

# Brazil

## A Greentours Itinerary

### Day 1

Arrive Brazil

### Days 2-9

The Pantanal

Covering an area the size of Britain this vast wetland is actually a complex of marshes, grassland and patches of terra firma forest. There is a wonderful diversity of animals and we can expect to see numerous Capybara and Coati as well as Black-and-Gold Howler and its diminutive relation the Bare-ear Marmoset. Larger beasts on the agenda include the Brazilian Tapir, Marsh Deer, foraging herds of Peccary, and we have an excellent chance of seeing the handsome Giant Anteater. Peach-fronted and Monk Parakeets squawk in trees as we watch Red Brocket Deer, Undulated Tinamous, chuntering Chaco Chachalacas, gangly Red-legged Sereimas and abundant terrapins, tree frogs, Common Tegu Lizards and Iguanas. Greater Rheas stalk grasslands whilst Macaws include the endangered Hyacinth, as well as Golden-collared and Red-shouldered – magnificent birds all!

The ninety mile road terminates at Porto Jofre from where we will take a number of daytime boat trips in search of that cat! Jaguars have been seen here regularly and we stand a very good chance of encountering one as we explore the various waterways. On the reconnaissance trip we had four sightings, three brief, but one an excellent view of a female on a sand bank in the river (see photo on the main brochure page). Wattled Jacanas scamper across giant Victoria Water-lilies, the impressive seventy centimetre wide leaves have undersides armed with long spines. Anhingas, Ringed and Amazon Kingfishers, Pale-legged Horneros and Little Blue Herons are common along the banks and we'll hope to see the very local Maguari Stork. A slinky Tayra might suddenly cross our path and disturb the colourful butterflies mud-puddling by the track side. Even the butterflies can hardly match the Blue-crowned Trogons, Rufous-tailed Jacamars, Crimson-crested Finches and superb Red-headed Blackbirds for sheer brilliance.

Boat trips on the Pixiam River take us to the home of the Giant Otter, families of which cavort in the dark waters. They share the waters with many Caiman and the odd Anaconda. Smaller Caiman might fall prey to the mighty beak of the Jabiru, one of the largest birds in the world, and common along the Pixaim. We'll also encounter colourful Roseate Spoonbill, Rufescent Tiger Heron, Capped Heron and with luck, the curious Southern Screamer, a large ungainly bird that does indeed scream a lot and appears to have been put together from an assortment of birds from geese to vultures. Cryptic Sunbitterns amaze with their improbably-patterned plumage. In the

wooded areas we'll encounter some wonderful woodpeckers. There's the impressive Great Rufous Woodcreeper, Golden Green Woodpecker, Crimson-headed Woodpecker, Cream-crested Woodpecker, and the gorgeous White Woodpecker. The stunning male Helmeted Manakin with his punkish red cap is joined by dapper Toco Toucans, Squirrel Cuckoos and Red-throated Piping-Guans. As we admire the smaller relative of the Giant Anteater, the gorgeous little Collared Tamandua, resting in a tree, we might see Rusty-fronted Tody Flycatcher, Moustached Wren or Mato Grosso Antbird, whilst the sizeable Bare-faced Curassow struts across a path.

Night drives will reveal various mammals such as Crab-eating Raccoon, Crab-eating Fox, and the simply gorgeous Ocelot, a particularly pretty feline that we hope we'll see on several occasions. Great Potoos perch on dead stumps and we'll see Boat-billed Heron and Great Horned Owl. There are plenty of 'nightjar' species and we'll likely encounter Nacunda Nighthawks, Band-tailed Nightjar and the unusual Scissor-tailed Nightjar.

Days 10 & 11  
Chapada dos Guimares

A real change of scene today as the flat Pantanal landscape gives way to rocky cliffs, waterfalls, cerrado grasslands and riparian forests. We will spend time exploring these habitats which are especially good for birds such as Curl-crested Jay, Burrowing Owl, Red-crested Finch, Swallow Tanager, White-eared Puffbird, Campo Flicker and White-lined Tanager amongst others. A good area for birds of prey including both Plumbeous Kite and the elegant Swallow-tailed Kite.

Days 12-17  
Cristalino – Southern Amazonia

The quiet waterways of Cristalino are a perfect way to access the diverse forest types found in southern Amazonia and we'll use them to reach magnificent stands of Brazilnut trees, terra firma forest and even an area of dry cerrado. The birdwatching is excellent and we'd hope to see over two hundred species including Red-necked Aracari, Black-tailed Trogon, Painted Parakeet, vivid Spangled Cotingas, the fantastic Long-billed Woodcreeper with its odd whistling cry and if we're lucky and quiet the bizarre Dark-winged Trumpeter that stalks the forest floor in family groups. We'll spend time high up at canopy level on top of a thirty metre observation platform to get the best viewing, the sunset over the forest from up here is a magical experience.

Even though it is the dry season butterflies are also abundant. We'll find perfectly camouflaged *Caligo eurilochus* Owl Butterfly, equally well-camouflaged *Catoblepia eunomia*, stunning blue Morphos and *Diaethria clymena* with their distinctive numeral '89' underwing patterns. Joining all this winged abundance are the mammals and these include the charming, but shy, Dusky Titi Monkey, more boisterous Brown

Capuchins and White-bellied Spider Monkeys. Night Monkeys are also quite common here and from nocturnal and late afternoon boat rides we should see a Brazilian Tapir or two cooling themselves off in the water.

The last forest pools of the dry season prove a magnet for forest birds with hummingbirds busy around them during the day, but in the late afternoon and dusk it's possible to observe a dozen or more species of hard to find forest birds from Snow-capped Manakins to Scale-backed Antbirds and Streaked Ant-Wren, even the very elusive Southern Ant-Pipit and stunning Chestnut-belted Gnateater. We'll spend the last night in the lodge's sister hotel in Alta Floresta where amazingly a pair of Harpy Eagles bred recently (they were still feeding their chick in 2007) in the small sixty hectare forest reserve there! On Day 17 we'll fly to São Paulo and then depart for home.

Day 18  
Arrive UK

or...

Days 17-21  
Iguacu Falls extension

Unimaginable volumes of water thunder over a sweeping curve of cliffs, and into this torrent fly Great Dusky Swifts, slipping through the water to their very secure nests hanging on the cliff walls. The falls actually lie on the border of Brazil and Argentina and we will explore the forests on both sides of the falls looking for Green-headed Tanager, White-bearded Manakin, Blue Manakin, Surucua Trogon, Red-breasted Toucanet, Red-rumped Caciques and Plovercrest.

Day 22  
Arrive UK

Trip reports are available from previous trips. If you would like to see a copy of a trip report, or to ask about any other aspect of this holiday, please contact Greentours on 01298 83563 or email us at [enquiries@greentours.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@greentours.co.uk).