

Brazil, the Pantanal, 19th October – 1st November 2022



Jaguar

TB

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It felt we were a bit late to the party when it came to the Pantanal as most mammal watchers appear to have visited it at some time or other. I did contact Regina Ribeiro back in late 2019 to arrange the trip for 2020 but the Covid pandemic put a stop to that for two years.

This was my second visit to Brazil – I went to Emas National Park and Morro do Diabo State Park in July 2017. It was Tim’s first visit to Brazil.

We had a vehicle and driver in both the northern and southern Pantanal. We had private wildlife drives at all locations and private boat trips at Porto Jofre.

It was the end of the dry season in the Pantanal, but there had been some rain a few days before we arrived. Most days were hot and sunny, but we had some rain and a cold front hit at the end of our trip. During the hottest part of the day, we just mooched around, rested, looked for bats or watched birds.

The rain showers brought the mosquitoes out, so we were glad of good insect repellants. It was light by 05:00 and dark by 18:30.

Regina is well known amongst mammal watchers as a Brazilian based wildlife guide and came highly recommended. Both Tim and I concur with those recommendations as she was an excellent wildlife guide and great travelling companion. We wouldn’t hesitate in using her services again. Regina worked out the itinerary based on what we wanted to see. She arranged the internal travel and accommodation logistics by engaging Marluce Boute of Boute Expeditions. Marluce organised and booked all the lodges, hotels, vehicles/drivers and internal flights. We even had people helping us through the various stages at the airports – which was very useful. The Regina/Marluce working partnership worked like a dream, was extremely efficient and everything went as planned.

Tim and I flew from the UK to Sao Paulo, via Madrid, on the 17th October arriving early on the 18th. We had day use of a room in the Panamby Hotel before our flight to Campo Grande in the late afternoon. We arrived early evening and were met by Regina. The three of us then stayed overnight in the Hotel Vale Verde in Campo Grande.

Itinerary/Places where we stayed:

Southern Pantanal: Fazenda San Francisco; Aguape Lodge.

Northern Pantanal: Pouso Alegre; Pousada Jofre Velho; Piuval Lodge.

It was a very successful trip with 41 species of mammal recorded.

Wednesday 19th October. Campo Grande/San Francisco. Hot and sunny.

We were picked up from the hotel by our driver around 07:00 and set off for Fazenda San Francisco, in the southern Pantanal. This was the first proper day of our trip. Fazenda San Francisco is a ranch with activities that combines livestock, irrigated rice fields and eco-tourism. We arrived around 11:00, were shown to our rooms and had lunch. Before our first private safari drive, we looked at a roost of 18 White-lined Bats that Regina had found. The roost was under a porch by Regina's room.

Safari drive 15:30 – 18:30. We were more than happy with our first drive of the trip seeing around 30 Marsh Deer, 30+ Capybara, five Black and Gold Howler Monkeys, two Crab-eating Foxes, six Brazilian Guinea Pigs, a Nine-banded Armadillo and a very confiding Giant Anteater.



Giant Anteater

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Back for the evening meal and then out again spotlighting 19:15 – 22:30.

Our first Ocelot within five minutes of setting out was very nice, unfortunately an all too brief view. As we drove around, we came across a Nine-banded Armadillo and three pairs of Crab-eating Foxes, a few Marsh Deer, Capybaras and three rats sp. crossed the track. Our driver then got a call about two Jaguars being watched not too far away so of course we headed to the spot. The group that had found the Jaguars had left the area, but we soon found the animals after a bit of driving up and down a track. They were just lazing around on a drainage ditch embankment - a female with a well grown cub. What a great surprise, we were elated. I was confident we would see Jaguars on the trip but thought that would be at Porto Jofre. After watching them for around ten minutes they became obscured behind long grass and bushes, so we left them to it and moved on. Whilst still high on our first Jaguar sighting, a splash in a drainage channel alerted us to a Brazilian Tapir. It swam across the channel and then gave good views as it clambered up onto the bank.



Jaguar

TB

A little later spotlighting a grassy field, we picked up eye-shine. It soon became apparent that it wasn't a Crab-eating Fox that we had first expected it to be but a small cat, and not an Ocelot. We tried pishing which got it interested, it kept looking in our direction and standing up, but after some time trying to get it closer, including turning off the spotlights, it just wouldn't budge. But we saw enough to identify it as a Pantanal Cat. It eventually hunkered down and became unresponsive to our pishing so we decided to move on. Heading back to the lodge, we had another nice surprise, when we came across another Jaguar only a few hundred metres from the lodge, it showed well but briefly.



Marsh Deer

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Thursday 20th October. Breakfast 05:30. Safari drive 06:00 – 10:45. Hot and sunny.

A quiet morning for mammals. We came across many Marsh Deer and Capybaras, one Yellow Armadillo and three Brazilian Guinea Pigs. We stopped by the Miranda River, where I got a split-second view of a Neotropical Otter but only its head showed before it ducked under the water. I was the only one

who saw it, and despite us hanging around for fifteen minutes scanning the river it didn't show. This would have been a new species for me, but such a quick, poor view certainly isn't acceptable, in my opinion, as a new mammal on my list – so sadly the one that got away for now.

Back at the lodge the White-lined Bats were still in residence by Regina's room.

Afternoon drive 16:00 – 18:00. Out a bit later than planned due to a mid-afternoon storm, thunder, lightning and rain - fortunately clearing up.

We hadn't gone far when we spotted a Neotropical Otter in a drainage channel, we watched it for around ten minutes before we left it to continue its fishing.



