



Colourful Costa Rica

Destination: Costa Rica

Focus: Bird photography, some mammals, macro

Grading: Moderate walks only, some in highlands (2700m)

Group size: 8 photographers

Time: 17 - 27 November 2024

Price: 6495 €, single supplement 920 €



Experience the astonishing Costa Rica

Unbelievable nature in Costa Rica offers epic photography experiences. Amazing numbers of colourful and extraordinary birds can be found from this photographer's dream country!

Birds are the main target of this tour but we will have also macro session for iconic frogs and snakes. On this tour we discover something amazing and new every day! Photography targets are very unique and colourful.

Costa Rica is easy going and friendly country where everything works well and food is great. So what else you would ask for a perfect and relaxing photography holiday?

This will be our first tour with clients but we did a recce tour in November 2023. We visited many places and chose the places we liked the most for this tour.

One might ask why November - we asked from local photographers and they told that November is the best time to come. Not as rainy as in wet season but not too bright sun like later in dry season.

During this tour we will photograph many extraordinary birds but won't forget the macro. The tour will take us from lowlands to highlands and to Mid Pacific. In this tour we stay two nights at each destination. This will allow more relaxing time between towns and a good selection of cruises and evening photography!

Highlights: Keel-billed Toucan, Yellow-Resplendent Quetzal, King Vulture, Hummingbirds with multi-flash and in natural light, Green and Scarlet Macaws, Collared Aracari, Emerald Toucanet, Acorn Woodpecker, Boat-billed Heron, Crested and Yellow-headed Caracaras, Bare-throated Tiger Heron, colourful snakes and frogs with multi-flash, Bats with multi-flash, White-faced Capuchin, Crocodiles

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Day 1 - The tour will start from San Jose. This is the arrival day. When you arrive to airport private transport to nearby hotel. Meet your guide at the hotel.

Day 2 San Jose - Lowlands Caribbean side

Breakfast at the hotel. Our local guide will pick us up at 8am. Transport with spacious bus to our first photography session. And what an experience it is - **Hummingbirds with multi-flash!** Local guide will set up multi-flash equipment for us while you have time to walk around beautiful waterfall area. No need to have own flash nor experience, we will help you with everything. We will have two multiframe systems so half of the group can photograph at the same time. Local guide will bring beautiful flowers to set up so everyone will get photos with different flowers. Lunch at the site. After intense start we continue our way to our first lodge which is famous for its **Toucans**. Dinner at the lodge.

Day 3 - 4 Lowlands Caribbean side

In the morning pre-breakfast session with the striking **Toucans** and other colourful birds. The photography deck is at the hotel restaurant so those who wish to have more relaxed morning can sleep a bit longer. The deck is reserved for our group privately, so enough space and the ability to come and go as you please without fear of losing your spot.

After breakfast walk to **King Vulture** hide. Group will be again divided to two - half will have low angle hide and half the hide better for flight shots. Stay at the hide until lunch or walk back to lodge for Toucans and other colourful birds after you are ready with King Vultures. Lunch at the lodge.

Afternoon Toucans and other colourful birds from the deck at the lodge. You might see also **White-nosed Coati** walking around the garden.

In the evening half of the group will do a **multi-flash session for bats** on day 3 and half of the group on day 4. Dinner at lodge.





Day 5 Lowlands Caribbean side - Sarapiquí

Right after breakfast it is time to say goodbye to **Toucans** and continue our tour towards next amazing birds.

Photography stop at the local Macaw rescue center. In here we have great opportunity to photograph critically endangered **Green Macaws** and endangered **Scarlet Macaws**. Birds are wild but tame as they are released from the rescue centre. In here also good chances to photograph **White-faced Capuchin**. Lunch on the way.

Today is time for also a bit different photography. After Macaws we will drive to local farm which has turned itself to protection area for amphibians and reptiles. Here we have chance to photograph **snakes and frogs with multi-flash system**. Local guide will search the animals from the farm for us and release them in the evening to same place. After succesful photosession drive to our lodge. Dinner.

