

BIRDING HIGHLIGHTS OF CENTRAL COSTA RICA 2023

Following is a detailed description of the custom designed birding trip. The areas to visit offer great opportunities for wildlife observation, enjoy the landscape and learn about the people and culture of Costa Rica. Thank you for trusting Crescentia Expeditions Costa Rica !!



Day 1: Tuesday March 28th, 2023 - Heredia

Arrival to International Airport and transfer to hotel. The hotel garden is home of Lesson's Motmot, Blue-and-White Swallow, Rufous-naped Wren and others. We will attend an orientation meeting followed by a welcome dinner at the hotel restaurant.

Overnight Hotel Bouganvillea - D

Day 2: Wednesday March 29th, 2023 - Monteverde

Departure after breakfast for Monteverde area, birding along Guacimo road for dry forest species like Brown-crested Flycatcher, Turquoise-browed Motmot and Double-striped Thick-knee. Lunch will be served at a local restaurant, arriving to the lodge later in the day in time to walk the grounds hoping to catch the late afternoon activity where we might see Northern Emerald Toucanet and Golden-browed Chlorophonia among others.

Overnight Fonda Vela -BLD-

Day 3: Thursday March 30th 2023 - Monteverde

Monteverde was originally founded by Quaker families who moved from Alabama in the 1950's, seeking for a peaceful place to live and carry on with their lives. As part of their vision they protected the cloud forest on top of the mountains, forests that later became all the reserves found in this area. We will spend the day visiting 2 different reserves in search of highland specialties, being the Resplendent Quetzal perhaps the most representative of this group! Other species include specialties like Three-wattled Bellbird, Collared Trogon, Magenta-throated Woodstar, Chiriqui Quail-Dove and more.

Overnight Fonda Vela -BLD-

Day 4: Friday March 31st 2023—Arenal

Departure for Arenal area visiting a Hummingbird Observatory along the way. (See endemic Coppery-headed Emerald plus others such as Green-crowned Brilliant and Purple-throated Mountain Gem) Lunch en-route. In the afternoon we'll bird La Peninsula Raod for unique species like Keel-billed Motmot, White Hawk and Long-tailed Tyrant . At the end of the afternoon we'll drive to our lodge located at the base of Arenal Volcano. Dinner will be at the lodge.

Overnight Arenal Observatory Lodge - BLD

Day 5: Saturday April 1st, 2023 Arenal

Early this morning we'll gather at the observation deck where we see Montezuma Oropendolas, Emerald Tanager and Red-legged Honeycreeper. After enjoying our breakfast, we'll depart for the nearby Sky Adventures Park for our hanging bridges walk through a spectacular Caribbean foothill rain forest. Here we look for specialties such as Broad-billed Motmot and Rufous-tailed Jacamar, Spotted Antbird, Ocellated Antbird, Black-throated Trogon and Brown-billed Scythebill among others. The trail is a combination of ground trails and hanging bridges, with a total of 8 bridges that take you across river ravines some 120 ft above the ground at the highest. Return to the lodge for lunch and more birding in the afternoon around the grounds.

Overnight Arenal Observatory Lodge - BLD -

Day 6: Sunday April 2nd, 2023 - Tarcoles

Schedule continues with a morning departure for the Central Pacific region with stop at Bogarin Trails for an easy walk around this private reserve, which includes feeders, forest trails and a pond where Boat-billed Herons and Uniform Crake can be seen, also look for White-collared Manakin and Yellow-throated Euphonia. Lunch at a local restaurant and continue birding around the grounds in the afternoon.

Overnight Villa Lapas - BLD -

Day 7: Monday April 3rd 2023- Tarcoles

After early breakfast we'll head out to Carara National Park located only a few minutes away. Carara is one of Costa Rica's most special national parks because of its location. The park sits right in the convergence zone between the dry North Pacific and the very wet South Pacific regions; rendering the park a unique feature: hosts species from both areas of influence. Baird's Trogon, Streak-chested Antpitta, Rufous Piha, Turquoise-browed Motmot, and of course the second largest population of Scarlet Macaw in the country. Morning and afternoon visits to the national park.

Overnight Villa Lapas -BLD -

Day 8: Tuesday April 4th, 2023—Savegre

Morning boat tour of the Tarcoles River. This river is one of the most important resting areas for many migratory species, particularly shore birds, and also of great importance for resident ones like Southern Lapwing, Mangrove Vireo and Roseate Spoonbill. Then we'll continue our drive towards the Savegre river valley. The hotel is located at 7500 ft. above sea level and it's surrounded by impressive Montane oak forests and lush gardens.

