

pantanal with michelle valberg july 21-28, 2027



trip highlights

Enjoy a variety of activities: photo safaris, sunrise canoe trips, guided walks, and river explorations.

Travel the iconic Transpantaneira road into the heart of the Pantanal.

Exclusive stay in the remote Porto Jofre area, famous for jaguar sightings.

Private speedboat excursions led by expert naturalist guides and local pilots.

Exceptional opportunities to observe jaguars, giant otters, caimans, capybaras, and vibrant birdlife.

A pre-trip Zoom call will with Michelle Valberg



Trip Duration	8 days	Trip Code: SOG9477
Grade	Adventure touring	
Activities	Adventure Touring	
Summary	8 day trip	

welcome to World Expeditions

For over 50 years, we've been creating high-quality, expedition-style adventures for active travellers with a curious spirit. From our very first trek in the mountains of Nepal to pioneering remote routes across all seven continents, our journeys are built for those who want to truly explore – not just visit.

At the heart of what we do is a simple philosophy: take the paths less travelled.

This means travelling with care, supporting local communities, minimising our impact, and unlocking experiences that most travellers will never have.

If you're ready to go further and dig deeper, we invite you to join us on the Pantanal with Michelle Valberg July 21-28, 2027, a journey that captures the essence of a unique adventure.

why travel with World Expeditions?

World Expeditions has been operating in South America for over 25 years. Over the years we have learnt what is most important about delivering trips to a high standard. These trips offer exceptional value for money, using good quality, centrally located hotels, good quality transport, many meals, all your entrance fees and permit fees, expert leadership and much more. Compare our prices and all our inclusions and we feel that few trips can compare in terms of value for money. Given our local knowledge, experience and excellent leadership, we are quite sure that this trip will be the trip of a lifetime.

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trip dates

2027 21 Jul - 28 Jul

important notes

BP - Base Price

\$ - Surcharge

Single travellers are required to pay a single supplement when joining this adventure. Please refer to our website for the additional cost.

For competitive airfares and stopover ideas to join this adventure, contact our expert staff today to receive a detailed quote.

the trip

WHY THE PANTANAL IS ONE OF THE BEST WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY LOCATIONS ON EARTH

The Pantanal is the largest tropical wetland on Earth and one of the most wildlife-rich ecosystems in the world. Unlike dense rainforests where animals can disappear into thick vegetation, the open landscapes of the Pantanal create extraordinary viewing and photography opportunities.

Rivers, floodplains, grasslands, and scattered forest islands form a mosaic of habitats that support an incredible diversity of species. Wildlife is abundant and often surprisingly relaxed around boats, allowing photographers to work close to the action.

The region is particularly famous for its jaguars. Along the rivers of northern Pantanal and Porto Jofre, these powerful cats patrol the banks, hunt caiman, swim between islands, and rest in the shade along the shoreline. Few places on Earth offer such reliable opportunities to observe and photograph wild jaguars in their natural habitat.

Beyond jaguars, the Pantanal is alive with movement. Giant river otters surface beside the boats. Hyacinth macaws flash brilliant blue across the sky. Capybara gather along muddy banks while caiman slide silently through the water. Every bend in the river brings the possibility of something extraordinary.

For wildlife photographers, the Pantanal offers a rare combination of accessibility, abundance, and raw wild beauty.

TARGET WILDLIFE SPECIES

The Pantanal is home to an astonishing concentration of wildlife. While every safari is different, photographers may encounter many of the region's iconic species.

