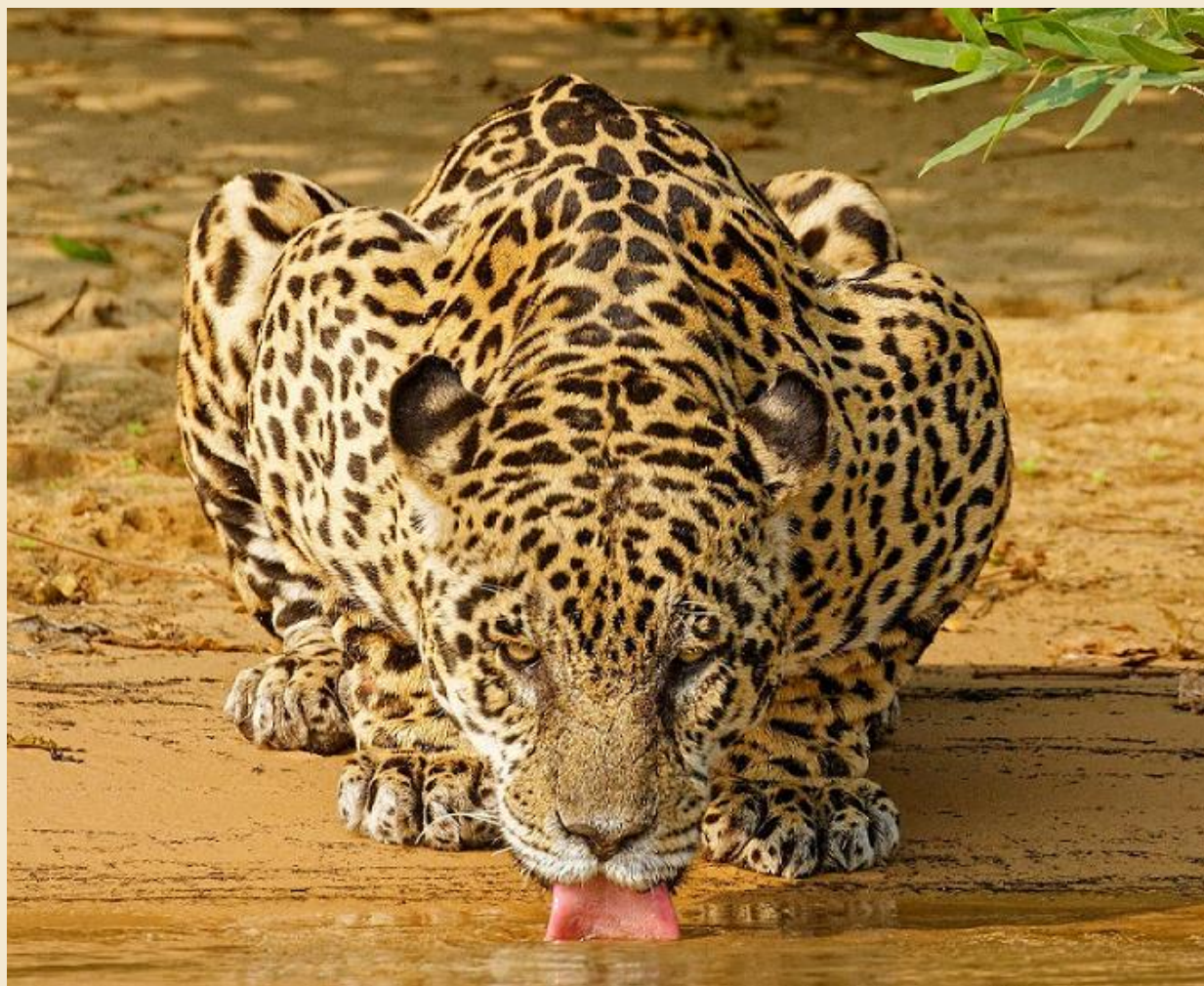




The Pantanal: Unknown Wonder of the Amazon

Designed and Led by Jack Wheeler

Co-Led by Rebel Holiday

May 17 to May 26, 2026

Brazil's Best Kept Secret

Tucked away in a hidden corner of South America, National Geographic calls *The Pantanal* “Brazil’s best kept secret” bordering Bolivia and Paraguay.

Comprising the world’s largest tropical wetlands, the Pantanal contains **the largest concentration of wildlife and tropical birdlife in the Amazon, in all South America, the entire Western Hemisphere**, and quite possibly the entire world. Yet its remoteness keeps it unknown to all but the most elite cognoscenti of world travelers. Wheeler-Windsor Expeditions invites you to be among them.

