

NORTHERN COSTA RICA BIRDING TOUR

"THE QUEST FOR ENDANGERED SPECIES"

DATES TBD

Although Costa Rica is a relatively small country, it lies within a bird-rich neotropical region, boasting an extraordinary number of bird species for its size. To date, 936 bird species have been recorded in Costa Rica, including 7 endemic species and 20 globally threatened species. With an area of only 51,100 km²—smaller than the state of West Virginia—Costa Rica holds the highest density of bird species of any continental American country, making it a true paradise for bird enthusiasts and nature lovers alike. This remarkable biodiversity is a testament to the country's diverse ecosystems, ranging from cloud forests and rainforests to coastal wetlands and high-altitude paramo regions.



GREAT GREEN MACAW

MARIO CORDOBA ©

Crescentia Expeditions, invites you on an exciting fundraising birding trip to explore Northern Costa Rica's rich avian diversity. Witness spectacular birds, breathtaking landscapes, and immerse yourself in the vibrant culture and history of this beautiful country. Additionally your participation supports two local conservation groups. Join us for an unforgettable journey that promises discovery and learning about the intricate ecosystems and vibrant communities that make Costa Rica a paradise for nature enthusiasts.

ITINERARY

Day 1: DATE - Heredia

Upon arrival at Juan Santamaría International Airport (SJO), participants will collect their luggage and clear customs. Our driver, identifiable by a XXXX sign, will then transfer you to the hotel, a 30-minute drive away. The first accommodation is Hotel Bougainvillea, a botanical garden paradise renowned for its exquisite gardens that attract a variety of bird species, including Lesson's Motmot, Blue-and-White Swallow, Rufous-naped Wren, and White-eared Ground-Sparrow. In the evening, we will convene for an orientation meeting followed by a welcome dinner.

Overnight Hotel Bougainvillea - D

Day 2: DATE - Sarapiquí

Sarapiquí Region After a hearty breakfast, we will embark on our journey to the Sarapiquí Region, nestled in the northeastern Caribbean lowlands. En route, we'll visit the Nectar & Pollen Garden, a charming private reserve. This hidden gem is a haven for specialties such as the dazzling Snowcap, the vibrant Emerald Tanager, and the striking Rufous Motmot. Following a delightful lunch at a local restaurant, we will continue to our destination, arriving at Selva Verde Lodge in the afternoon. This lodge, situated in the heart of a tropical rainforest, offers an unparalleled experience for birding enthusiasts. The grounds are teeming with species such as Collared Aracari, White-collared Manakin, and Red-throated Ant-Tanager. Dinner will be at the lodge.

Overnight at Selva Verde Lodge. (BLD)

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Day 3: DATE -Sarapiquí

Today, we dedicate a full day to birding at La Selva Biological Station, one of the world's most renowned tropical research facilities. This station has been at the forefront of tropical ecology and biodiversity research for decades. We will explore the road, grounds, and trails in search of the highly endangered Great Green Macaw, as well as other notable species like Snowy Cotinga, Rufous Motmot, Pied Puffbird, Great Curassow, Chestnut-colored Woodpecker, Fasciated Antshrike, and Plain-colored Tanager. The ecological significance of La Selva cannot be overstated, as it plays a critical role in understanding and preserving tropical ecosystems. We will return to the lodge for dinner, reflecting on the day's findings.

Overnight at Selva Verde Lodge. (BLD)



Day 4: DATE - Caño Negro

Our adventure continues with an early morning departure for the Caño Negro area. Along the way, we will visit the Medio Queso wetlands, an essential marshland that harbors rare species like Pinnated Bittern, Yellow-breasted Crake, and Nicaraguan Seed-Finch. As we proceed towards our lodge, we'll keep an eye out for other local specialties such as Red-breasted Meadowlark and Harris's Hawk. Nestled in a lush natural setting, Caño Negro Natural Lodge offers a serene environment perfect for unwinding after a day of birding.

Overnight at Caño Negro Natural Lodge. (BLD)

Caño Negro Wildlife Refuge, a Ramsar site in northern Costa Rica, is a crucial sanctuary for resident and migratory birds. It supports eco-tourism, providing sustainable income for locals, and fosters environmental education and conservation awareness. This refuge enhances local ecosystems' resilience, benefiting the community's overall well-being.



Day 5: DATE - Caño Negro

Today, we will dedicate our time to birding along the Río Frío and within the Caño Negro Wildlife Refuge, a designated Ramsar site recognized for its critical wetland ecosystem. These wetlands play a vital role as feeding grounds for both resident and migratory bird species. Key species we aim to spot include Nicaraguan Grackle, Spot-breasted Wren, Green-and-Rufous Kingfisher, Black-collared Hawk, Gray-headed Dove, Olivaceous Piculet, and the endangered Jabiru. Despite its rarity, the Jabiru is regularly reported in this area, adding an element of excitement to our exploration. The refuge's importance extends beyond birding, contributing significantly to global conservation efforts. We'll gather before dinner to review the day's list of species.

