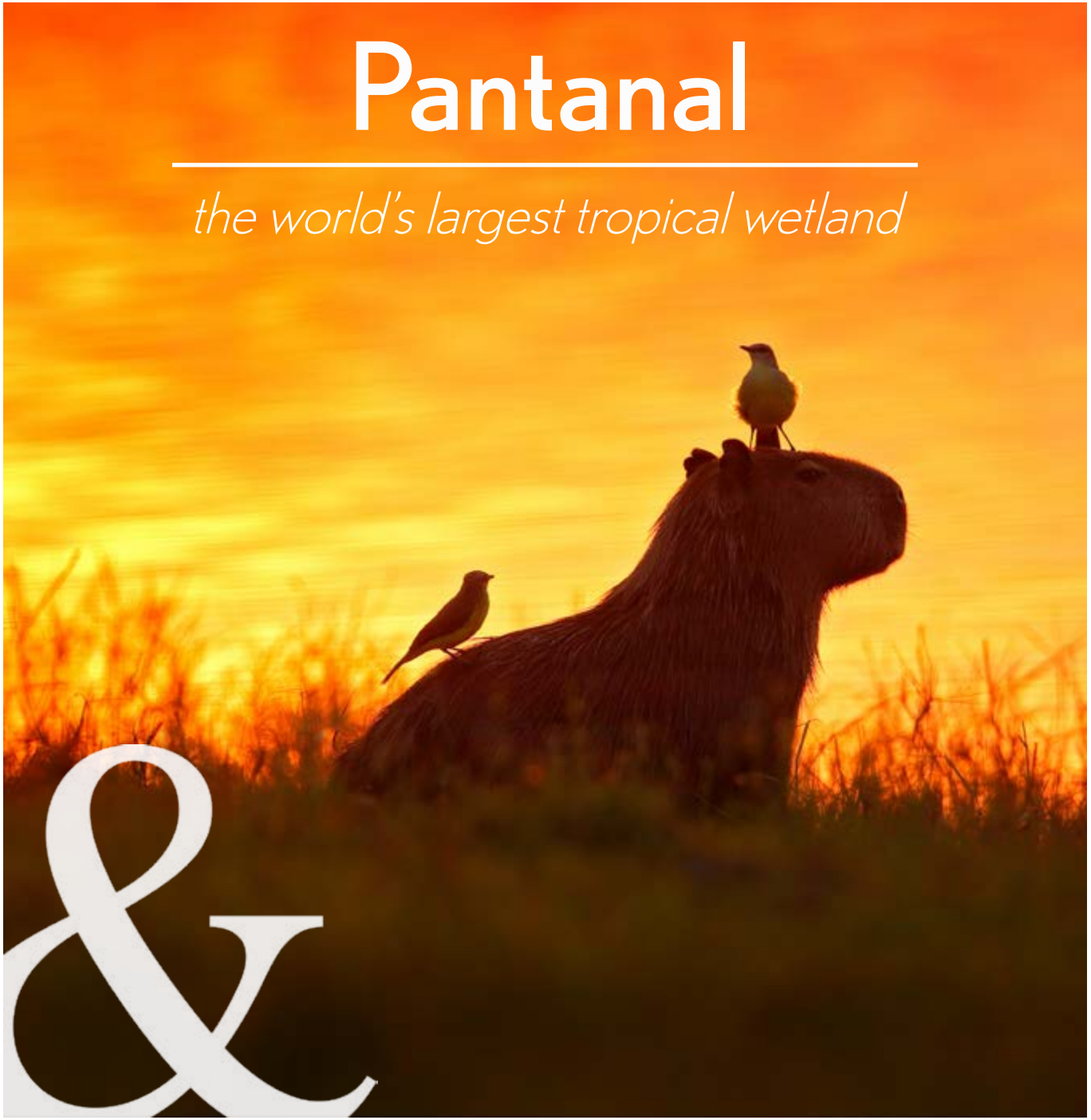
Abercrombie & Kent
BRAZIL

Pantanal

DESTINATION SPOTLIGHT



Weather: Tropical - 24°C (75°F) average
Rain Period: Between November and March
Best Time To Visit: March to November
Jaguar Season: July to October

About Pantanal

South America's wildlife sanctuary and largest tropical wetland. It is so large that it knows no borders and extends 195.000 km2 through Brazil, Bolivia and Paraguay! Besides the unique colorful fauna that is found here, the magnificent scenery is the habitat of the largest concentration of wildlife in the Americas. It shelters over 650 species of birds, 400 species of fish and 80 species of mammals, many of them endangered. Some of the species that call this place home include capybaras, tapirs, howler monkeys, caimans and jaguars. In fact, the Brazilian Pantanal is one of the few places in the world where you can see jaguars in the wild!

