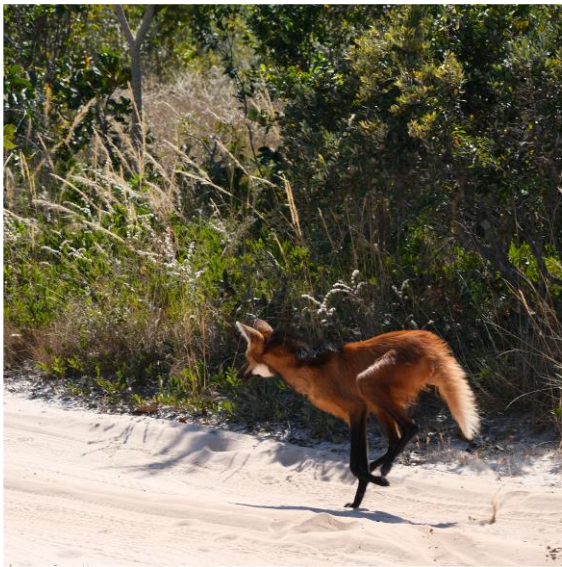


Tour Report Best of Brazil 24 June – 12 July 2024

Maned wolf



Harpy eagle



Jaguar



Giant ant-eater



Compiled by Helen Bryon

Visiting three distinct biomes; savanna, rainforest and wetland, we cover a lot of ground on this incredible itinerary. From Brazil's fascinating capital city, we travel to the Cerrado, generally considered the most bio diverse savanna on the planet. The stunningly beautiful, and elusive, maned wolf flourishes here on its omnivorous diet of wolf apples and guineapigs. Nocturnal and shy, they are not an easy find but we were successful once during our stay and the resulting 'wildlife high' was exhilarating! Many other mammals reside here but they are rarely seen so much of our time is spent birding, a common theme throughout the trip with over 200 species recorded in total. In the Amazon, we immerse ourselves in a spectacle of green, discovering a myriad of creatures as we walk trails, climb canopy towers and cruise river channels accompanied by butterflies and birds galore, insects, arachnids, amphibians, primates and more. We were fortunate enough to spend an hour in the company of a harpy eagle, an unexpected but hoped for highlight. Our final stop was the wildlife rich south Pantanal where during vehicle safaris, we successfully came across jaguar, giant ant-eater, ocelot and armadillo. Hyacinth macaws nest in the gardens of our lodge, keeping us entertained between activities too! There's a huge amount of travelling involved, days are long and starts are early, but the potential for superb wildlife encounters make for a wonderfully rewarding holiday.

Day 1:

Monday 24 June 2024

London Heathrow to São Paulo

Meeting at our Heathrow departure gate, introductions were made, and our non-stop overnight flight to São Paulo's Gaurulhos airport departed on time.

Day 2:

Tuesday 25 June 2024

São Paulo to Brasilia

Weather: sunny and clear, 27 degrees

Landing ahead of schedule at 04:50am, we were through Immigration and Customs just 45 minutes later. After re-checking our luggage in for the domestic connection to Brasilia, we cleared Security and made it to the departure gate in good time. Our one hour and twenty minute flight arrived mid-morning and we were soon ensconced in the centrally located Windsor Plaza Hotel. A late breakfast was provided after which we had a few hours to relax after our journey before embarking on a fascinating city tour at 14:30pm.

Built in just three years and established in 1960, we visited landmarks from cathedrals to bridges and monuments to residential 'super blocks'. Our guide Lucio, provided a comprehensive background to the efforts made to make the city both liveable and functional. It proved to be an informative and enjoyable afternoon topped off with a pair of burrowing owls thrown in for good measure.

Once back at the hotel we met for drinks in the bar followed by an early dinner after which we hit the hay in preparation for our journey to the Cerrado tomorrow.

Day 3:

Wednesday 26 June 2024

Brasilia to Trijuncao

Weather: sunny and clear, 29 degrees

After a super buffet breakfast, we were checked out and on the road by 07:30am sharp. Passing satellite towns serving the capital, we were soon traversing vast tracts of agricultural land interspersed with a few small towns. Black vultures and southern caracaras flew overhead and shortly after our first comfort stop, one eagle eyed client shouted, "Tapir!". Coming to a stop and reversing back slowly, we could hardly believe our eyes at a lone individual standing right next to the side of the road. We did a 'U' turn enabling us to safely disembark the vehicle a short distance away and view the animal quietly. It did not react at our approach and we spread out a little to take photographs. After perhaps ten minutes or so, it suddenly started running directly towards four of us standing in a small group together. Only veering around us at the last moment, it continued running far into the distance and as we re-commenced our journey we tried to work out what on earth it was doing amongst never ending fields of maize.

Find out more about our [Best of Brazil](#) trip or [contact us](#)

01962 302086 sales@wildlifeworldwide.com www.wildlifeworldwide.com



Shortly afterwards as the landscape changed to undulating valleys and distant escarpments, we came across two collared peccaries also by the side of the road. One comfort break later, complete with ice creams, and we arrived in the town of Formoso. Here we said goodbye to Lucio and hello to Joao, the general manager of Pousada Trijuncao, and naturalist guide Vini. 75 minutes and another pair of burrowing owls later and we arrived at our lodge. The sound of chopi blackbirds greeted us and we walked into a courtyard laden with the tropical flowers such as bougainvillea, peace lilies and orchids alongside roses and more. The single story terracotta building was littered with shady hanging day beds and hammocks in which to relax and birds frequented feeders as guineapigs darted through the undergrowth. It was heaven!

Joao invited us to go straight to the dining room and order lunch during which he briefly talked us through lodge etiquette. Our luggage went straight to our rooms and when we followed, we loved their more than comfortable rustic simplicity. Decorated in earthy tones with natural wood, pottery and grass artefacts, we enjoyed an hour or two of down time, familiarising ourselves with our new surroundings, before meeting in reception at 16.30pm.

There, waiting for us, were Gaby and Maju from the NGO Oncafari who are based on the reserve researching maned wolves. Being our target species in the Cerrado, we received an introduction to their lifestyle and behaviour, were talked through family trees of wolves known to them, and learnt that a number of wolves are collared enabling Oncafari to monitor their movements and discover more about these notoriously shy creatures. We learnt about the importance of Trijuncao Reserve as a wildlife corridor due to its location next to Grande Sertao Veredas National Park. The aim of the game is to essentially minimise the effects of human wildlife conflict as much of the surrounding land is farmed.

At 17:00pm, we boarded our open sided safari vehicle complete with roof and three rows of tiered seats and set off into the reserve. Broad leafed trees intermingled with acacias and termite mounds were evident in both trees and as dome structures on the ground. Deep red earth contrasted with leached white soil and we immediately came across stunning blue-and yellow macaw and other common bird species.

In terms of the maned wolves, we had learnt that a well habituated female had literally had a litter in the last few days and around 45 minutes into the drive signal was received for her partner. Gaby showed us how they use telemetry to pick up signal for collared wolves within a kilometre and we set off to try and locate the male. Signal disappeared as we passed a breeding project for tapir and peccaries and were advised that they are translocated around the country to re-wild areas. We came across yet another pair of

Find out more about our [Best of Brazil](#) trip or [contact us](#)

01962 302086 sales@wildlifeworldwide.com www.wildlifeworldwide.com

burrowing owls perched atop two fence posts, their eyes glinting in the late afternoon sun. Continuing, we admired the colours in the sunset shortly after 18:00pm and as we commenced a night safari by spotlight, we picked up the distinctive streamers of a male scissor-tailed nightjar.

Returning to the lodge just before 20:00pm, we ordered dinner from the a la carte menu and all commented on how fresh and tasty the food was.

Day 4:

Thursday 27 June 2024

Morning and afternoon game drives

Weather: sunny, 29 degrees

Leaving the lodge under cover of darkness and to the sound of calling ferruginous pygmy owls, we set off into the Cerrado full of expectation. The air was crisp and cold under a cloudless sky as we headed west on our first drive with naturalist guide Vini, and our driver guide Hi. Vini's encyclopaedical knowledge and eye for spotting soon became evident as he pointed out yellow-headed caracara, turquoise-fronted parrot, black-throated saltator and more. We stopped to view the peccaries and tapirs at the reserve's breeding centre once again and continued on, noticing the long drooping yellow yucca type flowers of the Cerrado gumtree. The sky behind us brightened into a symphony of colour, complemented with blue-and-yellow macaw flybys, their screeches penetrating the until now silent dawn. As they landed and jostled for position in tree canopies around us, their yellow underbellies flashed like sunshine in the bright morning sun eliciting excitable oohs and aahs from us as we took in their size and incredible beauty.

Suddenly Vini exclaimed, "I hear a wolf!". Urgently encouraging Hi to start the engine and move towards the appropriate area, our adrenaline levels soared as we scanned the surrounding area, our eyes on stalks. We followed fresh, fresh tracks and they led us to the lodge pool would you believe (!) where we saw that a wolf had walked onto the raised wooden deck, defecated, probably had a drink and then moved off in an easterly direction. We were close. So close. We drove the sandy track carefully, continuing to follow its spoor, all the while searching for tell-tale signs of movement; a flicker of tall ears or a swish of that wonderfully bushy white tail. We passed termite mounds by the side of the road, many shaped like sitting primates, and stopped by some undulating mounds of moved earth, the work of leaf-cutter ants. There we lost the tracks so we stopped, listened and scanned but the trail had run dry.

Stopping for a sandwich and cake break, we admired the small, white trumpet flowers by the side of the road (*Ruellia incompata*) and then for some, all other birds seen so far were well and truly usurped by two unassuming white-eared puffbirds sitting on top of a bush right next to us. Closely related to kingfishers and kookaburras, they were singing their little hearts out right next to our vehicle. With every vocalisation, their tails swung back and forward like pendulums, perfectly in time with their song. This proved to be an utterly endearing trait and we grinned away to ourselves as they enchanted us time and time again.

We continued towards the reserve boundary where neighbouring agricultural land was attracting small flocks of lime green peach-fronted and blue-crowned parakeets as well as plumbeous seedeaters. Further down the road and sitting in the shade of a tree, we came across a crab-eating fox. Trotting away at our approach, our attention was drawn to a statuesque and stationary savanna hawk surveying the field below it. Next up, a male and female pair of rusty-backed antwrens flitted across the road in front of us and we turned back into the reserve, stopping to observe a gorgeous pampas deer doe followed thereafter by a male brown brocket deer.