Neotropical Otter

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I had a nice warm feeling watching the otter after the morning's unsatisfactory view of the species. Further on and with thanks to our lodge driver/guide we had amazing views of two Ocelots resting up in the roof space of a cattle shed. The photos speak for themselves just how close and unfazed the Ocelots were in our presence. Nevertheless, we didn't disturb their day rest for too long. One was an old looking, grey coloured male the other was the more typical

yellow/brown colour. Heading back to the lodge we saw seven Guinea Pigs and a Giant Anteater with a youngster on her back.



Ocelot – in cattle shed roof space

TB





Ocelot

JW

Our evening drive was curtailed due to an approaching storm that was soon upon us with thunder and lightning and heavy rain. Twice we went out but both times we were beaten back by the torrential rain. We did see a couple of rats but that was all. We finally gave up and called it a night.

Friday 21st October. Safari drive 05:00 - 07:45. Cloudy start, warm and then sunny.

Within five minutes we were watching an Ocelot coming towards us along the track before it turned off, crossed a channel via a bridge and disappeared behind some bushes. We moved on and about 15 minutes later we were watching two Jaguars walking towards us. We stopped and watched them on the track, it soon became apparent that it was a female with a well grown cub, almost certainly it was the same female and cub we watched Wednesday night. After about five minutes the youngster moved off across a field and into thick cover and the female just melted away in the track-side vegetation.

Continuing our drive we saw the usual Marsh Deer, Capybaras and Guinea Pigs before going back for breakfast.



Young Jaguar

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Yellow Armadillo

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Pallas's Long-tongued Bat

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We went out again for a short drive after breakfast from 08:30 to 09:45. We came across our first Common Red Brocket Deer of the trip and around 28 Capybaras. Back at the lodge we checked out a couple of outbuildings, with permission, and accompanied by our lodge guide. The first building held four Lesser Dog-like Bats and the second building had around 25 Pallas's Long-tongued Bats.



Lesser Dog-like Bat

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After lunch we went out again on a safari drive 15:00 – 18:40.

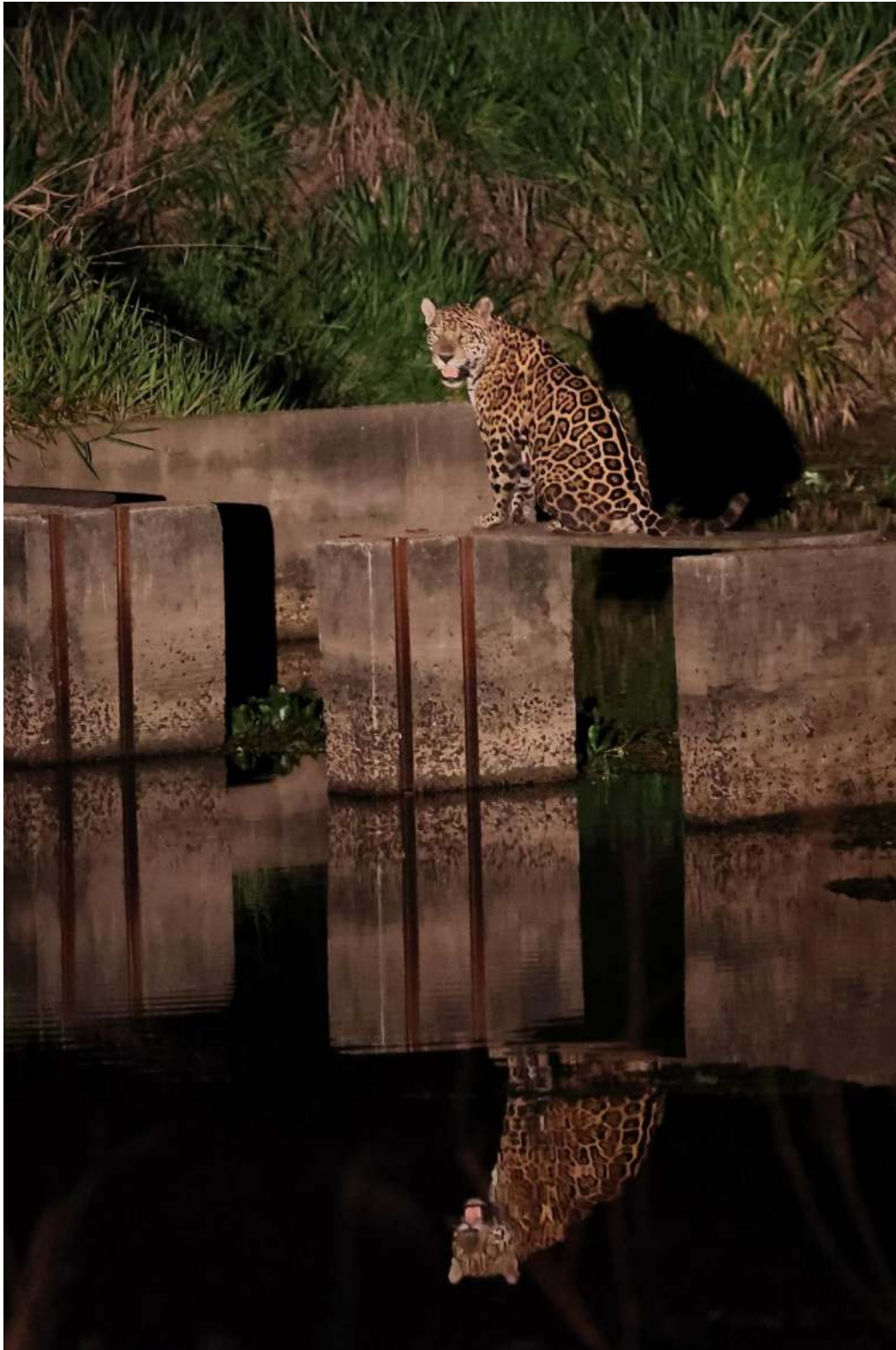
We found two Common Red Brocket Deer and the usual Marsh Deer and Capybaras. In the late afternoon we heard that the female Jaguar we had seen in the morning had been seen going inside a disused drainage pipe. The pipe

