehicles for the remainder of the ride. We will enjoy lunch en route and arrive at the working ranch in the afternoon. Overnight at Fazenda Baía das Pedras (B,L,D)



The farm Baía das Pedras is located in the Pantanal of Nhecolândia, Aquidauana District, in the heart of the Pantanal. It is 300 km from Campo Grande, the capital of South Mato Grosso.

Placed on the shores of Drain of Castelo, the Fazenda was founded in 1940 by José Coelho Lima and his wife Cyra Gomes Coelho Lima. The couple inherited a small piece of land where they lived and worked with cattle. As the years passed by they bought new areas and formed Baía das Pedras, on 15 thousand hectares. The two fresh water lakes with gravel rocks and sand in the bottle, located at the Fazenda, inspired the name “Bay of Rocks” or just Baía das Pedras.

Good hospitality is a tradition at the Fazenda; in July 2003 the main house was completely refurbished to receive guests. The host’s Doio and Rita Coelho Lima, are now responsible for the farm, where besides the Hotel activities they also raise cattle and Pantaneiro horses.

Day 3: Tuesday July 21st – Baía das Pedras and the Pantanal

Today we have a full day to explore the ranch, with game drives, horseback riding, boat rides all possible means of exploration. This evening we will hear about the conservation programs taking place in the Pantanal and the efforts to protect jaguars, tapirs and so much more. Overnight at Fazenda Baía das Pedras (B,L,D)



Day 4: Wednesday July 22nd – Baía das Pedras and the Pantanal

A second full day to explore the ranch — we will learn about all the conservation efforts being undertaken on this working ranch. We will see first-hand how agriculture and conservation can work hand-in-hand. Overnight at Fazenda Baia das Pedras (B,L,D)



Day 5: Thursday July 23rd - Baia das Pedras to Meeting of the Waters State Park

Today we will board a charter flight from the ranch airstrip and head north as we really get a sense of the scale and size of the Pantanal and the threats to the unique ecosystem. We will depart from Baia des Pedras in the morning and plan to arrive at our hotel on the banks of the Rio Cuiaba before lunch. After check-in and lunch we will board river boats and begin exploring the riverbanks of the Rio Cuiaba and adjoining channels inside the forest of the 270,000 acre "Meeting of the Waters" State Park. Overnight at Porto Jofre Hotel (B,L,D)



Located directly on the banks of the Rio Cuiaba, Porto Jofre Hotel primarily caters to Brazilian sport-fishermen who visit this area for the remarkable fishing opportunities. The hotel also has an airstrip, so is very convenient for our private charter flight from Baia das Pedras. The rooms are simple, but comfortable, with en suite bathrooms, hot and cold water, showers, electricity, etc. Meals are served in a central dining and bar room, where internet access is also available. The hotel grounds include nesting sites for Hyacinth macaws and numerous other bird species! Importantly the hotel is just a 30 minute boat ride from the prime Jaguar territory inside the Meeting of the Waters state park.

Day 6: Friday July 24th Meeting of the Waters State Park

A full day to explore the area by river boat. We will in fact spend the next two days exploring this area by boat, searching for jaguars, caiman, capybara and giant otter that are all present in the area and regularly seen. Overnight at Porto Jofre Hotel (B,L,D)



Day 7: Saturday July 25th: Meeting of the Waters State Park

One final day to explore Meeting of the Waters State park to observe wildlife.

Day 8: Sunday July 26th: Port Jofre to Cuiaba

We begin our journey up the Transpantaneiro after breakfast, using open game-viewing vehicles for the first half of the drive. We will have lunch at a local fazenda and complete the journey in a mini-bus from Pocone (where the black-top road begins). Our destination is the very comfortable and modern Hotel Deville in Cuiaba, where we can find wi-fi internet, 24 hour electricity, hot and cold running water, and other amenities. Our farewell dinner is at a local restaurant tonight. Overnight at Hotel Deville (B,L,D)

Located downtown, 15 minutes from the airport, Hotel DeVille has immediate access to all commercial, tourist and cultural attractions. WiFi is available in all 173 rooms, and there is a swimming pool and gym on grounds, plus a well-equipped business center. The hotel also houses the Naga spa, where you can find the following therapies - Zen Harmony; Shiatsu; anti-stress massage; occidental reflexology; hot stones; lymphatic drainage; facial massage; facial massage with stones.

Day 9: Monday July 27th: Cuiaba and flights home

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast and you can schedule your return flight for any time today.

Cost includes: All accommodations listed; Meals listed as listed; Bottled water throughout; English speaking local guide services; Reserve entrance fee.

Not included: Vaccinations and/or medications; Alcoholic drinks; Visas and/or departure taxes (approx \$200); Phone calls; Laundry or other items of a personal nature; Gratuities; any other personal expenses.

What you need to have with you on your trip:

Passport: If you are a U.S. or Canadian citizen, you will need a passport, valid for six months from the date of completion of your trip and you will need to obtain a Brazilian tourist visa. If you are a UK citizen, no visa is necessary.

It is always a good idea to make a photocopy of your airline tickets and of the pages of your passport that have the number, your photograph and other pertinent information. Keep the copies separate from the originals.

Visas: If you are a U.S. or Canadian citizen, please consult the Brazilian consulate or embassy nearest you for visa requirements to enter Brazil. If a visa is required, you are responsible for obtaining it.

For more information or to book your trip with the Houston Zoo, please contact conservation@houstonzoo.org

Our lodgings:

Grand Park MS Hotel, Campo Grande

This sleek modern hotel is centrally located next to the major shopping district. All rooms have LCD cable TV, hair dryer, personal safe, air conditioning, tiled floors, fridge and telephone. The suites also feature a super king bed, spa bath and balcony. There is free WiFi and a gym, sauna and a swimming pool. Grand Park Hotel boasts to have the most complete breakfast in town - as well as laundry, snack bar, restaurant and beauty salon services.

Pousada Baía das Pedras, Pantanal

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Hotel Porto Jofre, Pantanal

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