

Sept 8-17, 2025

Wild Birds Unlimited Costa Rica Nature Tour



An Adventure of a Lifetime

Join us in an unforgettable adventure through Costa Rica's diverse ecosystems, from the towering Arenal Volcano and its lush mid-elevation rainforest to the Sarapiquí River Valley's lowland jungle and the mystical cloud forests of the Talamanca Mountains.

This carefully crafted journey maximizes opportunities to see wildlife while ensuring comfort at boutique eco-lodges. Spot sloths, toucans, monkeys, and an array of rare and colorful birds in their natural habitat.

Join us for an immersive experience in one of the world's most spectacular wildlife destinations!



Itinerary

Day 1: Arrival to San Jose

Arrive at Bougainvillea Hotel. Explore 10 acres of lush botanical gardens.

Day 2: Arenal Volcano

Departure to Arenal Observatory Lodge
Afternoon rainforest hike.

Day 3: Arenal Observatory Lodge

Exploration of the Arenal Observatory gardens and private rain forest preserve.
Bird and primate watching.

Day 4: Sloth Walk

Morning walk through Arenal rainforest via hanging bridges followed by a hike at a local forest in search of sloths.

Day 5: Sarapiquí Rainforest Valley

Safari river float on the Piedras Blancas River.

Day 6: La Selva Biological Station

Visit to Pierella Gardens, a family-owned butterfly garden and wildlife sanctuary.

Day 7: Talamanca Mountains

Hike in Braulio Carrillo National Park en route to Savegre Lodge.

Day 8: Savegre Lodge

Morning hike through an ancient oak forest and cloud forest.

Day 9: Savegre Lodge

Morning visit to the tropical paramo habitat in search for rare endemics

Day 10: Transfer to San Jose Airport

Pura vida, Costa Rica!



Day 1: Monday, Sept 8

Arrival in San Jose

Upon landing at San José International Airport (SJO), you'll be greeted and transferred to the Bougainvillea Hotel, a serene retreat nestled within 10 acres of award-winning botanical gardens. Just 30 minutes from the airport, this charming hotel offers a perfect introduction to Costa Rica's natural beauty.

In the evening, we'll gather at the hotel's restaurant to review our itinerary and prepare for the exciting adventures ahead.

www.hb.co.cr



Day 2: Tuesday, Sept 9

Arenal Volcano



After breakfast, our private bus will take us on a 3-hour drive to reach the luxurious Arenal Observatory Lodge, nestled among elaborate gardens at the base of one of the most iconic active volcanoes in Costa Rica.

We will take a scenic drive to reach Arenal and will stop at the famous La Paz waterfall and at the Cinchona coffee shop, a picturesque location with bird feeders attracting the Red-headed Barbet, Emerald Toucanet, Crimson-collared Tanager, and other species.

Night hike to the local frog pond in search of red-eye tree frogs and other creatures.

www.arenalobservatorylodge.com

Day 3: Wed, Sept. 10

Arenal Observatory

The Arenal Observatory Lodge is a worldwide destination for nature lovers and bird watchers, with great chances to see howler monkeys, white-faced capuchin monkeys, spider monkeys, toucans, and other Central American wildlife. We will start our day with bird watching at our lodge's bird feeders, using tropical fruit to draw many species. Up to 40 species of birds could visit the Arenal Lodge feeders in a single morning. We can expect to see various tanagers, Keel-billed Toucans, Collared Aracari, Montezuma Oropendulas, and many more.

After breakfast, we will continue exploring the gardens, trails, and waterfalls of the hotel's private reserve.



Day 4: Thurs, Sept 11

Sloth Walk



Early morning nature walk on the lodge's trails, followed by breakfast.

After breakfast, we will depart to hike in the nearby Skywalk hanging bridges. Sixty percent of the life in the rainforest is in the canopy. The canopy bridges allow us to see the forest from a different perspective. The bird's eye-view is an experience that will leave lifetime memories.

Lunch at a local restaurant.

