

BRAZIL: PANTANAL EXPLORER 2018

Ability Level: Easy / Duration: 7 days / 6 nights

Travel VISION
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Pantanal Explorer

An expedition in search of the elusive jaguar with
Ossian Lindholm

The Pantanal, one of the last great wildernesses, is the largest contiguous wetland on the planet, declared a World Heritage Site and Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO, since it is South American primary wildlife sanctuary. With a total area of 240,000 sq km located in the center of the continent, Pantanal is a bio-geographic mixing bowl, containing elements of the Amazon and Atlantic Rainforests, the Brazilian Savannah and the Paraguayan Chaco. This fantastic biodiversity includes: 698 birds species, 100 mammals, 177 reptiles, 40 amphibians and over 250 fish species. On this trip visit both the North and South Pantanal.

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TRIP CONTACT

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TRIP ESSENCE

- Opportunity to see and photograph unique regional wildlife such as caiman, capybaras, howler monkeys, and giant river otters
- The Pantanal is a sanctuary for birds, hosting almost a thousand species including the beautiful hyacinth macaw and the toco toucan
- Cozy accommodation at simple working fazendas. They are extremely clean and the food is fantastic
- Quality boats with radios and strong engines to allowing for quick spotting of jaguars
- Tours and activities specifically adjusted for photographers, prioritizing hours of best light including sunrise and sunset
- One expert local guide with experience spotting regional wildlife and jaguars
- Expert photographer Ossian Lindholm and group leader providing on-site instruction and tips to make sure you get the best shot

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Professional tour guide
- All accommodations and private transportation
- All activities at Araras on private basis with English speaking guide
- All ground transportation to and from Cuiabá
- Water and light snacks in all transfers and excursions
- Includes gratuities and local taxes
- All meals (breakfast, lunch and dinner)
- Airport assistance inbound and outbound for connecting flights at GRU airport

TRIP DETAILS

2018 Trip Date

- Sep 16-22

Ability Level

- Easy

Trip Price

- \$3,400
- Single Supplement: TBD

EQUIPMENT

For Hikes

- Shorts and warm weather clothing
- Sweater and long pants for chilly nights and walks
- Good and solid trekking shoes

For Photography

- Body SLR or compact digital camera
- Wide-angle lens
- Laptop (for selecting images)
- Tripod

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DAY 1

ARRIVAL TO THE AIRPORT AND TRANSFER TO THE PANTANAL

Hotel - Rio Claro Lodge

- Location: The Pantanal
- Duration: 3 Nights
- Website: <https://www.brazilnaturetours.com/brazil-tours/pantanal/hotel-pousada-rio-claro>

Meals - D

Highlights

Upon arrival, we will meet our nature local guide and have lunch at an authentic Brazilian Restaurant. Transfer to the Pantanal (60 miles). Once we arrive at the Transpantaneira Road, we will start observing the wildlife of the Pantanal and taking our first picture of this UNESCO World Heritage site's exotic wildlife: We hope to see caimans, capybaras, the jabiru stork, Kingfishers (the Pantanal has five species of them—all the South American ones!), heron, egrets, wattled jacanas, and the beautiful scarlet-headed blackbird and hyacinth macaws! We'll then head to the lodge and check in, followed by an awe-inspiring sunset-photo session.

DAYS 2 & 3

TWO FULL DAYS AT THE PANTANAL AT RIO CLARO LODGE

Activities - Photo safari to see wildlife, flora and faunas

Hotel - See Day 1

Meals - B, L, D

Highlights

These will be two wonderful days in one of the nicest lodges of the Pantanal. Here, we can watch the varied wildlife and their habitat. We'll see the bird feeders, capuchin monkeys, capybaras and other birds and, last but not least, the river. During our boat rides, we will be able to approach the birds and other animals, giving us chances for full-frame photos! And along the boat ride, we will have photo sessions where we will capture a number of birds with our lens—they will come to catch fishes that are thrown at them in the water. This will surely be one of the highlights of this superb photo tour!

