











Bolivian Cat Specialist Tour

Destination: Santa Cruz, Trinidad & Sucre, Bolivia **Duration:** 16 Days **Dates:** 11th – 26th Aug 2022

-  Sightings of five species of cat, including Jaguar, Puma, Ocelot & Jaguarundi!
-  Enjoying tracking down Jaguars and approaching them on foot with expert guides
-  Seeing many species of birds including critically endangered Blue-throated Macaws
-  Enjoying a relaxing boat cruise down the Imare River in a private boat
-  Spotting several endemic species including the Bolivian River Dolphin & Chaco Titi
-  Seeing 169 species of birds including 5 species of Macaw and many raptors
-  Spotlighting Ocelots, Brazilian Tapirs and Crab-eating Raccoons among others
-  Finding ?? species of mammals including Chaco Peccaries & Geoffrey's Cat
-  Observing a total of ?? species of primate including many Bolivian Red Howlers
-  Seeing many species of reptiles including Yacre Caiman & Red-footed Tortoises



Tour Leader / Guides

Martin Royle (Royle Safaris Tour Leader)
 Nick (Bolivian Guide and Logistics Provider)
 Stefan & Ramon (Bolivian Naturalist Guides)
 Jose & Alejandro (Drivers)
 Natalie & Afron (Cook & Assistant)
 Mariam & Efron (Beni River Guides)
 Lillian & Gerladine (Beni Macaw Guides)

Participants

Jewel Buksa
 Rosemarie Gerspacher
 Jim Nelson
 Charlie Ross
 Drew Ross
 William 'Monty' Ross

Overview

Day 1:	Santa Cruz
Days 2-3:	Jaguarland Reserve
Days 4:	Santa Cruz
Days 5-8:	Kaa Iya NP
Day 9:	Santa Cruz
Day 10:	Trinidad
Day 11:	Gran Moras Reserve / Trinidad / Sucre
Day 12:	Sucre
Days 13-14:	Salar y Unuyi
Day 15:	La Paz / Home



Day by Day Breakdown

Overview

This tour is a combines some of the best wildlife watching locations and general tourist locations in one of the most underrated countries for travel, Bolivia. Focusing on some of South America's rarest and most elusive species we go in search of jaguars, pumas, endemic river dolphins and endemic species to the dry forests of the Chaco; this trip visited a private property (appropriately named Jaguarland Reserve) which is home to large numbers and an impressive density of jaguars before spending time in one of the least visited parks in South America, Kaa Iya National Park.

From these locations we also visited the Imare River were the endemic Bolivian river dolphin can be found and also the Gran Morras Reserve which is probably the best place to see the critically endangered and also endemic blue-throated macaw.

After exploring varied habitats of wetlands, lowland tropical forest, riverine forests and dry Chaco forest we then visited the landscapes of the high altitude salt flats of Salar y Unuyi, which may well be the most photogenic and stunning in the entire world.

The trip resulted in many species being seen across of parts of the trip with some great experiences being had. We were very successful in our aim to showcase cat species, with 5 different species of cat being seen including some very close and prolonged sightings of jaguars, ocelot and even a female puma with a cub.

This was the second of 4 Bolivian trips Royle Safaris ran in 2022 and we have plans for more in 2023, so if you are interested in experiencing Bolivia for yourself you can contact us at info@royle-safaris.co.uk for more information.



Day 1 Santa Cruz

Arrival

This morning the group (which had arrived the day before) were collected from the hotel by Nick and taken to the botanical gardens. Here they saw **black howler monkeys**, **brown-throated three-toed sloth**, many species of birds and yacare caiman.

After visiting the gardens they returned to the hotel and met with Martin (who had arrived in the early hours of the morning) and had dinner.

Day 2 Jaguarland Reserve

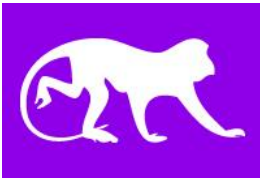
Travelling & Wildlife Watching

This morning we all left the hotel and 8:30am and were driven in a couple of vehicles towards the agricultural heartland of the Santa Cruz province. Here soy is the principle crop and the property we were visiting is a huge soy farm. The reason the farm is so good for wildlife is that the owner has banned hunting on the property and he has maintained huge tracts of forest separating the soy fields, this allows many species to live relatively unincumbered on the farm. In fact with the high densities of predators here they seem to be doing better here than in more untouched habitats.

The drive was quite eventful, first we left the town and headed out into the countryside and once we did this we had some drama. Nick had spotted a **sloth** on the side of the road. **Sloths** suffer (unsurprisingly when crossing roads) and where he sees them Nick stops and picks them up and puts them in the closest patch of vegetation and safety. However as we were rescuing this **brown-throated three-toed sloth** we nearly inadvertently fed him to a large female boa constrictor which was curled up very close to where we were about to release the **sloth**. So we asked Stefan (who is one of Bolivia's leading herpetologists) to collect the snake (which is also in danger as they are killed often and this one was very close to habitation) and move it to a more remote place.

So we did both of these things before carrying on to the end of the paved road and a small café where we had some lunch. From here we were on gravel roads surrounded by soy fields and lines of forest (which is a good natural wind-break for the farms around here).

Along the way we found a group of **Bolivian red howler monkeys** and more **sloths** in the trees along the side of the road we also had a nice view of a **six-banded armadillo** trundling away through the soy fields. We then made it



to the reserve around 14:45 and started to drive slower as we were now on the look out for cats and other species as we drove towards the camp.

