natural habitat ADVENTURES

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Discovering Our Planet Together



Brazil Jaguar & Wildlife Photo Expedition

A Peerless Pantanal Safari, with Jaguar Sightings on the Rise

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Trip Details:

Days
11 Days / May–Oct

Price
From $18995 (+Air)

Brazil Jaguar & Wildlife Photo Expedition

A Peerless Pantanal Safari, with Jaguar Sightings on the Rise

If it's mesmerizing jaguar images you're after, the Pantanal awaits While the Amazon may be better known, the Pantanal offers South America's greatest wildlife photography extravaganza, with its largest cat atop the huge, intricate food chain. This UNESCO Biosphere Reserve is the world's largest seasonal floodplain, sprawling over 75,000 square miles in the heart of the continent and containing its densest concentration of wildlife. The vast mosaic of marsh and islands is home to 10 million caiman, 650 bird species and 100 different mammals, including capybara, maned wolf and giant river otter. The Pantanal's freshwater wetlands support a profusion of aquatic fauna that attracts a host of predators, most notably the charismatic jaguar—and our in-depth Pantanal adventure offers the world's best chance to photograph these elusive felines. On foot, by boat and 4x4, explore the verdant recesses of South America's largest wildlife sanctuary—you'll find no better Pantanal photo adventure!

Trip Highlights

World's Best Jaguar Photo Opportunities

Alongside expert photographer-naturalist guides, make five separate boat excursions from Porto Jofre—the best place on the planet to spot jaguars in the wild

