

Common Animals of the Guatemalan Rainforest



How many animal species live in the Central American rainforests? Zoologists actually do not know. We know that there are over 116 species of tree frogs alone.

Around the world, rainforests are home to more than 50% of all plants and animals on the Earth. Rainforests cover less than 2% of the planet, yet these densely-packed plants and trees generate a large portion of the Earth's oxygen. Many plants discovered in the Central American jungle are used to develop new drugs that fight illness and disease. The diverse types of animals in the dense rain forest of Guatemala range from insects and worms to large birds and mammals.

Some of the more common species



Anteater



Jaguar



Quetzal



Spider monkey



Keel billed toucan



Capybara

About half of all animal species in the world's rainforests face local extinction by the turn of the century because of climate change unless carbon emissions can be sharply reduced. Even if the Paris Climate Agreement's 2°C target is met, many places could still lose over 25% of their species, according to a study by the University of East Anglia and the World Wildlife Fund.



Yellow-naped parrots



Coati mudi



Ocellated turkey



Additional Common Rainforest Species



Tree frogs come in many colors



The agouti, like a jungle rabbit



Howler monkey



Basilisk lizard



Ocelot



Armadillo



Capuchin monkey



Spectacled caiman



Montezuma's oropendula

The sequestration of carbon dioxide is only one of many reasons to protect rainforests. They also provide for the preservation of biodiversity. They host a variety of forest medicines, fruits and products. They serve as reservoirs of genetic resources. They regulate hydrological functions and clean the air. They fertilize the soil and inhibit erosion. They balance pests and control parasites. The insects in forests provide pollination and serve as libraries of botanical wisdom. The “services” which forests provide are incomparable; nothing can be substituted for them. Most human efforts to make such substitutions have ultimately been unsatisfactory.

