

After reading several very nice reports posted on MammalWatching and the internet, whether for mammals or for birds, Bolivia was high in our list of next countries to visit. We did it in August this year and after contacting directly Nick McPhee of Nicks Adventures Bolivia, we together built a nice 3-week long trip itinerary. First, two weeks in the lowland part of the country for mammal and bird watching and then another week in the Andes mostly for sightseeing. We visited several places in the following order: the Santa Cruz area, La Moneda Farm (aka Jaguarland), Kaa Iya National Park, Trinidad and its surroundings, Sucre, Potosi and finally the famous Salar de Uyuni.

Travelling from France to Bolivia is not no convenient and after comparing several companies on price and flight time schedule, we finally decided to fly through Madrid with Iberia and then a direct flight to Santa Cruz with Boliviana de Aviacion (BoA). It was a very cheap international flight but after reading several reports about this company, I was not sure on whether we made a good choice or not until we boarded the plane and found it was a brand new aircraft with a service not better nor worse than many other airline companies we flew with in the past. Nick also booked us several domestic flight within the country with BoA and all of them and the international flights were on time with nice flight attendant. I don't know if we were lucky or not but I'd definitely recommend and use this company again if we return to this country.

Many things have been said in previous trip reports about Nick and his travel agency and I can only concur with all the positive feedback. Nick was easy to connect with, answered to all our questions during the trip preparation and his cost was quite reasonable given all the logistics that is required to visit places like Jaguarland or Kaa Iya. We had Nick himself as a guide in Jaguarland and proposed us very nice and knowledgeable guides for the other places we visited in Bolivia. In addition to guiding, Nick has a very good staff who took care of the two of us during the entire trip: whether for the cooking in Jaguarland or Kaa Iya, the drivers with large 4x4 cars, the assistance for the domestic flights and even the local guides to visit the Andes. We were really treated well and this made the whole trip very smooth and enjoyable.

I found Bolivia a very interesting country to visit with amazing landscapes, rich wildlife, nice hotels and very good food (especially if you like meat, like us 😊). The people are friendly and welcoming for most of those we talk to. Therefore, it is quite surprising to me that Bolivia is not more popular in France and tourism not so much developed, except for places like Uyuni, La Paz or Sucre but even there, the number of tourists we saw was not that high. I also found the country fairly clean, even in the large cities. However, there are a few lowlights about this country. First, the financial situation is very bad and the country seems almost in bankruptcy. Nick asked us for the last payment to bring cash rather than doing a wire transfer to his bank because the banking system is no more reliable! In August, there was also a shortage of Diesel in the entire country because the government couldn't pay for the importation. As a consequence, huge lines of cars and trucks were waiting at the gas stations for hypothetic supply. We did not see the situation improving during the 3 weeks we were there. Nick had some fuel stock and gave some to the workers in needs in Jaguarland. Secondly, the ecological management is dramatic: they are burning heavily their land with absolutely no sustainable consideration according to Nick. As a matter of fact, Bolivia has today the highest deforestation rate in South America, if not in the world, mostly for cattle farms and soja fields (for China). This is very concerning for their wildlife protection. There was a huge fire at the boarder of Brazil near the Pantanal in August, which created haze in the sky up to Kaa Iya during our visit. Last, we observed that the situation of the indigenous people was pretty bad compared to the Spanish descendants who owns most of the farms, wealth and political power in the country. Nick told us that many indigenous groups are now attacking some farmers to chase them out, claim and settle in their lands with no real reaction from the government. We saw a few barricades while driving towards Jaguarland and used as protection by the farm owners. However, I understood the situation is actually more complex than it seems and the good and the bad are not necessarily those we think of.

The weather condition in August in Bolivia was supposed to be fair. However, we had a huge cold front coming from Patagonia during the first week of our trip that impacted our stay in Jaguarland. I'll come to that later in the report. Nick even told us we were unlucky and had the worst weather since the beginning of the year. You can imagine how happy we were 😞... The rest of the trip was nicer though but cold in Kaa Iya and we had beautiful sun in the Andes.

Now a few words specifically about each place we visited during our trip to Bolivia with a focus on mammal watching.

Santa Cruz area

We actually finished our trip with Santa Cruz and its surroundings. We visited 2 places: Lomas de Arena Regional Park and the Santa Cruz botanical garden. The regional park has strange and unexpected landscape with large sand dunes surrounded by degraded forest not far from the city. This is mostly a place for birding, and we did not see any mammal. In addition, the weather was really not good with lots of rain during our visit. Too bad.