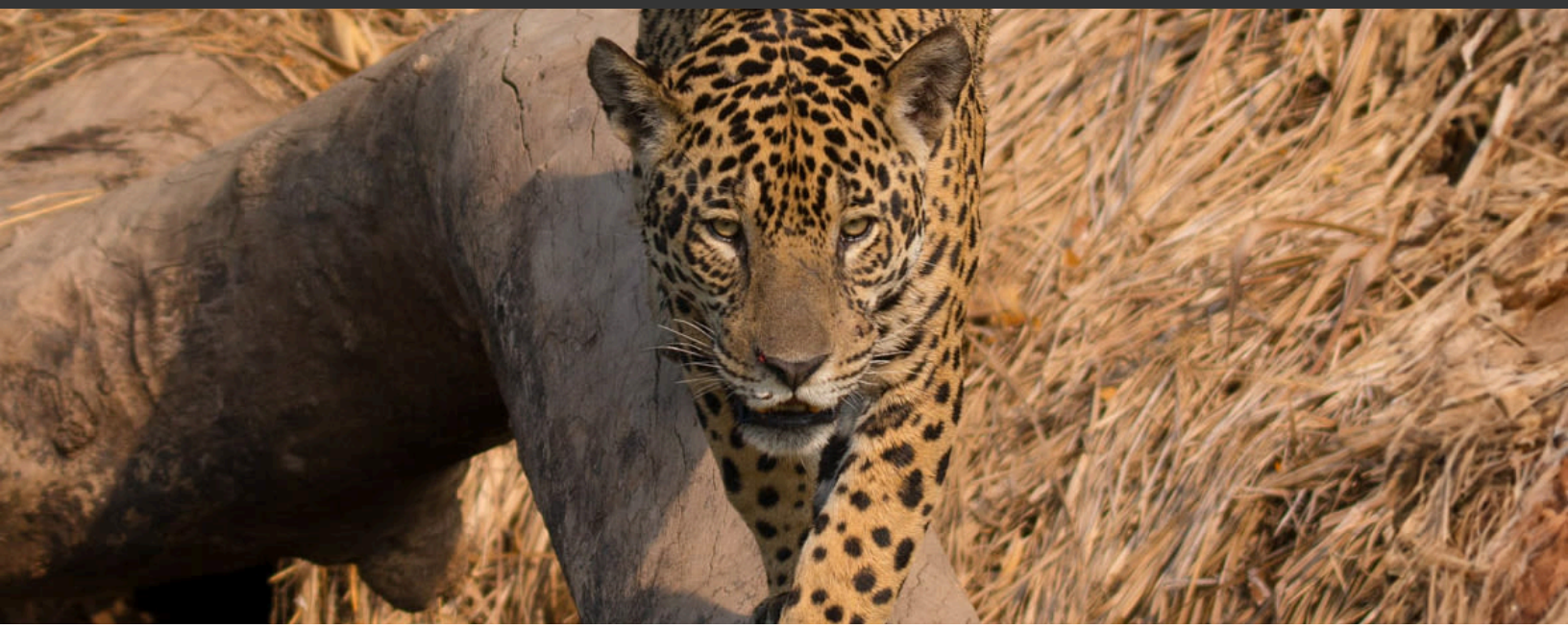
An In-Depth Pantanal Photo Safari

From boat excursions up north to 4x4 drives and guided walks in the south, you won't find a more varied and thorough encounter with the Pantanal and its wildlife

Learn How Photography Can Be a Tool for Conservation

During our stay at Caiman Ecological Refuge, seek shots of tapir, giant anteater, ocelot and hyacinth macaw, and discover how your presence helps conserve them

Ready to Book? Call an Adventure Specialist at 800-543-8917



Brazil Jaguar & Wildlife Photo Expedition Itinerary

A Peerless Pantanal Safari, with Jaguar Sightings on the Rise

Itinerary at a Glance

Day 1	Sao Paulo
Day 2	Sao Paulo / Cuiaba / North Pantanal
Day 3	North Pantanal
Day 4	North Pantanal / Porto Jofre
Days 5–6	Porto Jofre
Day 7	Porto Jofre / South Pantanal
Days 8–9	South Pantanal
Day 10	Caiman / Campo Grande / Sao Paulo
Day 11	Sao Paulo



Day 1

Sao Paulo

Begin your journey to Brazil's wild Pantanal

- Check in to a boutique hotel in Sao Paulo's leafy Jardins district
- Join your Expedition Leader and fellow photographers for a welcome dinner

Arrive in Sao Paulo and transfer to our boutique hotel in the upscale Jardins district, a leafy, low-rise oasis in the heart of this burgeoning city. Our Brazil adventure begins with a welcome dinner this evening.

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Day 2

Sao Paulo / Cuiaba / North Pantanal

Enter South America's greatest wildlife sanctuary

- Reach remote Araras Ecolodge, your base in the northern Pantanal
- Photograph wildlife along the nature trails surrounding your lodge
- Explore a vast wetland that shelters 10 million caiman

Fly this morning to Cuiaba, then transfer by road to Araras Ecolodge in the northern Pantanal. Declared a World Heritage Site and Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO in 2000, the Pantanal's vast expanse of wet marshlands and dry islands is South America's primary wildlife sanctuary. Its name derives from the Portuguese word pantano, meaning "swamp." With rhythmic regularity, this vast depression in the center of South America floods with the annual rains, submerging most of its environs. As the waters recede during the dry season, they leave a mosaic of pools and marshes where a plethora of life flourishes in intense concentrations. Some 3,500 different plants thrive here, and the Pantanal is home to 10 million caiman, 650 bird species, 400 kinds of fish, myriad reptiles and amphibians, and more than 100 mammal species. Wandering the nature trails around the lodge, we get our first opportunity to photograph the wondrous biodiversity that awaits our exploration.

Day 3

North Pantanal

Explore the world's largest wetland on foot and by safari

- Capture photos of capybaras and spectacular birdlife on a morning walk with local guides
- Explore the Pantanal's semi-arid woodland and tropical savanna by safari vehicle
- Set out on a night drive, watching for nocturnal wildlife near the lodge

Covering 75,000 square miles across Brazil, Bolivia and Paraguay, the Pantanal is the world's largest wetland, containing 12 subregional ecosystems including semi-arid woodland and tropical savanna. Our immersion begins with a morning nature walk with our Expedition Leader and local guides who are resident experts on the flora and fauna. We'll hope to capture photos of capybaras and other distinctive Pantanal species, including spectacular birdlife. While their habitat is under duress due to the expansion of ranching, mining and farming, it is reassuring to know our presence contributes to the economic value of conserving this incomparable wildlife realm. This afternoon, explore the Pantanal savanna by safari vehicle, then finish our day's adventures with a night drive, hoping to spot nocturnal wildlife en route to the lodge.

