Brazil - Just Jaguars!

Naturetrek Tour Report 16th – 27th June 2026



Jaguar



Successful caiman hunt



Lowland Tapir



Maned Wolf

Tour report kindly supplied by client Kathy Trout
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Tour participants: Lucila Rosales (leader) with six Naturetrek clients

Day 1 Tuesday 16th June

Some clients were in transit from the UK to Brazil, while others arrived slightly earlier. To recover from the long journey prior to the tour, early arrivers stayed overnight at the excellent Amazon Hotel Aeroporto, within walking distance of Cuiabá Airport, and next door to a shopping mall, where I changed currency, and an excellent supermarket with lovely fruit. I took an Uber to the Natural History Museum, which had a couple of dinosaur skeletons erected in the grounds! I walked to river: there were not many birds, as it was middle of the day, but there were a lot of colourful butterflies.

Day 2 Wednesday 17th June

Pouso Alegre Lodge

Having met at the airport, we drove in an air-conditioned bus until lunch, then transferred to an open-sided bus for the drive along the Transpataneira highway, stopping to look at birds on the way. An excellent sighting of a roadside Lowland Tapir brought much excitement. After being shown to our rooms, we were welcomed by a pair of Hyacinth Macaws in a palm tree.

Day 3 Thursday 18th June

Pouso Alegre Lodge

A bird feeding station with seating gave great early morning photo opportunities. Playful groups of South American Coatis and Capuchin Monkeys made everyone laugh, and there were many birds of numerous species around the lodge.

The afternoon drive passed a lake with around thirty Capybaras, and a waterhole was visited by five Tapirs including two swimming. Torches and spotlights reflected red in the eyes of Spectacled Caimans, and picked out Crab-eating Foxes. There were fireflies in abundance.

Day 4 Friday 19th June

SouthWild Flotel

On leaving Pouso Alegre we were thrilled to see a Roseate Spoonbill, Marsh and Pampas Deer and a Tamandua. We had a flat tyre, but got it fixed at a lodge, and were treated to a complimentary drink and saw a Great Horned Owl flying between some trees. Repair complete, we continued until we reached the river, then made a twenty-minute boat trip to the SouthWild Flotel. Our first boat safari was in the rain, but we quickly spotted two Jaguars (Amber and Browser) lying among the riverside trees! We also had excellent sightings of Jabiru and Wood Storks.

Each evening on the Flotel, there was an extremely interesting lecture on one of the local star species, given by the resident biologist, Chloe Grant.

Day 5 Saturday 20th June

SouthWild Flotel

This was a good day for Jaguars. Patricia was seen first; she is blind in one eye due to an accident. Her matriarchal line indulges in hunting from trees, jumping into the water to catch and kill Caimans and Capybara. We also saw Browser, Hera and Dorada, and then Ginger with her two as yet unnamed cubs. As we were the first to photograph and report these cubs to SouthWild, we were permitted to name them: we chose the names Biscuit and Cookie.

Travelling along a backwater, we saw had a rare sighting of Proboscis Bats roosting in a vertical groove in a tree, and saw the "oven nest" of the Rufous Hornero attached to a dead tree.

Day 6 Sunday 21st June

SouthWild Flotel

At the start of this morning river trip, two pairs of Hyacinths Macaws flew cross the river. It was a really fabulous Jaguar day. We saw one swim across a wide section of the river, and a large male made a spectacular hunt and kill of a large Caiman, captured as the Jaguar swam along the river's edge. We also saw the only remaining Jaguar with a collar, Nells. Limited capture and collar fitting was undertaken when a few Jaguars were burned in wildfires during 2020-21. The mechanism to dislodge this collar had failed, and as Nells is surviving without harm, it is considered too risky to trap and sedate her and remove it. During the fruitless search for Giant Otters along quiet backwaters, we did see a Green Iguana.