DAY 4

BREAKFAST & TRANSFER TO PORTO JOFRE HOTEL

Hotel - Hotel Pantanal Norte – Porto Jofre

- Location: Pocone
- Duration: 3 Nights
- Website: <http://portojoFRE.com.br/en/#about-us>

Meals - B, L, D

Highlights

This transfer is actually a photo safari by car, since we'll be making several stops along the way to photograph the unique wildlife that surrounds us. We'll arrive to the hotel by lunchtime, check in, and then we'll have lunch.

PM: Later in the afternoon, we have our first opportunity of taking photos of the elusive jaguar! Note: The jaguar in the Pantanal is twice as big as the one that lives in the Amazon Forest! We'll return to the lodge at the end of the day, with a stop to photograph the sunset on the way.

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DAYS 5 & 6

TWO FULL DAYS BOAT RIDE AT THE CUIABA RIVER

Hotel - See Day 4

Meals - B, L, D

Highlights

On these two days, we'll have breakfast at 5:00 am, which is 45 minutes before sunrise. By sunrise time, we'll already be in our speed boats taking pictures and enjoying the morning sounds of the wildlife, with lots of birds flying above us. Surely, the elusive jaguar will be our prime target on these two days, and our chance to photograph them will start the moment we board our speed boats.

If nature grants us the opportunity to photograph other animals and wildlife, then we'll stop our boats and snap away. Along the Cuiabá River, we'll see and photograph capybaras and lots of caimans, and sometimes while they're eating a fish—that's quite a scene to catch on camera! With some luck, the yellow anaconda may show up, too! Birds will be everywhere, more specifically the kingfishers, herons and egrets. We'll have ample photo opportunities to capture the black skimmer, large-billed and yellow-billed terns. We also may photograph the beautiful pied plover (lapwing). We'll be returning to the lodge for lunch and some downtime until about 2:30 pm. Again, we'll be staying long enough for some amazing sunset photo ops.

DAY 7

BREAKFAST AND TRANSFER TO THE AIRPORT IN CUIABA

Meals - B, L

Highlights

Today is our final day in the mystical Brazilian Pantanal region! We'll likely take a flight after lunchtime—however, this is dependent on the flight schedule.



MEET YOUR PHOTOGRAPHY GUIDE

Ossian Lindholm is a renowned nature photographer from Tucuman, Argentina. Trained as an Agronomist, many years ago he turned his deep passion for nature to photography. In his work as a photographer, teacher and documentary filmmaker, he is dedicated to capturing, preserving, conserving, sharing and sustaining the landscape, nature and culture of Argentina in its most pristine state.

Ossian has published five books, 14 calendars and he teaches photography courses throughout the year. Since 1998 he has been leading groups of photographers and naturalists on photographic journeys throughout his native Argentina.

For the past four years has been the host of a very popular weekly nature TV documentary called Travesia Fotograficas. In each show He hopes to educate and inspire people to love, protect and keep sacred the places where they live using use images, words and music to touch peoples' emotional core.

Born in Tucuman in northern Argentina, he was raised in Buenos Aires, the capital of Argentina and attended primary and secondary school there. His father, now deceased, was a construction engineer and his mother is a writer and historian. Both his father and mother were also passionate amateur photographers and travelers. His parents traveled with him throughout Argentina and they were the ones who instilled a love of exploration. As a young 7-year old boy he fell in love the wonderful landscapes of Argentina and began carrying a camera everywhere, which at the time, was not the not normal behavior of a young boy.



As a teenager, he turned his photography hobby into a passion. At the age of 14 years he created a black and white photo lab in his home and with a group of friends, some experienced photographers he began his first serious steps in photography. To finance this hobby, he began taking pictures at family parties and weddings.

During his early years he loved reading National Geographic Magazine; it had a profound impact on him. It was his first inspiration and he became continually was drawn by nature photography. He went to college to pursue a career in agricultural engineering and here he began to develop a strong connection with the biological sciences that continues to be a strong influence in all his work. After obtaining his degree he worked for many years as a scientist but in 1998 he decided to dedicate himself to nature photography.