Find out more about our [Best of Brazil](#) trip or [contact us](#)

01962 302086 sales@wildlifeworldwide.com www.wildlifeworldwide.com

We made our way back to where we'd lost signs of the maned wolf earlier and there we sat amongst the purple flowers of macaieira (*Macaieira redula*) and watched more blue-and-yellow macaws nesting in the



top of dead palm trees where the leaves had fallen to the ground. Many of the palm tree stumps in the vicinity had clearly defined holes drilled in the top of them, the work of woodpeckers, and in terms of their size and our perspective, we likened them to where you would place your thumb on the back of a recorder!

Returning to the lodge around 09:45am, we gathered for a hearty breakfast (it just kept on coming!) and then the need to rest was usurped by the wish to explore the luscious tropical gardens of the lodge. Brightly coloured blooms were framed against the cerulean sky as Brazilian guineapigs scurried along the flowerbeds and underneath loungers. Some of the group had just settled by a bird feeder strategically placed in the central courtyard when a large group of white woodpeckers arrived by the path to the pool. Flocking to the area (if you'll excuse the pun), we watched them drumming and then noticed maned wolf scat literally outside the communal lodge area. A plated lizard moved through the grass and more and more bird species arrived from the beautiful cobalt blue shoulder markings of curl-crested jays at rest to sayaca tanager and swallow-tailed hummingbird to lesser keskidee. We then moved towards the lodge's look-out tower where a few black-turfed marmosets previously attracted by another feeder there were resting after their meal in the forks

of tree branches above. Curiosity sated, we eventually gave in to the comfortable hammocks and hanging day beds dotted around the lodge for some well-deserved R&R before lunch.

At 15:10pm we gathered in the reception area for a brief history of the lodge and reserve delivered by Joao. Afterwards we set off with our afternoon team of naturalist guide Alan and driver guide Pedro whose specialist subject is botany. Scaled doves rattled their wings at our departure (hence why they are called rattlesnake birds locally) and macaws flew by as Alan explained that they and hummingbirds are the only two families of birds that are not born knowing how to sing their calls. As this is a learned behaviour, one client exclaimed perhaps that is why they hum! We had a good laugh at that.



We came across a flowering wolf apple tree (*Solanum lycocarpum*) and while stopping to photograph its pretty purple flowers, we noticed another on the opposite side of the road laden with their large green tomato style fruits. Knowing that these make up a large percentage of a maned wolf's diet, we were keen to open one up and look inside. Smelling a little like freshly mowed grass with a slight hint of apple, the fruit started to discolour immediately and was full of seeds. Familiar as we were now with maned wolf scat, we understood why it is sometimes described as being somewhat like a cereal bar!

We passed a large pan not far from the lodge and were interested in why nothing was growing on it. Pedro explained that when the underground aquifer covered this area, it was a natural lake containing algae that produced a chemical inhibiting other plant growth. Now that the lake is dry, it will take some time for the chemical to dissipate before vegetation can flourish once again.

Find out more about our [Best of Brazil](#) trip or [contact us](#)

01962 302086 sales@wildlifeworldwide.com www.wildlifeworldwide.com



Next, just beyond the untidy, scrappy branch nest of a rufous-fronted thornbird, a laughing falcon was added to our increasing species list which due to foliage covering its face, looked remarkably like a macaroni penguin! A toucan followed, the late afternoon sun illuminating its large beak beautifully. We learnt that it is used not only as a cooling system but that due to its length, it is perfectly adapted to stealing eggs and chicks from nests. As dusk approached, we drove the banks of Macaw Lake, and spotted a neotropical cormorant perfectly reflected in the water below. The colours of the setting sun deepened, majestically silhouetting roosting macaws against the peach melba sky.

As night fell, Alan spotted a common pauraque flattening itself into the road ahead. Pedro managed to get us right next to it so we could fully appreciate its startling camouflage. Crab eating foxes then proved to be scene stealers as three separate pairs came out of the woodwork and we followed them scent marking and foraging along the road in front of us. Once back at the lodge, despite maned wolf evading us, we celebrated a wonderful day with caipirinhas. When in Rome..!



Day 5:

Friday 28 June 2024

Grande Sertao Veredas National Park and afternoon safari

Weather: sunny, 31 degrees

After an early breakfast at 05:00am, we not only heard but also saw the pair of ferruginous pygmy owls that had eluded us yesterday morning before setting off for neighbouring Grande Sertao Veredas National Park. We watched the sunrise as we approached the entrance and drove in for a relatively quiet first hour or so. We had stopped at a fork in the road to enjoy a double hummingbird moment, initially watching a blue-tufted starthroat, soon followed by a gorgeous male horned sungem, when news of an eventful morning ahead unfolded.

Our visit to Trijuncao this year just happened to coincide with an initiative by Oncafari to capture maned wolves in the hope of collaring a few more for research purposes. As such, we'd been passing cages dotted strategically around the reserve and had seen bait being placed inside them. When wolves enter the cage to eat the bait, a trapdoor closes behind them and a vet then arrives to assess the individual for suitability of a collar. Oncafari had promised to keep us informed if any wolves were captured so when Vini received the radio call to advise a young female was about to be sedated and did we want to observe the procedure, we didn't hesitate!

Although we stopped briefly to view a crab eating fox digging by the side of the road, Hi drove us swiftly back to the reserve with numerous red-legged seriemas running comically alongside and ahead of us en route. Just before we arrived, a pampas deer and fawn were spotted but I have to confess that we left them to it in our haste to reach the wolf. When we finally reached the scene, we gawped in awe at the anaesthetised creature in front of us, her rich, long chestnut coat glistening as the sun's rays filtered through the tree canopy above. We marvelled as one long leg after another was slowly lifted and stretched as measurements were taken. Bloods, her temperature and numerous other statistics were recorded and her neck was gently lifted to try the collar. She was a young individual, in all round good health, but we were

Find out more about our [Best of Brazil](#) trip or [contact us](#)

01962 302086 sales@wildlifeworldwide.com www.wildlifeworldwide.com

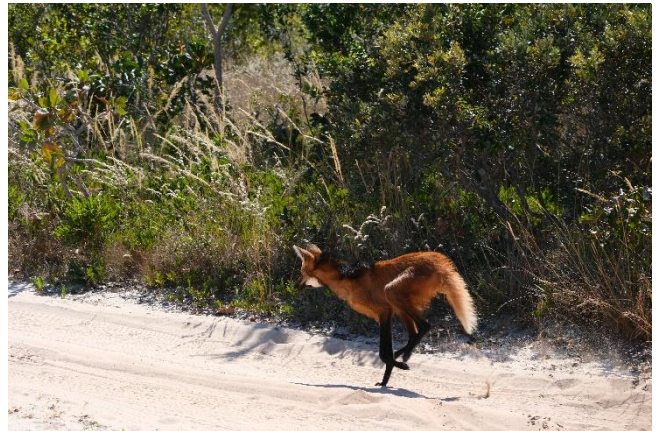
advised that no collar would be fitted after all as she was a little too small for it. She was therefore left to rest, an involuntary wide yawn escaping from her before she fell back into her drugged state.

At that point we left the Oncafari team to put her back into the cage so that she could safely sleep off the effects of the medication. We were invited to return in another hour or two to watch her release, and again, we delightedly accepted. We drove a suitable distance away, stopped for tea, juice and snacks and animatedly discussed what we'd just been fortunate to witness. We were absolutely smitten! Deciding to continue our drive in the hope of viewing more wildlife rather than return to the lodge briefly, we came across savannah hawk, a pair of white-tailed hawks and a lesser yellow-headed vulture as the heat of the day set in. Soon we received a call on the radio to head back to the wolf and we did so with glee. Arriving just in time, she was upright in the cage and eager to get out. The trap door was lifted and she roared repeatedly, ensuring she was safe before taking her first steps back to freedom. She ran out



along the road and we fell in love all over again. What a magnificent animal! Graceful, beautiful and very, very leggy!

Arriving home to a flock of campo flickers, we took in rufous hornero and a stunning lowland hepatic tanager at the closest feeder. The marmosets delighted some of the group during lunch, their curiosity drawing them in closer and closer while a pair of toco toucans tucked into papaya and banana on the courtyard feeder. Hummingbirds were out in force feasting on nectar laden blooms around the lodge and as much as we tried to rest, there was simply too much going on. Every time we went back to our rooms, we soon came out again with a bad case of FOMO!



At 16.30pm we set off with Alan and Pedro who pointed out the distinctive clay nest of a rufous hornero built atop a pylon just outside camp. While we discussed it, we noticed another bird close by and drove slightly forward to get a good look at it. It turned out to be a pearl kite tucking into a lizard. This stunning small raptor proved to be a hit but we had to move on as we had a sunset date further into the reserve. Tapir tracks were evident in force but with no signs of the owners, we drove along and then past the airstrip until at one point Helen exclaimed "Armadillo!" Sure enough, to our right was a dark gun metal grey small three-banded individual scurrying urgently into the undergrowth. We sat quietly hoping it may appear again but alas, it did not oblige.

Driving on along the top of an escarpment, the sun was slowly sinking towards the horizon to our right. Three rusty-margined guans stopped us for one last time before we reached a viewpoint overlooking three Brazilian states; Goias, Bahia and Minas Gerais (hence the name of the reserve which translates as Three Junctions). Racing down the slope to capture the sunset we noticed sundowners set up for us and once our photographs were secured, we went back for a closer look. What a treat! We settled down with glasses of

Find out more about our [Best of Brazil](#) trip or [contact us](#)

01962 302086 sales@wildlifeworldwide.com www.wildlifeworldwide.com

bubbly to watch the colours in the sky seemingly compress into vivid orange and then red before night fell. Two unidentified bats swooped low over our heads and we absorbed the moment, later indulging in a little star and constellation gazing with the Southern Cross and Scorpius directly above us. The Milky Way became ever more visible as we re-boarded our vehicle and enjoyed a night drive home.

Day 6:

Saturday 29 June 2024

Morning with Oncafari and afternoon safari

Weather: Sunny, 31 degrees



Another game drive with the Oncafari team was in store this morning and we set off at 05:30am. It was chilly as we drove in silence, scanning the immediate vicinity by spot light. As dawn broke, we made our way towards the den site of the female who has just had a litter. Telemetry confirmed that she was with the little ones so we left her to it and continued to Macaw Lake where we could see tracks and smell that another maned wolf had passed through the area most probably in the night. Following an elevated boardwalk down to the lake shore, the sun appeared in the east and we watched squawking macaws, white-winged swallows busying themselves and the ethereal

beauty of mist rising off the water.