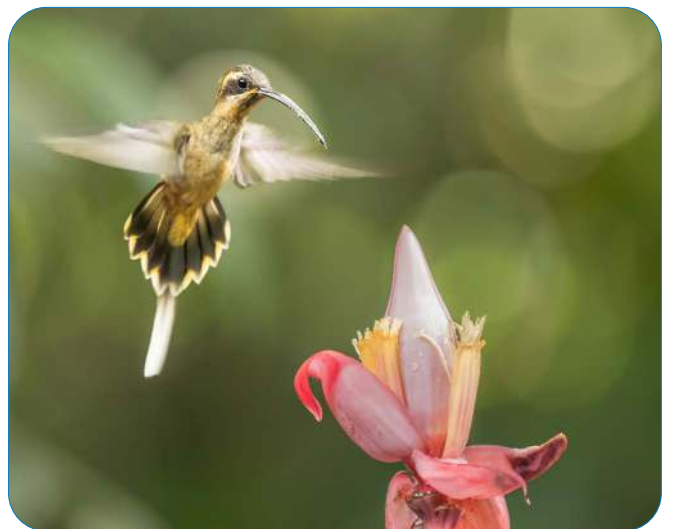
Day 6 Sarapiquí

Today we will spend a full day with local naturalist. First we will visit in his beautiful garden which is booked just to our group - surprising oasis in the middle of urban area. We have time to photograph **Hummingbirds** in natural light and other colourful birds visiting at the feeders including **Kingfishers and Montezuma Oropendolas**. Lunch in this beautiful garden. During the day we have an opportunity to visit in nearby forest with this well known naturalist. This visit is more opportunistic photography but might include **White Bats, Spectacled Owl, Kingfishers and other species what are around**. If you wish you can also stay and photograph in his the garden. In afternoon we might photograph more **amphibians and reptiles** with multi-flash if the groups is interested in. Dinner at lodge.

Day 7 Sarapiquí - Highlands

After breakfast we will head to highlands. Lunch on the way. In afternoon visit to local birdfeeder for **Hummingbirds** in natural light, **Emerald Toucanets, Acorn Woodpecker and many other colourful small birds** visiting at the feeders. Dinner at the lodge.

Please notice that we will be 2700m above sea level so take your warm clothes with you!





Day 8 Highlands

Early departure for **Resplendent Quetzals**. Depending of the weather we take breakfast with us to deck or go back to lodge for breakfast. Day break and lunch at the lodge. Afternoon second session for Quetzals. In this tour we will do 3 sessions for Quetzals. We know everyone hopes to get flight shot of this dazzling bird and it is not as easy shot as one might think!

In here we will walk a few hundred meters uphill from car to photography site - the most demanding part of our tour. We can take the walk slowly and if needed local guides will help with photogear.

Day 9 Highlands to Mid Pacific

Our last morning session with **Resplendent Quetzals** before breakfast. Time to photograph **Hummingbirds** in lodge's garden before drive to our last destination.



Day 10 Mid Pacific

Early morning (pre-breakfast) cruise to Tarcoles River. We have reserved a good-sized boat just for our group, so there is plenty of space for photography. During this amazing safari boat trip, we will be looking for amazing birds including **Tiger Heron, Roseate Spoonbill, Boat-billed Heron, Hawks, Caracaras and many more interesting species like Crocodiles.**

Breakfast after the cruise. Day break and lunch. After lunch second cruise to Tarcoles River. Dinner at the lodge.

Day 11 Mid Pacific - airport

Breakfast at lodge. Today it is time to fly back home. Private transportation to airport according to your flight schedule.





For more pictures: [Finnature's Flickr Gallery](#)

Price includes: Accommodation, meals from second day breakfast to last day breakfast. Please notice no dinner in first evening. Private transportation with spacious bus, entrance fees mentioned in program, use of photography decks and hides (Toucan deck booked just for our group for 2 days, 3 sessions with Quetzals, 2 private river cruises, 1 day with local naturalist and private use of his garden, visit to Macaw rescue centre and visit to farm for frogs and snakes), use of multi-flash equipment for bats and hummingbirds in flight and for snakes and frogs, Finnature guide and local naturalist/photographer guide throughout the tour. We also included gratuities to our price to make it easier for you.

Accommodation: Good standard accommodation mainly in lodges. Please notice that in highlands rooms might be a bit chilly so take also warm clothes.

Distances: Distances between the sites fairly long and roads narrow and a bit bumpy. Driving distance between the sites 2 - 4 hours. Walking distances short /very short but please notice that in highlands we will be at 2700m above the sea level.

Food: Local food, lot of rice and beans with coriander.

Leader: [Kaisa Peltomäki](#).

Possible Extension: More macro

Please notice that program is weather dependent and may change due to weather conditions.

[Book a tour!](#)

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