The Santa Cruz botanical garden is a nice place that I would recommend visiting if you have time in your trip scheduled. Indeed, and although the garden is not very well maintained and not clean in some places (especially near the entrance), this patch of degraded forest in the suburbs of Santa Cruz proved to be a good destination for mammal watching. For sure this is clearly not a very pristine and wild place but we saw plenty of mammals, especially monkeys and even some species we could not see in the other parks, like squirrels for instance. I guess we were a bit lucky on this one but we saw during our 3 hour visit in the garden thanks to the skills of our local guide called Nicolas (found by Nick's team) no less than six species of monkeys!: **black howlers** including a female with a cute baby, two **Azara's night monkeys** in full daylight, a few **black-capped capuchins**, two **brown-throated 3-toed sloths**, a small group of **white-eared titi monkeys** and finally, several skittish **black-tailed marmosets** that we were desperate to see since we missed them during the rest of the trip. In addition to the monkeys, we also observed **capybaras**, **south American coatis**, one **Bolivian squirrel** very busy eating a nut and a shy **southern Amazon red squirrel**. A nice visit that I really enjoyed although the sky was very cloudy with even some little rain during our visit.

Jaguarland

This was the first place we visited in Bolivia and we went there right from the airport upon arrival very early in the morning. Many things have been said about Jaguarland in past reports, including those posted by Nick himself, so I won't be too long in describing this place that is actually a soy farm inside which the owner has banned hunting, which limits pressure to the wildlife and in return, animals are fairly habituated to humans and not so shy. The farm area is huge with different landscapes: some places consist in endless succession of soy fields separated by small strips of forest that are apparently resulting from a Bolivian law imposing the farmers to keep some forest areas when developing agriculture. These small patches of forest are then acting as shelters for the wildlife. Besides the soy fields, they are some remaining large forests and several lakes or swamps with many irrigation canals. Those canals host an impressive number of birds and I've rarely seen so many birds in previous trips except in Pantanal or Okavango.

Nick negotiated with the owner to allow him bringing visitors in small groups. He is using for the camp one of the houses located in the farmland. The place is rustic with tents for sleeping and one shower/toilet for the whole camp but this is comfortable enough and clean. I was actually expecting something even more basic based on some past reviews. Nick probably improved the camp amenities. All the logistic and food is brought by Nick's team in a large 4x4 car that we used for the drive from the airport. The road is good and tared for a good portion of the journey until we reach bumpy and dusty dirt roads like what we can experience in Africa. Our driver was Jose, a shy guy but a very skilled driver for mammal watching and to negotiate some tracks within the farm that were some days very bad due to the weather conditions. Natalie was our cook. She was very friendly and preparing every day an amount of food that was just insane for the two of us but it was delicious and we were ashamed to leave so much food after every meal. One of the challenge for her was to prepare the food by the time we came back from our game drives that were almost never at the time initially estimated by Nick 😊

Nick was our guide in Jaguarland and I'm glad we had him given his passion and skilled to spot animals even in the distance. Nick and Jose were also very keen to spend long hours on the field both during the days and nights. I really appreciate when the guides we book try their best to show us what the local nature has to offer. While driving to Jaguarland, we told Nick that our main targets were Ocelot and Jaguarundi although we were of course interested in any mammals or birds we could observe in this place. Nick was really dedicated and tried hard to find us our targets as well as all the other mammals present in Jaguarland but not as much for the birds as he hates birding in his funny way 😊

Our visit to Jaguarland started very well. As soon as we passed the main gate and entered the farm, we quickly observed some monkeys like **red Howlers** (that we even saw enroute to the farm), **Black-capped capuchins** and **Black-capped squirrel monkeys**. A little bit further Nick already spotted our first **jaguar** resting in a soy field at the edge of a forest patch. Not very close but very nice observation indeed even before reaching the camp. After a quick lunch, we came back again on the field. The weather was sunny with hot but reasonable temperature. We saw some **coatis**, **marsh deers** and **red brocket deers** that we will find out are very common in Jaguarland like the funny looking and large **capybaras**. All of a sudden, we saw a second **jaguar** running in a soy field to reach shelter in the forest while our car approached towards him. It was a great observation and he wasn't far from the vehicle. Two jaguars on the first day, not bad! We came back for dinner and waited for the night to go out again for our first spotlighting session that was quite short because both Jose due to the long drive from the airport and us after a night sleep in the plane were quite tired. However, we managed to see several **crab-eating foxes** and even a good surprise with a shy and running **crab-eating raccoon**. Nice! We came back to the camp for a well-deserved sleep with already many nice observations on our first day.

The routine on the second day was more or less the same as on the first day with long driving sessions coupled with some nice walks along the canals. We saw again thousands of birds and cool mammals with more **capybaras**, **marsh deers**, both **red and brown brocket deers**, no monkey this time but several **3-toed sloths** instead, a small group of **collared peccaries** in the distance, a couple of **brown agoutis** but always very skittish and running far away from the car. The best observations of the day were a juvenile **Bolivian river dolphin** who seemed to be trapped in a small water pool between canals and two more **jaguars**! We bumped on the first one who was resting in a small bush literally just 5 meters from the track. He was kind enough to stay still long enough for good photos when we stopped the car. At some point, he disappeared in the forest but we went out of the car and we were able to follow him a bit while he was walking quite relaxed in the forest edge. Maybe 10 minutes after this brilliant observation we found another female jaguar who was resting in the middle of the road!! Nick told us to get out of the car again so as to approach her on foot (I found astonishing that we could walk and approach jaguar on foot in this place without having them quickly running away). We could observe her for long minutes until she probably considered we were too close and decided to stand up and walk nonchalantly towards the forest looking at us from time to time. Amazing: 2 jaguars within 30 minutes both in great conditions!

