



COSTA RICA BIRDING & NATURAL HISTORY TOUR

MARCH 26 TO APRIL 4, 2014
WITH CHRISTINE TURNBULL AND RUDY ZAMORA



OVERVIEW OF COSTA RICA

With its abundance of forests, concern for conservation, and truly incredible birdlife and amphibians, Costa Rica is well worth an extended stay. It is one of the top destinations in the world for people interested in birds and nature. This tour is an excellent introduction to Neotropical birding. Discover habitats that range from semiarid ranchland, to misty cloud forest, lowland rainforest, and treeless páramo. Incredible orchids add vivid splashes of color to the rainforests, and the butterflies and mammal species are exciting, too!

COSTA RICAN BIRDER / NATURALIST GUIDE~ RUDY ZAMORA



Rudy is considered to be one of the premier naturalist birder guides in Costa Rica, winning the award for best guide in 1994 by ICT-CANATUR (Costa Rica Tourist Board-Costa Rican National Chamber of Commerce). A member of the American Birding Association, he has participated in ABA-sponsored conventions. Rudy was also a participant at the seminar on management of wildlife areas hosted at the Charles Darwin Institute in the Galapagos Islands, Ecuador. A true Renaissance man, Rudy is a farmer, has studied chemistry, has worked as a professional musician, and since 1987 has led numerous zoo, Audubon, and nature groups through his beloved homeland of Costa Rica. He has also traveled the world, visiting the USA (where he attended the University of Arizona), Mexico, Guatemala, Ecuador, and throughout Europe.

MASS AUDUBON NATURALIST GUIDE ~ CHRISTINE TURNBULL



Christine Turnbull, Director of the Mass Audubon's Moose Hill Wildlife Sanctuary in Sharon, has traveled extensively throughout her career. She has an avid interest in the outdoors and in the cultural context with which people develop a relationship to the environment. In the past she was part of the US Peace Corps and lived and worked within parks in northern Honduras and El Salvador. She has traveled extensively throughout the region and cultivated a strong background and deep enjoyment of the culture and nature in Central America.

COSTA RICA ITINERARY

A minimum of 10 passengers is required

DAY 1~WEDNESDAY~MARCH 26

BOSTON /SAN JOSE

We will arrive in San Jose, Costa Rica in the evening. Upon arrival we will be met at the airport and escorted to our hotel. Set among 10 acres of lush gardens, the unique and comfortable Hotel Bougainvillea provides a quiet hideaway where guests can truly experience the world famous natural beauty of Costa Rica, just 20 minutes away from San Jose. The grounds of the hotel are spectacular – being surrounded by coffee plantations, citrus orchards, and lush gardens – great for birding. The group will gather for a welcome dinner at the hotel. Overnight at HOTEL BOUGAINVILLEA. (D)



DAYS 2/3/4~THURSDAY/FRIDAY/SATURDAY~MARCH 27/28/29

CORCOVADO NATIONAL PARK

We will fly from San Jose to Palmar Sur, and continue to Sierpe and the river to board a boat for transfer to our home for the next three nights. As you glide along



the river, you will enjoy a very diverse ecosystem comprised of crocodiles, caimans, monkeys, and hundreds of birds, including tanagers, herons, trogons, and kingfishers. Towering mangrove trees line its banks and tributaries as it meanders its way out to the Pacific Ocean, just a few miles north of Drake Bay. Once you pass the river mouth, you'll behold some of the most picturesque places in the country like Drake Bay and Marengo Biological Reserve. You may be fortunate enough to see dolphins and whales. Although Costa Rica is best known for its incredibly biologically-rich rainforests, its waters are equally rich. This is because the heart of a vast habitat known as the Costa Rican Thermal Convection Dome (named for its proximity to the country) lies here. Shallow, warm waters lie on top of low-oxygen cold water, creating the perfect environment for a vast variety of marine life.

Your stay in the Corcovado National Park will include explorations through the crown jewel of Costa Rica's rainforests and one of the most geologically intense places on earth. The vegetation of Corcovado is one of the richest and most varied in

the country. The park is comprised of a number of different habits, including montane, cloud, and swamp forests, and mangrove swamp. There are 500 species of trees throughout the park, which constitutes one-fourth of Costa Rican tree species. The true giants of the forest grow between 130 and 165 feet high. The tallest tree in the entire country is a massive silk cotton that grows to an astonishing 230 feet. The wildlife at Corcovado is as varied and rich as its plant life.