At this time he began working as a photography and nature guide which allowed him to travel around Argentina and connect with other photographers and biologists in the world.



In 2001 he published his first photography calendar that he does every year. His simple desire has been to share his love and concern for nature. As he evolved as a photographer he clarified his mission in one sentence: Para Conservar, primero hay que Conocer. "To conserve, first you must know."

At that point he had a personal revelation: He discovered that my life's work was not only photography, it was to carefully craft and deliver an important message about conservation and sustainability: He discovered his calling. He needed, through photography, teaching and film making, to show and teach his fellow Argentinians and the world that Nature is sacred and our relationship to Mother Earth is a symbiotic one. This maxim and personal philosophy threads through all his work.

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ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE

GETTING TO CUIABÁ

Fly to Cuiabá Airport (CGB) via São Paulo–Guarulhos International Airport (GRU). From the Cuiabá airport there will be a private transfer* on day 1 for the group in an air-conditioned vehicle to the hotel in Cuiabá (approx. 1 hour)

* Please inform the office if you plan on taking this scheduled group shuttle at least one month in advance via this form: www.ciclismoclassico.com/travel-plans

DEPARTING FROM CUIABÁ

After breakfast around 9 am there will be one group shuttle to the airport. **617-640-4837** for more information on trip extensions.

OTHER INFORMATION

For Flight Reservations

Valerie Wilson Travel

Call: 1-855-780-2022 or

E-mail: ciclismoair@vwti.com

Travel Insurance

MH Ross

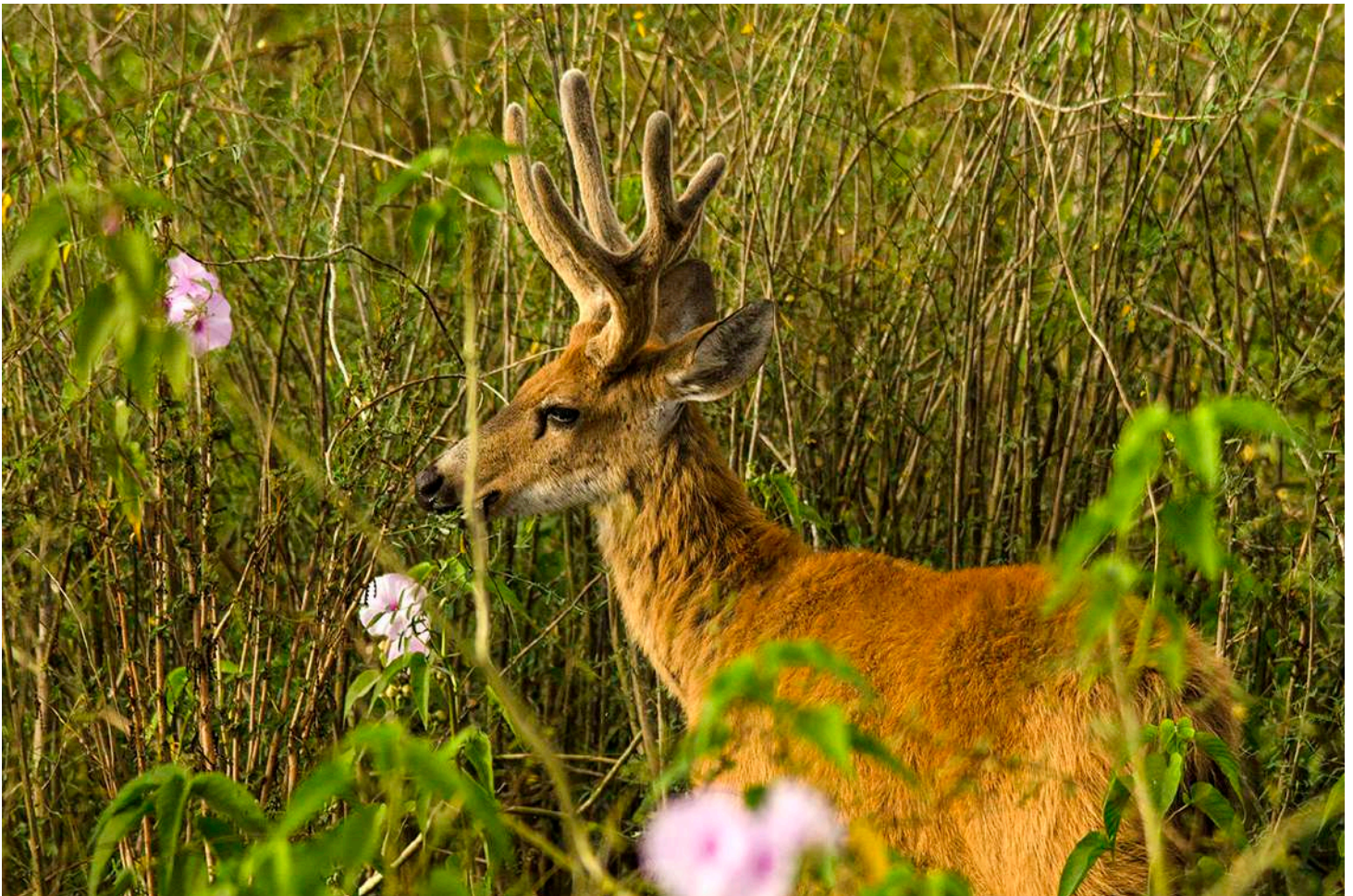
Call: 1-800-423-3632

http://bit.ly/MHRoss_Insurance

Transportation

Rome2rio

<http://www.rome2rio.com>



INSURANCE, TERMS & CONDITIONS

Insurance

Ciclismo Classico will not assume responsibility or liability for any loss or damage of personal effects or for any injury or loss during the duration of the tour. Therefore, we highly recommend that you obtain travel insurance. Information on travel insurance will be sent to you via email once trip deposit is received. We recommend MH Ross, but travelers may choose the insurance carrier of their choice.

