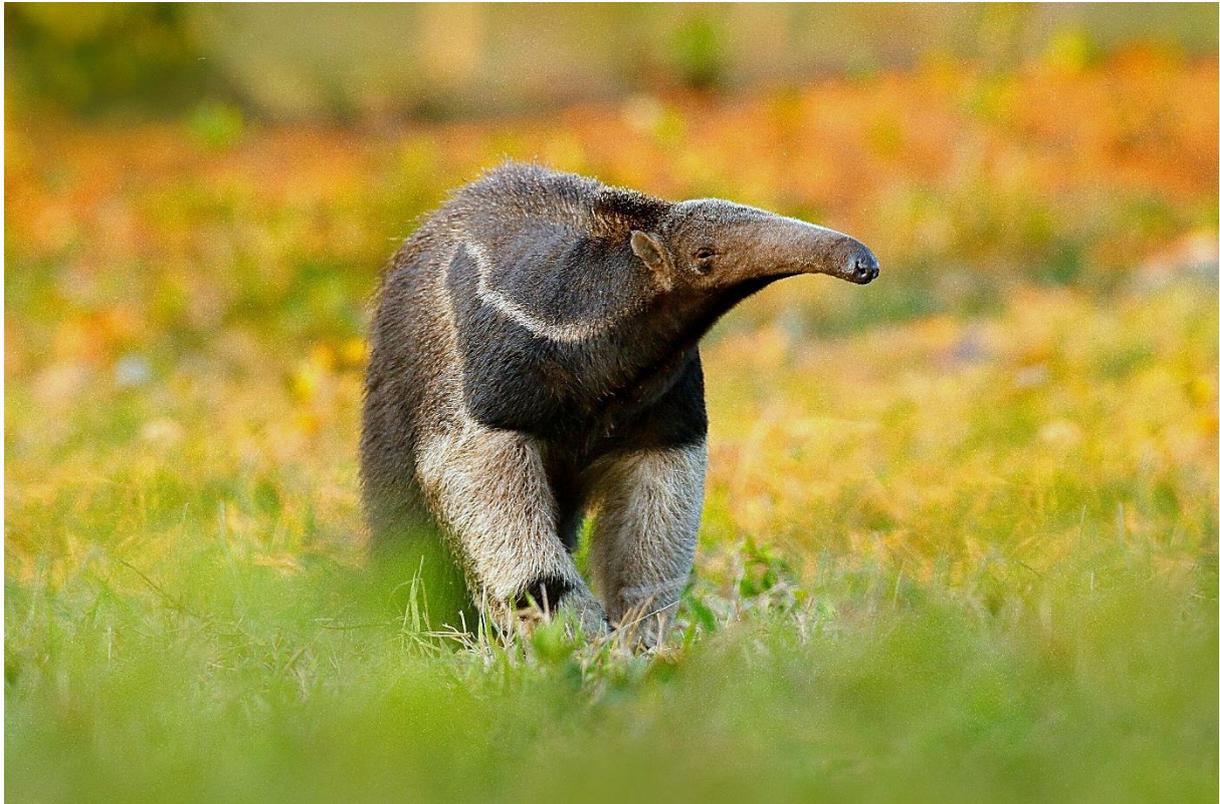


Brazil - Giant Anteaters of Piuval

Naturetrek Itinerary



Giant Anteater (*Myrmecophaga tridactyla*)

Outline Itinerary

Day 1	Transfer Piuval Lodge or Portal Paraiso Lodge, Giant Anteater excursion.
Day 2	Morning and afternoon wildlife excursions focusing on Giant Anteater.
Day 3	Final Giant Anteater search, transfer to Cuiaba to fly São Paulo and London.

Summary

The iconic Giant Anteater – the largest of the living anteater species measuring lengths of up to four feet and weighing up to 50kg with an amazing 60cm tongue. Scientists estimate that there are only around 5,000 individuals left in the wild and this short extension aims to give you an extra chance during your Pantanal visit to see this wonderful animal.

Following the main group tour you can focus your attention on finding Giant Anteater, staying at Piuval Lodge or Pousada Portal Paraiso lodge in the heart of an area which has had great recent success with sightings. Early morning and evening sessions will see you span out from here in search of Anteaters and with expert guidance we can give you the best chance of success as well as enjoying a whole host of other wildlife. Our base will have lovely grounds, a swimming pool, great food and Wi-Fi providing a perfect place to relax between morning and late afternoon searches. The Caipirinha will be very good here too!