-Key mammals

•Jaguar

• Giant River Otter

• Capybara

• South American Coati

• Crab eating Fox

• Marsh Deer

-Reptiles

•Yacaré Caiman

•Yellow Anaconda

-Birdlife highlights

•Hyacinth Macaw

• Jabiru

• Toco Toucan

• Black collared Hawk

• Sunbittern

With more than 650 bird species recorded in the Pantanal, photographers often return home with an incredible diversity and number of avian images.

about your leader/escort

Michelle Valberg is an award winning wildlife photographer, Nikon Ambassador, Canadian Geographic Photographer in Residence, and a proud recipient of the Order of Canada. Her forty year career has taken her across the globe, creating images that reveal the soul of the natural world. Michelle is known for her deep love of teaching and for guiding photographers



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fast facts

Countries Visited:

Brazil

Visas:

No

Vaccinations:

Please consult a travel vaccination specialist for up to date information

Singles:

A single supplement is available for this trip*

Leader:

Expert Local Leader & Escort

Advice for people with limited mobility

This trip is not suitable for people with limited mobility.

*Ask our staff for more information.

to stronger, more meaningful work. Her adventures fill quickly because guests value her experience, her generosity, and her ability to inspire. Traveling with Michelle means stepping into the wild with purpose, creativity, and a sense of wonder.

at a glance

DAY 1	ARRIVAL IN CUIABÁ & INTO THE NORTHERN PANTANAL
DAY 2	FIRST LIGHT IN THE CERRADO
DAY 3	PATTERNS, BEHAVIOR, AND STORYTELLING
DAY 4	DEEPENING THE PORTFOLIO
DAY 5	INTO THE REALM OF JAGUARS
DAY 6	AN EXTRA DAY WITH JAGUARS
DAY 7	LIFE ALONG THE WATER'S EDGE
DAY 8	FAREWELL TO THE PANTANAL

what's included

- 7 nights of accommodation: 4 nights at Araras Pantanal Eco Lodge & 3 nights at Recanto do Jaguar Lodge
- All meals (full board) throughout the stay
- All activities and excursions mentioned in the program
- Wildlife photo safaris by vehicle
- Canoe trips at sunrise
- Guided walking tours
- Riverboat excursions
- Jaguar-spotting boat safaris at Porto Jofre
- Services of an experienced naturalist guide and local pilot
- All transfers between Cuiabá airport, lodges, and return
- Gratuity for the tour guide (for the single room traveler)
- Private speedboat transfers and safaris in the Porto Jofre region
- Entrance fees to conservation areas and local taxes
- A pre-trip Zoom call will be scheduled prior to departure. This session will give you the opportunity to meet your host and fellow travellers, review the itinerary, discuss packing and travel logistics, and ask any questions you may have.

what's not included

- Meals not mentioned in the itinerary
- Optional tours or sightseeing
- Bottled water, aerated and alcoholic drinks
- Personal expenses – laundry, telephones, etc
- Passport and vaccination charges, reciprocity fees and airport departure taxes
- Travel Insurance
- Tips

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DAY 1 Arrival in Cuiabá & Into the Northern Pantanal

Arrive in Cuiabá by late morning and meet your expedition team. Drive south along the legendary Transpantaneira Road, where the adventure begins the moment you leave the city herons, caimans, and capybaras often appear before you even reach the lodge. Upon arrival, join Michelle for an introductory photo briefing and a relaxed sunset shoot from the lodge's observation deck as the Pantanal comes alive in golden light.

Overnight at: Araras Pantanal Eco Lodge or similar

meals: L,D

DAY 2 First Light in the Cerrado

Wake to the distant roar of howler monkeys and the raucous calls of macaws, an atmospheric soundtrack to your first full day of wildlife photography. As dawn breaks, slip into canoes and glide across still water, where mirrored reflections and soft morning tones create a serene canvas for your images. This is a chance to experiment with light, line, and negative space as the landscape slowly comes to life.

Later in the morning and again in the late afternoon, head out in safari vehicles and on foot in search of the region's emblematic species. You may encounter jabiru storks nesting in towering trees, giant anteaters crossing open plains, and caimans basking along the edges of oxbow lakes, alongside a dazzling array of birdlife in constant motion. Wildlife is inherently unpredictable, and each outing presents different opportunities—an important reminder that patience, flexibility, and quiet observation are all part of the craft of wildlife photography.