After lunch, we will visit a local nature preserve in search of three-toed and two-toed sloths.

Day 5: Friday, Sept 12

Selva Verde Lodge



After breakfast, we'll depart for Selva Verde Lodge. On the way, we'll stop at the Piedras Blancas River for a safari river float. As we drift down the river in small dinghies, we'll have the chance to observe abundant wildlife, including howler monkeys, white-faced capuchin monkeys, two- and three-toed sloths, and toucans.

We'll arrive at Selva Verde Lodge in the afternoon for dinner and an overnight stay.

www.selvaverde.com

We'll begin the day with early morning birdwatching in the lodge's gardens, followed by a visit to Pierella Ecological Garden, a butterfly breeding facility. Here, tropical butterflies are bred for export to exhibits around the world. The gardens and regenerating rainforest are exemplary conservation efforts.

The afternoon is free to enjoy the lodge's amenities or take a stroll through the gardens.

Dinner and overnight at Selva Verde Lodge.

Day 6: Saturday, Sept 13

Butterfly Garden



Day 7: Sunday, Sept 14

Talamanca Mountains



Departure to Talamanca Mountains, the tallest mountain range in Costa Rica. Our drive will take us across the Braulio Carrillo National Park, which protects 100,000 acres of pristine forest. After a short hike in the park, we will continue to our destination, Savegre Lodge. This family-owned lodge includes a protected cloud forest preserve located along the bank of the Savegre River. This magical location surrounded by cloud forests and orchards offers trails that lead to cascading waterfalls. Here, it's usually possible to see the famous Resplendent Quetzal, an iconic bird idolized by the ancient Mayan culture.

www.savegre.com

Day 8: Monday, Sept 15

Cloudforest

After breakfast, we will board the hotel's Land Rovers and head to an ancient oak forest at the top of the mountain range. From there, we will take a leisurely hike back down to the lodge.

Along the way, we will encounter high-altitude bird species, giant ferns, and other species typical of this region.

We will spend the afternoon at leisure with the option for a walk into town or stay at the lodge and enjoy the hotel amenities which include a spa, bar, and hot tub.



Day 9: Tuesday, Sept 16

Tropical Paramo



After breakfast, we will drive our bus to the top of the mountain range to explore the tropical paramo ecosystem. This unique environment is characterized by dwarf vegetation. The bird life of this habitat is unique, with endemic species such as the Volcano Junco and the Wrenthrush. After our morning outing, we will eat lunch at a local restaurant. In the afternoon, we will return to our lodge. This is an ideal time for a massage at our lodge's spa, or to relax and get ready for our return home.



All adventures must come to an end. After nine days of exploring the magic of tropical Costa Rica, we return home with lifelong memories.

Important Note: Your departure flights should be booked after noon.

Hasta Luego, Costa Rica!

Day 10: Wed, Sept 17

Transfer to SJO Airport



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 ecosystems 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

This trip is limited to a maximum of 12 participants.

\$4,500: Price per person based on double occupancy

\$750: Single supplement for a private room

Prices are per person and include:

Private transportation on microbus with A/C, and boat as described

Private naturalist guide services

Lodging and meals as described

Activities and entrance fees as described

Not Included:

Personal expenses, (medical expenses, alcoholic drinks, souvenirs, etc.)

Round-trip airfare to Costa Rica

Travel Insurance

Medical Insurance

Payment and Cancellation Policies:

Trips must be paid in full 4 months before departure, by May 8, 2025.

Refunds will be issued according to the following deadlines:

- For cancellations received 60 to 45 days prior to arrival, 50% of the total amount.
- For cancellations received 44 to 30 days prior to arrival, 25 % of the total amount.
- If the participant cancels 29 days to 1 day prior to arrival, no refunds are available.



Secure your space on this trip by emailing Carlos Chacon at Eco1adventures@gmail.com and sending an initial commitment check of \$500 made to Eco-Adventures LLC. Mail your committment check to:

Carlos Chacon | 21 Park Circle. | Bluffton SC 29910