



The World Parrot Trust and Tropical Nature Travel present *A Pantanal Wildlife Safari*
May 28th – June 6th 2011/ *Optional* Hyacinth Valley extension through June 11th

Join the World Parrot Trust and Tropical Nature on this marvelous adventure to Brazil. The Pantanal is a nature lover's delight with wildlife in abundance. It is one of the largest wetlands in the world with over 700 bird species along with a variety of extraordinary reptiles, fish and mammals, including Black Caiman, Giant Otters, Giant Armadillos and Giant Anteaters. Even the elusive jaguar can be observed here!



We will visit a unique ecosystem known as “The Hole of the Parrots” to watch and photograph a variety of species including the Greenwing Macaw. We'll spend 2 full days at the Pantanal Wildlife Center, deep in the Pantanal where you can take boat safaris on the rivers; see monkeys, many bird species, capybaras, caiman, and giant otters. Then we'll travel north to Nobres and enjoy the best Blue and Gold Macaw spectacle known in the state of Mato Grosso. And so much more!

You'll travel with the World Parrot Trust's Joanna Eckles along with expert local guides in each region. If you want to extend your time in Brazil continue on with a local guide to Hyacinth Valley and Greenwing Lodge. This area features not only the spectacular large macaws but also the Tufted Capuchin Monkeys which are now famous for their

use of heavy hammer rocks to crack hard palm nuts on much larger, sandstone anvils.

To top it off, your participation directly supports World Parrot Trust conservation work. The Trust has several new hyacinth nest boxes at Pantanal Wildlife Center and has supported recent disease sampling of both the Hyacinths and Greenwing Macaws.

The Pantanal Wildlife Safari: \$2638 per person based on double occupancy and 9 participants.

*Price includes all fees except airfare to Sao Paulo, 3 domestic flights (est \$470) and optional expenses (drinks, souvenirs etc).

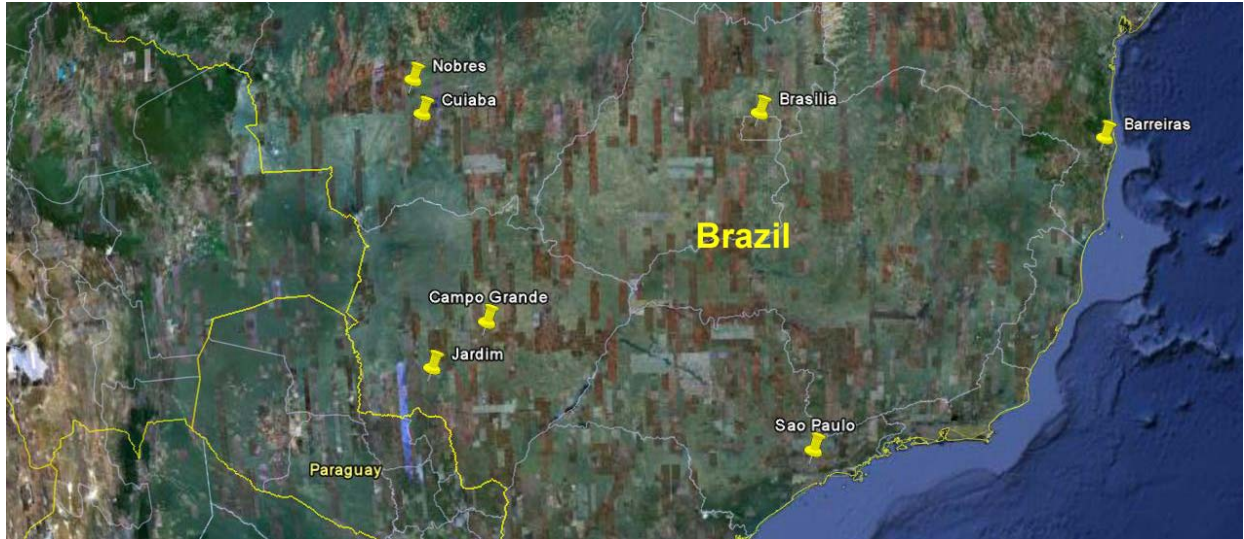
Hyacinth Extension: Add \$1406 - \$2655 depending on number of participants and occupancy (sgle or dbl).

