

Brazil – Mammals of the Pantanal

Naturetrek Tour Report

20 - 29 October 2019



Jaguar by Michael Boucher



Tapir by Mick Tilley



Capybara by Elisabeth Schipflinger



Giant Otter by Ian Cushway

Report by Karen Souza
Images courtesy of Mick Tilley, Ian Cushway, Elisabeth Schipflinger & Michael Boucher



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Tour participants: Karen Souza (Leader) with 12 Naturetrek clients

Summary

We had a amazing time here in Pantanal. During the eight days in the area, we saw many different animals: more than 20 different species of mammals, 10 species of reptiles and nearly 150 bird species which included some very great sightings. The group was great, very enthusiastic, with everybody being very passionate about wildlife. So, every detail, every small animal was celebrated and also the great sunset that the Pantanal gave us.

Staying at Jofre Velho was a great experience, with amazing views of Jaguars. We could walk around and see many birds and even a snake in our way to the boat. We were able to have a walk on our last day, when we were lucky to see a Howler Monkey very close to us.

Day 1

Sunday 20th October

Most of the group were on the overnight flight from Heathrow to Sao Paolo.

Day 2

Monday 21st October

Airport - Pouso Alegre

The group met with Karen and those travelling independently, at the airport at 11.30am. We had lunch at Varzea Grande, where the airport is located: a Brazilian barbecue-style lunch.

After that we started our journey to Pocone, about 100 kilometres from Varzea Grande. Pocone is the last city before the North Pantanal, and is the beginning of the Transpantaneira highway. After a toilet stop at Pocone, we went to Transpantaneira at kilometre 15 to change to the open truck. Although it was cloudy and rainy, we still managed to see some birds on our way to our first lodge, Pouso Alegre, at kilometre 33. We were very lucky to see a Nine-banded Armadillo and Southern Coati – a great start!

We arrived at about 6.30pm. We had dinner and afterwards, at about 8.30pm, we had a night safari. We saw Crab-eating Fox, Brown Brocket Deer and also a Feral Pig.

Day 3

Tuesday 22nd October

Pouso Alegre

We had a early start today. It was still cloudy at 5.30am when we started our walk. We saw many different birds but we had our first encounter with the amazing Hyacinth Macaw and the very special and unique Great Potoo with a baby chick.

We came back to have breakfast and after that we went on a safari by truck. We saw some Capybaras, South American Coatis, Black-capped Capuchin monkeys and Brown Brocket Deer.

We had lunch and a siesta until 3pm. We went to the water tank to try to see some mammals that come to drink water on the tank. We didn't see the big mammals as we were hoping for, but we saw few birds and Brown

Brocket Deer. Before going back to dinner, we had a spotlighting session and we had a great surprise: we got to see an Ocelot!! It was a quick sighting, but was very special, because it's a very elusive animal.

We went back for dinner and had a early night because the following day was going to be very long.

Day 4

Wednesday 23rd October

Pouso Alegre – Jofre Velho

To increase our chances of seeing nocturnal mammals, we had a early morning safari at 4am; this time of year Pantanal gets light from 5am. We had great sightings of Crab-eating Fox, Crab-eating Raccoon and Brown Brocket Deer.

About 5.30am we had breakfast and about 6am we started our five-hour journey to Jofre Velho. It is located at the end of the Transpantaneira road, about 115 kilometres from Pouso Alegre.

We were very lucky as, almost at the beginning at the journey, we saw two Tayras crossing the Transpantaneira road! This was very surprising. They are from the Otter family (Mustelidae) but live on dry ground, not in water and hide a lot.

We arrived at lunchtime at Jofre Velho and went out at 2pm for our very first Jaguar tracking. We had great sightings of Giant Otter and our first Jaguar; a very well-known jaguar called Ginger. She is probably expecting a cub in the next few months. We also had a amazing sight - I have never seen anything like this in eight years - a very young Jaguar, that we call Tina, jumped from the river bank a high part of a tree, to try to get a Green Iguana. The iguana fell into the water as did the Jaguar trying to catch it. Amazing!!

We arrived back to Jofre Velho about 6pm, delighted with what we had seen.

