



Great Green Macaw by Eric Kilby

HOLBROOK
TRAVEL

COSTA RICA

Chris Eberly | Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership

December 12 - 18, 2021

If you've always wanted to go birding in Costa Rica — or never taken a birding trip abroad at all — this program is a great introduction to the Neotropical birds of Central America. Holbrook's local birding guides are experts at identification by both sight and sound, and they'll help ensure your group spots as many species as possible. Despite its small size, more than 900 types of birds have been recorded in the country. Combine that with its accessibility and its friendly people, and Costa Rica is a perfect destination for beginners and more advanced birders alike. Plus, you'll discover fascinating wildlife like frogs, monkeys, bats, and sloths.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Take guided hikes in the 500-acre primary and secondary rainforest reserve at Selva Verde Lodge, which provides habitat to more than 350 bird species, including the endangered Great Green Macaw.
- Get a different perspective of the rainforest from atop the 100-meter suspended walkway at Tirimbina Biological Reserve for the chance to see species that spend their time within the forest canopy.
- Watch for species like the Ornate Hawk-Eagle, Crested Guan, and Spectacled Owl at the world-renowned La Selva Biological Station.
- Search for the highly sought-after Resplendent Quetzal in the cloud forests of San Gerardo de Dota.

ITINERARY

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

DECEMBER 12 - SAN JOSÉ

Individual arrivals in San José. *Overnight at Villa San Ignacio.*

DECEMBER 13 - SARAPIQUÍ

This morning, meet for breakfast and an orientation in the hotel restaurant. After breakfast, receive an introduction to tropical birding from a local expert. Check out of the hotel, and travel by bus to La Paz Waterfalls, where you will have lunch and then visit the hummingbird gardens and butterfly farm. Continue to Selva Verde Lodge & Rainforest Reserve, stopping at Cinchona en route. This afternoon, take a hike in the reserve with your guide. Protecting 500 acres of rainforest, Selva Verde offers many covered walks, birding trails, and lookout points. Selva Verde provides opportunities to see species such as the Keel-billed Toucan, Great Green Macaw, White-winged Becard, Sunbittern, Acadian Flycatcher, and Wood Thrush. Boots are available for use if the trails are muddy. Take an optional walk after dinner to discover nocturnal frogs and insects. Elevation change: From 3,000 feet above sea level in San José to approximately 225 feet above sea level in Sarapiquí, with the highest point visited today at 6,200 feet in La Paz Waterfalls. *Overnight at Selva Verde Lodge. (BLD)*

DECEMBER 14 - SARAPIQUÍ

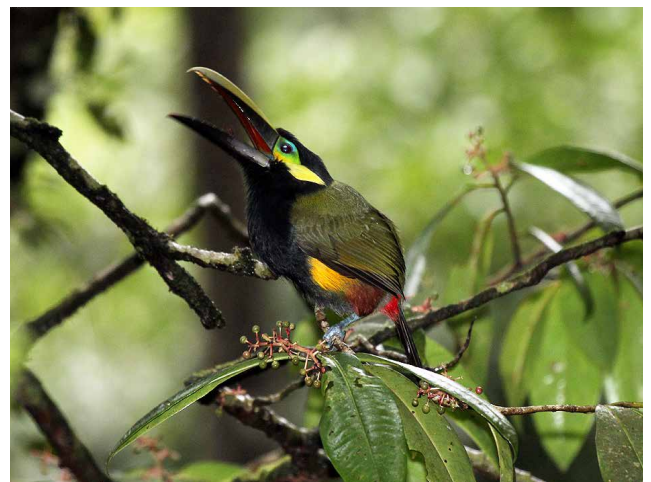
Enjoy early morning birding before breakfast. Then, set out to explore the reserve again on a different trail. The Selva Verde Reserve is home to one of the largest almond trees in all of Central America, which provides habitat for the endangered Great Green Macaw. Return in time for lunch, then later this afternoon, visit Tirimbina Biological Reserve for a guided hike. The trails at Tirimbina are designed to approach areas of high interest for viewing highlights of rainforest wildlife and biodiversity. As a greater proportion of life in the rainforest thrives in the forest canopy, Tirimbina visitors can experience the richness of treetop flora and fauna from a 328-foot suspended canopy walkway spanning one of the many stream valleys in the reserve. After dinner at Tirimbina, enjoy an informative talk on the lives of bats. *Overnight at Selva Verde Lodge. (BLD)*