*Price includes additional fees except 6 domestic flights (est \$830) and optional expenses (drinks, souvenirs etc). **Details >>>**

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OUR ADVENTURE AT A GLANCE:



- May 28th** Leave home – Fly to Sao Paulo Brazil
- May 29th** Arrive in Sao Paulo – transfer to Campo Grande and on to Jardim
(Hole of the Parrots – Greenwing Macaws, bats and other reptiles and birds)
- May 30th** Jardim
(Recanto Ecológico Rio da Prata and Wildlife Safari, Snorkeling, Hole of the Parrots)
- May 31st** Campo Grande to Cuiaba on to Pantanal Wildlife Center
(Premier wildlife viewing en route to PWC, Hyacinths and nocturnal animals)
- June 1-2** Pantanal Wildlife Center
(2 days with our private guide – birds, birds and more birds, giant otters, canopy towers, tapirs, capybara, caiman, night creatures, morning & afternoon safaris!)
- June 3-4** Nobres
(Blue & Gold Macaw nest trees)
- June 5** To Cuiaba and Sao Paulo
(begin travel home)
- June 6** Arrive home
- (EXTENSION)**
- June 5** To Cuiaba
- June 6-9** To Barreiras via Brasilia:
Hyacinth Valley Lodge and
Greenwing Valley
(Hyacinth and Greenwing
immersion!)
- June 10** To Barreiras, Salvador and on
to Sao Paulo
(Begin travel home)
- June 11** Arrive home



PRICE LIST

Pantanal Wildlife Safari – May 28th through June 6th

The main tour price is all inclusive* except for your international flight to Sao Paulo and 3 domestic flights. Domestic flights are estimated at \$470 but will vary depending on when you book. Prices are in US dollars.

	Sharing a double room	For a single room
Main Tour*	\$2638	\$2995 (Add \$357)
Domestic Flights (3)	Est \$470	
Total	Est \$3108	

*Price is based on 9 to 10 participants and includes: all outings, full room and board (2 overnights at Hotel Vitoria in Jardim, 3 overnights at Pantanal Wildlife Center, 2 overnights at Bom Gardhen lodge in Nobres), all ground transportation, English guide in private departures (there will be separate guides for Jardim, Pantanal WL Ctr and Nobres), arrival assistance (English) in Guarulhos airport (up to 3 hours if needed). If a participant is arriving in Sao Paulo alone, there will be an additional cost of \$51 for this transfer assistance but if arriving with at least one other person the cost is included.

*Price does not include: International airfare, domestic airfare Sao Paulo to Cuiaba and Cuiaba to Sao Paulo (estimated at \$470 above), departure assistance at the Guarulhos airport (\$68 per person if needed), excess baggage charges, alcoholic beverages, soda's, bottled water, gratuities, personal items (such as telephone, fax charges, internet charges, laundry services, hotel minibar), travel insurance.

>> With less than 9 participants the base price will be modified. With 7 to 8 participants the base price is \$3001; With 5 to 6 the base price is \$3579. Single room add-on (\$357) and Domestic Flights (est \$470) remain the same. Minimum group size is 5.

Hyacinth Extension – June 5th through 11th

The extension price is based on the number of participants as indicated.

# of passengers	Sharing a double room	For a single room
7 to 9	\$1406	\$1824
4 to 6	\$1800	\$2313
2 to 3	\$2079	\$2655

Six additional Domestic Flights for the Hyacinth extension are estimated at \$829 and may vary depending on when you book.

*Above per person cost includes: 1 overnights in Cuiaba (Hotel Deville), 4 overnights at Hyacinth Valley/Cliffs Lodges, all 4 land transfers, English guide, all outings, full board except as indicated on itinerary.