Day 4

North Pantanal / Porto Jofre

Search for your first jaguars in the Pantanal

- Wake for a sunrise walk filled with birdsong and monkey calls
- Look for caiman, anaconda, jabiru storks and macaws on a scenic drive to Porto Jofre
- Scan the Cuiaba River by skiff, camera ready for your first jaguars

On a sunrise nature walk from our ecolodge, listen to the chorus of birdsong and monkey calls announcing a new day. After breakfast, depart for Porto Jofre via the Trans-Pantanal Highway, which traverses some of the best wildlife-viewing areas in the ecosystem. Along this remote dirt road that crosses 123 bridges, search for caiman, capybara, giant anteater, anaconda, jabiru stork, macaws and more. Our destination is Porto Jofre, where the highway ends at the Cuiaba River—an important port for transporting cattle and agricultural products from the Pantanal along the road artery to the town of Pocone and beyond. After lunch on arrival, set out in open skiffs for our first jaguar watch. Keep your camera poised as we scan the riverbanks for glimpses of the stealthy cats. This region has the highest density of jaguars in the entire Pantanal, and our odds of seeing them are excellent, especially from mid-May to mid-October. The jaguar—the largest wild cat in the Americas—is the top predator in the ecosystem, drawn to the abundance of food sources that thrive here.

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Days 5–6

Porto Jofre

Photograph jaguars where wildlife gathers at eye level

- Search for jaguars and giant otters from private small boats
- Look for capybaras, toucans, caiman and howler monkeys along the river
- Watch for fishermen catching dorado and pacu by hand as water levels fall

The area around Porto Jofre offers exceptional wildlife encounters, and we focus on sighting and photographing jaguars and giant otters. Look for them and a multitude of other Pantanal species, including caiman, capybara, toucans and howler monkeys, on private morning and afternoon small-boat excursions. Outings on the river also reveal scores of waterbirds, reptiles and plants that thrive in the sprawling mosaic of lakes, lagoons, rivers and marshes. Fish flourish in this freshwater sea, too, and as the water level drops seasonally in the lakes and channels, fishermen can sometimes catch dorado, pacu and traira by hand. Birds large and small fly overhead and feed at eye level.

Day 7

Porto Jofre / South Pantanal

Reach a private wildlife refuge in the South Pantanal

- Fly by private charter over the Pantanal to your secluded ecolodge
- Base at Caiman Ecological Refuge, a private conservation reserve on a 130,000-acre ranch
- Search for Brazilian tapirs and your first southern jaguar on a private wildlife drive

This morning, fly via chartered small plane directly to Caiman Ecological Refuge, avoiding a rugged 10-hour drive while capturing dramatic aerial views of the Pantanal along the way. Deep in the green recesses of the South Pantanal, this renowned ecolodge is our base for private exploration. It lies at the remote heart of a 130,000-acre sustainable cattle ranch, and the atmosphere reflects the distinctive local cowboy culture that taps 200 years of combined Portuguese, Paraguayan and indigenous traditions. The lodge was the first ecotourism operation in the region and remains a conservation leader. When the refuge was established, 10% of the ranch acreage was set aside as a private conservation area, off-limits to cattle but open to visitors. The protected area, chosen with the aid of research scientists from the University of Sao Paulo, is remarkably diverse, with habitats encompassing wooded and scrubby savanna, open pasture, stands of caranda palm, hammock forests, streams and seasonal channels—all providing sustenance for numerous Pantanal species, including Brazilian tapir. This afternoon, we head out on a private wildlife drive in the Caiman Ecological Refuge, perhaps providing our first jaguar sighting in the south.

