

# Pantanal

2024

Photo Safari

# Letter From the Team

At Tusk Photo, we pride ourselves on providing exceptional safari experiences, where every detail is carefully curated to ensure your journey is nothing short of extraordinary. Our team of expert guides, who possess an intimate knowledge of the local wildlife and ecosystems, will be by your side, ready to share their insights and help you capture unbelievable photos.

Imagine exploring the vast savannahs, witnessing the majestic herds of elephants in Amboseli, or immersing yourself in the remarkable biodiversity of the Serengeti. Picture yourself standing in awe as you witness the raw power of lions on the hunt, or capturing the elegance of a leopard as it prowls through the golden grasslands. With Tusk Photo, these extraordinary moments will become a reality.

We understand that photography is more than just a hobby for you; it's a way to express your creativity and preserve memories that will last a lifetime. That's why we go the extra mile to ensure that you have the best opportunities to capture those unique shots. From providing expert guidance on camera settings and composition to positioning our vehicles strategically for the perfect angle, we are dedicated to helping you achieve your photography goals.

But a Tusk Safari is not just about wildlife and photography; it's about creating cherished memories and forging lifelong connections. Our team is committed to providing you with personalized attention, exceptional service, and a warm and welcoming atmosphere throughout your journey. We want you to feel like part of our Tusk family, sharing laughter, stories, and the sheer joy of exploring the best that nature has to offer.

Allow us to take you on a journey of discovery, where you will witness nature's wonders, capture breathtaking photographs, and create memories that will stay with you forever.

Please feel free to reach out to our friendly team for any further information or to discuss your specific requirements. We are here to assist you every step of the way. We can't wait to welcome you to the Tusk Photo family and share this incredible experience with you.

The Tusk Team



# Overview

Embark on an unforgettable adventure with our Pantanal Photo Safari, where you will immerse yourself in the wonders of South America's breathtaking wetlands. Located in Brazil, the Pantanal is a vast and pristine ecosystem teeming with diverse wildlife and stunning natural landscapes.

This safari is designed for wildlife enthusiasts and nature photographers, offering unparalleled opportunities to encounter iconic species such as jaguars, capybaras, giant river otters, tapir and an astonishing array of birdlife.

Led by experienced guides, you will explore the region's extensive network of rivers, marshes, and forests, venturing deep into remote areas to witness the extraordinary biodiversity up close.

Capture mesmerizing images of wildlife in their natural habitats, from dramatic predator-prey interactions to the vibrant colours of tropical birds.

With comfortable accommodations and expert guidance, this safari promises an authentic and immersive experience in one of the world's most remarkable wilderness areas, leaving you with memories to treasure and photographs to awe.



# What You Can Expect

Immerse yourself in the captivating landscapes and astounding wildlife of the Pantanal, the largest wetland in the world, on our exclusive Pantanal Photo Safari. This remarkable 14-day tour takes you on a thrilling journey through Western Brazil's sprawling wetlands, rivalling Africa's Okavango in its natural beauty and biodiversity. With a mosaic of flooded forests, expansive floodplains, and an impressive array of wildlife, this tour promises unforgettable encounters and remarkable photographic opportunities.

Our adventure begins in the Southern Pantanal near Bonito, where we explore the awe-inspiring Giant sinkhole, Buraco das Araras, where hundreds of Red-and-Green Macaws nest on its towering walls. From our vantage point on the rim, capture magnificent shots of these colourful birds in flight. Venture into the surrounding areas, photographing fascinating species like the Giant Anteaters up close on foot. Prepare for a unique experience as we snorkel and drift down the crystal-clear Rio da Prata, surrounded by vibrant schools of fish. Witness the spectacle of jumping piraputanga fish and marvel at the results of these innovative photography opportunities.

Continuing our journey, we arrive at Aguapé for two nights, where we focus on photographing Hyacinth Macaws, Toucans, Tamanduas, and more captivating bird and mammal species. Then, a short road transfer takes us to Aquidauana, from where we embark on a charter flight to Porto Jofre. Board our private motorboat and settle into our comfortable Houseboat, nestled deep in the heart of Jaguar territory. Spend the next seven nights exploring the intricate network of rivers and waterways, pursuing the exceptional chance to capture the elusive Jaguars in their natural habitat. Witness their majestic presence alongside Giant River Otters, Capybaras, Caymans, tapir and an astounding variety of birdlife that graces the lush jungle.



