



Sabrewing Nature Tours

Costa Rica Jewels

Rancho Naturalista and San Gerardo de Dota Valley

January 4 – 12, 2020



We'll visit two of the most famous birding and wildlife observation locations in Central America, Rancho Naturalista and the San Gerardo de Dota Valley. In addition to an amazing list of birds, these areas will give us the opportunity to see a wide variety of other wildlife including mammals, butterflies, moths, reptiles, and amphibians!

Itinerary Overview

Saturday, January 4: Arrival in San Jose, Costa Rica and Transfer to Rio Perlas Spa and Resort
Sunday, January 5: Transfer to Rancho Naturalista with birding stops
Monday, January 6: Birding Rancho Naturalista and surrounding areas
Tuesday, January 7: Birding El Copal and Angostura Lake
Wednesday, January 8: Transfer to San Gerardo de Dota Valley with birding stops
Thursday, January 9: Birding in the San Gerardo de Dota Valley
Friday, January 10: Birding in the San Gerardo de Dota Valley
Saturday, January 11: Transfer to San Jose with birding stops
Sunday, January 12: Depart for Home

Detailed Itinerary

January 4 – Arrival and Transfer to Rio Perlas Spa and Resort

You will be met by your guides outside the customs area of Juan Santa Maria International Airport in San Jose. From here, we will make the drive to our hotel outside San Jose for the night. We'll do some birding around the property in the afternoon if time permits. Some highlights might include White-eared Ground-Sparrow and Cabanis's Wren among others. We'll have a wonderful welcome dinner and plenty of time to relax before our adventures begin early the next morning.

Overnight at Rio Perlas Spa and Resort

January 5 – Transfer to Rancho Naturalista with birding stops

It will be an early departure as we begin our drive to Rancho Naturalista. Although this is only a short 2.5-hour drive, we'll be making birding stops along the way at Tapanti National Park and the Ujarrás Valley. We'll enjoy lunch along the way as well. While driving to Rancho Naturalista, we'll also have a wonderful view of the Turrialba Volcano which is one of the most active volcanoes in Costa Rica.

Upon arrival at Rancho Naturalista, we'll settle into our rooms and then gather for one of the lodge's famous gourmet dinners!

Overnight at Rancho Naturalista

January 6 & 7 – Birding at Rancho Naturalista and surrounding areas

Rancho Naturalista is one of the most famous birding lodges not just in Costa Rica but in all of Central America. Over 450 species of birds have been seen on this property alone! We'll spend two full days birding this property as well as several other locations nearby. One of the most sought-after birds at Rancho Naturalista is the beautiful Snowcap, a small purple hummingbird with a bright white cap. We'll be sure to spend time searching for this special little bird. Other highlights at Rancho Naturalista include Tawny-chested Flycatcher, White-crowned Manakin, Black-crested Coquette, and many others!

One of our full days will be exploring El Copal and Angostura Lake. This will allow us to visit some very different habitats than those that are at Rancho Naturalista. El Copal offers incredible deep forest birding and beautiful hiking trails. We hope to find a mixed flock full of tanagers as well as a few of the antbirds that call this property home and Yellow-eared Toucanet. This is also a wonderful place to find White-faced Capuchins and Mantled Howler Monkeys. Next, we'll visit Angostura Lake. This will be one of our only opportunities to visit a lake on this trip, so we'll see many species here that we likely won't get on the rest of the tour. Some highlights might include Snail Kite, Least Grebe, Purple Gallinule, Limpkin, and Red-breasted Meadowlark. After dinner on at least one of the nights, we'll go out looking for owls and other night creatures such as Kinkajou and Olingo.



Keel-billed Toucan

In addition to being a wonderful birding area, Rancho Naturalista is also an exceptional place to look for butterflies and moths. We'll see many butterflies while out birding and will spend some time at night checking their very productive insect light.