Day 5

Thursday 24th October

Jofre Velho – Jaguar tracking

We had breakfast at 6am and left for the research boat at 6.30. On our way to the boat, we saw a snake!! Was a non-dangerous one, it's called Sepia Chaco Mock Viper, in the Columbidae family, a endemic family from Brazil. We saw two Jaguars today. We saw Tina again, crossing the river; it was very special to see that behaviour. And later we saw a very beautiful Jaguar also expecting cubs, Roxanne.

In the afternoon we had two great surprises: first we saw a Anaconda, just minutes before it disappeared from the riverbank. It was bout two metres long: a very beautiful Yellow Anaconda. And the second surprise was our very first Tapir!! It was in a small channel up 'Three Brothers' river, and ours was only our boat so we could see it very well and close to, swimming, diving and also eating. It was amazing!

Day 6

Friday 25th October

Jofre Velho – Jaguar tracking

Today was our last day in the river and we had some great sightings. We saw Nessi, a Jaguar that is around a lot this year, but she was sleeping.

In the afternoon, just to end our river trip in the best way, we saw the famous two brothers, Kim and Tori. They have been together since first time we saw them, in 2017. We saw a very beautiful Jaguar, walking along the riverbank. And we enjoyed a magnificent sunset to finish this part of the tour in an amazing way.

Day 7

Saturday 26th October

Jofre Velho – Santa Tereza

We woke up early, to have a walk around the lodge before breakfast. We saw great birds and also Capuchin Monkeys and Howler Monkey.

After breakfast, we started our journey back to our last lodge of the trip, the Santa Tereza Lodge at kilometre 66. We arrived just in time for lunch.

Our boat trip was at 3pm. We could see the birds more calmly and closer to, including Kingfisher, Hawks and egrets.

We went back to the lodge about 5.30pm to get ready to go to the Ocelot hide. We stayed there until 7.30pm, but the Ocelot didn't appear. When we just arriving back to the lodge, the staff from the lodge told us that the Tapir was there. So, we went back to the trail to see the Tapir eating some mangos.

We had dinner and finished our day.

Day 8

Sunday 27th October

Santa Tereza

We had an early wake-up today, at 5.30am, to do a walk. We saw many different species of birds, like Moustached Wren and Blue-crowned Motmot.

We returned about 7.30am for breakfast and then had an 8am boat trip, to see more and different birds. We had a amazing view of the Agami Heron, a very shy and very beautiful bird.

After lunch and a siesta, we went on a safari in the open truck to search once more for Giant Anteater. Unfortunately, we didn't see one, but we saw many Marsh Deer and more birds.

We went again to the Ocelot Hide but, sadly, had no luck. After dinner we did a night spotlighting and could see once more some great mammals. We returned about 11pm.

Day 9

Monday 28th October

Santa Tereza- Airport

After a long day yesterday, we had breakfast at 6.30am and then had time to walk around and to see some birds at the feeders.

We left the lodge about 9.30am to go to the airport. We had a amazing time and it was a great trip.

Day 10

Tuesday 29th October

The overnight flight from Sao Paolo landed in London, as another Naturetrek adventure came to an end.

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Green Iguana by Elisabeth Schipflinger



Yacare Caiman by Michael Boucher

Species Lists

Mammals (✓=recorded but not counted)

	Common name	Scientific name	October							
			21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
1	Nine-banded Armadillo	<i>Dasybus novemcinctus</i>	✓							
2	Greater Fishing Bat	<i>Nocilio leporinus</i>						✓		
3	Proboscis Bat	<i>Rhynchonycteris naso</i>						✓		
4	Brazilian Tapir	<i>Tapirus terrestris</i>				✓			✓	✓
5	Giant River Otter	<i>Pteronura brasiliensis</i>			✓	✓	✓			
6	Southern River Otter	<i>Lutra longicaudis</i>								✓
7	South American Coati	<i>Nasua nasua</i>	✓		✓					
8	Crab-eating Raccoon	<i>Procyon cancrivorus</i>		✓	✓					✓
9	Crab-eating Fox	<i>Cerdocyon thous</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓
10	Tayra	<i>Eira barbara</i>			✓					
11	Black Howler Monkey	<i>Alouatta caraya</i>							✓	
12	Black-capped Capuchin Monkey	<i>Cebus apella</i>		✓	✓				✓	✓
14	Azara's Agouti	<i>Dasyprocta azarae</i>		✓	✓					
15	Capybara	<i>Hydrochaeris hydrochaeris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
16	Brazilian Cavy	<i>Cavia aperea</i>					✓			
17	Marsh Deer	<i>Blastocerus dichotomus</i>	✓		✓					✓
18	Brown Brocket Deer	<i>Mazama gouazoubira</i>	✓	✓	✓					✓
19	Jaguar	<i>Panthera onca</i>			✓	✓	✓			
21	Feral Pig	<i>Sus scrofa</i>	✓							
22	Black-tailed Marmoset	<i>Mico melanurus</i>								✓
23	Brazilian Rabbit	<i>Sylvilagus brasiliensis</i>		✓						

