



Natural Selections

BIRDING, WILDLIFE, AND PHOTO TOURS



Red-eyed Tree Frog

Costa Rica Wildlife Photography

9 Nights/10 Days | Sept. 20 - 29, 2020

This 9-night program is designed for the very best bird and wildlife photography in Costa Rica, with a selection of destinations that combine field work, macro photography, landscape photography and feeding stations for some of the most emblematic colorful and tropical wildlife that this beautiful, tropical country has to offer. Along the way we provide instruction and strategies on gear and subjects as well, to guide you to the best images possible of species such as: Jacamars, Manakins, Tanagers, Toucans, Quetzals, Hummingbirds, small mammals, and a variety of reptiles and amphibians including Eyelash Vipers, Red-eyed Tree frogs, and much, much more.

Tour Overview

Day 1: Arrive San Jose Airport (SJO)
Day 2: Villa Lapas, Central Pacific Dry Forest
Day 3: Tarcoles River, Arenal Lodge
Day 4: Arenal Lodge
Day 5, 6: Boca Tapada, Maquenque Lodge
Day 7: Selva Verde, Cinchona
Day 8, 9: Savegre Lodge
Day 10: Departure San Jose Airport (SJO)

9 Night/10 Day Itinerary

Day 1, Arrival and Central Valley overnight:

We meet our guide at the airport and drive to our nearby hotel.

We'll have the rest of the day at leisure to enjoy the grounds of the hotel. Birding around the hotel gardens is a good way to become familiar with some of the common birds of Costa Rica and practice with tropical lighting and settings.

*Dinner at Hotel Bougainvillea
Lodging at Hotel Bougainvillea*

Day 2, Drive to Central Pacific, Dry Forest Species photography:

After breakfast drive to Central Pacific. On the way we'll visit a local spot for photo ops of Lesser-ground-Cuckoo, Rufous-tailed Jacamar, Long-tailed Manakin, and good chances for Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl, Spectacled, Barn and Pacific-Screech-Owls.

Collared Aracari



After lunch we'll spend the afternoon scanning back roads for dry forest species such as White throated Magpie-Jay, Turquoise-browed Motmot and Black-headed Trogon.

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Lodging at Villa Lapas*

Day 3, Boat ride at Tarcoles River and Drive to Arenal area, Bogarin Feeders:

Today begins with an early morning boat ride on the Tarcoles River, in quest for wetland and mangrove species including herons, egrets, up to 5 species of kingfishers, Roseate Spoonbill, Yellow (Mangrove) Warbler, Brown Pelicans, Magnificent Frigatebird, Mangrove Vireo and the endemic Mangrove Hummingbird.

After our boat ride we'll check out and drive to our next destination on the northern plains of Costa Rica.



Margay

Before arriving at our hotel, we'll visit Bogarin Reserve and the great fruit feeders there for Red-legged Honeycreeper, Golden-hooded Tanager, Yellow-throated Euphonia and White-throated Crake among others.

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Lodging at Arenal Observatory Lodge or similar*

Day 4, Arenal Observatory Lodge and Peninsula Road:

We'll spend this early morning at the deck and fruit feeders of the hotel for great pics of Montezuma Oropendola, Great Curassow, Scarlet-rumped Tanager and exploring the gardens where Violet-headed Hummingbird, Black-crested Coquette, Brown Violet-ear and several other hummingbirds are attracted to the abundant Verbena flowers. We will then shift over to Arenal Ecozoo, where they will be prepared for us to work with several species of reptiles and amphibians, including Red-eyed Tree frogs, Eyelash Vipers, Hog-nosed Pitviper, Jumping Pitviper, Green Vine Snakes and more.

In the afternoon we visit La Peninsula Road for Rufous, Broad-billed and the rarer Keel-billed Motmots. After we'll dinner explore



Long-billed Hermit

the hotel grounds for Black-and-White Owl and other possible nocturnal bird species as well as abundant reptiles and amphibians.

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Lodging at Arenal Observatory Lodge or similar*

Day 5, Drive to Boca Tapada, photography at bird feeders:

Before breakfast we'll have more time on the deck and around the hotel gardens. We'll depart mid-morning for our next destination in the northern lowlands.

After lunch we'll enjoy the deck and fruit feeders for some of the best nature photography in the neo-tropics! The list of possibilities includes Shining, Red-legged and Green Honeycreepers, Brown-hooded, White-crowned and Orange-chinned Parakeets, Yellow-throated and Keel-billed Toucans, Collared Aracari just to mention a few of the tropical wow birds we can expect.

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Lodging at Maquenque Lodge*

Day 6, King Vulture and Macro Photography:

Before breakfast we'll enjoy the deck for more wonderful photography and around mid-morning head to photography blind to get ready for the unique experience of photographing the stunning King Vulture. In the afternoon we will have a macro session with frogs and snakes as well as spending more time at the bird feeders.

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Lodging at Maquenque Lodge*

Day 7, Cinchona area, hummingbirds flower setups:

After an early breakfast we'll drive to Cinchona area. Dazzling bird species such as Red-headed and Prong-billed Barbet, Silver-throated Tanager and Emerald Toucanet regularly visit the feeders here.

Hummingbirds are also a highlight here, including Green Thorn-tail, White-bellied Mountain-gem, Coppery-headed Emerald and more. We will have plenty of natural settings as well as flower set ups for hummingbird flight photography. In the afternoon we wrap up for our drive to Sarapiquí.

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Lodging at Selva Verde Lodge or similar*

Day 8, Bird photography at Cope Arte and drive to the highlands:

After breakfast we will drive to nearby Cope Arte, a private deck especially designed for bird photography with many species of hummingbirds, Oropendolas, Tanagers, Wood-Rails and more. If the group is interested in walking in the field we can hit the trails for photographs of the White-collared Manakin and Spectacled Owl.

After lunch we will start the drive to our last location in the highlands on our quest for endemics.

On the way if time allows we'll stop at El Tapir Garden to target some species of hummingbirds in their natural habitat, like the Snowcap and Black-crested Coquette.

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Lodging at Savegre Lodge*

Day 9, Resplendent Quetzals and highland endemics:

Our time this morning will be dedicated to maximizing photo opportunities of the world famous Resplendent Quetzal. After lunch we'll spend the afternoon at fruit feeders and around the lodge gardens which provide fantastic opportunities for Golden-browed Chlorophonia, Large-footed Finch, Yellow-thighed Finch, Spangle-cheeked Tanager, Sooty-capped Chlorospingus, Black-faced Solitaire, Black-billed Nightingale-Thrush, Sooty Thrush and Long-tailed Silky Flycatcher.

We will also be working with flower set ups and highland hummingbirds such as Lesser Violet-ear, White-throated Mountain-gem, Fairy-throated, Volcano, Scintillant and Talamanca Hummingbirds.

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Lodging at Savegre Lodge*

Day 10, Paramo and drive to International airport:

Morning will be spent birding and photographing around the grounds of the lodge. After breakfast we'll focus on the spectacular sweeping views of the Paramo for landscape photography and species, such as Volcano Junco, Slaty Flowerpiercer, Timberline Wren. We will then drive back to San Jose to catch our afternoon flight.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch



Eyelash Viper

Included in this Itinerary

In-country accommodations, ground transportation, tours, meals, soft drinks, guide and entrance fees.

Not Included

Personal items such as alcoholic beverages, gift shop, laundry, etc. are not included.

Travel Insurance

We highly recommend purchasing travel insurance. In the event that you need to cancel your trip due to medical or other reasons, this insurance will protect you.



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