Overnight at Rancho Naturalista



Long-tailed Silky-Flycatcher

January 8 – Transfer to San Gerardo de Dota Valley area

Today we start with early birding on the grounds of the Rancho Naturalista, then visit another of the hotspots of the area, Cerro El Silencio. Here we hope to find Golden-browed Chlorophonia, Crimson-collared Tanager, and many other species. After spending the morning here, we'll come back to the lodge for lunch. After our final meal at Rancho Naturalista, we'll pack up and head for our next lodge, Savegre Mountain Lodge (or similar). We'll arrive in time to get settled into the lodge before dinner.

Overnight at Savegre Mountain Lodge or similar

January 9 & 10 - Birding in the San Gerardo de Dota Valley area

Savegre Mountain Lodge is a beautiful property situated deep in the San Gerardo de Dota Valley high in the mountains. This region is home to numerous birds including the extraordinary Resplendent Quetzal. In fact, it's one of the best places in the world to see this special species! We'll spend two full days exploring a variety of elevations in this area and enjoying all that the beautiful Savegre has to offer. Some possible highlight species include Black Guan, Dusky Nightjar, Barred Parakeet, Slaty Flowerpiercer, Long-tailed Silky-Flycatcher, Yellow-thighed Finch, Volcano Junco, and Timberline Wren.

Overnight at Savegre Mountain Lodge or similar

January 11 – Birding and Transfer to San Jose

Today, we bid farewell to San Gerardo de Dota and make our way back to San Jose. Along the way, we'll make birding stops along the Providencia Road. This high elevation spot will allow us to look for anything we may have missed the last two days. In the afternoon, we'll drive back to San Jose and then enjoy a fantastic final dinner together. The hotel is near the airport making transfer for our flights the following day very easy.

Overnight at Hotel Bougainvillea or similar

January 12 – Depart for Home

You will be transferred to the international airport in time for your flights back to the United States.

Trip Details

Cost:

Price per Person (double occupancy), from San Jose, Costa Rica: \$3,799
Single Supplement: \$565

Minimum Participants: 6
Maximum Participants: 10

Price Includes:

Expert Guides
Ground Transportation in Costa Rica
All Lodging
All Meals
Park Entrance Fees

Price Does Not Include:

Airfare to and from San Jose, Costa Rica
Visa and Passport Fees
Alcoholic Beverages
Personal Items
Tips
Travel Insurance

Deposit:

A deposit of \$1,000 per person is required to hold your spot on this tour. The remaining balance is due no later than 3 months prior to the scheduled start date of the tour (October 4, 2019).

If you have any questions about this tour or would like to sign up for it, please contact us at info@sabrewingnaturetours.com or by phone at 317-324-8505.



Sabrewing Nature Tours

REGISTRATION **Costa Rica** **2020 Jewels**

Participant 1:

Name (As it appears on Passport)

Address

City, State, Zip

Email

Phone

Passport Number – Expiration - Country of Origin

List current health and physical limitations: _____

List any allergies: _____

List any medications: _____

List any dietary restrictions or preferences: _____

In Case of Emergency Please Notify:

Name: _____

Relationship to you: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell: _____

E-mail: _____

Participant 2:

Name (As it appears on Passport)

Address

City, State, Zip

Email

Phone

Passport Number – Expiration - Country of Origin

List current health and physical limitations: _____

List any allergies: _____

List any medications: _____

List any dietary restrictions or preferences: _____

In Case of Emergency Please Notify:

Name: _____

Relationship to you: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell: _____

E-mail: _____

Sabrewing Nature Tours

Terms, Conditions, and Waiver

TERMS: To register for a tour or workshop please complete the above registration form and sign below to acknowledge the terms. Send this form along with you Tour/Workshop Registration Form and your deposit or full tour amount to Sabrewing Nature Tours (SNT) at the below address. Registrations will be processed on a first come first served basis. We will place your name on the waiting list if your tour is full.