Our visit to Jaguarland was starting very well and delivered promises with so many observations and already a good number of mammal species seen. On top of that, the weather was pleasant, sunny and warm. However, Nick told us that the weather forecast was announcing cooler temperature and rain for the coming days and that we should be prepared to wear jackets. The night drive that evening was very quiet without any noticeable observations except for **crab-eating foxes**, **1 brocket deer** and our first **ocelot** but too much in the distance to get a clear view and obviously no possible photo. The wind started to strengthen and we were feeling temperatures dropping so at some point Nick said it would be better to come back to the camp.

We entered our tent for another good night sleep but then...the drama started! Around midnight, very strong wind was shaking the tents, followed by some rain that soon turned out to be massive pouring rain. This lasted the whole night! When we wake up for breakfast, it was still heavily raining, and the wind was getting even stronger with the tents moving in every direction! It was clear it was impossible to do any mammal watching in such conditions and the tracks were totally soaked and impracticable. Damned! This weather continued the entire day and we had nothing else to do than waiting/resting in our tent and eating food 😞 Nick told us that it was probably the worst weather they had since the beginning of the year! The rain and wind continued the following night and I was starting to get really concerned about the continuation of our visit in Jaguarland. On the next morning, it finally stopped raining but the wind was still strong and temperature freezing! The tracks were still too wet to manage to drive on them safely. Nick then proposed us to have a walk towards some forest nearby the camp and we agreed to do it hoping that the rain would not start again. It did not, but the sky was very cloudy and dark, wind strong and during our several hours walk we basically saw nothing. Depressing... After lunch, Jose and Nick decided that we should give a try for a game drive. We were definitely eager for it but the tracks were very slippery and I was quite impressed by how Jose could manage to drive in such conditions. Therefore, there were many of the farm areas that remained inaccessible and because of the wind, it looked like the animals were hiding. We stopped in several places supposedly good for Jaguarundi sightings but after several hours of scanning/waiting we did not see anything. However, we managed to see another **jaguar** but this time the conditions were not very good: long distance and under the rain as it started to rain again. Therefore, we decided to prematurely go back to the camp for dinner and because of the bad weather conditions we did not go out that night. This bad weather basically spoiled 2 nights and 1 day and a half, which impacted significantly our chances to see some species and as a matter of fact after 3 days and nights, there were still many possible species that we did not observe 😞.

On the following morning, the rain AND the wind finally stopped. After a quick breakfast, we jumped in the car for a long morning drive to balance with the lost time. However, nature was still very quiet and we saw very little: a few **brocket deers**, a small group of **capuchins** and a couple of **collared peccaries**. We stopped again long times in soy fields scanning the distance for Jaguarundi but we saw nothing. I was starting to get nervous that we would miss a lot in Jaguarland. In the afternoon, the temperature increased and the sky cleared up, but still quiet regarding observations with nothing new in terms of mammals. Because it was our last night in Jaguarland, Nick proposed us to go back to the camp a bit earlier for dinner so that we could do a long night session, which we obviously agreed on, and I'm glad we did. Indeed, as quiet as the observations were during the day, it looked like all the animals went out that night: in addition to the usual **crab-eating foxes**, we saw our first **Azara's night monkeys**, more **brocket deers**, two **South American tapirs** eating in the canals close to the tracks and on top of that, we had 3 observations of **ocelots**! The first one was super brief though, but the second observation was close, longer and very nice as the cat crossed the road and a canal in front of us. The last ocelot we saw when we were driving back to the camp was great with a beautiful guy walking in the middle of the track towards us until he bifurcated to the soy field. A great sighting and opportunity for some cool photos. We slept very happy and somewhat relieved after this great night drive.

On the last morning, we did an early game drive where we saw again **Marsh deers, brocket deers, coatis** and **agoutis** and our best observations so far of several **sloths** with a nice blue sky and good weather, of course now that we had to leave the place. Damned! We came back to the camp for a late breakfast, packed the car and then drove back to Santa Cruz that we reached late afternoon. They brought us to our hotel downtown and we said goodbye to Nick, Jose and Natalie since we would have a different crew for our visit to Kaa Iya.