On the way to the camp we saw many yacre caiman in the drying out patches of water along the sides of the roads, there were also some nice large groups of **capybara** in the larger bodies of water, including a lake on one side of the property. There was also a brief view of a **South American coati** and the bird life was prolific. With many macaws, waterfowl including jabirus, wood & Magurie's storks, greater rhea, crested oropendulas and dozens more species all flying between the forest patches, walking across the fields and perching over the water. The whole scene at times is very reminiscent of the Brazilian Pantanal, and in fact the ecosystems are not too far removed and many of the species are the same. One major difference here being the larger diversity of primates which we would hopefully see over the coming days.

Carrying on around the reserve on our way to the camp we had a second group of **Bolivian red howlers**, a single **Peruvian spider monkey**, a **brown brocket deer** and a foraging group of **coatis** in a field nearby the camp.

At the camp we unpacked, the tents were set up and we settled in, we did this quickly so we could get back out as soon as possible and crucially before it was too dark, the later afternoon is always a good time for big cats and we hoped for a sighting on our first afternoon here.

We split into a couple of vehicles and drove around different parts of the reserve, one of the vehicles had a nice view of a savanna hawk hunting, catching and then releasing a mouse before Charlie spotted a false water cobra swimming in a canal next to the road. In the late afternoon light we had a second **brown brocket deer** in a soy field and very nice views of a female **marsh deer** then around sunset we observed a large troop of **black-capped squirrel monkey** foraging noisily on one side of the road whilst a troop of **black-striped capuchins** were busy moving through the trees on the other side of the road.

Charlie had joined Nick on the roof of the vehicle and was turning into our number spotter (at the age of 7 years old) he spotted a **nine-banded armadillo** next to the road foraging, we had some nice views of the **armadillo** as it moved through the long grass before it disappeared into some thicker vegetation.

As the sun got lower and the daylight started to fade we saw a couple of **Azara's agoutis** in the open fields and a group of **South American coatis** were foraging on the edge of one of soy fields. A little further along we had a pair of **crab-eating foxes** one of either side of the road. We were watching this pair as one was very close to the vehicle, then as Martin was looking on the other side for the second **fox** he spotted an adult female **jaguar**. She was stood in the middle of the soy field, how she got there without being seen we don't know, but once she knew we had seen her, she stopped and sat down. The light was very low now and photography was very tricky as she was a good distance out and at the limit of the torch light. We watched for a while and she got up and started to walk across the field again. We carried on and found her again closer to the road as she crossed a stand of forest and entered a neighbouring field. It was very dark at this point and she was still not close enough for good views, so we left and headed back to the camp for dinner.

The other vehicle saw an **ocelot** very well as well as a large group **collared peccaries**, along with **Bolivian red howlers**, **grey brocket deer**, several **crab-eating foxes** and many macaws (blue-and-yellow, red-and-green, chestnut-fronted and golden-collared) among other birds.

After dinner we had a night drive and almost straight away we found a pair of **Brazilian tapirs** near the road, we had brief views of a troop of **Azara's night monkeys**, there is a resident troop near the base camp, however they are not commonly seen here. As normal around here at night there were many **crab-eating foxes** but the surprise of the night was a **neotropical otter** moving overland between one canal and another. It took us a little while to figure out what it was, but we then had great views of it loping away. Other than more **foxes** the only other mammal we had was a **crab-eating raccoon** in the open. We did also have nice views of a great potoo perched close to the road.



Day 3 **Jaguarland Reserve**

Wildlife Watching

This morning at 5am we all rose and had some coffee as the sun started to rise, we then went straight out. It was quiet at first with just a pair of **crab-eating foxes** and then as the sun started to get higher and higher we had some very nice bird sightings including many blue-and-yellow macaws before spotting a **brown-throated three-toed sloth** sleeping in a cecropia tree.



There was a distant **ocelot** on the road before we found a pair of **tapirs** in a field along with a large group of **coatis**. This is possibly the same pair of **tapir** we saw last night.

It was a little further along when we had a large male **tapir** on the road below some blue-and-yellow macaws feeding in a large fruiting tree next to the road.

We then had brief views of a male **jaguar** on the side of the road but very close, it was heading into the forest away from us, but we drove up a little way and stopped and waiting to see if he would come back out again. At first it was only around 15m away from us, but we parked around 70m away to see if he would feel relaxed enough to come back out into the open.

We were rewarded around 5 minutes later as he came back out and walked along the road away from us, we got out and started to follow him on foot. What a great experience to walk behind a **jaguar**. He was very relaxed, he would look back and see us and stop and we would stop and then he would start again and we would follow again. We did this for around 15 minutes before he went into forest and we continued our drive. On our way back to the camp we had a quick view of a **collared peccary** and many blue-throated piping guans all over the fields.

At breakfast we debriefed with the other vehicle and we heard they had another **jaguar** cross the road and into a ditch alongside the road. They had brilliant close (10m) views of a **tapir** as well as chestnut-fronted macaws going in and out of nest hole.