You’ll visit tribes of Amazon Indians; snorkel in crystal clear lagoons like an aquarium of tropical fish; see parrots, toucans, hyacinth macaws, roseate spoonbills and other birdlife in astounding numbers, giant anteaters, an unbelievable profusion of caiman alligators, and be up close and personal with the Amazon’s iconic yet rarely seen animal, the jaguar.

You’ll do this and more safely and in comfort, enjoy great food and hospitality of people so happy to meet you, learn so much about this wondrous place, and experience a life-memorable adventure few others have ever had. Here we go!



Day 1, Sunday May 17: Arrive Cuiabá, Mato Grosso, Brazil. All expedition participants must arrive in Cuiabá by this day.

We start in the Amazon city of Cuiabá (coo-ee-ah-bah), Mato Grosso, Brazil. The most efficient way to get here from the US is an overnight flight non-stop from several US cities to São Paulo, Brazil, arriving early the next morning, connecting to Cuiabá to arrive on a morning around 10-10:30am (Brazil Amazon Time, same as US Eastern in May). You will meet us in Cuiabá.

When you arrive in Cuiabá you'll be met and transferred to the city's best, the five-star [*Deville Prime*](#). You have the day to relax and enjoy the luxury amenities, rest after the overnight flight. We'll all be together for our festive Welcome Reception and Dinner at one of the city's very best restaurants.

Day 2, Monday May 18: We begin our adventure by driving deep into the Amazon rain forest to spend the day with the Wazare tribe. This is Cacique (Chief) Rony Azoinacea of the indigenous Wazare people of the Amazon. Only such chiefs can wear the pelt of a jaguar and a necklace of jaguar fangs.



We'll learn how they hunt, forage, prepare their meals, and their way of life. They'll teach us their myths and legends. They'll even tattoo our faces or arms with washable plant dye if we want!

Day 2, Monday May 18 (continued)

Before we depart, they'll perform one of their most important ritual dances for us – a moment to remember.



At day's end, we'll drive out of the Amazon rainforest to the small town of Campo Novo dos Parecis for dinner and a comfortable stay at the Oriente Lodge.

Day 3, Tuesday May 19

This morning we visit our second indigenous Amazon people, those of *Quatro Cachoeiras*, the People of Four Waterfalls.

We'll be welcomed by Cacique chief Narciso Kazoizax and his wife, who will explain all they are doing to retain their tribe's culture in the face of the lure of modernity.

Looks like they are succeeding with these young village girls... and with young men who spear big fish with bow and arrow at the waterfalls...



We'll have such a fun morning here, then return to the Oriente for lunch.

Day 3, Tuesday May 19 (continued)

This afternoon we transfer to a very pleasant *pousada* (lodge) near a magic lake.

We relax by the lodge's beautiful swimming pool until sunset nears – for it is then that multitudes of gorgeous macaw parrots come to nest in the husks of old palm trees jutting out of the lake. It's a magical experience of nature.



Day 4, Wednesday, May 20, morning

The magic continues. Nearby our pousada is a natural spring so breathtaking locals call it *the enchanted aquarium*, with the water crystal clear and full of fish.

The best part is we get to swim and snorkel with the fish. The spring flows into a stream of translucent turquoise water that we get to gently float down surrounded by aquarium fish and through a lush Amazonia rainforest. It's a morning we won't forget!



Day 4, Wednesday, May 20, afternoon

Next we head to the *Chapada dos Guimares National Park*, “Chapada” meaning “steep cliffs” in Portuguese, and and marvel at the stunning vistas.

We get to play in the waterfalls spilling off them. Jack and son, Jackson, age 11, had a lot of fun here.



Most spectacular is the Veu de Noiva Waterfall.



Day 4, Wednesday, May 20, late afternoon

Sunset comes at half-past five and we'll watch it at a quite unique overlook – the *Mirante Geodésico*, the geographical center of the South America continent.



It's a short drive from here back to Cuiabá and the Deville Prime for dinner and a good night's sleep.

Day 5, Thursday, May 21

This morning you'll be on the one and only road through the northern Pantanal – it's called the *Transpantaneira*, a raised dirt track straight across the vast wetlands. We're in the dry season so the animals like caiman alligators congregate in the pools along the bottom of the track. They're in numbers that you have to see for yourself to believe.