Day 7 Monday 22nd June

SouthWild Flotel – research station

We made a short morning boat safari, and saw two Jaguars: Amber and Stella. On the two-hour afternoon journey to the research station, we saw two Ospreys along the way. One had just caught a fish, and was flying along holding it in one foot. Four Giant Otters swam along a shoreline together, noisily feeding and chattering under the roots of a tree. Two went up on the bank, scratching a latrine in the dry sand.

At dusk, four Hyacinth Macaws settled in the tree tops near our seats, then screeched excitedly. After a few hours wait, well into the evening, two Maned Wolves appeared, fed by a man from the research station. We enjoyed a picnic dinner, and returned safely to the Flotel in the dark, thanks to the considerable skills of the boatman.

Days 8 to 11 Tuesday 23rd – Friday 26th June

SouthWild Lodge

As we left the boat at Porto Jofre to join the bus, a loud chattering by the river alerted us to six Giant Otters playing and feeding, while an Azara's Agouti lurked under the trees.

The first evening visit to the Southwild hide enabled us to enjoy a half hour viewing of an Ocelot named Andretta, collecting food left by the staff.

The SouthWild river and forest walks took us past a Great Potoo and Great Horned Owls, to five Giant Otters feeding at the river's edge. We walked on to a tower hide, where staff had left food for Howler and Capuchin Monkeys, and we watched them feeding and squabbling. There were several babies clinging to their mums or playing: they were particularly amusing.



Ocelot



Capybaras and Wattled Jacana



Biscuit and Cookie – newly-named Jaguars



Capped Heron

The Ocelot hide visits each evening gave us great photo opportunities, but unfortunately Andretta never brought her cub while we were there, as she has done previously. Tiny frogs inhabited the garden bromeliads, notably the so-called "glass frog", which is almost see-through, with some internal organs showing.

A boat ride on a small, shallow local river gave us excellent views of kingfishers, Rufescent Tiger and Striated Herons, and a number of hawk species. Several walks around the lodge and along the roadside revealed a number of species of brightly-coloured parakeets, cardinals and tanagers, frogs, toads and a non-venomous water snake.

Day 12 Saturday 27th June

South Wild Lodge – Cuiabá

Today was our final day. At 5.45am, we climbed the tower overlooking the nest of a pair of habituated Jabirus, and watched the sun rise. One last visit to the monkey hide made a marvellous finale, and we boarded the bus. Despite it having been a brilliant holiday in every way, and having ticked off almost all of our target species, there was an air of despondency as we travelled to the airport: we had all really wanted to see the elusive Giant Anteater.

So you can imagine the cheer from the bus as the driver made a sudden stop on the main highway. There, near the roadside, in a field next to a waterhole was a Giant Anteater! We rushed to take photos, before continuing, highly exuberantly, to the airport. After a seamless transfer from Cuiabá to São Paulo, we caught our onward flight to London.

A thoroughly enjoyable time was had by all, and this holiday is highly recommended.

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Species Lists

Mammals

Common name	Scientific name
Giant Anteater	*Myrmecophaga tridactyla*
Southern Tamandua	*Tamandua tetradactyla*
Ocelot	*Leopardus pardalis*
Jaguar	*Panthera onca*
Crab-eating Fox	*Cerdocyon thous*
South American Coati	*Nasua nasua*
Giant Otter	*Pteronura brasiliensis*
Lowland Tapir	*Tapirus terrestris*
Marsh Deer	*Blastocerus dichotomus*
Gray Brocket	*Mazama gouazoubira*
Proboscis Bat	*Rhynchonycteris naso*
Azara's Capuchin	*Sapajus cay*
Black Howler Monkey	*Alouatta caraya*
Azara's Agouti	*Dasyprocta azarae*
Capybara	*Hydrochoerus hydrochaeris*
Pampas Deer	*Ozotoceros bezoarticus*
Maned Wolf	*Chrysocyon brachyurus*

