



Sabrewing Nature Tours

Costa Rica

Raptor Migration, Rancho Naturalista, and Arenal

October 16 - 25, 2020



Costa Rica is well-known as one of the top birding countries in the world, but many birders don't realize that this wonderful country hosts an incredible migration of raptors. This tour will visit the amazing site of Kèköldi where millions of raptors pass overhead each autumn. In addition to Kèköldi we'll bird at additional Costa Rican hotspots Rancho Naturalista and Arenal Observatory Lodge.

Itinerary Overview

Friday, October 16: Arrival in San Jose, Costa Rica

Saturday, October 17: Early Birding at Rio Perlas, morning at Tapanti National Park, and drive to Rancho Naturalista

Sunday, October 18: Early Birding at Rancho Naturalista, Valle del Tuis, and surrounding areas

Monday, October 19: Birding at Angostura Reservoir and drive to the Caribbean Coast

Tuesday, October 20: Hiking up to the Kèkòldi Observation Tower, Raptor Migration

Wednesday, October 21: Hawk Watch from Casa Calateas, afternoon birding along Cahuita National Park

Thursday, October 22: Drive to Arenal, stopping at Cope Arte for birding

Friday, October 23: Full day birding at Arenal Observatory Lodge and surrounding areas

Saturday, October 24: Transfer to San Jose with a stop at Rey del Cocora Hummingbirds

Sunday, October 25: Depart for Home

Detailed Itinerary

October 16 – 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 tomorrow morning.

Overnight at Rio Perlas Spa and Resort

October 17 – Transfer to Rancho Naturalista with birding stops

Today, we will start with some early birding on the grounds of the Rio Perlas to see some of the common species of Costa Rica's central valley. After breakfast, we'll visit Tapanti National Park, one of the hotspots for birdwatching in the eastern slope of Talamanca mountain range. After a morning of birding in the park, we'll head to the Ujarras Valley for lunch at a local restaurant where we will aim to see a few more special species of the area. After lunch, we'll drive to our lodge in the Valley of Turrialba.

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

October 18 – Early Birding at Rancho Naturalista, Valle del Tuis, and surroundings

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! Our birding today starts at dawn by checking the insect light that attracts several species of forest birds. They come to the screen which is packed with moths and other insects, creating a spectacular pre-breakfast show. After breakfast, we'll spend the rest of the morning birding on the grounds and trails of the lodge. 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 plenty of 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!

Not far from Rancho Naturalista is the Valle de Rio Tuis. This wonderful spot hosts several species that can't be found on the lodge grounds. We'll spend the afternoon along this beautiful river looking for more target species.

After dinner, we'll go out looking for owls and other night creatures such as Kinkajou and Olingo.

Overnight at Rancho Naturalista

October 19 – Birding at Angostura Reservoir and drive to the Caribbean Coast

Angostura Reservoir is not far from Rancho Naturalista and where our day will begin. This will be the first wetland and lake that we visit so it should add many species to our trip list such as Snail Kite, Least Grebe, kingfishers, and many others. Once we have our fill of birding here, we'll make our way to the Caribbean lowlands.

The Caribbean lowlands of Costa Rica present favorable conditions for the air currents that carry migrating raptors. This is what helps to create the spectacle that we are hoping to see over the next few days. We'll also check the river mouths along this route for shorebirds.

Overnight at Caribblue Beach and Jungle Resort or similar

October 20 - Kèköldi Observation Tower Raptor Migration

More than 3.5 million raptors fly cross Costa Rica's skies every year, forming large kettles, and as many as 17 different species of hawks, falcons, and vultures can be seen. The largest concentration occurs in the south Caribbean coastal areas near the border with Panama, where mountains that are situated close to the shore form a funnel.

This makes a visit Kèköldi Indigenous Reserve, a conservation and research project managed by the members of one of the native communities of the area, an incredible experience. The reserve has an observation tower on a strategic point on top of the ridge where there are panoramic views where we can appreciate the migration. Although it is quite a hike of approximately 1.5 miles up hill, the experience is really worth the effort.



Broad-winged Hawk

Highlights for the day could include thousands of Broad-winged Hawks, Swainson's Hawk, Peregrine Falcon, King Vulture, Mississippi Kite, Purple-throated Fruitcrow, and many more!

Overnight at Caribblue Beach and Jungle Resort or similar

October 21 – Hawk Watch from Casa Calateas, afternoon birding along Cahuita National Park

After breakfast, we'll head to Casa Calateas and spend the morning at a lodge to enjoy the raptor migration from two different lookouts. There is also an access road that offers great birding. In the afternoon, we'll visit Cahuita National Park for some more birding and then round out the day enjoying the beach and ocean around our lodge. A visit to Puerto Viejo for dinner at a local restaurant allows us to immerse ourselves in the culture of the area.

Overnight at Caribblue Beach and Jungle Resort or similar

October 22 – Drive to Arenal, stopping at Casa de Cope for birding

After an early breakfast, we'll make our way to the next destination. Along the way we will visit Casa de Cope, which is a property owned by a local birder and artist that is very well-known in the country. We'll spend time birding with him, taking full advantage of his knowledge of the local flora and fauna. Possible highlights on this property include White-necked Jacobin, Bronze-tailed Plumeleteer, White Hawk, and a good variety of tanagers visiting the feeders here.

From there, we'll head up to Arenal where we will settle into our lodge for the night.

Overnight at Arenal Observatory Lodge

October 23 – Full day birding at Arenal Observatory Lodge and Surroundings

The grounds and gardens around the Arenal lodge offer an amazing variety of wildlife. Our morning will start at the restaurant deck where there will be plenty of action at the feeders for us to enjoy. Great Curassows tend to make an

appearance below the feeders each morning and sometimes throughout the day! After breakfast, we'll continue exploring the gardens and trails around the lodge.

In the afternoon, we'll head to Peninsula Road which is part of Arenal Volcano National Park.

Overnight at Arenal Observatory Lodge

October 24 – Transfer to San Jose with a stop at Rey del Cocora Hummingbirds

After breakfast, we'll leave Arenal Observatory Lodge and make our way back to San Jose with birding stops along the way. One of our stops is at a wonderful conservation project with feeders and wonderful views. This stop is a special place to find middle elevation species. After arriving at the hotel in the afternoon, we'll do some birding on the hotel grounds if time allows and then, have our farewell dinner.

Overnight at Bougainvillea Hotel

October 25 – Depart for Home

If time allows, we'll do some early morning birding in the Bougainvillea Gardens. We'll then have breakfast before being transferred to the airport for our flights home.



Talamanca Hummingbird

Trip Details

Cost:

Price per person (double occupancy), from San Jose, Costa Rica: \$4,099
Single Supplement: \$635

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 (July 16, 2020).

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 Raptors October 2020

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.