was in an embankment a couple of hundred metres from where we saw her and her cub in the morning. So, we drove to the spot and waited on a track a little way off and parallel to the embankment pipe. Looking at the pipe we found it hard to believe that an adult Jaguar would choose such a place to hole up in. Anyway, we waited and while we waited, we were kept entertained by Guinea Pigs criss-crossing the track near our vehicle. At 18:15 the Jaguar popped its head out of the pipe, sniffed the air and then neatly slid out and onto the top of the bank. After loafing around on top of the bank for a while she began walking along the embankment, by which time the light was going so we put on the spotlight for some better views. As she went, she was calling, presumably to contact her cub which no doubt was somewhere in the vicinity. We slowly followed her as she walked along before losing her in deep cover. We then headed back to the lodge seeing a Crab-eating Fox on the way.



Jaguar

TB



Jaguar

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After our evening meal we went out again at 20:00 till 22:10. A very quiet evening safari with a single Tapeti, a few Marsh Deer and six rats that crossed

the track. The Ocelot researchers based at the ranch said the rats we saw this evening and yesterday would be Chaco Marsh Rats, one of the main food items of the Ocelots on the ranch. Some of the rats gave decent views and did fit the description of Chaco Marsh Rat.

Saturday 22nd October. Hot and sunny. San Francisco/Aguape Lodge

At 05:30 we had a walk around the lodge grounds and the immediate vicinity. We saw around 30 Capybaras on a nearby lake and the White-lined Bats were still under the porch. At 07:00 we went for breakfast and then at 08:00 we departed San Francisco and drove to Aguape Lodge.

Aguape Lodge is a traditional cattle ranch. It is also the centre for studying and rehabilitating Giant Anteaters. They take in orphaned baby Giant Anteaters when the mother has been killed on the road or more recently anteaters that have suffered burns in wildfires. They are cared for before being released back into the wild with radio collars fitted.



Giant Anteater

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Driving the approach road to the lodge we had a Common Red Brocket Deer and five Pampas Deer. We arrived at the lodge at 11:00 to find a Yellow Armadillo scuttling around.

We went out on a safari drive 15:00 – 19:00 which proved very productive. Seeing at least 35 Capybaras, around ten Pampas Deer, a Common Brown Brocket Deer, three Yellow Armadillos, a pair of Crab-eating Foxes, good views of a Brazilian Tapir, and singles each of Collared Peccary and Azara’s Agouti. We also saw quite a few feral pigs, not pure Wild Boar, but some certainly looked as if they had Wild Boar in their parentage.

We went on an evening safari drive 20:00 to 21:30. We saw a Pampas Deer, a Common Brown Brocket Deer, a pair of Crab-eating Foxes and four Tapeti. We then came across the highlight of the night a Southern Tamandua which performed admirably for us. It was to be the only Tamandua of the trip, so we were pleased it showed so well.



Southern Tamandua

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Southern Tamandua

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Sunday 23rd October. 05:00-07:30 Safari drive. Hot and sunny. Aguape/Campo Grande.

A nice drive around with Pampas Deer, Capybaras, four Collared Peccaries and super close views of two Giant Anteaters.

After breakfast safari drive 08:30 – 11:00.

We saw the usual Pampas Deer and Capybaras plus two Yellow Armadillos. We then drove to the Aquidauana River to a rod and line fishing encampment that had accommodation, kitchen and canteen huts for the fishermen. We found a small group of six Azara's Capuchins and four South American Coati's. Both species being pretty confiding no doubt due to the food availability around the encampment. On the drive back to the lodge we came across a group of well over 30 White-lipped Peccaries.

We were joined at lunch by a Yellow Armadillo that snuffled around our feet before wandering off to look for proper armadillo food. We departed the lodge at 14:30 to drive to Campo Grande. On the way out we saw six Collared Peccary and a South American Coati. We arrived in Campo Grande in plenty of

time to get our 20:45 flight to Cuiaba, where we arrived around 22:00. We stayed overnight in the Hotel Taina.

Monday 24th October. Hot and sunny. Campo Grande/Transpantaneira/Pouso Alegre

We left the hotel around 07:30 and headed south, hitting the Transpantaneira a couple of hours later. There were still quite a few old wooden rickety bridges, particularly at the southern end, but many had been replaced by concrete bridges and some were in the process of being replaced. Regina told us that the road is also wider than it used to be.



JW in the obligatory photo at the entrance to the Transpantaneira

The 2020 Pantanal wildfires had a big impact on the wildlife of the area with thousands of animals perishing. It will be a few years before numbers are back to pre-fire levels. After two wet seasons ground cover was quite luxuriant but skeletal remains of burnt trees could still be seen. Wildlife researchers have

said that since the fires there has been a big increase in rodent numbers. All we saw along the road were Capybaras and a Pampas Deer.