Then after breakfast we went back out again and found more birdlife as well as **marsh deer** and a couple of **collared peccaries**, the highlight was a male greater rhea displaying on the road to a group of female rhea in the soy field. At this time of the day there were many yacare caiman out of the water basking along the banks taking in the first warm sun of the day. Some of the larger bodies of water also had some freshwater turtles basking, there are two species we had seen here, which were Yellow-spotted Amazon River Turtle (which is commonly seen) and Chaco side-necked Turtle (which is a second rarer species we only saw a couple of). We actually found a turtle quite far away from any water, so Martin picked him up and took him to the nearest body of water to avoid it being out in the middle of day. Our last sighting before returning to the camp was a nice prolonged view of a family of **Bolivian red howlers** in the same large kapok tree as we saw them in yesterday. They were warming up in the sun and getting ready to start a day of foraging.

The other vehicle saw another male **jaguar** as well as female **puma** and a cub. It was a funny incident when the vehicle was looking at the **jaguar** and Jewel was looking in another direction and watching the mother **puma** and cub having a drink from a roadside pool. What an incredible few minutes.

We spent the middle of the day at the camp and then as it started to get cooler we headed out again. The birdlife (as always here) was prolific and mammal wise we had **grey brocket deer**, **collared peccaries**, **capybaras**, **South American coatis** in the forest climbing and fighting in a tree and making a huge racket. The birding highlight was nice views of a the stunning sungrebe in a roadside pool before we had another group of **coatis** in the trees and on the ground foraging.

As the sun started to set we saw some **crab-eating foxes** heading out on their evening patrols before we had a nesting pair of red-and-green macaws close to the road and offering nice views just before sunset. Then just after dark we had a few **greater bulldog bats** hunting over a canal next to the road. As we carried on back towards the camp, it was pretty quiet with just a few more **foxes** and many nightjars.

The other car saw a few **tapirs** including one posing very nicely in front of the setting sun, they also saw another **ocelot** well and a **Geoffroy's cat** moving through one of the soy fields. What a day that car had, a four cat day! **Jaguar**, **puma**, **ocelot** and **Geoffroy's cat** all in one day is not bad at all!

We then had dinner and afterwards went out spotlighting, between the two vehicles we saw a couple more **tapirs**, many **crab-eating foxes** a nice albeit brief **ocelot** and a couple of barn owls.

Day 4 **Jaguarland Reserve / Santa Cruz** *Wildlife Watching & Travelling*

This morning we went out pre-dawn and quickly saw a pair of toco toucans at a nest in an old Kapok tree before having a very brief **tapir** sighting entering a patch of forest and then nearby we had better views of another **tapir** walking through one of the soy fields. As the sun was still rising we found the resident family of **Bolivian red howlers** still curled up in their large Kapok tree sleeping. We drove around a little more before looping back here when the sunlight became perfect for photography and were treated to the two toucans feeding in a cecropia tree and the **howlers** had woke up and were calling loudly.

Carrying on there were many macaws flying between the patches of forest and a large group of **black-striped capuchins** in the trees and crossing the road in front of us. As we were watching the **capuchins** a **tapir** also crossed the road before we found a group of **coatis** feeding in a tree. Further sightings today included a very nice view of a female **marsh deer** and a mixed group of **capuchins** and **Bolivian squirrel monkeys** foraging.

Many of the canals which help irrigate the fields are beginning to dry up now and the diminishing pools of water were attracting more and more birds (various species of storks, black vultures and crested caracaras) were aggregating around them and picking off the dead and dying fish.

On our way back to the camp and our final breakfast here we had more **howler** views and then a **tayra** crossed the road giving good views. Our final mammals of the morning were a pair of **collared peccaries** and a **grey brocket deer** in the soy fields.



The other vehicle had similar sightings this morning with the only different species being seen being a **yellow armadillo**.

So we had breakfast and departed the reserve and headed back to Santa Cruz, having lunch en route and arriving around 4:30pm. We had dinner and the rest of the evening / night was free.



Day 5 Kaa Iya National Park

Travelling & Wildlife Watching

This morning we checked out and left the hotel at 08:30am, with a couple of new members of the team (replacing Stefan was Alejandro and Ramon) for the next stage of our trip. Due to the rules of the gas company which runs the national park we all had to have a covid-19 test in the city, so that was the first port of call. After we were all tested we then emailed our vaccine certificates to the gas company and then left to drive towards the park. The only wildlife of note we saw before getting to San Jose was a red-legged seriema.

We arrived at the town of San Jose and had some lunch here before having to visit a local clinic and have a little medical check up where our temperatures and blood pressure were checked. Quite why we had to do this is unknown, but the gas company was adamant it is needed for us to enter the park.

After leaving San Jose we drove up a ridge (near the Valle de la Luna) and drove a further few hours into the park, most of this land was Chaco forest but it is getting degraded more and more as the increasing population of highland people being brought here to populate the lowland areas (by the main political parties) in a means to Gerrymander the elections. The pros for the politicians in power are easy to see but the cons for the environment and wildlife are just as pronounced. We didn't see much on the drive in, but we did have a nice blue-fronted amazons and brief views of a Chaco endemic mammal, the **southern three-banded armadillo**. There had been some unseasonal rain recently and the puddles on the sides of the road were all full of large white butterflies which took off in explosions of white as we drove along the road. Then as we got nearer the park entrance we had a pair of **Chaco titi monkeys**, which is another Chaco endemic mammal. Not a bad start.

We arrived at the park entrance at around 05:15pm and the short drive from there to the base camp we saw a **crab-eating fox** sitting on the side of the road acting very relaxed and then a **jaguarundi** crossed the road in front of us.

When we arrived at the camp and we settled in, saw the resident tarantulas in the grounds of the base camp and had some food before leaving for our first night drive here.

