



# Costa Rica

## *Jewels*

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Tour Leader: Eric Ripma

January 9-17, 2027

## **Itinerary Overview:**

January 9: Arrival in San José, Costa Rica - Transfer to Hotel

January 10: Nectar & Pollen Reserve, Guarumo Lodge - Transfer to Rancho Naturalista

January 11: Rancho Naturalista

January 12: El Copal Reserve and Angostura Lake

January 13: Hotel Quelitales - Transfer to the Savegre Valley

January 14: Savegre Valley

January 15: Los Cusingos Bird Refuge and Cerro de la Muerte

January 16: Savegre Valley - Transfer to San José

January 17: Departure from San José, Costa Rica

## **Detailed Itinerary:**

### **January 9: Arrival in San José, Costa Rica - Transfer to Hotel**

You will be met by your guides outside the customs area of Juan Santa Maria International Airport in San José. From here, we will make the drive to our hotel outside San José for the night. We'll do some birding around the property in the afternoon if time permits. Some highlights could include Mottled Owl, Lesson's Motmot, White-eared Ground-Sparrow and more. We'll have a wonderful welcome dinner and plenty of time to relax before our adventures begin early the next morning.

*-Overnight: Hotel Bougainvillea*

### **January 10: Nectar & Pollen Reserve, Guarumo Lodge - Transfer to Rancho Naturalista**

We will start the morning by making a short drive to a coffee farm where we will spend some time looking for the endemic Cabanis's Ground-Sparrow. After breakfast at our lodging, we will start our drive to Rancho Naturalista with a couple of great birding stops along the way. Our first stop will be at Nectar & Pollen Reserve. This reserve is located on the edge of a large tract of protected forest providing us a great chance to see many difficult-to-find species. We'll spend some time birding their hummingbird garden where over 8 species of hummingbirds, including the Green Thorntail are regular. While birding the feeders and forest we'll be looking for Rufous and Broad-billed Motmots, Rufous-winged and Smoky-brown Woodpeckers, Long-tailed Tyrant, and many tanagers. Raptors are one of the major highlights and we may see some uncommon species such as King Vulture, White Hawk, Bat Falcon, and if we get lucky, an Ornate Hawk-Eagle.

After birding, we'll continue our drive towards Rancho with a stop for lunch. At lunch, we'll enjoy delicious, Caribbean style food and some great birding! Collared Aracari, Yellow-throated and Keel-billed Toucans, Chestnut-headed and Montezuma Oropendolas, and all three species of honeycreepers in Costa Rica make regular visits to the feeders. After lunch, we'll finish our drive to Rancho Naturalista.

*-Overnight: Rancho Naturalista*



*Yellow-throated Toucan*

### **January 11: Rancho Naturalista**

Rancho Naturalista is one of the most famous birding lodges not only in Costa Rica, but in all of Central America. Over 450 species of birds have been seen on this property alone! One of the most sought-after birds at Rancho Naturalista is the beautiful Snowcap, a small purple hummingbird with a bright white cap. Other highlights at Rancho Naturalista include Tawny-chested Flycatcher, White-collared Manakin, Black-crested Coquette, and many others! We'll spend this morning birding around the lodge and nearby trails through this property. On the trails we'll be looking for Crested Guan, Gartered Trogon, Rufous Motmot, Lineated and Pale-billed Woodpeckers, Bay Wren, and many species of warblers and tanagers. In the afternoon, after lunch, we'll bird off the property along a nearby river. Here we hope to find the stunning Sunbittern and Fasciated Tiger-Heron among others. We will enjoy some time watching the feeders at Rancho in the evening before having one of Rancho's gourmet meals for dinner.

