

Jaguar Kingdom: the Pantanal

with Sam Riley

Brazil | 12 Days | August 30 – September 10, 2025

Start in Cuiabá, Brazil | End in Cuiabá, Brazil.

*with optional pre-trip extension to **The Brazilian Amazon***



Travel with Sam

NATURALIST | FILMMAKER | PHOTOGRAPHER

An award winning filmmaker, wildlife photographer, scuba diver, and birder, Sam's passion for the natural world knows no bounds. Growing up in Seattle, his interests were sparked scouring the Pacific Northwest in search of birds, butterflies, and reptiles. Delving into his passions at an early age, he began participating in biodiversity research in South America when he was just 15 years old, sparking a love for travel.

Since earning his Bachelor of Science in Ecosystem Science and Policy from the University of Miami, Sam has worked as a scuba instructor in Australia, conducted primate research in West Africa, guided expeditions on all seven continents, and directed two award-winning films. With deep knowledge of animal behaviour and ecosystems, Sam is dedicated to sharing the joys of nature with others.



Pre Trip Extension

Day 1

Cuiabá / Southern Amazon

Day 2 – 3

Southern Amazon

Day 4

Southern Amazon / Cuiabá

Day 1

Arrive Cuiabá, Brazil

Day 2

Cuiabá / Taiamã Reserve

Day 3 – 4

Taiamã Reserve

Day 5

Taiamã Reserve / Pousada Piuval Lodge

Day 6 – 7

Pousada Piuval Lodge

Day 8

Pousada Piuval Lodge / Porto Jofre

Day 9 – 11

Porto Jofre

Day 12

Porto Jofre / Cuiabá / Depart

ADVENTURE HIGHLIGHTS

- Search for Brazil's iconic wildlife, including Jaguar and 5 other wild cat species, maned wolf, Brazilian tapir, giant anteater, giant river otter, dwarf caiman, yellow anaconda, and more.
- Experience incredible tropical birding, with opportunities to spot over 450 species, including specialties like Hyacinth macaw, greater rhea, red-legged seriema, and agami and zigzag herons.
- Enjoy superb photographic opportunities with stunning landscapes, abundant wildlife, and chances for close-up shots of Brazil's top predators.
- Stay in three beautiful, well-located eco lodges, indulge in farm-to-table cuisine, and immerse yourself in the tranquility of nature.
- Explore diverse habitats through day and night 4x4 safaris, nature hikes, river cruises, and for the adventurous, biking or horseback riding!

Join an optional pre-trip extension to explore the Amazon Rainforest, gaining a comprehensive overview of this captivating region and the opportunity to visit two of the world's most diverse biomes.

THURSDAY & FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4 & 5

Pousada Piuval Lodge

Spend two days immersed in the unique habitat around Piuval Lodge, one of the prime locations in the Pantanal for photographing Brazilian Tapirs. This area offers excellent opportunities to spot species that thrive in drier environments, such as anteaters, armadillos, foxes, and wild cats like Ocelot and Jaguarundi. Explore the expansive grounds through a variety of activities, including overland safaris, forest walks, and nightly excursions by vehicle and on foot. For those seeking adventure, ride horses through the “Corixo” (flooded area), providing a scenic journey through the northern Pantanal's stunning landscapes. For relaxation, enjoy the pool, the air-conditioned restaurant, a game of volleyball, or the views from the lodge's two lookout towers. Each evening, enjoy dinner and a restful night's sleep.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

Pousada Piuval Lodge / Porto Jofre

Begin your day with a sunrise safari, followed by breakfast and check out. Depart Piuval and journey deeper into the Pantanal via the Transpantaneira to reach Porto Jofre, renowned as the kingdom of the jaguar. Located on the banks of the Cuiabá River, this area boasts an unusually dense jaguar population, offering a high chance of spotting them hunting along the riverbanks. Upon arrival, check into your lodge and embark on an afternoon boat safari. While

navigating the river, keep an eye out for jaguars, giant otters, and abundant wading birds. Return to the lodge at sunset for dinner and overnight.

