

Resplendent Quetzal Tour

COSTA RICA

15 days and 14 nights



- 1: San Jose City
- 2: Northern Rainforest
- 3: Arenal Volcano Area
- 4: Caribbean Rainforest
- 5: Talamanca Highlands
- 6: Central Pacific.

RESUME OF ITINERARY

- Day 1.** Welcome to Costa Rica, San José City, Robledal Hotel.
- Day 2.** Caribbean Rainforest, Sarapiquí, La Selva OET.
- Day 3.** Caribbean Rainforest, Sarapiquí, La Selva OET.
- Day 4.** Northern Wetlands, Caño Negro, Hotel de Campo.
- Day 5.** Northern Wetlands, Caño Negro, Hotel de Campo.
- Day 6.** Arenal Volcano Area, La Fortuna, Arenal Observatory Lodge.
- Day 7.** Arenal Volcano Area, La Fortuna, Arenal Observatory Lodge.
- Day 8.** Tenorio Volcano Area, Bijagua, Celeste Mountain Lodge.
- Day 9.** Tenorio Volcano Area, Bijagua, Celeste Mountain Lodge.
- Day 10.** Talamanca Highlands, San Gerardo, Savegre Hotel & Natural Reserve.
- Day 11.** Talamanca Highlands, San Gerardo, Savegre Hotel & Natural Reserve.
- Day 12.** Central Pacific, Tárcoles, Villa Lapas Hotel.
- Day 13.** Central Pacific, Tárcoles, Villa Lapas Hotel.
- Day 14.** San José City, Robledal Hotel.
- Day 15.** Good Bye Costa Rica! Flight Back home.

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1. Welcome to Costa Rica. (Night at Robledal Hotel or similar)

Today we have all day for arrivals at Juan Santa Maria Intl. Airport, Costa Rica.

You will be welcome at the airport by a representative of the company with a sign with your names and then immediately we will start our drive to your first hotel in the city, near the airport but in a quiet and nice facility with the first tropical birds in the gardens.

Dinner is included in the hotel but lunch is not included (please consider in case flights arrive early).

Day 2-3. Caribbean Rainforest - (night in La Selva OET or similar)

This place is one of the best for birding in north of Costa Rica, absolutely spectacular Keel-billed and Yellow-throated Toucan, Collared Aracari, Orange-chinned Parakeet, Brown-hooded and White-crowned Parrot. Red-legged and Shinning Honeycreepers, Golden-hooded and Passerines Tanagers provide so much fun and the interactions of all these birds.

White-necked Jacobin, Rufous-tailed Hummingbird, Crowned Woodnymph, Long-billed Hermit and Scaly-breasted Hummingbird will be some of the targets. After that we will go back to the station to try to photograph the local Black-and-white Owl at night near the station.

Day 4-5. Northern Wetlands (night at Hotel de Campo Caño Negro or similar)

After the early morning at the local feeders, we will start our drive to the spectacular wetlands of Caño Negro. A unique system of wetlands in the far north that is maybe the best place in Central America to get all species of Kingfishers and other waterbirds. We will have lunch on the road and get to this stunning place stopping a few miles before our destination to birdwatch an open road that normally provides good chances for American Kestrel, Ruddy-breasted Seedeater, Nicaraguan Seed Finch and Red-breasted Blackbird.



