J&M4-7

It's 04:00. Obviously pitch dark and raining. Rained mightily overnight more or less continuous thunder . Sleep not really a thing.

We're up at this ridiculous time to go catch a boat to look at Macaws. We assume it's because they are far away, that or they wake early too and clear off into part of the jungle we can't get to.

Thunder still banging away....

Having dragged ourselves out of bed, we sit here alone though at least coffee is available.

Jungle sounds abound all around..... God lord!!!! Really.

4':15. Rain delay. Not surprising it's coming down quite hard and still banging and flashing.... The other way around obviously, flash always comes first 😂

We've trudged down to the boat in the dark, I the mud and are setting off for an hour and half boat ride.

Took off the poncho to put on life jackets but it's quite cool at this speed across the water so will probably have to put it back on.

The boat ride was about 90 minutes, raining most of the time but, as someone pointed out, this is a rain forest, what did you think it

was like.

The Macaws didn't get the memo.

We had breakfast on the clay lick. A spit of land made of clay that the Macaws consume for Minerals (as do many other animals).

The hosts set up a gazebo with camping tables and chairs, meanwhile the chef for today prepared lots of salads and bread, cakes and fruit. There were several other boats whose staff tried to provide similar but failed spectacularly in comparison.

As the Macaws were a no show, we reboarded the boat after breakfast and made our way back to the lodge
in the grey early light.

Got back at about 9:30 and after a comfort break and coffee etc we set off for our first excursion around the research station.

What the boat ride lacked, this excursion made up for iln spades.

Three troops of monkey
Howlers. We saw these repeatedly
Saddle back tamarind
Capachine

We saw :-
Macaws
Ground birds

Tarantula
Poison dart frogs with tadpoles
Weaver birds
Baby Hawk praying mantis
Bullet ants
Army and Leaf cutter ants
Parrots

We took a second walk to the "Tower" at about 3:00. It's about one hundred feet high steel tower with two observation platforms around the top and one slightly lower.
Popping out of the top of the tree canopy brought a whole new vista into view.
Magnificent.

Back to the lodge by way of a tarantulas house, bullet ants and preying mantis.

The debate was to return the the Clay Lick or do something else. We decided to leave it to the weather. If it was raining we'd stay at the lodge and do something there. If it was dry, we'd do the Clay Lick....

Watch this space.