Both cars had similar sightings which included **Brazilian rabbits**, **crab-eating foxes** which were very common, and a very nice male **tapir**, the bird highlight tonight was an endemic Chaco owl. We returned for dinner and the night.

Day 6 Kaa Iya National Park

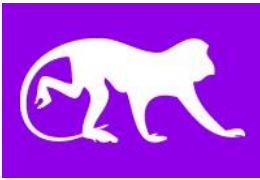
Wildlife Watching

We got up at 5am and went for another drive along the road deep into the park. There were still many nightjars around before the sun rose. Once the sun did come out and everything got warmed up we had a pair of **Chaco peccaries** cross the road. This specie is one of the rarest in South America and this park may be the best place to try and see them, so we stayed around here and got out of the car and see if we could see them again. We were rewarded when the male and female pair came out again and gave us nice (but quick) views a couple more times as they moved into and out of the forest and road.

By far the most common animal along the roads in the daylight hours are the Chaco chachalacas, but we did also have a **red brocket deer** cross the road shortly before a **grey brocket deer** crossed the road in the other direction. Seeing these two different but similar species in such a short amount of time showed their differences quite well.

On the way back to the base camp as it approached midday we had a small group of 3 **Chaco peccaries** on the road again as well as quick views of a pair of **Chaco titis** and then a group of **black-tailed marmosets** were on both sides of the road with a couple bounding across the road. We stopped and watched this group of **marmosets** climbing, jumping and moving quickly through the trees.

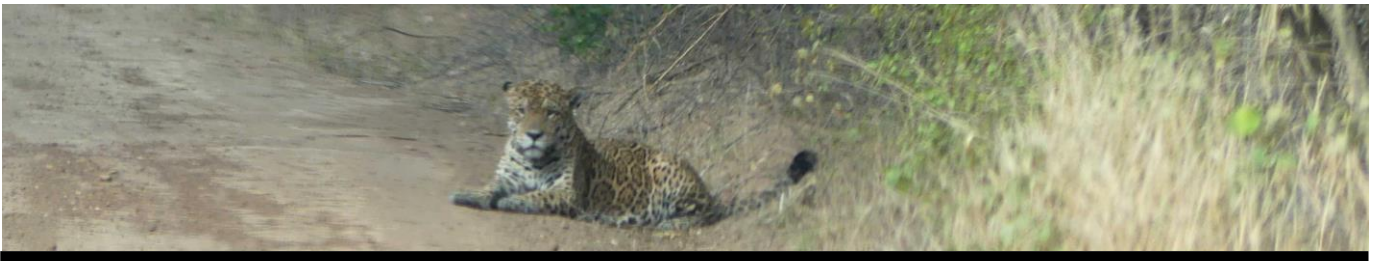
Back at the camp we had lunch and found out that the other car had views of **tapir**, **marmosets** and **titi monkeys**. During the middle of the day we stayed around the camp and rested, one of our team went for a little drive and took



a video of a male **puma** sat on the side of the road and then crossing it only around 50m away from us and a little later Nick went out and had a group of 4 **Chaco peccaries**. Some of the group decided to go for a walk into the forest on one of the trails where they had some nice birds including many hummingbirds (blue-fronted starthroats) and woodcreepers.

As we were waiting to go out again in the afternoon there was a very heavy rainstorm and the wind changed direction to come from the south and with it bringing cold winds from Patagonia. We waited for the rain to stop before going out and this afternoon and the rain had awoken some of the older residents of the forest, we saw several large red-legged tortoises along the sides of the road and a nice aplamado falcon drying itself on a branch with wings spread out.

Further along we had views of a **grey brocket deer** crossing the road before we had a **jaguarundi** on the road ahead of us and walking away from us for a distance before crossing the road and disappearing into the forest. There was a couple more **marmosets** and nice views of a cream-backed woodpecker and then a pair of **chaco titi's** getting ready to sleep as the sun began to set. We then started to spotlight and before returning to the camp we had sightings of **crab-eating foxes** along the road, very nice **tapir** walking on the road for a very long time and allowing us great views. There were many more **foxes** and then a second and third **tapir** sighting.



Day 7 Kaa Iya National Park

Wildlife Watching

This morning we decided to drive much further down the pipe-line road than we had previously and visit a pumping station called Isoiso, we would have lunch here and it would allow us to spend more time in the daytime looking and sometimes wildlife can be easier to see further along the road. We separated the vehicles by around half an hour so that both would have an equal chance of seeing wildlife and not having one car stuck right behind the other one.

It was very quiet first thing and it was only when the sun started to breakthrough did we see some wildlife, with blue-fronted amazons and Chaco chachalaca's being the most common birds along the road. We also had a **grey brocket deer** cross the road, then a little further a **grey brocket deer** spent a good amount of time on the road offering good views. We also had good views of a spotted puffbird and then brief **Chaco titi monkeys** before we reached the Isoiso station.

There is a runway here and a drainage tunnel underneath around half way along the runway. We looked in here and saw many bats roosting, the detector said **riparian myotis** but we cannot be 100%.

We had lunch at Isoiso and waiting a little until the very high winds had subsided, but the onset of rain forced our hand, we didn't want to be this far away from the base camp if a storm came in. The dirt road gets undrivable in heavy rain and so we started back to beat the rain and potential for getting stuck.