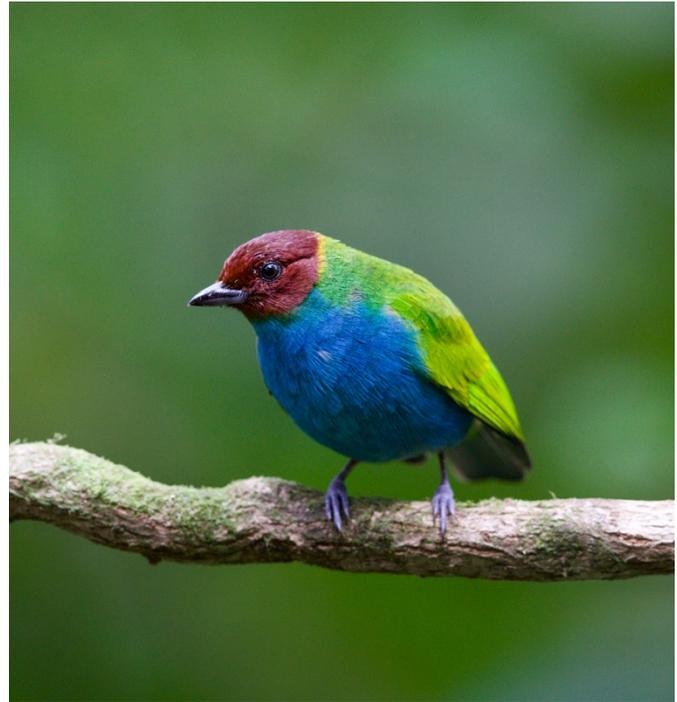
Early morning of next day we will do a boat ride to get water birds like Sungrebe, Black-collared Hawk, Snail Kite, Boat-billed Heron and even the elusive Agami Heron. This afternoon we will go to another wetland called Medio Queso to bird from the road looking for Pinnated Bittern and Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture among others. The Black-and-white Owl at night near the hotel.

Day 5-6. Area of the imposing Arenal Volcano! (Night at Arenal Observatory Lodge or similar)

We will drive to the area of Arenal Volcano. Then spent the whole afternoon at Bogarin, local feeder in town, that usually provides good looks at Montezuma Oropendola, Buff-throated Saltator, Red-legged Honeycreeper, Crimson-collared Tanager, Passerine's Tanager, Orange-chinned Parakeet and the specialty of this feeder is the normally secretive White-throated Crake and with some luck the Uniform Crake. Then we will drive to our hotel for dinner time.

Birding is extraordinary at our hotel plus the constant presence of Arenal Volcano will always give great scenery.

The following days early mornings starts with box breakfast and then we will spend the whole morning at La Peninsula Road, part of Arenal Volcano National Park looking for Long-tailed Tyrant, White-fronted Nunbird, Keel-billed Motmot, White Hawk, Dull-mantled Antbird, Great Antshrike, Rufous-winged Woodpecker among others. Honeycreeper, Crimson-collared Tanager,



Passerine's Tanager, Orange-chinned Parakeet among others. Late afternoon looking for Striped Owl close to the hotel and then dinner in a local restaurant.

Day 8-9. Tenorio Volcano Area (night at Celeste Mountain Lodge)

Birding before breakfast in hotel grounds and then drive to Rio Celeste Area, stopping to birdwatch at BirdSongs Garden, an small garden full with local Verbena flower and usually an excellent place for Black-crested Coquette, Violet-headed Hummingbird, Snowcap, Bronze-tailed Plumeleteer among others. Lunch in the hotel or on route (depending on time) and then to hotel for a short break and birding again in late afternoon around hotel and in the hotel trail.



Next day we will start either with a pack breakfast or with an early breakfast to head the whole morning to a reserve called Tapir Valley. An amazing super

pristine foothill rainforest with amazing species like Tody Motmot, **Bare-necked Umbrellabird**, Striped Woodhaunter, Northern Schiffornis, White-tipped Sicklebill, Rufous-winged Tanager (a true specialty of this area), Purplish-backed Quail-dove and many others. Not to mention this is also one of the best places in the country for good close-up views of male Snowcap.

In the afternoon we will decide if we visit Tapir Valley again or we go to the reserve of the hotel in where we have fair chances for the super rarity Black-eared Wood-quail maybe the rarest wood-quail in Costa Rica.

Day 10-11. The mystic highlands of Talamanca (Night at Savegre Hotel & Natural Reserve or similar)

Arrive at lunch in our next hotel and then spend time at the hummingbird feeders to shot with the beautiful natural light the amazing Fiery-throated Hummingbird. Also walk in garden to look for other species like Golden-browed Chlorophonia, Black-thighed Grosbeak, Large-footed Finch, Yellow-thighed Finch, Slaty Flowerpiercer, Spangle-cheeked Tanager, Sooty-capped Bush-Tanager, Sulfur-winged Parakeet, White-throated Mountain-Gem, Black-faced Solitaire, Black-billed Nightingale-Thrush, Sooty Thrush and Long-tailed Silky Flycatcher.

Bare-shanked Screech-Owl and Dusky Nightjar will be some of the nice endemics we will have good chances to photograph on a night hike.

