

Costa Rica Part II Reader Rendezvous

January 7-14, 2020

Day 1: January 7

After your arrival to Juan Santamaria International Airport, you will be greeted by a Crescentia Expeditions representative and transferred to [Hotel Bougainvillea](#) conveniently located a few minutes away.

Bougainvillea's hotel grounds and gardens offer great opportunities for amazing species like Lesson's Motmot, White-eared Ground-Sparrow, and Rufous-naped Wren. In the evening we'll attend a group orientation meeting and enjoy our welcome dinner!

Day 2: January 8

We'll get together early to continue exploring the gardens and areas nearby in search of the Costa Rican endemic Cabanis' Ground-Sparrow. After enjoying a hearty breakfast, we'll start our drive towards the Central Pacific lowlands and coastal areas. We'll explore the Tarcoles River this afternoon on a motor boat tour. The Tarcoles River is one of the most important rest areas for many migratory species, particularly shore birds, and is also important for resident species like Southern Lapwing, Mangrove Vireo, and Roseate Spoonbills. Temporary visitors we are likely to see are Plumbeous Kite, Black Skimmer, Peregrine Falcon, and many more! After our boat tour, we'll settle into [Villa Lapas Hotel](#), a lodge conveniently located a few minutes away from the river and Carara National Park.

Day 3: January 9

After early breakfast, we'll head out to Carara National Park. Carara is special because of its location. The park sits right in the convergence zone between the dry North Pacific and the extremely wet South Pacific regions. We'll look for Baird's Trogon, Streak-chested Antpitta, Rufous Piha, Turquoise-browed Motmot, and the second largest population of Scarlet

Macaw in the country. After lunch we'll return to our lodge and continue birding around the grounds of [Villa Lapas](#) for the remainder of the afternoon. We'll have a chance to see Slaty-tailed Trogon and Fiery-billed Aracari among others! Dinner will be at Villa Lapas tonight.

Day 4: January 10

After breakfast, we'll depart for the North Pacific area, visiting Punta Morales wetlands for shore birds. These salt-drying pans are of extreme importance to many migratory and resident shore birds. Large concentrations can be found here! We will stop to eat lunch and drop of luggage at our new lodge for the night, [La Ensenada Lodge](#). We will visit Hacienda Solimar this afternoon which is a large cattle ranch set aside for conservation. It encompasses nearly 2,500 acres of wetlands and dry forest which are areas with special conditions for amazing bird life including the endangered Jabiru and dry forest species like Brown-crested Flycatcher, Scrub Euphonia, Banded Wren, Black-headed Trogon, and Lesser Ground-Cuckoo. We'll return in the early evening to [La Ensenada Lodge](#).

Day 5: January 11

We'll set sail on an early morning boat ride to Abangares River's Mangrove Estuary to look for resident specialties like Mangrove Vireo, Rufous-necked Wood-Rail, and Mangrove Hummingbird (a Costa Rican endemic!). Then return to our lodge in search of dry forest specialties like Yellow-naped Parrot, and with some luck we'll get to see the Three-wattled Bellbird as they pass through the area on their way up to the mountains for mating season later on. We'll begin our way up to the Tilaran Mountain Range and arrive in Monteverde this afternoon. We'll get to enjoy the nice town of Santa Elena this evening which is near our new hotel, [Ficus Lodge](#).

Day 6: January 12

Monteverde was originally founded by Quaker families, who moved here from Alabama in the 1950s, seeking 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. These forests later became all of the reserves found in this area. We'll spend the day visiting two different reserves in search of highland specialties like the Resplendent Quetzal, Coppery-headed Emerald, Northern Emerald Toucanet, and Orange-bellied Trogon. We'll return to the [Ficus Lodge](#) for dinner and to go over our checklist for the day.

Day 7: January 13

For our last full day together, we'll take part in a very special activity with the Monteverde Conservation Foundation. MCF is dedicated to protecting and restoring endangered species' habitat, having the Three-wattled Bellbird as its flagship species. We're going to assist them during a bird banding session and then visit the reforestation project where we will receive a lecture about the details of the project. After lunch, we'll begin our drive back to Central Valley. We'll arrive to [Hotel Buena Vista](#) in late afternoon and enjoy a farewell dinner at the hotel's nice restaurant.

Day 8: January 14

This is departure day. You'll be transferred back to Juan Santamaria International Airport to catch your flight back home.