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. 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. This below outlines how this will work after your main tour as this is the most popular way of doing it and limits the cost with just one private transfer required. If you wished though to carry this out beforehand, you can do.

Day 1

Transfer to Lodge

On the final day of your group holiday, as others transfer to the airport, you will transfer to your lodge on the quest to find Giant Anteater. The lodge lies off the Transpantaneira road and we will be passing the end of the driveway as we travel to the airport. After passing along the 3km driveway we will settle into the lodge. We will enjoy some birding around the lodge with a wealth of species to enjoy, making an effort to find the White-fronted Woodpecker (*Melanerpes formicivorus*), a species not easily found at other locations along the Transpantaneira. In the late afternoon we will head out to try and find Giant Anteater.



Giant Anteater (*Myrmecophaga tridactyla*)

The general approach to finding the Giant Anteaters will be to drive down the Lodge's 3km driveways which often produces the best results. We will also cover about 1-5 km of the main Transpantaneira. This whole area is superb Giant Anteater habitat and we will stop and start and scan the area. If an animal is sighted, we may walk 400-500m to get a closer views. As darkness falls, we will return to the hotel to enjoy a tasty dinner and relax.

Day 2

Giant Anteater Excursions

Today we will enjoy morning and afternoon excursions to find Giant Anteaters with your expert guide. Our guides know the very best areas to watch for them and will be reacting to recent sightings and news on their whereabouts. Time will be spent scanning the open areas and looking for movement in the long grasses and termite dotted cerrado that surround the lodge here.

We will head out very early, before breakfast to try to find Giant Anteater in the surrounding habitat before returning to the lodge for breakfast. After refueling at breakfast we will continue to enjoy the lodge grounds with some light birding and searching for wildlife. Beautiful Hyacinth Macaws are resident here and breed



Giant Anteater (*Myrmecophaga tridactyla*)

nearby and the water bodies nearby the grounds of course will be holding the by now familiar Yacare Caiman and Capybara with Wattled Jacanas, Cocoi, Rufescent Tiger and Capped Heron and Sunbittern just some of the species that may be around. Fruiting Mango trees may hold Yellow-chevroned and White-eyed Parakeets, Scaly-headed Parrot and Turquoise-fronted Amazon to name but a few with the beautiful Orange-backed Troupial and Toco Toucan other delights.

After lunch there is time to relax around the lodge before another search for Anteaters in the afternoon and into the evening. We will head out in our vehicle and take walks into the surrounding habitat when needed, stopping and scanning the vast, termite laden grasslands for any movement. As well as Giant Anteater, other mammals we may encounter are Nine-banded Armadillo and possibly Southern Tamandua with Crab-eating Fox also possible. After an extensive search of the area we will return to our lodge to overnight.

Day 3

Giant Anteater excursion, transfer to São Paulo

Today you will head out again in the early morning to search for Giant Anteaters and other wildlife with the location dependant on our success the previous days. After breakfast there is a chance to relax or bird the ground before lunch and transferring overland to Cuiaba for your flight back to São Paulo and on to London.

Cost

We can run this extension with one to twelve people and the cost will depend on the number in each group who decide to do it. Please let us know if you are interested.

1 person: £1495.

2 people: £895 per person.

3 - 12 people: £695 per person.

Single Room Supplement £120

Included in the Cost

- Private, English-speaking specialist anteater guide
- Private car throughout
- Accommodation
- Meals and excursions as noted (all meals until departure from the lodge on the final day)
- Unlimited mineral water from large coolers, but bring your own refillable water bottles. We suggest that each person bring a 1.5-litre bottle.

Additional Expenditure

Please note that drinks, tips, souvenirs are not included in the cost of your extension.

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

Time to Visit

From June through to early November sees the best chance of a Giant Anteater encounter in this area. This is the dry season, providing the best chance to find them in the day time, emerging to feed in the cool, dry evenings and mornings.

Accommodation

During this extension you will be staying in the heart of Giant Anteater habitat, either at the charming family-run Portal Paraiso, or the charming Piuval Lodge, depending on availability.

Both lodges have Wi-Fi, air conditioning, a swimming pool and are set in fantastic wildlife habitat.



Portal Paraiso



Piuvai Lodge