Reptiles & Amphibians

1	Yacare Caiman	<i>Caiman crocodilus jacare</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
2	Common (Green) Iguana	<i>Iguana iguana</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓	
3	Common Tegu Lizard	<i>Tupinambis teguixin</i>		✓	✓			✓		
4	Collared Lizard	<i>Tropidurus torquatus</i>		✓						✓
5	Cayman Lizard	<i>Dracaena paraguayensis</i>			✓					
6	Race Runner Lizard	<i>Ameiva ameiva</i>			✓	✓				
7	Yellow Anaconda	<i>Eunectes notatus</i>				✓				
8	Sepia Chaco Mock Viper	<i>Thamnodynastei chaquensis</i>				✓				
9	Tiger Snake	<i>Spilotes pulatus</i>						✓		
10	Yellow-tailed Indigo	<i>Drymarchon corais</i>								✓

Birds

1	Greater Rhea	<i>Rhea americana</i>	✓	✓	✓					✓
2	Chaco Chachalaca	<i>Ortalis canicollis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
3	Rusty-margined Guan	<i>Penelope supercilialis</i>							✓	
4	Chestnut-bellied Guan	<i>Penelope ochrogaster</i>	✓	✓	✓					
5	Blue-throated Piping Guan	<i>Pipile cumanensis</i>		✓	✓				✓	✓
6	Bare-faced Curassow	<i>Crax fasciolata</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓	
7	Southern Screamer	<i>Anhima torquata</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
8	White-faced Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>		✓						
9	Black-bellied Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna autumnalis</i>		✓	✓					
10	Muscovy Duck	<i>Cairina moschata</i>	✓	✓	✓					✓
11	Great Potoo	<i>Nyctibius grandis</i>		✓		✓				
12	Band-tailed Nighthawk	<i>Nyctiprogne leucopyga</i>						✓		

	Common name	Scientific name	October								
			21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
13	Pauraque	<i>Nyctidromus albicollis</i>		✓	✓					✓	
14	Guira Cuckoo	<i>Guira guira</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓			
15	Greater Ani	<i>Crotophaga major</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
16	Smooth-billed Ani	<i>Crotophaga ani</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
17	Squirrel Cuckoo	<i>Piaya cayana</i>			✓	✓		✓			
18	Pale-vented Pigeon	<i>Columba cayennensis</i>		✓			✓				
19	Eared Dove	<i>Zenaida auriculata</i>		✓							
20	Scaled Dove	<i>Columbina squamatta</i>		✓							
21	Ruddy Ground Dove	<i>Columbina talpacoti</i>		✓					✓		
22	Picui Ground Dove	<i>Columbina picui</i>		✓	✓				✓	✓	
23	White-tipped Dove	<i>Leptotila verreauxi</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		
24	Sungrebe	<i>Heliornis fulica</i>				✓		✓			
25	Grey-necked Wood Rail	<i>Aramides cajaneus</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓		
26	Limpkin	<i>Aramus guarauna</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓		
27	Southern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus chilensis</i>		✓			✓	✓			
28	Pied Plover (Lapwing)	<i>Hoploxypterus (Vanellus) cayanus</i>					✓				
29	Wattled Jacana	<i>Jacana jacana</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
30	Solitary Sandpiper	<i>Tringa solitaria</i>						✓			
31	Black Skimmer	<i>Rynchops niger</i>				✓	✓				
32	Yellow-billed Tern	<i>Sterna supercilialis</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓				
33	Large-billed Tern	<i>Phaetusa simplex</i>	✓								
34	Sunbittern	<i>Eurypyga helias</i>	✓	✓				✓	✓		
35	Wood Stork	<i>Mycteria americana</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓			
36	Maguari Stork	<i>Ciconia maguari</i>	✓								
37	Jabiru	<i>Jabiru mycteria</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
38	Neotropic Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax olivaceus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
39	Anhinga	<i>Anhinga anhinga</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
40	Plumbeous Ibis	<i>Harpiprion caerulescens</i>		✓	✓					✓	
41	Buff-necked Ibis	<i>Theristicus caudatus</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		
42	Green Ibis	<i>Mesembrinibis cayennensis</i>	✓	✓				✓			
43	Bare-faced Ibis (Whispering Ibis)	<i>Phimosus infuscatus</i>			✓						
44	Roseate Spoonbill	<i>Ajaia ajaja</i>			✓						
45	Rufescent Tiger Heron	<i>Tigrisoma lineatum</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
46	Agami Heron	<i>Agamia agami</i>						✓			
47	Boat-billed Heron	<i>Cochlearius cochlearia</i>		✓						✓	
48	Black-crowned Night-Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>					✓				
49	Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striatus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
50	Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	✓		✓			✓	✓		
51	White-necked (Cocoi) Heron	<i>Ardea cocoi</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
52	Great Egret	<i>Egretta alba</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓			
53	Capped Heron	<i>Pilherodius pileatus</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		
54	Whistling Heron	<i>Syrigma sibilatrix</i>		✓						✓	
55	Little Blue Heron	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>	✓		✓			✓	✓		
56	Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓			
57	Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture	<i>Cathartes burrovianus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
58	Black Vulture	<i>Coragyps atratus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
59	Western Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>			✓	✓	✓				
60	Plumbeous Kite	<i>Ictinia plumbea</i>					✓				
61	Black-collared Hawk	<i>Busarellus nigricollis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
62	Snail Kite	<i>Rostrhamus sociabilis</i>			✓			✓			
63	Crane Hawk	<i>Geranoospiza caerulescens</i>				✓					