The park protects several endangered species and is home to 140 species of mammals, over 360 species of birds, over 100 species of reptiles and amphibians, and all sorts of insects. Monkeys, toucans, and, although rarely seen, tapirs, Jaguars, and boa constrictors are all residents of this forest reserve. In addition, this region has one of the most vibrant Scarlet Macaw populations in all of the Americas.

Your home for the next three nights is nestled in a 70-acre private reserve bordering Corcovado National Park. The lodge has been constructed in harmony with the landscape and the environment as well as being the ideal base for your in-depth rainforest experience. Your accommodations in this "Lost World" are artfully-appointed individual bungalows offering



tiled floors, hot showers, and ceiling fans, supplied with mountain spring water, and surrounded by virgin rainforest. Electricity is provided 24 hours a day by hydroelectric and solar systems. Overnights at the CASA CORCOVADO LODGE. (All Meals Daily)

DAY 5~SUNDAY~MARCH 30

PALMAR SUR/SAVEGRE

Following breakfast, we will drive approximately 2 hours, on a good gravel road, from Palmar Sur to the next destination, Savegre Mountain Lodge. It is located in San Gerardo de Dota, near the Cerro de la Muerte Mountains, where more than 170 species of birds, including the Resplendent Quetzal and other exotic wildlife reside. Accommodations are offered in 20 cabins, surrounded by one of the finest examples of highland cloud forest on the planet. We will enjoy a delicious homemade meal in the lodge's dining room, while watching the Fiery-throated, Scintillant, and Volcano Hummingbirds and Gray-tailed Mountain-gems frequenting the numerous feeders off the dining room balcony.

Overnight at the SAVEGRE MOUNTAIN LODGE. (B,L,D)

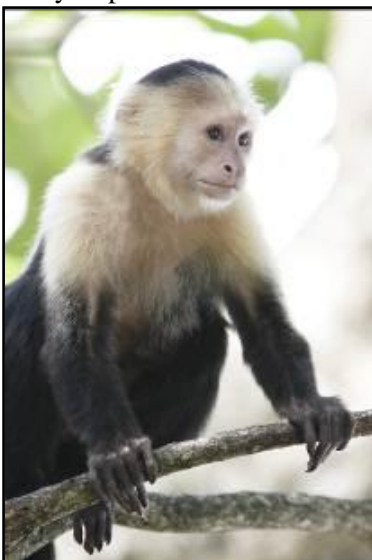


DAY 6~MONDAY~MARCH 31

SAVEGRE

Savegre is a rich forest and birding paradise with more than 170 species of birds. Various migratory species will be moving through including orioles, warblers, and raptors. Some of the natives include Yellow-winged Vireo, Flame-throated Warbler, Tufted Flycatcher, and Volcano Junco.

Your hike today will focus mostly on the Resplendent Quetzal. In the early 1500's, the Spanish conquistador Hernán Cortés arrived in Mexico. There, as a gift from the Aztecs, he received a headdress of Resplendent Quetzal feathers. Only Aztec royalty had the privilege of wearing such highly esteemed adornments. The jade-green plumes of the quetzal may have been considered more valuable than gold. Today, this extraordinarily beautiful bird is found from Mexico to Panama. It can be found in cloud forests at elevations of between 4,000 and 10,000 feet. Clouds here are the product of rising warm quickly cooling. The results are year-round lush vegetation in verdant tones and massive trees that reach 100 feet or more into the clouds. In this way, the bird can live up to its name. "Quetzal" is taken from the Aztec word "quetzalli," meaning "precious" or "beautiful." The bird's body measures about 14 inches in length, about the size of a pigeon. However, it has tail feathers (actually four extended uppertail coverts) which can be as long as 3 feet. Both the male and the female are an iridescent emerald and golden green with the extended uppertail coverts in iridescent blues and greens with white under tails. The green camouflages them in the rainforest. The male has a head crest and red belly feathers with a white under tail. The females are duller with a gray belly and short tail plumes. The Resplendent Quetzal is truly a splendid bird.



The lodge has 22 miles of forest trails, mostly through virgin woods. The elevation varies from 7,220 to 11,384 feet. Overnight at the SAVEGRE MOUNTAIN LODGE. (B,L,D)

DAY 7~TUESDAY~APRIL 1

SAVEGRE / TAPANTI / SELVA VERDE

This morning we will depart for Sarapiquí. Lunch will be provided en route. On our way to Selva Verde, there will be a tour in Tapanti National Park, located in wild and wet country on the rainforested northern slopes of the Talamanca Mountain Range. Although the refuge is not large, there are reportedly over 150 rivers within it, which gives an indication of the area's wetness. It has two "life zones": lower mountain rainforest (lower mountain slopes) and premontane rainforest (lowlands skirting the lower slopes).

