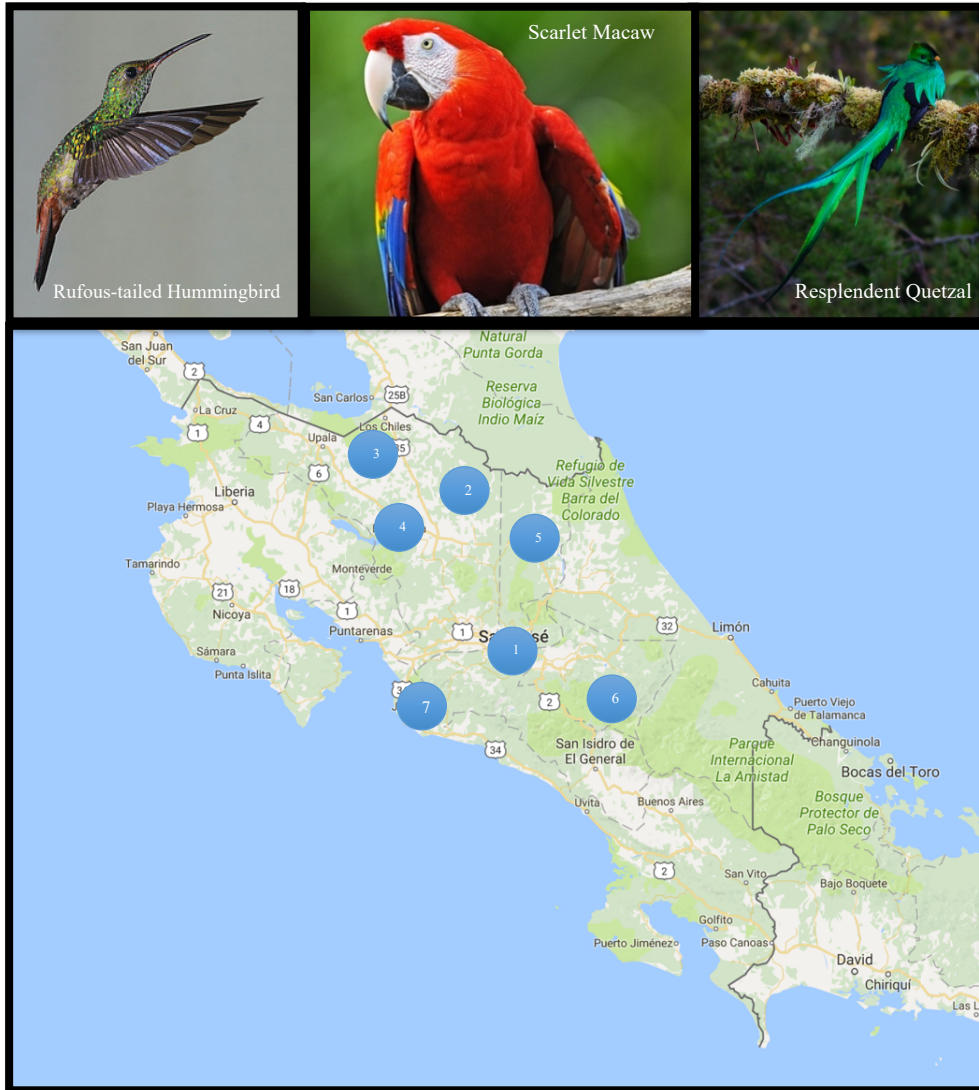


Essential Bird Photography Tour

COSTA RICA

15 days and 14 nights



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|-------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1: San Jose City | 2: Northern Rainforest | 3: Arenal Volcano Area | 4: Northern Wetlands | 5: Caribbean Foothills | 6: Talamanca Highlands | 7: Central Pacific. |
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RESUME OF ITINERARY