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			21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
64	Savanna Hawk	<i>Buteogallus meridionalis</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	
65	Great Black Hawk	<i>Buteogallus urubitinga</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
66	Roadside Hawk	<i>Buteo magnirostris</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓		
67	Great Horned Owl	<i>Bubo virginianus</i>			✓					
68	Striped Owl	<i>Asio clamator</i>						✓		
69	American Pygmy Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle aenea</i>					✓	✓		
70	Green-and-rufous Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle inda</i>						✓		
71	Green Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle americana</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓		
72	Amazon Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle amazona</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
73	Ringed Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle torquata</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
74	Amazonian (Blue-crowned) Motmot	<i>Momotus momota</i>								✓
75	Rufous-tailed Jacamar	<i>Galbula ruficauda</i>		✓		✓	✓			
76	Black-fronted Nunbird	<i>Monasa morphoeus</i>		✓				✓		
77	Chestnut-eared Araçari	<i>Pteroglossus castanotis</i>		✓						
78	Toco Toucan	<i>Ramphastos toco</i>			✓					
79	White-wedged Piculet	<i>Picumnus albosquamatus</i>						✓		
80	White Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes candidus</i>				✓				
81	Campo Flicker	<i>Colaptes campestris</i>		✓						
82	Red-legged Seriema	<i>Cariama cristata</i>	✓	✓						
83	Southern Crested Caracara	<i>Caracara plancus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
84	Yellow-headed Caracara	<i>Milvago chimachima</i>	✓							
85	Monk Parakeet	<i>Myiopsitta monachus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
86	Yellow-chevroned Parakeet	<i>Brotogeris chiriri</i>			✓			✓		
87	Turquoise-fronted Amazon (Blue-fr.Parrot)	<i>Amazona aestiva</i>	✓	✓				✓	✓	
88	Hyacinth Macaw	<i>Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓	
89	Peach-fronted Parakeet	<i>Aratinga aurea</i>	✓							
90	Golden- (Yellow-) collared Macaw	<i>Ara auricollis</i>	✓							
91	Olivaceous Woodcreeper	<i>Sittasomus griseicapillus</i>								✓
92	Buff-throated Woodcreeper	<i>Xiphorhynchus guttatus</i>								✓
93	Narrow-billed Woodcreeper	<i>Lepidocolaptes angustirostris</i>		✓						✓
94	Red-billed Scythebill	<i>Camphorhamphus trochilirostris</i>		✓						
95	Streaked Xenops	<i>Xenops rutilans</i>								✓
96	Pale-legged Hornero	<i>Furnarius leucopus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓		
97	Rufous Hornero	<i>Furnarius rufus</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	
98	Rufous-fronted Thornbird	<i>Phacellodomus rufifrons</i>								✓
99	Rusty-backed Spinetail	<i>Cranioleuca vulpina</i>					✓			
100	White-lored Spinetail	<i>Synallaxis albiflora</i>		✓						
101	Large-billed Antwren	<i>Herpsilochmus longirostris</i>							✓	
102	Mato Grosso Antbird	<i>Cercomacra melanaria</i>								✓
103	Common Tody-Flycatcher	<i>Todirostrum cinereum</i>					✓			
104	Black-backed Water Tyrant	<i>Fluvicola albiventer</i>		✓		✓	✓			
105	White-headed Marsh Tyrant	<i>Arundinicola leucocephala</i>						✓		
106	Cattle Tyrant	<i>Machetornis rixosus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
107	Piratic Flycatcher	<i>Legatus leucophaeus</i>						✓	✓	
108	Rusty-margined Flycatcher	<i>Myiozetetes cayanensis</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		
109	Great Kiskadee	<i>Pitangus sulphuratus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
110	Lesser Kiskadee	<i>Pitangus lictor</i>		✓						✓
111	Boat-billed Flycatcher	<i>Megarhynchus pitangua</i>								✓
112	Tropical Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus melancholicus</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
113	Fork-tailed Flycatcher	<i>Tyrannus savana</i>	✓		✓					✓
114	Rufous Casiornis	<i>Casiornis rufa</i>						✓	✓	

