

Brazil trip report

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Brazil is a huge country that holds a big part of the world's nature. We traveled (me and my girlfriend Noa) Rio, Ilha Grande, Iguacu, southern Pantanal, northern Pantanal and Bonito for a month in July 2026. It was a mixed trip, and the part that was really dedicated to mammals was in the Pantanal and Bonito. We've seen 30 mammal species in the entire trip, 24 of them in the Pantanal or Bonito. During this trip report I will mark **mammals** in red, **birds** in blue and **reptiles** in green.

Rio de Janeiro

Rio is surely one of the most beautiful cities in the world and it is surrounded with a lot of nature. We only went to the touristic areas and didn't get out of the city. We found a **black-tufted marmoset** in the Sugarloaf Mountain near the middle cable car station, and we really liked the botanical garden where we found a lot of **black capuchins**, and a few **green-headed tanager** and **channel-billed toucans**. Parque Lage was also nice and we saw there **black capuchin**, **Brazilian squirrel** and **red-rumped agouti**. Walking around the lagoon was productive for birds and we saw **Brazilian tanager**, **blue dacnis** and **campo troupial**.



Ilha Grande

Ilha Grande is a beautiful island with amazing beaches and a wild rainforest. Because it is separated from the mainland there are not many mammals to be seen, but we did see both **common marmoset** and **black tufted marmoset** almost in every trail we walked through. There were also some nice birds in the forests including **swallow tailed manakin** and **green backed trogon**.



Iguacu

We went to both sides of the Iguacu falls and enjoyed both of them. The Brazilian side is much smaller and very crowded but it offers the best views, and the Argentine side offers more nature, animals and long trails. On both sides we found a lot of **coatis**, and on the Argentine side we also found a **black capuchin** and an **azara's agouti** near the inner train station. In the trails above the falls (not the devil throat) we found a flock of around 10 **toco toucans**. This is one of the most amazing places in the world and surely worth the effort.





Southern Pantanal

We flew to campo grande and then arranged our trip with eco adventures travel (+55 67 99022073) which were all in all good. The guide that accompanied us was super nice and spoke great English. She wasn't the best wildlife spotter I met but she wasn't bad either and I highly recommend her (gracey +55 67 96426656). We stayed two nights in the amazing Pousada Aguape, and had 2 walking tours which were half productive, one afternoon safari which was very productive, 1 night tour which was great and one morning safari which wasn't so good. It seems like the afternoon is the best time to see the anteaters, and the tamanduas are actually commoner to see in the night tour. We also tried our luck walking around the property on ourselves a few times and there were many animals present actually - **six-banded armadillos** are very common, **capybaras** as well, during the night we also found **nine-banded armadillo** and a few **crab-eating foxes**. There are also plenty of birds around the property including three species of **macaws**, **toco toucans** and **Nanday parakeets**.



The walks produced a few sightings of **marsh deers**, a few **azara's capuchins** in the forest, a lot of **capybaras**, **caimans** and **six banded armadillos**, some nice birds like **jacamars**, **roseate spoonbills**, **jabirus**, **macaws**, **toucans**, **parrots** and **blue crowned trogons**, and an amazing sighting of a **giant anteater**! And some amazing sunsets as usual in the pantanal.







In the safaris we had a chance to scan more areas and mostly in the afternoon we found a lot of animals, including no less than 4 **giant anteaters** and a **tamandua** in a single safari! We also saw a lot of other regular mammals and birds.



The night tour was also very successful and we found a young **giant anteater**, a couple of **brazilian tapirs** that walked together and gave us an amazing observation, a **red brocket**, a **pampas deer**, two species of **potoos**, a few **crab eating foxes** and loads of **caimans**.



Bonito

We took a car from Campo Grande and spent a week in Bonito between our two Pantanal trips. We did a few of the regular attractions arranged with bonito travel (+55 67 93402002) which were nice. The best place to find animals in the area was the road from Bonito to Fazenda Geraldo (Rio Sucuri), and the road from the fazenda continuing towards the fields. The good hours were early mornings and late evenings, there is traffic on this road also in these hours so beware. During the evening tours we saw mainly **crab eating foxes** and we had one short sight of an **ocelot** on the road! During the mornings we saw a few **foxes** as well, two herds of **collared peccaries**, a few **azara's capuchins** and once a big **tapir** crossing the road! There were also many birds around the area including hyacinth and red and green **macaws**, **burrowing owls**, **spot backed puffbirds** and much more! While snorkeling in Rio Sucuri we also had an amazing sighting of a **neotropical river otter** swimming just beside us!



