

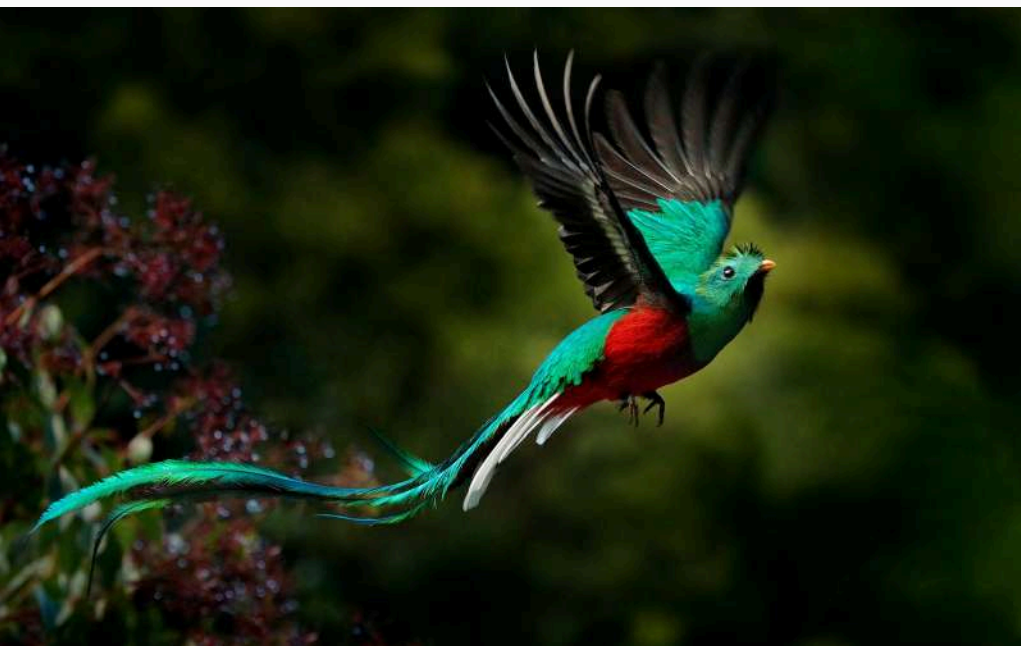
December 3-11, 2025

Sun City Bird Club Costa Rica Nature Trip



An Adventure of a Lifetime

Join the Sun City Bird Club in our first Costa Rica birding and nature tour. An unforgettable journey through Costa Rica's diverse ecosystems. Experience the lush rainforest, marvel at the majestic Arenal Volcano, relax in soothing natural hot springs and glide through the pristine wetlands of the Caño Negro Wildlife Refuge on a guided boat ride. Explore the enchanting cloud forest, the nesting haven of the rare Resplendent Quetzal. Join us as we uncover Costa Rica's breathtaking landscapes and encounter extraordinary wildlife, including sloths, toucans, monkeys, and countless tropical plant species. Our trip is limited to 12 participants.



Itinerary

Day 1-Arrive in San Jose

Arrival to Costa Rica. First night at Bougainvillea Hotel.

Day 2-Tocu-Tent Caño Negro

Depart to Caño Negro, crossing the Braulio Carrillo National Park

Day 3-Caño Negro Wildlife Refuge

Boat exploration of the Caño Negro wildlife refuge.

Days 4-Tilajari Resort

Depart to Tilajari Resort. Afternoon walk through the resort gardens.

Day 5: Pierella Garden

Morning visit to Bogarin private nature preserve. Afternoon Chocolate Tour.

Day 6: Arenal Volcano

Morning bird watching in Arenal Volcano's rain forest and natural hot springs.

Day 7-Savegre Lodge

Afternoon bird watching in Savegre Lodge gardens.

Day 8- Cloud Forest

All day exploring the Cloud Forest in search of Resplendent Quetzals

Day 9: Transfer to SJO Airport

Pura Vida Costa Rica.



Day 1: Wed, December 3

Bougainvillea Hotel



Upon arrival at San José International Airport (SJO), we will transfer to the Bougainvillea Hotel, a tranquil retreat set on 10 acres of award-winning botanical gardens. Conveniently located just 30 minutes from the airport, this charming haven is the perfect setting to begin our adventure.

In the evening, we will gather at the hotel's restaurant to review the itinerary and prepare for the next day's activities.

www.hb.co.cr



Early morning birdwatching at Bougainvillea's Botanical Gardens, followed by breakfast. Afterward, we'll begin our journey to Caño Negro. On the way, we'll stop at the Cinchona bird feeding station for a cup of coffee and some birdwatching in this unique mountain location. Over 40 species of birds can be seen at the famous Cinchona station.

After Cinchona, we'll continue through the Caribbean lowlands of Costa Rica and arrive at a boat landing. From here, we'll embark on a scenic boat ride to Hacienda Caño Negro, located on the edge of the Caño Negro Wildlife Refuge, where we will stay for the next two days.

Overnight at Tocu Tent Camp.

www.haciendacanonegro.com

Day 2: Thurs, December 4

Tocu Tent Caño Negro



Day 3: Fri, December 5



Caño Negro Wildlife Refuge



Morning boat tour through the wetlands of the Caño Negro Wildlife Refuge and along the Caño Negro River. This renowned sanctuary is celebrated for its rich biodiversity and vibrant birdlife. Our open-canopy boats will offer optimal visibility of the lush rainforest, providing exceptional opportunities for wildlife observation and photography. After lunch at the lodge, we'll set out for a late afternoon boat excursion to further explore the wonders of the wildlife refuge. During our journey, we are likely to encounter howler monkeys, spider monkeys, two species of sloths, and a plethora of colorful tropical birds.