FOR QUESTIONS OR TO BOOK THIS TRIP CONTACT: Elizabeth Sanders at Tropical Nature Travel: liz@tropicalnaturetravel.com or 877-888-1770. A \$250 per person deposit is required with your completed application form, followed by full payment 45 days before departure.



BIRD LIST

In addition to a wide variety of plants and animals, Brazil is a bird lover's dream. We will have many intimate encounters with a variety of wildlife and birds and have planned special excursions to take advantage of the best viewing and photographing opportunities for some of the area's most spectacular species. For those with a special interest in parrots, the species most commonly seen include: Green-wing, Blue and Gold, Hyacinth and Golden-collared Macaws; Chevron-winged Parakeet; Scaly-headed Parrot; and the Blue-fronted Parrot. A bird check-list is available on www.parrots.org/parrottrip

YOUR GUIDES:

Joanna Eckles has been with the World Parrot Trust since 1999, first as administrator for WPT-USA and as PsittaScene editor since 2006. Before WPT she was a bird trainer at the Minnesota Zoo. There she presented educational programs with birds of all kinds flying free indoors in the cold Minnesota winter and outdoors in the beautiful but short-lived summer season. Joanna has been an avid birder most of her life but enjoys all the plants and animals encountered on any birding trip – especially in new and wonderful places like Brazil. She has traveled to the northern part of the country as well as to Australia, Costa Rica, Belize and throughout the US looking for birds and other sights.

Local Guides for Jardim, Pantanal Wildlife Center and Nobres to be determined along with a guide for those continuing on the hyacinth extension.

CANCELLATION:

If cancellation is made 45 days or more before departure date, the deposit less \$100 per person is refundable. If cancellation is made between 44 and 31 days before departure date, the deposit is not refundable, but any payments covering the balance of the fee will be refunded. If cancellation is 30 days or less before departure date, no refund is available. This policy and fee schedule also applies to pre-trip and post-trip extensions, and any transfer from one tour to another. We strongly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance to protect you from any penalties.

Any changes to the itinerary made by the client while in South America are the responsibility of the client.

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DETAILED ITINERARY – DAY BY DAY

DAY 1 – SATURDAY MAY 28TH

Fly to Brazil

Depart your home city for Sao Paulo Brazil.

DAY 2 – SUNDAY MAY 29TH

Arrive Sao Paulo

Connect to Campo Grande and Jardim

On arrival in Sao Paulo, you will proceed through immigration and on to baggage claim. After you have retrieved your bags, you will go through customs and then exit out to the arrival lounge.

You will be met by an English speaking guide who will assist you in connecting to a TAM or GOL flight to Campo Grande.

Upon arrival your guide will welcome the group and assist you to the air-conditioned minibus for the trip to Jardim (~2.5 hrs).

Depending on the arrival time, you will either have lunch at a restaurant along the route or on arrival to Jardim.

On arrival and after check-in to the Vitoria Hotel, you will have time for some rest. And shortly after your rest time, the group will visit the **Buraco dos Araras** —the Hole of the Parrots. The Buraco das Araras is a 124-meter (135 yards) deep “doline” (a cave whose roof caved in) with a circumference of 500 meters (545 yards). In its interior there is a very special ecosystem made up by a forest and a lake complete with micro algae and fish. In this environment one might see fruit-eating bats, insect-eating bats, and some species of reptiles, little rodents and birds. Among the array of birds is the bright and wonderful Greenwing macaw (*Ara chloroptera*). You will have the opportunity to watch and

photograph these huge macaws, and watch the bats as they take flight over the cave or sink hole. **Overnight at Hotel Vitoria. Breakfast (on plane), lunch and dinner included.**

DAY 3 – MONDAY MAY 30

Recanto Ecológico Rio da Prata and Wildlife Safari

This morning after breakfast, your guide will meet you in the lobby of the hotel to begin the day with a visit to the Recanto Ecológico Rio da Prata. On arrival to the park, you will begin with a 1.6-mile walk along the interpretative trail in the Da Prata river forest and if you are a bit lucky, you may see a few wild animals such as the mutum (Bare-faced Curassow), the udu (Blue-crowned Motmot), the nail-monkey, the cutia (agouti) and the queixada (White-lipped Peccary).