Michelle will be on hand in the field to offer guidance on technique, composition, and visual storytelling, helping you translate these fleeting encounters into images with impact.

Overnight at: Araras Pantanal Eco Lodge or similar

meals: B,L,D

DAY 3 Patterns, Behavior, and Storytelling

Another dawn chorus of howler monkeys and macaws signals the start of a new photographic chapter. Sunrise canoe excursions once again place you at water level, where changing light, shifting mist, and subtle ripples ensure that no two mornings are alike. Even familiar scenes reveal new details when viewed with fresh eyes and refined technique.

As the day unfolds, you'll explore a mosaic of habitats by vehicle and on foot, building on your growing understanding of animal behavior and movement. Jabiru storks may be captured in quiet moments at the nest, giant anteaters in mid-stride, and caimans in close-up studies of texture and form. Flocks of vibrant birds offer endless chances to practice timing and focus as they take flight. The unpredictability of wildlife means each day reveals a different combination of encounters, underscoring that perseverance and calm, watchful waiting often lead to the most memorable frames.

In the evening, gather for group image reviews with Michelle, discussing not only technical choices but also ethical field practices and how to craft a cohesive visual narrative from the day's work.

Overnight at: Araras Pantanal Eco Lodge or similar

meals: B,L,D

DAY 4 Deepening the Portfolio

By now, the rhythm of the lodge and the soundtrack of the forest feel familiar, yet each morning still brings something new. Your sunrise canoe outing offers another

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opportunity to refine compositions, leaning into subtle shifts in light and atmosphere—perhaps a stronger reflection, a bolder sky, or a more dramatic interplay between subject and environment.

Mid-morning and late-afternoon sessions focus on deepening your portfolio and filling any creative gaps. You might revisit favorite locations in search of different behaviors or angles, or follow fresh tracks that lead to new subjects. Whether you are photographing a solitary giant anteater silhouetted against the horizon, a congregation of wading birds, or the quiet tension of a caiman's watchful eye.

As evening falls, final image reviews and conversations with Michelle help you consolidate what you've learned about light, behavior, and storytelling, preparing you for the jaguar-focused days ahead.

Overnight at: Araras Pantanal Eco Lodge or similar

meals: B,L,D

DAY 5 Into the Realm of Jaguars

Set out at first light onto the maze of rivers and narrow channels that surround Porto Jofre, a landscape where wild jaguars quietly rule. Over the coming days, you will explore these waters from small, agile boats that allow your pilot and guides to position you with precision for photography. Sightings often unfold with remarkable intimacy a jaguar slipping into the water for a quiet swim, stretching across a sun-drenched sandbank, or emerging from dense foliage with predatory focus along the river's edge.

Between encounters, the river offers its own subtle choreography: light rippling across the water's surface, reflections shifting with every bend, and the hush of wind threading through reeds. These quieter moments often become the unexpected gems of a photographer's portfolio, balancing the intensity of jaguar encounters with scenes of quiet, painterly beauty.

Return to the lodge for breaks where you can review images with Michelle, exchange creative ideas, or simply absorb the gentle rhythm of life by the river.

Overnight at: Recanto do Jaguar Lodge or similar

meals: B,L,D

DAY 6 An Extra Day with Jaguars

An additional full day on the rivers around Porto Jofre allows you to slow the pace and deepen your photographic exploration of jaguar territory. With more time on the water, you can revisit productive stretches of river and wait patiently for unfolding reminders of jaguar behavior—resting on shaded banks, moving along the shoreline, or slipping quietly into the water. This extra day offers space to refine compositions, experiment with light and reflections, and capture more intimate, unrushed moments. Between outings, time at the lodge allows for image review, informal discussions with Michelle, and simply absorbing the atmosphere of this remarkable ecosystem.