I came back frustrated from Jaguarland, probably because after reading so many amazing trip reports about this place I had set too many expectations about what we could see there but of course the horrible weather spoiled the experience. To be fair, I found this place amazing and certainly rich in wildlife: we saw a lot, both birds and mammals, with a pretty good list of species and we had great observations of jaguars and ocelots, but we also missed several great species (armadillos for instance or other tougher species like spider monkey or anteaters) compared to other people who visited the place before us. The biggest disappointment for sure was that we could not observe a single Jaguarundi, not even a glimpse, during our stay.

Kaa Iya National Park

After a good night in a fairly luxury hotel in Santa Cruz, we met early morning our new crew: Mauricio, our guide and driver, and Yethy, our cook. Like for Jaguarland, visiting Kaa Iya requires some logistics and all the food, gasoline and bed lining was prepared in advance by Nick's team and carried with us in another large 4x4 car that was used to drive us from Santa Cruz to the base camp in Kaa Iya and for the game drives there. Mauricio was a very nice guy, speaking very good English and proved to be a good guide. Yethy was speaking better English than Nathalie, which was easier to communicate, and was also a very good cook, serving food portions that I found much more reasonable for the two of us. Unlike Jaguarland, we had very good weather during our visit to Kaa Iya with blue sky but cold temperatures even during mid-day. The base camp where we slept and ate was the park ranger and pipeline company station. We stayed in a building that was actually much better than in the few pictures I could see from previous visitors to the park. Here also I believe Nick was able to improve the camp amenities. We had a large and comfortable room with private bathroom and hot water. This was clean and very comfortable although we could notice that the building was already in a degraded state with some broken windows and large cracks on the walls. I'm not sure how long this building will last... Getting access to the park doesn't look easy with many locked gates to cross that belong both to the National Park and the Company running the pipeline crossing the park area we could visit. This is probably very difficult, if not impossible, to visit the park on our own.

En route to the park, we first stopped at a fairly dirty and fenced patch of forest in the suburbs of Santa Cruz. Nick proposed us to stop there to search for white-eared titi monkeys that are leaving in this forest and in replacement to Curichi La Madre that we originally considered in our trip itinerary but that was closed during our visit to Bolivia. Mauricio stopped the car on the side of the road, and we walked along the wall limiting this privately owned forest. Very quickly we could observe one **black-capped capuchin**, many **3-toed sloths** in very good conditions and after a short while, we finally spotted a group of **white-eared titi monkeys** that gave us a show for quite some time close to the wall. Very happy with this nice observation, we came back to the car for the long drive on a good straight and tared road until San Jose de Chiquitos. While driving Mauricio spotted a **lesser grison** running on the side of the road. We quickly stopped and got out of the car but it was too quick and ran away deeper in the field, which prevented us to take any good photo. We had lunch in San Jose, quickly stopped to see the nice monastery built there by the Spanish missionaries, and then the adventure started on a dirt road that quickly climbed up the mountains to reach the Gran Chaco landscape towards Kaa Iya National Park. The road was fairly long, crossing many cattle farms first before we reached the park entrance itself. Most of those cattle farms are owned by Amish communities and it is quite concerning to see that the farms are expanding deeper and deeper towards the park entrance. The road was not in a very good shape with many potholes still full of water because of the heavy rain they also had while we were in Jaguarland. This slowed down our progression but offered us a nice surprise with a **Screaming hairy armadillo** having a drink in one of this water holes and that we could quickly observe. Observing a lesser grison and an armadillo before even reaching the park was a promising start 😊

We finally arrived at the park and our base camp late afternoon. After putting all the food in the kitchen, cleaning and preparing the rooms we were then ready for our first game drive in the park. Visiting Kaa Iya for mammal watching is quite simple: it consists in driving back and forth the only dirt road that crosses the park in straight line along the pipeline. You do this during the day and at night with some stops here and there near artificial water holes created for most of them by Nick's team. They actually dug and put a new water tank during our visit. While driving at slow speed, you have to be patient and pray that animals would cross the road near your car. However, since the road is straight you can actually see animals far in the distance and surprisingly, the few animals we saw didn't seem to really bother about our car and could be approached quite close. I must say that this place is very wild with almost no tourist: there was only another couple (who also used Nick's services) during our visit and except for a few cars

owned by the gas company we were alone during the 4 days and 3 nights we spend there. During the first short afternoon drive, we could observe many interesting birds and a few **red brocket deers**, which turned out to be the most common mammal we would observe in Kaa Iya. After a good dinner, we went back to the park for a spotlight session. We saw tenths of nightjars, one burrowing owl, a few **crab-eating foxes** and a tame **ocelot** walking along the road. It allowed us to approach him very close, not only by car but even on foot. Indeed, I was amazed that after getting out of the car and slowly walking towards him, he did not run away but actually continued his walk and passed us by like 2 or 3 meters away. What a wonderful experience! After such a great day, we came back to the camp for a good sleep. The other couple who drove along the other side of the road saw a big male jaguar that evening.