Wandering back to the vehicle, we had a closer look at the maned wolf tracks and discussed their peculiar gait (they walk like a camel or giraffe lifting both left legs together and then both right). Whilst doing so, a tiny female horned sungem appeared in a shrub next to the road. A few clients followed it and couldn't believe it when it rested, very obligingly, on a branch a little further on. We all crept towards it and were flabbergasted when a second joined it. Opening its beak wide repeatedly, we ascertained that it must be a juvenile hoping to be fed. We couldn't believe our luck!



As we slowly made our way back towards the lodge, we were absorbing the vast savanna landscape, lost in our own thoughts, when out of nowhere a tapir shot across the road in front of us. It moved like lightning and literally disappeared into the scrub. We marvelled at how South America's largest mammal could move with such speed and silence. Wow!

Once home and breakfasted, we spent a very pleasant few hours making the most of the wildlife around the lodge. Very aware that we were to move on tomorrow, we revelled in the marmosets playing in the garden, climbing the rafters and scurrying under furniture. We watched lineated woodpecker and sat quietly by the feeders as brightly coloured lowland hepatic tanagers dazzled us with their gorgeous colour (one individual being a two tone morph very aptly described as a mango)! Red-legged seriemas walked cautiously through the communal areas, drinking from favoured vestibules scattered around and Vini provided an impromptu photography lesson by the courtyard. What a star!

Find out more about our [Best of Brazil](#) trip or [contact us](#)

01962 302086 sales@wildlifeworldwide.com www.wildlifeworldwide.com



At 16:00pm we set off for our final afternoon safari and followed Macaw Lake in its entirety. Thick scrub to our left was counteracted by grassland to our right, dipping down into a palm tree filled oasis fed by the underground aquifer. We searched tirelessly for maned wolf but to no avail. Birdlife was prolific as always and Vini spotted an Aplomado falcon and a green-backed woodpecker for us but as both flew swiftly away before we had a chance to properly view them, they were not added to our Species List. After stopping for a leg stretch and a bite to eat, we turned around and slowly began to retrace our steps. Suddenly Vini yelled "Tapir!" and sure enough, walking softly through the late golden light towards the water a few hundred metres away was the bulk of a large female. Two in one day... this was unheard of! She began to trot away from us, her colouring blending into the orange and brown tones of the bush in the late afternoon light. We watched until we could see her no more and then continued on our way.

Shortly after 18:30pm, we drove to the pontoon we'd visited this morning and walked down to the water to gaze at the night sky. The Milky Way was vast and magnificent, reflected in the still calm water. After a little time to appreciate the scene, half of the group returned to the vehicle and continued their night drive, viewing a lone crab eating fox and arriving back at the lodge shortly after 20:00pm. Alan meanwhile took the other half out into the lake by boat in search of Cuvier's dwarf caiman. Gliding silently through the water, enjoying the calm serenity and stars above, the quest was successful with three individuals being seen, one obligingly right next to the vessel.

After dinner (the guava soufflé being a particular hit!) we retired to bed to ready ourselves for departure tomorrow.

Day 7:

Trijuncao to Cuiaba

Weather: Sunny and clear, 28 degrees

Sunday 30 June 2024

Breakfast was served at 05:30am after which we loaded up two vehicles and commenced our journey back to Brasilia. It was a case of mixed feelings in terms of leaving Pousada Trijuncao (described as a slice of paradise by one client) tinged with the excitement of what lay ahead. Joao and Vini drove us to Formoso and from there we met up with Lucio once again for the rest of the drive. Arriving at the airport just after midday we relaxed until our short mid-afternoon flight to Cuiaba.

Within 45 minutes of arriving into a different time zone (Matt Grosso state is one hour behind the capital), we were at our overnight accommodation, Gran Odara Hotel, where we had a welcome few hours to ourselves before meeting up for dinner in the hotel's restaurant at 19:00pm.

Day 8:

Cuiaba to Alta Floresta

Weather: Sunny, 37 degrees

Monday 01 July 2024

After a leisurely breakfast, we departed the hotel at 09.15am and returned to Cuiaba airport for our 75 minute flight to Alta Floresta, gateway to the southern Amazon. We were met on arrival by Lucas, a representative of Cristalino Lodge who accompanied us during the first part of our transfer. We shared the minibus with two other arriving clients and drove out through town and then past cattle ranches before

Find out more about our [Best of Brazil](#) trip or [contact us](#)

01962 302086 sales@wildlifeworldwide.com www.wildlifeworldwide.com

officially entering Cristalino land around an hour later. Flocks of guira cuckoos scattered from the road sides as we passed and as the trees soared ever higher above us, we reached the Tele Spires river where our naturalist guide, Bruno, waited to meet us.

Our luggage was sent off ahead to the lodge and we boarded an open long motorised canoe, with pilot Manuel at the helm, donned our life jackets and crossed the wide 'white' Tele Spires where we were encouraged to place a hand in the water and feel how warm it was. As we moved into the noticeably darker Cristalino River, the water temperature dropped and Bruno immediately pointed out a great black hawk flying along the river bank to our left. We settled into our new mode of transport (complete with natural air-conditioning when we sped up!) and a little further on we stopped to view green ibis and Amazon kingfisher.



Half an hour later, we arrived at the lodge, its pontoon festooned with striking green umbrellas suddenly appearing around a bend in the river. Walking up to the communal area over a carpet of fallen paca flowers (that looked like a cross between creamy magnolia and frangipani), we were greeted by another Vini, who would look after us during our time here. We were seated at round tables on the expansive covered wooden deck and treated to fresh juice and a light lunch. We then chose dinner from the a la carte menu (at dinner, lunch is chosen for the next day and so on) before being shown to our beautiful garden bungalows. After a quick turnaround, we arranged to meet back at the jetty at 17:00pm for a swift boat ride along the river at dusk.

Red-capped cardinal and the stunning deep blood red of silvery-beaked tanagers saw us off and soon black-fronted nunbirds with their distinct red bills were flying around us, landing briefly in a huge sumauma tree. The large yellow flowers of the native Senna species proliferated along the banks, intermixed with tropical purples too. Anhinga and rusty-margined flycatcher perched on dead branches just above the water line and we thoroughly enjoyed a sighting of a rarely seen great tinamou that Helen happened to see drinking out of the corner of her eye. The sun was setting when gladiator tree frogs began to serenade us and the river shimmered like gold reflecting the fading light above.

Once back at the lodge we gathered at 19:00pm for a full introduction to the lodge's history, ethos and current conservation initiatives. Partners with Kew and various other internationally renowned organisations, projects include fungus, stingless bees, butterflies and jaguars (including a few melanistic individuals). A short promotional film shown at the end featured some of the rainforest's inhabitants and it well and truly whetted our appetite for the next few days. A delicious dinner followed at 19:30pm after which we slept like babies in our new, peaceful surrounds.

Day 9:

Exploring the Amazon

Weather: Sunny, 34 degrees

Tuesday 02 July 2024

Breakfast was served at 06:00am and we departed up river an hour later. White-winged and white-banded swallows accompanied us and green kingfishers busied themselves on the water's edge, occasionally resting on leafless branches that only a month ago had been underwater. Multiple holes in the banks were explained as having been made by catfish during the rainy season but now that they are exposed, kingfishers and reptiles move in for the dry months. Upon hearing the cries of a white-throated toucan, we sat quietly, the river mist evaporating around us, until we eventually located the owner high in the canopy above us. Perfectly framed against a bright blue sky, it was followed shortly thereafter by the brilliant rufous colouring of a black-bellied cuckoo, a squirrel cuckoo, and then a bat falcon. While we photographed the falcon in full

Find out more about our [Best of Brazil](#) trip or [contact us](#)

01962 302086 sales@wildlifeworldwide.com www.wildlifeworldwide.com



sight, eagle-eyed Bruno (no raptor pun intended) spotted potential prey just behind us. Turning around, a dead branch rose from the water at a 45 degree angle and lining the underside of it hung 10 tiny proboscis bats. Our first Amazonian mammals! We were about to go for a closer look when the mournful cry of a sunbittern caught our attention. Standing on a small beach right next to us, we watched it for a while hoping it may fly to display its striking false eyes. It continued walking carefully so we headed back to the bats for a closer look. Moving on, the striking red wattle of a red-throated goan was well and truly usurped by the ultra turquoise of

a spangled cotinga. If you don't think you're into birds, come here. The colours, shapes and hairstyles apparent will leave you wanting nothing but more!

It was shortly before 08:30am when we landed and commenced the Trilha do Vale (Hill) trail. Bruno pointed out small inverted circles in the sand and discussed lion ants, their earthy dwellers, before we entered the quiet calm of the forest. Serene and cool, huge buttressed roots jostled for space with audacious saplings grappling for rays of precious light required to grow tall and thrive. A deep carpet of leaf litter spread out in all directions away from us, potentially hiding a plethora of forest floor dwellers including pit vipers and bushmaster snakes. Staying on the narrow path, we stood at the base of a Brazil nut tree, gazing up at its far reaches and noticing termite tunnels vertically straddling tree trunks in their quest to break down green matter. Paxiuba (pronounced pashuba) trees abounded and Bruno explained that their seeds are dispersed by spider monkeys. The soft rain like effect of falling leaves belied birds and mammals moving around in the high canopy and sure enough, we came across a small troop of capuchin monkeys staring down at us with curiosity and fascination.

We could smell peccaries as we entered an area dominated by thick vines and were advised to look up for various antbirds, their small dark bodies flecked with white spots. We could hear them but couldn't see them as we approached, and began to climb, a large granite boulder rising to our right. Light flooded the forest floor as the treescape became semi-deciduous and less dense. Eventually stepping out into broad daylight, we all agreed that we hadn't been expecting to see this in the Amazon! Yellow orchids grew at eye level and bromeliads dotted the trees around us, but particularly eye catching were the incredible white showy flowers of an embirucu tree. Akin to a white peacock feather, they opened up next to a cigar shaped cylinder that was really quite extraordinary. Close by was a white barked tree devoid of leaves but with distinct mango type fruits that Bruno explained is a paineira or silk cotton tree as the fruits contain a cotton like substance used as pillow stuffing! Looking further up, we noticed two paradise jacamars high in another tree's canopy. Two became three, then four, and more, as we watched them for a while before retracing our steps back down into the cool sanctuary of the green cathedral below. As we walked back towards the river we spotted a beautiful butterfly unknown to Bruno but later identified as *Nessaea obrinus*, its orange and blue marking set off against an ultra-black background.