Days 8–9

South Pantanal

Track wild jaguars with the Oncafari conservation team

- Ride in open-sided 4x4s on day and night safaris through the South Pantanal
- Look for wild jaguars with the Oncafari Project, which habituates them to safari vehicles
- Practice night photography beneath the Pantanal's star-filled skies

A range of activities in the refuge offers varied perspectives on the South Pantanal. Depending on seasonal conditions, we may take nature walks and day and night 4x4 safaris in open-sided trucks, with plenty of stops to capture images of nocturnal animals when they're at their most active. Local guides join our Expedition Leader to reveal and interpret the area's many natural phenomena. Wildlife abounds in the vicinity, and the refuge is the site of the Onçafari Jaguar Project. This new conservation initiative aims to promote wildlife ecotourism in the Pantanal by habituating jaguars to vehicles so people can observe and photograph them while on safari. With patience and luck, we hope to be among the fortunate few to see wild jaguars here, as sightings continue to increase with concerted conservation efforts. On clear nights from mid-May to mid-October, the starry skies overhead are spectacular, and we may have the chance to view planets and constellations through powerful telescopes during evening astronomy programs and practice night photography around the campfire.

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Day 10

Caiman / Campo Grande / Sao Paulo

Return to Sao Paulo after your Pantanal adventure

- Wake to a chorus of tinamous and parrots over the South Pantanal
- Fly by private charter from Caiman Ecological Refuge to Campo Grande
- Gather for a farewell dinner in Sao Paulo

Awaken to the symphony of tinamous and parrots and savor the South Pantanal's tranquility before departing our ecolodge on a private chartered flight to Campo Grande. From there, we fly to Sao Paulo, a cosmopolitan metropolis and cultural melting pot that is the largest city in South America. This evening, gather for a farewell dinner with a chance to reflect on all the adventures we've had.

Day 11

Sao Paulo

Depart from Sao Paulo

- Transfer to the Sao Paulo airport for homeward flights

For guests not continuing on our Iguazu Falls Extension, enjoy some exploration on your own if time permits before your departure for the airport. Visit the Sao Paulo Museum of Art, considered to house the most important collection of European art in the Southern Hemisphere, or stroll through Trianon Park, a tropical forest oasis with myriad paths leading you to native palms and trees, including Pau Brasil (the Brasilwood tree, after which the country is named), and more than 29 species of resident birds. An airport transfer is provided to meet homeward flights.

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Brazil Jaguar & Wildlife Photo Expedition Accommodations

A Peerless Pantanal Safari, with Jaguar Sightings on the Rise



Araras Ecolodge

Located in the northern sector of the Pantanal, South America's premier wildlife sanctuary, this rustic lodge enjoys a superb location for exploring the region's varied habitats and intense biodiversity.



Hotel Pantanal Norte

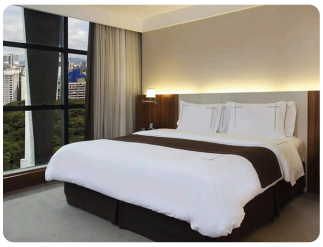
Situated in the heart of the Pantanal's best jaguar habitat, this remote family-run hotel is optimally located for jaguar tracking and wildlife viewing along the rivers that lace the region.



Caiman Ecological Refuge

Located within an enormous private reserve deep in the heart of the Pantanal, this ecolodge offers comfortable accommodations, varied activities, and by far the best wildlife viewing in the area.

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Tivoli Mofarrej

Located in São Paulo's upscale Jardins neighborhood, this award-winning luxury hotel maximizes sweeping city views from the rooftop bar, restaurant and swimming pool.

For detailed descriptions, visit nathab.com/south-america/jaguars-brazil-pantanal-photo-expedition/accommodations.

The Most Comprehensive Pantanal Photo Safari You'll Find

Brazil Jaguar & Wildlife Photo Expedition

With the world's largest wetland at its heart—which also happens to be South America's largest wildlife realm—tropical Brazil is a prize for wildlife photographers. Our itinerary immerses you in the Pantanal in greater depth than any other trip we're aware of—meaning you won't find better photo opportunities anywhere else! See what sets this photo safari apart:

1 **The Very Best Locations for Wildlife Photography**

In the Pantanal, wildlife is even more abundant than in the Amazon. We may see Brazilian tapir, capybara, giant armadillo, giant river otter, maned wolf, caiman, and the top prize for wildlife photographers, the elusive jaguar. But you can't stay just anywhere in this massive marsh and expect those rewards. An itinerary must be strategically based around the best wildlife-viewing locations, and this one won't let you down.