We wake up very early the following morning for a long game drive until noon. It was very cold outside and since we decided to do all the drives in Kaa Iya on the car rooftop to allow better photo conditions, we always had to wear warm clothes even around noon. During the morning drive, we saw more **red brocket deers**, a couple of **crab-eating foxes**, until a **puma** crossed the road all of a sudden in front of our car! It did not seem to be frightened by the car and continued to walk slowly along the road in front of us. After some time, Mauricio told us we should follow him on foot and like for the ocelot, I was again surprised we could follow him on foot for so long, with some distance of course. It did not run away and simply turned his head from time to time to watch us. At some point, he may have considered we spent enough time with him and he moved into the Chaco vegetation. As written in many previous reports, the Chaco vegetation is so thick that it is impossible to follow an animal inside the bush or to see them from the car while driving, even very slowly. When we walked back to the car that was now parked far away from us, we saw a **Molina's hog-nosed skunk** who quickly crossed the road just in front of the car. After this nice naturalist moment, we did not see anything else for the rest of the drive. We came back to the camp for lunch and started again around 3pm until dark. This time we observed other **red brocket deers** but also a cool group of **white-coated titi monkeys** endemic to the area. On the night drive we were not very lucky and only observed one **tapeti** in addition to the usual nightjars and **crab-eating foxes**. We had a glimpse of a large animal that quickly faded into the Chaco vegetation. It was probably a tapir given its size but with no certainty.

Like in Jaguarland, our first day and a half in Kaa Iya started very well but then, our luck ended. Indeed, for the next 2 days and nights, we literally saw nothing except for the usual nightjars, crab-eating foxes or red brocket deers. Ah yes, we observed one afternoon a skittish **Azara's agouti** for a few seconds. Spending long hours days and nights driving back and forth along the unique road of the park in a not very scenic landscape turned out to be very, very boring... I must say that previous reports I read about Kaa Iya showed much richer observations than what we had. Well, that's the game with wildlife watching, but seeing no jaguar, tapir, tayra nor jaguarundi in Kaa Iya was disappointing.

On the last day, we packed the car and left again very early so that we could spend as much time as possible scanning the park for animals until we would reach the gate. Our luck came back on that last morning as we could observe three **Chacoan peccaries** crossing the road. They stayed long enough for some decent pictures although far in distance. We waited some time hoping we would see them again closer but unfortunately, they did not reappeared. After this last and nice observation of a must wanted endemic and pretty rare mammal species, we reached the park exit gate. The rest of the long drive to San Jose and then to Santa Cruz was uneventful with no other wildlife observation.

Like in Jaguarland, we missed quite a lot in Kaa Iya and although this park is truly wild, pristine and interesting to visit, our experience there was not so great compared to what other people could have seen and I'm not even talking about the lucky ones who could see 5 cat species in one day! Our guide is definitely not to blame as Mauricio really tried hard and spent many hours on the field to give us more time and chance to see something during our visit. We really enjoyed our time and discussion with Mauricio and Yethy, whom we left in Santa Cruz for a short night as we had to wake up very early to take a domestic flight to our next destination.

Trinidad

After a short domestic flight from Santa Cruz with the BoA airline company, we landed at the tiny Trinidad airport where our local guide: Lilyan, greeted us. Lilyan was a nice, very talkative, and dynamic person who took care of us for the 3 days we spent in the area. For sleeping, Nick's team booked us at the Boutique del Rey hotel, a beautiful and comfortable place. The food in Trinidad was excellent, especially for us who love meat. Indeed, Trinidad is the capital of the Beni state where there are plenty of cattle farms and it is said that people leaving there are eating meat at breakfast, lunch and dinner. The weather was great in Trinidad and this was the only place during our trip in Bolivia where we really had hot temperatures. We came to Trinidad for two main targets: the Bolivian river dolphin and an endangered endemic macaw quite easy to find there.

On the first day, we had a full-day pink dolphin expedition on 3 different rivers: Ibare, Tijamuchí and Mamore. Lilyan brought us to a first place where we could observe the dolphins from a bridge over the river. The drive to that place followed several swamps where we could observe plenty of birds, Yacare caimans and several cool and tame **capybaras**. We also had to cross a large river with rustic wooden ferries with small motors that, like in some other places in Africa, I always find amazing that big trucks and several cars could take without sinking. While driving on the dusty road under the heat, we got surprised but pleased to see a large **tayra** crossing the road in front of the car. However, he ran too quickly to allow us to take any good picture. This would be the only living tayra we would observe during our trip to Bolivia. Sadly, we saw another dead one on a different road around Trinidad. When we reached the bridge, we stopped the car and walked on the bridge to look for the **Bolivian river dolphins**. A few of them were swimming below the bridge and offered some pretty good views. However, it wasn't easy to take pictures because these dolphins very rarely jump out of the water (as a matter of fact they did not do it while we were there) and the water was very brown, which didn't help to follow the dolphins and estimate when and where they would get out to breathe. After an hour of observation, we came back closer to Trinidad for lunch in a nice restaurant close to a river. We then drove to a small village: Loma Suarez, where we took a small boat for a cruise on the river until sunset to search for other dolphins. This river was very scenic with many banks where we could observe plenty of **capybaras** and resting birds, but also going through forests hosting more birds and some interesting mammals like **red howlers** and cute **Black-capped squirrel monkeys**. On the other hand, and although the boat tour was quite long, we could not observe any river dolphin well except for a few glimpses of dolphin backs. When dusk came, we observed a few bats flying over the river but we were not able to clearly identify them, so it doesn't count for me. We drove back to Trinidad at night and had a wonderful dinner in a good restaurant serving delicious and very tender meat.

