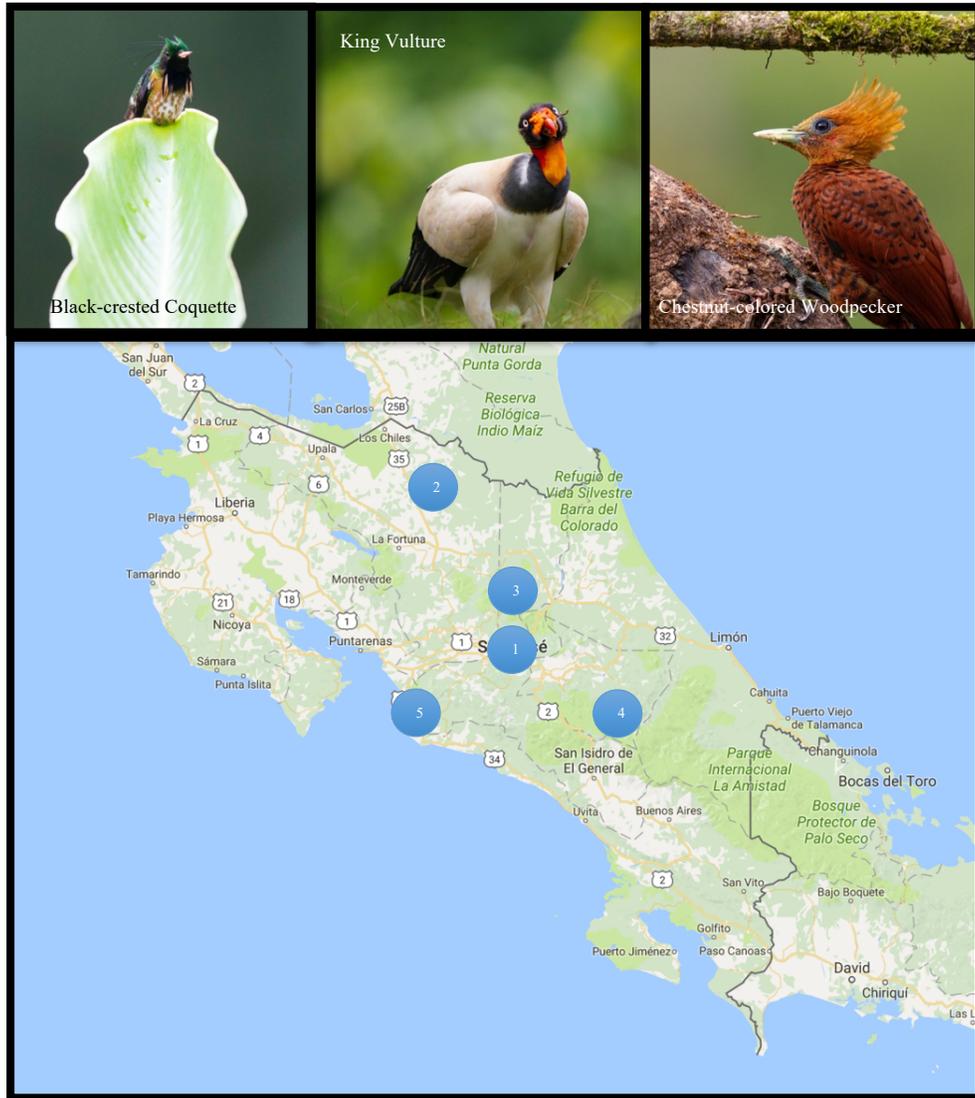


# King Vulture Tour

COSTA RICA

10 days and 9 nights



1: San Jose City

2: Northern Rainforest

3: Caribbean Foothills

4: Talamanca Highlands

5: Central Pacific

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## RESUME OF ITINERARY

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- 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.** *Caribbean Foothills, Bosque de Paz.*
- Day 5.** *Caribbean Foothills, Bosque de Paz.*
- Day 6.** *Talamanca Highlands, Savegre.*
- Day 7.** *Talamanca Highlands, Savegre.*
- Day 8.** *Central Pacific, Villa Lapas Jungle Village.*
- Day 9.** *San José City, Robledal Hotel.*
- Day 10.** *Good Bye Costa Rica! Flight Back home.*

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## *DETAILED ITINERARY*

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**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).

This location offers a convenient access to the airport and good birds in the grounds like Ferruginous Pygmy Owl, Spot-breasted Oriole, Rufous-naped Wren, Pacific Screech-Owl, Cinnamon Hummingbird among others. If you arrive early you can bird with Juan Diego in a surrounding area near the hotel called "Paz University Road" looking for Striped Cuckoo, Fiery-billed Aracari, Yellow-naped Parrot, Crimson-fronted Parakeet, **Blue-vented Hummingbird**, Plain-capped Starthroat among others.

