Brazil
September 6 – 17, 2020
Mention Brazil and the first thing that springs to most people’s minds is football, Samba and Carnival. Wildlife aficionados, however, immediately think of the Amazon and the Pantanal, South America’s two foremost wildlife wildernesses. In fact, Brazil boasts the highest natural diversity of any country on Earth and yet few have even scratched the surface of its immense natural attractions. This incredible expedition combines the very richest site in the iconic Amazon Basin with two incomparable wildlife treasures in the northern and southern Pantanal. From the world’s largest rainforest to its largest tropical wetland, Giant Anteaters to Jaguars, Capybaras to Caiman, this is a Neotropical wildlife extravaganza without equal.
Itinerary

Sunday, September 6: Arrive Cuiabá
You will be met on arrival for the transfer to your hotel in Cuiabá. Gather this evening for a welcome dinner and briefing at Gran Hotel Odara.

Monday, September 7: Cuiabá / Alta Floresta / Cristalino State Park
Transfer to the airport for your flight to Alta Floresta. Upon arrival, a drive and a boat ride will take you into the stunning 460,000-acre Cristalino State Park. Located in the highlands of the southern Amazon River Basin, Cristalino is strategically situated to preserve a huge swathe of rainforest, acting as an effective buffer between the timber extraction and cattle ranching to the south, and the virgin areas to the north. Your home base for the next two days is Cristalino Jungle Lodge, on a 30,000-acre private reserve connected to the park. It is known for being one of the richest places in the Amazon for observing birds, mammals, butterflies and orchids in a primary forest environment. Gather for sunset drinks with a view over the pristine Cristalino River flowing right in front of the lodge. Dinner and overnight at Cristalino Jungle Lodge.

Tuesday & Wednesday, September 8 & 9: Cristalino State Park
The lodge’s reserve contains a great variety of medium- to low-altitude eco-zones, allowing for great diversity (even by Amazonian standards) of wildlife. From predators like the Jaguar, Harpy Eagle and Giant Otter to herbivores like the Capybara and Agouti, all the organisms which took thousands of years to evolve and which make Amazonia unlike any other biome in the world are still alive and doing well here. Its location near the junction of two rivers—one a “White-water” and the other a “Black-water” river—gives the reserve a combination of two different soil types which furnish a staggering variety of trees, orchids and bromeliads. 600 bird species are known to live in the region, including many

Photos: Neotropical River Otter, Red Howler Monkey, Hoatzin
endemics. Among these are the Rufous-capped Nunlet, Chestnut-throated Spinetail, Manu Antbird, Peruvian Recurvebill and Ornate Antwren, as well as many species of parrots, puffbirds, and manakins. Mammals seen most frequently are the diminutive Pantanal Marmoset, White-whiskered Spider and White-nosed Saki Monkeys, Brazilian Tapir, and the Greater Fishing Bat. Cristalino is also one of the best areas in Brazil to observe Green Anaconda, largest of all constricting snakes.

Take in all the area has to offer by hiking on the reserve's many trails, boating down the Cristalino River, and climbing the 50-meter observation tower for a stellar vantage point over the whole area. Dinners and overnights at Cristalino Jungle Lodge.

Thursday, September 10: Cristalino / Alta Floresta / Cuiabá / Pixaim River
Today is an adventure in boats, cars and airplanes. Return by boat and car to Alta Floresta for your flight back to Cuiabá, then continue by car along the Transpantaneira, a raised-dirt highway, to the Pixaim River region. The scenery continues to change as you travel through a mixture of cattle ranches, swamplands and thick patches of forest. Overnight at the Hotel Mato Grosso with an optional, late-night spotlighting excursion to search for nocturnal mammals including Crab-eating Fox.