At the end of the trail you will enter the lake, which is formed by the many fresh water springs of the Prata River for an extraordinary lake float/snorkel experience. During your float you will discover a fascinating sub-aquatic world in one of the most transparent fresh-water rivers in the world, rich in aquatic fauna and flora. There is a wonderful sensation of flying as you float through the immense crystal clear waters surrounded by fish and vegetation. After your adventure, a hearty South Mato Grosso style lunch will be served at the ranch.

After your snorkeling trip, you will meet with your guide/driver to re-visit the **Buraco dos Araras** —the Hole of the Parrots for the afternoon and then return to the **Hotel Vitoria** for the evening. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included.**



DAY 4 – TUESDAY MAY 31

Wildlife Safari and drive to Campo Grande for flight to Cuiaba and on to PWC

This morning after a nice breakfast and time to pack, you will begin the 2 hour drive to Campo Grande and the 50 minute flight to Cuiaba. Lunch will either be in Campo Grande or Cuiaba.

On arrival in Cuiaba, you will get started for the Pantanal Wildlife Center, driving for about 2.5 hours to reach the famous Transpantaneira Road. This road is one of the best wildlife viewing areas in the world. Here you can admire the flora and fauna along the Transpantaneira and make several stops on the way to take still or video images. Late in the afternoon arrival at Pantanal Wildlife Center (once named Fazenda Santa Tereza), check-in and dinner will be served.

Pantanal Wildlife Center is a large traditional cattle ranch of 3,500 hectares of flooded lands situated at the end of the Rio Pixaim River. Here you are deep into the Pantanal where you can take boat safaris on the rivers; see monkeys, many bird species, capybaras, cayman, and giant otters.

Visit www.pantanalwildlifecenter.com for a wonderful 3 minute video showing some of the sights.

This afternoon the group will have the chance to study the resident Hyacinth Macaws and after dinner, we will take an evening trip to spot nocturnal animals. **Overnight at Pantanal Wildlife Center. Breakfast, lunch and dinner included.**

DAY 5 & 6 – WEDS AND THURS JUNE 1 & 2

Pantanal Wildlife Center

You will have two full days in the area with your private guide, looking for parrots and other wildlife life, especially birds.

Today after an early breakfast we begin to explore more of the Pantanal Wildlife Center. This is the number one birding lodge in all the Pantanal. It is also the best site in the entire world for predictable viewing of wild Giant Otters (at only 1-5 m). Additionally, in 2006 we perfected a system to guarantee Brazilian Tapirs nightly at only 400 m from the lodge. In December 2006, we saw eight of these animals in less than 30 minutes. We also are the only lodge in the Pantanal offering mobile canopy towers near fruiting trees and electric catamarans for long-lens photography on the intimate, wildlife-rich river that flows next to the lodge.

We will have morning and afternoon wildlife safaris. These may be hike to visit the two blinds, a horseback trip or perhaps a boat trip. Activities will be decided at the time by your guide according to the movement and availability of wildlife.

At night you can go out again to look for owls, nightjars, anteaters, jaguar, margay, ocelot, Brazilian Tapir, Little Brocket Deer and a number of crepuscular and nocturnal animals. **Overnight at Pantanal Wildlife Center. Breakfast, lunch and dinner included.**



DAY 7 – FRIDAY JUNE 3

Pantanal Wildlife Center to Nobres

This morning we depart after an early breakfast and wildlife outing, driving north along the Transpantaneira to the Nobres. This is about 3.5 hour drive with the first 1.5 or 2 hours still in the Pantanal. The last section is not as interesting, but the final result is worth it. A box lunch will be served in route.