Overnight at Caño Negro Natural Lodge,

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TURQUOISE-BROWED MOTMOT



Day 6: DATE - Bijagua

After breakfast, we will set off for Bijagua, a charming town situated near the continental divide between the Tenorio and Miravalles volcanoes. The drive will provide picturesque views of the lush countryside and volcanic scenery. Upon arrival at Heliconias Lodge, we will have the opportunity to explore the beautifully maintained gardens and extensive network of trails. These trails wind through primary and secondary forests, providing ample opportunities to encounter an array of bird species. We hope to spot the stunning Black-crested Coquette, Collared Aracari, Crimson-collared Tanager, and the distinctive Slate-colored Grosbeak. Heliconias Lodge is renowned for its commitment to environmental sustainability and its efforts in conserving the local biodiversity. The lodge integrates eco-friendly practices to ensure a minimal impact on the surrounding environment while promoting conservation education among its guests.

Overnight at Heliconias Lodge. (BLD)

Day 7: DATE - Bijagua

We'll start the day with an early walk along the forest trails within the lodge's private reserve. Later in the morning, we'll visit Tapir Valley, a local reserve dedicated to protecting forest tracts and marshland habitats. Tapir Valley is not only a sanctuary for its namesake tapirs but also a critical refuge for numerous bird species and other wildlife. The pristine landscapes of this reserve offer an excellent chance to find sought-after species such as Tody Motmot, Snowcap, and Black-eared Wood-Quail. Our exploration will continue across various locations in the Caribbean Foothills, aiming to spot Yellow-eared Toucanet, Rufous-winged Tanager, Lattice-tailed Trogon, and more. The diverse habitats of this region make it a birding hotspot, and Tapir Valley's conservation efforts are integral to maintaining the area's rich biodiversity.

Overnight at Heliconias Lodge. (BLD)

Mangroves in Costa Rica are vital coastal ecosystems that serve as crucial habitats for a wide variety of wildlife, including numerous bird species, fish, and crustaceans. These unique forests, found mainly along the country's Pacific, play a significant role in coastal protection, reducing erosion and shielding inland areas from storm surges. Mangroves also act as nurseries for many marine species, contributing to the overall health and biodiversity of coastal environments.

PACIFIC MANGROVES



Day 8: DATE - Monteverde

After breakfast, we will drive towards the North Pacific area. Our journey includes a visit to the Lomas de Barbudal Biological Reserve, where we will explore dry and gallery forests. This reserve is known for its rich biodiversity and is home to species such as Long-tailed Manakin, Elegant Trogon, and Blue-vented Hummingbird. In the afternoon, we will arrive at our lodge, where we will explore the surroundings, at the hotel grounds we look for Lesson's Motmot, White-eared Ground Sparrow and Black-breasted Wood-Quail.

Overnight at Hotel Montaña Monteverde. (BLD)

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Day 9: DATE - Monteverde

Monteverde, renowned for its enchanting cloud forests, is the focus of our exploration today. This region is celebrated not only for its unique ecosystems but also for its rich history of conservation. In the 1950s, a group of Quakers from Alabama settled in Monteverde, drawn by Costa Rica's peaceful nature. Their vision included preserving the cloud forests, leading to the establishment of several private nature reserves that continue to protect these critical habitats today.

We will explore multiple private reserves in the area, each known for their dedicated conservation efforts. Among the highlights we hope to see are the Resplendent Quetzal, with its vibrant plumage; the elusive Costa Rica Warbler; Azure-hooded Jay; and, from March to July, the Three-wattled Bellbird, known for its distinctive call.

These cloud forests are not only a haven for wildlife but also play a crucial role in water conservation, capturing moisture from the air and sustaining rivers and streams in the region. The conservation efforts in Monteverde are a testament to the community's commitment to preserving these invaluable ecosystems for future generations.

Overnight at Hotel Montaña Monteverde. (BLD)

Day 10: DATE - Alajuela After breakfast, we will journey to the Central Pacific lowlands. In the late morning, we'll enjoy a boat ride on the Tarcoles River. This tour will emphasize the mangrove forest areas, river mouth, and mudflats, where we hope to spot species such as the endemic Mangrove Hummingbird, Panama Flycatcher, Mangrove Vireo, Collared Plover, Roseate Spoonbill, and Scarlet Macaw. The mangrove ecosystems are vital for coastal biodiversity and act as nurseries for many marine species.

In the afternoon, we will drive to the Central Valley.

At our hotel, we will gather for a final review and farewell dinner, celebrating the incredible experiences and sightings from our trip.

Overnight Hotel Robledal - BLD -

Day 11: DATE

Participants will be transferred to the international airport for their departing flights. This concludes the birding tour, leaving participants with enriched knowledge and unforgettable memories of Costa Rica's avian diversity and natural beauty.