Friday, September 11: Pixaim River / Porto Jofre
An early start to the day by boat reveals an array of water birds including egrets, herons, ibis and storks along with specialties such as Sunbittern and Rufescent Tiger-heron. The boat ride also allows for exciting photographic opportunities with the Giant River Otter families known to the area. Enjoy a late breakfast before the journey into the northern Pantanal with frequent wildlife stops along the way to marvel at Marsh Deer, Capybaras, Crab-eating Foxes and eye-catching birds. The area around Porto Jofre is undoubtedly the best area to see Jaguar, the largest cat in the Americas. Jaguars remain elusive and hard to spot so perseverance and a healthy measure of luck are required. The concentration of wildlife builds throughout the day as you head into the heart of the Pantanal, culminating in a spectacle of birds, Capybaras and caiman by the time you reach your accommodations at Hotel Pantanal Norte.

Saturday, September 12: Porto Jofre
The hotel is ideally located to allow for a full day immersion into this wildlife-rich wetland paradise. While Jaguar sightings remain the grand prize, you’ll see howler monkeys swinging across the canopy, bands of South American Coati hunting for food, and large groups of Capybara, always entertaining to watch. You’ll be surrounded by the sights and sounds of bright, colorful birds such as the Hyacinth Macaw, Black-hooded Parakeet and Plush-crested Jay. Enjoy lunch back at the hotel with an afternoon boating excursion along the Cuiabá River. Watch for Jaguars coming to the river banks in search of food and water. Birding highlights include Jabiru, Pied Lapwing, Black Skimmer and Yellow-billed Terns. Dinner and overnight at Hotel Pantanal Norte.

Sunday, September 13: Porto Jofre / Caiman Ecological Refuge
After breakfast, set off on your charter flight into the southern Pantanal, the world’s largest floodplain. The 130,000-acre Caiman Ecological Refuge was once part of a
large beef cattle ranch in the Pantanal, and has since been transformed into an enterprising land management model combining the traditional “Pantaneiro” cattle ranching system, conservation programs, and ecotourism. It includes a 14,000-acre protected reserve covering a great variety of habitats that harbor many of the diverse species of the Pantanal, which is home to the highest concentration of wildlife in the Americas. Overnight at Caiman Lodge within the reserve.

**Monday–Wednesday, September 14–16: Caiman Ecological Refuge**

Once a year, the mighty Paraguay River floods its banks, inundating an area ten times that of Botswana’s Okavango Delta. As the floodwaters recede in the dry season, this ever-changing mosaic of lagoons, shallow wetlands and higher islands of deciduous forest sets the stage for one of the world’s greatest wildlife spectacles.

Herds of Capybaras, largest of all the world’s rodents, graze along shores lined with Yacare Caimans, amongst throngs of storks, herons and ibises. At dawn, the surrounding woodland rings to a deafening cacophony of woodcreepers, Guira Cuckoos, antbirds and flycatchers, with Toco Toucan yelping from the treetops and noisy flocks of Turquoise-fronted Amazons winging overhead. Huge Hyacinth Macaws, the avian epitome of the Pantanal’s wilderness, are delightfully numerous in copses of palms, while areas of higher ground are home to the spectacular Giant Anteater, Greater Rhea and the peculiar Red-legged Seriema.

Of all the denizens of this watery wilderness, none is more sought-after than the Jaguar. Using detailed local knowledge of the resident population, you’ll track the cats by vehicle and on foot, in the hopes of seeing and photographing this largest of American felids. Ranging from northern Mexico to central Argentina, Jaguars are rarely encountered anywhere else, but occur in the Pantanal in their highest density on Earth. The combination of the refuge’s open, savanna-like terrain and years of formal protection from hunting brings experiencing the Americas’ most charismatic predator into the realm of possibility.

**Thursday, September 17: Caiman Ecological Refuge / Campo Grande / Depart**

Depart Caiman early for the drive to Campo Grande and depart on late afternoon flights homeward.