	Common name	Scientific name	October								
			21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
115	Red-eyed Vireo	<i>Vireo olivaceus</i>							✓		
116	Purplish Jay	<i>Cyanocorax cyanomelas</i>							✓		
117	White-winged Swallow	<i>Pachyramphus polychopterus</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓				
118	Grey-breasted Martin	<i>Progne chalybea</i>	✓		✓		✓				
119	Brown-chested Martin	<i>Phaeoprogne tapera</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
120	Southern Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx ruficollis</i>					✓				
121	Black-capped Donacobius	<i>Donacobius atricapillus</i>	✓			✓				✓	
122	Thrush-like Wren	<i>Campylorhynchus turdinus</i>								✓	
123	Moustached Wren	<i>Thryothorus genibarbis</i>								✓	
124	Masked Gnatcatcher	<i>Poliophtila dumicola</i>							✓	✓	
125	Chalk-browed Mockingbird	<i>Mimus saturninus</i>		✓							
126	Rufous-bellied Thrush	<i>Turdus rufiventris</i>		✓							
127	Crested Oropendola	<i>Psarocolius decumanus</i>		✓			✓				
128	Solitary Cacique	<i>Cacicus solitarius</i>	✓								
129	Yellow-rumped Cacique	<i>Cacicus cela</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
130	Orange-backed Troupial	<i>Icterus croconotus</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
131	Giant Cowbird	<i>Scaphidura oryzivora</i>					✓				
132	Scarlet-headed Blackbird	<i>Amblyramphus holosericeus</i>	✓	✓							
133	Chopi Blackbird	<i>Gnorimopsar chopi</i>							✓	✓	
134	Greyish Baywing (Bay-winged Cowb.)	<i>Agelaioides (Molothrus) badius</i>	✓	✓					✓		
135	Unicolored Blackbird	<i>Agelaius cyanopus</i>	✓								
136	Red-crested Cardinal	<i>Paroaria coronata</i>	✓								
137	Yellow-billed Cardinal	<i>Paroaria capitata</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
138	Hooded Tanager	<i>Nemosia pileata</i>								✓	
139	Silver-beaked Tanager	<i>Ramphocelus carbo</i>		✓					✓	✓	
140	Sayaca Tanager	<i>Thraupis sayaca</i>		✓							
141	Chestnut-vented Conebill	<i>Conirostrum speciosum</i>							✓		
142	Saffron Finch	<i>Sicalis flaveola</i>	✓	✓						✓	
143	Greyish Saltator	<i>Saltator coerulescens</i>	✓	✓	✓				✓		
144	White-bellied Seedeater	<i>Sporophila leucoptera</i>							✓		

Introduced species:

145	Feral Pigeon ("Rock Dove")	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓					✓		
146	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>							✓		

Spiders

1	Tarantula sp.								✓	✓	
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Agami Heron by Mick Tilley



Black-collared Hawk by Ian Cushway