

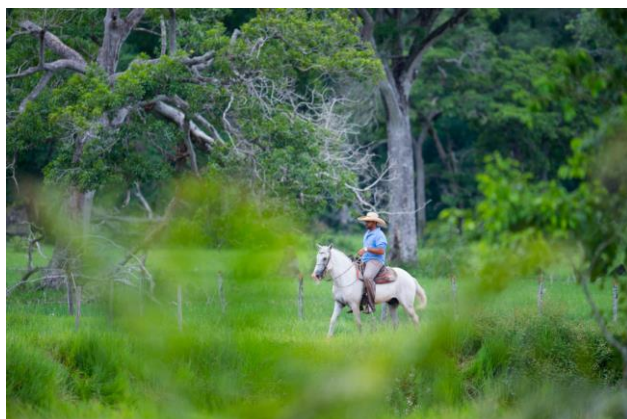
Tripreport **Pantanal – Brazil** November-December 2016

Report by Karl-Olof Bergman



In the last two weeks of November 2016 Bergman Nature Tours conducted our premiere trip to the species-rich wetland Pantanal in Brazil. Our aim of the journey was to provide our travellers with memorable nature experiences, greater understanding and knowledge of species, ecosystems and nature conservation, and of course fantastic opportunities for high-quality nature photography. And it really paid off!

We visited the northern parts of the Pantanal and traveled along the Transpantaneira, the straight dirt road that goes south to Porto Jofre. With an abundance of wildlife along the sides of the road, we could begin to photograph birds (barefaced currawong, snail kite, whistling duck, black vulture) and capybaras already on the way to our first stop, a ranch located along the Transpantaneira. A



stone's throw away from the farm on the ranch flows one of Pantanal's many rivers. Here we got to enjoy cruising in a boat with wildlife close up for the first time during the trip. The cameras got to work during several occasions to photograph cocoi heron and black-collared hawk that swooped down to catch fish at the surface next to our boats.





We saw a number of monkeys on our trip; the small black-tailed marmosets gave us several great photo opportunities. Other species that we saw were black howler monkey and black-striped capuchin monkey.

Many birds turned up along the river's edge during our boat tours, we could shoot jabiru, anhinga, southern screamer and yellow-billed cardinal.

We also had the chance to photograph four of the five species of kingfisher found in the Pantanal.



