

Bonito

Quick Guide



Bonito is an unique reserve in the border of Pantanal where there are incredibly clear rivers and caves with deep azure lakes that work as natural aquariums. The main activity there is the snorkeling and swimming down these rivers among the great variety of fishes, big fishes (like the Dourado). You'll also be able to hike and bike through forests, learning about the different species of centenarian trees and other forms of vegetation until you get to marvelous falls where you can swim and When exploring the caves, you'll be able to see the beautiful composition that stalactites and stalagmites make on the ceiling of the caves, as well as down the water of the big lakes formed inside them.
refresh from the hiking.

CLIMATE

What is the weather like? April through June the Pantanal is very lush with expansive wetlands, becoming progressively dryer July through October, when the tropical hardwoods loose their leaves and bloom colorful flowers. In general, temperatures are warm*in the 80s during the day and the 60s at night. June through August are the coolest months in the Pantanal, with fall-like temperatures in the 50s at night and the 70s during the day.

PEOPLE

Bonito is a small town with about 30.000 inhabitants. The population is basically compounded by local people working in the cattle farms and outlanders that came to develop the eco-tourism in the region.



TOURS AND EXPEDITIONS



Rio da Prata: The Silver River. Accompanied by experienced guides, you'll walk on a trail along the river through the forest where you'll glimpse birds, wild animals and exuberant vegetation. Entering the lake formed by the many fresh water springs of the Prata river, you'll discover a new subaquatic world. There is a curious sensation of flying when floating in this immense of crystal clear waters surrounded by fish and vegetation. This down-river flotation tour, takes about 90 minutes, with furnished mask, snorkel and complete wetsuit. After the adventure, enjoy a hearty meal, South Matogrosso style, at the ranch. Duration: full day.



Snorkeling in Rio Sucuri: The Anaconda River. A crystal-clear spring with beautiful vegetation and a rich variety of fish. Visitors from all over the world are astonished at its beauty as they move with the gentle river 2 km downstream. An unforgettable experience appropriate for children and adults of all ages. Life jacket and diving mask provided, you may also rent neoprene dress. Duration: half day.



Rafting in Rio Formoso

The Beautiful River. An 8 km trip in rafts goes to the "Isle of the Priest", passing over three small waterfalls and two rapids. Expect to see several species of birds and fish; also the unexpected - possibly monkeys, a tapir, or a boa along the bank can be seen. **OPTION:** Nocturnal tour (only on full-moon nights). **Tips:** Wear a swimming suit under your clothes and take a towel, sun protection and a hat. Plastic protection for cameras provided. Life vest and helmet are provided. Duration: half day.



Boca da Onça Ecotour

The mouth of the Jaguar. Boca da Onça is located between Bonito and Bodoquena. On this site they provide a trail of 5.600m passing through a beautiful nature with a rich flora, fauna and many waterfalls. One of the falls is the highest in the state of Mato Grosso do Sul, a height of more than 150 meters. After the trail you may relax in the restaurant or in the bar, and take a swim in one of the swimming pools of fresh water, among a lot of fish. You can also play in the waterfalls, like they were showers and hydro massage/Jacuzzis. The access to the water is good, even disabled people can enter into the water. **Main activities:** hiking, swimming and waterfalls. Duration: full day.



Gruta do Lago Azul: The Blue Lake Cave. One hundred meters from the cave's mouth, one can see a lake of deep blue colored water. Expert divers have never reached the bottom of this lake. No one knows for sure where this water comes from, as the rivers in the region have a slight greenish color. People believe there is a subterranean river feeding the lake. When the sun's rays enter the cave and hit the water, it appears a spectacle of rare beauty.

OBS: Entrance forbidden to children under 5.
Duration: 2 hours (20km from Bonito).



Estância Mimosa: The Sweet Ranch. The itinerary starts in the ranch's main house, where visitors can taste a light homemade snack with typical teas and cookies, carefully prepared on an authentic wood stove. In addition, there are hammocks placed underneath vines of passion fruits, a lagoon that became a haven for alligators and birds, an orchard where various fruits can be picked.

