



Costa Rica

Quetzal Photography Extravaganza

Tour Leaders: Jamie Cunningham and Diego Quesada

April 15-20, 2024

During the trip we will visit Savegre Valley in the Talamanca Mountains. This mountain range hosts a wide variety habitat including high elevation tropical rainforest, cloud forest, and paramo habitats. The cloud forest protected within these mountains is the perfect habitat for the main target of this trip, the Resplendent Quetzal. This bird is considered to be one of the most beautiful birds in the American Tropics. This member of the trogon family with iridescent plumage consisting of greens, blues and gold, crimson chest, and a stunning 2 foot tail.

Between February and May, they have their breeding season and that is the reason why we are coming to see them in their natural habitat while they feed and work on their nest. There will be plenty of hummingbirds, colorful tanagers and many more species of birds to enjoy and photograph on this adventure.

Itinerary Overview:

April 15: Arrival in San José, Costa Rica and Transfer to Hotel

April 16: Transfer to Talamanca Mountains with Photography Stops, Afternoon Quetzal Session

April 17: Morning Quetzal Session, Photography at Paraiso de Quetzales

April 18: Morning Quetzal Session, Photography at Batsu

April 19: Photography on grounds of Sueños de Bosque, Transfer to San José

April 20: Departure from San José, Costa Rica

Detailed Itinerary:

April 15: Arrival in San José, Costa Rica and Transfer to Hotel

After meeting your guide at the airport, we will drive to our hotel in San José.

Following check-in, we will drop off luggage in rooms. You can enjoy a walk on the beautiful and extensive gardens of the hotel. A great variety of birds are found on the grounds of the hotel and it is a good opportunity to get familiar with some of the common open-area species that we will find during the trip, such as Great Kiskadee, Social Flycatcher, Tropical Kingbird, Blue-gray Tanager, Rufous-tailed Hummingbird, Buff-throated Saltator, House Wren, Clay-colored Thrush and more. The gardens also host Central Valley species that we are not finding anywhere else on this trip, including Rufous-naped Wren, Crimson-fronted Parakeet, Lesson's Motmot, Chestnut-capped Warbler, White-eared Ground-Sparrow, Inca Dove and Blue-vented Hummingbird.

Before dinner we will have a welcome briefing to get to know all the tour participants and go over the itinerary.

-Overnight: Hotel Bougainvillea or similar

April 16: Transfer to Talamanca Mountains with Photography Stops, Afternoon Quetzal Session

After breakfast, we will board the van and start the drive to our main destination, the Talamanca Mountains. Given that our schedule is based on the nesting behavior of Resplendent Quetzal, we will be planning accordingly to hopefully experience their afternoon displaying behavior.

We plan on a stop along the way where we will hope to photograph many of the highland birds. After lunch we will take our first try for the Resplendent Quetzal followed by arrival at our lodge in the afternoon.

-Overnight: Sueños del Bosque



Shining Honeycreeper

April 17: Morning Quetzal Session, Photography at Paraiso de Quetzales

Our day will start early visiting the feeding and nesting area of the Resplendent Quetzals. We will spend the morning working on getting the best shots of this magnificent bird.

In the afternoon we plan on spending our time at Paraiso de Quetzales, photographing hummingbirds and the many other species that visit their beautiful gardens.

The afternoon, we will return to our lodge and spend time photographing at their beautiful gardens.

Lodging at Sueños del Bosque

-Overnight: Sueños del Bosque



Resplendent Quetzal

April 18: Morning Quetzal Session, Photography at Batsu

Our day will start with another visit to the Resplendent Quetzal nesting locations hoping to capture some nesting and feeding behavior.

In the afternoon we will visit the feeding stations at Batsu. This site has several great setups for hummingbirds and fruit stations designed with bird photography in mind. There will be a nice variety of birds, plants, and flowers to photograph.

Our afternoon will be spent back at the hotel with some free time to explore gardens and grounds.