Early morning looking for a good photograph opportunity of the world-famous Resplendent Quetzal at a given site where it has been feeding lately. We will get to this feeding site in early morning and wait here for a few hours until the bird gives us the perfect angle and picture.

We will have lunch at the hotel and spend the afternoon in the hotel gardens and at a private deck for multiframe photography getting stunning pictures of the endemic Fiery-throated Hummingbird, Volcano Hummingbird, Magnificent Hummingbird and Lesser Violetear. When not in the multiframe other participants can always walk in the hotel gardens that normally provide a fantastic opportunity for birding and photography.

Day 12-13. Central Pacific (Night at Villa Lapas or similar)

A second try for the Resplendent Quetzal and after a nice breakfast we will head to the birding destination in the Pacific lowlands (or get some more photos in the highlands if still need it). We will stop for lunch on route and then continue to our hotel. We will spend the afternoon locally in vicinity of the hotel looking for the elusive Scarlet Macaw! Also, around the same area Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl, Pearl Kite, **Fiery-billed Aracari** and Yellow-napped, White-fronted and Orange-fronted Parrots are possible; the Pacific Screech-Owl and Black and White Owl should give us good photo opportunities at night too.



This morning we will start early with a very productive photo safari by boat in the mangroves of Tárcoles river and hopefully get **Roseate Spoonbill**, Wood Stork, 3 species of Kingfishers Mangrove Vireo, Common Black Hawk, Yellow-headed Caracara and with some luck a Mangrove Hummingbird.

Day 14. Departure to Costa Rica. (Night at Robledal Hotel)

You will stay in this hotel during the last night so that you can rest from the wonderful tour, you will enjoy a nice dinner and the next day, after having breakfast, you will start your journey back home.

Day 15. Departure flight.

After a delicious breakfast we will head to the airport to catch our planes back home on time.

PACKAGE INCLUDES

- 15 days in Costa Rica – 14 nights lodging.
- Transportation on spacious bus.
- Fuel of the bus included through the trip.
- Specialized guide with Spotting Scope, Portable speaker + Ipod with Costa Rican bird calls to play-back calls of a bird if necessary and a laser pointer to help locate birds in the field.
- Accommodation in all hotels.
- All times meals starting on day one lunch and ends of day 15 breakfast.
- Entrance fees to:
 - Quetzal Photography Tour in highlands of Costa Rica.
 - Private deck for multiple flash photography in highlands.
 - One boat tour in Tárcoles river.
 - CopeArte Tour.
 - Tapir Valley.
 - Carara National Park.



Resplendent Quetzal using an artificial nest

BOOKING POLICIES AND ADDITIONAL NOTES

- *Please confirm the acceptance of the price and brief itinerary eight (8) days after the email is sent. Please reply with the number of rooms you want us to block at hotels.*
- *A first payment of \$5000 (for groups) or 10% for individual travelers will be required for booking spaces at the hotels.*
- *After the payment confirmation we will start with the bookings at each place. An invoice will be remitted by Lifer Nature Tours with the first payment and balance.*
- *Lifer Nature Tours will do all possible to find space at each location or lodge listed. If the rooms are not available we will move to the next available choice in the same quality category in the area and will communicate any changes as soon as possible with you.*
- *Deadline: Ninety (90) days before arrival (three months) a written confirmation of the sales at the moment will be required as well the balance of the total value of the booking required.*
- *If an increase in the number of rooms (pre-booked or booked) is required at any moment it can be done but it will depend on the current availability at hotels.*
- *If you have a partial or complete cancellation of the trip before 90 days an administrative fee of \$50 per tour participant will be taken. All attempts to recover deposits will be made by Lifer Nature Tours. But please consider these refunds will depend on individual hotel policies.*
- *If you have a partial or complete cancellation of the trip between 60 to 30 days an administrative fee of \$100 per tour participant will be taken. All attempts to recover deposits will be made by Lifer Nature Tours. But please consider these refunds will depend on individual hotel policies.*
- *Less than 30 days prior to arrival all monies will be forfeited. No refunds will be made if you leave the trip for any reason, whether voluntary or involuntary. No refunds will be made for services not utilized.*
- *All confirmations, acceptances or cancellations should be sent to sharpbill@lifertours.com and please add a copy to birdingcostarica@gmail.com*