SUNDAY – TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7 – 9

Porto Jofre

For three unforgettable days, immerse yourself in the heart of the jaguar kingdom. Each day features extensive boat safaris on the Cuiabá River and its tributaries, providing ample opportunities to observe and photograph jaguars, giant otters, capybaras, various caiman species, yellow anacondas, hyacinth macaws, and a host of other wildlife in the Meeting of the Waters State Park. With morning and afternoon outings, you'll experience the thrill of seeing these magnificent predators up close, and with some luck, you'll capture world-class photos. When not exploring the rivers, enjoy hearty meals, relax by the pool, and explore the hotel grounds for local critters. Evenings are spent back at the lodge, where you can unwind, enjoy dinner, and recount the day's adventures.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

Porto Jofre / Cuiabá / Depart

Conclude your Pantanal safari with a final breakfast and check-out. Embark on an overland transfer back over the Transpantaneira to Cuiabá, soaking in the last sights of this remarkable region. Arrive around midday for lunch. Then head to the Cuiabá airport for your independently booked flight departure.



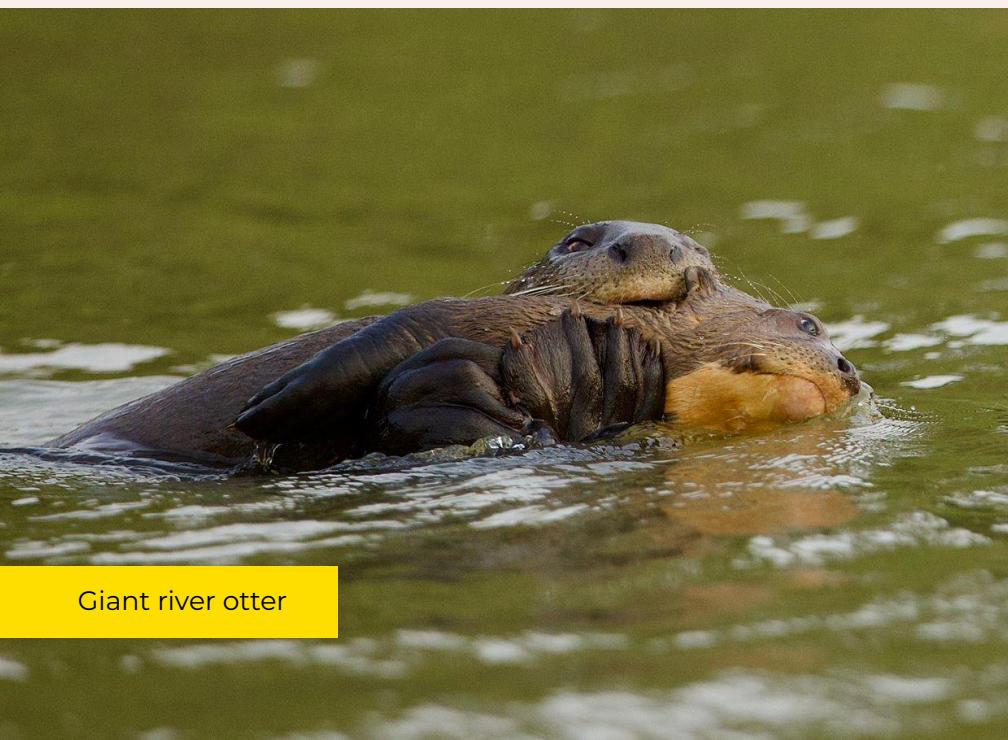
Caimans



Roseate Spoonbill



The elusive jaguar



Giant river otter



Hyacinth macaws



Giant anteater

Trip Accommodations



Biazinha Lodge

Biazinha Lodge is a remote, newly renovated ecolodge situated on the banks of the Paraguay River. With its own fleet of speedboats, the lodge offers direct access to the difficult-to-reach Taiamã Ecological Reserve. This prime location makes it an ideal destination for wildlife watching, and from mid-July to October, it provides the best chances of viewing jaguars. The lodge features 15 spacious, simply decorated rooms with air conditioning and mini-fridges. Amenities include a pool, locally inspired homemade food, a terrace for relaxation, and a games room with a pool table, offering a perfect blend of adventure and comfort in the heart of the Pantanal. Other activities include horseback riding, cycling adventures, and hiking the private trail systems.

