



Explore Guanacaste

November 8-17, 2024

Tentative Itinerary*

November 8, 2024 - Welcome to Costa Rica!

Recommended flights will arrive at the international airport in Liberia, Costa Rica, where you will be met by your Bird Alliance of Oregon guides. Our lodging is located less than 2 hours from the airport at the beautiful Celeste Mountain Lodge on the lower slopes of the Tenorio Volcano. At 2500' elevation, we can expect many exciting forest birds, and depending on the hour of arrival, you may see your first lifer on the drive!

Lodging: Celeste Mountain Lodge

November 9, 2024 - Cloud Forest of the Tenorio Volcano

Before breakfast, we'll explore the gardens and forest edge at this lovely, family-run ecolodge, hoping for Barred Antshrike and a variety of toucans and parrots, among many. We'll spend a full day birding the Tenorio region, taking a number of walks in areas of interesting habitat and bird activity. Target birds today include Tody and Keel-billed Motmot, Spotted Antbird, Lattice-tailed Trogon and a wide array of beautiful hummingbirds. Dinner at Celeste is always a delicious treat, and after our meal, we'll offer an optional night walk around the grounds, looking for tree frogs and nocturnal insects!

Lodging: Celeste Mountain Lodge

November 10, 2024 - Transfer to the Rincon de la Vieja Area

After enjoying breakfast and our final morning walk around Celeste Mountain Lodge, we begin our drive back towards Liberia then north to the Rincon de la Vieja National Park and our next abode. The drive will take 2-4 hours depending on how many stops we make. Along the way, we will keep our eyes open for a variety of raptors, and we'll arrive at our lodge early enough to relax and enjoy the birds on the grounds, including Yellow-throated Euphonia, Rufous-naped Wren and White-throated Magpie-Jay.

Lodging: Rinconcito Lodge

November 11, 2024- Birding in and around the Rincon de la Vieja National Park

After some birding on the lodge grounds, our day will focus on a morning hike and an afternoon hike in the National Park. Rincon del la Vieja is an active volcano that protects 34,000 acres of tropical forest transitioning between dry, wet, and middle elevations. Some target species include Spotted Antbird, Red-crowned Ant-Tanager, and if we are really lucky we may come across a Yellow-eared Toucanet!

Lodging: Rinconcito Lodge

November 12, 2024 - Santa Rosa National Park

Today we'll take a drive downslope to Santa Rosa, the first National Park in Costa Rica and site of several fascinating historical battles in Costa Rica's history. It also protects over 150 square miles of Tropical Pacific Dry Forest and includes a marine reserve as well. Here, we'll roam several trails, looking for Long-tailed Manakin, Great Curassow, Thicket Tinamou, Yellow-green Vireo and many others, as well as great reptile, mammal and butterfly diversity.

Lodging: Rinconcito Lodge

November 13, 2024 - Transfer to La Ensenada Wildlife Area

We'll enjoy a relaxed departure from Rinconcito and head south down the coast of the Gulf of Nicoya to La Ensenada Wildlife Refuge, our home for the next three days and nights. Situated on the banks of the gulf, this family-run ecolodge encompasses an 800-acre working farm, and we'll explore the wide variety of habitats here over the next three days. On arrival, we'll wander to the water's edge to watch a diversity of herons, egrets and spoonbills, and we'll be on the lookout for resident Pacific Screech Owls as well!

Lodging: La Ensenada

November 14, 2024 - La Ensenada Wildlife Area

Today, we'll enjoy a two-hour tour of the coastal mangroves along the canals of the Abangares River. Traveling by boat is a relaxing way to get close to many shy birds, as well as possible Crab-eating Raccoons, crocodiles and giant iguanas. In the afternoon, we'll hike one of several farm trails, hoping for encounters with Turquoise-browed Motmot, White-browed Gnatcatcher, a variety of warblers and flycatchers, a diversity of exciting insects, and possibly a troop of Howler Monkeys as well.

Lodging: La Ensenada

November 15, 2024 - La Ensenada Wildlife Area

Today, we visit the Salinas (salt ponds) on the property, where a wide variety of shorebirds are found, and we'll walk along the adjacent slough looking for American Pygmy Kingfisher and many warblers as well. After lunch, relax by the pool or the gulf, or join us for more hiking on the lodge trails for any species we may have missed!

Lodging: La Ensenada

November 16, 2024 - Palo Verde National Park and Liberia

We leave La Ensenada after breakfast and head to the wetlands of Palo Verde and the Rio Tempisque. This area is home to one of the largest and most important Central American wetlands and harbors one of the most intact patches of tropical lowland dry forest remaining in Central America. We'll visit the famous Palo Verde Research Station managed by the Organization for Tropical Studies, and we'll walk the trails and boardwalk looking for a variety of waterfowl, kingfishers, wood-rails, thick-knees and, if we are extremely lucky, the magnificent Jabiru! We arrive late afternoon to Liberia, where we'll enjoy our last group meal together and share stories of our wonderful adventure!

Lodging: Best Western, El Sitio

November 17, 2024 - Flights home or to respective destinations