

Trip Report – Mamiraua Reserve, Brazil,

June 11 to 14, 2017

Having stalked this website for several years now I promised Jon I would do a report on Mamiraua. I visited the reserve for four days prior to the Amazon trip out of Manaus with Jon and Fiona, which will be the subject of a more detailed report to follow .

Mamiraua Reserve is located just north of Tefe, an hour's flight west of Manaus. There are a couple of flights a day with AZUL and MAP. There are two places to stay in the reserve, Pousada Uacari and Casa do Caboclo. Pousada Uacari is more upscale, but when I enquired was quite restrictive in terms of when they would pick guests up from Tefe. Casa do Caboclo was extremely accommodating and willing to arrange transfers to meet or leave on any flight, so I stayed with them. It is run by Choca and Ruth, who were very hospitable. Very little English is spoken, but Ruth is one of those people who is gifted at communication so it wasn't a big problem. There is a guy in the village, Alan, who speaks some English. E-mails are answered in English, often after a few days.

Casa do Caboclo is located in the tiny village of Boca de Mamiraua, at the southern end of the reserve. Mamiraua is famous for being varzea forest, which is flooded for several months of the year. At high water (when I went) all travel is by boat and your feet do not touch solid ground during your stay. I found seeing the community at this time of year fascinating.

In terms of mammals, the high water season is best for arboreal mammals. The flagship species of the reserve is the Red-and-white Uacari, and one has an excellent chance of seeing these.

Mammals seen:

1. Southern Tamandua. *Tamandua tetradactyla*. One seen at close range on the second morning.
2. Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth. *Bradypus variegatus*. Multiple sloths (at least 5 or 6) seen in trees by the waterways.
3. Proboscis Bat (Long-nosed Bat). *Rhynchonycteris naso*. Multiple specimens roosting in rows on trees.
4. Greater Fishing Bat. *Noctilio leporinus*. Multiple specimens flying around the pousada at night.
5. Black-faced Squirrel Monkey (Black Squirrel Monkey). *Saimiri vanzolinii*. One of the specialities of Mamiraua. Multiple troops seen every day.
6. ? Common Squirrel Monkey. *Saimiri sciureus*. A troop seen my last day on the eastern edge of the reserve appeared to be this species. If so, I'm not sure how resources are

partitioned between this and the previous species. Both species are listed as occurring in the reserve.

7. Large-headed Capuchin. *Sapajus macrocephalus*. Several troops seen.
8. Red-and-white Uacari (Bald Uacari). *Cacajao calvus*. Several troops seen during my first morning in the reserve. There are several platforms in the reserve that were built for a crew to facilitate filming this species. Unfortunately they are no longer usable. Views were good but brief, as these monkeys are shy and fast-moving.
9. Venezuelan Red Howler Monkey. *Alouatta seniculus*. Seen a number of times, including views just behind the village.
10. Boto or Amazon River Dolphin. *Inia geoffrensis*. Numerous but brief views. Occasionally quite startling when they suddenly exhale just behind the boat deep in the forest.
11. Tucuxi. *Sotalia fluviatilis*. Seen a number of times in the river in front of the pousada as well as in other rivers in the reserve.
12. Northern Amazon Red Squirrel. *Sciurus igniventris*. One seen just behind the village.

Overall a great place to visit. Probably two nights' stay would suffice. I left a bit of extra time to make sure I saw the uacaris. I also went fishing with a guide one morning and caught some pacu, which were delicious. Meals are generally fish, often pirarucu, with starch and vegetables and more than ample.

A visit during the dry season could also be interesting. I was told that there is a Neotropical Cormorant rookery across the river which is visited by Margay in the dry season. I was unable to quantify what one's chances of actually seeing one were. The guide did make a point of saying that other cat species were rarely seen.

Please feel free to contact me if you are looking for more information.

Ian Thompson

ibtson@yahoo.com