Along the way back we had another **brocket deer** most likely the same individual who spent time on the road on the way down. Then a little further along we stopped (the rear car) because the front car had stopped, we gave them a good 150m distance as they were standing at the back of the car and looking this way so we thought there would be something in between our cars, we scanned and found a beautiful male **jaguar** on the side of the road laying down. Amazing. We watched as it got up and crossed the road, but strangely the other car had moved off by now. We (the rear car) stayed and waited and then the **jaguar** came back out and lay in the road again looking at us (closer this time). When the **jaguar** entered the forest for a second time and stayed there we left and carried on down the road. We had a brief view of a **Molina's hog-nosed skunk** running in the forest close to the road, but that was the only other mammal we had this evening.

Back at the camp we spoke to the other vehicle and quickly found out that they had not seen the **jaguar** and had stopped because they had a neotropical rattlesnake on the side of the road. We were amazed that they hadn't spotted the cat, but it did explain why they drove off half way through the sighting.

Day 8 Kaa Iya National Park

Wildlife Watching

Overnight the rain had been very heavy and the southerly winds had not let up. The temperature had plummeted again and this was not great for wildlife watching this morning or driving as the roads may be too waterlogged for good progress. So we waited for the wind and the sun to dry out the roads as much as possible.



Then at around 9am we started our first drive and we went to where we had seen the male **jaguar** the previous evening before. However they couldn't get there as the road had been closed by the gas company due to the excessive rains. But they did have two **tayras** seen well on the road.

The other vehicle went the other way and had prolonged views of the **Chaco titi monkeys** calling and drying in the morning sun. Other sightings included a **crab-eating fox** crossing the road and then nice views of a great black hawk perched and then a blue-crowned trogon flew ahead of us. We then decided to get out and have a little walk into the forest to a small waterhole (that would be mostly dry at this time of year), but it was nice to stretch the legs. We had a second trogon in the forest close to us, calling it closer. It was very quiet mammal wise and so we did a little birding and found Bolivian slaty antshrike, yellow-crowned warbler, masked gnatcatcher, scaly-headed parrot, red-crested finch, olivaceous woodcreeper, blue-fronted starthroat and others.

We then all came back and had some lunch, after lunch we went out again and quickly saw both **black-tailed marmosets** and **Chaco titi monkeys**. We approached these two species on foot and got closer to them for nice views and we then had another **grey brocket deer**. The other vehicle spotted a **tapir** with a young baby (still young enough to have the bright striped pelage). They have amazing views of the tapir and its baby walking along the road ahead of them before they had nice views of an **ocelot** and many **foxes** and nightjars.

After dinner we went out again and it was quite quiet however other than many **crab-eating foxes** and **Brazilian rabbits** one of the vehicles had a **Geoffroy's cat** walking down the road towards the car.



Day 9 **Kaa Iya NP / Santa Cruz**

Travelling

This morning we had one final pre-dawn drive, we had sightings of a mother and fawn **grey brocket deer** and a group of four **black-tailed marmosets** as well as a very nice crane hawk. But it was really cold this morning with a temperature of just 4°C, which is a 30+°C swing in temperature from a couple of days ago.

We left the park at 09:30am and drove back to the town of San Jose, it had got very hot by now and along the way we had a nice Argentine black-and-white tegu basking on the road before arriving at the Valle de la Luna and having a walk around here, looking out over the forest stretching out towards San Jose. After lunch in San Jose we visited an old Jesuit church here before carrying on the journey to Santa Cruz.

We arrived at the city in the evening and had dinner and a nice relaxing night's sleep.

Day 10 **Santa Cruz / Trinidad**

Travelling & Wildlife Watching

This morning we left the hotel at 6:15am on a flight from Santa Cruz to Trinidad in the province of Beni. On arrival here we dropped our bags off at the hotel and left straight away to head to the river. As soon as we arrived at the river we spotted a pod of endemic **Bolivian river dolphins** playing and feeding right near the beach where the boat was moored.

We watched the **dolphins** playing around the boats for around half an hour whilst we met Mariam who runs the rivers tours here with her husband (Efrom), we then boarded the boat and started the cruise along the Ibare River looking for wildlife and in general just taking in the stunning forested riverside scenery.

Cruising along we saw several groups of **dolphins** including a group of at least 3 with a young calve. The birdlife was prolific along both banks, including black-collared hawks, blue-and-yellow macaws, capped herons, whistling herons, southern screamers, neotropical cormorants, yellow-rumped caciques, southern rough-winged swallows and dozens more species. The **dolphin** sightings continued as we cruised further and further along and we were also shown some of the traditional agriculture in the forest and settlements. The areas around here flood during certain times of the year and so the settlements and farmland is not all year around, but when they can farm here the crop of choice is yucca and we saw some of the traditional yucca farms along the river banks.

Other wildlife we saw included some big-headed Pantanal swamp turtles basking on half submerged trees along the banks and then we saw a pair of **Bolivian red howlers** resting in a tree quickly followed by a troop of **Spix's white-fronted capuchins** foraging in palm trees.

Along the banks we stopped at a huge mapaho tree to walk around the base of it, it was huge and is estimated to be around 750 years old and of great significance to the local people.

We then made it to the confluence of the Ibare and Mamore Rivers, the Mamore River is a large river and used for cargo and transportation in this part of Bolivia. The Mamore River means 'mother of rivers' and is one of the largest



in the region, no less than 36 different rivers empty their contents into it as it travels 1,500km across South America. During the wet season some parts of the river are over 300m wide and sand banks, like the one we stopped at would be completely submerged.