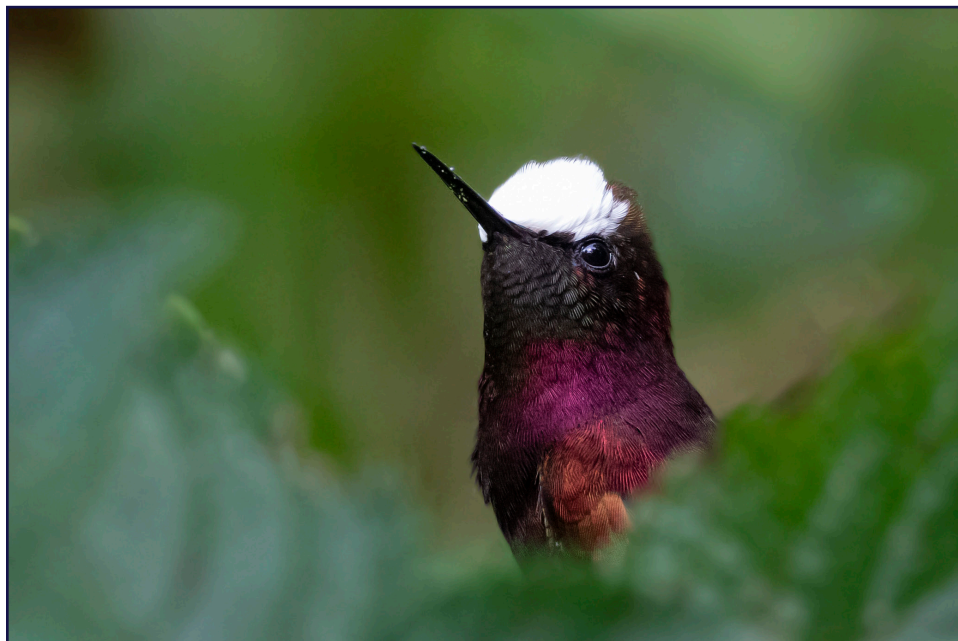
*-Overnight: Rancho Naturalista*

### **January 12: El Copal Reserve and Angostura Lake**

On one of our full days at Rancho, we will be exploring El Copal Reserve and Angostura Lake. This will allow us to visit some different habitats than those that are at Rancho Naturalista. El Copal offers incredible deep forest birding and beautiful hiking trails. We hope to find a mixed flock full of tanagers, a few of the antbirds that call this property home, and the Yellow-eared Toucanet. When we first arrive, we will spend some time birding around the main building and feeders. The activity here can be spectacular with many tanagers visiting the feeders and mixed flocks moving through the nearby trees. Some of the species we'll be looking for include Carmiol's, White-shouldered, Tawny-crested, Speckled, Emerald, and Black-and-yellow Tanager, White-vented and Tawny-capped Euphonias,



Black-faced Grosbeak, and Ashy-throated Chlorospingus among other more common species. The forest trails offer great habitat and a chance to see species that don't visit feeders or more open habitats such as Yellow-eared Toucanet, Purplish-backed Quail-Dove, and Lattice-tailed Trogon, but all will take some luck to see.



*Snowcap*

Next, we'll visit Angostura Lake. This will be one of our only opportunities to visit a lake on this trip, so we'll see many species here that we likely won't get on the rest of the tour. Some highlights might include Snail Kite, Northern Jacana, Bare-throated Tiger-Heron, several species of kingfishers, and Slaty Spinetail.

*-Overnight: Rancho Naturalista*

### **January 13: Hotel Quelitales - Transfer to the Savegre Valley**

After an early breakfast, we will start our drive towards the Savegre Valley with a stop at Hotel Quelitales on the way. Hotel Quelitales is situated at a higher elevation than Rancho, so we will have a good chance to see many new species. We will spend much of our morning birding from their blind and around their hummingbird feeders. From the blind we'll be looking for Chestnut-capped and White-naped Brushfinches, Sooty-faced Finch, and White-eared Ground-Sparrow. Around the hummingbird feeders and garden we hope to see White-bellied Mountain-gem, Coppery-headed Emerald (endemic), and Black-bellied Hummingbird among several other species. While birding the forest edge, we hope to find a mixed flock which might contain Red-headed Barbet, Scaly-throated Foliage-gleaner, Spotted Barbtail, Red-faced Spinetail, Slate-throated Redstart, White-winged Tanager, and Spangle-cheeked Tanager. After lunch we'll finish our drive to the Savegre Valley.

