



Living the adventure together.

Wild Costa Rica Birding Expeditions

Feathers, fur, scales and more through the eyes of a Naturalist



Despite being a small country, Costa Rica has an exceptionally high diversity of birds with more than 5% world biodiversity, there are 920 identified species, 469 species of reptiles and amphibians and about 249 species of mammals. Costa Rica stands out among countries as having one of the highest species richness per area.

We love Nature and are pleased to offer you this life experience on a naturalist adventure in Costa Rica with **Nigel Marven & Johan Fernández**.



Wings Over Costa Rica with Nigel Marven 13 days

Discover the country's nature wonders on a natural history expedition, from the central highlands to the coastal jungle. Immersed in the misty cloud forest or navigating on a river boat safari, enjoy the magic of the wildlife. Nature is calling you to Costa Rica, Come and meet Nigel Marven and discover the secrets of tropical forest through his eyes.



Wings Over Costa Rica with Nigel Marven

Itinerary 13 days

- April 23rd -Day 1: San José. Capital of Costa Rica. Arrival day at International airport Juan Santamaria.
- April 24th -Day 2: Rancho Naturalista. Great ecolodge with Snowcap, Violet Sabrewing, Black-crested coquette.
- April 25th -Day 3: Rancho Naturalista. Regional endemic Tawny-chested Flycatcher, Sunbittern.
- April 26th -Day 4: Sarapiquí. Caribbean Rain Forest. Great Green Macaw, Rufous Motmot, Keel-billed Toucan.
- April 27th -Day 5: Sarapiquí. La Selva Biological Station. Trogons, Tanagers and Tinamous.
- April 28th -Day 6: Abangaritos, North Pacific Dry Forest, La Ensenda lodge. Visit to **Rain-Forest Aerial Tram**.
- April 29th -Day 7: Abangaritos, North Pacific Dry Forest, La Ensenada Lodge. White throated Magpie-jay,
- April 30th -Day 8: Abangaritos, North Pacific Dry Forest. La Ensenda Lodge. **Boat tour at Nicoya Penninsula.**
- May 01st -Day 9: Carara. Central Pacific. Emblematic Scarlet Macaw, Manakins and Antbirds.
- May 02nd -Day 10: Carara. River **Boat tour at Tarcoles**. Crocodiles, Spoonbills, Kingfishers.
- May 03rd -Day 11: San Gerardo de Dota. Most beautiful bird in the world Resplendent Quetzal.
- May 04th -Day 12: San Gerardo de Dota. Hummingbirds, Warblers and lots of near-endemics
- May 05th -Day 13: Depart to San Jose. Hotel Bouganvillea.

Detailed Itinerary

Day 1- Arrival to San Jose. Costa Rica. Hotel del Bougavillea

At your arrival, your guide will be waiting for you to take you to comfortable and convenient location hotel. Rest after the long trip, then welcome meeting and introduccion to Birds of Costa Rica by Nigel then dinner.

Lodging at Hotel Bouganvillea.

Day 2- Rancho Naturalista.

Early breakfast then departs to Turrialba at Rancho Naturalista, this is one of the nicest ecolodges for birders in Costa Rica, we will stop at Ujarrás and Paraíso, looking for Cabanis 's Ground Sparrow, searching in coffee plantation we could get a cup of organic coffee. An interesting traveling day with spectacular views. Once in Rancho we will enjoy the hummingbirds feeding stations and if we get lucky our Snowcap.

Lodging at Rancho Naturalista.

Day 3- Rancho Naturalista.

All day birding at Rancho trails, starting with the moth lights, where some flycatchers take advance and get their first snack, so Tawny-chested flycatcher, Rufous-motmot, White-breasted wood-wren, and a nice collection of Woodcreepers and Antbirds give us a show. Then trails and birding by the road of el silencio valley.

Lodging at Rancho Naturalista

Day 4- Sarapiquí. Caribbean Rain Forest.

Early breakfast then depart to Sarapiquí. This is an interesting traveling day with spectacular views. Excursion in the rain forest, looking for White-tufted making bats, frogs, rooting Spectacled Owls, bird feeders at CopeArte, then birding at the vicinity of La Selva, this will be the best chance in our trip to get the endangered species Great-green Macaw, as well the near endemic Nicaraguan Seed-finch and Snowy Cotinga.

Lodging at Ara ambigua lodge.

Day 5- Sarapiquí. Caribbean Rain Forest.