South American Coati

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We arrived at Pouso Alegre at 10:30 where there was a group of South American Coatis nosing around every nook and cranny in search of food. We soon found the wooden tool shed I'd heard about which we checked out for bats. We found three species: a single Seba's Short-tailed Bat, three Pallas's Mastiff Bats and ten Fringe-lipped Bats. But not the Vampire Bat I'd heard roosts in there. The shed is divided into two sections with a door to each section on either side so check both sections when looking for bats.



Fringe Lipped Bat

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Afternoon safari 16:00 to 20:00.

We came across a pair of Crab-eating Foxes, a South American Coati, a Red Brocket Deer and a Tapeti.

After our evening meal we decided to have a search around the grounds on our own rather than go on a night drive. In the middle of the lodge grounds, between the accommodation buildings and the restaurant, there was a patch of mature Mango trees and a Tapir with a youngster in tow was munching on fallen mangoes. The adult was totally unconcerned about the nearby lodge guests and on one occasion when standing still it came towards me, sniffed me and then walked past me only a metre away. It just goes to show what can happen if wild animals are treated with respect and not harassed or killed. After our fill of the Tapirs and armed with our spotlights/torches, thermal imagers and an Echometer Touch 2 Bat Detector we had a wander around. We only found a Tapeti and a solitary male Coati.



Brazilian Tapir

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Brazilian Tapir

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Tuesday 25th October. Another hot and sunny day.

Truck Safari 04:00 – 08:00.

Pretty quiet with only a Common Brown Brocket Deer, a Tapeti and an Azara's Agouti seen.

After breakfast we had a walk to a patch of forest not far from the lodge in the hope of finding Black-tailed Marmosets which are resident in the forest - unfortunately we didn't find them. At 10:30 we went for a drive in the truck finding a couple of Coati's, four or five Azara's Capuchins and four Black and Gold Howlers. Then back for lunch at 12:30.

Later in the afternoon we walked to the forest patch again for the Marmosets but failed to find them, we only saw six Capuchins. Near the lodge the group of around 20 Coati's were still snuffling all around the area. We then went out on the truck 16:00 – 19:45. We slowly drove down the main entrance track and out onto the Transpantaneira coming across a Brown Brocket Deer and a Crab-eating Fox. Back inside Alegre we had another Brown Brocket Deer, a Crab-

eating Fox, a single Tapeti, a male Tapir wallowing in a small muddy pool and not far from the lodge the female Tapir with the calf.



Azara's Capuchin

TB

After the evening meal we had another walk around the lodge area with our spotlights, thermal imagers and Echometer Touch 2 Bat Detector. We found a sub-adult female Tapir, four Tapeti and a Chaco Marsh Rat which Tim managed to get a photo of. Later Tim and I went inside the wooden shed and shut the door, turned our torches off and kept quiet. After a short time, we turned on a low light and found two Common Vampire Bats. I then put the brighter light on briefly so Tim could take a few photos before we left the shed.



Common Vampire Bat

TB

Wednesday 26th October. Pousa Alegre/Transpantaneira/Porto Jofre. Hot and Sunny.

Out and about at 05:00 walking. A distant Marsh Deer was the only one we saw here. The Coati's were up and foraging around, and we saw at least five Azara's Agoutis. We walked to the patch of forest again and this time found five Black-tailed Marmosets which showed well. We also saw a small troop of Capuchins. A quick look in the wooden shed produced five Fringed-lipped Bats and a Pallas's Mastiff Bat.

We departed Alegre at 08:30 and headed further south on the Transpantaneira towards Porto Jofre.

We didn't see a great deal on the Transpantaneira – just a Marsh Deer and a few Capybaras. We stopped to stretch our legs at the Hotel Mato Grosso Pantanal and found a White-lined Bat roosting under a porch. Further on we stopped for lunch at the Jaguar Ecological Reserve.

A little further down the Transpantaneira we did a right turn onto a track and stopped at an abandoned research station to check it for bats. In the abandoned buildings, we found a roost of around 30 Fringe-lipped Bats and 15 Common Vampire Bats. We could smell the Vampire Bats before we saw them!

We arrived at Porto Jofre at 15:00. We stayed at the Pousada Jofre Velho Lodge, which is located within the Jofre Velho ranch and reserve, the base for Jaguar projects with the Panthera Organisation.



Common Vampire Bats

TB

At 17:00 we crossed the Rio Cuiaba to Fazenda Sao Bento on the opposite bank for a truck safari. It wasn't exactly a truck but a big old rather noisy lorry, but it did the job.

After only 20 minutes slowly going along a track a Jaguarundi appeared close in front of us but immediately dashed off the track and into cover. We stopped and the engine was switched off, within a minute the Jaguarundi was back on the track and showing exceptionally well – utterly amazing you just couldn't ask for better! It moved back and forth from one side of the track to other seemingly intent on sniffing and checking the track and trackside vegetation. After a couple of minutes, it went into cover and didn't reappear, but we kept waiting and looking and before long it re-appeared on the track behind us about 50 metres away. This time it was on view for less than a minute before going back into cover. We waited around for ten minutes but it didn't show again so we moved on.



Jaguarundi

TB

On the rest of the safari, we saw a Brown Brocket Deer, two Brockets sp., two pairs of Crab-eating Foxes a Guinea Pig and a mouse and rat sp. We got back to our boat for the return crossing to our lodge at 20:15.