During the boat ride home we stopped to search for a young anaconda who is known to reside near an old dead and gnarled tree trunk that has fallen into the river. At just two and a half metres long (currently) we were unsuccessful, but did find a Geoffroy's side-necked terrapin resting on a rock close by. It slid into the river at our approach so we distracted ourselves with the cornucopia of butterflies that flew alongside us

Find out more about our [Best of Brazil](#) trip or [contact us](#)

01962 302086 sales@wildlifeworldwide.com www.wildlifeworldwide.com

as the day warmed up.

Upon arrival back at the lodge around 11:00am, we came across our first blue morpho butterfly with its glorious electric blue colouration. Bruno walked us around the boundaries of the lodge viewing more capuchin monkeys as we went, so that we could survey these areas under our own steam during future down time between excursions. Shortly before leaving us to it, we came across orange and green ameiva lizards and were particularly taken with a tree close to the staff area absolutely covered in hanging flowers, a *Parkia pendula*. Lunch was then served at 12:30pm after which we relaxed until setting off again at 16:00pm.

Meeting in the communal area, we walked directly into the forest passing massive holes made by giant armadillo (who can reach 80 kilograms would you believe?) and a vine made famous by Brazilian supermodel Gisele Bunchen who once lay in it for a photo shoot! Twenty minutes or so later and we reached Canopy Tower I stretching 50.4 metres up into, and beyond, the canopy above us. We began our ascent, slowly and surely, to that most quintessential of Amazonian sounds, the call of the screaming piha. Two platforms are located at 30 and 35 metres respectively and we stopped on them to get used to the stability of the tower before taking on the final 15 metres. The view from the stop was immense. The effect of looking down on what can only be described as hundreds of thousands of broccoli florets was intoxicating. Movement in the canopy below enabled us to spot masked tityra, white-bellied parrot and Spix's guan. Scarlet macaws flew by and we watched crested oropendola fly in and out of their spectacular hanging pendulum nests.

The sun set quietly and we made our way back down to the forest floor below that had long ago lost the afternoon light. With head torches well and truly on, we commenced a night walk through the forest and were absolutely amazed by the sheer number and variety of spiders that were pointed out literally centimetres from our feet. Wolf, tarantula and Brazilian wandering (one of the most venomous in the world) shared space with fire ants as well as rubber and slender legged tree frogs. We approached a salt lick in total silence and turned off our torches for ten minutes or so not only hoping to attract tapir, but to experience the intensity of the darkness as bats flew past us, missing our faces by centimetres in the inky jet black night.

Upon arrival back at the lodge we had thirty minutes or so to freshen up before 'Fish Night'. Walking into the communal area, the fire pit was being used to grill river fish and a buffet had been set out with lantern lit tables strewn over the deck. The atmosphere was wonderful and we enjoyed cold beers and a great meal before heading to bed for another early night.

Day 10:

Exploring the Amazon

Weather: Sunny, 36 degrees

Wednesday 03 July 2024

A pair of capybaras greeted us as we got to the jetty around 06:45 this morning. Resting together in the water, they swam across the river, walked along the opposite bank and craned their necks to reach tasty succulent leaves scent marking with their anal glands as they went. They may be a rodent, but they are endearingly gorgeous!

As we commenced our trip up river we spotted the telltale purple iridescent hues of black-collared swallows and enjoyed the immense fluttering of a busy black-throated mango. We got our first good look at a sunbathing young spectacled caiman and had fly bys from grey hawk and a flock of red-fan parrots. A larger caiman lurked in a shady bank further on, slipping into the security of the water at our approach and kingfishers were camera shy giving us the slip whenever we tried to photograph them as we made our way to the 'Brazil Nut Trail'.

A little further on from yesterday morning's landing, we once again entered the rainforest and marvelled at the myriad of greens around us. It was a verdant paradise of banana leaves nestling with palm fronds and fig like leaves next to those the size of placemats. *Aspidistra* stretched out at thigh level as far as the eye

Find out more about our [Best of Brazil](#) trip or [contact us](#)

01962 302086 sales@wildlifeworldwide.com www.wildlifeworldwide.com

could see and much of the vegetation wouldn't have looked out of place in the house plant section of Homebase or B&Q! Lime green was represented next to British racing green as forest green was to olive, and that's before we can even describe the myriad of textures. Brownwood trees with their peeling papery outer layer stood tall next to trees with bark like camouflage (the result of lichen) whilst mangrove like seven legged palm trees were stocky next to the grey, bare branches of cecropia. Huge emergent trees indicated a healthy ecosystem and mud towers around a foot high rose upright from the forest floor built by their single juvenile cicada occupants. We followed a confetti trail of cuttings abandoned by leaf-cutter ants and later, when coming upon their ochre raised soil nest, we were amazed at the sheer size of their home, and the fact that nothing grows on it.

We reached the 800 – 1,200 year old Brazil nut tree after which the trail is named and learnt that it is pollinated by bees, and that only the agouti that has the strength to crack through its kernels and that when broken open, the dome shaped half kernels fill with rainwater enabling just one species of poison dart frog and one species of toad to breed in them. We continued on the circular trail entering an area dominated by açai plants, some as tall as 15 metres high, and slowly made our way back to the river.

During the boat ride home, we were once again unsuccessful in finding the young anaconda but came across yellow-spotted river terrapins and a very obliging juvenile great white hawk who rested, preened and shook its feathers just above eye level in a tree. We also added osprey, king vulture and a delightful capped heron, resting in full view of us, to our expanding species list. Once home, we disembarked by the staff village due to a cloudburst of butterfly action on the beach there. A profusion of orange, yellow, spearmint green, white and brown lepidoptera were busy drinking salt from the sand, their numbers depleting occasionally as kiskadees swooped down to grab their prey. To top off a superb morning, we watched Madeira parakeets and finally some lesser sac-winged bats hanging from the eaves of a building known to be home to tree boas too as we walked to lunch.



A few hours later and we met up once again at the jetty ready for our afternoon, sunset and night river cruise. Heading down the Cristalino River, we reached the Tele Spires and went west. Stopping to photograph a large number of chestnut-fronted macaws, Bruno spotted black-faced spider monkeys in the distance, high in the canopy in which they dwell. Only found to the south of the Tele Spires, their black cousins are to the north. Evolution in action..! A neotropical cormorant fly by in the formation of the Red Arrows was followed by another trying to take off at our approach. It repeatedly flapped its wings madly

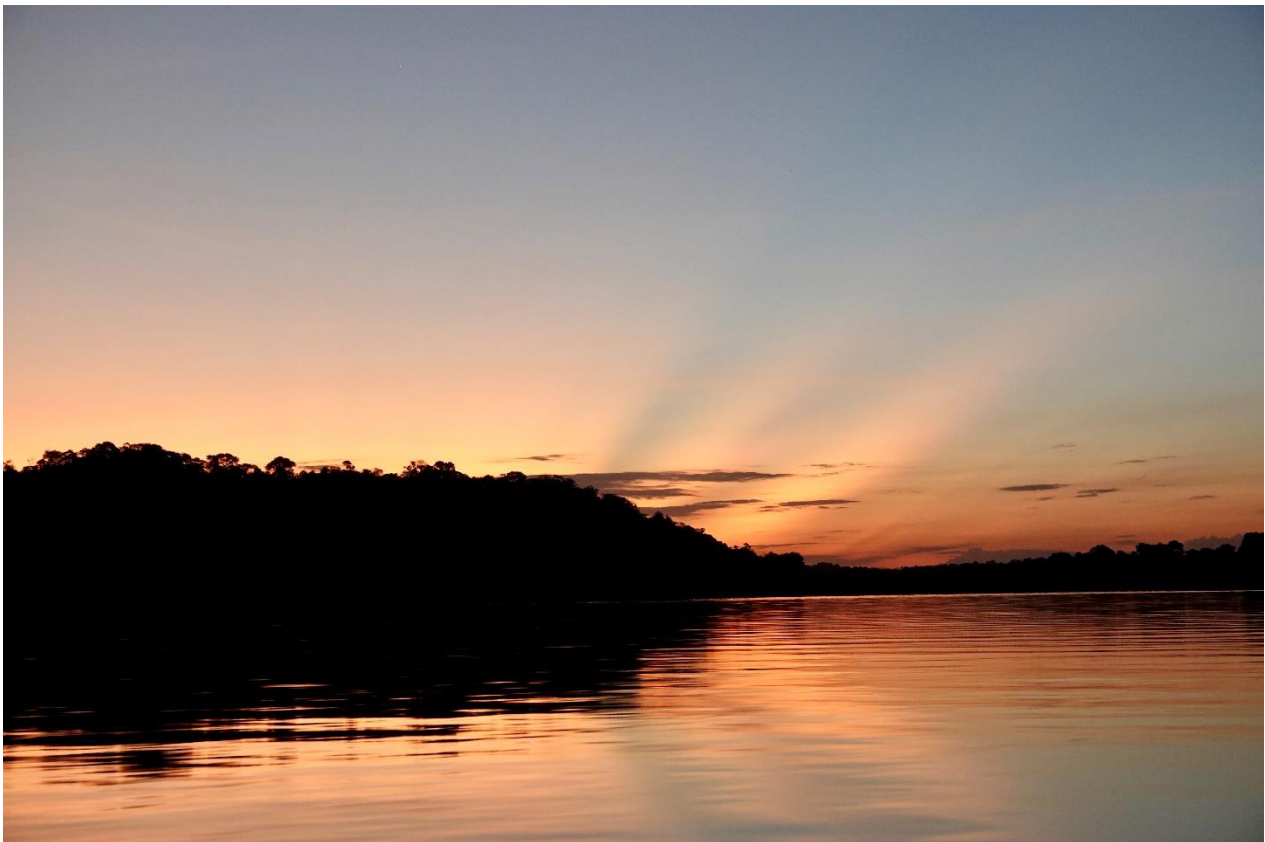
Find out more about our [Best of Brazil](#) trip or [contact us](#)

01962 302086 sales@wildlifeworldwide.com www.wildlifeworldwide.com



and ran across the water but gave up three times, simply face planting and disappearing below the surface when not gaining enough momentum. It proved to be a giggle starter! A squadron of white-eyed parrots came next, vocalising loudly as they passed. We stopped by a huge tree, dominating the area around it, its trunk covered in a native stingless bee nest. While we admired it and learnt that their honey is hallucinogenic, Bruno and Manuel surprised us with fresh juice and we bobbed on the river happily soaking up the evening sun and watching terns whizzing by.