Reptiles & Amphibians

Common name	Scientific name
Yacare Caiman	*Caiman yacare*
Green Iguana	*Iguana iguana*
Gold Tegu	*Tupinambis teguixin*
Amazon Lava Lizard	*Tropidurus torquatus*
Yellow Anaconda	*Eunectes notatus*
Mata Cavalo Water Snake	*Hydrodynastes gigas*
False Viper	*Tomodon dorsatus*
Chaco Tree Frog	*Boana raniceps*
Glass Frogs	*Vitreorana*
Snouted Tree Frog	*Scinax*

Birds

Common name	Scientific name
Greater Rhea	*Rhea americana*
Southern Screamer	*Chauna torquata*
Muscovy Duck	*Cairina moschata*
Chaco Chachalaca	*Ortalis canicollis*
Chestnut-bellied Guan - E	*Penelope ochrogaster*
Blue-throated Piping Guan	*Pipile cumanensis*
White-throated Piping Guan	*Pipile grayi*
Red-throated Piping Guan	*Pipile cujubi*
Bare-faced Curassow	*Crax fasciolata*
Band-tailed Nighthawk	*Nyctiprogne leucopyga*
Pauraque	*Nyctidromus albicollis*
Little Nightjar	*Setopagis parvula*
Glittering-bellied Emerald	*Chlorostilbon lucidus*
Glittering-throated Emerald	*Chionomesa fimbriata*
Guira Cuckoo	*Guira guira*
Greater Ani	*Crotophaga major*
Smooth-billed Ani	*Crotophaga ani*
Squirrel Cuckoo	*Piaya cayana*
Scaled Pigeon	*Patagioenas speciosa*
Picazuro Pigeon	*Patagioenas picazuro*
Scaled Dove	*Columbina squammata*
Long-tailed Ground Dove	*Uropelia campestris*
White-tipped Dove	*Leptotila verreauxi*
Grey-cowled Wood Rail	*Aramides cajaneus*
Limpkin	*Aramus guarauna*
White-backed Stilt	*Himantopus melanurus*
Southern Lapwing	*Vanellus chilensis*
Pied Plover	*Hoploxypterus cayanus*
Wattled Jacana	*Jacana jacana*
Black Skimmer	*Rynchops niger*
Yellow-billed Tern	*Sternula superciliaris*
Large-billed Tern	*Phaetusa simplex*
Sunbittern	*Eurypyga helias*
Wood Stork	*Mycteria americana*
Maguari Stork	*Ciconia maguari*
Jabiru	*Jabiru mycteria*
Anhinga	*Anhinga anhinga*
Neotropic Cormorant	*Nannopterum brasilianum*
Plumbeous Ibis	*Theristicus caerulescens*
Buff-necked Ibis	*Theristicus caudatus*
Green Ibis	*Mesembrinibis cayennensis*
Bare-faced Ibis	*Phimosus infuscatus*
Green Ibis	*Mesembrinibis cayennensis*

Common name	Scientific name
Roseate Spoonbill	*Platalea ajaja*
Rufescent Tiger Heron	*Tigrisoma lineatum*
Agami Heron	*Agamia agami*
Black-crowned Night Heron	*Nycticorax nycticorax*
Striated Heron	*Butorides striata*
Western Cattle Egret	*Bubulcus ibis*
Cocoi Heron	*Ardea cocoi*
Great Egret	*Ardea alba*
Capped Heron	*Pilherodius pileatus*
Whistling Heron	*Syrigma sibilatrix*
Little Blue Heron	*Egretta caerulea*
Snowy Egret	*Egretta thula*
Black Vulture	*Coragyps atratus*
Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture	*Cathartes burrovianus*
Osprey	*Pandion haliaetus*
Plumbeous Kite	*Ictinia plumbea*
Black-collared Hawk	*Busarellus nigricollis*
Snail Kite	*Rostrhamus sociabilis*
Crane Hawk	*Geranospiza caerulescens*
Savanna Hawk	*Buteogallus meridionalis*
Great Black Hawk	*Buteogallus urubitinga*
Roadside Hawk	*Rupornis magnirostris*
White-tailed Hawk	*Geranoaetus albicaudatus*
American Barn Owl	*Tyto furcata*
Great Horned Owl	*Bubo virginianus*
Amazon Kingfisher	*Chloroceryle amazona*
American Pygmy Kingfisher	*Chloroceryle aenea*
Green Kingfisher	*Chloroceryle americana*
Ringed Kingfisher	*Megaceryle torquata*
Rufous-tailed Jacamar	*Galbula ruficauda*
Chestnut-eared Aracari	*Pteroglossus castanotis*
Toco Toucan	*Ramphastos toco*
White-wedged Piculet	*Picumnus albosquamatus*
White Woodpecker	*Melanerpes candidus*
Little Woodpecker	*Veniliornis passerinus*
Green-barred Woodpecker	*Colaptes melanochloros*
Red-legged Seriema	*Cariama cristata*
Crested Caracara	*Caracara plancus*
Laughing Falcon	*Herpetotheres cachinnans*
Monk Parakeet	*Myiopsitta monachus*
Yellow-chevroned Parakeet	*Brotogeris chiriri*
Turquoise-fronted Amazon	*Amazona aestiva*
Hyacinth Macaw	*Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus*
Peach-fronted Parakeet	*Eupsittula aurea*
Nanday Parakeet	*Aratinga nenday*
White-eyed Parakeet	*Psittacara leucophthalmus*

