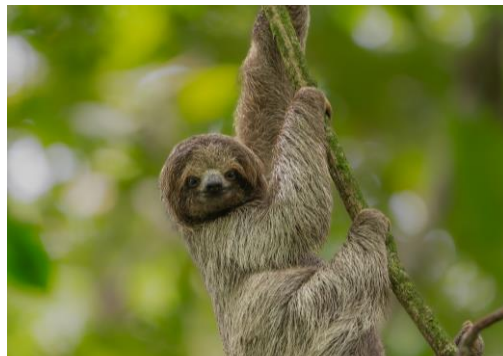


# Wild Costa Rica Birding Expeditions

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**.





## Wild Costa Rica with Nigel Marven 14 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.





# Wild Costa Rica with Nigel Marven

Itinerary 14 days 2026

December 07<sup>th</sup> -Day 1: San José. Capital of Costa Rica. Arrival day at International airport Juan Santamaria.  
December 08<sup>th</sup> -Day 2: San Gerardo de Dota. Hummingbirds, Warblers and lots of near-endemics. **Los Robles.**  
December 09<sup>th</sup> -Day 3: San Gerardo de Dota. Most beautiful bird in the world Resplendent Quetzal.  
December 10<sup>th</sup> -Day 4: Hotel Quelitales, Scaled Antpitta, Green thornail, Violet Saberwing. **Reserva El Copal.**  
December 11<sup>th</sup> -Day 5: Hotel Quelitales, Black-crested Coquette, Spectled Tanager, Sharpbill. **Tapanti NP**  
December 12<sup>th</sup> -Day 6: Sarapiquí. **La Selva Biological Station.** Trogons, Tanagers and Tinamous.  
December 13<sup>th</sup> -Day 7: Caño Negro **Ramsar wetland**, Jabiru, Collared-Black Hawk, Great Potoo.  
December 14<sup>th</sup> -Day 8: Arenal, Volcano, Keel-billed Motmot, Black-crested Coquette.  
December 15<sup>th</sup> -Day 9: Arenal, Sunbittern, Great Curassow, Rufous-tailed Jacamar, **Sky walk**  
December 16<sup>th</sup> -Day 10: Carara. Central Pacific. Emblematic Scarlet Macaw, Manakins and Antbirds. **Carara NP.**  
December 17<sup>th</sup> -Day 11: Carara. River **Boat tour at Tarcoles.** Crocodiles, Spoonbills, Kingfishers.  
December 18<sup>th</sup> -Day 12: Rancho Naturalista. Great ecolodge with Snowcap, Violet Sabrewing, Sunbittern.  
December 19<sup>th</sup> -Day 13: Rancho Naturalista. Rufous Motmot, Bicolored Hawk, Black-throated Trogon.  
December 20<sup>th</sup> -Day 14: San Jose. Hotel Bougavillea at San Jose.  
December 21<sup>st</sup> -Day 15 Departure day.

## 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 introduction to Birds of Costa Rica by Nigel then dinner.

*Lodging at Hotel Bouganvillea.*

### Day 2- San Gerardo de Dota

Breakfast and depart to Talamanca Mountain range, stopping near Cartago, chances for endemic Coopers Headed Emerald, Green Thorntail, Scintillant Hummingbird, lunch at Paraiso Quetzal, Long-tailed and Black-and-Yellow Silky flycatcher, Black capped flycatcher, Flame colored Tanager, Fiery-throated Hummingbird, White-throated Mountain-gem.

*Lodging at Trogon Lodge*

### Day 3- San Gerardo de Dota

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 Trogon Lodge*

#### **Day 4- Hotel Quelitales.**

Early breakfast then departs to Orosi Valley, 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 Quelitales we will enjoy the hummingbirds feeding stations and if we get lucky our Snowcap.

*Lodging at Hotel Quelitales.*

#### **Day 5- Hotel Quelitales.**

Breakfast, then depart to El Copal, this incredible reserve is connected with Tapanti and La Amistad National Park, it is one of the places with more bird species per area in Costa Rica, it is a combine of rain forest and cloud forest, Snow capped are founded by the garden, and sometimes we get Ornate Hawk Eagles flight by.

*Lodging at Hotel Quelitales*

#### **Day 6- Sarapiquí. Caribbean Rain Forest.**

Early breakfast then depart to Sarapiquí. These is a interesting traveling day with spectacular views. Excursion in the rain forest, looking for White-tent 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 endanger species Great-green Macaw, as well the near endemic Nicaraguan Seed-finch and Snowy Cotinga.

## Day 7- Caño Negro Wetlands

Early breakfast then depart to Caño Negro, After some birding in Arenal depart to Caño Negro, This magnificent refuge is about 9,960 hectares (24,612 acres) and it incorporates large lagoons, rivers, rainforest, open and semi-open environments, and the tiny village of the same name. Bird species in Caño Negro include all the kingfishers of the continent: Green-and-Rufous Kingfisher, American Pygmy-Kingfisher, Amazon Kingfisher, Ringed Kingfisher and Belted Kingfisher (this last one during wintering months, northern migrant). Black-collared Hawk, Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture, Snail Kite, Bat Falcon, Agami Heron, Little Blue Heron, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Tricolored Heron, Boat-billed Heron, Bare-throated Tiger-Heron, Yellow-crowned and Black-crowned Herons, Sungrebe.

*Lodging at Caño Negro Natural lodge*

## Day 8- Arenal Volcano

The day starts with a boat trip on the navigable network of lakes and channels in the refuge. Among the many birds found in Caño Negro are: glossy Ibis, black-necked stilt, neotropical cormorants, American Anhinga, Northern Jacana, Wood Stork, White Ibis, Black-bellied Whistling Duck, Snail Kite, Roseate Spoonbill, and blue-winged teal. After Lunch departing to Arenal area

*Lodging at Arenal lodge*

## Day 9 Arenal

All day birding at the vicinity of Arenal Volcano, great encounters with Rufous, Broad-billed, and Keel-billed motmots, amazing opportunities for Black-crested coquette, Lovely Cotinga, Bare-necked Umbrellabird, Dull-mantled antbird, Keel-billed and Yellow-throated Toucans, Collared Aracari, Great Curassow and Emerald Tanagers.

*Lodging Arenal Lodge*

## Day 10- 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. our sunset will get illuminated by flocks of Scarlet Macaws flying by.

*Lodging at Hotel Cerro lodge.*

## Day 11- 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 Cerro Lodge.*



### Day 12- Turrialba, Rancho Naturalista.

Visit to Tapanti National Park, after breakfast departure to Tapanti, incredible park with great mix flogs of Tanagers, woodcreepers, flycatchers. Red-headed Barbet, Golden-bellied flycatcher, Scale-crested Pygmy Tyrant, Collared trogon, American Dipper.

*Lodging at Rancho Naturalista.*

### Day 13- Turrialba, 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 14-San José

Birding in the morning by the hotel vicinity, exploring the nice gardens of Savegre Valley and then some stops on the way back to San Jose to get some last birds. Afternoon free for your own activities.

*Hotel Bouganvillea.*

Contact us  
[info@thebirdway.com](mailto:info@thebirdway.com)

From  
\$3980

## 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





The  
BIRD  
way

Living the adventure together.