Overnight at: Recanto do Jaguar Lodge or similar

meals: B,L,D

DAY 7 Life Along the Water's Edge

Your second full day on the water deepens your connection to the Pantanal and its remarkable wildlife. As you continue exploring the intricate waterways, jaguars may reveal new facets of their behavior a mother guiding her young through the grasses,

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a male patrolling his territory, or a cat poised in perfect stillness as it listens for movement along the shore. Each sighting adds richness and narrative depth to your photographic collection.

The ecosystem surrounding you is just as captivating. Giant otters twist and tumble through the water in choreographed family routines. Hyacinth macaws flash electric blue against the canopy, while black-collared hawks sweep overhead, diving with astonishing precision to snatch fish from the surface. Throughout the day, shifting light transforms the river morning gold softens into midday brightness and later melts into the cool tones of late afternoon offering endless opportunities to play with mood, texture, and reflections.

Evening back at the lodge provides time to refine your work, discuss composition with Michelle, or savor the stillness that settles over the river at dusk.

Overnight at: Recanto do Jaguar Lodge or similar

meals: B,L,D

DAY 8 Farewell to the Pantanal

Your final morning in Porto Jofre invites a quiet farewell to the waters that have shaped the past days. As you pack your equipment and review the images captured, jaguars in motion, delicate reflections, fleeting scenes of river life, there is a natural pause to appreciate the intensity and beauty of this experience. The interplay of light and water, and the powerful encounters with wildlife, now come together into a cohesive story of your time in the Pantanal.

Depart by road toward Cuiabá, watching as wetlands gradually give way to dry forest and finally to the edges of the city. The journey offers a final moment to reflect on the days spent immersed in the world of wild jaguars. Depending on your onward travel plans, an additional night in Cuiabá may be required.

Departure according to flight schedules (flights should be booked after 17:00).

meals: B,L

This itinerary is subject to change with any change in Community regulations as well as Governmental changes and natural circumstances beyond our control.

important note

These trip notes represent the most current information for this itinerary, and may supersede any information in the current brochure, including but not limited to the itinerary and price. The itinerary should be seen as a guide only. This itinerary may change at any time due to inclement weather, forces of nature and other circumstances beyond our control.

country information

Brazil is South America's largest country, famed for its vibrant culture, diverse landscapes, and extraordinary biodiversity. From the Amazon rainforest to the wetlands of the Pantanal and the iconic beaches of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil offers an unparalleled mix of natural wonders and cultural richness. Home to jaguars, giant otters, macaws, and countless endemic species, it is one of the world's top wildlife destinations. Visitors will also find warm hospitality, flavorful cuisine, and a fascinating blend of Indigenous, African, and European influences that make Brazil a truly unforgettable travel experience.

dietary requirements

Provided we are advised in advance of your departure we are able to cater for vegetarian diets and can assist with medically recommended diets (allergies and intolerances). Please ensure you discuss your requirements with us well in advance (at least 1 month prior to your trip) to

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determine whether we can cater to such dietary requirements on your chosen adventure. Please note that options are likely to be limited in very remote locations or alternatives may be more expensive or unavailable. There may be times when those with special requirements may need to provide their own food. We are unable to guarantee a peanut-free or allergen-free trip, and therefore, we strongly encourage that travellers with life-threatening or severe allergies take all necessary medical precautions to prepare for the possibility of exposure. Passengers must travel with all necessary medications for food allergies and be capable of self-administering these medications.

what you carry

In your daypack you will need to carry a rainjacket, water bottle, camera gear, valuables and personal items such as sunscreen, lip-eze etc.

vehicles & safety

During the course of your trip, we will use a variety of vehicles, all of which are fit for purpose and the conditions encountered. It should be noted that laws governing transportation safety may differ from those in your home country and whilst wherever possible, vehicles with seatbelts are provided, on occasion some vehicles may not have seat belts fitted.

visas

A visa is not required for passport holders from the following countries visiting Brazil for short term tourism purposes (up to 90 days)

- New Zealand
- United Kingdom

An e-visa is required for American, Australian and Canadian passport holders. The official site to apply for an e-visa is <https://brazil.vfsevisa.com/>

It may take up to 10 working days to process your eVisa. To avoid any delays in your travel plans, we strongly recommend that you apply at least one month in advance of your intended departure date.