After a good night sleep, we left our hotel very early at night for a long 3-hour drive to the Gran Moxos protected area in search of the endemic and critically endangered blue-throated macaw. We arrived at a small village where we took a local guide who could open all the gates to the farm where the macaws leave in remaining patches of forest. We arrived at the hacienda on time for a late breakfast we took with all the food brought by Lilyan. We then had a several hours long walk with the local guide to look for the famous macaws that we could see nicely as well as plenty of other birds. During our walk, we also observed several mammals like **black howlers**, one **3-toed female sloth** with an adorable baby attached to her. We also encountered a **nine-banded armadillo** that approached quite close to us apparently unconcerned by our presence. A brilliant observation! It was time to go back to the main hacienda building, pack our stuff inside the car and when we drove towards the exit gate, we came across a **six-banded armadillo** trotting on the grass and who allowed us to take some nice photos before he disappeared in the bush. The drive back to Trinidad did not offer any specific observations except for the usual **capybaras** and Yacare caimans in the small swamps located along the road. After lunch, we did another drive in the afternoon around Trinidad looking for some more birds and we observed one **brown agouti** as well as an unexpected group of **white-eared tity monkeys** when the sun was going down. Back to Trinidad at night, we went to the same restaurant for another excellent meat dinner.

On the last morning, we wake up later than usual for a visit to the "Museo de Biodiversidad del Beni" and the "Museo Ictícola del Beni", the only one existing in Bolivia with a large variety of fishes leaving in the country and exposed in glass containers filled with formalin. Both museums were located inside the premises of the Trinidad University. Interesting visits but only if you have time. We drove to Laguna Suarez, a fairly large lake near Trinidad for some last birdwatching with no mammal seen, and we had lunch there before going back to the airport where we said goodbye to Lilyan and took our domestic flight for our next destination: the city of Sucre that we reached late evening but on time.

The Andes

After two weeks spent on the lowland of Bolivia for wildlife watching, we spent another week to visit a few places in the Andes mostly for sightseeing: the interesting historical towns of Sucre and Potosi and the amazingly beautiful Salar de Uyuni. What a magical place!! If there is only one place to visit in Bolivia, this would certainly be Uyuni and its endless and pure white and flat salt desert. We did a full day excursion near Sucre for birdwatching to look for another endemic and endangered macaw: the Red Fronted Macaw. During that week in the Andes, we did not observe any mammal except for several groups of **vicuñas** while driving between Potosi and Uyuni. There is apparently a place near Sucre that Nick's team found for Andean bears but we did not have time for it. The place is quite remote and not so easy to access. According to the guide we had for birdwatching: Laura (who we found was actually Mauricio's girlfriend) the chance to see bears there remains today quite unpredictable. However, this is good to know for those who plan to visit Bolivia in the near future.

To conclude on this trip to Bolivia, I must that I really enjoyed this country: so many beautiful and diverse landscapes, a rich biodiversity with many interesting species that can be observed and very nice people. Like in many other countries worldwide, go there quickly given the speed at which humankind has the ability to burn forests and degrade nature and wildlife. Nick's team was great and they did an excellent job in organizing this private tour for us and book nice accommodations, domestic flights and excursions to meet all our expectations in terms of wildlife watching and sightseeing. All the local guides we had, including Nick of course, were all excellent: very knowledgeable about the places visited, trying hard to find all our mammal and bird targets, and not counting their time spent on the field. Regarding mammal watching specifically, we saw **36 different species** during this 3-week long trip (2 weeks only purely dedicated to mammal watching to be fair) which is good but clearly not exceptional compared to all the past trip reports I could read about Bolivia. I think the bad weather we had during our first week had an impact on the diversity of mammals we could see in Jaguarland. We missed a lot of cool species, and the biggest miss was jaguarundi that we did not even had a single glimpse during 11 days spent in Jaguarland and Kaa Iya. It looks like everybody else saw this cat during their trip to Bolivia except us 😞. Before going to Bolivia, I was expecting to see 4 different cat species (+ Geoffroy's cat with some luck) but we saw only 3. I know very well that nothing is guaranteed with wildlife watching but still, I consider our cat (and other mammal) target list was reasonable based on past trip reports so not seeing jaguarundi was disappointing.