Leaving the Houseboat behind, we traverse the Transpantaneira 'Highway,' a renowned route dotted with 122 picturesque wooden bridges. Along the way we stop for the night at Mato Grosso for a river cruise that reveals the abundant wildlife, including Caymans, Herons, Jaberu, Kingfishers, and more.

Our Pantanal Photo Tour boasts remarkable highlights, including eight dedicated days for unrivalled Jaguar encounters, four days of capturing Macaws, Giant Anteaters, Toucans, and the thrilling jumping fish photography. Throughout the journey, enjoy top-notch accommodations, a small private group of only seven guests, and the guidance of local experts to ensure a seamless and immersive experience.

Embark on this extraordinary Pantanal Photo Safari and unlock the breathtaking secrets of this natural wonderland, capturing remarkable moments and memories that will last a lifetime.

# Where You Will Stay

## **POUSADA OLHO D'ÁGUA BONITO:**

Nestled amidst the stunning natural beauty of the Pantanal, Pousada Olho D'Água Bonito offers a peaceful retreat with a range of fantastic facilities. The accommodations at the Pousada are designed to provide comfort and relaxation, boasting spacious rooms adorned with tasteful decor that seamlessly blend with the surrounding environment. Whether you're unwinding in the cozy lounge area or taking a refreshing dip in the outdoor swimming pool, you'll find a perfect balance between tranquility and leisure.

## **POUSADA AGUAPÉ BAÍA:**

Nestled along the serene banks of a picturesque bay, Pousada Aguapé Baía promises an idyllic getaway in the heart of the Pantanal. This eco-friendly lodge harmonizes perfectly with its surroundings, creating a unique and sustainable experience for nature enthusiasts. The accommodations at Pousada Aguapé Baía offer a comfortable and inviting ambiance, featuring well-appointed rooms that provide breathtaking views of the lush landscapes that stretch out before you.

## **JAGUAR DO PANTANAL HOUSEBOAT:**

Step aboard the Jaguar do Pantanal Houseboat and embark on an extraordinary adventure through the waterways of the Pantanal. The spacious cabins provide a cozy retreat, complete with large windows that bring the surrounding landscapes to life, ensuring that you wake up to the awe-inspiring beauty of the Pantanal each day. The communal areas aboard the houseboat, including a dining room and a comfortable lounge, provide the perfect setting to relax, share stories with fellow guests, and indulge in mouthwatering meals prepared by the talented onboard chef.



# Dates | Costs | Prices

1 – 14 August 2024	US\$ 10990	7	13
15-28 August 2024	US\$ 10990	7	13

## Dates                      Cost    Cost:                      Spaces                      Nights

Our safari experience is priced at US\$ 10990 per person sharing. US\$ 1200 Single Supplement. Please note that any bank charges incurred during the payment process are not covered by Tusk Photo. We kindly request the full amount indicated on the invoice, including any fees imposed by Paypal if you choose to use this payment method.

### Deposit:

To secure your reservation, a 50% deposit of the full price is required within 14 days of making your booking. Once we receive your deposit, your booking will be confirmed. Please make sure to complete this step within the given timeframe to secure your spot.

### Balance:

The remaining balance is due at least 9 weeks prior to the safari. If you are making a booking within 9 weeks of the safari, the full price will be payable at the time of booking.

### Cancellation Policy:

We understand that plans can change, and in the event of a cancellation, the following fees will apply unless Tusk Photo is able to fill your safari space:

- Cancellation more than 120 days prior to departure: 10% of the full price
- Cancellation 90 - 119 days prior to departure: 40% of the full price
- Cancellation 60 - 89 days prior to departure: 70% of the full price
- Cancellation less than 60 days prior to departure: 100% of the full price

Please note: Your travel plans are made entirely at your own risk, and Tusk Photo cannot be held responsible for any flight cancellations, disruptions, or delays that may occur. We recommend considering travel insurance to protect your investment and provide peace of mind.

