

Brazil – Giant Anteater Extension

Naturetrek Tour Itinerary

Outline Itinerary

Day 1	Fly Campo Grande transfer Jardim
Day 2	Macaw sinkhole, Rio Da Prata snorkel, transfer Bonito
Day 3	Giant Anteater excursions
Day 4	Giant Anteater excursion, transfer Campo Grande to overnight
Day 5	Leave Campo Grande for onward plans



Giant Anteater

Summary

Bonito is a charming eco-tourism town, with wildlife rich habitat surrounding it comprising of open cerrado and areas of gallery forest with pristine rivers running nearby. The aim of this short extension is to experience the three main wildlife spectacles. The famous macaw sink hole at Buraco das Araras, the wonderful river snorkel at the Rio Da Prata and there is arguably nowhere which can provide such a wonderful opportunity to get close to Giant Anteater. Surely one of the world's most wonderful animals. There really is a great deal to see here and with expert guidance it will be a most rewarding addition to your main Brazil holiday.

Itinerary

Please note that the itinerary below offers our planned programme of excursions. However, adverse weather & other local considerations can necessitate some re-ordering of the programme during the course of the tour, though this will always be done to maximise best use of the time and weather conditions available.

NB: This itinerary document is intended to give some further background of what to expect and look out for and your guide will fill you in day to day on specific timings.

Day 1

Fly Campo Grande transfer Jardim

After landing into Campo Grande you will meet your guide and transfer to the town of Jardim which will take around 3 hours. You will stop for lunch on the way and your guide will advise on a best plan for

dinner. After a lot of travelling the remainder of the day will be yours to relax and refresh. (please note lunch and dinner is at extra expense).

Day 2 Macaw sinkhole, Rio Da Prata snorkel, transfer Bonito

This morning you will travel to the Buraco das Araras Macaw Sinkhole which is around 30 minutes away. Again exact pick up times will be agreed the day before.

This sinkhole is a geological formation resulting from the collapse of the rock substrate many thousands of years ago. Red and Green Macaws now breed here and there are two platforms to view from providing the opportunity to watch and photograph them close up and in flight.



At the bottom is a lagoon and looking carefully you may be able to see the Blunt-nosed Caimans who have survived in this small pool. Look out for Blue-crowned Motmot that breeds near the first platform, Buff-necked Ibis and sometimes the Curl-crested Jay can be seen. Toco Toucan is also likely. You will enjoy a few hours here.



Red-and Green Macaw and Rio Da Prata River Snorkel

You will then travel the short distance to the Rio Da Prata snorkeling site. This is only around 15 minutes away. The tour starts with a trail through the gallery forest of the Prata River and its tributary Olho D'Água River. You will then slowly drift down river in the crystal clear waters enjoying a myriad of different fish species and other underwater life. This will be a shared

excursion with others, but the experience is excellent and not over crowded. You will have lunch at the centre before leaving and the grounds here are well worth a walk around. They have two feeding stations here which attract parrots and parakeets and sometimes macaws. Peach-fronted Parakeet can be seen, Blue-fronted Amazon and with luck Red and Green Macaws may visit. A walk around the grounds may also result in close views of Red-legged Seriema. A real cerrado habitat specialist as well as other bird species including Campo Flicker.

Once the time comes to leave, you will transfer for around an hour to the town of Bonito. As you approach the town be sure to keep sharp eyed in the surrounding fields as Giant Anteater may be encountered anywhere around here in the open fields.

You will then check in to your hotel the Pousada Olho D'Aqua.

Breakfast and lunch is included today. Dinner can be taken at the hotel your guide can recommend a place to eat in Bonito and help with that.

Day 3

Giant Anteater Excursions

Today you will enjoy morning and afternoon excursions to try to find Giant Anteater in particular. Our guides know the very best areas to watch for them and if you are lucky to spot one advice will be given on how best to approach for a close view on foot. Walking quietly is key here and if you are lucky to approach closely it is without doubt a very special experience indeed! Southern Tamandua may also be found with luck and of course various birds. Both Six and Nine banded Armadillos are also found in the area.



Giant Anteater approaching

You will then return to your hotel the Pousada Olho D'Aqua to overnight.

Breakfast is included with lunch and dinner at own expense.

Day 4

Giant Anteater excursion, transfer Campo Grande to overnight

Today you will head out again in the early morning to search for wildlife with the location dependant on how you got on the day before. Following final explorations of the area it will then be time to transfer back to Campo Grande which takes around 3 hours. Breakfast is included with lunch and dinner at own expense.

Day 5

Depart Campo Grande

Today you will leave from Campo Grande for onward plans.

Included in the Cost

4 nights' accommodation on a Bed and Breakfast basis (see hotels below).

Internal flights.

Private, guided tours as stated with an English-speaking, naturalist guide.

Meals as stated.

Currency & Additional Expenditure

Please note that meals (apart from those stated), drinks, tips, souvenirs and any transport in addition to the above are not included in the cost of your extension. As a rough guide the cost of a two-course dinner with a bottle of wine comes in at £25-£30 per person on average.

The Real as the preferred form of payment; with all hotels accepting credit/debit cards for payment provided they are permitted to be used overseas.

Accommodation

Jardim – Hotel Vitoria <https://vitoriahotels.com.br/>

A comfortable hotel with outdoor swimming pool.

Bonito – Pousada Olho D’Aqua <http://www.pousadaolhodagua.com.br/>

A very comfortable hotel on the edge of the town. It has excellent grounds to walk around all the expected facilities including swimming pool. Azara's Agouti is a mammal that can be found in the garden here.

Campo Grande – Aeroporto Plaza Hotel <http://www.aeroporto plazahotel.com.br/>

A comfortable airport hotel.



Campo Flicker and Southern Tamandua (Lesser Anteater). All photos taken by Tom Mabbett while in the area apart from the snorkel photo.

