

## Exploration trip in Eastern Beni

### Hacienda San Carlos, South to San Ramon.

#### Nick's Adventures

When I heard of a new conservation project in Eastern Beni, I didn't wait long before organizing a trip with Nick Adventure's who is currently promoting this fantastic area far deep inside the unknown Beni.

The project consists in compensating the losses due to jaguars attacks on wildstock through tourism. This farm is located in a pristine ecosystem with two seasonal rivers called Rio Negro and Rio San Carlos.

Different activities can be done depending on the season: horse riding, 4x4 safaris, walking safaris, boat safaris.

Dolphins are very common during the rainy season. Jaguars were seen twice this year on 5 trips. One giant ant-eater was sighted by a worker on the first morning not far from the farm. Tapirs are to be found inside the Rio Negro riverine forest.

#### Main sightings:

- 3 lesser anteaters during night drive.
- Multiple sightings of six-banded and nine-banded armadillos, mostly at night.
- Capybaras.
- Black and spectacled caimans.
- Agouti.
- Two venomous pit vipers (Cascabel).
- 1 gray four-eyed opossum.
- One great potoo.
- Red and green macaws.
- Blue and yellow macaws.
- Chesnut-fronted macaw.
- Howler monkeys.
- Squirrel monkeys.
- Capuchin monkeys.
- Many grey brocket deers.
- 4 Marsh deers.
- 3 collared peccaries.

The highlight of the tour was the sighting of two giant otters, which are the first sighted in the region in the last 25 years!

I also visited the breeding center of Fundacion Loros Bolivia in Loreto, one hour South from Trinidad. The project consists in breeding blue-throated macaws from private collection, and release the chicks in the wild. They are still working on the execution plan. I hope some birds will go back to the wild in the next years!

Unfortunately, I was not able to visit the Hacienda Esperanzita, which harbors some breeding pairs of this critically endangered macaw. There is only an estimated 300 birds left in the wild, and about 1000 macaws in captivity.

Here is the Facebook webpage of the new San Carlos Wildlife Reserve:

<https://www.facebook.com/San-Carlos-Wildlife-Eco-Reserve-145250859563610/>

Here is the Facebook webpage of the Conservation Loros Bolivia foundation:

<https://www.facebook.com/fclbolivia/>

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