2 **More Time in the Pantanal from Multiple Perspectives**

We spend seven full days at three different locations in both the north and south Pantanal to offer you a full photography immersion in this UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. Photograph wildlife throughout this vast mosaic of flooded marshlands, dry islands and savanna via multiple means, from nature walks and 4x4 drives to boat rides and canoe safaris—each mode revealing a new vantage point on the varied landscapes and their wild inhabitants.

3 **Private Chartered Flight from North to South—a Nat Hab Exclusive!**

Getting from the northern part of the Pantanal to the south can be a challenge. But rather than subject you to what most travelers endure—a 10-hour drive over rough roads, plus two short commercial flights in between—we charter private planes to fly directly to Caiman Ecological Refuge. It's not only a far more comfortable and efficient option, but you'll get a 360° aerial view that reveals the vastness of the Pantanal—a perspective few visitors get.

4 **Our Lodgings—Including Caiman Ecological Refuge—Immerse You in Nature**

We choose our accommodations based on the superb access they offer for nature photography. Spend three nights in the remote Porto Jofre region, where we find more jaguars than anywhere else. Another highlight is Caiman Ecological Refuge, part of an acclaimed private research, conservation and ecotourism initiative. Unlike more-touristed Pantanal locations, this exclusive ecolodge enjoys a remote private setting, with ever-increasing jaguar sightings in the vicinity.

5 **A Small Group Facilitates Intimate Wildlife Photo Encounters**

Our Photo Expedition is limited to 11 travelers, for a quieter presence in nature. A small group also ensures that your Photo Expedition Leader can offer you all the personalized attention and guidance you need—so you can go home with images you're thrilled with.

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6 **Your Expedition Leader is a Pro Photographer & Top Naturalist Guide**

Nat Hab has a well-deserved international reputation for the highest-quality Expedition Leaders, and our photo safari guides are no exception. Our Brazil naturalist are equally accomplished photographers, photo instructors and wildlife experts, with additional training and resources from WWF scientists. In the Pantanal, we are also joined by local guides from each lodge who are resident experts in their region's flora and fauna. See Expedition Leader bios and traveler comments regarding the quality of our leaders.

7 **Our Quality-Value Guarantee Ensures Your Brazil Photo Adventure**

With Natural Habitat Adventures, you receive our exclusive guarantee that clearly states that we will meet the high expectations we set forth in our promotional materials. To our knowledge, this is the most ambitious guarantee made by any adventure travel company. Read our important promise.

8 **Feel Good About Your Carbon-Neutral Journey**

We care deeply about our planet, as we know you do. When you travel with us, the carbon emissions from your trip are 100% offset—including your round-trip flights from home. Natural Habitat Adventures has been the world's first carbon-neutral travel company since 2007.

9 **Natural Habitat Adventures is WWF's Travel Partner**

Because of our commitment to environmentally friendly travel, as well as the exceptional quality of our small-group nature adventures, World Wildlife Fund, the world's leading environmental conservation organization, has named Natural Habitat Adventures its worldwide travel partner—a designation that makes us exceedingly proud!

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Dates & Pricing Summary:

Price
From $18995 (+Air)

Group Size
Limited to 8 Travelers

Brazil Jaguar & Wildlife Photo Expedition Dates, Pricing & Info

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2027 Departures

Departure – Return	Pricing	Notes
May 20 - May 30, 2027	**$18995** +internal air	
Jun 7 - Jun 17, 2027	**$18995** +internal air	
Jun 22 - Jul 2, 2027	**$18995** +internal air	
Jul 13 - Jul 23, 2027	**$18995** +internal air	
Aug 6 - Aug 16, 2027	**$18995** +internal air	
Aug 24 - Sep 3, 2027	**$18995** +internal air	
Sep 8 - Sep 18, 2027	**$18995** +internal air	
Sep 26 - Oct 6, 2027	**$18995** +internal air	
Oct 8 - Oct 18, 2027	**$18995** +internal air	

