



PHOTOS BY ANN AND ROB SIMPSON



BRAZIL

JAGUARS OF THE PANTANAL:
PHOTOGRAPHY WITH ANN & ROB SIMPSON

July 21 – August 1, 2023

Located in central-western Brazil, the Pantanal is the world's largest freshwater wetland and one of the most photographically productive habitats on the entire continent. This area harbors a world-record 82 species of large birds, in addition to marsh deer, coatimundi, tapirs, and giant river otters. But perhaps no other subject is as beautiful and dramatic as the Jaguar. During the dry season (June to October), they can be found resting in the shade on the white sand beaches and forested riverbanks. Embark on this exceptional photographic adventure providing opportunities for incredible close range photography of abundant wildlife and the majestic Jaguar.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Discover new photographic techniques amid the magical biodiversity of the Brazilian Pantanal.
- Venture on outdoor activities such as boat rides, forest hikes, and tower climbs.
- Turn your lens on birds and mammals from the Pantanal's only mobile canopy towers, strategically located near fruiting trees.
- Get close range exposure to jaguars and other wildlife while exploring the Cuiabá River via floating hotel and boat excursions.
- Adventure down the Rio Pixaim by boat to view giant otters up close.

holbrook.travel/simpson-br23

ITINERARY

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

JULY 21 - EN ROUTE

Depart from the United States. Please note that American citizens need a visa to enter Brazil and this needs to be obtained before your departure.

JULY 22 - CUIABÁ

Upon arrival in São Paulo, clear immigration and customs and then proceed to check in for your internal flight to Cuiabá. Transfer to the hotel in Cuiabá and check in, then meet with your group for your program orientation and dinner. *Overnight at Hotel Deville. (LD)*

JULY 23 - PANTANAL

After breakfast, transfer to the SouthWild Pantanal Lodge at the Fazenda Santa Tereza. Stops along the Transpantaneira are planned to photograph specialties like Whistling, Cocoi, Purple, and Capped Heron, among many others. The Pantanal has one of the densest wildlife populations in the world. SouthWild Pantanal is the only lodge in the Pantanal offering mobile canopy towers near fruiting trees and electric catamarans for long-lens photography on the intimate, wildlife-rich river that flows next to the lodge. These floating blinds are designed to allow you to quietly approach mammals and birds along the banks of the river. A tower blind allows for intimate photography of a nesting pair of Jabiru Storks, which normally have babies at this time. *Overnight at SouthWild Pantanal Lodge. (BLD)*

JULY 24 - PANTANAL

Early morning and afternoon activities such as boat rides, forest hikes, and tower climbs will confirm why this area could be called the Serengeti of South America. Always have your camera ready as there is exciting wildlife right around the cabins – lots of capybara with babies, crab-eating fox, giant anteater, crab-eating raccoon, brocket and marsh deer, black howler monkey, brown capuchin monkey, black-tailed marmoset, and even tapirs. There are some very large extraordinary birds like Toco Toucan, Hyacinth Macaw and Bare-faced Curassow. The feeders attract hummingbirds, as well as the striking Orange-backed Troupial, Yellow-billed Cardinal, Saffron Finch, Purplish Jay, and Bay-winged Cowbird. A walk on the trails may reveal colorful Helmeted Manakins and cryptic Great Potoos. There is even a blind set up to photograph ocelots (bring your flash and flashlight). *Overnight at SouthWild Pantanal Lodge. (BLD)*

JULY 25 - PANTANAL

After breakfast depart for the Jaguar Flotel from Porto Jofre, where you'll reach the 820-foot-wide Cuiabá River, the border between the Brazilian states of Mato Grosso and Mato Grosso do Sul. Complete the journey by boating 1.5 hours upstream to Three Brothers River. The 270,000-acre Meeting of the Waters State Park begins about a third of the way up the river to the flotel, which is located in the very heart of this remote, wild park. *Overnight at Jaguar Flotel Suites. (BLD)*

JULY 26 - PANTANAL

In addition to the jaguars, there are two groups of giant otters at Jaguar Flotel. One group is near the mouth of the Piquiri River and the other near the 330-acre island that lies seven minutes by boat upstream on the Three Brothers River. Today, continue exploring the Meeting of the Waters State Park in search of the giant otters and other wildlife. During the course of the next four days, explore the area by boat. After an early breakfast,



leave the camp for a full day boat trip to observe the diversity of the animals in the region. Watch for jaguars, tapirs, anteaters, giant otters, birds, and other animals common to this region. Use small motor boats to explore narrow and wild rivers in the core of this huge park. Recent guests have seen several of these huge predators during the day, many of them at very close (photography) range for extended periods. Return to the center at the end of the afternoon in time for dinner. *Overnight at Jaguar Flotel Suites. (BLD)*