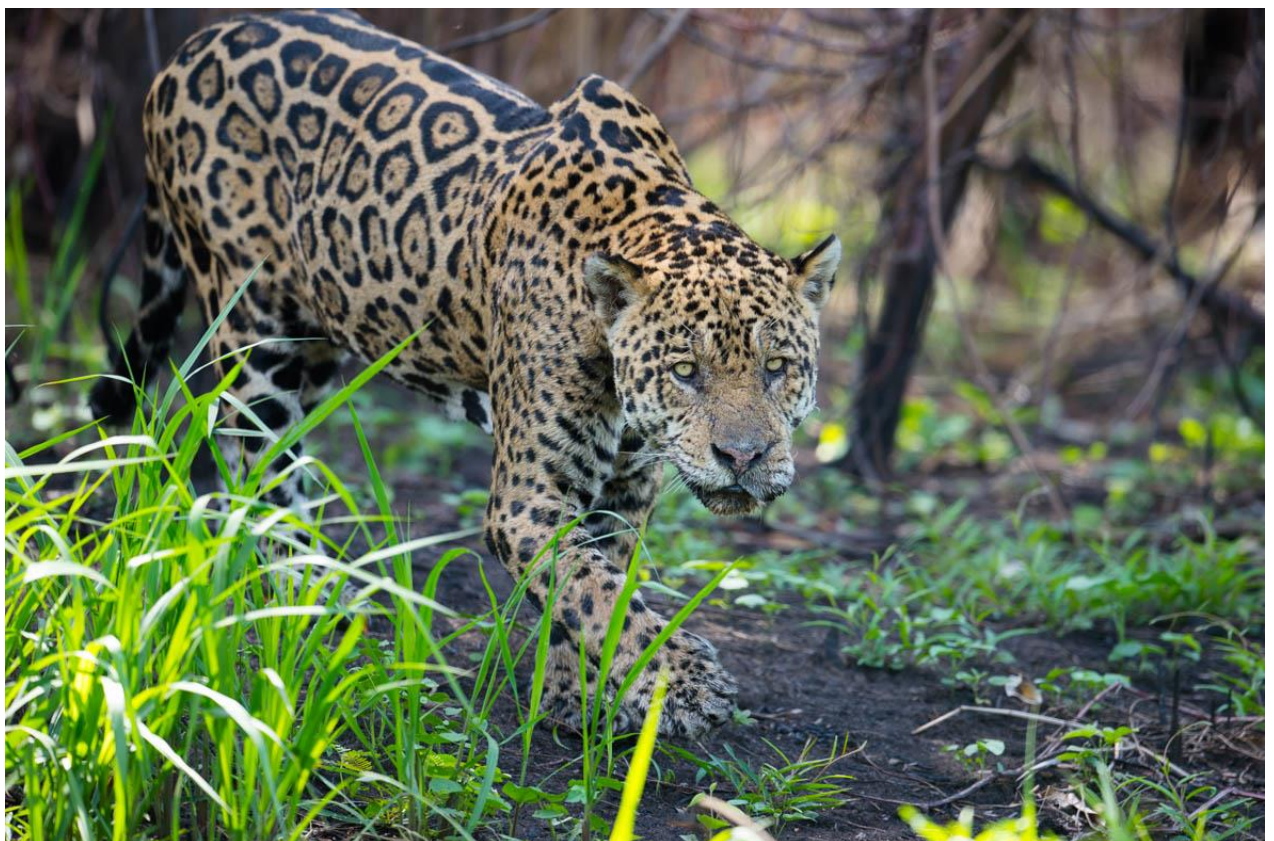


Pantanal also has many endemic species and one of the species we got nice photo opportunities of was the chestnut-bellied guan, a large bird that has been heavily hunted in many parts of its distribution area, but exists in good numbers at the ranches we visited.



The journey's first jaguar experience was well worth the wait and was really something extraordinary, a unique experience of nature at very close range.

It all started when our local guide spotted a jaguar at about 100 meters distance. We positioned our boats and waited, hoping that it would walk in our direction. After just a few minutes, it turned up. This time much closer making everyone in the boat more and more excited. Now it was only about 30 meters from us. It sat down in an open area, looking out over the river and treated us with great photo opportunities. The cameras were clicking... Suddenly it changed its body language. It stood up and began to move toward the reeds beside the river, just ten meters from our boats. Did it discover something? Besides some small birds we did not see any other animal. Everything after that happened very quickly. The jaguar made a leap and in a cloud of splashing water it threw a large cayman up from the reeds with the jaguars jaws clamped over the head of the cayman. For a second, the cayman was completely lifted out of the water showing the incredible strength of this majestic animal. So close to the action we could hear the sound of the jaguars teeth piercing the skull, quickly ending the life of the armored reptile ... And all this in front of our cameras!





Another highlight was the daily close encounters with the charming giant river otters. We could follow them during their hunt along the river and got great photo opportunities when one of them caught a long eel and ate it in front of us.





We saw jaguars four days out of five and a beautiful female was the highlight of one of the days where she looked at us from under a tree on the beach and then wandered off along the beach. Another highlight was when we got to follow a jaguar male who swam and walked completely relaxed along the river edge next to our boats.



Another of our favourites was the world's largest macaw, the endangered hyacinth macaw. Pantanal harbours the majority of the world population and the ranches that we visited are actively working with preserving these magnificent birds.



The king of toucans, toco toucan, with its colourful, powerful beak was a delight to see. We had the opportunity to photograph it repeatedly since it was nesting near one of our lodges. The highlight of every morning before breakfast was to photograph the two parents when they flew in and out of the nest with food to their young.