After breakfast, we will depart for the Tilajari Resort. Upon arrival, we will enjoy lunch in this enchanting natural sanctuary, where stunning landscapes and diverse wildlife create a serene retreat. Situated along the banks of the San Carlos River, Tilajari offers a tranquil escape to the peaceful beauty of Costa Rica's northern lowlands.

In the afternoon, we'll take a guided walk through the resort's gardens. This area provides excellent opportunities to spot toucans, macaws, parrots, tanagers, woodcreepers, and many other tropical bird species. Keep an eye out for the resort's abundant resident sloths and iguanas, which add to the charm of this biodiverse haven.

www.tilajari.com

Day 4: Sat, December 6

Tilajari Resort



Day 5: Sun, December 7

Pierella Gardens



Begin the day with early birdwatching at Tilajari's bird feeding station, where over 20 bird species regularly visit the fruit feeder. Sip on a cup of Costa Rican coffee while observing the vibrant array of feathered visitors.

After breakfast, we will depart for the town of La Fortuna, located next to the impressive Arenal Volcano. Here, we will explore the renowned Bogarin Trail, a prime location beloved by birdwatchers and nature enthusiasts alike.

Lunch at a local restaurant will follow, after which we will visit a Cocoa Plantation. Learn everything about chocolate, from the origin of the unique cocoa fruit to the final product. Both chocolate and vanilla come from the tropical rainforest—can you imagine a world without chocolate and/or vanilla?

Day 6: Mon, December 8

Arenal Volcano



Early morning birdwatching on the resort grounds.

After breakfast, we will depart to visit the El Silencio Trail, where our driver will take us to the top of the trail to begin our leisurely descent while keeping an eye out for birds and wildlife in the rainforest.

Lunch will be at a local restaurant, followed by an afternoon visit to the Arenal Natural Hot Springs. Take time to relax and enjoy the rejuvenating hot springs, nestled within the lush tropical rainforest.

Dinner and overnight at Tilajari Resort.

Day 7: Tues, December 9

Savegre Lodge



After breakfast, we will depart to Talamanca Mountains, on the way we will stop at Pierella Gardens, a remarkable grassroots conservation project created by a local villager. This sanctuary is a haven for birds and wildlife, featuring a variety of species, including rare finds like the Red-throated Ant-Tanager. Beyond birds, the gardens are home to monkeys, sloths, basilisk lizards, and other fascinating wildlife. After Pierella we will continue across the expansive rainforest of Braulio Carrillo National Park, a protected area covering 100,000 acres. Afternoon arrival at Savegre Lodge.

www.savegre.com



Morning hike through a private cloud forest preserve near our lodge. This enchanting cloud forest is the nesting site of the famous Resplendent Quetzal, the Slaty Flowerpiercer, Flame-throated Warbler, and other rare and magnificent species. A local naturalist will guide us to an active Quetzal nesting cavity.

Lunch at a local restaurant.

In the afternoon, we'll hike through Villa Blanca's private Cloud Forest Preserve. Dinner at the lodge's restaurant.

Day 8: Wed, Dec 10

Talamanca Mountains



Departure to SJO airport



All adventures must come to an end. After eight days of exploring the magic of this tropical country, we return home with lifelong memories. After breakfast, we will depart from Savegre Lodge for the San José airport. This will provide ample time for you to catch any flight departing at noon or later.

NOTE: Your departure flights must be booked for after 12:00 PM.

¡Hasta luego, Costa Rica!



Additional Information

Pre-Trip San José City Extension

For those interested in exploring Costa Rica's capital city, San José, a one-day extension can be arranged before the trip. This extension includes an extra night (Tuesday, Dec. 2) at Hotel Bougainvillea and a city tour on Wednesday, Dec. 3 with visits to the renowned Costa Rican Gold Museum and the Costa Rica National Museum. Additional cost: \$250.

Physical Requirements

To participate in this trip, you should be able to walk 2 miles at a leisurely pace on uneven terrain. We move slowly on all of our hikes because we pause frequently to observe flora and fauna, but some areas are hilly and may have uneven surfaces.

Meet Your Expedition Leader Carlos Chacon



Carlos Chacon, a native Costa Rican, moved to Hilton Head Island, SC about 20 years ago. He has been a naturalist for more than 25 years -- first in his home country leading nature tours in the rainforest and other tropical environments and later specializing in the wildlife and eco-systems of the South Carolina coast and barrier islands. Carlos works part-time as the Natural History Manager for the Coastal Discovery Museum on Hilton Head Island. He regularly organizes and leads groups of U.S. nature enthusiasts through the diverse ecosystems of Costa Rica.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ECO-ADVENTURES OF COSTA RICA

The trip is limited to a maximum of 12 participants

\$4,350: Price per person based on double occupancy

\$750 single supplement for a private room

Prices are per person and include:

Transportation on private bus with air conditioning.

Transportation by boat as described

Private naturalist guide services

Lodging and meals as described

Activities and entrance fees as described

Not Included:

Round-trip airfare to Costa Rica

Personal expenses (medical expenses)

Travel Insurance

Medical Insurance

Payment and Cancellation Policy

Trips must be paid in full 4 months before departure.

Refunds will be issued according to the following deadlines:

- For cancellations received 60 to 45 days before arrival, 50% of the total amount.
- For cancellations received 44 to 30 days before arrival, 25 % of the total amount.
- For cancellations received 29 days before arrival, no refunds are available.



Secure your space on this trip by emailing Carlos Chacon at Eco1adventures@gmail.com and sending an initial non-refundable commitment check of \$400 made to Eco-Adventures LLC.

Mail your commitment check to:

Carlos Chacon | 21 Park Circle. | Bluffton SC 29910