The deposit for this trip is \$1,000 per participant. Deposits and all signed forms are required to secure registration of your spot on the tour. Deposits are refundable less a 20% processing fee ONLY if the spot can be filled with another participant at the full tour price. Deposits received after a tour has filled will be returned and your name will be placed on a waiting list. Payment in full is due at least 90 days prior to the start of the tour. Registrants who have not paid their remaining balance will forfeit their deposit and their place on the tour. Payment by personal check is strongly preferred. If you would like to pay with a credit card, additional fees will apply. We strongly suggest you consider trip insurance to cover you in the event of a medical or other emergency that would prohibit you from joining the tour.

The activity level required for each tour will be described on the tour page. If in doubt please contact SNT to determine if a tour is right for you. Any physical or medical concerns including allergies and/or dietary restrictions should be communicated to SNT. All tours will be non-smoking during group activities including but not limited to meals, slide programs, vehicle travel and when birding/photographing in close proximity to other participants. Tour groups will be kept small for the enjoyment of all participants. Target group sizes are listed in each tour description on our web site. SNT reserves the right to exceed the target group size by no more than one participant.

Tours will be held regardless of weather conditions. Severe weather may dictate informal discussion and/or a slide program while we wait for the weather to break. Tours will begin at the scheduled time. Tardiness may result in missing the boat, or van so to speak. There are no guarantees in nature. Tours are designed to coincide with excellent nature viewing opportunities. Decisions will be made daily to determine where the group should be to maximize opportunities. Deviation from the scheduled itinerary may be necessary.

It is imperative that all participants follow rules and suggestions set forth by the leaders and/or local guides. Failure to comply could pose a safety risk to you or other tour participants. For the safety of all clients we reserve the right to restrict access to tour functions at any time.

Airfare is NOT included in the price of the tour unless otherwise noted on the tour page. Registered participants will receive more specific details of what to bring as well as a more detailed outline of what can be expected on the tour upon payment in full and no later than 60 days prior to the start of the tour.

Photo tour participants wishing to get the most from their tour will have a working knowledge of their camera equipment prior to the tour. Suggestions on exposure modes, camera settings and a variety of techniques will be verbalized throughout the tour. Do bring your camera's manual. Every camera is unique in its operation thus it is impossible to know every feature of every camera model. Participants will be put in the best locations to take advantage of the light, wind, and habitat. We will work to improve compositions and make suggestions to vary your perspective that will improve your resulting images. Participants will also learn techniques to successfully capture action and behavior images.

Waiver: I am aware that certain risks and dangers are inherent to nature travel and photography and may occur during a Sabrewing Nature Tours event and that such risk and dangers cannot be eliminated without diminishing the quality of the workshop/tour for which I have registered. Risks include, but are not limited to theft or other loss of equipment or personal belongings; illness, injury, accident or death; travel hazards by air, boat, automobile or other vehicle; exposure to elements and other forces of nature and acts of God; both native and non-native wildlife, insects and flora as well as political, civil or military disturbance, strike, quarantine, government restriction and terrorist threat. I understand on or off trail hiking can present risk of falls that may result in damage to camera equipment, or significant personal injury or death. I understand Sabrewing Nature Tours is not responsible for inclement weather and cannot and does not guarantee subject matter will be available for photography on any given date or location. I further understand I am solely responsible for additional expenses incurred by me due to medical emergency or other travel delays, including but not limited to the expense of extra nights lodging or flight itinerary changes. I voluntarily assume all risks and will hold Sabrewing Nature Tours, its partners and cooperating agents, the workshop leader(s), any and all co-leaders, assistants and other participants harmless from any and all liability, actions, causes of action, claims, debts, and demands which arise in connection with the tour. The terms hereof shall serve as a release and assumption of risk for my heirs, administrators, and executors, and for all members of my family, including any minors accompanying me. In the event a lawsuit is filed; the enrolling participant agrees to do so solely in Hamilton County in the State of Indiana.

I have read and agree with the above terms and conditions.

Participant 1: Signature

Date

Participant 2: Signature

Date

Please complete forms, sign the second form, and send them with your deposit or full tour amount.