We sped upstream as dusk approached, reaching a single tree on a small island covered in cattle egrets. Bruno advised us to simply watch and wait. In the distance, low over the water, came a wave of egrets who joined them. Wave after wave they came, like a tsunami, well and truly covering the tree's branches as they roosted for the night. The noise was fabulous as they jostled for space and the sun was setting when we tore ourselves away. The sky burnt orange, the colours deepening into what one client called, "The best sunset I've ever seen!". Perfectly placed clouds refracted light rays upwards at a 45 degree angle, a most unusual sight, and the colours intensified and plummeted to deep purple before we turned back into the Cristalino River as darkness fell.



By spotlight, we came across Schneider's dwarf caiman, boat billed heron and Bruno even found us a gladiator tree frog. Helen and Bruno saw a paca walking away up a river bank close to the lodge but it had disappeared before we could locate it for the group. All in all, it had been a marvellous day!

Find out more about our [Best of Brazil](#) trip or [contact us](#)

01962 302086 sales@wildlifeworldwide.com www.wildlifeworldwide.com

Day 11:

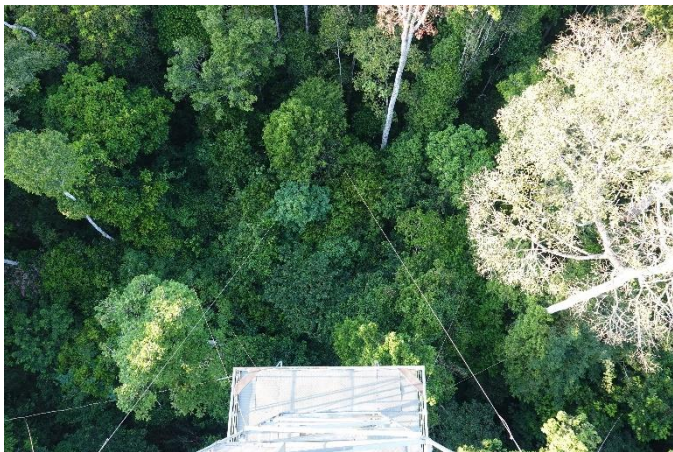
Exploring the Amazon

Weather: Sunny, 33 degrees

Thursday 04 July 2024

Despite the early start, we were looking forward to this! Our morning activity started at 04:00am with a temperamental coffee machine, fruit and cookies, just enough to sustain us for the next few hours until breakfast. We left the jetty half an hour later to the distant sound of howler monkeys and quickly crossed the river. Disembarking and walking into the forest in darkness, we tried to avoid the unnecessary noise of stepping on leaf litter as the light from our head torches picked up the eyes of multitudes of spiders lining the path once again. We stopped for a close up view of three whip scorpions and a tarantula before reaching the base of Canopy Tower II. Climbing steadily, we reached the 50 metre high platform as the horizon turned crimson to the east. The dawn chorus began with the cries of both collared and cryptic forest falcon, increasing in both intensity and participants as colour flooded the morning sky. Greyish mourners competed with woodcreepers and antpittas with screech owls as flies hovered high above us before completely disappearing as time went on. 'Flying rivers' appeared, lines of mist in the tree tops created by transpiration below, and as day broke, the fun really began!

A rainbow of colour was provided by blue-winged macaws who circumnavigated the tower while blue-headed parrots posed beautifully in the tree tops beneath us. We were dazzled by blue dacnis, paradise tanager and the striking purple of a pompadour cotinga. The tanager fest continued with a red-billed pied tanager fly by and a flame-crested individual settled next to two palm tanagers in our direct line of vision.



A curl-crested aracari soared from fruiting tree to fruiting tree, joined at one point by a red-necked cousin, and mealy parrots blended into the canopy only given away by their chattering. Time flew by. As we prepared to leave we were distracted by a flock of dusky-billed parrotlets and then, by a pair of white-necked puffbirds sitting right next to us. A better view became evident from the next platform down and as we continued our descent we listened to the lovely sound of a musician wren.

When we finally reached the forest floor and walked back to the river, we had to carefully negotiate interconnecting termite tunnels directly across our path, the view uncannily like that of looking down on a river delta. A drab water-tyrant greeted us back at the lodge and we headed straight for breakfast knowing that we'd earned it!

An hour later, while some of the group decided to relax and spot wildlife from the lodge, six of us were back on the boat and speeding south to the Tele Spires once again. We moored by a gorgeous sandy beach and dived into the cool water for a refreshing dip. With the sun shining down on us, we took in the emerald forest around us and greater yellow-headed vultures above. A swim in an Amazon tributary was certainly not what we had expected to happen but sipping freshly squeezed watermelon juice afterwards, as swallow tailed butterflies of the most gorgeous peacock green flitted everywhere, it proved to be a rather heavenly treat!

A shower, lunch and some downtime awaited us back at the lodge after which we gathered at the jetty at 15:30pm for a river cruise to the northern boundary of the reserve. Approaching a small set of rapids just upstream, we were finally able to photograph endangered yellow-spotted terrapins sunning themselves on rocks in the river. This was quite a feat as throughout our stay they had had the tendency to slip into the river at our approach. One was covered in orange butterflies (*Dryas iulia*) drinking it's tears. A little further on and another juvenile great black hawk was spotted in the open on a branch overhanging the river. We gloried in its banana yellow and black mottled colouring as it slowly moved along the river bank, peering under exposed roots, no doubt on the search for hidden reptilian prey. Being able to view a hunting raptor was such a treat that we stayed with it for quite some time before continuing up river.

Find out more about our [Best of Brazil](#) trip or [contact us](#)

01962 302086 sales@wildlifeworldwide.com www.wildlifeworldwide.com

Upon reaching the juvenile anaconda's favourite spot, we searched for it unsuccessfully once more, but did come across another reptile, a spectacled caiman, and a stunning striated heron, the afternoon sunshine highlighting its subtle plumage as it balanced on water hyacinth quite unperturbed by our presence. Rounding a corner a little later, a rufous-tailed jacamar hunted from a branch, its lime green and chestnut colouring offering remarkable camouflage. Next up, Bruno spotted a silvered antbird just above the water level, its voice far too big for such a tiny creature. The red belly of a black-tailed trogon flew low overhead, the red head of a lineated woodpecker gave its presence away high above us and a razor-billed curassow walked slowly along the waterline. Screeching scarlet macaws made us look up and sure enough, they flew across in their usual pair formations, settling on a tree high up in the canopy. We were impressed to learn that they can reach speeds of 56 kilometres an hour. They took off again, coming closer to us and swooping in unusual wide arcs, eliciting oohs and aahs from us as we marvelled at their aerodynamics. They landed directly above us to feast on fruit, their long tails acting like rudders as they ducked and dived through the foliage. Manuel skillfully kept us in the same spot in case they flew again but after several minutes, we decided to call it quits in order to continue our journey. At the end of the reserve we listened to the sounds of the forest before making our way slowly back towards the lodge as the light faded. Just before getting home, we added a new species, long-tailed nighthawk to our list, and over dinner we all agreed that the birding here is not only accessible, but sensational.

Day 12:

Alta Floresta to Campo Grande

Weather: Sunny, 31 degrees

Friday 05 July 2024

It is possible to sum up our final excursion in the Amazon in two words, HARPY EAGLE!



us and perched tall in a minimally leaved tree (thank you Wildlife Gods!), he was nothing short of magnificent, his distinctive crown of feathers and owl like facial bowl feathers clear to see. We looked at each other and grinned. We were in the presence of greatness.

He ducked repeatedly, eyeing the area below him intently and we hoped he may fly. This he duly did, coming to a stop in another sparsely leaved tree on an island to our left. Despite having his back to us, this afforded us a better view with the sun lighting up his side profile and we settled down to simply watch what he may do next. One more short flight and he manoeuvred into an even better position! He still had his back to us but he turned towards us repeatedly as he scanned the canopy for potential prey.

Leaving the lodge at 06:30am, we headed down river as a solo umbrella bird and a flock of golden-winged parakeets flew overhead. We had no sooner disembarked, negotiated the thick roots of the steep river bank and walked perhaps 30 steps or so on 'The Manakin Trail' when Bruno heard a message on his radio and promptly told us there was a change of plan. Rushing back to the river, we raced past the lodge and joined another naturalist guide, Rafael, and his clients who had spotted a harpy eagle sitting high in the canopy. Binoculars were not required (although they did help!) as we trained our eyes in the right direction and gawped. He was huge! Facing



Find out more about our [Best of Brazil](#) trip or [contact us](#)

01962 302086 sales@wildlifeworldwide.com www.wildlifeworldwide.com



Intermittently he preened, wing and tail feathers being lifted as he did so. When he finally flew away and out of sight, we realised we'd just spent an entire hour in his presence. What incredible fortune and what an extraordinary creature. It was a fitting end to an amazing four nights in the Amazon.

We left the lodge at 10:00am, said goodbye to our incredible guiding team of Bruno and Manuel and boarded our shared minibus transfer back to Alta Floresta with Lucas who had met us initially. Road works meant it was slow going at times but stunning heart of flame bromeliads lined the route adding a splash of colour. Our one hour flight to Cuiaba was on time and our luggage remained in transit as our onward connection to Campo Grande was not until this evening. Met by guide Fino, we boarded a minibus and set off for Mae Bonifacio Park, a haven for wildlife in the centre of the city. It was 35 degrees as we walked through the



scrubland on the lookout for black-tailed marmosets. A few minutes in and Fino was pointing out two guira tanagers in the treetops above us when we noticed a crashing through the trees on our right. There they were! Their tiny faces peered at us, coming ever closer until we were surrounded by several very cute (note the scientific term!) specimens. We stood or sat at the side of the road and were enthralled by their antics for over an hour. Lying spatchcock on branches, playing, grooming each other and peering under leaves for prey, they entranced us with their presence and one client commented, "It's like they've turned up for a photo shoot!"