To apply you will need:

Mandatory Documents Required

Recent Photograph of the applicant (as per specifications)

Color copy of the applicant's passport bio page

Pay the eVisa Fee – USD\$80.90 (subject to change)

For all other nationalities and for stays longer than 90 days please contact the relevant embassy.

Please bear in mind that visas may be required for countries you are visiting en route or transiting through on the way to your destination. It is important that you check the requirements of all countries you will visit. Visa costs and requirements do change regularly so we suggest you check with your travel agent or World Expeditions reservations consultant. It is your responsibility to obtain all necessary visas.

trip grading

These are our least demanding trips. These journeys of discovery and cruises involve little or no extended activity and are suitable for people with a basic level of fitness and good health. The itinerary may take place in remote areas (with basic facilities) and may involve long travel days on various types of transport. Sightseeing may be conducted on foot and all participants should be capable of carrying their own luggage from vehicle to hotel rooms.

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thoughtful travel

The natural environments that you'll travel through are fragile; the cultures and traditions precious and often the communities we pass through are reliant on tourism. It is our responsibility as visitors to minimise the impact of our presence, protect what is precious and where we can leave a positive impact. Learn how you can do this by downloading the Thoughtful Traveller booklet from our website.

adventure travel

By its very nature adventure travel involves an element of the unexpected. In remote and developing countries do not expect standards you are used to at home. Remote areas are sometimes unpredictable and itineraries may be altered. To get the most out of your adventure it is important that you are flexible, positive and eager to take on all the challenges that arise. If you are uncertain about your suitability for this trip we recommend that you speak with your consultant or travel agent.

webinars & events

World Expeditions invites you to attend our inspiring adventure travel information nights. These special evenings are designed to inform and entertain and are hosted by our most experienced and passionate adventure travellers and mountaineers. Ask our staff for a info night schedule or register on our website - www.worldexpeditions.com. Shows can fill early so it is important to register your attendance so we know to save a seat, or two.

subscribe to our e-newsletter

Never miss an amazing deal, inspirational speaker tour or exciting new trips and cutting edge adventure news. Head to our website to subscribe to our regular e-newsletter.

trip availability

If this trip seems right for you then we encourage you to call us now to check availability. There are many reasons why you may not be able to join your desired departure and limited space on our small group departures is just one of them. Many of our adventures require us to secure services on your behalf; such as trekking permits, train travel and visa invitation letters. The demand is increasing each year making it difficult to join a trip last minute. To ensure we can assist you onto your adventure of a lifetime we ask that you check your trip availability with our team at your earliest convenience.

social networking

Connect with us on social

FACEBOOK: [@worldexpeditions](https://www.facebook.com/worldexpeditions)

Like our page at facebook.com/worldexpeditions

INSTAGRAM: [@worldexpeditions](https://www.instagram.com/worldexpeditions)

Follow us at instagram.com/worldexpeditions

YOUTUBE: World Expeditions

Subscribe to our channel at youtube.com/worldexpeditions

Share the love

Use the hashtag #WorldExpeditions on your best travel photos and videos to be featured.



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how to book

To book a World Expeditions trip, you will need to complete a booking form and pay a non refundable deposit which you can do by using our online booking function for most trips, or if you prefer, download a booking form from the website and return to your nearest World Expeditions office or travel agent. We can also help you with any additional arrangements that you require, such as competitive airfares to get you to your destination, stopovers, pre or post trip accommodation or any additional tours that you wish to take in conjunction with the main World Expeditions trip.