

Emas NP – Brazil

31 july – 05 August 2019

Introduction

I visited Emas NP in Brazil as a part of a bigger South America trip mainly for the chance of Pampas cat and Maned wolf. I am not a fan of baited animals so Caraca's sanctuary and their famous church was out of question for Maned wolf for me. I wanted to see them in their right environment. Real stuff.

I was really hoping for some daytime sightings of them as well and Emas NP seemed like the right place for me. An odd chance of Pampas cat didn't make my decision very hard.

I stayed 5 nights in the lovely Pousada Do Gloria

<https://pousadadogloria.wixsite.com/parquenacionalemas>

I can't recommend this place high enough. Such a friendly place and with direct proximity to the park itself. Very nice food and also a bunch of wildlife just outside your door. I did all of my drives inside the park. In general between 06:00 - 12:00 and 15:30 – 20:30

The pousada has their own "safari car" which I used solely with my driver and guide Ana who is also manager of the Pousada. She is a very good guide and have been in this park for 10 years. She knows it better than anyone else.



Pousada Do Gloria doesn't look much from the outside but it's a lovely place. One of the places in the world you are truly missing when you leave. Clean, fresh rooms, WiFi and all the comfort you need.



But over to the park, the most important. Emas NP is big. It contains rivers, forest, low dry bushy areas and the cerrado (Savanna).

Typical Emas scenery with the cerrado and long straight roads. This is where the Maned Wolf thrives.

Other areas have more dry low bushy forest



Termite mounds are a big part of Emas NP. It makes the scenery and they are everywhere.

My species list

1. **Pampas deer** --- By far the most common mammal in Emas. You will see them everywhere and if you don't it's probably because it's raining or is too cold.



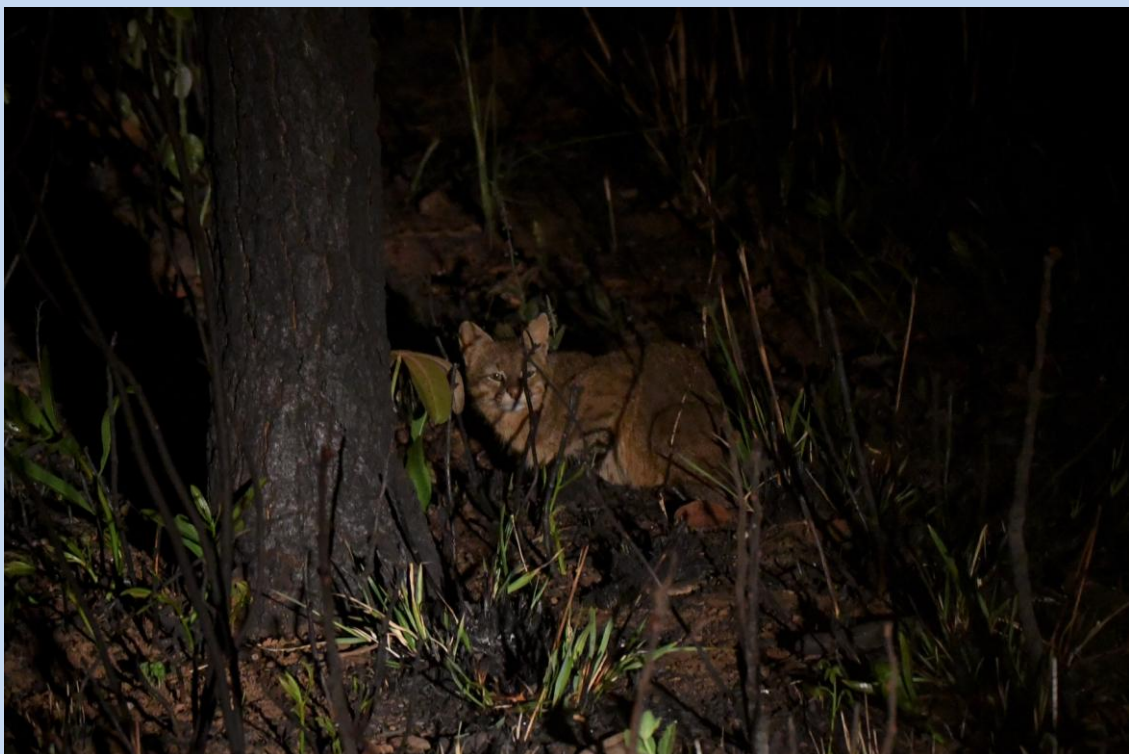
2. **Marsh deer** --- Only one sighting when spotlighting on the fields outside the Park close to Pousada



3. Pampas cat --- Truly extraordinary sightings of two different individuals of this elusive cat. On my very first nightdrive at 19:00 this big male appeared on a stretch of the road inside the park who should be particularly good for Pampas cat according to my guide Ana. Well, she was right...



