

2015 Packing List for Brazil Expeditions to Pantanal, Wolf Camps, Amazon, and other sites

Please note that the total weight of luggage per person should be no more than 80 pounds or 37 kilos. This rather generous weight allotment includes all checked luggage as well as ALL hand luggage, camera equipment, and tripods. For guests using charter planes, PLEASE USE SOFT DUFFELS FOR ALL CHECK-IN PIECES, as they fit better in the luggage compartments of small planes.

Packing List

- ✓ 2-3 pairs of light-colored field trousers such as by REI, Columbia, Patagonia, or Ex Officio.
- ✓ 2-3 long-sleeved field shirts as sun protection during the daytime and as mosquito protection in early morning, late afternoon, and after dark. Same brands as the trousers.
- ✓ 1-2 Cotton t-shirts or polo shirts per day...
- ✓ 4 pairs of white cotton socks tall enough to tuck pants into (most useful during forest walks)
- ✓ 1 pair of sneakers or walking shoes. (e.g Low Converse All-Stars are light weight, dry fast).
- ✓ Waterproof sandals, flip-flops or crocs (take on boat rides if rains-- bag your real shoes!)
- ✓ 3 LARGE plastic bags (folded in day pack). Bag walking shoes & cameras if rains on boat trip.
- ✓ Treat with permethrin (& mark) your sneakers, 2 pairs tall white socks, & 1 pair field trousers
- ✓ Windbreaker for cutting the cool wind during boat rides in early morning and evening.
- ✓ May through September, bring **heavy down coat, mittens, winter hat** for rare cold fronts.
- ✓ Water bottle to refill...Nalgene or metal.
- ✓ Day pack (small backpack) for cameras, water bottle, etc.
- ✓ Camera, batteries and/or charger, & memory cards. Consider bringing a pen drive (USB stick) to transfer and store photos to then free up memory cards. Bring owner's manuals, please.
- ✓ Seriously-good binoculars (the new Zeiss terra model 8 x 42 binoculars are very good value).
- ✓ Rain poncho/loose-fitting rain suit, as serious rain can fall in any month, even in "dry season"
- ✓ Sunscreen, sunglasses, & a sun hat with a stiff front brim. Hat must not fly off in the wind
- ✓ Underwear and light pajamas
- ✓ Bathing suit and perhaps sun shirt for swimming in pools or in Piquiri & Rio Negro Rivers.
- ✓ Insect repellent containing DEET, and personal toiletries and medications.
- ✓ Small flashlight
- ✓ 700-1,500 reais per person in Brazilian money to pay tips, bar bills.
- ✓ Passport (complete with Brazilian VISA for persons from USA, Canada, Australia, etc)

Information From SouthWild.

As the cabins on the flotel are not very large, we kindly request that you restrict your total luggage of all kinds to no more than 37 kilos (80 pounds) per person. In May through September, please remember to bring serious cold weather clothes, as cold fronts can strike during those months, bringing the daytime high temperature down to 9 degrees C (50 degrees F). If you have a lot of luggage and some of it is not needed for your wildlife trip with us, then your excess pieces can be stored safely at the secure SouthWild offices, which are only 600 metres from the Cuiabá Airport.

Chiggers

If not taken seriously, chiggers are itchy mites that can TRULY RUIN some trips to forests and fields from SE USA to Argentina. The miracle solution is pre-trip treatment with PERMETHRIN spray of a few pairs of cotton socks, one pair of absorbent walking sneakers, and the lower half of one pair of field trousers. Please do not ignore this warning. The most easily available permethrin is by Sawyer. REI (rei.com) and Amazon sell this product. If you follow the instructions and do not overspray or pointlessly treat the entire trousers, then one 739-ml (24-ounce) bottle of Sawyer permethrin spray is sufficient to treat this small amount of clothing for 2-3 persons. If you cannot find permethrin in your country, or do not have time to find it and spray ahead of time before you travel, then many experts swear that knee-high rubber boots (known in UK as "Wellington boots") also repel chiggers, but they are hot, heavy, and can be uncomfortable. Nevertheless, wearing hot boots on forest walks is FAR preferable to getting a bunch of itchy chigger bites.

Drinking water

Unlimited drinking water is available from large water coolers at SouthWild Pantanal and SouthWild Jaguar Flotel. Please bring permanent drinking bottle to refill at no cost, thus eliminating plastic refuse, which already is much too prevalent in the modern world.

Electrical outlets and battery charging

SouthWild Pantanal and SouthWild Jaguar Flotel have unlimited, 24-h, 110-volt electrical power. We provide plug adaptors (not voltage transformers) and/or power strips that work for almost all North-American-style, two-prong or three-prong plugs. Ask for details if you have the slightest doubt about whether your cameras or laptop computers will plug into our sockets.

Binoculars

You may never see wild Jaguars again, so if you possibly can, please bring a good pair of binoculars. Often animals are in deep shade at 30-50 meters. Without good binoculars, you cannot appreciate the elegant spot patterns and changing expressions of the big cats. Bring 8 x 42 Zeiss Terra model OR Nikon "Monarch" binoculars (the best values for money in mid-range binoculars). The three best binocular brands in the world are Leica, Swarovski, or Zeiss, and any the following models of those brands would be highly recommended, but they are not cheap: 8 x 30, 7 x 42, 8 x 40, 8 x 42, or 10 x 40.

About medications

Make sure to bring any personal medications with you to Brazil. Our sites are far, far from pharmacies.