

## Central America

### Costa Rica

#### **Corcovado National Park**

This is one of my favorite National Parks. It's a 10 mile hike into Sirenia Station. Wildlife around Sirenia is abundant. On a normal day I usually see four species of monkey, **Mantled Howlers**, **Central American Spider Monkeys**, **Squirrel Monkeys**, and **White-faced Capuchins**. **Baird's Tapirs** with radio-collars are common nearby. I saw one without a collar on the walk in once. **White-nosed Coatis**, **Common Agouti**, and **Variiegated squirrels** can be see on all the trails. **Brocket Deer** can be seen crossing the runway a dusk. **Mexican Tamanduas** turn up every now and then. **Peccary** are common here, but I haven't seen them. I've also heard **CA River Otters** are in the river occasionally. **Bulldog Fishing Bats** hunt over this river at night. Bull Sharks and American Crocodiles are both present at the mouth. There is a bat cave on the walk in that I didn't know about until I left. It is on the map that the rangers give out with the tide times.

#### **Gulfo Dulce**

This large gulf has several species of whales and dolphins a certain times of the year. On the ferry from Puerto Jimenez to the mainland I saw a pod of dolphins that was well over 100. It was probably a couple miles off, so impossible to ID. There are several whale and dolphin tours in Puerto Jimenez.

#### **Manuel Antonio National Park**

This small easily accessible National Park has a lot of easy to watch mammals. **Mantled Howlers**, **CA Spider Monkeys**, **Common Agoutis**, and **White-nosed Coatis** are seen on most walks. **Two** and **Three-toed Sloths** are common and easy to spot. **Mexican Tamanduas** and **Raccoons** are seen, but not by me. A friend of mine saw a **Silky Anteater** from a kayak in the mangroves nearby. There are bats that can be seen during the day on trees, but I forget which species.

#### **Tortugero**

This park is best seen by kayak in my opinion. In three days I saw **CA Spider Monkeys**, **Mantled Howlers**, and **White-faced Capuchins** every day. I saw **CA River Otters** three or four times. There were plenty of birds and reptiles as well. There are **manatees** here, but they're pretty rare.

#### **Vulcan Poas**

I went here for three hours. It was pissing down rain. The only mammal I saw was a **Deppe's Squirrel**. It was pretty easy to find. This site is better for birds.

## Nicaragua

### Mambachu

This is a cloud forest national park. I could only visit it during the day. The only mammals I saw were **Mantled Howler Monkeys**.

### Ometepe

On this island **Mantled Howler Monkeys** were abundant in the shaded coffee fields. This is the first place I saw **White-faced Capuchins**. These were the most man fearing **capuchins** I've ever seen. I did not put much effort into looking for mammals here.

### Laguna De Apoyo

This is a beautiful crater lake. **Variegated Squirrels** were very common. I did see **Mantled Howlers** a few times, and this is where I saw my first **Common Opossum**. I heard other animals in the trees at night, but couldn't get a light on them. A guy that lived there said he saw **jaguarondis** reasonably often while driving at night.

### Vulcan Masaya

There were some bats that were pretty easy to see in the lava caves.

# Guatemala

## Biotopo Quetzal

I saw just one mammal here. It had a striped tail, but was not a raccoon. It must have been a **Cacomistle**.

## Tikal

One of the best wildlife viewing places in Central America that I've been to. **Central American Spider Monkeys** and **Mexican Black Howlers** were easy to find. **White-nosed Coatis** were common. I saw a **Gray Fox** at close range. I saw one **Tayra** and heard that they were pretty easy to find. I even saw a **Kinkajou** fighting a **Spider Monkey**. I saw a few **White-tail Deer** and **Common Agoutis**. If you eat in the cheap places where the guards eat at night it is easy to bribe your way into the park at night. Also sitting near the water hole at night and listening can be productive for cats and paca.