Photos: Guira Cuckoos, Capybara, Jaguar, Red-legged Seriema
Explore the Brazil Expedition Map featuring:

A – Cuiabá
B – Cristalino State Park
C – Pixaim River
D – Porto Jofre
E – Caiman Ecological Refuge
F – Campo Grande

Access this expedition through different methods:
- By Air
- By Road
- By Boat (to Cristalino)

Visit www.apex-expeditions.com for more details.

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Diogo Lucatelli

As a young boy, Diogo discovered a passion for the natural world and his curiosity led him to study Biology, Ecology and Natural Resources in his hometown, Salvador da Bahia, Brazil. After graduating, he immersed himself in getting to know and understand the wild wetlands of the Pantanal.

In 2012 Diogo joined the team at Caiman Ecological Refuge and by 2013 he was an integral part of the Onçafari Jaguar Project, leaning on his biology background and guiding skills, he also underwent special tracking-skills training. His love for Brazil's environment, wildlife, people and culture are evident in the way he shares insights and experiences with guests. Tracking, birding and wildlife photography are only a few of the means through which he feeds his passion for nature.
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$14,970  Per Person Rate  
$17,870  Solo Rate  
12 Days  Trip Length  
10 Guests  Group Size  
Cuiabá / Campo Grande  Start/End

Included
Apex Expeditions’ rates include all accommodations; all meals, activities and excursions as described in the itinerary; scheduled flights Cuiabá/Alta Floresta/Cuiabá and a charter flight Porto Jofre/Caiman Ecological Reserve, as noted in the itinerary; services of an Apex expedition leader and local guides throughout the itinerary; local beer and local wines at lunch & dinner; all gratuities; airport transfers; entrance fees; and all taxes.

Not Included
Costs not included in the price of your Apex expedition include travel to and from start and end point of trip; premium brand drinks and liquor; travel insurance (Trip Cancellation and Interruption, as well as Emergency Medical and Evacuation insurance, are highly recommended); airport departure taxes; excess baggage fees; passport and/or visa fees; items of a personal nature (phone calls, laundry, souvenirs, etc.); and independent travel arrangements pre- or post-trip.

Payments & Terms
20% of the trip cost will confirm your place on the expedition. The final balance is due 150 days prior to departure. All prices are quoted in U.S. dollars and must be paid in U.S. dollars. Per person pricing is based on double occupancy. The solo rate is paid by participants who specifically request single accommodations and is subject to availability. If you are traveling alone and wish to share accommodations, we will try to match you with a roommate of the same gender. However, if a roommate is not available, the published solo rate will be charged. Upon confirming your reservation you will be required to pay the published Solo Rate, if we are able to pair you with a roommate, the applicable difference will be refunded at the time that the final trip payment is due for all participants. Please note that solo accommodations are limited and cannot always be guaranteed throughout. For our full set of Terms & Conditions, please visit our web site at www.apex-expeditions.com/about/terms-conditions/

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## Reservation Form

### Brazil  September 6 – 17, 2020

**Person 1: (Primary Contact)**
- Passport Name: 
- Preferred Name: 
- Date of Birth: 
- Email Address: 

### Mailing Details:
- Address: 
  - City: 
  - State: 
  - ZIP Code: 
  - Country: 
- Home Phone: 
- Mobile Phone: 

- Double  
- Solo  

**Person 2: (If applicable and at same address, otherwise please submit a second Reservation Form.)**
- Passport Name: 
- Preferred Name: 
- Date of Birth: 
- Email Address: 

### Deposit Information: 20% of total tour fare
- My deposit check is enclosed  
- My deposit check will be mailed separately  
- Charge my deposit to my:  VISA  
  - MasterCard  
  - American Express  
- Card #: 
- Expires: 
- CCV Code: 
- Name on Card: 
- Signature: 

Please return this completed form to Apex Expeditions.  
E-mail: info@apex-expeditions.com or Mail: 4700 42nd Ave SW, Suite 570, Seattle, WA 98116