Suddenly it appeared! Just a few meters from the car next to some tree trunks. The sharp eyes of our local guide found our coveted giant anteater! A large and peaceful individual who let us take intimate pictures of it on its evening stroll through the grass.



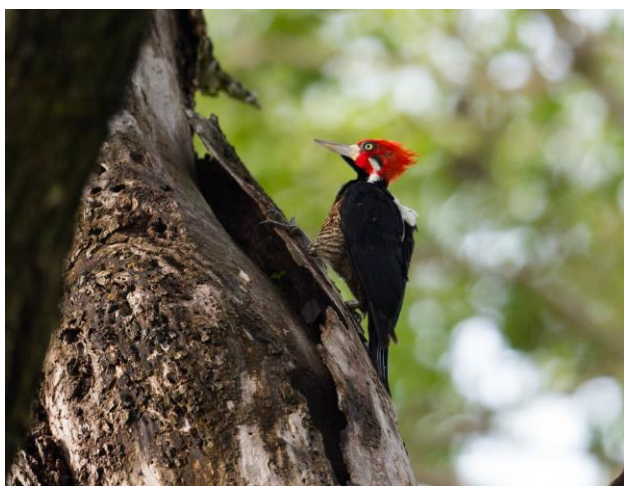
Tapir was also high on our wish list. To our great luck we had fantastic opportunities to photograph several individuals, including a female with calf during one of our evening tours and one other individual in the morning hours that took a bath in a small body of water.





Evening tours also provided two further surprising findings, ocelot and margay, two of the smaller cats. Three cats on the trip, really more than we could expect!! Of the night active animals a great horned owl surprised us by showing up during daytime, giving us good photo opportunities.

A number of nice woodpeckers gave us additional photo opportunities. The large crimson-crested woodpecker was a delight to see.



It was exciting to get really close to the majestic and powerful greater rhea, South America's equivalent of the African ostriches. Walking near these large birds gave a sense of walking with dinosaurs. These calm birds provided an opportunity for nice pictures of adults as well as young individuals.



To sum the trip up, the journey gave us a number of unforgettable experiences and we at Bergman Nature Tours can hardly wait until we get to go back next year!

We thank our lovely travellers that shared these wonderful experiences with us.



The Pantanal list

Mammals



Common Name

- Giant anteater
- Black howler monkey
- Azara's capuchin
- Black-tailed marmoset
- Crab-eating raccoon
- South American coati
- Crab-eating fox
- Giant otter
- Jaguar
- Ocelot
- Margay
- Red brocket deer
- Brown brocket deer
- White-lipped peccary
- Brazilian tapir
- Brazilian rabbit or tapeti
- Capybara
- Azara's agouti

Scientific name

- Myrmecophaga tridactyla*
- Alouatta caraya*
- Sapajus cay*
- Callithrix melanura*
- Procyon cancrivorus*
- Nasua nasua*
- Cerdocyon thous*
- Pteronura brasiliensis*
- Panthera onca*
- Felis pardalis*
- Leopardus wiedii*
- Mazama americana*
- Mazama gouazoubira*
- Tayassu pecari*
- Tapirus terrestris*
- Sylvilagus brasiliensis*
- Hydrochoeris hydrochoeris*
- Dasyprocta azarae*