On arrival to the **Bom Garden Hotel** and after checking into your rooms , you will go about 1200 meters to the Blue and Gold Macaw flooded palm site and watch the birds from 50-100 meters in their nest trees, which are dead Mauritia palms. This is the best Blue and Gold Macaw spectacle that we have found so far in all of the state of Mato Grosso, which is the size of two California's!!! You will stay and see then sunset and then return to the hotel. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included.**

DAY 8 – SATURDAY JUNE 4

Full day in Nobres

Today you get started with an early morning birding tour around the hotel grounds, where you may see some very tame herons around the hotel that are good for photography. Return for breakfast and then drive to the Rio Triste ("the Sad River")--which is quite the opposite of its name--and float for 1500 m down the crystal waters looking at tame fish up close. You will have the use of a snorkel and short wet suit for this activity, as the spring water is in the low 70's, which can become cool after some time in the water.

Return for lunch at the hotel and a short rest. In the afternoon, go to the Blue and Gold Macaw palms again and spend 2.5-3.5 h enjoying the birds as they come in before dusk. You will see the sunset there and then

back to the **Bom Garden Hotel** for the night. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included.**

DAY 9 – SUNDAY JUNE 5

Transfer to Cuiaba for flight to Sao Paulo and return home

Today we rise early for breakfast and watch the Pantanal wake up one last time before departing at 6:30 am for Cuiaba.

On arrival in Cuiaba the group will be assisted with check-in for the flight to Sao Paulo.

You will arrive Sao Paulo, the group will have approximately 4 to 6 hours before the departing flights back home. (Airport assistance for connection flight home optional). **Breakfast included.**

DAY 10 – MONDAY JUNE 6

Arrive Home

We hope you enjoyed your trip and thank you for traveling with Tropical Nature Travel!

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EXTENSION TO HYACINTH VALLEY

DAY 9 – SUNDAY JUNE 5

Transfer to Cuiaba

Today we rise early for breakfast and watch the Pantanal wake up one last time before departing early for Cuiaba where you'll spend the rest of the day. Lodging will be at the Hotel Deville. Tomorrow you will begin your journey to the Hyacinth Valley Lodge.

Breakfast & lunch included. Dinner on your own in Cuiaba.

DAY 10 – MONDAY JUNE 6

Flight to Barreiras via Brasilia.

Drive to Hyacinth Valley Lodge

In the morning you will be met in the lobby for your transfer by **Jaguar Pantanal Tours**, to the Cuiaba airport to board the TAM flight 3599 to Brasilia, departing at 6:05 am. In Brasilia you will change planes to TAM flight 2230, which is also PASSAREDO Airlines flight 1457, departing at 9:29 am for Barreiras in the state of Bahia.

In Barreiras you will be met by our bilingual, naturalist guide and driven in an air-conditioned vehicle for 150 miles (~3 ½ -4 hr) north to the scenic cliff and valley region of Hyacinth Valley.

Every half-century or so, an amazing new wildlife destination bursts onto the South American scene. Such is the case for Hyacinth Valley, of the sunny, dry forests of central Brazil. No other destination in Brazil offers so much charismatic wildlife in so little time.

The Hyacinth Valley Lodge is located at Brazil's new, 1.9-million-acre (730,000-hectare) Parnaíba Headwaters National Park. At one-third the size of New Jersey, the

PHNP is Brazil's largest park outside the Amazon and protects far more dry tropical forest than any other reserve on Earth. Only 10% of the world's original dry tropical forest remains today, while half of all wet tropical forest still stands. Therefore, the Parnaíba Headwaters National Park is exceptional conservation importance. To put this in perspective within the South American conservation scene, this is the sixth largest of Brazil's 52 national parks.

From the comfort of Hyacinth Valley, you can see some of the most exciting wildlife in Brazil. The park harbors more than 1,500 Hyacinth Macaws, or 50-100 times more than any other national park in the world. It also is the most important reserve for the endangered Maned Wolf, which is the world's largest and most beautiful canid. Finally, PHNP is the only place on Earth where Brown Capuchin Monkeys demonstrate the world's most complex tool use by nonhuman primates.