Day 5, Thursday, May 21 (continued)

It's only a couple hours (*depending on photo stops*) until we arrive at the [Piuval Lodge](#) -- which has its own enormous private game sanctuary and lake. Here we're introduced to the staggering abundance and variety of Pantanal wildlife and birdlife. During a boat ride on the lake or a forest walk, be prepared to be overwhelmed – giant anteaters, a half dozen different monkeys, sloths, ring-tailed coati, tayras, capybaras, giant otters, giant anacondas, ocelots, the list goes on.

... giant anteater having breakfast



... a beautiful ocelot



Day 5, Thursday, May 21 (continued)

We're likely to see these friendly fellows...

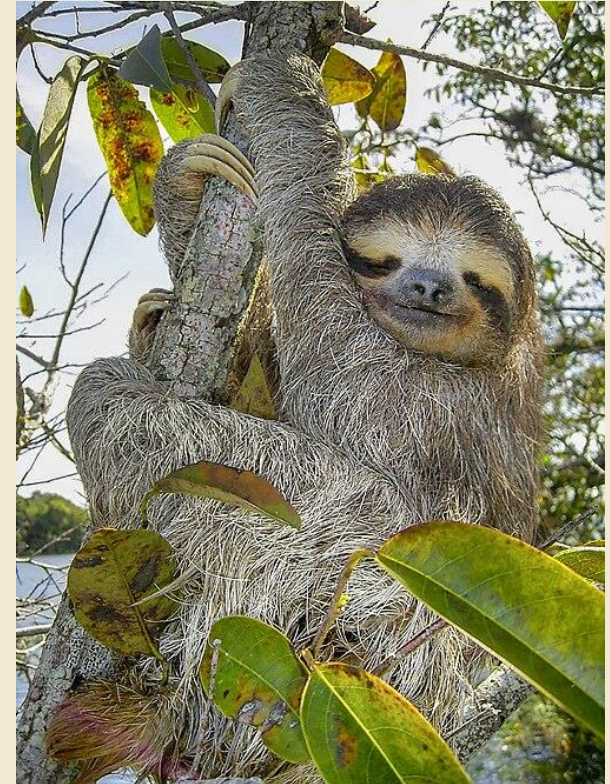
Here's a Squirrel Monkey



Howler Monkeys –they sound like a very loud jet plane!



or, a smiling three-toed sloth...



Day 5, Thursday, May 21 (continued)

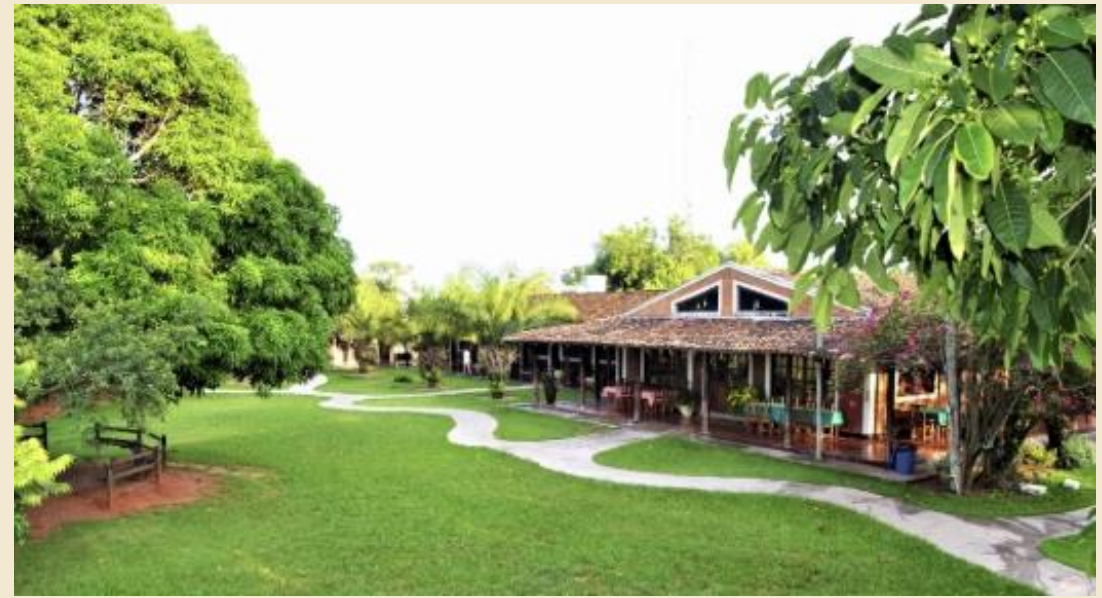
And be ready to see the birds!

