

# Where the Wild Things Thrive

From Costa Rican canopies to the Arctic's icy edge, we bring the world's most remarkable habitats within reach. Witness whales in the Azores, track jaguars in the Pantanal or discover Greece's hidden wetlands, all guided by the local expertise that turns a simple trip into an unforgettable encounter.

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Eleanor Falcon, Alonissos

# Wildlife Wonders

By Lisa

Wildlife encounters are often the unexpected highlights of a Sunvil journey. Through trusted local partners and expert guides, nature comes alive - from Mediterranean wetlands to tropical rainforests, South American floodplains, volcanic islands and icy Arctic expanses, each destination offers moments that remain long after the trip ends.

Greece is a major destination for birdwatching. During the spring months, Crete's wetlands host thousands of migrating birds travelling from Africa to Europe whilst Lesvos attracts flamingos and raptors along its migratory trails. On Alonissos, monk seals can be seen in coastal waters and cliffside Eleanor's falcons nest undisturbed. Gialova Lagoon occasionally reveals Europe's only African chameleon and Tilos supports wild goats and several endemic birds, reflecting the variety of Greek wildlife.

Costa Rica is defined by rainforest biodiversity. Sloths move slowly through the treetops on the Osa Peninsula and in Corcovado National Park, and brightly coloured tree frogs cling to leaves. Macaws and quetzals are common overhead, monkeys swing through the canopy and jaguars remain hidden in the

undergrowth. Turtles, tapirs, crocodiles and hundreds of bird species add to the richness of the forests while butterflies and smaller amphibians provide continuous bursts of colour.

The Pantanal in Brazil is a wetland with abundant wildlife. Jaguars move along riverbanks, giant river otters are often seen in waterways and capybaras graze in open glades. Hyacinth macaws and herons populate the skies and seasonal flooding creates varied habitats, attracting wading birds and waterfowl and supporting a wide range of species in a relatively small area.

The Azores are considered one of the leading cetacean destinations in the world. Dolphins and whales are frequently seen offshore, some 28 of the planet's 90 species of whales and dolphins, including resident sperm whales and migratory blue, fin, humpback and sei whales, while São Miguel's laurel forests shelter the rare Priolo, an endemic bird. Puffins, shearwaters and other seabirds occupy cliffs and coastlines.

Svalbard presents High Arctic wildlife. Polar bears patrol the ice, walrus haul out along the coast and beluga and bowhead whales

(resident) glide the cold waters, joined by migrating pods of minke, fin, humpback and orca. Small Svalbard reindeer roam tundra expanses, Arctic foxes leave tracks in the snow and seabird colonies - puffins and guillemots - add movement and colour, while ringed seals occasionally appear in coastal waters, demonstrating the resilience of life in extreme conditions.

**Across these destinations, wildlife can be seen thriving in its natural environment, creating unforgettable moments for every traveller. To experience these unique encounters for yourself, speak to a Sunvil consultant and plan a journey guided by local expertise and knowledge.**



*"Sloths and Macaws, my companions in Costa Rica."*

Lisa



Sperm Whales, the Azores