The forests are home to 45 species of mammals, including tapir, paca, Red Brocket Deer, Eastern Cottontail, Kinkajou, Raccoon, White-nosed Coati, White-faced Monkey, Mountain Hare (conejo de monte), agouti, and cats such as Ocelot, Jaguarundi, and Tiger Cat (an endangered species). You'll also find some 260 kinds of birds, including quetzals, trogons, parrots, and hummingbirds.

Our accommodation for the next two nights, Selva Verde Lodge, is located in the lush lowlands of northeastern Costa Rica on a very large, private tract of tropical rainforest and rich second-growth habitats. It is adjacent to Braulio Carrillo National Park and the Organization for Tropical Studies field station, La Selva. Delicious meals featuring the local cuisine are served by gracious, native Costa Ricans. An open and spacious dining room with its thatched roof harmonizes well with the jungle ambience. Beyond its roughly 500 acres of preserved rainforest, the lodge boasts a resident naturalist, local guides, and an ever-expanding reference library. The lodge provides ample accommodations with private baths and showers. The rooms are well maintained and open into large, spacious, wooden balconies.

Overnight at the SELVA VERDE LODGE.
(B,L,D)

DAY 8~WEDNESDAY~APRIL 2
LA SELVA BIOLOGICAL STATION

A full day's tour of La Selva Biological Station will surely be a highlight of our Costa Rican adventure. One of the premier Neotropical sites for biological studies, La Selva is a utopia not only for scientists, but for hard-core birders as well as serious naturalists. La Selva was



established in 1954 by Dr. Leslie Holdridge as a farm committed to testing mixed plantations for the improvement of natural resources management. It was purchased in 1968 by the Organization for Tropical Studies (OTS) and declared a private biological reserve and station. Since then, it has become one of the most important research sites in the world for tropical rainforest. The Organization for Tropical Studies (OTS) is a syndicate of universities from the United States and Costa Rica that operates as an ecological education and research center. Located on the northern plains near the convergence of the Rivers Sarapiquí and Puerto Viejo, La Selva contains over 3,790 acres of primary forest, swamp, and abandoned farmland. There are over 100 species of mammals, thousands of insects, and 2,000 species of plants, including 800 species of trees, all of which have been identified in this geologically rich area. Over 500 species of birds have been recorded here, including parrots, trogons, jacamars, manakins, tanagers, woodcreepers, antbirds, flycatchers, and wrens. Sounds ringing through the forest produce an unforgettable memory of Costa Rica and its natural wonders.

Overnight at the SELVA VERDE LODGE. (B,L,D)



DAY 9~THURSDAY~APRIL 3

SAN JOSE

This morning you will have a last chance to experience the rainforest and the fabulous birding of the area. After lunch we will drive back to San Jose with birding stops along the way. In the evening you will join your fellow travelers to enjoy a farewell dinner.

Overnight at the BOUGAINVILLEA HOTEL. (B,L,D)

DAY 10~FRIDAY~APRIL 4

SAN JOSE/BOSTON

After breakfast, you will be escorted to the airport for your flight back home after a memorable adventure in this lovely country. (B)

PRICE: \$4195 / double room occupancy (Single Room Supplement: \$795 very limited)

A \$500 per person deposit is required along with the reservation form.

***Single Supplement is valid for the first 2 single rooms booked. Singles are limited and on a first come, first serve basis. Additional singles after the first two may have an additional supplement.*

INCLUDED IN THIS PRICE

- Flight from San Jose to Palmar Sur.
- All ground transfers in air-conditioned motorcoach.
- Superior accommodations throughout as indicated or similar.
- Mass Audubon tour escort Bob Speare with a minimum of 10 travelers.
- Services of naturalist Rudy Zamora throughout with a minimum of 10 travelers.
- All meals as specified in the itinerary.
- All park entry fees.
- All tips and gratuities.

EXCLUDED

- Roundtrip flights from home to San Jose, Costa Rica
- Costa Rica airport departure taxes (currently \$32 per person.)
- Passport. No visa is required in Costa Rica.
- Excess baggage charges levied by airlines.
- Meals and beverages, other than specified.
- Laundry and other items of a personal nature.
- Personal and baggage insurance.
- Cost for anything not specifically mentioned in the listing above.
- Optional insurance coverage is available for Baggage, Accident and Trip Cancellation/Interruption at special low cost group rates.



Please Note That The Itinerary Sequence Is Correct At The Time Of Writing, But Is Subject To Change.

THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT COSTA RICA

Participants

- Participants must be able to climb in and out of minibuses, small aircraft and boats unassisted. You should also be able to tolerate nature walks at an easy pace on uneven terrain, sometimes uphill, for three or four hours at a time in heat and humidity. You should be in good physical health to enjoy this destination to its fullest.

General

- True adventure in travel can sometimes be accompanied by unexpected changes in conditions, itineraries and occasionally your accommodations. Participants should travel with a spirit of adventure and flexibility.
- Remember to pack your patience and sense of humor! Be willing to look past self-imposed ideals of Western amenities and do not compare these new experiences with your life back home. Travel often includes visiting destinations with modest infrastructures and a bending definition of comfort. That being said some locations are nestled in absolute luxury where pampering is the norm.
- Participants should generally be in good health and prepared to travel in locations without medical facilities.

The start and the end city for this program is San Jose, Costa Rica.

CONDITIONS OF TRAVEL:

HOW TO BOOK: Fill out the reservation form below and send it to Massachusetts Audubon Society, S. Great Road, Lincoln, MA 01773, together with a deposit of \$500 per person. Final invoicing of your trip will be done approximately three months prior to departure. Final payment is due not later than 75 days prior to departure (January 10, 2014). Final documents will be sent to you approximately two weeks prior to departure.

Travel Arrangements: You, the traveler, are responsible for booking and paying for your own international flights. Once you reserve your space, we will provide you with suggested flights and tell you which flights our leaders will be on. You may book flights directly with the airline, online, or with a travel agent. Internal flights within the tour in Costa Rica are included in the tour price.

BAGGAGE: International flights from the U.S. allow one piece of checked luggage, each not exceeding 50 lbs. However we recommend you travel as light as you can manage. The baggage limit on domestic flights is one piece at 33 lbs. per person (plus a carry-on bag.) Also, the size and the structure of the bag is limited. Soft duffel bags are ideal. Large suitcases are virtually impossible to stow on smaller aircraft and vehicles and therefore should not be used. WE HIGHLY RECOMMEND THAT YOU OBTAIN THE OPTIONAL INSURANCE POLICY.

CANCELLATIONS: Cancellations are only effective on receipt of written notification. The following per person fees are applicable on this trip:

- Up to 75 days prior to departure, \$250 handling fee.
- 75-60 days prior to departure, deposit is forfeited.
- Less than 60 days prior to departure, 100% penalty, unless any refund is recoverable from overseas suppliers.

These cancellation fees are also in addition to any imposed by airlines. **WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT YOU OBTAIN THE OPTIONAL INSURANCE POLICY. INFORMATION WILL BE SENT TO YOU UPON RECEIPT OF RESERVATION FORM. INSURANCE PREMIUMS ARE NOT REFUNDABLE.**

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: Rate quoted is valid for first two single rooms booked. If more than two single rooms, additional supplement will apply. Singles are assigned on a first come/first serve basis. Single accommodations are not guaranteed, but will be provided at additional cost if available (see reservation form for cost.) The single room supplement pays for privacy, not better accommodations. For passengers who are traveling alone and wish to share a room with another tour member, we will do our best to provide a roommate. However, if this is not possible, you will be required to pay the single room supplement prior to your departure from the USA.

TRANSFERS: Roundtrip transfer of travelers between airports and hotels are included in the tour.

RATES: All rates quoted are based on tariffs and value of foreign currencies in relation to the U.S. dollar in effect as of May 7, 2013 and are subject to change. Rates are based on a minimum of 10 passengers traveling together (with a maximum of 16 passengers, including MAS escort). The right is reserved to levy a surcharge if minimum is not met, but that is rarely done. We will do our utmost to keep to the prices as published. Should increases be forced on us by airlines, exchange rates, etc., we reserve the right to surcharge.

FINAL DOCUMENTS: Final documents and tickets will be sent to you approximately two weeks prior to departure. We regret to advise that no documents can be released if final payments are not received.

RESPONSIBILITY: Neither Mass Audubon, nor Classic Escapes (the Company) nor any person or agent acting for, through or on behalf of the Company shall be liable for any loss or damage whatsoever arising from any cause whatsoever and without restricting the generality of the foregoing shall particularly not be responsible for loss or damage arising from any errors or omissions contained in its brochure or other literature, loss or damage caused by delays, sickness, theft, injury or death. In addition the Company shall have the right at any time at its discretion to cancel any trip or the remainder thereof or make any alteration in route, accommodation, price or other details and, in the event of any trip being rendered impossible, illegal or inadvisable by weather, strike, war, government or interference or any other cause whatsoever, **the extra expenses incurred as a result thereof shall** be the responsibility of the passenger. The Company may at its discretion and without liability or cost to itself at any time cancel or terminate the guest's booking and in particular without limiting the generality of the foregoing it shall be entitled to do so in the event of the illness or the illegal or incompatible behavior of the guest, who shall in such circumstances not be entitled to any refund. The person making any booking will, by the making of such booking, warrant that he or she has authority to enter into a contract on behalf of the other person included in such a booking and in the event of the failure of any or all of the other persons so included to make payment, the person making the booking shall by his/her signature thereof assume personal liability for the total price of all bookings made by him/her.