Smaller female Pampas cat on another nightdrive at 19:40.

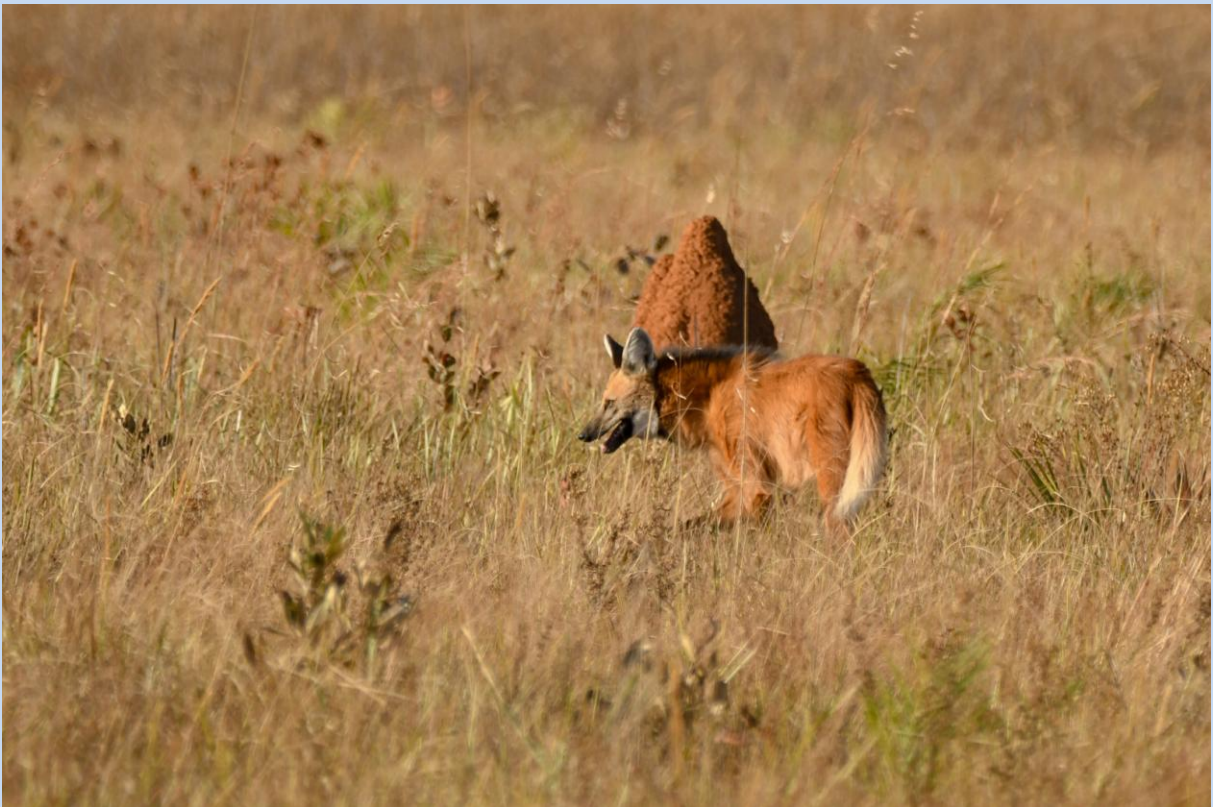


Emas NP should be on everyone's list if you are into tick of Pampas cat of your list. Further down in my report I will point out on the map where exactly I saw them.

4. Maned wolf --- Two different sightings of this elusive beast. Both in daylight! The first one I screwed big time with still nighttime settings in my camera. Brief sighting for maybe one minute in very long grass at 07:30



The other one was a fabulous sighting for around 15 minutes at 17:20. Where we could follow the Wolf hunting for rodents, do territorial markings and lurking around.





Emas was a success and from this point on everything was a bonus with both my target species home.

5. Azara's agouti --- They use to hang around the Pousada in mornings and late afternoons. On one evening I skipped the nightdrive due to very cold weather and spent my time around the Pousada to try to see one or two. And I did.



6. Crab eating fox --- The second most common mammal in Emas with 10 sightings. Most when spotlighting but a couple of them in daylight.



7. Hoary fox --- One sighting only. Even harder to see than the Maned wolf and Pampas cat for me... at last, the spotlighting hours found one of these (to Brazil) endemic fox.



8. Molina's hog nosed skunk --- Two sightings but always moving away and hard to get a proper photo.



9. South American tapir (Lowland tapir) --- Two distant sightings when spotlighting. Many tracks on the road. There is also a habituated one inside the park who use to hang around the old park administration, nowadays camping ground. I didn't count him.



But even habituated Tapirs can sometimes make up for a good photo...



- 10. Southern naked-tailed armadillo** --- One sighting. Suddenly appeared on the road and seemed to be running to Argentina or something... Nice, unexpected sighting.