Eventually they moved deeper into the vegetation so we started to walk once again, being surprised as an agouti shot out across the path in front of us. Another followed suit a little further on and then out came the birds, from little woodpecker to masked gnat-catcher and greyish saltator to blue-crowned trogon. We wanted to climb a small observation tower to look out over the park and as we made our way towards it, two yellow-chevroned parakeets landed by a tree termite mound on the trunk of a palm. Perched there, looking at us, they then disappeared inside it and we realised they must be nesting in there. A thrush-like wren sang as we approached the tower and once at the summit, the setting sun set the sky ablaze. Perfect timing!

Find out more about our [Best of Brazil](#) trip or [contact us](#)

01962 302086 sales@wildlifeworldwide.com www.wildlifeworldwide.com

As we departed, we were treated to several toco toucan fly bys and by 18:15pm, we arrived at the Aeroporto Grill to happily sip cold water and welcome beer. Fifteen minutes later the buffet opened with plenty of salads, vegetables, sushi and more on offer, then the Brazilian charcuterie began. Hunks of beef, chicken and lamb (the latter being described by the waiter as 'Baaaaaaaa' to get over the language barrier!) were carried around the restaurant and slivers were cut by your plate if you wanted them (there was plenty of choice for vegetarians too). A wedding party arrived but we had a plane to catch and returned to the airport flying into Campo Grande at 22:20pm. 25 minutes later we fell into bed at the Hotel Deville, safe in the knowledge that we could sleep in tomorrow. Hoorah!

Day 13:

Saturday 06 July 2024

Campo Grande to Bonito

Weather: cloudy with some sunshine, 30 degrees

We enjoyed a leisurely breakfast and morning before departing for Bonito, a holiday town some four hours away at 11:00am. The first hour of our journey was spent negotiating the busy streets of Campo Grande after which the land opened up to agriculture with livestock and grains the predominate industries. We stopped for another all you can eat buffet lunch, complete with flame grilled meats (again, vegetarians were well catered for) before continuing on. Keeping our eyes peeled for wildlife, we were rewarded first with a good flock of greater rhea and then suddenly, giant ant-eater! Just ambling along the side of the road, by the time we stopped and jumped out of the vehicle, it had disappeared into a field of corn. Hopefully, it would be the first of many though. A fork-tailed flycatcher perched atop a telegraph wire as we carried on towards Baraco das Araras, a sinkhole famous for its red-and-green macaws. As we turned onto the gravel approach road, we stopped for a nine-banded armadillo scurrying towards us, before it too disappeared into a field. The Pantanal section of the trip was certainly getting off to a good start and was looking promising.

It was decidedly cool as we disembarked and waited to meet our guide. Low cloud covered the earlier bright sky and the light diminished substantially. Grabbing fleeces, we walked the short trail to the first of two viewing platforms passing a male bare-faced curassow up a tree along the way. The macaws vocalised loudly above us and once at the sinkhole, it was impossible not to be impressed by the sheer size of it. A protected area since 2007, its vertical red cliff walls dotted with a few nesting pairs, contrasted with the dark green vegetation below. The fly bys began. Stunning red and green plumage popped, despite the low light, as they landed on branches around the perimeter. Buff-necked ibis screamed and black vultures glided silently by



Find out more about our [Best of Brazil](#) trip or [contact us](#)

01962 302086 sales@wildlifeworldwide.com www.wildlifeworldwide.com

providing photographic opportunities aplenty. We moved to the second platform as the macaws began to fly more readily. By now, it was almost dusk but we stood and watched them until it was time to move on to Bonito, just an hour away. Arriving at the simple but friendly Olho d'Agua after dark, we met up for drinks and dinner before an early night.

Day 14:

Sunday 07 July 2024

Bonito to Caiman Lodge

Weather: overcast and cool, 23 degrees

It was decidedly cool as we readied ourselves for the day and had breakfast before being picked up at 09:00am. The cold front had well and truly hit and we donned our layers for the three hour or so transfer to Caiman Lodge. 90 minutes in and we reached Miranda for a comfort break having seen capuchin monkeys and roseate spoonbills en route. The remainder of the journey entailed 40 kilometres of gravel road and we anticipated this taking just over an hour. Our eyes were on stalks for any wildlife we may see along the way and we weren't disappointed. Macaws and ibis were out in force as we passed farm after farm and once we entered Caiman Ecological Refuge land, we were met by a small herd of pampas deer. Diminutive animals, two males were adorned with velvety branched antlers and as we drove down a mature mango tree lined avenue, our anticipation grew. Passing one marshy area close to the lodge, we counted cocoi heron, limpkin, capybara, Yacare caiman, rufescent tiger heron, snowy egret and more.

Hyacinth macaws were visible as soon as we arrived at the lodge (they nest in the gardens) and following a welcome briefing with coffee, we headed straight to lunch. First impressions were excellent (especially of the dessert offerings!) and we literally couldn't wait to explore. After being shown to our spacious rooms, we had an hour or so to settle in (most of which was spent photographing birds) and we were asked to meet again at 15:15pm for an introduction to both the Pantanal and Caiman Lodge. Our naturalist guide Mauricio, took us through this covering geography, topography, terrain and the area's wild inhabitants, whilst also explaining that ecotourism here sits alongside cattle ranching. In addition, there are three research initiatives from blue-fronted parrots to hyacinth macaws and finally, Oncafari working with jaguars. Boosted by the news of recent sightings (maned wolf and ocelot had both been seen yesterday), we were raring to go as soon as the presentation ended.

At 16:15, we boarded our open sided, three-tiered safari viewer ably driven by Portuguese-speaking Pantaniero and master spotter Roberto. It took us 40 minutes just to leave the lodge! Scaly-headed parrots, southern lapwings (complete with barbed wings) and capybaras were so close that we had to enjoy their proximity. Lying down on our bellies to get close ups from ground level of the latter took quite some time



as the captivating 'happy capys' fed around us, some being followed by cattle tyrant. Their young, affectionately known as 'babybaras' were simply gorgeous. "Not bad for a creature related to the rat!" remarked one client. We all had a laugh when just as Mauricio was explaining that females have a tendency to fight, one started chasing another on the other side of the pond, causing them both to leap into the water, disappear from sight and then finally re-emerge close to us absolutely covered in water hyacinth! Around the same small body of water, we watched wattled jacana, Yacare caiman, rufescent tiger heron and the beautiful pastel facial features of two whistling herons.

Finally pulling away from the lodge, we came across pampas deer and our first black-collared hawk standing tall on a sand bank as bare-faced curassow busied themselves in the vicinity. We drove through palm thickets chockablock with screeching Chaco chachalaca and Azara's agouti darted across the road in front of us. As we began to lose the light, we pulled into a small water hole where Helen noticed a thick dark tail

Find out more about our [Best of Brazil](#) trip or [contact us](#)

01962 302086 sales@wildlifeworldwide.com www.wildlifeworldwide.com

directly below us. We stopped and a crab eating fox eventually moved into our spotlight, the first of many to be seen tonight. We followed it as it walked, then trotted down the road ahead of us and then we stopped to view the incredible camouflage of a pauraque by the side of the road.

We drove past numerous lagoons, stopping at one so that clients could notice the sheer number of caiman eyes that get picked up when you are directly behind the light. Passing the spotlight down each tiered row meant we could all see them while fireflies flickered on the other side of the vehicle. Black-crowned night herons fished next to boat-billed herons and a red Brocket deer walked across the road disappearing steadily into the night.

We enjoyed 'pizza night' once back at the lodge and then retired to bed in anticipation of an early start tomorrow.

Day 15:

Monday 08 July 2024

On safari

Weather: overcast and cold, 16 degrees

We were on the road by 05:30am this morning, wrapped up against the cold as we set off in the dark. Whilst stopping to allow a red Brocket deer to cross the road, Mauricio heard a spectacled owl and we waited to see if this rarely seen nocturnal creature may appear. It didn't, so we pressed on, circumnavigating the airstrip searching for giant-eater. With no sign of these yet either, we crossed the over one hundred year old bridge by the lodge, spotting a lone caiman appearing to float vertically in the water below. We then stopped to view a pair of Aplomado falcons perched on two fence posts by the lodge lake. A large group of 50 or so white-lipped peccaries came next, practicing geophagia as they snuffled up the soil for minerals. A vermilion flycatcher perched obligingly on a dead palm frond and we came across our first jabiru storks. Amazed at their size, we watched them search for nesting materials as an orange-backed troupial flew above them.

We knew a bush breakfast was in store and when we arrived at the scene, hammocks, chairs and a buffet breakfast had been set up next to a waterhole. We tucked into fruit, fried eggs and a traditional Pantaneiro dish of rice with meat before heading to the water for a little birding. Once we continued on our way, more birding ensued as we passed a large flock of guira cuckoos associating with anis. By the end of the morning 16 more species had been added to our ever growing list including plush-crested jay, great antshrike and chotoy spinetail. Flora was not ignored either and we all got to smell the lovely perfume of a gorgeous whitish-pink Sweet William type flower, *Vernonia scabra*. Capuchin monkeys cavorted high in the trees above us adding mammals into the mix too.



Following lunch and a little rest time, we were back on the road by 15:30pm greatly excited by the news that a jaguar had just been found not too far from the lodge on a kill. We could barely contain ourselves as we approached, noticing high numbers of black vultures and southern caracaras dotted amongst the surrounding trees. And then we saw him. An absolute monster of a male, he had an open wound on his head but otherwise was in immaculate condition. He was huge. He was lying a few metres from the kill casually licking his colossal paws and ignoring us completely. He yawned, his massive incisors clearly visible and then he stood up, stretched a little and changed

position. He stood up again and moved through the fence next to him with ease (despite his full belly), settling down again on the other side. Eventually we moved to join him as he steadily watched us before simply flopping his body weight down flat into the grass. He rolled onto his back, paws held aloft and settled

Find out more about our [Best of Brazil](#) trip or [contact us](#)

01962 302086 sales@wildlifeworldwide.com www.wildlifeworldwide.com

to sleep off his meal. We must have stayed almost an hour, this was the group's very first jaguar after all (and he was an awesome beast!) before deciding to try for giant-anteaters elsewhere.