We crossed the river and spent some time (including having a packed lunch) on a huge sand bank, the low water at this time of year has exposed some mud which is said to have high mineral content and the group spent some time covering themselves in the mud in a free natural spa.

On the way back we had more birds including nice views of great black hawks as well as more **dolphins** and **howlers**. We also stopped along the way for some piranha fishing before arriving back at the village where we left the boats and drove back to the hotel for the night.

Day 11 Gran Moras Reserve / Sucre

Wildlife Watching & Travelling

This morning was an early start as we met Geraldine and Lillian who would take us to a special reserve which is home to a large percentage of the world's wild blue-throated macaw population. We left the town and drove out of town to the reserve, along the way we had some **capibaras**, **crab-eating foxes** and also even a nice **crab-eating raccoon** which crossed the road in front of us. As the sun started to rise we spotted a couple of groups of **black howler monkeys** still curled up asleep in the trees and a huge jabiru stork nest with both male and female and a chick inside.

At the reserve we drove around towards a farmstead in the centre, along the way looking for some of these amazing and rare birds. The blue-throated macaw is critically endangered and endemic to Bolivia, with only 250-300 remaining in the world this is one of the world's most endangered birds and also one of the world's most beautiful.

We drove along and through the mixtures of cattle grazing and patches of forest (the cattle ranches here is near identical to the more famous Pantanal ecosystem), which is typical of the Beni region of Bolivia. It wasn't too long before we stopped as we had found a pair of these macaws perched in a dead tree very close to the road, they were very relaxed and in great early morning light and allowing for unusually prolonged views.

Following on from these amazing birds we did some more birding including sightings of hoatzins, blue-crowned trogons, peach-fronted parakeets, dusky-headed parakeets and many more. Mammals we saw this morning were **brown-throated three-toed sloths** in the small patches of forest and each little waterhole contained many yacare caimans (including some huge ones).

We then arrived at the small farmstead and had some breakfast, a couple more blue-throated macaws flew overhead and after breakfast we went for a walk to see if we could see anymore. We did find another couple of blue-throated macaws in a palm forest as well as **Central American agoutis** and a **crab-eating fox**. The only other sighting of note before we left the reserve was a huge colony of leaf-cutter ants which crisscrossed the palm forest.

Back out of the reserve we had a brief view of a hard to see animal in most of Bolivia as a huge **giant anteater** was seen on the side of the road drinking from a waterhole, we didn't get great views but it was a nice end to the trip.

We then had lunch in Loreto before returning to the city of Trinidad to catch our flights out of here, Nick and Martin were heading back to Santa Cruz, the wildlife part of the trip had come to an end now and the rest of the group would be flying onto Sucre to start the cultural highland part of the trip.

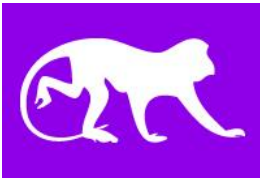
On arrival in Sucre the group was collected and were taken to their hotel for the night.



Day 12 Sucre

Sightseeing

Today the group visited the Jatun Yampara Indigenous project, this project was established to rescue the cultural values of the "Yampara" culture, one of the oldest cultures in South America. During the visit you will see the typical houses, clothing and customs of the indigenous people of the Yampara culture. They also visited a textile workshop, small museums and a native sanctuary before returning to the hotel for the night.



Day 13 **Sucre / Uyuni**

Travelling & Sightseeing

Today the group were collected after breakfast from the hotel in Sucre and began their overland drive towards Uyuni. Along the way they stopped at the world famous (or infamous) town of Potosi to visit the Museo Casa la Moneda and the Mines at Cerro Rico.

The Casa la Moneda is the National Mint of Bolivia or the Mint of Potosí and it from this mint that most of the silver shipped through the Spanish Main came. The Mines at Cerro Rico is one of the most famous mines in the world, which is popularly conceived of as being "made of" silver ore, is famous for providing vast quantities of silver for the Spanish Empire, most of which was shipped to metropolitan Spain. It is estimated that eighty-five percent of the silver produced in the central Andes during this time came from Cerro Rico. As a result of mining operations in the mountain, the city of Potosí became one of the largest cities in the New World.

From Potosi the drive continued to Uyuni and your accommodation for the night.

Day 14 **Salar y Uyuni**

Sightseeing

Today was a full day exploring the world famous Uyuni salt flats. Over the course of the day they visited the Colchani salt factories, Isla Incahuasi and Tunupa volcano. The salt flats are the largest in the world and exploring them was a real highlight on the trip and one of the must experience things in the whole of South America.

The salt processing factory in the village of Colchani, here the factory processes around 25,000 tonnes annually and the factory is very interesting. Isla Incahuasi is a hilly and rocky outcrop of land and former island in the middle of Salar de Uyuni, The island is home to gigantic cacti (*Trichocereus pasacana*) as well as unusual and fragile coral-like structures and deposits that often consist of fossils and algae. The place is the top of the remains of an ancient volcano, which was submerged when the area was part of a giant prehistoric lake, roughly 40,000 years ago. The other location you will visit today is the Tunupa volcano which is a dormant volcano which dominates the horizon.

Afterwards the group returned to the town and the hotel for the evening.

Day 15 **Uyuni / La Paz**

Travelling

This morning the group left the hotel for their final long journey overland from Uyuni to La Paz, not only were there no flights to take today a vehicle transfer is the best way to experience this high altitude environment and journey to La Paz.