Dinner in the hotel included, it will be around 6:30pm.

### ***Day 2-3 Northern Rainforest (night in Laguna del Lagarto Lodge or similar)***

Your bird guide will be at the hotel of your preference 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 Toucan, 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.

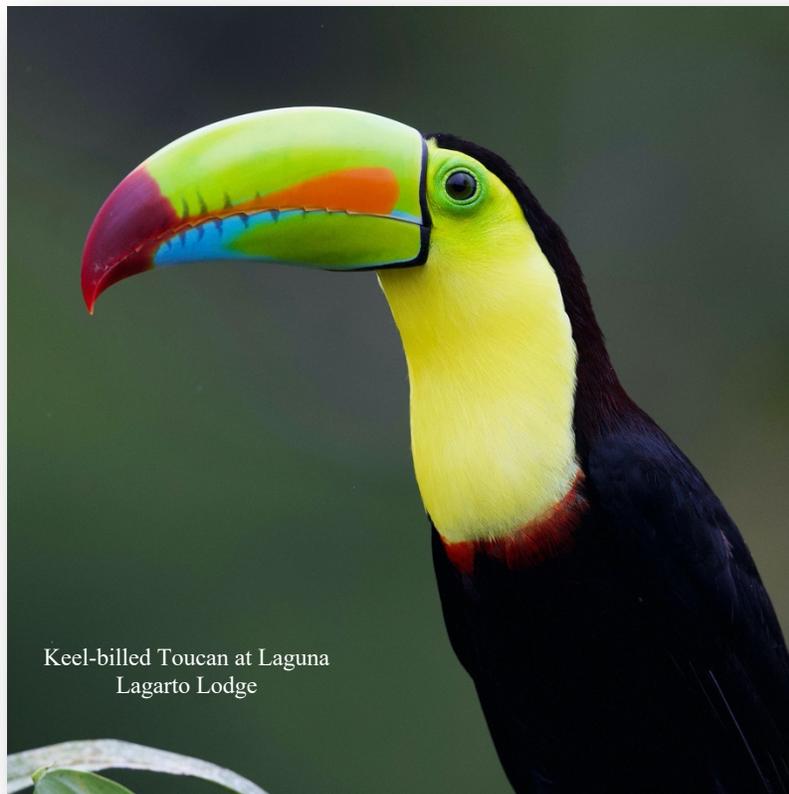
We will walk on trails of the hotel looking for Black-capped Pygmy Tyrant, Great Curassow, Ornate Hawk Eagle, Pied Puffbird, White-fronted Nunbird, Ocellated Antbird, Collared and Barred Forest-Falcons, Cinnamon and Chestnut-colored

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. Bosque de Paz- Cloudforest –The hummingbirds galore! (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-thorated 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.



We will have a full day at hotel's gardens photographing hummingbirds with multiple-flash technique. While some members use the multiframe setups others can shot the numerous guans, tanagers and sparrows that visit the lodge feeders.

Black Guans and White-naped Brush-finch are abundant at the corn feeders and even sometimes Chiriqui Quail Dove gets here. At night the corn feeders are taken by Pacas (a type of big and spotted endangered rodent) and we will try to get shots of it too!

***Day 6-7. The mystic highlands of Talamanca (Night at Paraiso del Quetzal Lodge 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 8. 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.

This morning we will start early with a very productive photo safari by boat in the mangroves of Tarcoles 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. Later in the morning (or maybe in the afternoon) we will invest some time exploring the entrance road of the hotel looking for the elusive Fiery-billed Aracari and Keel-billed Toucan; also, Slaty-tailed, Black-throated and Gartered Trogons. Rufous-tailed Jacamar and White-whiskered Puffbird inhabit this roadside forest too. Scarlet Macaw will be a major target all the time we spend in Central Pacific and the photographic opportunities are usually numerous.

Arrive in late afternoon at our hotel to try for Spectacled Owl near our rooms.

### **Day 10. Departure flight.**

After the breakfast we will head to the airport to catch our planes back home on time. Depending on flight schedule we might stop along the way back to San Jose for more photos of species of dry forest before arriving to the airport.



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## PACKAGE INCLUDES

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- 10 days in Costa Rica – 9 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 10 breakfast.
- Entrance fees to:
  - Adolfo's House hummingbird feeder at Laguna Lagarto
  - Private use of a hide to photograph King Vulture.
  - One morning of private deck for bird photos at Laguna Lagarto
  - Quetzal Photography Tour in highlands of Costa Rica.
  - Private deck for multiple flash photography in highlands.
  - One boat tour in Tárcoles river.



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## BOOKING POLICIES AND ADDITIONAL NOTES

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- *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](mailto:sharpbill@lifertours.com) and please add a copy to [birdingcostarica@gmail.com](mailto:birdingcostarica@gmail.com)*