We crossed the lodge bridge, passing grey-breasted martins as we went, and headed towards the air-strip. The light was fading as we passed the staff village with hyacinth macaws and a plethora of parrots and parakeets flying low overhead. We searched the grassy fields and eventually Mauricio pointed triumphantly ahead, double checked he had what he hoped for in his binoculars, and sure enough, there appeared in front of us, one of the strangest, most incredible creatures to roam this planet. It is almost back to front with its snout that looks like a tail and its long, thick shaggy tail that is easily as long as its actual body. We watched in wonder as it walked across our field of vision. Then another was spotted. Double trouble! We snapped away, hoping there was enough light to capture the moment before darkness fell.

We were back at the lodge dropping off one client when we heard that another jaguar had just been spotted not far from the lodge. Did we want to go and find it? Of course we did! We dashed back into the field, passing our first Brazilian rabbit in the road, and before we knew it, came across a large herd of cattle running next to the road. We waited. Bringing up the rear, and trotting behind them steadily was a female jaguar!

Find out more about our [Best of Brazil](#) trip or [contact us](#)

01962 302086 sales@wildlifeworldwide.com www.wildlifeworldwide.com

Following her, we watched her run then hang back, repeating the pattern regularly. She turned towards the road and we followed her as she stopped at a waterhole right in front of us for a drink. She was mesmerising. We were metres away from her and she showed no sign of any issue with that whatsoever.



She carried on, speeding up again to get closer to the herd. We followed her off road and stayed with her as her head and ears went down, her shoulders dropped and she went into full on stalk mode. We hardly dared to breathe as she got closer and closer. One cow had its head down, feeding on grass, neck ridiculously exposed and completely unaware of the danger it was in. From our angle she appeared to be literally metres away. She sprang forward as if to charge but in the exact same instant, seemed to change her mind, retreating. Clearly the conditions were not quite right. Nevertheless the cows bolted and she nonchalantly changed direction walking further across the plain. We continued to follow as she walked until we lost her. We literally couldn't believe our luck at the behaviour and events just witnessed.

Trying to process the afternoon as we headed back towards the lodge, we decided to quickly check the area in which an ocelot had been seen the night before we arrived. We had nothing to lose but were unsuccessful. Returning to the lodge did afford us a fabulous sighting of a boat billed heron in a tree though. Looking directly at us, the width of its bill gave it an almost primate illusion, and we watched it fly from branch to branch searching for prey in the waterhole below.

The mood was jolly as we tucked into dinner on our eventual return yet we were all in bed by 21:00pm again. It is tiring work this wildlife viewing you know!

Day 16:

On safari

Weather: wet and cold, 15 degrees

Tuesday 09 July 2024

Rain had fallen during the night and we departed under low grey skies on our morning safari. We were excited to be out however, buoyed by the events of yesterday afternoon and our first stop was to check on the big male to see if he was still with his kill. Seeing numerous black vultures on the ground as we

Find out more about our [Best of Brazil](#) trip or [contact us](#)

01962 302086 sales@wildlifeworldwide.com www.wildlifeworldwide.com

approached the area told us that he had moved on. With no sign of him, we photographed rows of vultures and a lone caracara sitting on fence posts in a row before moving on to where we'd left the female, just in case she had successfully hunted after we left her. We drove through the now dry floodplains disturbing group after group of black-hooded parrots whose vivid lime green colouring was intense against the sunburnt grass in the low light. With no sign of her either, we were thrilled to hear on the radio that another jaguar had been seen very close to where we were and we sped up to try and get to her before she moved off.

We rounded a slightly raised circular hummock and joined an Oncafari vehicle who pointed out that she was underneath the heavy low-lying branches of a large tree. Screened by a dark green shrub we took in the lesson in camouflage, only seeing her when she moved her head and ears. Apparently she had a kill. Suddenly she stood up and initially we could only see the very end of her tail flickering occasionally. Wonderfully though, she started to walk. Slowly but surely she moved into the open and then walked away from us. Giving her space to decide her movements, we didn't follow until a suitable distance had passed. She sat down and we noticed she was collared for research purposes. She watched us move towards her, her body language very relaxed, and then slowly got up again, moving backwards and forwards as if trying to decide what to do next. Her belly was huge, almost dragging on the floor and we wondered if she was looking for somewhere to defecate. She turned into thick vegetation and disappeared. She was jaguar number three for us. Wow!

We decided to try our luck at the tapir kill that we'd driven past yesterday, meandering past waterholes as we went. At one, we watched a giant egret catch and swallow a fish, while at another we admired the elegance of flying jabiru storks once more as well as the buttermilk rumps of flying whistling herons. A blue fronted parrot made us laugh when the branch it was walking along to feed buckled under its weight. Somehow it clung on and righted itself!

Upon reaching the tapir kill site, we drove through the impossibly tall grass in time to see the outline of a large male jaguar moving through the undergrowth. Shrouded by thick vegetation and deciding that we would be unlikely to see much more of him for a while, we made our way back to the road and couldn't believe our eyes when another female appeared on the other side of a small water course. She was also huge (there's a theme here!) and she was collared. She walked down the road ahead of us, sniffing vegetation, seemingly quite unconcerned by our presence. She walked down a track and into thick bush and we grinned widely at each other. Five jaguars in less than 24 hours. This was brilliant!

A very English rain had begun to fall and we decided to head back towards the lodge for a bathroom break before a quick recce to the airstrip to look for giant ant-eaters. 25 minutes later though and the rain was falling steadily, we were cold, and having been out for over four hours already, we decided to call it a morning. We took the opportunity to drink hot tea, sort through photos, and meet up again for a lovely (and laughter filled) lunch at 12:30pm.

Building in a little time to work out the most appropriate way of layering our multiple items of clothing whilst enabling quick access to binoculars and cameras under lodge ponchos and rainwear (!), we set off intrepidly once again at 15:30pm. A quick circumnavigation of the airstrip yielded no sightings of giant ant-eaters just yet but we did see a pair of burrowing owls and a client spotted three American kestrels sitting on fence posts by the staff basketball court. We took off towards the north where after passing through an undulating oasis of urucuri and macauba palms where common piping guans flew through the trees, the jungle gave way to open fields filled with cattle. Their gentle faces watched us as we passed and upon entering a gate into a sparsely vegetated field, they ran towards us perhaps thinking it was feeding time. They came en masse and followed us for some distance as we continued our search for giant-anteater. On and on we drove, eventually stopping just beyond a waterhole to enjoy nuts and freshly made cookies.

Turning around, Helen asked Roberto to stop for a second so she could check a shape in the distance. Confirming it was indeed an ant-eater we made our way towards it as night fell. It seemed a little skittish so we stopped regularly, giving it a chance to get used to our presence but it unfortunately made its way back towards a wooded area and disappeared from view...but at least we'd all seen it.

Find out more about our [Best of Brazil](#) trip or [contact us](#)

01962 302086 sales@wildlifeworldwide.com www.wildlifeworldwide.com

Retracing our steps we headed back towards the air-strip and then turned off into a field continuing our quest. Clearly Roberto and Mauricio had not given up yet. Passing from Cerrado back into Pantanal vegetation, we drove through thick jungle with massive palm fronds hanging over us like umbrellas. Illuminated by our spotlight, we half expected Tarzan to pop out at any minute! We recognised that we would end up by the bridge where we'd previously searched for ocelot. Cutting the engine, we stopped and could scarcely believe it when a decidedly feline shape came over a mound of grass on the other side of the water and materialised into this graceful, fluid cat! Keeping the light firmly fixed on it, we held our breath as it calmly walked along the waterline over rocks and under the bridge before disappearing. We were nothing short of thrilled!

Whilst in the area, we decided to once again try the airstrip and we came up trumps with a giant ant-eater walking through the night. It did not let us approach so we watched it from a distance before being driven to a bush dinner. We hadn't been given any detail about it but as we crossed over the bridge by the lodge, we saw an enormous fig tree lit up, dominating the night sky. We drove towards it and were dropped off at the stables where we were greeted with a shot of cachaca, Pantaneiros singing with guitars and a very welcome and warming roaring fire. A huge buffet was ready for us to enjoy and as per our meal in Cuiaba, hunks of meat on skewers were sliced next to us upon request. A lovely evening ensued, completed by roasting marsh-mellows whilst being watched by inquisitive (and close) crab eating foxes. A spot of dancing later, our ponchos giving us an air of whirling dervishes, rounded off a lovely and quite unexpected evening.

Day 17:

On safari

Weather: overcast and cold, clearing briefly at sunset, 15 degrees

Wednesday 10 July 2024

After breakfast at 06:30am, we set off at 07:00am with the cold and grey conditions prevailing. A few raindrops fell as we left the lodge but after that, it remained dry all morning. We got off to a good birding start, reaching the two hundred mark with sightings of red-billed scythebill, golden-winged cacique and golden-green woodpecker. We stayed off the main roads, trying our luck down quieter but thickly vegetated areas on the search for jaguar and tapir. We found tracks for the latter but in general it was a fairly quiet morning with little radio communication between vehicles. We still found plenty to keep us occupied, checking waterholes regularly and coming across a jabiru stork sitting down, it's knee caps bending the opposite way to ours. We stopped to remove some thread wrapped around a palm tree trunk. It transpired to be the waterproof fungus that caciques and oropendulas use when constructing their hanging nests.



Driving past Baiazinha Lodge, a small lodge usually booked out in its entirety by groups, we spent some time admiring the wealth of birdlife in the lake it overlooks. We loved the beautiful pinks of roseate spoonbills and the elegance of three marsh deer that walked tall through the water, their rich chestnut coats and long black legs not unlike maned wolf. Close by, Roberto spotted a great potoo stationary in a tree, its camouflage simply sensational. We walked towards it and zooming in on photos taken, we could clearly see its closed eye, bristles and bill, yet with the naked eye it was simply a stunted branch. As we departed, a savanna hawk swooped in low before us, caught a bird in its talons and proceeded to de-feather it once perched in a tree. A pair of brown Brocket deer peered warily out of tall green grass by the side of the road and then jumped away like Bambi as we passed. We watched a caracara eating fruit in the road ahead of us

Find out more about our [Best of Brazil](#) trip or [contact us](#)

01962 302086 sales@wildlifeworldwide.com www.wildlifeworldwide.com

and then finally (finally!), a pair of whistling herons stood still long enough for us to photograph them!



The sun was trying to come out as we reached the lodge and during lunch, it finally did...but not for long. It was certainly a little warmer though and before the afternoon safari we walked the grounds photographing the plethora of bird life contained therein as well as a gorgeous crab eating fox that simply sat quietly as one client spent 15 minutes photographing it.