# Itinerary

## **DAY 1:**

- Arrival
- Transfer to the hotel for an overnight stay

## **DAY 2:**

- Collection from the hotel
- Afternoon visit to the Macaw Sinkhole

## **DAY 3:**

- Morning visit to the Macaw Sinkhole
- Afternoon excursion to Rio de Prata for snorkelling and drifting along the crystal-clear river

## **DAY 4:**

- Morning experience of jumping fish
- Afternoon exploration and photography session searching for Giant Anteaters

## **DAY 5:**

- Morning photography session searching for Macaws and Toucans
- Afternoon photography session searching for Giant Anteaters
- Evening possibility of spotting Ocelot

## **DAY 6:**

- Morning photography session searching for Macaws and Toucans
- Boarding the Houseboat

## **DAY 7-12:**

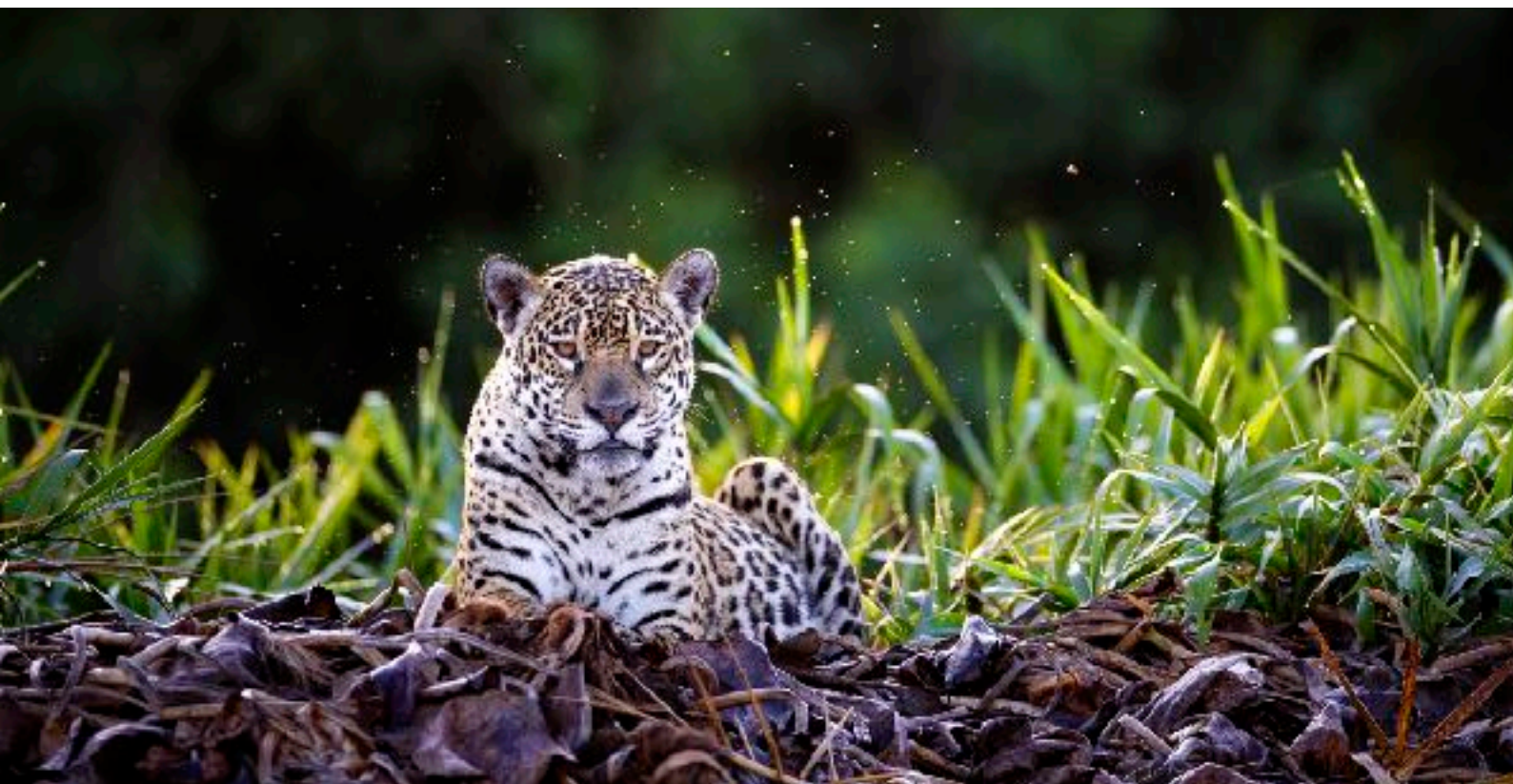
- Daily exploration and photography along the Cuiaba River and tributaries
- Search for Jaguars and other bird and mammal species

