



Mato Grosso & Mato Grosso do Sul

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Mahalo (p366)
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Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Refúgio Ecológico Caiman (p381)
- ➔ Cristalino Jungle Lodge (p371)
- ➔ Pousada Araras Eco Lodge (p380)
- ➔ Casa da Quineira (p369)
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Why Go?

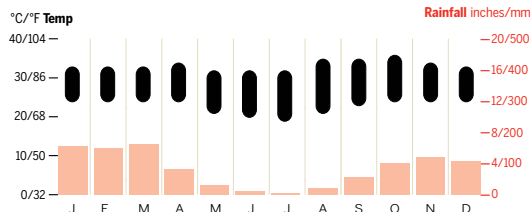
Mato Grosso was once Brazil's wild west, a land known only to explorers, indigenous hunters, poachers, gold seekers and naturalists. Today, some of Brazil's most photogenic wildlife and incredible scenery make it a prime destination for eco-tourists and anglers.

The Pantanal, one of the most important and fragile ecosystems on the planet, truly shines as Brazil's top destination for animal-spotting and bird-watching. The attractions don't stop there: the crystal-clear rivers and cave lakes around Bonito and Bom Jardim allow you to explore a remarkable underwater world by donning a scuba tank or snorkeling mask.

In the far-north town of Alta Floresta, the cerrado (savanna) morphs into the Amazon; in the south near Bonito, the Serra da Bodoquena is a breathtakingly beautiful, watery wonderland. In between the two, the Parque Nacional da Chapada dos Guimarães boasts some of the most commanding plateau views in Brazil.

When to Go

The Pantanal



Feb Carnaval time in Corumbá; the biggest in the region.

Jun–Aug Top time for jaguar tours in the Pantanal.

Nov Bonito's many watery attractions without the holiday crowds.



Mato Grosso & Mato Grosso do Sul Highlights

- 1** Gawking at wildlife along the 145km **Transpantaneira 'highway'** (p377) in the Pantanal.
- 2** Journeying to the center of the earth at the **Abismo de Anhumas** (p392) near Bonito.
- 3** Watching the sun set over dramatic landscapes in **Parque Nacional da Chapada dos Guimarães** (p370).
- 4** Going bird bonkers at the **Cristalino Jungle Lodge** (p371) in the southern Amazon rainforest.
- 5** Exploring the underwater mysteries of a bottomless cave at **Lagoa Misteriosa** (p393).
- 6** Snorkeling with exotic fish at **Recanto Ecológico Lagoa Azul** (p372).
- 7** Diving into Mato Grosso do Sul's indigenous culture at the **Museu das Culturas Dom Bosco** (p382).
- 8** Dancing in the streets during Corumbá's **Carnaval** (p389), Mato Grosso-style.
- 9** Fishing, canoeing and caiman-spotting off **Estrada Parque** (p379).