



Keel-billed Toucan
by Dawn Scranton



COSTA RICA

GRAND VALLEY AUDUBON

WITH MARIO CORDOBA

January 25 - February 4, 2018



HIGH INTENSITY!

This program is for serious birders. Expect at least 6-8 hours of birding each day.

Have fun and support Grand Valley Audubon as you discover the abundant species of neotropical birds and other wildlife inhabiting this small but biodiverse country. More than 900 bird species have been recorded. Combine that with its accessibility and its friendly people, and you have the perfect birding opportunity to learn and enjoy areas such as Sarapiquí and Caño Negro. With expert Costa Rican birding leader Mario Cordoba, you'll find target species such as the Keel-billed Toucan, Great Green Macaw, Yellow-tailed Oriole, Red-lored Parrot, and perhaps the Nicaraguan Grackle. He will help ensure you spot as many species as possible!

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Look for some of the country's most sought-after birds, including the rare Tody Motmot and many others, while on guided walks in a variety of natural habitats and reserves.
- Visit the Organization for Tropical Studies La Selva Biological Station, where more than 450 avian species have been recorded.
- Experience Caño Negro Wildlife Refuge, an ecological jewel protecting 350 species of birds and other wildlife.
- Travel to Curi Cancha Reserve, a birdwatcher's paradise, where over 200 species have been observed, including Resplendent Quetzal and the Three-wattled Bellbird.

ITINERARY

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

JANUARY 25 - SAN JOSÉ

Upon arrival in San José, meet your guide and transfer to the hotel. *Overnight at Country Inn & Suites.*

JANUARY 26 - SARAPIQUÍ

Meet at hotel restaurant at 7:00 am for breakfast and orientation, then depart for the Caribbean lowland rainforest and Tirimbina Rainforest Reserve, stopping en route at Cinchona to observe hummingbirds. Approximately 26 different species of hummingbirds can be seen here, such as the Volcano Hummingbird, Green Thorntail, Magnificent Hummingbird, Green Violetear, Purple-crowned Fairy, Violet Sabrewing and White-necked Jacobin. Arrive in time for lunch. This afternoon, take a hike in the reserve with your guide. There will be opportunities to see species such as the Keel-billed Toucan, Great Green Macaw, White-winged Becard, Sunbittern, Acadian Flycatcher and Wood Thrush. After dinner there is an optional night hike to discover nocturnal animals and insects. *Overnight at Tirimbina Rainforest Lodge. (BLD)*

JANUARY 27 - SARAPIQUÍ

Depart early for the Organization for Tropical Studies La Selva Biological Station. La Selva is world renowned for scientific research on rainforest ecosystems and has been studying this forest for over 50 years. Be on the lookout for the Ornate Hawk Eagle, Crested Guan, Great Tinamou, Pied Puffbird, and Spectacled Owl. Return to the lodge for lunch, then free time before an afternoon boat ride on the Puerto Viejo River. *Overnight at Tirimbina Rainforest Lodge. (BLD)*

JANUARY 28 - CAÑO NEGRO

This morning visit Don Alvaro's Macaw Farm, where previously caged or abused macaws fly free. Next depart for Caño Negro Wildlife Refuge, one of the most important wetlands and biological areas of the country. Caño Negro is set in the lush wetlands of northern Costa Rica. Upon arrival, take a guided walk on the hotel grounds, surrounded by abundant tropical vegetation. *Overnight at Caño Negro Lodge. (BLD)*

JANUARY 29 - CAÑO NEGRO

Morning and afternoon boat rides in the Caño Negro Wildlife Refuge. This ecological jewel is natural habitat to over 350 species of birds as well as other wildlife such as the emerald basilisk, giant anteaters, river turtles and more. Keep an eye out for the Glossy Ibis, Black-necked Stilt, Anhinga, American Wigeon, Northern Shoveler, Wood Stork, White Ibis, Black-bellied Whistling Duck, Snail Kite, and Blue-winged Teal. You may also get the chance to see the endangered Nicaraguan Grackle. *Overnight at Caño Negro Lodge. (BLD)*

JANUARY 30 - RIO CELESTE

Transfer to Río Celeste for the night. The Celeste Mountain Lodge's property spreads across nine acres of protected primary forest and is set high atop a mountain, which provides beautiful views. The peaks of both the Tenorio and Miravalles Volcanoes can be seen, as well as dense forest and the Tenorio Volcano National Park. The lodge's own two-kilometer hiking trail extends into primary forest and offers up some wonderful wildlife viewing, including the chance to spot howler monkeys and white-faced capuchins, tapirs, toucans and parrots. *Overnight at Celeste Mountain Hotel. (BLD)*

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ENROLL

Visit holbrook.travel/audubongv-cr18 or contact Debbie Sturdivant Jordan at 866-748-6146 or debbie@holbrooktravel.com

JANUARY 31 - RIO CELESTE

Spend the day birding in Río Celeste. You may spot the rare Tody Motmot, with its unmistakable turquoise, green and rust colored feathers, and other rare species such as the Black-faced Antthrush. Other bird species found in the area include tanagers, toucans, parakeets, parrots, hawks and woodcreepers. *Overnight at Celeste Mountain Hotel. (BLD)*

FEBRUARY 1 - MONTEVERDE

Transfer to Monteverde and then spend the day birding at the Curi Cancha Reserve. The Curi Cancha Reserve is located in the Arenal Tempisque conservation area in the center of Monteverde. With 205 acres of forest, secondary growth and open pasture, Curi Cancha is a birdwatcher's paradise. Over 200 species of birds have been observed here including the Resplendent Quetzal, Three-wattled Bellbird, Blue-crowned Motmot, Orange-bellied Trogon and many others. *Overnight at Hotel Fonda Vela. (BLD)*

FEBRUARY 2 - MONTEVERDE

Spend the day birding in Bajo del Tigre Reserve. Bajo del Tigre is situated in Monteverde and is over 70 acres in size. There are about 3.3 km of trails, which allows for the exploration of the unique flora and fauna of the area. *Overnight at Hotel Fonda Vela. (BLD)*

FEBRUARY 3 - SAN JOSÉ

Depart for San José. You should arrive with time to relax and do some last minute packing before a farewell dinner at the hotel. *Overnight at Country Inn and Suites. (BLD)*

FEBRUARY 4 - FAREWELL!

Individual transfers to the airport for your flights home. (B)

LAND PRICING

\$2,475 (10 participants)

Cost includes meals, accommodations, and activities as indicated in the itinerary, in-country transportation, full-time guide, bottled water on the bus, donation to Grand Valley Audubon, and carbon offset.

Does not include international airfare, estimated at \$650 from Grand Junction, gratuities for guide or driver, or items of a personal nature. Other departure cities available.

THE FINE PRINT

Cost is based on double occupancy; for a single room throughout the trip add \$415 per person. A \$200 per person deposit and enrollment form (visit link below) are required ASAP to reserve your space on the trip. This deposit is refundable excluding a \$100 cancellation fee until October 22, 2017, at which time non-refundable final payment is due. Travel/trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. For more information call Travel Insured at 800-243-3174 or visit www.travelinsured.com. Holbrook Travel's agency number is 15849.



This program includes optional carbon offsetting with ClimateSafe. Learn more at holbrooktravel.com/climatesafe