Common name	Scientific name
Great Rufous Woodcreeper	*Xiphocolaptes major*
Buff-throated Woodcreeper	*Xiphorhynchus guttatus*
Narrow-billed Woodcreeper	*Lepidocolaptes angustirostris*
Pale-legged Hornero	*Furnarius leucopus*
Rufous Hornero	*Furnarius rufus*
Rufous-fronted Thornbird	*Phacellodomus rufifrons*
Greater Thornbird	*Phacellodomus ruber*
Grey-crested Cacholote	*Pseudoseisura unirufa*
Yellow-chinned Spinetail	*Certhiaxis cinnamomeus*
Great Antshrike	*Taraba major*
Pearly-vented Tody-Tyrant	*Hemitriccus margaritaceiventer*
Black-backed Water Tyrant	*Fluvicola albiventer*
Vermillion Flycatcher	*Pyrocephalus obscurus*
Cattle Tyrant	*Machetornis rixosa*
Rusty-margined Flycatcher	*Myiozetetes cayanensis*
Social Flycatcher	*Myiozetetes similis*
Great Kiskadee	*Pitangus sulphuratus*
Boat-billed Flycatcher	*Megarynchus pitangua*
Tropical Kingbird	*Tyrannus melancholicus*
Rufous Casiornis	*Casiornis rufus*
Short-crested Flycatcher	*Myiarchus ferox*
Purplish Jay	*Cyanocorax cyanomelas*
White-rumped Swallow	*Tachycineta leucorrhoa*
White-winged Swallow	*Tachycineta albiventer*
Brown-chested Martin	*Progne tapera*
Black-capped Donacobius	*Donacobius atricapilla*
Thrush-like Wren	*Campylorhynchus turdinus*
Masked Gnatcatcher	*Polioptila dumicola*
Chalk-browed Mockingbird	*Mimus saturninus*
Rufous-bellied Thrush	*Turdus rufiventris*
Variable Oriole	*Icterus pyrrhopteru*
Crested Oropendola	*Psarocolius decumanus*
Yellow-rumped Cacique	*Cacicus cela*
Orange-backed Troupial	*Icterus croconotus*
Giant Cowbird	*Molothrus oryzivorus*
Shiny Cowbird	*Molothrus bonariensis*
Scarlet-headed Blackbird	*Amblyramphus holosericeus*
Greyish Baywing	*Agelaioides badius*
Bluish-grey Saltator	*Saltator coerulescens*
Silver-beaked Tanager	*Ramphocelus carbo*
Palm Tanager	*Thraupis palmarum*
Saffron Finch	*Sicalis flaveola*
Red-crested Cardinal	*Paroaria coronata*
Yellow-billed Cardinal	*Paroaria capitata*
Sayaca Tanager	*Thraupis sayaca*