Below is the list of all the mammals we could observe during our 20 days spent in Bolivia:

Mammals with photos or well seen (lifers in green)				
Species	Espèces	Latin Name	Where seen	Pic
Nine-banded armadillo	Tatou à neuf bandes	<i>Dasyus novemcinctus</i>	1 great observation on foot while hiking near Trinidad for birdwatching	X
Screaming hairy armadillo	Petit tatou velu	<i>Chaetophractus vellerosus</i>	1 individual observed on the dirt road near Kaa Iya park entrance	X
Six-banded armadillo	Tatou à six bandes	<i>Euphractus sexcinctus</i>	One observed very well from the car near Trinidad	X
Brown-throated 3-toed sloth	Paresseux à gorge brune	<i>Bradypus variegatus</i>	Plenty observed in Santa Cruz, Jaguarland and Trinidad	X
Black-tailed marmoset	Ouistiti mélanure	<i>Mico melanurus</i>	One group observed only in the Santa Cruz botanical garden	X
Black-capped capuchin	Capucin brun	<i>Sapajus apella</i>	Several observed in Jaguarland & Santa Cruz botanical garden	X
Black-capped squirrel monkey	Singe-écureuil de Bolivie	<i>Saimiri boliviensis</i>	Several observed in Jaguarland and during our boat tour in Trinidad	X
Azara's night monkey	Douroucouli d'Azara	<i>Aotus azarae</i>	Several observed at night in Jaguarland and a couple during the day in Santa Cruz botanical garden	X
White-eared titi monkey	Titi d'Orbigny	<i>Plecturocebus donacophilus</i>	A few observed very well in Santa Cruz and some other shy individuals in Trinidad	X
White-coated titi monkey	Titi à poil blanc	<i>Plecturocebus pallescens</i>	A few observations in Kaa Iya	X
Black howler	Singe Hurlleur noir	<i>Alouatta caraya</i>	Some very nice observations near Trinidad during a birdwatching session and at the Santa Cruz botanical garden	X
Bolivian red howler	Singe Hurlleur de Bolivie	<i>Alouatta sara</i>	Plenty observed on the road to & in Jaguarland as well as during our boat tour in Trinidad	X
Brown agouti	Agouti brun	<i>Dasyprocta variegata</i>	Several individuals observed in Jaguarland. Always very shy	X
Azara's agouti	Agouti d'Azara	<i>Dasyprocta azarae</i>	One guy crossing the road in front of our car in Kaa Iya	
Greater Capybara	Capybara	<i>Hydrochoerus hydrochaeris</i>	Commonly observed throughout our trip	X
Bolivian squirrel	Écureuil de Bolivie	<i>Sciurus ignitus</i>	One individual seen well in the Santa Cruz Botanical garden	X
Southern Amazon red squirrel	Écureuil roux du Sud de l'Amazonie	<i>Sciurus spadiceus</i>	One individual seen in the garden of our first hotel in Santa Cruz	X
Common tapeti	Lapin du Brésil	<i>Sylvilagus brasiliensis</i>	A couple of quick observations in Kaa Iya	
Myotis bat	Murin	<i>Myotis ssp?</i>	One observed flying inside the kitchen in Jaguarland camp. Should be this specie.	
Bolivian river dolphin	Inia de Bolivie	<i>Inia boliviensis</i>	Several individuals observed in the Trinidad area and a young one observed trapped in a pool in Jaguarland.	X
Ocelot	Ocelot	<i>Leopardus pardalis</i>	3 nice observations in Jaguarland and another great observation in Kaa Iya. All done at night.	X

Puma	Puma	Puma concolor	1 single observation during the day in Kaa Iya. Nice approach on foot.	X
Jaguar	Jaguar	Panthera onca	5 different observations made in Jaguarland during the day, some quite far but others very close and even on foot	X
Crab-eating fox	Renard crabier	Cerdocyon thous	Very commonly observed in Jaguarland and Kaa Iya	X
Crab-eating raccoon	Raton crabier	Procyon cancrivorus	1 individual observed at night in Jaguarland	X
South American coati	Coati commun	Nasua nasua	Observed commonly in various places in Bolivia	X
Tayra	Tayra	Eira barbara	One individual crossing in front of our car in Trinidad but too quickly to allow us to take a picture and sadly another one killed on the road	
Lesser grison	Petit grison	Galictis cuja	One observed along the main road while driving between Santa Cruz and San José heading to Kaa Iya	
Molina's hog-nosed skunk	Mouffette des Andes	Conepatus chinga	One observed in the distance crossing the road while we were following a puma on foot	
South American tapir	Tapir du Brésil	Tapirus terrestris	2 individuals quite close to each other observed at night in Jaguarland	X
Chacoan peccary	Pécari du Chaco	Catagonus wagneri	3 observed in the distance crossing the road when exiting Kaa Iya on our last day	X
Collared peccary	Pécari à collier	Dicotyles tajacu	A few observed in Jaguarland	X
Vicuña	Vigogne	Lama vicugna	Several groups observed along the road in the Altiplano when driving from Potosi to Uyuni	
Marsh deer	Cerf des marais	Blastocerus dichotomus	Several observations in Jaguarland	X
Red brocket	Daguet rouge	Mazama americana	A few observed with no ambiguity in Jaguarland	X
Gray brocket	Daguet gris	Mazama gouazoubira	Common in both Jaguarland and Kaa Iya	X
		Total Species Recorded = 36		