## **DAY 13:**

- Morning photography session on the river
- Scenic drive up the Transpanteneira
- Afternoon river cruise along the Pixiam River

## **DAY 14:**

- Transfer to Cuiaba Airport
- End of Tour



# What You Get

## **INCLUDED:**

- 13 nights accommodation
- All activities
- All meals
- Exclusive use of a private boat for our Tusk Photo guests
- Expert guidance and photography assistance from a Tusk Photo Host

## **EXCLUDED:**

- Flights to and from Brazil
- Visa costs or any necessary travel documentation
- Expenses of a personal nature
- Drinks during the tour
- Laundry services
- Gratuities for staff and guides

# Flights and Transport

- Please note that transfers from the airport to the hotel are not included because of various flights schedules.
- UBER and Taxi's are very easy and cost effective to arrange from the airport to our hotel.
- Please book your flights out of Cuiaba after 4pm.
- Alternatively, you can stay the night in Cuiaba. We suggest staying at the 'Grand Odara Hotel' for guests wanting to overnight in Cuiaba.





# Photography and Gear

It is not advisable to take photographs of border posts or military/ police posts. Doing so can lead to an unpleasant situation and even arrest.

It is advisable to bring the following camera equipment:

- 2x Camera bodies or more (a backup will mean peace of mind)
- Spare memory cards and batteries
- Long telephoto lens 400/500/600
- Medium telephoto lens 70-200 or equivalent
- Wide angle lenses like the 14-24 and or 24-70 for wide angle opportunities with subject and also landscapes.
- Teleconverters like the 1.4xTC can be useful to add extra focal length should you be travelling with limited gear.
- Flash with battery pack & MagMod especially if you want to photograph fishing bats on the houseboat.
- Notebook or additional storage device.
- Optional – Low angle camera setup with camera trigger and monopod. Very useful for subjects like jumping fish, Cayman etc.
- Optional – Monopod for heavy lenses
- Optional – Underwater Housing or underwater camera for our Rio da Prata snorkeling experience
- Optional – Potential for Camera trap work but it does depend on conditions

Please remember that it is very likely that you could possibly photograph thousands of images over the 7 day period. We therefore strongly advise you to have sufficient storage and battery arrangements in place. If you are unsure of anything please contact us for more details.



# Tour Info

## INSURANCE

- **Travel Insurance:**

While it is highly unlikely, there is a possibility of scheduled flights in and out of your destination being delayed due to unforeseen circumstances. To provide peace of mind and cover any potential flight disruptions or missed connections, we strongly recommend purchasing additional travel insurance.

- **Medical Insurance:**

For your safety and well-being, we highly recommend having medical insurance that covers unforeseen medical emergencies and evacuation. Please let us know in your booking form whether you have taken out any medical insurance for this safari.

## PASSPORTS AND CUSTOMS

- Passports are required by all foreign visitors and must be valid for 6 months after the intended length of stay. Please ensure that there are two blank pages per country to be visited.
- South African citizens require no visas to enter Argentina / Brazil / Chile – please make sure as this can change at any time.
- It is advisable to declare any cameras, lenses, laptops and other valuable items when leaving your country. We normally recommend keeping a detailed list of all items including serial numbers and descriptions. This makes the customs process that much quicker as all that is generally required is for the customs official to stamp the document.
- Please make sure you have a yellow fever card should your country of origin need this to be in place.