The region of Pantanal is shared in two Brazilian states: Mato Grosso and Mato Grosso do Sul. For this reason, we separate the region into the North Pantanal (with the gateway city of Cuiabá), and the South Pantanal (Gateway city of Campo Grande).

North or South Pantanal?

Both North and South are abundant in wildlife and here you can see many of the flagship species in both regions, including: capybara, giant and pygmy anteaters, marsh deer, pampas deer, peccary, crab eating fox, capuchin monkeys, howler monkeys and of course jaguars! However, the way this wildlife can be seen and experienced differs from North to South.

- If the main reason for the trip is to see jaguars, we highly recommend going to the North Pantanal to the Porto Jofre region, as there are higher possibilities to spot them here.

- If guests want an all-around wildlife experience, with great quality accommodations, then the recommendation would be going to South Pantanal, and staying at Caiman Lodge.

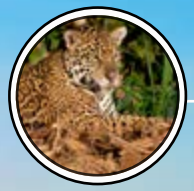
Jaguars can be spotted from June through October. The dry season makes the roads more accessible.

There are close to 10 million caimans in Pantanal. However, it is also easier to spot them during the dry season, due to dwindling lagoons.

The driest season in Campo Grande is from June through August. On the other hand, in Cuiabá, it's from mid-May through mid-September.

Monsoon season in Campo Grande is from mid-September to mid-May. As for Cuiabá, it is from October to April.

North Pantanal


Porto Jofre

Araras Lodge

Jaguar Suites

Getting there...

Cuiabá International Airport
Daily domestic flights from São Paulo, Brasilia, Belo Horizonte and Campo Grande.

For guests interested in...

- Wildlife viewing
- Searching for jaguars
- Birdwatching
- Photographic Sites
- UNESCO World Natural Heritage
- Sustainability Principles
- Nature

Where else can you travel?

- **Chapada dos Guimarães**
1.5-hour land transfer from Cuiaba.

- **Alta Floresta (Amazonia)**
1-hour flight from Cuiaba

- **Porto Jofre**
5-hour land transfer from Cuiaba.

Araras Lodge

Built in harmony with the environment amidst the breathtaking landscape of the Pantanal, it is reachable on an exciting two and a half hour safari-transfer in an air-conditioned vehicle. Araras Lodge offers a homely atmosphere with a rustic style, featuring just 19 comfortable rooms with A/C, a swimming pool, large verandas with hammocks, a reading room, a gift shop, a bar and a restaurant. The excellent regional food consists of dishes made with the tasty meat and fish from the Pantanal, as well as organic salads, vegetables and seasonal fruit.

Suggested Rooms

There are no room categories as such, but by booking through A&K we can ensure each guest gets the perfect room for them.

Why do we like it?

-Proximity to Cuiaba.
-Various observation towers, including a 25-meter howler monkey tower.
-Wide array of activities, including horseback riding, safaris and canoe navigations.

Who is it good for?

- Honeymooners
- Families
- Groups
- Wildlife enthusiasts
- Bird lovers

Remember

Although excursions are shared for small groups, private tours may be requested.

Jaguar Suites

Strategically located in the heart of "Jaguarland" along the Piquiri River, the Jaguar Suites is a floating barge that offers a high-quality hospitality experience. The eight spacious suites (28sq meters) with full-length windows and verandas is one of the only places in the world where you might see a jaguar from your room. Daily excursions on comfortable skiffs provide great chances to see jaguars, giant river otters, large caiman and capybaras among other regional wildlife. This is the perfect option for serious wildlife photographers or enthusiasts that want every opportunity to see jaguars in the wild.

Suggested Rooms

There are no room categories as such, but by booking through A&K we can ensure each guest gets the perfect room for them.

Why do we like it?

-Great for spotting jaguars.
-The only floating lodge in the Pantanal.
-Large and comfortable cabins.
-Private excursions.

Who is it good for?