-Overnight: Sueños del Bosque



Resplendent Quetzal

April 19: Photography on grounds of Sueños de Bosque, Transfer to San José

We will spend the morning exploring the Savegre Valley. A nice walk along the river will provide great opportunities for photographing birds, flowers, and landscapes.

Following check-out, we will head to the highest point of the mountain to enjoy the landscapes and photograph the highest elevation species in Costa Rica.

We will head back to San Jose, with a lunch stop along the way. In the afternoon, we will relax at Bougainvillea and enjoy the gardens.

-Overnight: Savegre Mountain Lodge or similar

April 20: Departure from San José, Costa Rica



Long-tailed Silky-flycatcher



Lesser Violetear



Golden-browed Chlorophonia



Volcano Hummingbird

Target Species

- Gray-headed Chachalaca
- Red-billed Pigeon
- Ruddy Pigrion
- Inca Dove**
- Common Ground Dove**
- White-tipped Dove**
- White-winged Dove**
- Squirrel Cuckoo
- Purple-crowned Fairy
- Green-breasted Mango
- Scaly-breasted Hummingbird
- Blue-vented Hummingbird
- Cinnamon Hummingbird
- Rufous-tailed Hummingbird**
- Green Hermit
- Lesser Violetear**
- Green-crowned Brilliant**
- Talamanca Hummingbird**
- Fiery-throated Hummingbird**
- White-throated Mountain-gem**
- Volcano Hummingbird**
- Scintillant Hummingbird**
- Stripe-tailed Hummingbird**
- Resplendent Quetzal**
- Collared Trogon

- Lesson's Motmot
- Northern Emerald-Toucanet
- Prong-billed Barbet
- Acorn Woodpecker**
- Hoffman's Woodpecker**
- Lineated Woodpecker**
- Bat Falcon
- Orange-chinned Parakeet
- Crimson-fronted Parakeet
- Sulphur-winged Parakeet**
- Mountain Elaenia
- Great Kiskadee**
- Boat-billed Flycatcher**
- Social Flycatcher**
- Tropical Kingbird**
- Ochraceous Wren
- Rufous-naped Wren
- Tropical Mockingbird**
- Black-faced Solitaire
- Ruddy-capped Nightin-gale-Thrush**
- Swainson's Thrush**
- Mountain Thrush
- Clay-colored Thrush**
- Sooty Thrush**

- Long-tailed Silky-flycatcher**
- Golden-browed Chlorophonia**
- Yellow-bellied Siskin
- Sooty-capped Chlorospingus**
- Common Chlorospingus**
- Chestnut-capped Brushfinch**
- Rufous-collared Sparrow**
- Large-footed Finch**
- White-naped Brushfinch**
- Yellow-thighed Brushfinch
- White-eared Ground Sparrow
- Flame-throated Warbler
- Tennessee Warbler**
- Tropical Parula
- Black-cheeked Warbler
- Chestnut-capped Warbler
- Collared Redstart**
- Summer Tanager
- Flame-colored Tanager**
- Black-thighed Grosbeak
- Blue-gray Tanager**
- Silver-throated Tanager**
- Slaty Flowerpiercer**
- Bananaquit**
- Yellow-faced Grassquit



Sulphur-winged Parakeet



Flame-colored Tanager



Sooty-capped Chlorospingus

Trip Details:

Cost:

Price per person (double occupancy), from San Jose, Costa Rica: \$3,899

Single Supplement: \$500

Minimum Participants: 6

Maximum Participants: 8

Price Includes:

2 Expert Guides

Ground Transportation in Costa Rica

All Lodging

All Meals

Park Entrance Fees

Price Does Not Include:

Airfare to and from San José, Costa Rica

Airport Taxes

Passport and Visa Fees

Alcoholic Beverages

Personal Items

Travel Insurance

Tips

Deposit:

A deposit of \$500 per person is required to hold your spot on this tour. The remaining balance is due no later than 3 months prior to the scheduled start date of the tour (January 15, 2023).

If you have any questions about this tour or would like to sign up for it, please contact us at info@sabrewingnaturetours.com, by phone at 317-324-8505, or register through our website at sabrewingnaturetours.com.

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