On the wish list for our final safari was giant ant-eater by day, armadillo and jaguar. We put it out to the universe and the universe delivered. Talk about going out with a bang! As we left the lodge and headed out



into the broad open area close to the stables, we couldn't believe our eyes as a giant ant-eater walked directly towards us. It was suggested that we could walk with it and we scrambled off the vehicle as quick as a flash. Staying in a line behind Roberto, we silently watched it, grins spread across our faces. Quite unconcerned, it continued towards us and then skirted the edge of a waterhole and we followed behind. It repeatedly used its front legs to possibly remove ants or termites from its long snout (or simply alleviate an itch?) and finally disappeared into some long grass just past another waterhole. It had been so relaxed in our presence and we were delighted.

Capitalising on our luck, we hot footed it to the staff village and asked the first person we saw if they'd seen any 'tatu'? He nodded and pointed and we geared up to jump down once again. Into the village we walked and there it was, a six-banded armadillo scurrying around, nose to the ground, just not keeping still. We followed it, freezing when it did, and then out popped another! We split up, following our preferred one, crouching low to the ground to capture images. They were brilliant! Bare-faced curassows also vied for

Find out more about our [Best of Brazil](#) trip or [contact us](#)

01962 302086 sales@wildlifeworldwide.com www.wildlifeworldwide.com

attention as did a number of toco toucans posing in banana plants in the kitchen garden and later, aracarís. One hour into our drive and we had enjoyed brilliant sightings of two of our target species.



Pressing on we hoped to ride the crest of the wave. Hopes soared when we heard plush-crested jays calling by the waterhole where the female jaguar had drunk two nights ago before stalking cattle. Knowing this was her territory, we turned off the road and followed an old track through a beautiful mix of grassland and palms to investigate. The sun finally broke through and we revelled in the afternoon light. Senses on full alert, we scanned the area but to no avail. Returning to the main road we caught our first tepid sunset since arriving in the Pantanal and as dusk fell, we followed five Pantaneiros riding ahead of us down the road. As we commenced our night drive, we heard that a planned stargazing experience had been cancelled due to cloud cover returning. Every cloud has a silver lining though, and ours was that a jaguar had been spotted exactly where we were due to stargaze!

Reaching the area soon after, we could see a massive male highlighted in another vehicle's spotlight. Walking slowly around the perimeter of a meadow area, his belly hung low as he slowly stepped through the grass and Roberto identified him as the individual we'd seen on the cattle kill two days ago. Once again, he was magnificent. We followed him, watching him urinate and stop to smell particular areas until he disappeared into thick bush. Anticipating that we may intercept him at the next road if he stayed on course, we drove there but he eluded us. Nevertheless, we'd had six sightings of five individuals and we absolutely couldn't complain at that.

Another bush dinner was in store and just a short distance away, we walked along a candle lit path to an open area strewn with hundreds of lanterns. It was a truly magical scene. Greeted with mulled cachaca, we sat in deep, comfy chairs and enjoyed the warmth of fire pits before tucking into a fantastic BBQ meal. Far too much food and more marsh-mellows later and we returned to the lodge to say goodbye to our fantastic guiding team, Mauricio and Roberto. We also said goodbye to two of our party who were leaving after us as they were extending their holiday with a visit to Iguassu Falls.

Find out more about our [Best of Brazil](#) trip or [contact us](#)

01962 302086 sales@wildlifeworldwide.com www.wildlifeworldwide.com

Day 18:**Thursday 11 July 2024**

Campo Grande to London

Weather: sunny, 20 degrees

Leaving bags outside our rooms at 04:30am, we headed to the bar for coffee and fruit before departure half an hour later. Our packed breakfasts sustained us during our four hour drive to Campo Grande and flight to São Paulo. As our bags were checked through to London, we were handily luggage free as we made our way to the airport Marriott where rooms had been booked for our long transfer in the city. Taking the chance to relax, we had a superb lunch in the welcome sunshine and heard from the remaining clients in the Pantanal that they'd had a fruitful last safari coming across crab-eating racoon, agouti and a large herd of white-lipped peccaries.

After a few hours of rest, we made our way back to the airport using the complimentary shuttle bus (in unexpected heavy traffic) for our overnight direct flight to London.

Day 19:**Friday 12 July 2024**

Campo Grande to London

Arriving midafternoon we said our final goodbyes having experienced magnificent wildlife over the last few weeks and having laughed our way across Brazil. With a lifetime of memories, it was now time for some rest!

Sign up to our e-news

Sign up to our e-news to find out more about our tours, events, late availability, offers and tour reports at <https://www.wildlifeworldwide.com/subscribe>

Find out more about our [Best of Brazil](#) trip or [contact us](#)

01962 302086 sales@wildlifeworldwide.com www.wildlifeworldwide.com

Checklist for Best of Brazil



	Common Name	Scientific Name	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8	Day 9	Day 10	Day 11	Day 12	Day 13	Day 14	Day 15	Day 16	Day 17	Day 18
	MAMMALS																			
1	South American tapir	<i>Tapirus terrestris</i>			✓			✓												
2	Collared peccary	<i>Tayassu tajacu</i>			✓															
3	Brazilian guineapig	<i>Cavia aperea</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓												
4	Crab eating fox	<i>Cerdocyon thousand</i>				✓	✓	✓								✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
5	Pampas deer	<i>Ozotoceros bezoarticus</i>				✓	✓	✓								✓	✓	✓	✓	
6	Grey (brown) brocket deer	<i>Mazama gouazoubira</i>				✓													✓	
7	Black-tufted marmoset	<i>Callithrix penicillata</i>				✓	✓	✓												
8	Maned wolf	<i>Chrysocoron brachyurus</i>					✓													
9	Three-banded armadillo	<i>Tolypeutes tricinctus</i>					✓													
10	Proboscis bat	<i>Rhynchonycteris naso</i>									✓									
11	Brown capuchin monkey	<i>Cebus apella</i>									✓	✓				✓	✓	✓		
12	Capybara	<i>Hydrochaeris hydrochaeris</i>										✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
13	Lesser sac-winged bat	<i>Saccopteryx leptura</i>										✓								
14	Black-faced spider monkey	<i>Ateles chamek</i>										✓								
15	Black-tailed marmoset	<i>Micro melanurus</i>												✓						
16	Azara's agouti	<i>Dasyprocta azarae</i>												✓		✓	✓		✓	
17	Giant ant-eater	<i>Myrmecophaga tridactyla</i>													✓		✓	✓	✓	
18	Nine-banded armadillo	<i>Dasybus movemcinctus</i>													✓					
19	Red brocket deer	<i>Mazama americana</i>														✓	✓		✓	
20	White-lipped peccary	<i>Tayassu pecari</i>															✓			✓
21	Jaguar	<i>Panthera onca</i>															✓	✓	✓	
22	Brazilian rabbit	<i>Sylvilagus brasiliensis</i>															✓			
23	Ocelot	<i>Leopardus pardalis</i>																✓		
24	Marsh deer	<i>Blastocercus dichotomus</i>																	✓	

Find out more about our [Best of Brazil](#) trip or [contact us](#)
 01962 302086 sales@wildlifeworldwide.com www.wildlifeworldwide.com

30	White-rumped monjita	<i>Xolmis velatus</i>				✓													
31	Grey monjita	<i>Xolmis cinereus</i>				✓													
32	Savanna hawk	<i>Heterospizias meridionalis</i>				✓													
33	Rusty-backed antwren	<i>Formicivora rufa</i>				✓													
34	Red-shouldered macaw	<i>Diopsittaca nobilis</i>				✓													
35	White woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes candidus</i>				✓													
36	Sayaca tanager	<i>Thraupis sayaca</i>				✓													
37	Swallow-tailed hummingbird	<i>Eupetomena macroura</i>				✓													
38	Lesser kiskadee	<i>Philohydor lictor</i>				✓													
39	Red-legged seriema	<i>Cariama cristata</i>				✓													
40	Laughing falcon	<i>Herpetotheres cachinnans</i>				✓													
41	Red and green macaw	<i>Ara chloropterus</i>				✓													
42	Pale-vented pigeon	<i>Patagioenas cayennensis</i>				✓													
43	Toco toucan	<i>Ramphastos toco</i>				✓													
44	Forktailed palm-swift/Neotropical palm swift	<i>Tachornis squamata</i>				✓													
45	Neotropical cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax brasilianus</i>				✓													
46	Common pauraque	<i>Nyctidromus albicollis</i>				✓													
47	Ferruginous Pygmy owl	<i>Glaucidium brasilianum</i>					✓												
48	Muscovy duck	<i>Cairina moschata</i>					✓												
49	Blue-tufted starthroat	<i>Helimaster furcifer</i>					✓												
50	Horned sungem	<i>Heliactin bilopha</i>					✓												
51	Lesser yellow-headed vulture	<i>Catharses burrovianus</i>					✓												
52	Campo flicker	<i>Colaptes campestris</i>					✓												
53	Rufous hornero	<i>Furnarius rufus</i>					✓												
54	(Lowland) hepatic tanager	<i>Piranga flags</i>					✓												
55	Pearl kite	<i>Gampsonyx swainsonii</i>					✓												
56	Rusty-margined guan	<i>Penelope superciliaris</i>					✓												
57	White-winged swallow	<i>Tachycineta albiventer</i>					✓												
58	Plain-crested elaenia	<i>Elaenia cristata</i>						✓											
59	Lineated woodpecker	<i>Dry octopus lineatus</i>						✓											
60	Pale-breasted thrush	<i>Turdus leucomelas</i>						✓											
61	Red-winged tinamou	<i>Rhynchotus rufescens</i>						✓											
62	Guira cuckoo	<i>Guira guira</i>								✓									

197	Great rufous woodcreeper	<i>Xiphocolaptes major</i>																✓		
198	White monjita	<i>Xolmis irupero</i>																✓		
199	Red-billed scythebill	<i>Campylorhamphus trochilirostris</i>																	✓	
200	Golden-winged cacique	<i>Cacicus chrysopterus</i>																	✓	
201	Golden-green woodpecker	<i>Piculus chrysochloros</i>																	✓	
202	Great potoo	<i>Nyctibius grandis</i>																	✓	
203	Golden-collared macaw	<i>Primolius auricollis</i>																	✓	
204	Collared forest Falcon	<i>Micrastur semitorquatus</i>																	✓	