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Birds



Common Name

Latin name

Greater Rhea	<i>Rhea americana</i>	X
Southern Screamer	<i>Chauna torquata</i>	X
White-faced Whistling-Duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>	X
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	<i>Dendrocygna autumnalis</i>	X
Muscovy Duck	<i>Cairina moschata</i>	X
Chaco Chachalaca	<i>Ortalis canicollis</i>	X
Chestnut-bellied Guan	<i>Penelope ochrogaster</i>	X
Blue-throated Piping-Guan	<i>Pipile cumanensis</i>	X
Bare-faced Curassow	<i>Crax fasciolata</i>	X
Jabiru	<i>Jabiru mycteria</i>	X
Wood Stork	<i>Mycteria americana</i>	X
Neotropic Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax brasilianus</i>	X
Anhinga	<i>Anhinga anhinga</i>	X
Rufescent Tiger-Heron	<i>Tigrisoma lineatum</i>	X
Cocoi Heron	<i>Ardea cocoi</i>	X
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	X
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	X
Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	X
Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>	X
Whistling Heron	<i>Syrigma sibilatrix</i>	X
Capped Heron	<i>Pilherodius pileatus</i>	X
Black-crowned Night-Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	X
Green Ibis	<i>Mesembrinibis cayennensis</i>	X
Bare-faced Ibis	<i>Phimosus infuscatus</i>	X
Plumbeous Ibis	<i>Theristicus caerulescens</i>	X
Buff-necked Ibis	<i>Theristicus caudatus</i>	X
Black Vulture	<i>Coragyps atratus</i>	X
Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture	<i>Cathartes burrovianus</i>	X
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	X
Black-collared Hawk	<i>Busarellus nigricollis</i>	X
Snail Kite	<i>Rostrhamus sociabilis</i>	X
Plumbeous kite	<i>Ictinia plumbea</i>	X
Crane Hawk	<i>Geranospiza caerulescens</i>	X
Savanna Hawk	<i>Buteogallus meridionalis</i>	X
Great Black-Hawk	<i>Buteogallus urubitinga</i>	X
Roadside Hawk	<i>Rupornis magnirostris</i>	X
Sunbittern	<i>Eurypyga helias</i>	X
Gray-necked Wood-Rail	<i>Aramides cajaneus</i>	X
Purple Gallinule	<i>Porphyrio martinicus</i>	X
Limpkin	<i>Aramus guarauna</i>	X
Southern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus chilensis</i>	X

Wattled Jacana	<i>Jacana jacana</i>	X
Yellow-billed Tern	<i>Sternula superciliaris</i>	X
Large-billed Tern	<i>Phaetusa simplex</i>	X
Pale-vented Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas cayennensis</i>	X
Ruddy Ground-Dove	<i>Columbina talpacoti</i>	X
Scaled Dove	<i>Patagioenas speciosa</i>	X
Long-tailed Ground-Dove	<i>Uropelia campestris</i>	X
White-tipped Dove	<i>Leptotila verreauxi</i>	X
Squirrel Cuckoo	<i>Piaya cayana</i>	X
Guira Cuckoo	<i>Guira guira</i>	X
Greater Ani	<i>Crotophaga major</i>	
Smooth-billed Ani	<i>Crotophaga ani</i>	X
Tropical Screech-Owl	<i>Megascops choliba</i>	X
Great Horned Owl	<i>Bubo virginianus</i>	X
Common Pauraque	<i>Nyctidromus albicollis</i>	X
Blue-tufted Starthroat	<i>Heliomaster furcifer</i>	X
Glittering-throated Emerald	<i>Amazilia fimbriata</i>	X
Ringed Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle torquata</i>	X
Amazon Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle amazona</i>	X
Green Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle americana</i>	X
Black-fronted Nunbird	<i>Monasa nigrifrons</i>	X
Rufous-tailed Jacamar	<i>Galbula ruficauda</i>	X
Chestnut-eared Aracari	<i>Pteroglossus castanotis</i>	X
Toco Toucan	<i>Ramphastos toco</i>	X
Little Woodpecker	<i>Veniliornis passerinus</i>	X
Golden-green Woodpecker	<i>Piculus chrysochloros</i>	X
Green-barred Woodpecker	<i>Colaptes melanochloros</i>	X
Campo Flicker	<i>Colaptes campestris</i>	X
Lineated Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus lineatus</i>	X
Crimson-crested Woodpecker	<i>Campephilus melanoleucos</i>	X
Southern Caracara	<i>Caracara plancus</i>	X
Nanday Parakeet	<i>Nandayus nenday</i>	X
Monk Parakeet	<i>Myiopsitta monachus</i>	X
Blue-Crowned Parakeet	<i>Aratinga acuticaudata</i>	X
White-eyed Parakeet	<i>Aratinga leucophthalma</i>	X
Peach-fronted Parakeet	<i>Aratinga aurea</i>	X
Hyacinth Macaw	<i>Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus</i>	X
Yellow-chevroned Parakeet	<i>Brotogeris chiriri</i>	X
Scaly-headed Parrot	<i>Pionus maximiliani</i>	X
Turquoise-fronted Parrot	<i>Amazona aestiva</i>	X
Barred Antshrike	<i>Tamnophilu doliatus</i>	X
Buff-throated Woodcreeper	<i>Xiphorhynchus guttatus</i>	X
Great Rufous Woodcreeper	<i>Xiphocolaptes major</i>	X
Straight-billed Woodcreeper	<i>Dendroplex picus</i>	X
Red-billed Scythebill	<i>Campylorhamphus trochilirostris</i>	X
Narrow-billed Woodcreeper	<i>Lepidocolaptes angustirostris</i>	X
Pale-legged Hornero	<i>Furnarius leucopus</i>	X
Rufous Hornero	<i>Furnarius rufus</i>	X
Greater Thornbird	<i>Phacellodomus ruber</i>	X
Yellow-chinned Spinetail	<i>Certhiaxis cinnamomeus</i>	X
Common Tody-Flycatcher	<i>Todirostrum cinereum</i>	X
White-rumped Monjita	<i>Xolmis velatus</i>	X