JULY 27 - PANTANAL

Spend a full day searching for jaguars and other wildlife by boat. *Overnight at Jaguar Flotel Suites. (BLD)*

JULY 28 - PANTANAL

Spend the day searching for jaguars and other wildlife by boat. *Overnight at Jaguar Flotel Suites. (BLD)*

JULY 29 - PANTANAL

This morning boat back to the Pantanal Lodge and prepare for a full day of wildlife viewing. After breakfast enjoy an early morning walk in the surrounding area. Return prior to lunch in time to relax and explore the area on your own. This afternoon take a boat tour on the Rio Pixaim. This is an excellent location for bird watching as well as one of the best sites for predictable viewing of wild giant otters from a distance of only 3 to 16 feet away. Often they will come close to the boat, craning their necks and snorting loudly. Birds, including giant Ringed Kingfishers, will swoop in to take scraps of fish providing great photo opportunities. *Overnight at SouthWild Pantanal Lodge. (BLD)*

JULY 30 - PANTANAL

Full day of exploring the wildlife by boat and on hikes. *Overnight at SouthWild Pantanal Lodge. (BLD)*

JULY 31 - PANTANAL/FAREWELL!

After breakfast, drive 1.5 hours along the Transpantaneira back to the town of Poconé, and then an hour and 15 minutes on asphalt to the airport at Cuiabá for your afternoon flight to São Paulo. Upon arrival you will connect with your international flight home (most flights depart in the evening) or connect to your flight for your extension at the Wolf Camps. Dinner will be on your own. *(BL)*

AUGUST 1 - ARRIVE US

Arrival in the United States.

LAND PRICING

\$5,975 (minimum 10 participants)

\$5,225 (minimum 16 participants)

Includes: accommodations, meals, entrance fees, and activities as indicated in the itinerary, private transportation unless otherwise noted in itinerary, internal flights, non-alcoholic beverages with meals, local guides in each region for duration of program, and carbon offset.

Not included: international airfare, gratuities, or items of a personal nature. Holbrook can assist with flights to São Paulo from your home city if desired.

TRAVEL PROTECTION

Holbrook Travel purchases Travel Protection on behalf of all participants. These plans help provide coverage once the trip has departed and offer benefits for Baggage/Personal Effects, Accident & Sickness Medical Expenses, Emergency Evacuation and more.

Optional additional coverage is available in the form of the Group Deluxe Plan, which offers benefits for Trip Cancellation/Interruption, in addition to many other insurance benefits and non-insurance assistance services. If interested in this optional plan, we can provide you with rates and plan details.

RESERVATIONS & PAYMENTS

*Price is based on double occupancy. A deposit of \$500 is required by participants to register and reserve a space on the program. Reservations made less than 150 days prior to departure require full payment. **Deposit is not refundable.** Final payments are due February 21, 2023 and are not refundable.*

Please note: Itineraries may be subject to change due to protocols and adjustments related to the COVID-19 pandemic. For the latest information regarding our COVID-19 policies, please visit holbrooktravel.com/covid19



MEET YOUR LEADERS



ANN SIMPSON

Ann Simpson is a professor at her alma mater, Lord Fairfax Community College, specializing in biology, anatomy, and physiology. She and her husband, Rob, own Simpson's Nature Photography, organize nature photography and natural history tours around the world, and were the premiere photographers leading workshops in the national parks for Canon. The duo have also authored and provided all the photography for 19 books, primarily national park nature and wildflower guides, and a wildflower app for Farcountry Press and Falcon Guides.



ROB SIMPSON

Rob Simpson is a professor at Lord Fairfax Community College, where he teaches field biology courses in ornithology, botany, mycology, and ecology. He is program head for the Outdoor and Nature Photography Careers Certificate, and along with Ann, they are passionate about teaching professional photography techniques. Their images have been published in hundreds of magazines including National Geographic, Time, Audubon, and National Wildlife. Their books and photos have won numerous awards, and on the natural history tours they coach participants on how to bring home award-winning photos.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ENROLL

Visit holbrook.travellsimpson-br23 or contact Ann and Rob Simpson at annrobsimpson@snphotos.com

Optional Pre-trip Extension: Wolf Valley Camp, Parnaíba Headwaters National Park

July 14 – 22, 2023



ITINERARY

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

JULY 14 - DEPART US

Overnight flight to São Paulo.