*-Overnight: Savegre Mountain Lodge or similar*

### **January 14: Savegre Valley**

The Savegre Valley is home to numerous high elevation species including the extraordinary Resplendent Quetzal. In fact, it's one of the best places in the world to see this special species! Many of the species that can be found in this area are near endemics that can only be seen in the mountains of Costa Rica and western Panama. In the early morning, we'll visit a site to look for the Resplendent Quetzal. They are quite reliable here since they visit each morning to feed on the wild avocados. For the remainder of the morning, we'll spend time birding the trails above Savegre Mountain Lodge. Some species we may see include Ruddy Treerunner, Yellow-winged and Brown-capped Vireo, Ochraceous Wren, Black-faced Solitaire, Black-billed Nightingale-Thrush, Flame-throated and Black-cheeked Warblers, Collared Redstart, and if we're lucky an Ochraceous Pewee.



*Collared Redstart*

After lunch, we will visit Batsu Gardens. This location has a great garden, bird feeders, and some trails that will give us another chance to see many high elevation species and get some nice photos. White-throated Mountain-gems, and Volcano, Scintillant, and Talamanca Hummingbirds usually visit the feeders. The fruit feeders attract a variety of tanagers including Flame-colored and Silver-throated. Below the feeders, we will be looking for Large-footed Finch and White-naped and Yellow-thighed Brushfinches.

*-Overnight: Savegre Mountain Lodge or similar*

### **January 15: Los Cusingos Bird Refuge and Cerro de la Muerte**

This morning, we'll leave early to drive lower down the Pacific slope to about 2,700 feet where we will bird at Los Cusingos Bird Sanctuary. Since this will be our only time on the Pacific slope and we'll be at a fairly low elevation, it will be our only chance to see many pacific slope species. Some of the specialties of the area include Baird's Trogon, Fiery-billed Aracari, Golden-naped Woodpecker, Black-hooded Antshrike, and Spot-crowned Euphonia. Other highlights could include White-crested Coquette, Charming and Snowy-bellied Hummingbirds, and Orange-collared and Velvety Manakins.



After we're finished birding here, we will make a short drive to where we will have a home-cooked meal while watching some great feeders. We hope to see Streaked Saltator and Fiery-billed Aracari among many other species.

Afterwards, we'll bird in the paramo at 11,000+ feet in elevation. Here we will be looking for the Volcano Junco and Peg-billed Finch, both endemics to the highlands of Costa Rica and western Panama.

-Overnight: *Savegre Mountain Lodge*



*Fiery-billed Aracari*



*Long-tailed Silky-flycatcher*

### **January 16: Savegre Valley - Transfer to San José**

We'll begin with some birding around the lodge grounds early this morning. After breakfast, we'll checkout before heading higher into the mountains where we'll bird along the Providencia Road. This is a good area for species such as Costa Rican Pygmy-Owl, Black-capped Flycatcher, and Timberline Wren. We'll also be targeting any species we may have missed up to this point. We'll stop at Paraíso Quetzal for lunch to watch their hummingbird feeders that are usually packed with Lesser Violetears, and Fiery-throated and Talamanca Hummingbirds. This is also a good spot to see both Long-tailed and Black-and-yellow Silky-flycatchers. After we've had our fill, we'll start our drive back to San José where we'll have a wonderful farewell dinner.

-Overnight: *Hotel Bougainvillea or similar*

### **January 17: Departure from San José, Costa Rica**

## **Trip Details:**

### **Cost:**

Price per person (double occupancy), from San Jose, Costa Rica: \$5,699

Single Supplement: \$900

Minimum Participants: 6

Maximum Participants: 10

### **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 (October 11, 2027).

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

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