



## Jaguars of the Pantanal Photo Tour 2023 – Trip Summary

Jaguar Tour Dates: July 25<sup>th</sup> – August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023

Group: Sebastian Kennerknecht and Rachel Tobias as trip leaders. We had six wonderful Cat Expeditions guests.





## Highlights of the Trips

**Jaguars:** In total, we photographed fifteen different jaguars, during twenty-two different sightings, both from boats and from vehicles. Sightings averaged thirty minutes, at an average distance of twenty meters.



**Giant Anteaters:** In the southern Pantanal we saw four different giant anteaters, including a mother carrying her young on her back!





**Maned Wolf:** We got super lucky and had a thirty minute sighting of a maned wolf as it was hunting in the cerrado habitat in the southern Pantanal.



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**Giant River Otters:** These noisy otters are always a delight to see. Our favorite session was watching a group for over an hour socializing.



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**Birds:** We saw a total of over 100 species of birds in the Pantanal during our tour, including Hyacinth macaws, Jabiru storks, jacamars, kingfishers, great potoo, black simmers, greater rhea, amongst others!



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### *Detailed Trip Summary for our Jaguars of the Pantanal Photo Tour 2023*

Day 1: We jumped on a Caravan for a quick hour-long flight from Cuiabá to Porto Jofre, where we settled in (did some quick birding next to the lodge, of course), and prepared for our first afternoon by the river. Sebastian gave a quick primer on the Northern Pantanal region, and what to expect while searching for jaguars.

After lunch, we headed upriver, where we spotted Guarací lying on the bank. We explored the Carixo Negro by golden hour for the first time and were lucky to get a good view of a boat-billed heron. On our way home, hundreds of snail kites flocked overhead to their evening roosting spot.





Day 2: This day started off with a bang and one of our best sightings of the trip. After seeing Guaraci once again, we were keeping an eye out for river otters, when all of a sudden, Sebastian heard something coming from behind us. He spotted Patricia, and her two 6-week old cubs; it appeared she wanted to cross the river to move the cubs. We watched in awe as she carried each cub across the river in her mouth, one at a time. We were the first to see these cubs; Lisa and Zita even got naming rights!

Later that morning, our driver, Vanderlei, found Marcela hunting along the banks, and we ended the morning watching a pair of river otters hunting fish in the water hyacinth. In the afternoon Vanderlei found an arboreal Brazilian porcupine high up in a tree, and after searching for awhile, we found Krishna resting deep in the shade on the bank.





Day 3: On our way upriver to a cow carcass, we found some Azar's Capuchin Monkeys in the trees. Once we arrived at the carcass, we found Alyra resting on the bank just above it. We anchored the boat, and waited for about two hours (after the rest of the boats had left) and were rewarded with a view of her walking down a log and feeding on the carcass.

The afternoon brought Marcela once again, and then Krishna in Carrixo Negro, sitting just off of a hidden carcass. We watched him until he walked out of sight.



Day 4: We were the first boat on the river, and the morning was cool and misty. It was a beautiful sunrise, with flocks of snail kits overhead. Regina spotted howlers in the trees, and we had a nice view of a Jabiru standing in its nest.

Sebastian led us to a special spot, where 12 long-nosed bats camouflaged deeply into a tree trunk. Later that morning, we found Krishna at Carrixo Negro.

In the afternoon, we watched Manath trailing Marcela; we thought they might be mating, but later learned that Manath was still too young to mate; 'training' perhaps. Just further down the creek, we found Marcela sitting off the carcass Krishna had been at just the day before.

We ended the evening visiting Panthera and hearing from ocelot biologist Raíssa and Abbie from Jaguar ID project about conservation efforts in the Pantanal. A red brocket deer was spotted on the ride back to the hotel.





Day 5: We started the morning by exploring the Piquari, a new part of the watershed for us. Back on the Cuiaba, we came upon Tí, resting among the hyacinths, eating grass and vomiting, presumably from something she ate. We had a long sighting with her, while she walked, hunted, swam, and walked along the beach, giving us some great photography opportunities with some nice diffused overcast light. The morning even included a 'memorable' toilet 'stop'! We also saw Marcela that morning crossing the Carrixo Negro and walking up a log.

The afternoon brought two separate sightings of Krishna swimming and walking along the river bank.