Pousada Piuval

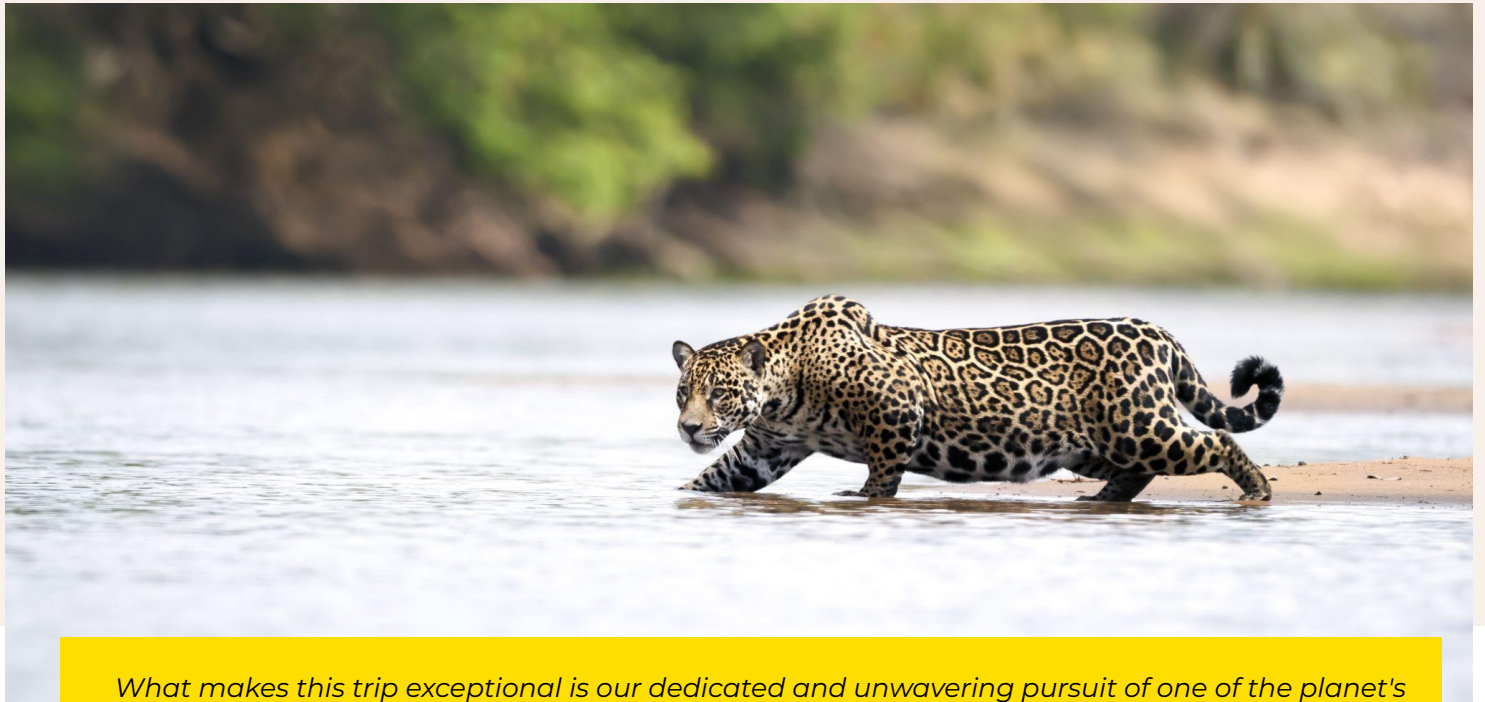
Pousada Piuval, located at the northern end of the Transpantaneira Highway, sits on a 7000-hectare cattle ranch in the Pantanal. The lodge features 21 air-conditioned rooms with private bathrooms and screened windows. Guests can enjoy traditional Pantanal meals in the restaurant, a swimming pool, and a volleyball court. Adventure activities include boat rides in search of wildlife in the Bay of Piuval, horseback riding through the Corixo swamp, photo safaris, and bicycle tours. This prime location offers excellent wildlife viewing opportunities, with frequent sightings of species that are harder to find in other, wetter areas.