Along the way they crossed the highest plateau of the Bolivian Andes, travelling past indigenous villages and quinoa fields. Along the way some of the specialist high altitude wildlife was around such as the Andean flamingo and the James's flamingo.

When they arrived into La Paz they were taken to the hotel for their final night in Bolivia.

Day 16 **Home**

Departure

This morning they were collected and were taken to the airport to catch their return flights home.

Species List

Bolivian Cat Specialist Tour

Aug 2022

Mammals (* = heard or signs only)

	Common Name	Binominal Name
1	Black howler	<i>Alouatta caraya</i>
2	Bolivian red howler	<i>Alouatta sara</i>
3	Azara's night monkey	<i>Aotus azarae</i>
4	Peruvian spider monkey	<i>Ateles chamek</i>
5	Marsh deer	<i>Blastocerus dichotomus</i>
6	Brown-throated three-toed sloth	<i>Bradypus variegatus</i>
7	Small vesper mouse	<i>Calomys laucha</i>
8	Chacoan peccary	<i>Catagonus wagneri</i>
9	Brazilian guinea pig	<i>Cavia aperea</i>
10	Spix's white-fronted capuchin	<i>Cebus unicolor</i>
11	Crab-eating fox	<i>Cerdocyon thous</i>
12	Molina's hog-nosed skunk	<i>Conepatus chinga</i>
13	Chacoan tuco-tuco	<i>Ctenomys dorsalis</i>
14	Azara's agouti	<i>Dasyprocta azarae</i>
15	Central American agouti	<i>Dasyprocta punctata</i>
16	Nine-banded armadillo	<i>Dasybus novemcinctus</i>
17	Common vampire bat	<i>Desmodus rotundus</i>
18	Collared peccary	<i>Dicotyles tajacu</i>
19	Tayra	<i>Eira barbara</i>
20	Diminutive serotine	<i>Eptesicus diminutus</i>
21	Six-banded armadillo	<i>Euphractus sexcinctus</i>
22	Chaco pericote	<i>Graomys chacoensis</i>
23	Jaguarundi	<i>Herpailurus yaguarondi</i>
24	Capybara	<i>Hydrochoerus hydrochaeris</i>
25	Bolivian river dolphin	<i>Inia boliviensis</i>
26	Geoffroy's cat	<i>Leopardus geoffroyi</i>
27	Ocelot	<i>Leopardus pardalis</i>
28	Red brocket deer	<i>Mazama americana</i>
29	Gray brocket deer	<i>Mazama gouazoubira</i>
30	Black-tailed marmoset	<i>Mico melanurus</i>

August											
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22-26 No species list kept
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15	Cocoi heron	<i>Ardea cocoi</i>
16	White-headed marsh tyrant	<i>Arundinicola leucocephala</i>
17	Burrowing owl	<i>Athene cunicularia</i>
18	Yellow-crowned warbler	<i>Basileuterus culicivorus</i>
19	Yellow-chevroned parakeet	<i>Brotogeris chiriri</i>
20	Great horned owl	<i>Bubo virginianus</i>
21	Cattle egret	<i>Bulbucus ibis</i>
22	Black-collared hawk	<i>Busarellus nigricollis</i>
23	Grey hawk	<i>Buteo plagiatus</i>
24	Savanna hawk	<i>Buteogallus meridionalis</i>
25	Slate-coloured hawk	<i>Buteogallus schistaceus</i>
26	Great black hawk	<i>Buteogallus urubitinga</i>
27	Striated heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>
28	Yellow-rumped cacique	<i>Cacicus cela</i>
29	Solitary black cacique	<i>Cacicus solitarius</i>
30	Muscovy duck	<i>Cairina moschata</i>
31	Buff-breasted sandpiper	<i>Calidris subruficollis</i>
32	Ringed teal	<i>Callonetta leucophrys</i>
33	Cream-backed woodpecker	<i>Campephilus leucopogon</i>
34	Crimson-crested woodpecker	<i>Campephilus melanoleucos</i>
35	Southern beardless tyrannulet	<i>Camptostoma obsoletum</i>
36	Crested caracara	<i>Caracara plancus</i>
37	Red-legged seriema	<i>Cariama cristata</i>
38	Turkey vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>
39	Lesser yellow-headed vulture	<i>Cathartes burrovianus</i>
40	Cream-coloured woodpecker	<i>Celeus flavus</i>
41	Sick's swift	<i>Chaetura meridionalis</i>
42	Southern screamer	<i>Chauna torquata</i>
43	Green kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle americana</i>
44	Glittering-bellied emerald	<i>Chlorostilbon lucidus</i>
45	Nacunda nighthawk	<i>Chordeiles nacunda</i>
46	Least nighthawk	<i>Chordeiles pusillus</i>
47	Maguari stork	<i>Ciconia maguari</i>
48	Blue ground dove	<i>Claravis pretiosa</i>
49	Boat-billed heron	<i>Cochlearius cochlearius</i>
50	Campo flicker	<i>Colaptes campestris</i>
51	Feral pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>
52	Picui ground dove	<i>Columbina picui</i>
53	Ruddy ground dove	<i>Columbina talpacoti</i>
54	Black vulture	<i>Coragyps atratus</i>
55	Red crested finch	<i>Coryphospingus cucullatus</i>
56	Razor-billed curassow	<i>Crax daubentoni</i>
57	Bare-faced curassow	<i>Crax fasciolata</i>

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	3	46	~55	44	~45			~30	13	18	
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		2	1		2						