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2028 Departures

Departure – Return	Pricing	Notes
Prices not confirmed for 2028		
May 21 - May 31, 2028	**From $18695** +internal air	
Jun 5 - Jun 15, 2028	**From $18695** +internal air	
Jun 17 - Jun 27, 2028	**From $18995** +internal air	
Jun 23 - Jul 3, 2028	**From $18995** +internal air	
Jul 14 - Jul 24, 2028	**From $18995** +internal air	
Aug 4 - Aug 14, 2028	**From $18995** +internal air	
Aug 16 - Aug 26, 2028	**From $18695** +internal air	
Aug 22 - Sep 1, 2028	**From $18695** +internal air	
Sep 6 - Sep 16, 2028	**From $18995** +internal air	
Sep 24 - Oct 4, 2028	**From $18995** +internal air	
Oct 6 - Oct 16, 2028	**From $18695** +internal air	
Oct 9 - Oct 19, 2028	**From $18695** +internal air	

See https://www.nathab.com/south-america/jaguars-brazil-pantanal-photo-expedition/dates-fees for the latest pricing details.

Included

Trip price includes: Accommodations, services of Nat Hab's professional Expedition Leader(s), local guides and lodge staff, all meals from dinner on Day 1 through breakfast on Day 11, some gratuities, airport transfers on Day 1 and final day, all activities and entrance fees, all taxes, permits and service fees.

Not Included

Travel to and from the start and end point of your trip, alcoholic beverages, some gratuities, passports and visa fees, optional activities, items of a personal nature (phone calls, laundry, etc.), airline baggage fees, airport and departure taxes (if any), required medical evacuation insurance, optional travel protection insurance.

Internal air: All scheduled and private charter flights within the itinerary (this will be listed separately on our invoicing).

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Mandatory Insurance

Since the areas we travel to are remote and wild (that's why we go there!), we require that all guests have, at minimum, medical evacuation insurance for this program. This is for the safety of all guests. We require that your chosen independent insurance plan includes at least $250,000 in medical evacuation coverage.

To protect your investment and to provide peace of mind while you travel, we also strongly recommend purchasing comprehensive travel insurance. Plans may cover everything from medical treatment to trip cancellations and delays and lost luggage. Please contact our office if you would like more information about the medical evacuation and comprehensive travel insurance policies we offer by calling 800-543-8917.

Getting There & Getting Home

This trip begins and ends in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Because this is a long international journey, **we recommend that you arrive at least one night prior to Day 1** to rest from your travels and begin the trip refreshed. For guests who come in early, recommended hotels will be included in your pre-departure materials.

If you plan to arrive on Day 1, you must arrive in Sao Paulo by 4 pm in order to attend a welcome orientation and dinner beginning at 6 pm.

You may depart Sao Paulo at any time on Day 11.

Our Natural Habitat Adventures Travel Desk can best assist with your travel reservations, as our staff is familiar with the specific requirements of this program and can help arrange the most efficient itinerary. Please call us at 800-543-8917. While we offer the best available rates to us on airfare and additional nights accommodations, you may occasionally find special web rates or lower fares online.



Brazil Jaguar & Wildlife Photo Expedition Extensions

A Peerless Pantanal Safari, with Jaguar Sightings on the Rise



Iguazu Falls Extension

A privately guided adventure to experience one of the world's mightiest waterfalls up close, including both the Brazil and Argentina sides of this massive cataract with hundreds of individual cascades.

$2895 (+air)

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Natural Habitat & WWF: Discovering Our Planet Together

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US & Canada: 800-543-8917 · International: 303-449-3711

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WWF's membership travel program is operated by Natural Habitat Adventures (Nat Hab). To date, Nat Hab has provided more than $6 million in support of WWF's mission and will continue to give 1% of gross sales plus $175,000 annually through 2028. WWF® and ©1986 Panda Symbol are owned by WWF. All rights reserved.