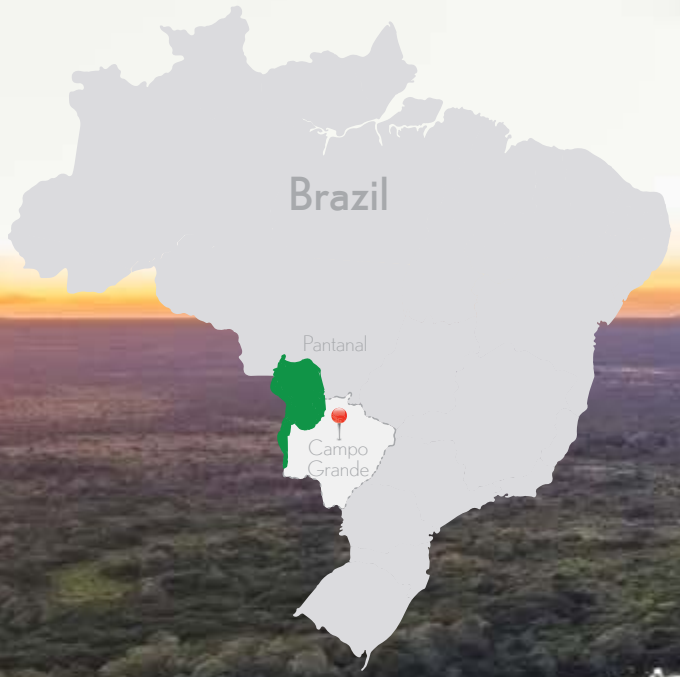
-Wildlife photographers
-Birding groups
-Groups

Jaguar Tour at Araras Lodge

This tour is highly recommended for anyone who wants to see jaguars and stay for fours nights at Araras Lodge from July to November

Enjoy breakfast at Araras Eco Lodge and start your journey in an air-conditioned vehicle, along 120km of the Transpantaneira Park Road, to the crossing of the Cuiaba River, in the region known as Porto Jofre. Board an outboard motor boat for an exciting river safari in and around the Meeting of the Waters State Park, searching the river shores and beaches for wildlife, with the special goal of meeting jaguars. During the tour, stop for a light picnic lunch (fruit and sandwiches) and return to Jofre embarkation port to drive along the Transpantaneira Park Road back to Araras Eco Lodge. Note that the tour is a 12-hour experience and roughly 95% of the groups will see wild jaguars.

South Pantanal



Pantanal Matogrossense National Park

Caiman Ecolodge

Getting there...

Campo Grande International Airport
Daily domestic flights from São Paulo, Brasilia, Belo Horizonte and Cuiabá.

For guests interested in...

- Wildlife viewing
- Searching for jaguars
- Birdwatching
- Photographic Sites
- UNESCO World Natural Heritage
- Sustainability Principles
- Nature

Where else can you travel?

- **Bonito**
3.5-hour land transfer from Campo Grande Airport.

- **Corumbá**
5-hour land transfer from Campo Grande Airport.

Caiman Ecological Refuge

In addition to ecotourism, Caiman is involved with cattle production, as well as environmental research and conservation projects, including the Hyacinth Macaw Project, Jaguar Project and Blue-Fronted Parrot Project, all done through partnerships with researchers and universities. The activities at Caiman start early in the morning taking full advantage of the best portion of the day to observe the wildlife. When the afternoon passes by and temperature cools off, it is time to go out for an afternoon excursion, another good time to see Pantanal and enjoy the wonderful local sunset. To enjoy all Caiman's scheduled activities a minimum three to four-night stay is recommended.

Suggested Rooms

Baiazinha - 6 standard-room lodge on stilts overlooking a large flooded plane.

Cordilheira - 5-room lodge decorated in contemporary style, with separate living room, bathroom and balcony.

Main house - 7-room villa recommended for private groups.

Why do we like it?

- Best accommodation in the Pantanal.
- Excellent resident naturalist guides and staff.
- In-house Jaguar monitoring project.
- Diverse activities and best wildlife viewing in South Pantanal.

Who is it good for?