Thursday 27th October. Hot and Sunny

River Safari 05:15 – 11:45. We set off upriver on the Rio Cuiaba, but also explored the river Piquiri.

We saw our first Jaguar within 25 minutes of setting off and by the time we finished we had seen five different Jaguars. Only one had a collar - a very large male that had been named Ousado. During the 2020 fires he was rescued after being badly burnt. After a few months of care and rehabilitation he was collared and released where he was caught. All the Jaguars in the area have been identified and given names by the Jaguar researchers. Ousada had showed well but briefly for us, all the other Jaguars showed extremely well on the riverbanks. I had heard that sometimes up to 30 boats jostle for position at one Jaguar but the maximum we had was 15 and on a couple of occasions we were on our own watching. We found a total of seven Giant Otters, first a group of three and then a group of four. The otters went about their family business of fishing, scent marking and having the occasional spat over a fish. As fantastic as these otters are they really have weird looking eyes.



Giant Otter

TB



Giant Otter

TB



Jaguar

TB



Jaguars

TB



We stopped and looked at a tree trunk roost of Proboscis Bats, they were so well camouflaged – there were nine hanging in a vertical line. We also saw four Black and Gold Howlers, three Azara’s Capuchins and four Capybaras.



Proboscis Bats

TB

After lunch we checked out an abandoned building near our accommodation for bats. We found a nursery colony of 25 White-lined Bats.

River Safari 15:00 – 17:30. We went back out on the boat and again headed upriver and checked out the same areas of river as before but also went a little further.

The first mammal we came across was a female Neotropical Otter with a well grown cub. It was another fabulous sighting as we just sat there by ourselves and watched them fishing. The female caught a big, long, eel like fish which took quite a time to subdue, she took it to the bank and started eating it trying all the time to move it away from her cub that seemed intent on getting a share of the catch. Later we came across a Tapir, a few Capybaras and the same group of three Giant Otters we saw in the morning, but we didn't see any Jaguars.

Friday 28th October. Hot and sunny.

River Safari 05:45 – 11:30.

Much the same route as yesterday. We saw another Jaguar – our 9th of the trip. A group of five Giant Otters which no doubt was one of the two groups we saw yesterday but with added members. A group of nine White-lipped Peccaries were feeding on fallen fruit on the riverbank. We also saw a group of six Black and Gold Howlers, two Capuchins, two Capybaras and there were 17 Proboscis Bats on the tree trunk roost.

In the afternoon, we had another look at the White-lined Bats in the abandoned building – this time we counted 30.



Black and Gold Howler Monkey

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River Safari 14:30 – 17:00. Hot, cloudy, thunder and lightning, rain.

This time we went down river, speeding along for 40 minutes before turning into the Rio Negrinho - a narrow tranquil tree lined river. We spent some time with a group of six Giant Otters that were centred around their holt. After that we saw seven Black and Gold Howlers and five Capybaras. There was thunder and lightning and eventually, as we sped back to Fazenda Sao Bento for our early evening safari drive, a heavy but short-lived rain shower.



Giant Otter

TB

Sao Bento Truck Safari 17:30 – 21:30.

Soon after setting off, we came across a Tapir wallowing in a small pond and a little further on a pair of Crab-eating Foxes, but they were the only mammals we saw. We spent most of the drive spotlighting in an area of grassland in the hope of finding a Maned Wolf but didn't have any luck. After we crossed back to our side of the river, we went on a short drive in our own van stopping at various open areas of riverside where we detected and spotlit Lesser Bulldog Bats.

Saturday 29th October. Porto Jofre/Piuval. Warm, cloudy.

After breakfast we departed Pousada Jofre Velho at 07:00. It had rained overnight and the Transpantaneira was muddy, we should perhaps, have delayed our departure a few hours to let it dry out. We were slipping and sliding and once or twice moving along the road sideways on. We came across a vehicle stuck in mud and as it happens got stuck ourselves. To cut a long story short we all got a bit muddy but did get both vehicles out of the mud and

moving again. The further north we went the dryer the Transpantaneira became.

We only saw a Marsh Deer and a few Capybaras before arriving at Pousada Piuval Lodge at midday. Piuval is another huge cattle ranch and is located at the northern end of the Transpantaneira, about three kilometres north of the entrance gate at the start of the Transpantaneira. There was a population of at least 60 Capybaras in and around the lodge grounds. Some of which spent the night around a small man-made lake by our rooms.