- Day 1.** *Welcome to Costa Rica, San José City, Robledal Hotel.*
- Day 2.** *Northern Rainforest, Laguna del Lagarto Lodge.*
- Day 3.** *Northern Rainforest, Laguna del Lagarto Lodge.*
- Day 4.** *Arenal Volcano Area, Arenal Observatory Lodge.*
- Day 5.** *Arenal Volcano Area, Arenal Observatory Lodge.*
- Day 6.** *Northern Wetlands, Hotel de Campo Caño Negro.*
- Day 7.** *Northern Wetlands, Hotel de Campo Caño Negro.*
- Day 8.** *Caribbean Foothills, Bosque de Paz.*
- Day 9.** *Caribbean Foothills, Bosque de Paz.*
- Day 10.** *Talamanca Highlands, Savegre Hotel & Natural Reserve.*
- Day 11.** *Talamanca Highlands, Savegre Hotel & Natural Reserve.*
- Day 12.** *Central Pacific, Villa Lapas Jungle Village.*
- Day 13.** *Central Pacific, Villa Lapas Jungle Village.*
- Day 14.** *San José City, Robledal Hotel.*
- Day 15.** *Good Bye Costa Rica! Flight Back home.*

DETAILED ITINERARY

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

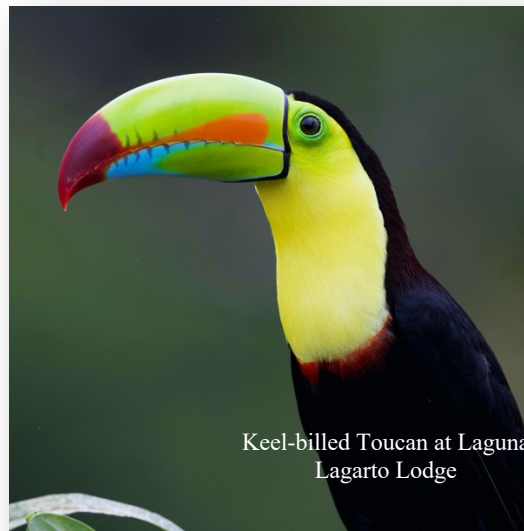
Today we have all day for arrivals at Juan Santa Maria Intl. Airport, Costa Rica. You will be welcome at the airport by a representative of the company with a sign with your names and then immediately we will start our drive to your first hotel in the city, near the airport but in a quiet and nice facility 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. Northern Rainforest. Caribbean lowlands (night in Laguna del Lagarto Lodge or similar)

Your bird guide will be at the hotel in San Jose to start the trip once you finish your breakfast at 7:30am. Immediately you will start the drive to your next destination and arrive at lunch time and spend the rest of the afternoon in the gardens of the hotel, Keel-billed and Yellow-throated toucans, Collared Aracari, Orange-chinned Parakeet, Brown-hooded and White-crowned Parrot are quite common at the deck of the restaurant. Even King Vulture is relatively regular from this deck.

This hotel offers maybe the most exciting birding of all Caribbean of Costa Rica with birds as rare as Tawny-faced Quail, Black-and-white Hawk-Eagle and Gray-bellied Hawk.



Keel-billed Toucan at Laguna
Lagarto Lodge

We will walk on trails of the hotel looking for Black-capped Pygmy Tyrant, Great Curassow, Ornate Hawk Eagle, Pied Puffbird, White-fronted Nunbird, Ocellated Antbird, Collared and Barred Forest-Falcons, Cinnamon and Chestnut-colored Woodpeckers and Central American Pygmy Owl. Great Green Macaw is likely to be a common sighting in this location. Lunch will be at 12:30pm.

We will use canoes to explore the natural lagoons nearby to look for Rufescent Tiger-Heron, Sungrebe and Sunbittern.

We will be back to the hotel around 5:30pm and at night we will try for Middle American Screech Owl, Black-and-white, Crested and Spectacled owls as well. Dinner and checklist after the owls around 7:30pm.

Day 4-5. Area of the imposing Arenal Volcano! (Night at Arenal Observatory Lodge or similar)