Enjoy this wildlife experience where you will have the chance to view all four of the unique wildlife spectacles: Maned Wolves, tool-using Brown Capuchin Monkeys, and separate, large flocks of Hyacinth and Greenwinged (Red-and-Green) Macaws at close range. All the additional wildlife and world-class scenery represents "icing on the cake". These attractions peak during the months of February through August, but there is excellent wildlife viewing in every month of the year.

Guests are accommodated in double occupancy brick bungalows, each with its own



private, tiled bathroom with sun-heated warm showers from noon until mid-evening. Meals are served in an open-air, thatched dining room where you sample delightful home cooking under luminescent night skies. Bird feeding platforms within a few feet of the headquarters draw a wide variety of tanagers and other small birds, making close range photography fun and easy.

Iced mineral water, soft drinks, beer and wine will be available at the camp (alcoholic beverages for an additional charge). If you're feeling a bit more adventurous, try Brazil's famous "caipirinha", made from local rum known as cachaça.

On arrival you will be assigned your cabin and have some lunch. After lunch you will visit the Hyacinth Blind. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included.**

DAY 11 – TUESDAY JUNE 7

Hyacinth Valley Lodge – Hyacinth Cliff

Early morning visit to a blind overlooking a feeding site for a large flock of Hyacinth Macaws. Viewing scores of the world's largest and most spectacular parrots at such close range in their natural environment is pure magic. Rays of golden morning sun illuminate the birds as they feed, yielding views and photos of electric blue splendor. We watch them feed on their staple palm nut and playfully jockey for position on favorite perches in the trees that surround the blind. We then return to camp for a full, relaxing breakfast.

The balance of the day is enjoyed hiking from the camp to look for birds or perhaps cooling off in the nearby, 10-meter-wide Gurgueia River, which flows out of the adjacent, 1.7-

million-acre Parnaiba River Headwaters National Park (which is 30% the size of New Jersey).

In the afternoon, we drive for 30 km into the core of this national park during 90 min and arrive to the Hyacinth Cliffs Lodge, where there is a good chance to see Maned Wolves in the evening near the camp. **Breakfast, lunch, and dinner included.**

DAY 12 – WEDNESDAY JUNE 8

Day Trip

Hyacinth Cliffs to Greenwing Valley

Early morning departure drive to Hyacinth Valley Lodge to view the Hyacinths again at the blind.

After breakfast, drive for approximately two hours to the breathtaking Greenwing Valley and Lodge, which is ringed by red rock cliffs and buttes. Here we search for one of the two tame groups of wild Tufted Capuchin Monkeys, which are now famous for their use of heavy igneous, hammer rocks that they bring from hundreds of meters to crack hard palm nuts on much larger, sandstone anvils. We have nicknamed these crafty primates "the Einstein monkeys" for their ability to dead-lift large stones weighing half their body mass and smash them down on golf-ball-sized palm nuts. Although this unique behavior is demonstrated by this monkey species over a Texas-sized region of NE Brazil, currently the only location in the world where you easily can view this behavior is Greenwing Valley. These monkeys have appeared over and over again in international TV documentaries by BBC and others, and have appeared in National Geographic Magazine. In the afternoon, we head back to the Hyacinth Valley Lodge. In the afternoon,



chances to view the Hyacinth Macaws near the blind. **Breakfast, lunch, and dinner included.**

DAY 13 – THURSDAY JUNE 9

Hyacinth Valley Lodge

Full day to study and photograph the Hyacinth Macaws. **Breakfast, lunch, and dinner included.**

DAY 14 – FRIDAY JUNE 10

Hyacinth Valley Lodge to Sao Paulo for flights home.

Today after breakfast you will begin the 150 mile (3 ½ -4 hr) journey to Barreiras, in time to catch TAM flight 2230 which is also PASSAREDO flight 1456, departing at 10:55 am for Salvador. On arrival at 12:15 pm you will connect to TAM flight 3173 for Sao Paulo. On arrival there at 3:50 pm the group will have approximately 4 to 6 hours before the departing flights back home. (Airport assistance for connection flight home optional). **Light breakfast included.**

DAY 15 – SATURDAY JUNE 11

Arrive Home