## MONEY AND CURRENCY

- The currency used in Brazil is the Brazilian Real
- There are limited ATM's available while in Campo Grande and Cuiaba – However for the rest of the tour ATM will not be available.
- Credit card payments can only be processed at some of the places we stay – The houseboat cannot process card payments.
- Have sufficient cash with you for drinks, tips & gratuities, purchases of a personal nature and other related needs.

## HEALTH

- Brazil is vast country with many different habitats. Therefore there are inherent risks involved with travel to Brazil with the most noticeably the requirement potentially by some countries for citizens to have a yellow fever vaccination.
- Please consult the following website for more info - or contact your local travel clinic or medical practitioner for more help - <https://www.passporthealthusa.com/destination-advice/brazil/>

## LANGUAGES

The national language in Brazil is Portuguese. English is spoken in some tourist areas and destinations.

## DIETARY REQUIREMENTS

We understand the importance of accommodating diverse dietary needs, and our team is dedicated to ensuring that we can cater to most dietary requirements. Please provide us with any specific dietary needs in your booking form.

## POWER AND ELECTRICITY

All the Pousada's and Houseboat where we stay have 24hr power. Power is 240v 50hz and use a Type N plug standard



## CLIMATE

The Pantanal experiences unique weather patterns and a distinct climate throughout the year. In July and August, when your tour takes place, the region undergoes its dry season. During this time, the weather in the Pantanal is generally characterized by warm temperatures and low humidity. The days are often sunny, with average temperatures ranging from 25 to 30 degrees Celsius (77 to 86 degrees Fahrenheit). However, it's important to note that the Pantanal's weather can be unpredictable, and occasional rain showers are not uncommon even during the dry season. Despite this, July and August offer favorable conditions for exploring the region's stunning wildlife, as the lower water levels concentrate animals around water sources, making it an excellent time for wildlife sightings and nature photography.



## CLOTHING AND WHAT TO PACK

- Days are usually mild to hot with intermittent rain from time to time
- It will be essential to layer up and layer down. Mornings will be cool on the boat and midday can be hot It is advisable to wear clothing that will protect you from the sun. Our advice is to bring long sleeve shirts and pants especially when on the river chasing Jaguars.
- A wide brimmed hat that doesn't blow off when driving with the boat
- A rain jacket should you be caught out in the rain
- Sun protecting gloves can be considered
- Early mornings can be cold especially if we have rain so bring an insulating windproof jacket
- Comfortable Walking/Running shoes for when we follow Giant Ant Eaters across open fields
- Sandals or thongs for around the houseboat / Pousada etc.
- Sunglasses, Lip balm and sun block are very important!
- Bring Mosquito / Bug repellent – The Pantanal is a wetland area and thus has a healthy mosquito population especially when the sun sets in the evenings. Wearing long sleep shirts and pants will protect you a lot as well.
- Clothing brands such as CRAGHOPPERS NOSILIFE that specialize in sun protection as well as bug repellents are highly recommended. Please inquire with TuskPhoto for discounted pricing on Craghoppers Clothing for your tour.

## GRATUITIES

Please note that the following gratuity amounts are provided as a minimum guideline, and you are welcome to increase them if you wish:

- Brazilian Guide(s) – US\$15 per day per person
- Boat Driver/Guide – US\$10 per day per person
- Lodge / Houseboat staff – US\$5 per day per person
- Taxi drivers / Hotel Staff etc – As per your discretion

## CONNECTIVITY & EMERGENCY CONTACT DETAILS

There is no Cellular and Data connectivity in the Pantanal.

The various Lodges where we will be staying do have WIFI internet available.

Tusk Photo PTA Office  
Tel: +27 12 761 3737



# Indemnity

Tusk Photo and its staff prioritize your safety and wellbeing during your safari; however, please be aware that we cannot accept liability for any incidents, including but not limited to accidents, loss, or property damage. By completing the Safari Booking form, you acknowledge the inherent risks associated with travel and agree to indemnify Tusk Photo against any claims or liabilities that may arise.

While this document provides comprehensive information, it is not exhaustive. If you have any additional questions or concerns, please feel free to contact our office. Please note that the information contained herein is correct at the time of compilation to the best of our knowledge.



**We Are Excited To Host You on Your  
Dream Photographic Safari!**