DECEMBER 15 - SARAPIQUÍ

Depart early this morning for the Organization for Tropical Studies La Selva Biological Station. Established in 1968, La Selva is world-renowned for scientific research on rainforest ecosystems. Be on the lookout for the Ornate Hawk-Eagle, Crested Guan, Great Tinamou, Pied Puffbird, and Spectacled Owl as possible sightings. Return to the lodge for lunch. Your afternoon is free to participate in optional activities such as a Sarapiquí River boat ride, whitewater rafting or horseback riding (arranged at reception after your arrival and paid onsite), spending time by the pool, or looking for avian visitors in Selva Verde's botanical garden area. Later this afternoon, enjoy a guided birdwatching hike, or take in the river views from the patio overlooking the Sarapiquí River. *Overnight at Selva Verde Lodge. (BLD)*

DECEMBER 16 - SAN GERARDO DE DOTA

Early this morning, check out of the lodge and depart for San Gerardo de Dota. En route, stop at Nectar and Pollen Reserve, where some interesting possibilities include the Snowcap, Long-tailed Tyrant, Cinnamon Woodpecker, White Hawk, and others. Have lunch en route, and then check in at Savegre Hotel. Located in San Gerardo de Dota, a small community in the Talamanca Mountains, Savegre sits at an elevation of 7,220 feet. The forest surrounding the hotel is home to massive oaks, colorful plants, and an incredible variety of animal life: birds, insects, mammals, and amphibians alike. The pristine valley is a paradise for birdwatchers, with more than 170 species of birds. The crown jewel is the magnificent Resplendent Quetzal, which lives in the region year



Yellow-eared Toucanet by Juan Zamora

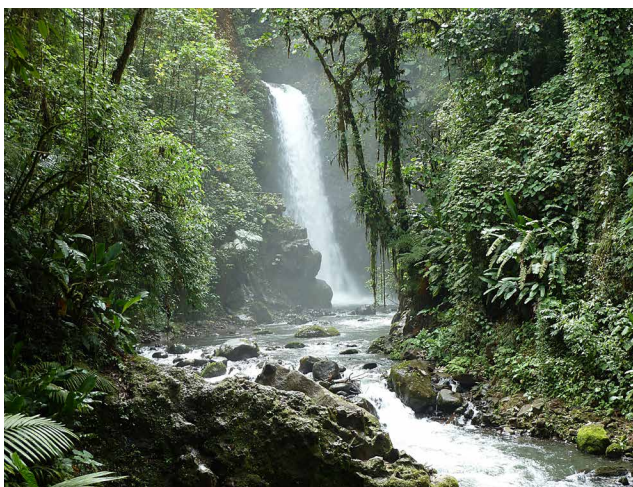
round. After settling in at the lodge, spend some time walking around the extensive gardens, where you may find resident Talamanca Hummingbird, Lesser Violetear, White-throated Mountain-gem, Volcano Hummingbird, and the tiny Scintillant Hummingbird. Fiery-throated Hummingbird and Violet Sabrewing are seasonally present, and even Flame-colored Tanager and Slaty Flowerpiercer come in for up-close views, offering excellent photo opportunities. *Overnight at Savegre Hotel Natural Reserve & Spa. (BLD)*

DECEMBER 17 - SAN GERARDO DE DOTA

Spend the morning exploring the upper trails at Savegre in search of Resplendent Quetzal and some of the other 169 species present here. (Note: the beginning of the trail is about a one-mile uphill climb.) The large centennial oaks of the forest are laden with lichens and mosses that contrast with the colorful bromeliads, adding to the striking atmosphere of this forest. Explore the trails in search of such specialties as Spotted Wood-Quail, Costa Rican Pygmy-Owl, Resplendent Quetzal, Collared Trogon, Buffy Tuftedcheek, Ruddy Treerunner, Ochraceous Pewee, Barred Becard, Zeledonia, and Golden-browed Chlorophonia, just to name a few. After lunch, journey to Cerro Buena Vista in Los Quetzales National Park to look for Volcano Junco, among other high-elevation (10,400 feet) species. Dinner is at the lodge this evening. *Overnight at Savegre Hotel Natural Reserve & Spa. (BLD)*

DECEMBER 18 - FAREWELL!

