

Mammal observed in Brazil

The first mammal observed was the Amazon River dolphin. I found it on the canal Jari, a natural canal between the Amazon and its affluent, the Tapajos. It is not that difficult to see actually, just wait while watching the water and eventually you will see its pink or grey back coming out of water. However it cannot jump out of water like sea dolphins, so photos are quite hard to take.

Then I observed a sloth, in the trees around the canal Jari. Thought they are really hard to discern their grey bodies in the branches, they are the only mammals that do not flee when you approach.

These was the only mammals observed in the Amazon, indeed, they are really hard to see in the deep forest, you can often hear monkeys but they are too smart for being seen.

The Pantanal is really rich to see mammals, I visited two lodges, and the first one was San Francisco, a rice plantation. The rice plantations need 250 kilometres of canals to work. This water system attracts a lot of mammals. In the day you can see few mammals, like Capybaras, the easiest to observe but also some Giant anteaters and some marsh deer and I had the chance to observe some Black and Brown Howler monkeys which are harder to see. The affluence of preys attracts the predator. Along the day you will see multiple Jaguar and Ocelots tracks. And by night you will have chances to see them. I saw three Ocelots and a jaguar on a night spotting. Inside the lodge I also had the chance to see a Six-band Armadillo wondering at night.

The second lodge was Baia das pedras, a wilder and less touristic lodge. Their fields are filled with Farell pigs and capybaras. But during the day you can also see a lot of deer, Red rocket, Pampas and of course Marsh deer. You can also have the chance to approach Tapirs; I saw three in my trip and could come quite close to one while it was bathing in mud. In the day, it is possible to spot hordes of White-collared Peccaries. I saw Coatis during my last day on a horse ride, a good way to approach shy animals like anteaters. Giant anteaters are less common than in San Francisco, but it is where I had the chance to observe a Lesser anteater. By night, I saw Crab-eating foxes and some of the animals you can observe in the day. But the main asset of this lodge is the presence there of a mission protecting the giant armadillo. The scientists also took me to observe the Southern naked tail armadillo. And they took us by night to observe the giant armadillo which we met by pure luck, I saw two specimens named Isabel and Daisy. A magnificent, wonderful mammal, that got me into mammal watching.

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