Capybara

TB

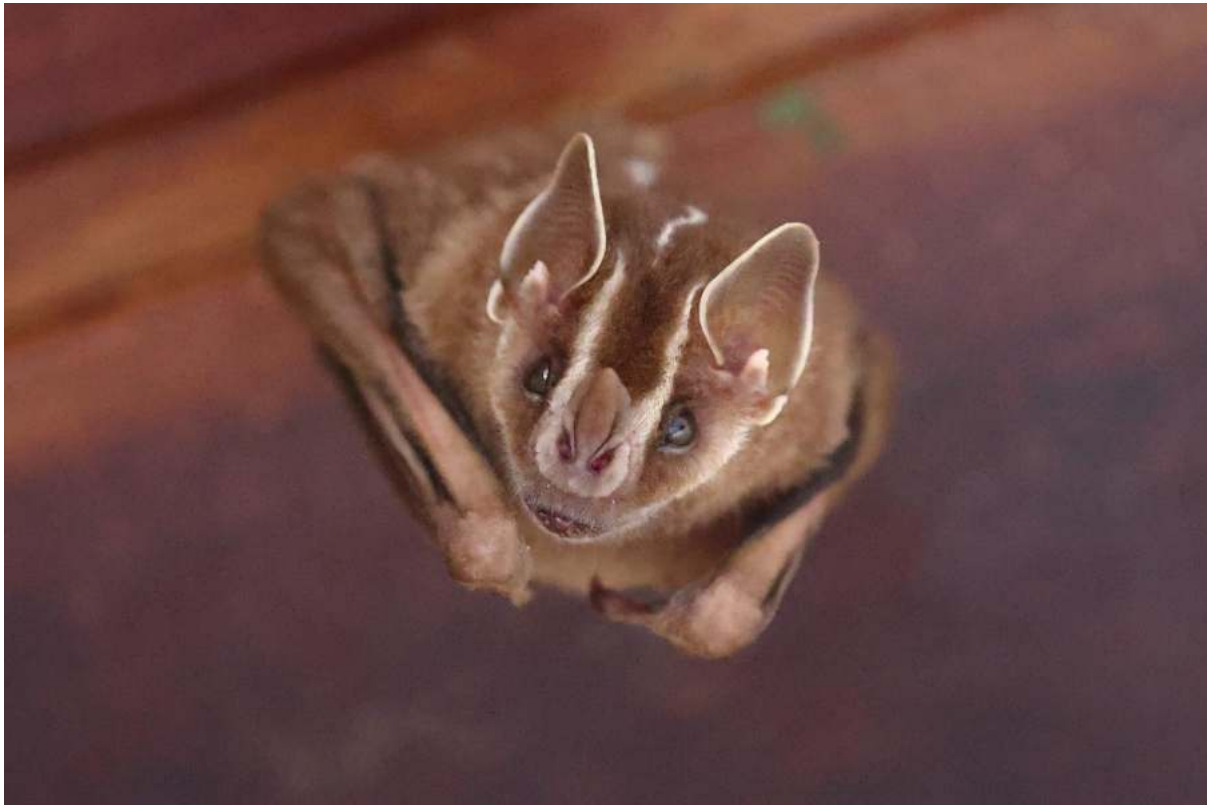
Truck Safari 15:30 – 19:45.

We looked for Azara's Night Monkey at a couple of places where the driver/guide and Regina had seen them before but had no luck. A quiet drive we only saw four Tapeti.

Truck Safari 21:00 – 22:15.

On the way to the truck, we found a White-lined Bat hanging under a porch. It was another quiet drive with only a Brocket Deer sp. seen. But we had good

views of a couple of Greater Bulldog Bats hunting around the small manmade lake by our room after the drive.



White-lined Bat

TB

Sunday 30th October. Cloudy, sunny spells, warm, windy, rain in afternoon.

Truck Safari 05:00 – 07:45.

We drove the entrance track which paid off as we saw two Giant Anteaters, a Red Brocket Deer and an Azara's Agouti.

Truck Safari 08:30 – 11:45.

A bit slow going to start with but it got exciting at the end! We came across a single South American Coati, an Azara's Agouti and five Black-tailed Marmosets which showed well.



Black-tailed Marmoset

TB

We stopped near an abandoned building to check it for bats. The building was partially obscured by bushes and as we walked towards it, Regina and I stopped to inspect a hole in a tree as it had the potential to be a bat roost, Tim walked on to the building. Suddenly there was a loud roar – a Jaguar. We couldn't see Tim. As Regina and I moved back a little from the bushes and stopped, Regina repeatedly called out Tim's name but there was no reply. A million thoughts shot through my mind at that moment – has Tim been attacked, is he hurt or worse, what if the Jaguar appears from behind the bushes. Fortunately, Tim, and not a Jaguar, then appeared from behind the bushes looking a little pale – but what a relief. Tim had walked to the front of the building and fortunately went towards the window at the very moment the Jaguar came out of the front door, they came face to face, the Jaguar roared, Tim shouted, and the Jaguar veered off to its right and away. A potential disaster averted. So, Tim saw his 10th Jaguar of the trip – it was just a little too close for comfort!

Rather amusingly back at the lodge at lunch time the Jaguar researcher asked Tim if he noticed if the Jaguar was male or female or if he got any photos. Tim replied, "No, I had other things on my mind at the time"! Later the researcher checked the building and there was a half-eaten Caiman inside.

Up till now every time we checked a building for bats we talked loudly and clapped our hands on approach in case of Jaguars. We also looked through the window or any other gap first to check for active bees or wasp nests. On this occasion we didn't clap or make much noise, although the Jaguar must have heard the vehicle – lesson learnt, never get complacent in big cat country.



Brazilian Guinea Pig

TB

Truck Safari 16:00 – 19:45. Rain showers, thunder and lightning, windy.

We drove the entrance track and onto the Transpantaneira briefly. We saw two Capuchins, a Red Brocket Deer, four Crab-eating Foxes and two Tapeti.

Truck Safari 21:00 – 22:00. Cloudy, damp, windy.

Back again driving the entrance track which paid off nicely – we saw a Giant Anteater, a Crab-eating Raccoon, an Ocelot and a Brown Brocket Deer.

Monday 31st October. Rain in morning, cloudy, murky, chilly.

Truck Safari 05:00 – 07:30.

I had a lightweight waterproof jacket with me which was fine for the occasional showers. But I had been wondering why I had been dragging a warm coat, gloves and jumper around with me. But now I knew, with a cold front arriving from the south it was surprisingly cold, so I was thankful for the warm clothing.