Hotel Pantanal Norte

Hotel Pantanal Norte, at the end of the Transpantaneira in the heart of the Pantanal's premier jaguar habitat, offers the closest access to the world's densest jaguar population. Once a small family farm, it has become a top destination for nature enthusiasts. The family-run hotel features 28 air-conditioned bungalow rooms with en suite bathrooms. Facilities include a restaurant with homemade local dishes, a bar, an internet room, and a convenience store. Located on the Cuiabá River, it's just a 15-minute boat ride to the core of jaguar territory, giving you an early advantage in spotting these magnificent creatures each day.

Why I love this trip...



What makes this trip exceptional is our dedicated and unwavering pursuit of one of the planet's most elusive and awe-inspiring predators: the Jaguar. Unlike most Jaguar-focused trips, we ensure a comprehensive exploration of both of the world's top locations for encountering these elusive cats. With four nights in Porto Jofre, the world's premier Jaguar destination, and three nights in the highly remote Taiama Reserve, renowned for its opportunities to spot less habituated Jaguars, we guarantee remarkable encounters with these magnificent predators. The exhilaration of tracking Jaguars, coupled with chances to witness a vast array of other rare and elusive wildlife, ensures that each moment is brimming with anticipation and excitement. This journey goes beyond being just a trip; it is an unforgettable adventure that celebrates the marvels of biodiversity and the thrill of seeking out South America's most iconic species.

Sam

PRICE

Triple Share

Standard Room

\$6,500 per person

DEPOSIT

\$2,000

INCLUSIONS

- 11 nights accommodations
- All meals and non-alcoholic drinks during mealtimes
- All excursions, transportation, and local guides
- Taxes and permits
- Gratuities
- Arrival and departure transfers
- WiFi where available

Group size: 8 travelers

BOOK NOW

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The Brazilian Amazon

Pre-Trip Extension | 3 Nights | August 27 – 30, 2025

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27

Cuiabá to Jardim da Amazônia Lodge

Pre-extension travelers will meet in Cuiabá in the afternoon of August 27 to begin your Amazon adventure. Depart together on a 4-hour vehicle ride to Jardim da Amazônia Lodge on the edge of the Amazon Rainforest, a prime opportunity to explore this incredibly diverse biome. Upon arrival, check into your cozy forest accommodation. As the sun sets, savor a farm-to-table dinner while the forest teems with life. For those interested, join a nighttime forest walk to spot nocturnal creatures, such as the tiny Cuvier's Dwarf Caiman.

THURSDAY & FRIDAY, AUGUST 28 – 29

Southern Amazon Rainforest Exploration

Each morning, choose to sleep in or wake up early for a pre-breakfast bird walk. Jardim da Amazônia, a world-class birding destination with 580 recorded species, is the only place to find the recently rediscovered Cone-billed Tanager and is home to species like the Razor-billed Curassow, Amazonian Umbrellabird, and four species of Macaws. It's also the best location to search for the rare Rio Tapajós saki along with seven other monkey species. During the day, explore the forest's waterways by canoe and hike local trails. In the hottest part of the day, relax by the pool or swim in natural springs around the lodge. Each evening, enjoy a fresh, locally sourced meal while listening to sounds of the jungle.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 30

Jardim da Amazônia Lodge / Cuiabá

After breakfast and one last nature walk, bid farewell to the Amazon and return to Cuiabá to set off on the main portion of your Brazil program.

Jardim da Amazônia Lodge, in São José do Rio Claro, Mato Grosso, Brazil, is a remarkable eco-lodge within a preserved area of primary Amazon rainforest. Founded in 1997, it emphasizes sustainable practices, featuring farm-to-table dining and natural water sources. This sanctuary is ideal for primate and birdwatching, with 8 monkey species and over 580 bird species, including the rare Rio Tapajós Saki monkey and critically endangered Cone-billed Tanager. The lodge, located in a unique ecotone, offers an opportunity to explore the world-famous Amazon Rainforest.



Rio Tapajós saki monkey

PRICE

\$2,500 per person

single room rate available on request

INCLUSIONS

- 3 nights at [Jardim da Amazônia Lodge](#)
- Meals and non-alcoholic drinks during mealtimes.
- All excursions, transportation and local guides
- Taxes and permits
- Gratuities to local guides