

BRAZIL; AUGUST 24 – SEPTEMBER 3 2009 - MAMMAL LIST

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Introduction:

I contacted Eduardo Falcão from *jaguarreserve.com* about a ~8night/7day tour of the Pantanal and the much less visited but awesome nonetheless Chapada Dos Guimarães. Despite a false impression that Eduardo himself was going to be my guide, a short black guy named Juan Paulo Silva da Cruz ended up guiding me. Besides the initial disappointment when I found out that Eduardo himself was not my guide, it really worked out! Juan is very enthusiastic and will go to great lengths to find you specific species. Mostly because he wants to find them about as much as you do! I stayed at Jaguar Eco Lodge during all my nights at the Pantanal. It's a good but simple lodge in prime location (Last one on the transpantaneira road besides Puerto Joffre, which is far more expansive) with nothing short of excellent food and friendly service. I would like to mention however, that from what I understand, it's better to stay at 2-3 different lodges along the Transpantaneira throughout your trip, since different species are more abundant in different areas and private grounds. But do your research because some places "cheat" (I'll just leave it as that. Do your research). Another important aspect is that the Brazilian culture is extremely chill and relaxed, so the guides are not always **exactly** on time for each activity, and sometimes they just stop to chat with the locals who are often their friends and acquaintances. From my personal experience and conversation with others, most of the Brazilian guides are like that. At first I was a little perturbed by that (like, I spent a lot of money, why are we sitting here talking to these people?) and other people I met thought the same thing, but you just kind of come to accept it. I do have to mention that my guide was a lot more enthusiastic when it was just the two of us, and not a bunch of people (people talk which scares away animals sometimes and it's more difficult to control a bigger group). Finally, I did a little bit of birding in Rio which yielded 2 species of primates and a squirrel but mostly I sat on the beach and went to see the famous landmarks

Itinerary

8/24	Extremely late and delayed arrival at Cuiaba > drive to Jaguar Eco Lodge
8/25	Jaguar Ecological Lodge
8/26	Jaguar Ecological Lodge
8/27	Jaguar Ecological Lodge and Boat Trips from Puerto Joffre on the rivers
8/28	Jaguar Ecological Lodge and all day on the rivers
8/29	Jaguar Ecological Lodge > Chapada dos Guimaraes
8/30	Chapada dos Guimaraes
8/31	Chapada dos Guimaraes > Cuiaba > Flight to Rio De Janeiro
9/1	Rio De Janeiro
9/2	Rio De Janeiro
9/3	Rio De Janeiro > Flight back

Six-Banded (Yellow) Armadillo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 At Pouso Alegre Lodge's property – Juan randomly spotted it behind me as I was trying to take pictures of the Giant Anteater
Giant Anteater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Pouso Alegre right off the road early in the evening
Southern Tamandua (Roadkill – dead)	I know it "doesn't count" but I wanted to mention it since it was my first sight of any anteater. On the road between Cuiaba and Pocone
Brazilian Rabbit (Tapiti)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 at night on the Transpantaneira on the way to Jaguar Lodge 1 during a night drive on the Transpantaneira near Jaguar Lodge
Brazilian Squirrel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Rio De Janeiro Botanical Gardens 1 Tijuca National Park on trail from entrance to parking lot by waterfall.
Azara's Agouti	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Hanging out on the grounds of Pouso Alegre near the lodge
Collared Peccary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brief view of 1 crossing the road in morning drive on private road just to the right after the bridge just south of Jaguar Lodge
Capybara	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The most common mammal in the Pantanal.
Ocelot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 briefly seen walking along the Transpantaneira just South of

	Jaguar Lodge. Thought to be a fox at first until we got closer at which point it ran away and was too late to take a picture
Jaguar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 on the 3-Brothers river in the Pantanal National Park • 1 on the Cuiaba River. <p>If you go during the right time of year you are almost guaranteed to see them if you're on the river for a whole day</p>
Crab-Eating Fox	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common at night along the Transpantaneira
Neotropical Otter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 crossing the road on the Transpantaneira right near Jaguar Lodge • 1 in water along Transpantaneira about half way between Jaguar lodge and Puerto Joffre
Giant River Otter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A group of 3-5 on Cuiaba River. Prolonged views on land and in water
South American Coati	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several in the area around Pouso Alegre and Araras Lodge. They seem to be common in that area of the Pantanal
Common Marmoset	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extremely common in the forest near the 1st level of the Sugarloaf skylifts in Rio De Janeiro • 2 + 1baby in Rio Botanical Gardens eating fruit
Black Tufted Capuchin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several in Tijuca National Park on the road and around it on the way up to Corcovado to see the statue of Christ
Black-Striped Tufted Capuchin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relatively common in the Pantanal around Jaguar Lodge and on the private road to the right after the bridge (You would know what i'm talking about if you've ever been there)
Black Howler	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small group on trees far from Transpantaneira about half way between Jaguar Lodge and Pto. Joffre • 2-3 seen from river while searching for Jaguars
Pampas Deer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 seen briefly off Transpantaneira during night drive just South of Jaguar Lodge • 1 in Chapada Dos Guimaraes near Lago Azul (or something)
Red Brocket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 in private road near Jaguar Lodge (seems to be a good place for mammals) • 1 on Transpantaneira near Araras Lodge
Marsh Deer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common during the day from Transpantaneira
Brazilian Tapir	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tracks and extremely brief views of adult Tapir 2 nights in a row at the same place - on the private road to the right after bridge passed Jaguar Lodge

Other notable Species:

- Anaconda
- False Water Kobra
- Black Tegu
- Gold Tegu
- All expected birds in Pantanal besides Helmeted Manakin (including some awesome views of Great Horned Owl and Great Potoo)
- Some cool birds in Chapadas like Red&Green Macaws, Black-Chested Buzzard Eagle, Blue Dacnis, Lettered Aracari, Swallow Tanager, Solitary Tinamou, several other tanagers, woodpeckers, hawks and hummingbirds
- Green-headed, Red Necked, Brazilian and Ruby-Crowned tanagers in Rio, amongst many other birds