White-headed Marsh Tyrant	<i>Arundinicola leucocephala</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cattle Tyrant	<i>Machetornis rixosa</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lesser Kiskadee	<i>Pitangus lictor</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Great Kiskadee	<i>Pitangus sulphuratus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Boat-billed Flycatcher	<i>Megarynchus pitangus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rusty-margined Flycatcher	<i>Myiozetetes cayanensis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Streaked Flycatcher	<i>Myiodynastes maculatus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tropical Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus melancholicus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Purplish Jay	<i>Cyanocorax cyanomelas</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gray-breasted Martin	<i>Progne chalybea</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Brown-chested Martin	<i>Progne tapera</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
White-rumped Swallow	<i>Tachycineta leucorrhoa</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Masked Gnatcatcher	<i>Polioptila dumicola</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Black-capped Donacobius	<i>Donacobius atricapilla</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rufous-bellied Thrush	<i>Turdus rufiventris</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chalk-browed Mockingbird	<i>Mimus saturninus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Red-crested Cardinal	<i>Paroaria coronata</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Yellow-billed Cardinal	<i>Paroaria capitata</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hooded Tanager	<i>Nemosia pileata</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sayaca Tanager	<i>Thraupis sayaca</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Palm Tanager	<i>Thraupis palmarum</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Saffron Finch	<i>Sicalis flaveola</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Blue-black Grassquit	<i>Volatinia jacarina</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rusty-collared Seedeater	<i>Sporophila collaris</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
White-bellied Seedeater	<i>Sporophila leucoptera</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chestnut-bellied Seed-Finch	<i>Oryzoborus angolensis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chopi Blackbird	<i>Gnorimopsar chopi</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Scarlet-headed Blackbird	<i>Amblyramphus holosericeus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bay-winged Cowbird	<i>Agelaioides badius</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Giant Cowbird	<i>Molothrus oryzivorus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shiny cowbird	<i>Molothrus bonariensis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Variable Oriole	<i>Icterus pyrrhopterus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Orange-backed Troupial	<i>Icterus croconotus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Yellow-rumped Cacique	<i>Cacicus cela</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Reptiles



Common Name

Red-footed tortoise
Yacaré caiman
Green iguana
Point-nosed false chameleon
House gecko

Latin name

Chelonoides carbonaria
Caiman yacare
Iguana iguana
Polychrus acutirostris
Hemidactylus mabouia

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Golden tegu
Black and white tegu
Giant racerunner
Indigo snake

Tupinambis teguixin
Tupinambis meriana
Ameiva ameiva
Drymarchon corais

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