Day 6: Our final day in Porto Jofre gave us one final morning boat ride. Juru had been spotted down river, so we took a chance and headed to the Rio Negrinho in search of jags. We saw capuchins and black howlers along this beautiful creek, and spent nearly an hour with a family of river otters, watching them hunt, eat, and mark their territory at a campsite.

On our last 30 minutes on the river, Regina spotted Juru on the banks. It was an amazing sighting; a cat Lisa had very much wanted to see. We watched him hunt in the water for nearly an hour, and then sprinted back to pack up and catch our plane to the Southern Pantanal.

We arrived in the Southern Pantanal in late afternoon, and settled into our villa after a short drive where we saw our first pampas deer, white-lipped peccaries, and a yellow or six-banded armadillo!



Day 7: We spent most of the morning getting to know this new landscape; we saw many new birds including some beautiful woodpeckers and parrot/parakeet species. We saw our first Crab-eating Fox and Agouti, as well as our first Giant Anteater, on foot!

In the afternoon, we spotted some blue-and-yellow macaws (not common for this area), before finding Aracy and her 9-month old cub, Jací together in a beautiful open field. We spent over an hour with them as they played and walked through the area.

On the way home, we saw three different snake species, many paraque (a kind of nightjar), and spotted Nusa, the largest female in the area, right outside the main lodge at the base of the water tank.





Day 8: Our local guides, Marcos and Lucas, showed us how they use the telemetry to find the jaguars, which led us to a big male named Acerola. We had some great views of him walking through an open field, and followed him to a cow carcass, which he fed on, obscured deep in a large bush. Plus, our first marsh deer!

That afternoon, the group split; half of us had a wonderful up-close interaction with two Giant Anteaters at sunset, while the second got to spend time with Jací once again. On the way back, we were incredibly fortunate to see a maned wolf hunting! Exceptionally rare to see! We ended the evening with a Pantaneiro BBQ, enjoying local Brazilian dishes, including churrasco!





Day 9: Our last full day in the Pantanal brought a quieter morning, though we did spot a gray brocket deer, a new mammal species!

In the afternoon, we used telemetry to find Surya, one of our guides' favorite females. She had killed a young calf the day prior; the cowboy from the ranch pointed us to a spot he thought she might be. We found her there, and spent our sunset sitting with her.

We finished the day with a magical bush dinner in the forest, complete with capirinhas and grilled cheese!



### **Species List for the Jaguars of the Pantanal Photo Tour 2023:**

#### Mammals

Giant Anteater	<i>Myrmecophaga tridactyla</i>
Nine-banded Armadillo	<i>Dasypus novemcinctus</i>
Six-banded Armadillo	<i>Euphractus sexcinctus</i>
Long-nosed Bat	<i>Leptonycteris yerbabuenae</i>
Red-bellied Bat	<i>Lasiurus borealis</i>
Azara's Capuchin	<i>Sapajus cay</i>
Black Howler Monkey	<i>Alouatta caraya</i>
Crab-eating Fox	<i>Cerdocyon thous</i>
Maned Wolf	<i>Chrysocyon brachyurus</i>
Jaguar	<i>Panthera onca</i>
Giant River Otter	<i>Pteronura brasiliensis</i>
White-lipped Peccary	<i>Tayassu pecari</i>
Marsh Deer	<i>Rucervus duvaucelii</i>
Red Brocket Deer	<i>Mazama americana</i>
Gray Brocket Deer	<i>Mazama gouazoubira</i>
Pampas Deer	<i>Ozotoceros bezoarticus</i>



Brazilian Porcupine  
Capybara  
Azara's Agouti

*Coendou prehensilis*  
*Hydrochoerus hydrochaeris*  
*Dasyprocta azarae*



Hi everyone, we are Rachel and Sebastian! We own and lead tours for Cat Expeditions and Whale Expeditions, bringing people eye-to-eye with wild cats and cetaceans. We care deeply about providing extraordinary experiences for our guests, prioritize small group tours for intimate interactions, insist on ethical photography and tourism, putting the welfare of the wildlife first.

Conservation is the backbone of our beliefs and our business, and we give 10-20% of our tour costs to local conservation projects. We select tour locations in places that provide and support economic incentives for local communities to own and steward long-term conservation.