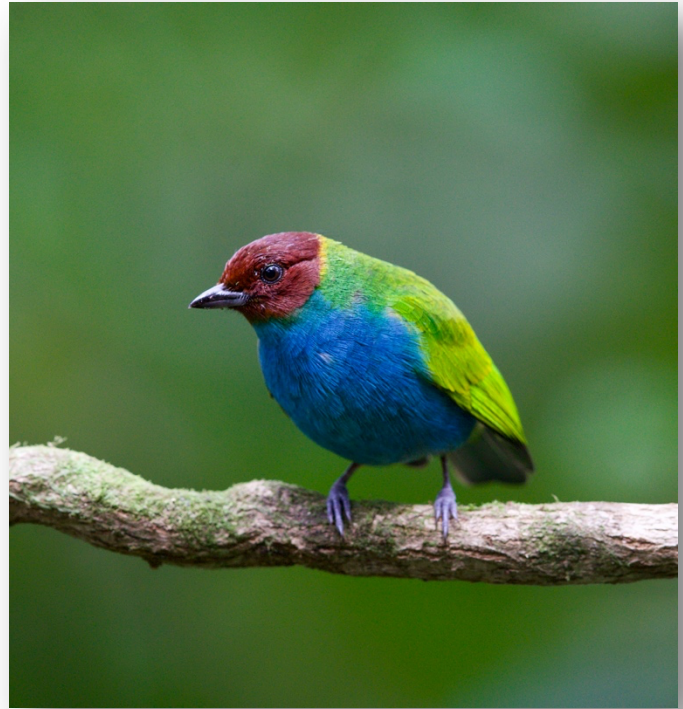
We will drive to the area of Arenal Volcano. Then spent the whole afternoon at Bogarín, local feeder in town, that usually provides good looks at Montezuma Oropendola, Buff-throated Saltator, Red-legged Honeycreeper, Crimson-collared Tanager, Passerine's Tanager, Orange-chinned Parakeet and the specialty 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 day early morning 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 6-7. Northern wetlands (night at Hotel de Campo or similar)

Early morning on a boat tour to get water birds like Sungrebe, Black-collared Hawk, Snail Kite, Boat-billed Heron, the elusive Agami Heron and Ringed, Green and American Pygmy kingfishers and with some luck even the rarer Green-and-rufous Kingfisher is also possible. Not to mention the incredibly high numbers of Bare-throated Tiger-heron, Anhinga, Neotropic Cormorants, Great, Great Blue, Tricolored and Snowy egrets, White, Green and Glossy ibises, among many other waterbirds. Then we will have lunch at the hotel and this same afternoon we can do a second boat tour in Medio Queso wetland.

This spectacular system of wetlands is located about 1 hour drive from our hotel and is completely different in terms of bird composition showing more open areas and native rice everywhere. Making it the best place for Nicaraguan Grackle, Pinnated Bittern, Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture, White-throated Flycatcher, Jabiru, Least Bittern, Yellow-breasted Crake among other nice and complicated species.



We will drive back to the hotel in late afternoon, on time to look for owls and enjoy the Great Potoo that usually perch near ground level on the roadside.

Day 8-9. Caribbean Foothills (Night at Bosque de Paz or similar)

Early birding from 6am to 7am and the breakfast. We will do a quick stop for packing and then departure to Bosque de Paz to arrive at this new hotel around lunch time, this is an excellent cloud forest site with some of the best hummingbird feeders of the country. We will get to the lodge and rest after the long drive then spend some time at the grounds of the hotel. Specially the hummingbird feeders.

The next day, full morning at hotel's gardens for hummingbirds, guans and sparrows that get to the lodge. Violet Sabrewing, Green-crowned Brilliant, Green Hermit, Black-bellied Hummingbird, Magenta-throated Woodstar among others are regular at these nectar feeders.

After breakfast at 7am we will do a longer walk to look for Collared Trogon, White-naped Brush-finch, Bicolored Hawk, Great Black Hawk, Chiriqui and Buff-fronted Quail Doves among others. At night the corn feeders are taken by Pacas: a type of big and spotted endangered rodent.

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 Jungle Village 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.



Roseate Spoonbill at the boat safari

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. San José City. (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 the breakfast a representative of our company will drive you to the airport to catch your flights 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:
 - One entrance to Adolfo's House hummingbird feeder at Laguna Lagarto.
 - One private use of a hide to photograph King Vulture.
 - One morning of private deck for bird photos at Laguna Lagarto.
 - One entrance to Quetzal Photography Tour in highlands of Costa Rica.
 - One boat tour in Tárcoles river.
 - One entrance to Carara National Park.
 - One Caño Negro Boat Tour.
 - One Medio Queso Boat Tour.
 - One entrance to Bogarín Trails.
 - One entrance to Batsú Feeders.



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*