Cancellations and Refunds

All requests for refunds must be submitted in writing as soon as possible to Ciclismo Classico. Exceptions to their cancellation policy cannot be made for any reason, including weather or personal emergencies. There is no refund for unexpectedly leaving a trip early or arriving late. The purchase of short-term travel insurance policy is strongly recommended. Cancellation fees are determined as follows:

Days before departure – Cancellation fee

121+ days - 50% of the deposit*

91-120 days - 100% of the deposit*

61-90 days - 30% of the trip price

31-60 days - 60% of the trip price

0-30 days - 100% of the trip price

*You may transfer your trip deposit to another departure in the same tour season up to 90 days before your original departure with payment of a \$100 per person transfer fee. Prices quoted are subject to adjustment without prior notification. OR your deposit (currently \$600) may be carried forward to the following year as a credit toward the final balance of a tour. At the time of booking, we will ask for another \$600 deposit to secure your spot. Carried-forward credits expire at the end of the year to which they are applied.

Alterations to the tour itinerary

Sometimes modifications may be made to the itinerary. We will notify you of any changes that may affect your arrival, departure or lodging. Any changes to the program are made in the best interest and safety of the group.

To review our policies, please visit <http://www.ciclismoclassico.com/plan-your-trip/policies/>

RESERVE YOUR SPACE!

To reserve a space, call Ciclismo Classico at **800-866-7314** or Lauren Hefferon at **617-640-4837**. Or, mail your deposit and contact information to:

Ciclismo Classico

attn: Rosa

30 Marathon St

Arlington, MA 02474

At the time of registration, a deposit of \$600 per person is due, payable by Visa, MasterCard, American Express or check, made payable to **Ciclismo Classico**, along with your full name, mailing address, phone number(s) and email address. We cannot confirm reservations without a deposit. Final payment is due 90 days before departure payable by check, credit card, wire transfer or money order. All travelers must review and sign a terms and conditions statement and a waiver form.