We drove the entrance track again and onto the Transpantaneira. Despite the poor weather we came across five Giant Anteaters which included a female with a youngster on her back. Four of the Anteaters were seen from the entrance track and one on the Transpantaneira. We also saw a Brown and a Red Brocket Deer and two Brockets sp.

Truck Safari 08:45 – 11:30. Windy, rain, chilly.

We tried the entrance track once again and came across a Yellow Armadillo, three Red Brocket Deer and from the Transpantaneira a Marsh Deer.



Red Brocket Deer

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Truck Safari 15:30 – 18:30. Vey windy, cold, rain.

We drove around likely looking Maned Wolf habitat but had no luck with any Maned Wolves. We looked again for Night Monkey but again drew a blank. In fact, we didn't find a single mammal species on the drive - pretty sure the poor weather didn't help. However, the Capybaras were around the lodge area of course.

Truck Safari 21:15 – 22:00. Wind strength dropped a bit but more rain.

We stuck to the entrance track as it had certainly been delivering for us. We saw a pair of Crab-eating Foxes, three Brockets sp. and a Tapir.



Crab-eating Foxes

TB

Tuesday 1st November. Cold, windy, rain.

Truck Safari 05:00 – 07:00.

All we saw was a Brown Brocket Deer on what was a cold and wet drive. Even the Capybaras around the lodge looked cold and fed-up.

After breakfast we used our own van and drove the Transpantaneira north for around four kilometres but apart from a few Capybaras we didn't see any mammals.

We departed Piuval at 12:20 and headed for Cuiaba airport for a late afternoon flight to Sao Paula where we stayed overnight in the Panamby Hotel. The next morning Regina flew home, and in the afternoon Tim and I flew home to the UK.

Further to the bats in the systematic list. Below is a list compiled by Tim of the bats recorded at specific locations with the bat detector.

Bats - Pantanal October 2022

As indicated using Wildlife Acoustics Echometer Touch 2

Species indicated were reviewed and filtered based on information available on distribution, habitat, altitude, etc. to generate lists below.

Species were subsequently ranked as follows:

1a: confirmed [strong, clear and prolonged signals/recordings; no options given by device; repeated recordings; additional visual observation consistent with species description (by spotlight)]

1b: likely [strong, clear and prolonged signal/recording; no options given by device; repeated recordings]

2: probable [strong, clear and prolonged signal/recording; repeated recordings]

3: possible [strong, clear and prolonged signal/recording or repeated recordings].

24-25 Oct Pouso Alegre

1 <i>Diclidurus albus</i>	1a	Northern Ghost
2 <i>Lasiurus blossevillii</i>	1a	Southern Red
3 <i>Lasiurus villosissimus</i>	1b	South American Hoary
4 <i>Lasiurus ega</i>	3	Southern Yellow
5 <i>Molossus molossus</i>	1b	Velvety free-tailed, Pallas's Mastiff
6 <i>Molossus rufus</i>	2	Black Mastiff
7 <i>Noctillo leporinus</i>	1a	Greater Bulldog, Greater Fisherman

8 Nyctinomops laticaudatus	2	Broad-eared, Broad-tailed
9 Nyctinomops macrotis	3	Big Free-tailed
10 Peropteryx kappleri	1b	Greater Dog-like
11 Peropteryx macrotis	1b	Lesser Dog-like, Peters' Sac-winged
12 Pteronotus personatus	1a	Wagner's Moustached
13 Saccopteryx leptura lined	3	Lesser Sac-winged, Lesser White-lined

27-28 Oct Porto Jofre (Jofre Velho/Panthera Lodge)

1 Diclidurus albus	1b	Northern Ghost
14 Eumops glaucinus	1b	Wagner's Bonneted, Wagner's Mastiff
15 Eumops perotis	2	Western/Greater Mastiff
2 Lasiurus blossevillii	1a	Southern Red
3 Lasiurus villosissimus	1b	South American Hoary
5 Molossus molossus	1b	Velvety Free-tailed, Pallas's Mastiff
6 Molossus rufus	1b	Black Mastiff
16 Myotis nigricans	1a	Black Myotis
17 Myotis riparius	1b	Riparian Myotis
8 Nyctinomops laticaudatus	2	Broad-eared, Broad-tailed
9 Nyctinomops macrotis	1b	Big Free-tailed
18 Promops centralis	2	Big Crested Mastiff

29 Oct Piuval Lodge

1 Diclidurus albus	1b	Northern Ghost
14 Eumops glaucinus	1b	Wagner's Bonneted, Wagner's Mastiff

2	<i>Lasiurus blossevillii</i>	1b	Southern Red
3	<i>Lasiurus villosissimus</i>	1b	South American Hoary
5	<i>Molossus molossus</i>	1b	Velvety free-tailed, Pallas's Mastiff
6	<i>Molossus rufus</i>	1b	Black Mastiff
7	<i>Noctillo leporinus</i>	1a	Greater Bulldog, Greater Fisherman
8	<i>Nyctinomops laticaudatus</i>	1b	Broad-eared, Broad-tailed
11	<i>Peropteryx macrotis</i>	2	Lesser Dog-like
19	<i>Pteronotus davyi</i>	3*	Davy's Naked-backed
12	<i>Pteronotus personatus</i>	1b	Wagner's Moustached
13	<i>Saccopteryx leptura</i>	1b	Lesser Sac-winged, Lesser White-lined

Notes.