- Honeymooners
- Families
- Groups
- Wildlife enthusiasts
- Bird lovers

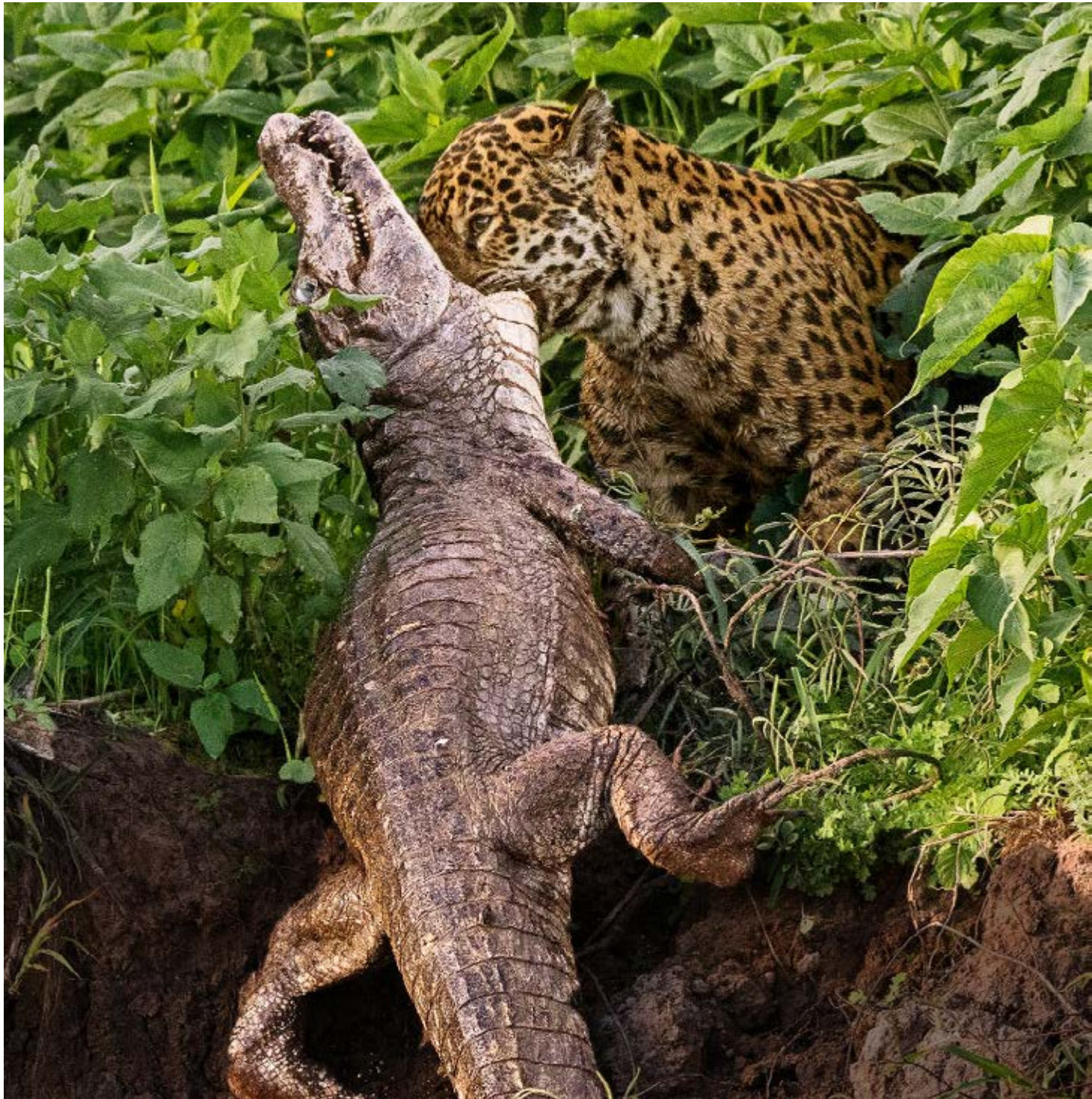
Excursions

Excursions are shared in small groups generally between 6-12 people.

Jaguar Safari at Caiman Ecological Refuge

The team spends a vast amount of time searching for clues that will point you in the right direction of nocturnal Jaguars as the sun sets down in the horizon. The trained Onçafari team will check previously set camera traps for any sign of Jaguars, look for tracks on the ground; try to locate kills that Jaguars might have made during the previous night, check data from satellites that follow the collared Jaguars and even search for them via a receiver that can capture VHF signals emitted by their collars. You may have a chance to experience tracking on foot with the expertly-trained trackers, to see first-hand pictures taken by the camera traps and experience all the technological features available. Once a sign of the animal is found you will attempt to locate the animal.

More often than not you will find the approximate location of the cats during the day, increasing your chances of finding them at night. Depending on circumstances, set out at sunset or just after dinner in order to see the elusive Jaguars. You will also be given a full presentation on the Project's work and objectives at the base station.



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Local Tips

Recommended Stay in Pantanal
3 nights

Did you know that

*During the rainy season up to 80% of the Pantanal is flooded.

*The Pantanal is larger than 29 US states and at least 9 European countries

*Studies show that 13,000-20,000 years ago the Pantanal was only a sandy desert. Now it is the world's largest wetland and is 10 times the size of the Everglades in the US.

*The Pantanal is home to 3,500 plant species, 656 bird species, 325 fish species, 159 mammal species, 53 amphibian species and 98 reptile species.

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