I'm adding to this report pictures of some of the species we observed during that trip, especially those new to me.



Nine-banded armadillo



Screaming hairy armadillo



Six-banded armadillo



White-eared titi monkey

Black-capped capuchin



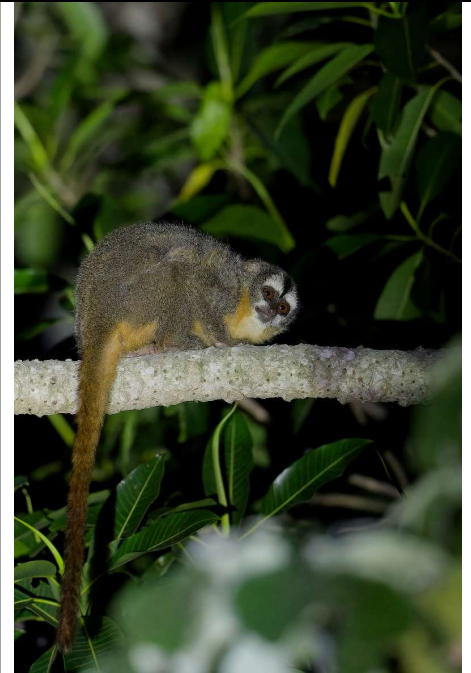
Black-capped squirrel monkey



Black-tailed marmoset



White-coated titi monkey



Azara's night monkey



Black howler (female and baby)



Brown-throated 3-toed sloth



Bolivian river dolphin



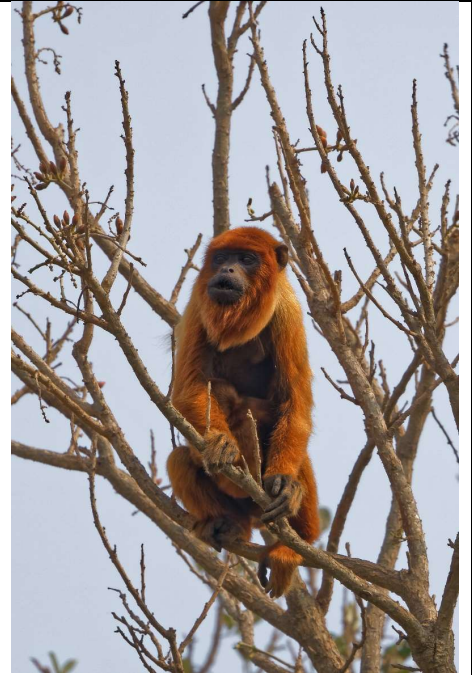
South American coati



Bolivian squirrel



Southern Amazon red squirrel



Bolivian red howler



Ocelot



Puma



Jaguar #1



Jaguar #2



Jaguar #3



Jaguar #4



Crab-eating fox



Crab-eating raccoon



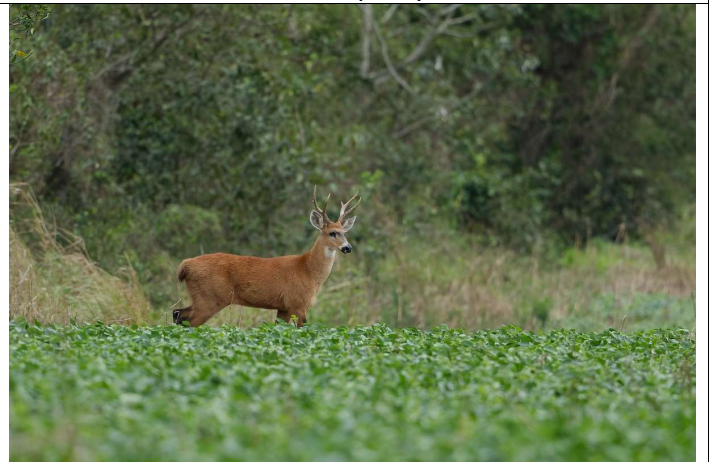
Collared peccary



Chacoan peccary



South American tapir



Marsh deer



Red brocket



Gray brocket



Amazing Salar de Uyuni