- 11. Six banded armadillo** --- One sighting of an individual walking towards us on the road. Both Armadillos appeared in very cold weather.



12. White lipped peccary --- A very skittish group when spotlighting was gone after a blink. A habituated individual stays close to park entrance and he will symbolize this brief meeting.



Other noticeable creatures during my stay in Emas...



Common Tegu



Crossed pit viper

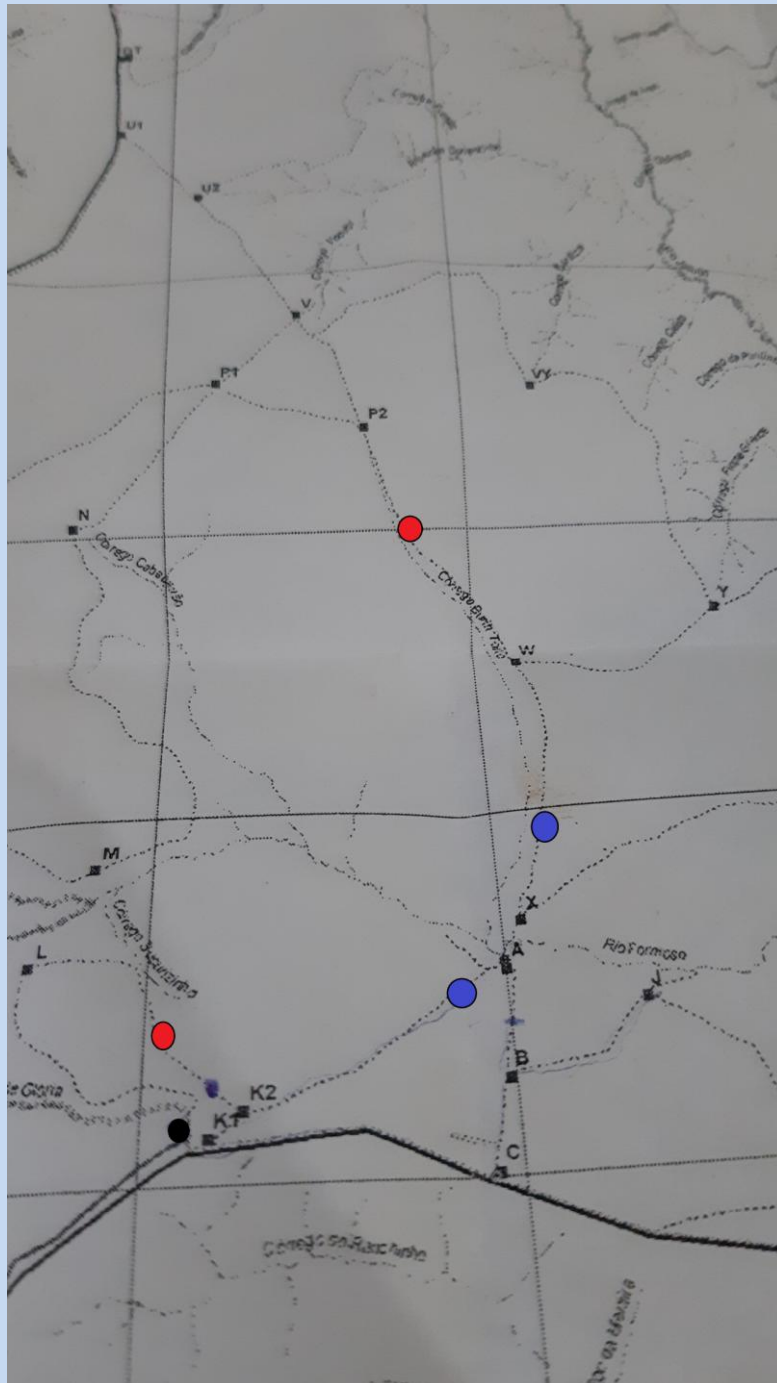
Here I post a map of Emas NP and where I saw Maned wolf and Pampas cat.

Black dot = Pousada Do Gloria

Red dot = Maned wolf

Blue dot = Pampas cat

The stretch between the black dot and the first blue dot is supposed to be a real hotspot for Pampas cat. Soon after this blue dot you come to Rio Formosa and a bridge.



Stuff I missed

Puma. Tracks close to Pousada. Seen by National Geographic team who also stayed at the same place for filming.

Giant armadillo. Very fresh signs of them. Two freshly made burrows where we spent some time without success. Armadillo was out later that night and National geographic team got one on their camera trap leaving it's burrow. My guide Ana saw the claw when looking into the burrow with a flashlight. You could easily smell it when you put your head in the burrow. Frustrating when you know it's 2 meters from you but still out of sight.

Tayra sometimes seen close to main road at the park border but not this time.

Red brocket deer use to hang around in the forest and it edges close to camp. Seen by National Geographic team but not me.



You could smell the Giant armadillo inside.