101	Wood stork	<i>Mycteria americana</i>
102	Monk parakeet	<i>Myiopsitta monachus</i>
103	Rusty-margined flycatcher	<i>Myiozetetes cayanensis</i>
104	Social flycatcher	<i>Myiozetetes similis</i>
105	Neotropical cormorant	<i>Nannopterum brasilianum</i>
106	Orinoco goose	<i>Neochen jubata</i>
107	Rosy-billed pochard	<i>Netta peposaca</i>
108	Great potoo	<i>Nyctibius grandis</i>
109	Common potoo	<i>Nyctibius griseus</i>
110	Black-crowned night heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>
111	Common pauraque	<i>Nyctidromus albicollis</i>
112	Spot-backed puffbird	<i>Nystalus maculatus</i>
113	Hoatzin	<i>Opisthocomus hoazin</i>
114	Chaco chachalaca	<i>Ortalis canicollis</i>
115	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>
116	Yellow-billed cardinal	<i>Paroaria capitata</i>
117	Red-crested cardinal	<i>Paroaria coronata</i>
118	House sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
119	Pale-vented dove	<i>Patagioenas cayennensis</i>
120	Picazuro pigeon	<i>Patagioenas picazuro</i>
121	Plumbeous pigeon	<i>Patagioenas plumbea</i>
122	Rusty-margined guan	<i>Penelope supercilialis</i>
123	Large-billed tern	<i>Phaetusa simplex</i>
124	Bare-faced ibis	<i>Phimosus infuscatus</i>
125	Squirrel cuckoo	<i>Piaya cayana</i>
126	Ocellated piculet	<i>Picumnus dorbignyanus</i>
127	Capped heron	<i>Pilherodius pileatus</i>
128	Scaly-headed parrot	<i>Pionus maximiliani</i>
129	Blue-throated piping guan	<i>Pipile cumanensis</i>
130	Lesser kiskadee	<i>Pitangus lictor</i>
131	Great kiskadee	<i>Pitangus sulphuratus</i>
132	Roseate spoonbill	<i>Platalea ajaja</i>
133	Masked gnatcatcher	<i>Polioptila dumicola</i>
134	Golden-collared macaw	<i>Primolius auricollis</i>
135	Brown-chested martin	<i>Progne tapera</i>
136	White-eyed parakeet	<i>Psittacara leucophthalmus</i>
137	Chestnut-eared aracari	<i>Pteroglossus castanotis</i>
138	Vermillion flycatcher	<i>Pyrocephalus obscurus</i>
139	Green-cheeked parakeet	<i>Pyrrhura molinae</i>
140	Toco toucan	<i>Ramphastos toco</i>
141	Silver-beaked tanager	<i>Ramphocelus carbo</i>
142	Greater rhea	<i>Rhea americana</i>
143	Snail kite	<i>Rostrhamus sociabilis</i>

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	62	23	34	4				1	2
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144	Roadside hawk	<i>Rupornis magnirostris</i>
145	Black skimmer	<i>Rynchops niger</i>
146	Many-coloured Chaco finch	<i>Saltatricula multicolor</i>
147	Little nightjar	<i>Setopagis parvula</i>
148	Olivaceous woodcreeper	<i>Sittasomus griseicapillus</i>
149	Southern rough-winged swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx ruficollis</i>
150	Yellow-billed tern	<i>Sternula superciliaris</i>
151	Chaco owl	<i>Strix chacoensis</i>
152	Whistling heron	<i>Syrigma sibilatrix</i>
153	Least grebe	<i>Tachybaptus dominicus</i>
154	White-rumped swallow	<i>Tachycineta leucorrhoa</i>
155	White-lined tanager	<i>Tachyphonus rufus</i>
156	Bolivian slaty antshrike	<i>Thamnophilus sticturus</i>
157	Blue-crowned parakeet	<i>Thectocercus acuticaudatus</i>
158	Plumbeous ibis	<i>Theristicus caerulescens</i>
159	Buff-necked ibis	<i>Theristicus caudatus</i>
160	Rufescent tiger heron	<i>Tigrisoma lineatum</i>
161	Lesser yellowlegs	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>
162	Solitary sandpiper	<i>Tringa solitaria</i>
163	Blue-crowned trogon	<i>Trogon curucui</i>
164	Creamy-bellied thrush	<i>Turdus amaurochalinus</i>
165	Tropical kingbird	<i>Tyrannus melancholicus</i>
166	Barn owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>
167	Southern lapwing	<i>Vanellus chilensis</i>
168	Buff-throated woodcreeper	<i>Xiphorhynchus guttatus</i>
169	Eared dove	<i>Zenaida auriculata</i>

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Reptiles (* = heard or signs only)

	Common Name	Binominal Name
1	Chaco side-necked turtle	<i>Acanthochelys pallidipectoris</i>
2	Boa constrictor	<i>Boa constrictor</i>
3	Yacre caiman	<i>Caiman yacare</i>
4	Red-footed tortoise	<i>Chelonoidis carbonarius</i>
5	Neotropical rattlesnake	<i>Crotalus durissus</i>
6	Fasle water cobra	<i>Hydrodynastes gigas</i>
7	South American dwarf gecko	<i>Lygodactylus wetzeli</i>
8	Brazilian gecko	<i>Phylllopezus pollicaris</i>

August											
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22-26 No species list kept
		2									
	1										
6	~175	~129	8							13	
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