PHOTOGRAPHY: The Company reserves the right without further notice to make use of any photograph or film taken on the trip by our photographers without payment or permission. We guarantee that no photographs of a compromising nature will be used.

CHANGES TO SCHEDULES: Although every effort is made to adhere to schedules it should be borne in mind that the Company reserves the right and in fact is obliged to occasionally change routes and camps on trips as dictated by changing conditions. Such conditions may be brought about by seasonal rainfall on bush tracks, airfields and in game areas, by game migrations from one region to another, or airline or other booking problems, etc.

REFUNDS: While the company uses its best endeavors to ensure that all anticipated accommodation is available as planned, there shall be no claim of any nature whatsoever against the Company for a refund either in the whole or part, if any accommodation or excursion is unavailable and a reasonable alternative is not found. If the guest is unable to use any service provided in the itinerary, then there are no refunds due.

INSURANCE: It is a condition of booking, that the sole responsibility lies with the guest to ensure that they carry the correct comprehensive travel and medical insurance to cover themselves, as well as any dependants/traveling companions for the duration of their trip to Costa Rica. This insurance should include cover in respect of, but not limited to, the following eventualities: cancellation or curtailment of the trip, emergency evacuation expenses, medical expenses, repatriation expenses, damage/theft/loss of personal baggage, money and goods. Classic Escapes, including their representatives, employees and agents will take no responsibility for any costs, losses incurred or suffered by the guest, or guest's dependants or traveling companions, with regards to, but not limited to, any of the above mentioned eventualities. Guests will be charged directly by the relevant service providers for any emergency services they may require, and may find themselves in a position unable to access such services should they not be carrying the relevant insurance cover.



Reservation Form for Mass Audubon Costa Rica Tour: MARCH 26 - APRIL 4, 2014

14SAA0326/Mass

Enclosed is my deposit for \$ _____ (\$500 per person) to hold _____ place(s) on the Costa Rica program departing on March 26, 2014. Cost is \$4195 per person, double occupancy, land only.

Final payment due date is: January 10, 2014 and must be made by check or money order.

Please make check payable to Massachusetts Audubon Society and mail to Mass Audubon Tours, 208 South Great Road, Lincoln, MA 01773. If you have any questions, please call: Karen O'Neill at (800) 289-9504.

Charge deposit to: MasterCard Visa # _____

Deposits can be made by credit card; however, all final payments are required to be made by check or money order only.

1) NAME (As appears on passport): Mr. Mrs. Ms. _____ Date of Birth (M/D/Y) / /
Passport No. _____ Green Card No. _____ Expiration Date _____ Nationality _____

2) NAME (As appears on passport): Mr. Mrs. Ms. _____ Date of Birth (M/D/Y) / /
Passport No. _____ Green Card No. _____ Expiration Date _____ Nationality _____

NAME FOR NAME BADGE IF DIFFERENT FROM ABOVE: 1) _____ 2) _____

STREET ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONES: HOME: (____) _____ OFFICE: (____) _____ MOBILE: (____) _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____ FAX: (____) _____

- I certify that I have not recently been treated for, nor am I aware of any physical or other condition or liability that would create a hazard to myself or the other members of this tour.
- The two of us above are sharing a room and, where possible, would like a room with: ONE TWO Beds (Make one selection only)
- I am sharing with _____ (form sent separately)
- I need assistance in securing a roommate. I understand if Massachusetts Audubon Society or the tour operator cannot locate one for me by final payment date, I agree to pay the additional single supplement amount of \$695
- I desire single accommodations, if available, and will pay the single supplement additional cost of:
 \$795 for the trip

All rates quoted are based on tariffs and value of foreign currencies in relation to the U.S. dollar in effect as of May 7, 2013, and are subject to change. Deposit is non-refundable – see cancellation penalties applicable as outlined on Conditions of Travel.

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

MASSACHUSETTS AUDUBON SOCIETY
Natural History Travel, Mass Audubon
208 South Great Road, Lincoln, MA 01773

(We recommend that you keep a copy of your selections as noted above for your future reference)