RESPLENDENT QUETZAL

The Central Valley of Costa Rica is a vibrant region that is home to a rich variety of bird species. This area's diverse habitats, ranging from urban gardens and agricultural lands to montane forests, attract a plethora of birdlife. Notable species include the Lesson's Motmot, Clay-colored Thrush (Costa Rica's national bird), Rufous-tailed Hummingbird, and more. Birders can also spot several species of tanagers, warblers, and orioles, making the Central Valley a prime spot for both resident and migratory birds.



CLAY-COLORED THRUSH

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Included in the program:

- Professional Naturalist & Birding Guide services throughout the program.
- Coach transportation throughout the program
- All meals indicated with B (Breakfast), L (lunch) and D (Dinner)
- All lodging in standard double occupancy (single supplement available at extra cost).
- All entrance fees and excursions.
- Updated Costa Rica's Bird & Wildlife Check-list.
- Purified Water.

Not included in the program:

- Airline ticket - Travel insurance - Alcoholic beverages - Personal expenses

PRICE PER PERSON
DOUBLE \$----
SINGLE \$---

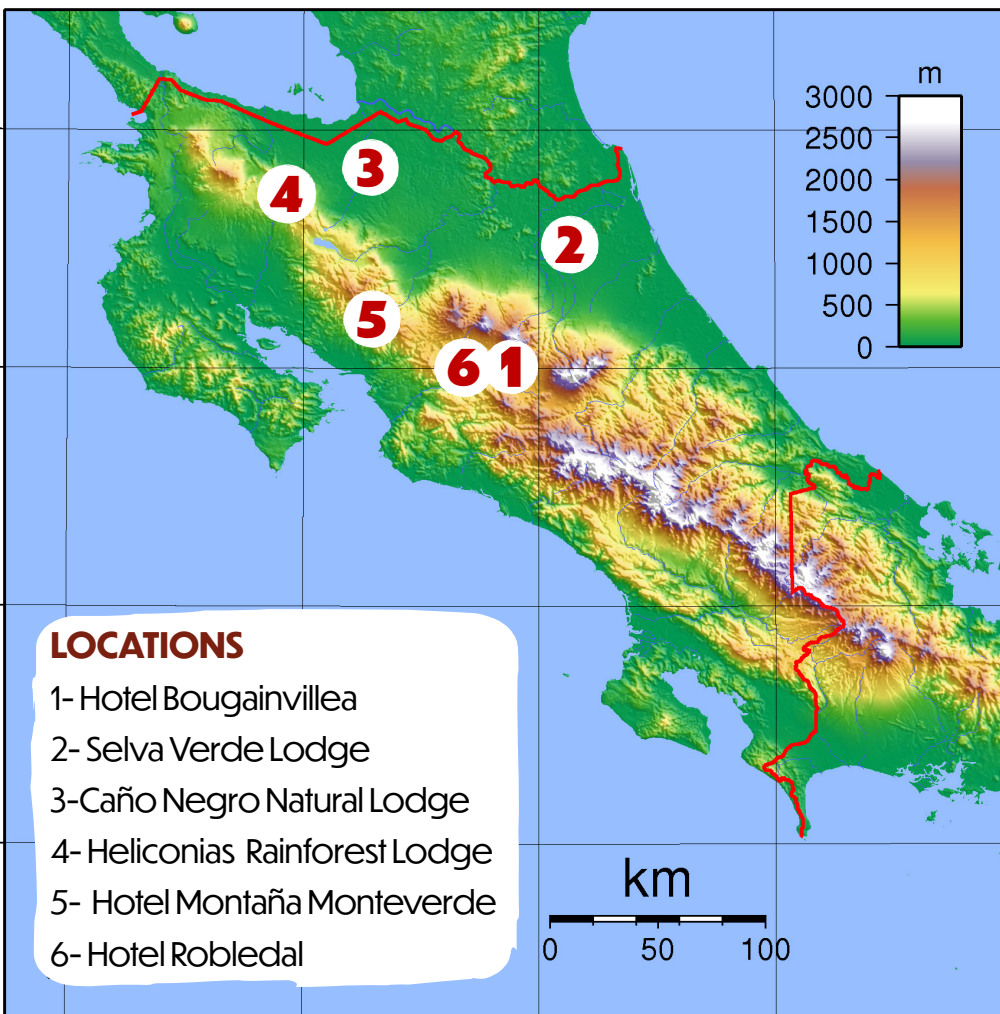
GROUP SIZE:
-- BIRDERS

DATES:

202-

FOR REGISTRATION & INFO PLEASE CONTACT US:

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 **Crescentia
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Costa Rica

CUSTOMIZED NATURAL HISTORY, EDUCATIONAL & BIRDING TOURS