We also went to Buraco das Araras to see the nesting **macaws** which was amazing, the only mammal we saw was a **six banded armadillo** but the two macaw species together are amazing to see. On the way we stopped in Rio da Prata where there are many **macaws** nesting, and we also drove north from Bonito to see some caves and waterfalls where we found a few **armadillos**, **agoutis** and a **grey brocket deer** along the way.



Northern pantanal

We flew to Cuiaba and from there we arranged everything with the Jaguar Eco Lodge and reserve (+55 67 96117037). It was a good lodge with a fair pricing but they're surely not the best experts for animals. The guides are mostly volunteers from Costa Rica, which means they are great guides and speak good english but they're coming just for a month so they don't have a lot of experience in this field. The boat tours are starting late so we missed the best hours of the morning, and the walking and safari tours are not so good usually. On the way to the lodge we enjoyed the amazing flowering of the pink ipa trees, a nice **marsh deer** and I found a **jaguar** standing behind a **caiman** just 15 meters from the road! sadly the guide decided to get everyone out of the car and the jaguar disappeared quickly. The lodge itself is located in an interesting area and has a lot of birds, **tegu lizards**, agoutis, some **capuchins** in the nearby forest, **red brocket deers** passing sometimes and **crab eating fox** during the night. They have a hidden camera that captured a jaguar that is wandering inside the lodge sometimes. During a walk in the short trails we found just the usual animals of the area but a woman we met later showed us a picture of a jaguarundi she saw there in the middle of the day! In the safari tour that went a bit north along the main highway we saw many **Brazilian guinea pigs**, birds, **capybaras** and **caimans**. During the night tour we were lucky to find an amazing **ocelot** sitting on a tree around this location - <https://maps.app.goo.gl/WaKDb6P9d45d7dYg7>





We spent two days on the river and they were both great. The days on the river are long and very hot but this is probably the best wildlife experience in south america. We saw a total of 10 **Jaguars** including two of them that I found by myself which means closer and quieter views, in some of the observations there were tens of other boats. We also went to a cave where a few **giant otters** live and we had a great observation on two of them. Besides that we had a few observations on azara's capuchins and **black howlers**, a few **capybaras** and one observation of a cute **brazilian porcupine**.





After a long boat tour we were driven in the evening back to Cuiaba. I was tired but I knew it was a great chance to see animals along the Transpantaneira so I kept myself up and damn it paid off. It started with a few **crab eating foxes** along the road, later a **lowland paca** that crossed very close and just a few km before the northern end a huge **maned wolf** crossed slowly in front of us! No photos but it was amazing and unbelievable! Later inside Pocone we also saw a **nine-banded armadillo**.

mammals full list

1. common marmoset - rio, ilha grande
2. black-tufted marmoset - rio, ilha grande
3. azara's capuchin - southern pantanal, bonito, northern pantanal
4. black capuchin - rio, iguacu
5. black howler - bonito, northern pantanal
6. six-banded armadillo - southern pantanal, bonito, northern pantanal
7. nine-banded armadillo - southern pantanal, northern pantanal
8. giant anteater - southern pantanal
9. tamandua - southern pantanal
10. south american coati - iguacu
11. ocelot - bonito, northern pantanal
12. jaguar - northern pantanal
13. crab eating fox - southern pantanal, bonito, northern pantanal
14. maned wolf - northern pantanal
15. giant otter - northern pantanal
16. neotropical river otter - bonito
17. collared peccary - bonito
18. brazilian tapir - southern pantanal, bonito
19. red brocket - southern pantanal
20. grey brocket - bonito
21. pampas deer - southern pantanal
22. marsh deer - southern pantanal, northern pantanal
23. azara's agouti - iguacu, bonito, northern pantanal
24. red-rumped agouti - rio
25. brazilian guinea-pig - northern pantanal
26. capybara - southern pantanal, northern pantanal
27. lowland paca - northern pantanal
28. brazilian porcupine - northern pantanal
29. brazilian squirrel - rio
30. proboscis bat - northern pantanal

all in all it was an incredible nature experience(:
you are welcome to whatsapp me if you have any questions,
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