* - *Pteronotus davyi* (Davy's Naked-backed Bat): reference information (Wikipedia(!)) suggests this bat does not occur in this area. However, the recorded signal was clear and strong, and the detector repeatedly identified this species in this location and did not offer an alternative. Hence, included here. Reference "animaldiversity.org" states that "... occurs in Mexico south through Central America ... to eastern Brazil. An isolated population has been reported in northwestern Peru..."

19 species total indicated by detector.

Tim Bourne

The systematic list of mammals seen on the trip is at the end of the report.

Selected Other Wildlife

Birds: Birding was done casually, what we saw we logged which was 224 species. Even though it was the dry season we saw lots of herons, egrets and ibises. You can't help but be impressed with Jabiru Storks, Boat-billed Herons, Whistling Herons and Rufescent Tiger-Herons to name just a few.

Reptiles and Amphibians: Red-footed Tortoise, Green Iguana, Laguna Blanca Spiny Lizard, Common House Gecko, Black and White Tegu, Amazon Racerunner, Collared Lizard, Yellow-tail Cribo (snake), False Water Cobra, Mato Grosso Burrowing Snake, Vine Snake, Granular Toad, Cururu Toad, Chaco Treefrog, Common Milk Treefrog, Monkey Treefrog, Lesser-snouted Treefrog, Veined Treefrog.

Below are a few photos (the systematic list follows).



Tarantula

TB



Capybara

JW



Jaguar

JW



Giant Anteater and Tapir

JW



Systematic List: (names follow the Illustrated Checklist of the Mammals of the World Vols 1 and 2)

	Common name	Scientific name	San Francisco			Aguape		Alegre			Porto Jofre			Piuval		
			19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1
1	Nine-banded Armadillo	<i>Dasytus novemcinctus</i>	X													
2	Yellow Armadillo	<i>Euphractus sexcinctus</i>		X	X	X	X								X	
3	Giant Anteater	<i>Myrmecophaga tridactyla</i>	X	X	X		X							X	X	
4	Southern Tamandua	<i>Tamandua tetradactyla</i>				X										
5	Azara's Capuchin	<i>Sapajus cay</i>					X		X	X	X	X		X		
6	Black-tailed Marmoset	<i>Mico melanurus</i>								X				X		
7	Black-and-gold Howler	<i>Alouatta caraya</i>	X						X	X		X				
8	Tapeti (Brazilian Rabbit)	<i>Sylvilagus brasiliensis</i>			X	X		X	X			X	X			
9	Chaco Marsh Rat	<i>Holochilus chacarius</i>	X	X						X						
10	Brazilian Guinea Pig (Cavy)	<i>Cavia aperea</i>	X	X	X					X						
11	Capybara	<i>Hydrochaeris hydrochaeris</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
12	Azara's Agouti	<i>Dasyprocta azarae</i>				X			X	X				X	X	
13	Proboscis Bat	<i>Rhynchonycteris naso</i>								X		X				
14	Lesser Dog-faced Bat	<i>Peropteryx macrotis</i>			X											
15	Pallas's Long-tongued Bat	<i>Glossophaga soricina</i>			X				X							
16	Fringed lipped Bat	<i>Trachops cirrhosus</i>						X	X	X						
17	Seba's Short-tailed Bat	<i>Carollia perpicillata</i>						X								
18	White-lined Bat	<i>Platyrrhinus lineatus</i>	X	X	X					X	X	X	X			
19	Common Vampire bat	<i>Desmodus rotundus</i>							X	X						
20	Lesser Bulldog Bat	<i>Noctilio albiventris</i>											X	X		
21	Greater Bulldog Bat	<i>Noctilio leporinus</i>											X	X		
22	Pallas's Mastiff Bat	<i>Molossus molossus</i>						X	X							
23	Southern Red Bat	<i>Lasiurus blosevillii</i>							X			X				

	Common name	Scientific name	San Francisco			Aguape		Alegre			Porto Jofre			Piuval		
			19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1
24	Wagner's Moustached Bat	<i>Saccopteryx leptura</i>							X							
25	Black Myotis Bat	<i>Myotis nigricans</i>										X				
26	Marsh Deer	<i>Blastocerus dichotomus</i>	X	X	X					X		X	X		X	
27	Red Brocket Deer	<i>Mazama americana</i>			X			X		?			?	X	X	
28	Brown Brocket Deer	<i>Mazama gouazoubira</i>				X			X	X			?	X	X	
29	Pampas Deer	<i>Ozotoceros bezoarticus</i>				X	X	X								
30	Collared Peccary	<i>Pecari tajacu</i>				X	X									
31	White-lipped Peccary	<i>Tayassu pecari</i>					X					X				
32	Brazilian Tapir	<i>Tapirus terrestris</i>	X			X		X	X		x	X			X	
33	Pantanal cat	<i>Leopardus braccatus</i>	X													
34	Ocelot	<i>Leopardus pardalis</i>	X	X	X									X		
35	Jaguarundi	<i>Puma yagouaroundi</i>								X						
36	Jaguar	<i>Panthera onca</i>	X		X					X		X		X		
37	Crab-eating Fox	<i>Cerdocyon thous</i>	X		X	X		X	X	X		X		X	X	
38	Neotropical Otter	<i>Lontra longicaudis</i>		X							X					
39	Giant Otter	<i>Pteronura brasiliensis</i>									X	X				
40	South American Coati	<i>Nasua nasua</i>					X	X	X	X				X		
41	Crab-eating Raccoon	<i>Procyon cancrivorus</i>												X		

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