

Costa Rica (Central Pacific Coast) Bud Lensing

My wife and I traveled there Feb 1 - 7, 2023 for our first visit. We had our share of anxiety after scheduling this trip. We initially booked a refundable flight on Southwest Airlines (Albuquerque via Houston to Liberia) in October 2022. Then SW experienced their “meltdown” over Christmas which resulted in thousands of canceled flights and passengers being stranded for over a week. So we booked an alternate refundable fare on American via Dallas to Liberia, but didn’t cancel our SW flight. Then Dallas had the hideous ice event Jan 31- Feb 2 which canceled air traffic in and out of Dallas when we were scheduled to depart. So we took SW and it was seamless and on time and the worry for nothing.

I had tried to get Fiona Reid’s place to stay but she was all booked up for the time we wanted to go. So we got an Airbnb treehouse (Thomas and Lili Franz) in the Manuel Antonio area. We landed in Liberia and got the baggage, did customs and rental car and drove five hours to Quepos. It was a long day of travel.

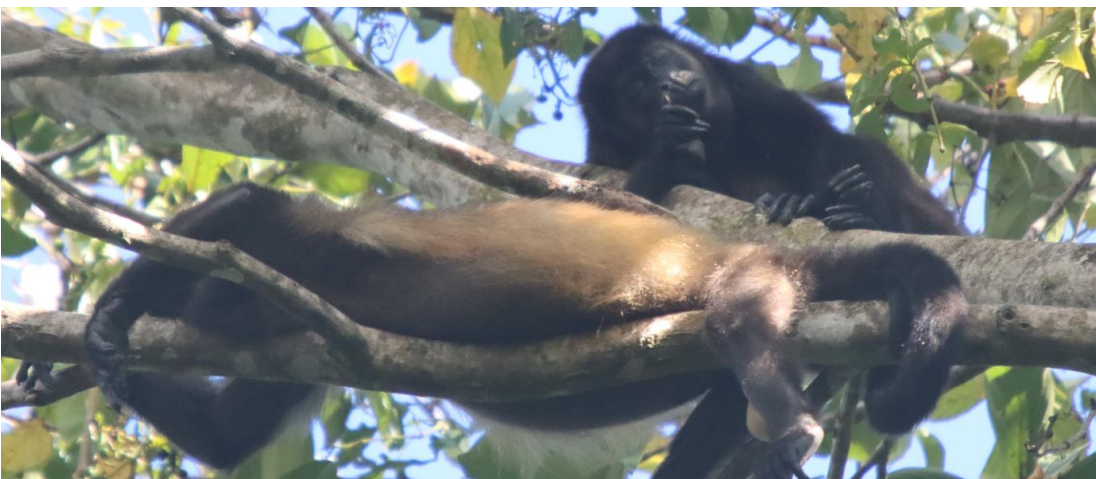
Morning 1 Manuel Antonio NP: Fifteen to 20 minute drive from the treehouse. Got to the park before it opened and while I was walking around birding I saw a White-tailed Deer.



Started along the main trail and didn't see much for a while then started to see people gathering and soon after had the Hoffman's Two-toed Sloth



Continuing on the main trail I walked down to the beach and on the way back saw a couple of mantled Howler Monkeys resting.



Continuing back another big crowd and it was the Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth peeking at us.



I stayed until about 11am but no other mammals were seen.

That night we had scheduled a night boat tour of the Damas river through manuelantonioexperiences.com. The meeting point was at the end of the Ent de Isla Damas road 15 minutes from Quepos.

The boat ride resulted in a Four-eyed Opossum, Kinkajou, Two-toed sloth and several raccoons. Only got a glimpse of the Opossum and no picture. The Kinkajou was in the overhanging tree directly over the boat as we passed.



The operator got a light on it and I saw it but not sure if I got it in the picture. I was thinking it is in the upper left, but I can't clearly tell if it was where the laser dots are pointing.

However the sloth was active.



Got a picture of two of the raccoons and since the mask was slighted I called them the crab-eating. Any input is welcome.



Did see a common raccoon as it woke me up skirmishing around our treehouse balcony at 3am the next morning, Right next to my bed.





Day 2: The day before my wife enjoyed a squirrel monkey show around 6am right outside the treehouse balcony and at 6am we had them again. After the show we took off for Uvita at 630am. The drive to Uvita is a little over an hour south from Quepos. Got on a whale watch boat at the Marina Ballena National Park. A three hour boat ride resulted in no whales but 6-8 Bottlenose dolphins. Great views right next to the boat. There were five other boats looking at them too. Seems if any whales had been seen we would have known.



That night I had a walk through Rainmaker Park half an hour drive north NE of Quepos. No mammals, just herps.

Day 3: That morning I hiked around and explored the treehouse area. No mammals seen. It was a brief hike as we had another boat ride scheduled along the Damas mangroves through thecostaricatoursite.com at 11am. We drove to Iguana Tours office in Quepos and they bussed us to the boat 15 minutes away. The boat ride resulted in Proboscis Bats and a Silky Anteater. The boat operator and guide knew exactly where the bats were and the boat operator spotted the anteater with no binocs and I shook my head how he saw that clump of fur about 20 meters away.





Upon return from the boat ride we were cooling off and getting ready for dinner at the Marina Pez Vela in Quepos a troop of White-faced Capuchins made an appearance. The treehouse has been great for monkey shows and howler monkeys have been heard but not seen. The owner of the treehouse said he sees them occasionally.



Day 4: We went on a one hour aerial tram east of Jaco and a two hour boat ride on the Tarcoles River an hour and a half drive north of Quepos and we were denied any mammal activity.

Day 5: I went on a rainforest birding tour near Esquipulas half an hour north of Quepos. Only mammal seen was a Variegated Squirrel.



Upon return to the treehouse we checked out and drove to Liberia to fly out the next day.

Five days and 14 mammals, great weather, scenery and food.