Giant hyacinth macaws, toucans, roseate spoonbills, jabiru storks, eagles, hundreds more.



Day 5, Thursday, May 21 (continued)

We'll have time, of course, to relax poolside with a libation of your choice, and enjoy the sumptuous dining at the Piuval.



Day 6, Friday, May 22

Sunrise is before 6am and the ideal is to be awake early with all the wildlife.

If you're feeling like a little exercise and a view, you can climb up onto the observation tower to watch all the multi-colored parrots fly past you – or see the animals on horseback – or the birds by boating on the lake.



Or just chill by the pool until lunchtime...

Day 6, Friday, May 22 (continued)

After lunch, we complete our journey down the Transpantaneira to the end at the settlement of Porto Joffre on the Cuiabá River. Consider it a *photographic safari*, all kinds of animals cross it, capybaras, coatis, rheas (South America's ostrich), anacondas (the world's biggest snake) – all of which ignore you like you're not there.

Capybaras



Ring-tailed coatis



Rheas (South America's ostrich)



Anaconda (world's biggest snake – they leave you alone)



Day 6, Friday May 22 (continued)

Now we head to the best place to see the most jaguars. At Porto Joffre, we board a motorized canoe taking us up river and deep into the Pantanal's secluded Jaguar Refuge – no roads, no villages, no cattle ranches, just jungle-protected for jaguars free to hunt and thrive.

We arrive at the area's only lodge, the Flotel, a hotel floating at the Rio Piquiri (Piquiri River) edge, right in time for dinner.

We are staying in Jaguar Suites and we'll see some beautiful vistas.



Days 7-8, Saturday May 23-Sunday May 24 We spend two full days here, an early morning and late afternoon jaguar safari each day, exploring hidden creeks and streams by small boat, where we are *guaranteed* to see wild jaguars hunting caiman and capybara along the sand banks.



Days 7-8, Saturday, May 23-Sunday, May 24 (continued)

We are enjoying a fully protected area that contains the highest concentration of jaguars on earth. We will spend time here traversing river channels and streams by motorized canoe to observe jaguars as they bathe, relax, and hunt along the river banks for fish and caiman.



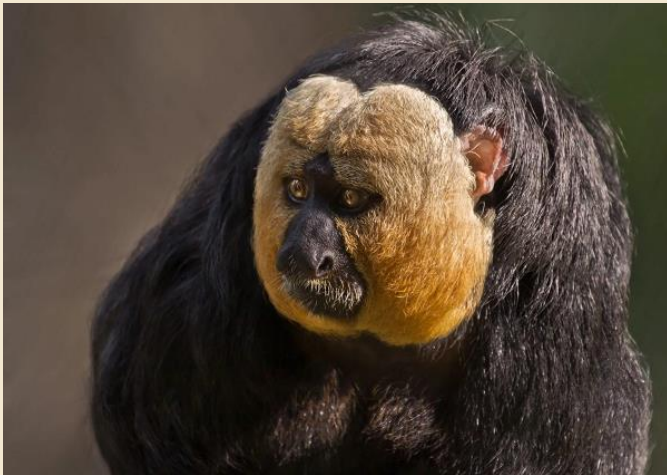
These climactic moments with jaguars in the wild will definitely add to your life-memorable adventure experiences!

Day 9, Monday, May 25

After one last early morning jaguar safari and Flotel breakfast, we return to Porto Joffre to traverse the Transpantaneira back to the Piuval.

We enjoy the birdlife and wildlife along the way, and arrive by lunchtime. You can choose to chill by the pool, go on a late afternoon photo safari by foot or boat.

We might even catch a glimpse of the rarely-seen white-faced saki monkey or a baby giant anteater.



At the end of the day, we'll relax, enjoy a delicious dinner, and get a good night's sleep because tomorrow is our last day here.

Day 10, Tuesday, May 26 We're up at dawn to experience the extravaganza of birdlife at Piuval by canoe or small boat.



Day 10, Tuesday, May 26 (continued)

Then, returning to the lodge for breakfast, we can relax poolside.



After our Farewell Lunch, we transfer to the Cuiaba airport for your late afternoon flight (most flights are 5-6pm) back to São Paulo (GRU).

