

Northern Pantanal Brazil

June 15-19, 2023



A trip three years in the making. I had it planned in early 2020, then this pandemic hit and that was that. I scheduled with Fisher Sousa of wildlifepantantours.com then it became clear that this trip had to happen so I contacted Fisher again and got it scheduled for June 15-19, 2023. Fisher was not available as he already had a trip planned, but he scheduled me with Joze'. This is advertised as a Jaguar tour with stays at three different lodges. Two on the north end of the Pantanal. The first night was at the Piuval lodge and the last night was at Alegre Lodge and two nights at the Porto Jofre Lodge on the Cuiaba' river.

I arrived in Cuiaba Wednesday night June 14th and Joze' picked me up at the Taina Hotel at 8am on the 15th as planned. Joze' was very accommodating and knowledgeable about the wildlife in the area. Upon pickup we arrived at the Piuval Lodge at 11am and began driving around their 8000 ha property.



Two **Azara's Agouti** crossed our path followed by three **Black-striped Capuchins**.
Went back to the lodge for lunch and resumed the drive for the afternoon and night.



Continuing our drive a family of **Black-and-Gold Howlers** were spotted.



As it was getting dark we went around a curve and spotted a **Giant Anteater**. I was not able to get a photo as it moved away quickly into the brush. After nightfall we saw four or five **Brazilian rabbits** and a solo **crab-eating fox** then a pair of foxes.



After a couple of hours after dark we headed back to the lodge and in a field Joze' had some eyeshine. He saw the spotted pattern of two **ocelots**, but I didn't see the spotted pattern in the tall grass.

The next morning we got up at 5am to look for Giant Anteaters in a field at the intersection with the Transpantaneira road. We saw eyeshine at the road's edge and got a poor photo of it crossing but we were unable to identify it. If tis looks familiar to someone I would be happy for the input.



Didn't see any anteaters either.

After breakfast we headed south towards Porto Jofre. Along the Transpantaneira we got a nice look at a **crab-eating fox**.



As we continued the drive a **Marsh Deer** was seen as well.



Then we got behind 920 cattle for about an hour so we had lunch at the Jaguar Ecological Station.



Arrived at 230pm, jumped in the boat and we began a boat tour of the Cuiaba river and its tributaries looking for Jaguars. In the two plus hours looking we did get a radio call about a mating pair. The male had a radio collar.



The next morning we spent all day on the rivers, seeing three more cats..



Joze' knew a good location for **Proboscis bats** and they were reliable.



A family of three **Black-and-Gold howlers** were seen moving about the trees along the river's edge.



A group of four **Giant Otters** were heading our way and three of them obliged us by getting out of the water briefly. We saw two other troops of otters in different areas. We saw three different troops of otters in other waterways.



The food was very good at the porto Jofre Velho Lodge.

After breakfast and a morning boat ride, we headed back north on the Transpantaneira road towards Alegre Lodge. A group of Capybara were resting along the road.



We arrived at Alegre Lodge for lunch. After that we ventured out for the remainder of the day and early night. We had a good evening view of a Red Brocket Deer and night views of another fox and a South American Tapir mom and calf. Not the best pic of the tapirs, but it was great viewing them.



Mom and calf Tapir.



Our final morning we got up early to see if the Tapirs were still around but they were not seen. Later that morning about six South American Coatis were rooting around the lodge area.



The trip activities were just as advertised and it was a seamless trip. I wish I could have got a photo of the anteater and hope to get the mammal crossing the road identified.