After this cozy reception, it is time to go on a pleasant stroll through the gallery forest of Mimoso River, passing by nine waterfalls of various sizes and shapes. Along the way, there are six places suitable for swims under waterfalls or in natural pools, besides small caves, lookouts and a 6-meter high diving board from which you can jump into a natural water hole. It's recommendable to keep your eyes wide open, since there is always a chance of observing wildlife such as macaws, toucans, monkeys, anteaters or any other among the 150 animal species already listed. landscape.



Abismo Anhumas: The Abyss of Anhumas.

Considered the best adventure in Brazil!

A crack on the ground creates a vertical abyss, a real trip to the centre of the Earth. The 72 meter rappel descent leads to a lake of clear waters, with the size of a soccer court.

In the dry part of the cavern there are many speleothemes, true sculptures produced by Nature.

Below the lake's surface, snorkelers and scuba divers face enormous cone-shaped structures, as big as 16 meters tall.

Obs: you have to practice Rappel one day before and be approved by the instructors in a quick test.



Diving at the Abismo Anhumas

Despite the incredible beauty of the cave, the Anhumas Abyss offers everything scuba divers dream on. Crystal clear waters, amazing rocky formations create an unforgettable scenery.

Diving between the cones, you have a visibility from 40 to 60 meters and one instructor guides you. Unforgettable beauty!

Diving certification is requested.

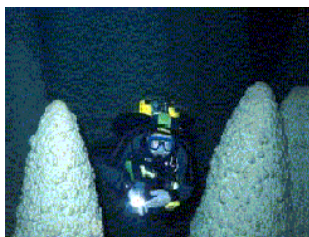


Mysterious Lagoon – 40 Km far from Bonito, the lagoon impresses for its depth and transparency of the water

During the winter, the visibility exceeds the 40 meters. The access until this blue water lake is very difficult, however, this effort is compensated for the beauty seen when you dive. Scientists have already reached a depth of 220 mts. The diving is planned based on the limits of the certification of each diver.

Also circuits exist special for Cave Divers.

Obs: During the summer the basic dive is suspended. The technical dive happens all over the year



Mimoso Grotto – Considered one of the best caves for diving in the World

In the tourist circuit, it is possible to make a 70 mts horizontal penetration inside the cave, in a fantastic journey through stalactites, curtains, and other rocky formations. The maximum depth in this dive is 18 mts.

This first circuit ends with the vision of the magnificent Cones Saloon, an immense hall with big cones that reminds a lunar landscape. A *Cavern Diver* certification is requested for this first circuit.

To get into the Cones Saloon and visit other areas out of the Tourist Circuit it is necessary to have an *Intro Caves* Certification.

TIPS

- **What to bring:** Swimming suit, sports clothes, sun block, sandals, two pairs of tennis shoes or boots, sun glasses, jeans, liquid or cream repellent, binoculars if wanted, rain coat and lantern, jackets and pullovers between the months of July and September.
- Don't forget to try the Taboa, a kind of cachaça (sugar cane liquor) made with cinnamon. I'll find it at the Taboa Restaurant in downtown of Bonito.
- Don't forget to rent the neoprene shoes on the floatation tours. It is inexpensive and it is very helpful...
- Remember you must make a test and practicing the rappel, the day before you have schedule the Anhumas Abyss.
- Bonito offer great options for diving in caves. Don't forget to bring your diving card.

IMPORTANT PHONES

Air Companies (in Campo Grande) TAM Airlines: (67) 368-6159 Varig: (67) 325-4070 Gol: 0800 7012131	Hospitals: Clínica Said Rua Luiz da Costa Leite, 1920 - Bonito Telefone (067) 255-1157 Hospital Sírio Libanês - Campo Grande: (67) 721-5255	Police: 190 In Bonito Rua 24 de fevereiro, 1725 - Phone: (067) 255-1714 / 190
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