Overnight Sueños del Bosque Hotel - BLD -

Day 9: Wednesday April 5th, 2023—Savegre

We'll start the day with an early expedition to find the Resplendent Quetzal, regularly seen in the valley feeding on the wild avocados and nesting in dead trees along the Savegre river. Throughout this day we will have the chance to find many Highland birds on the various trails and gardens. This breath-taking setting is surrounded by Highland oak forests and farmland. The crystal-clear Savegre River runs right through the property. Some of the highland specialties: Slaty Flowerpiercer, Scintillant Hummingbird, Ochraceous Wren, Dark Pewee and Yellow-bellied Siskin. All our meals will be at the hotel's amazing restaurant with tasty and varied options.

Overnight Sueños del Bosque Hotel - BLD -

Day 10: Thursday April 6th, 2023 - Alajuela

This morning we'll on our way back to the Central Valley, we'll stop at Paramo section of Los Quetzales National Park at 11,400ft., look for habitat specialist Volcano Junco and other such as Fiery-throated Hummingbird, Timberline Wren and Large-footed Finch. Arrival to the hotel will be in the afternoon and then we'll enjoy our farewell dinner at the hotel restaurant.

Overnight Hotel Robledal -

BLD -

Day 11: Friday April 7th, 2023

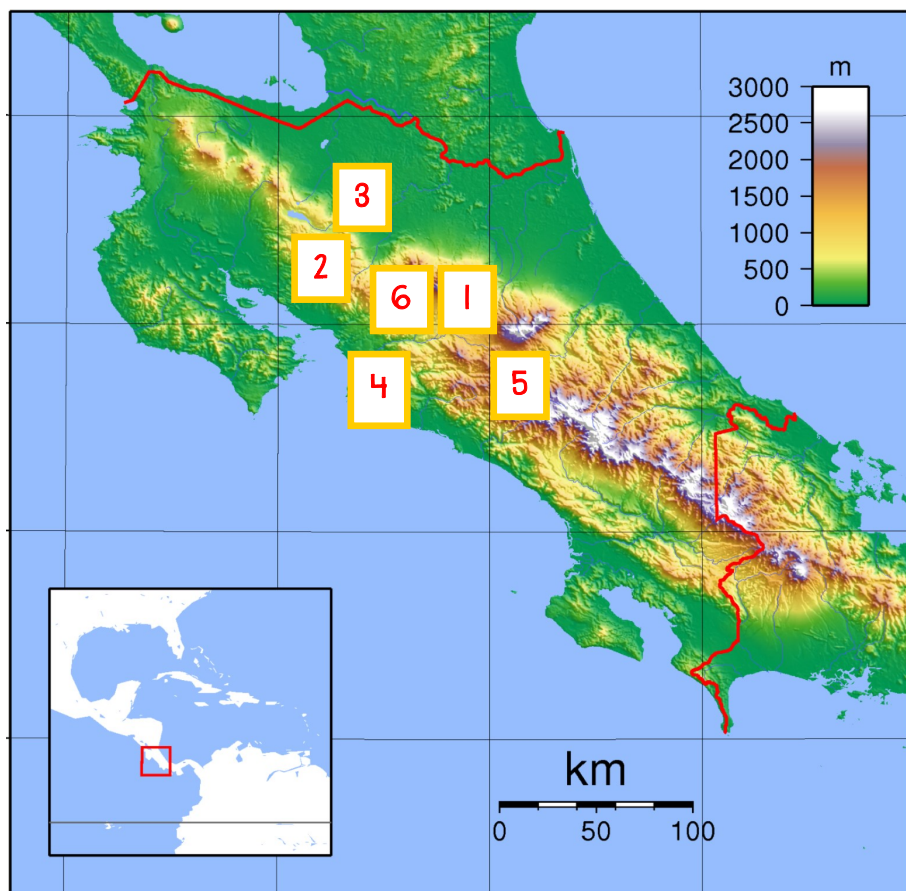
Transfer to International Airport for returning flights and end of services.



Magenta-throated Woodstar

BIRDING CENTRAL COSTA RICA SPECIFIC TARGET AREAS:

- Central Valley
- Tilaran Northern Highland Cloud Forest
- Caribbean Rainforest Foothills Central - Tarcoles Mangrove & Coastal areas
- Pacific Transitional Pacific Forest
- Dry Forest Species
- Talamanca Southern Highland Montane Forest
- Common Species



Locations

- 1- Hotel Bougainvillea
- 2- Fonda Vela
- 3- Arenal Observatory Lodge
- 4- Villa Lapas
- 5- Sueños del Bosque
- 6- Hotel Robledal



Resplendent Quetzal

Included:

- Professional Naturalist & Birding Guide services throughout the program.
- Coach transportation throughout the program
- All meals indicated with **B** (Breakfast), **L** (lunch) and **D** (Dinner)
- All lodging in standard occupancy starting with day 1, ending with day 10.
- All entrance fees and excursions.
- Updated Costa Rica's Bird & Wildlife Check-list.
- Bottled Water.

Not included:

- Airline ticket - Travel insurance - Alcoholic beverages - Gratuities - Personal expenses

For further information please contact:

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Costa Rica

CUSTOMIZED NATURAL HISTORY, EDUCATIONAL & BIRDING TOURS