



Mato Grosso & Mato Grosso do Sul

POP 5.5 MILLION

Includes ➔

Mato Grosso	360
Cuiabá	360
Parque Nacional da Chapada dos Guimarães	367
The Pantanal	370
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Campo Grande	379
Corumbá	383
Bonito & Around	386

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Avalom Grill (p385)
- ➔ Cantina Romana (p381)
- ➔ Pantanal Grill (p390)
- ➔ A Casa do João (p390)
- ➔ Da Mata Bistro (p366)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Pousada do Parque Eco Lodge (p366)
- ➔ Cristalino Jungle Lodge (p368)
- ➔ Pousada Araras Eco Lodge (p377)
- ➔ Bonito HI Hostel (p389)
- ➔ Turis Hotel (p379)

Why Go?

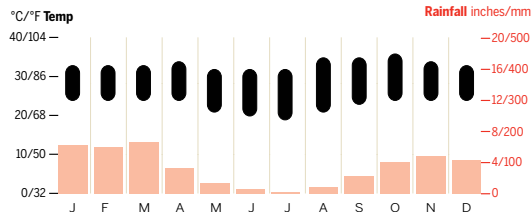
Mato Grosso was once Brazil's wild west, a land known only to explorers, indigenous hunters, poachers, gold seekers and naturalists. Today, some of Brazil's most cooperative wildlife and incredible scenery make it a prime destination for eco-tourists and anglers.

Though the Amazon has the glamor, it is the Pantanal that shines as Brazil's top destination for wildlife-viewing and bird-watching. One of the most important and fragile ecosystems on the planet it is home to an impressive concentration of spectacular animals. Cuiabá, Corumbá and Campo Grande are all gateways to this celebrated wetland, but the region's offerings certainly don't stop there.

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

When to Go

The Pantanal



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

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

Nov–Jan When
Bonito is at its
hottest and
the water most
inviting.



Mato Grosso & Mato Grosso do Sul Highlights

- 1** Gawk at incredible wildlife while driving the 145km **Transpantaneira 'highway'** (p375) in the northern Pantanal.
- 2** Journey to the centre of the earth at the **Abismo de Anhumas** (p388) near Bonito.
- 3** Watch the sunset over dramatic landscapes in

- Parque Nacional da Chapada dos Guimarães** (p367).
- 4** Go bird bonkers at the twitcher's paradise **Cristalino Jungle Lodge** (p368) in the southern Amazon rainforest.
 - 5** Snorkel with exotic fish in the crystal-clear water world at **Recanto Ecológico Lagoa Azul** (p368).

- 6** Dance in the streets in **Corumbá** (p383) during Carnival, Mato Grosso style.
- 7** Sling a hook and hope for the best during the International Fishing Festival at **Cáceres** (p369).