Most all flights from São Paulo back to the US leave late evening, arriving in time for connections back home.

You'll remember our Amazon sunsets.



Day 10, Thursday, May 26 - Departure & Farewell

It is a thrilling privilege to see all these magically beautiful animals and birds.



You will return home with new friends, amazing photos, and extraordinary experiences of a lifetime.



WHEELER-WINDSOR
EXPEDITIONS



Jack Wheeler & Rebel Holiday

The Pantanal: Unknown Wonder of the Amazon

Sunday, May 17 to Tuesday, May 26, 2026

All Inclusive Per Person: \$13,700

To Register: [Pantanal Wonder of the Amazon 2026 May 17-26](#)

This is all-inclusive, top-quality private Amazon adventure is personally designed by Jack Wheeler. Led by Jack Wheeler and Rebel Holiday, it is unique in what we experience, how we experience it, and in value. (*Note: We have only 5 rooms and these will fill quickly.*)

Includes: All accommodations from check-in May 17 to check-out May 26, 2026. All delicious meals, all transportation from arrival on May 17 at Cuiabá (a 2-hour flight from São Paulo, Brazil-GRU) and returning to Cuiabá on May 26, 2026. All transfers, all accommodations, all boats, all ground transport with group, all meals, all activities, guides on excursions.

Does not Include: Airfare, visas, gratuities, alcohol beverages, laundry, medical and trip cancellation insurance.

Deposit, payment, cancellation & refund. Deposit \$4,700 to register and 2 payments. Balance in full due by January 17, 2026. Refund in full upon an acceptable full-paying replacement for you. Trip will be rescheduled if unforeseen events prohibits travel. We recommend “Cancel for Any Reason” trip cancellation insurance. A travel agent can assist or contact us.

Contact: holiday@wheelerexpeditions.com if questions or to set up a call to discuss. WhatsApp +351 935187474.



WHEELER-WINDSOR
EXPEDITIONS

Dr. Jack Wheeler, called the “real life Indiana Jones” by the Wall Street Journal has traveled to every country in the world. He’s had two parallel careers: one in adventure and exploration with *Wheeler Expeditions*; the other in the field of philosophy and geopolitics. He received his Ph.D. in Philosophy from the University of Southern California, where he lectured on Aristotelian ethics.

His adventures began early. The youngest Eagle Scout in history at age 12, he climbed the Matterhorn at age 14, swam the Hellespont (LIFE Magazine 12/12/60) and lived with Amazon headhunters at 16, hunted a man-eating tiger in Vietnam at 17, and started an export business in Vietnam at 19. He wrote *The Adventurer’s Guide* (New York: Mackay, 1975), described by Merv Griffin as “the definitive book for anyone wishing to lead a more adventurous and exciting life.” He has three “first contacts” with tribes never before contacted by the outside world: a clan of Aushiri in the Amazon, the Wali-ali-fo in New Guinea, and a band of Bushmen in the Kalahari. He retraced Hannibal’s route over the Alps with elephants; led numerous expeditions in Central Asia, China, Tibet, Africa, the Amazon and elsewhere, including 21 expeditions to the North Pole; and has been listed in *The Guinness Book of World Records* for the first free fall sky-dive in history at the North Pole.

Jack founded Wheeler Expeditions in 1976, today he and his sons lead bespoke expeditions each year to unusual destinations. The company has conducted exclusive expeditions to dozens of countries across the globe for decades. On a personal note, in the early 80’s he married Ms. Rebel Holiday in St Tropez, France, and these days, Wheeler Expeditions is a family affair. They are delighted when they have the opportunity to work with their two grown sons, living adventurous lives and leading some expeditions: Brandon Holiday Wheeler and Jackson Holiday Wheeler. Our partner, Edward Windsor, Lord Downpatrick, also leads select expeditions.

Rebel Holiday has traveled to 89 countries and has co-led expeditions for over 3 decades. She has lived in several foreign countries and speaks three languages (English, Spanish, and Portuguese.) Rebel has been involved in business and the arts all her adult life. Wherever she goes in the world, Rebel is most interested in people and cultures. She is passionate about cuisine and loves to find the outstanding restaurants and special activities on trips. She greatly enjoys discovering and sharing the beauty of the world with our travelers.

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**ADVENTURES OF A LIFETIME
A LIFETIME OF ADVENTURES**

<https://wheelerwindsorexpeditions.com>

Contact:

jack@wheelerwindsorexpeditions.com

holiday@wheelerexpeditions.com