JULY 15 - BELO HORIZONTE

Arrive in Belo Horizonte, transfer to your hotel and have dinner. *Overnight at Linx Hotel. (D)*

JULY 16 - PARNAÍBA HEADWATERS PARK

Arrive in the early morning to Belo Horizonte, take the hotel shuttle to the hotel for a short rest, then take the shuttle back to the airport for your flight to Barreiras. Upon arrival you will be met by your local guide and then journey the 150 miles by way of paved roads to the cliff and valley region of Wolf Camps, situated in the Parnaíba Headwaters National Park. Located in the wild savannas, Wolf Camp is the only place in the world where you are almost guaranteed to see the endangered maned wolves and flocks of 40-100 Hyacinth Macaws in perfect light. Settle in at the camp and then begin with wildlife viewing and dinner. *Overnight at Wolf Valley Camp. (BLD)*

JULY 17 - PARNAÍBA HEADWATERS PARK

This morning (4:30 am), coffee and a light breakfast will be served before you head to the macaw blind, just before dawn, to prepare for the arrival of Hyacinth Macaws who will come to feast on palm nuts in the dry forest clearing. The rare Hyacinth Macaw was near extinction, but conservation efforts, including ecotourism, helped save this spectacular bird, that is actually the largest species of Macaw. Locals now help guard the bird and protect its habitat as an economically significant natural resource. Return to camp at around 9 am for a proper breakfast and then drive 16 miles out to the center of the park to enjoy the amazing cliff scenery and search for birds such as Burrowing Owls, Red-legged Seriemas, Greater Rea and also nesting Blue and Gold Macaws. In the evening, you'll have the chance to see the maned wolf. The world's tallest wild canid, this long-legged, approximately 55 lb. wolf is considered to be the most attractive wild member of the canid family. The wolf is a solitary, specialized hunter of large rodents and birds in the tropical savannas and open, dry woodlands of Brazil and Bolivia. *Overnight at Wolf Cliffs Camp. (BLD)*

JULY 18 - PARNAÍBA HEADWATERS PARK

Full day exploring on the Wolf Cliffs Camp, and at the Hyacinth Macaw blind for birding. Some species are more readily observed in the Mato Grosso do Sul than on the main Pantanal trip including giant anteaters, giant armadillo, peccaries (2 sp.), Pampas deer (4 sp.), Tufted-eared Marmosets, black-and-gold howler monkeys, Brazilian porcupine, the

rare hoary fox, and of course maned wolves. Birds more easily observed include King Vulture, Swallow-tailed Hummingbird, Russet-mantled Foliage-gleaner, Collared Crescentchest, and Curl-crested Jay. Some species are cerrado (tropical savanna) specialists like the Cock-tailed Tyrant and White-rumped and White-banded Tanagers. Hyacinth Macaws are readily seen but there will be others that frequent the area like Blue-and-yellow, Red-shouldered, and Green Macaws, which will be nesting during this season. The rare Blaze-winged Parakeet, along with the Jenday Parakeet (a close relative to the extinct Carolina Parakeet), both frequent the area as well. Spend the evening observing and photographing the maned wolves. *Overnight at Wolf Cliffs Camp. (BLD)*

JULY 19 - PARNAÍBA HEADWATERS PARK

Early morning birding and photography at the Hyacinth Macaw blind followed by breakfast. After breakfast, you'll have time at leisure to explore and go birding, botanizing, or to seek out butterflies, frogs, and megamammals to photograph. The Simpsons will coach you on techniques for getting the perfect shot. Spend the evening observing and photographing the maned wolves. *Overnight at Wolf Cliffs Camp. (BLD)*

JULY 20 - PARNAÍBA HEADWATERS PARK

Early morning birding and photography at the Hyacinth Macaw blind followed by breakfast. The remainder of the morning is at leisure to relax or spend more time in the blind. After lunch, on the way back to Wolf Camp stop at a century-old grove of mango trees where black-and-gold howler monkeys lounge. *Overnight at Wolf Camp. (BLD)*

JULY 21 - PARNAÍBA HEADWATERS PARK

This morning drive approximately 40 minutes to an area of the park where habituated bearded capuchin monkeys use their own specially selected igneous rock to smash open the same palm nuts that the Hyacinth Macaws love to eat. *Overnight at Wolf Camp. (BLD)*

JULY 22 - CUIABÁ

This morning drive to Barreiras for the flight to Belo Horizonte, and then continue to São Paulo to connect to Cuiabá to start your main program. *(B)*

EXTENSION PRICING

\$5,225 (based on 6-10 participants)

\$4,555 (based on 11 participants)

Cost includes accommodations, meals, entrance fees, activities listed in itinerary, private vehicle transportation unless otherwise noted in itinerary, non-alcoholic beverages with meals, internal flights, full-time guide for duration of program, bottled water on the bus and carbon offset.

Cost does not include items of a personal nature, gratuities, or international airfare.

RESERVATIONS & PAYMENTS

*Cost is based on double occupancy rooms; single rooms are available at an additional \$620 per person. A deposit of \$200 is required by participants to register and reserve a space on the program. Reservations can be made online or by paper form. Reservations made less than 150 days prior to departure require full payment. **Deposit is not refundable.** Final payments are due February 14, 2023 and are not refundable.*

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