All day birding at La Selva Biological Station and vicinity. La Selva offers to us a great number of trails with different micro-habitats, just to get outside the room is an amazing experience to hear the chorus of birds calling from the forest behind our cabins. Rufous-tailed Jacamar, Slaty-breasted Tinamou, Fasciated-Antshrike, Black-crowned Antshrike, Red-throated Ant-Tanager. Golden-hooded Tanager, Bay-headed tanager, Sunbittern, Montezuma Oropendula, Chestnut-backed Antbird, Howler and Capuchin monkeys.

Lodging at Ara ambigua lodge.

Day 6- Abangaritos. Northern Dry Forest

Early morning depart, tour at the **Rainforest Aerial Tram**, exploring the canopy of forest, great chances for Eyed-lash pit-vipers, Tapirs, Three-toed sloths, on the birds, good opportunity for Bare-necked Umbrella bird, Lattice-tailed Trogon, Sunbittern, Black-crested coquette. Then depart to the dry northwest, until reach the Nicoya Peninsula at La Ensenada.

Lodging at Ensenada Lodge

Day 7-Abangaritos. Northern Dry Forest

Full day birding at Ensenada. Most of the habitat within the reserve is patchy forest and cow pasture, which will produce most of the dry-forest species. Some species that can be found right around the grounds of the hotel are White-throated Magpie-Jay, Crested Bobwhite, and Cinnamon Hummingbird, Mangrove Swallows fly over the fields of the hotel, and Lesser Ground-Cuckoo can be heard calling from the dense forest edge. At night Common Pauraque, Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl, and Pacific Screech-Owl can be heard in the area.

Lodging at Ensenada Lodge.

Day 8-Abangaritos. Northern Dry Forest.

Early morning **Boat Tour** at the Nicoya Península and Colorado Mangroves, great time exploring the semi-pelagic birds, Terns, Gulls, Skimmers; in the Mangroves the Endemic Mangrove Hummingbird, and the elusive Rufous-necked Woodrail, Clapper Rail, Mangrove Cuckoo. Navigating in this habitat we will be able to observe the American Crocodiles or even a Mangrove boa, Howler Monkeys and White-faced capuchin can easily be found as well.

Lodging at Ensenada Lodge.

Day 9- Carara. Pacific lowlands

Early breakfast, then depart to Carara national park, this day is an interesting drive to the coast with some stops in the way to get Lesser-ground Cuckoo, Long-tailed Manakin, Olive sparrow, and more shorebirds like American- Oystercatcher, Black Skimmer, our sunset will get illuminated by flocks of Scarlet Macaws flying by.

Lodging at Hotel Villa Lapas

Day 10- Carara. Pacific lowlands

All day birding at Carara National Park area, the location marks the northernmost limit of the Pacific Rainforest and it is also here where the Tropical Dry Forest finds its southernmost reach. This wonderful phenomenon of habitats converging into one spot produces incredible biodiversity. Carara and Tárcoles then contain a wonderful sample of species proper of wet tropical pacific habitats and species that would be common in the drier areas of the Northwest of Costa Rica. Over 400 species of birds have been registered in the area.

Lodging at Hotel Villa Lapas.

Day 11-San Gerardo de Dota.Highlands

This morning we will bird from a **Boat on the Tarcoles River**. It is a habitat for American Crocodiles, while the marshes located at the river's mouth have many waterfowl and wading birds. Among the many herons and egrets are the Boatbill and Bare-throated Tiger Heron. The mangroves found at the river mouth are quite important and are home to Mangrove Vireo, Mangrove Cuckoo, Panama Flycatcher, and American Pygmy-Kingfisher to just mention a few. In the way to San Gerardo, we will visit the highest point that you can reach in Costa Rica by car 10800 feet (3300 meters) above sea level, at Cerro de la Muerte, good place to get few more near endemic like Volcano Junco, Black billed Nightingale-Thrush, Peg-billed Finch and Timberland Wren. Late arrive at the hotel.

Lodging at Savegre Lodge

Day 12- San Gerardo de Dota. Highlands.

All day birding at San Gerardo, these is the best place in the world to find the famous Resplendent Quetzal beside this spectacular bird over 50 % of the bird species of this zone are near endemic. This lever of endemism is not surprising since the mountains of Costa Rica and Panama are separated form similar elevations to the north of south by sizeable geographic gaps. There are species with three different bio -geographical origins: North America, Montane areas of Mexico and northern Central America, and the Andes

Lodging at Savegre Lodge.

Day 13-San José

Birding in the morning by the hotel vicinity and then some stops on the way back to San José. Afternoon free for your own activities.

Hotel Robledal.

Contact us
info@thebirdway.com

What is included?

- Transportation with a expert driver and fuel through the trip.
- Specialized guide with Swarovski spotting scope, portable speaker+ ipod with 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 the hotels listed.
- All meals
- Fees to places and activities listed





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