J&M4-8

We awoke about 3:00 to rain, not massively heavy as yesterday but rain nonetheless.

We went back to bed or rather didn't get upon the first place. Lying there we asked whether it was really raining or still raining Got up and took a proper look outside, even walked around a little and decided that it wasn't really raining and we should go for it. So, at 3:30 we dressed, grabbed our stuff and got down to the meeting point. Everyone else came to the same conclusion so we had a full boat.

The boat ride is something else. We left in almost total darkness and weren't allowed any lights, cameras or phones because the navigator has to see what's happening out front. There are whole trees and chucks of other debris that could prove catastrophic to a boat travelling at 40kph. The navigation is done by the bowman with a stick for depth and a powerful light to spot the junk that could be in front. Directions are just arm waving and finger numbers...

There are 16 or so on board so that's quite some responsibility.

Got to the Lick first boat so for a while had the place to ourselves.

Macaws and parrot started arriving shortly thereafter.

Brilliant show. Every so often, a vulture would give them a fright and with an alarm cry dozens of colourful Macaws would take

flight almost as one and sweep across the sky. Spectacular.

The sun joined us too, watery at first but getting more intense all the time. Now, 8:20, it's starting to feel rather warm.....

Eventually, they started 'feeding' on the clay and we got our pictures. So many I burned through the two batteries I had for the camera.

On the return boat ride we sam another Howler monkey and a log with half a dozen turtles aboard.

All this and it's only 9:30.

On the way up from the port, there was a Cayman in the water just by the landing stage and a spider monkey family including a baby on a high perch in the canopy. The camera battery had died by this time so we had to rely on the guides scope for both pictures and videos.

There's a rumour that a jaguar has been seen locally so we're going in a boat to try and catch it, photographically of course.... More later.

Alas, no Jaguar. We did see a group of Squirrel monkeys. Tiny things that would fit in a tea cup. Pretty little man faces.

Couple of Howler monkeys too. Way up in a tree and almost dark so little to see.

Our last night, setting off for Cisco in the morning. We think at about 6:30 but that is to be confirmed.

We've repacked our temporary pack as borrowed from the company "Office" (little more than a fancy shed out by the airport. Prior to that, a two and a half hour boat ride though it might be a little quicker going downstream. Then one and a half hours in a bus, the first 30 minutes over an outback road, desperately pot holed.

Then to Cusco.....