

**Bolivia**  
**July 1st-12th**  
**Justin Brown**

Having missed the Chacoan peccary in Paraguay a few years ago, I arranged a tour to Kaa-Iya National Park in Bolivia with Nick's Adventures. Nick guided the trip himself and I can't say enough good things about him: he responds to emails very quickly; his prices are very reasonable; he's great company (I don't think I've ever laughed more on a trip); he's very willing to spend a lot of time looking for the target species; and he's generally very passionate about wildlife and creating more tourism and awareness for the animals of Bolivia. The Chacoan peccary has become increasingly difficult to see in Paraguay and Argentina, and Kaa-Iya is currently the best bet for finding one. Nick sees it on

about every other tour, but keep in mind that he's mainly searching for cats on his trips, and the peccary is typically seen during non-cat hours: late morning and early afternoon. I had one sighting--fortunately an excellent one with a baby--over a week in the park. The peccaries aren't easy to find because, firstly, there are only a few thousand left in the vastness of the Gran Chaco, and, secondly, you have to catch them on the road since the vegetation is so thick. I really recommend a week in the park to ensure that you find them; that's a lot of time, but there are other cool animals to see in addition to the peccaries. Nick has a high success rate with jaguars at Kaa-Iya (we saw one), and ocelots and tapirs are quite common (we saw four of the former and three or four of the latter). Nick also sees pumas on a semi-regular basis, and there's

a decent chance for jaguarundi. If you're just interested in jaguars, Nick has another spot where he's getting multiple quality sightings on almost every tour.

Nick and I had a very interesting sighting of a small cat on the trip. We saw it in the middle of Kaa-Iya in an area of tall grass. There are no domestic cats this far inside the national park, with the closest ranch being at least 20 kilometers away. The cat is appreciably bigger than a domestic cat. We sent a video, a link for which can be found below, to several biologists with WCS in Bolivia and they think pampas cat is likely. What do you think? Remember to keep in mind the context of this sighting, as survival for a domestic cat would surely be improbable amongst all of the ocelots, pumas, and foxes.

[https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=ny\\_8PTfwT\\_hc](https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=ny_8PTfwT_hc)

Species seen at Kaa-Iya: Chacoan peccary, jaguar, ocelot, tapir, crab-eating fox, Pampas fox, gray brocket deer, three-banded armadillo, tapetí, white-coated titi, black-tailed marmoset, hooded capuchin, and Azara's night monkey

Species seen in Santa Cruz: white-eared titi and three-toed sloth