Transfer to the airport in time to catch your afternoon flight home. (B)



La Paz Waterfall by Don Henise

LAND PRICING

\$2,050 (8 participants)

Cost includes accommodations, activities, meals and entrance fees as indicated in the itinerary, in-country transportation, full-time guide for duration of program, most tips/gratuities except for main guide(s) and driver, bottled water on the bus, carbon offset, and a donation to Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership.

Does not include international airfare, gratuities for guide(s), or items of a personal nature. Holbrook can assist with your flight arrangements if desired.

TRAVEL PROTECTION

Holbrook Travel purchases Travel Protection on behalf of all participants. These plans help provide coverage once the trip has departed and offer benefits for Baggage/Personal Effects, Accident & Sickness Medical Expenses, Emergency Evacuation and more.

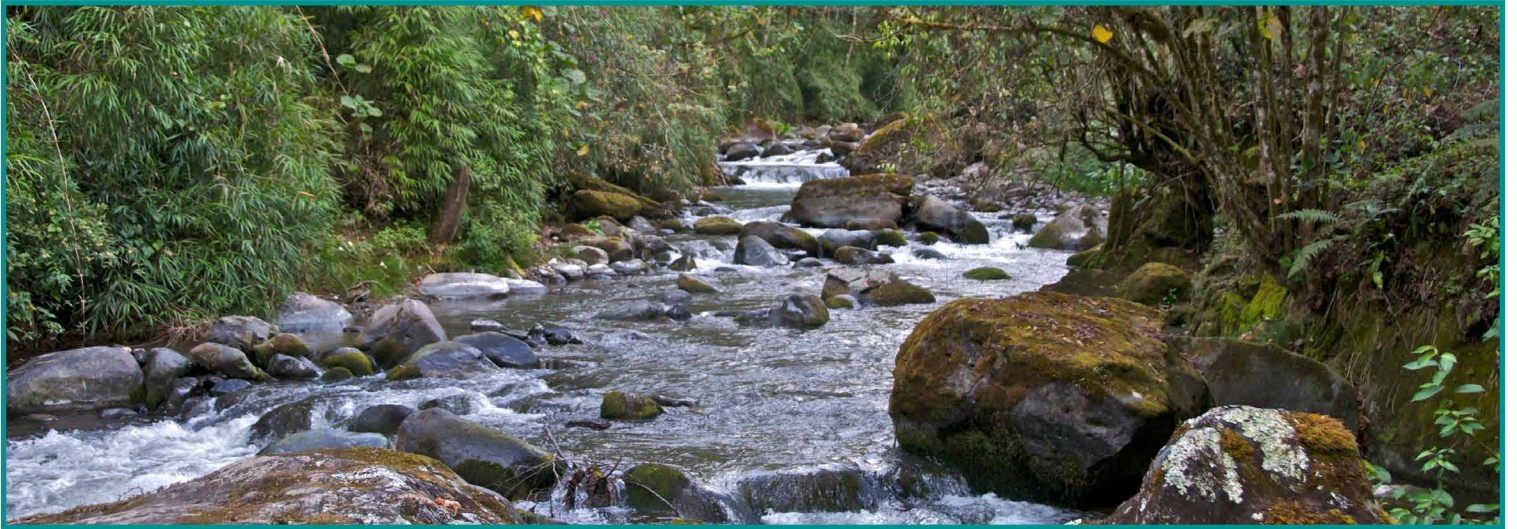
Optional additional coverage is available in the form of the Group Deluxe Plan, which offers benefits for Trip Cancellation/Interruption, in addition to many other insurance benefits and non-insurance assistance services. If interested in this optional plan, we can provide you with rates and plan details.

THE FINE PRINT

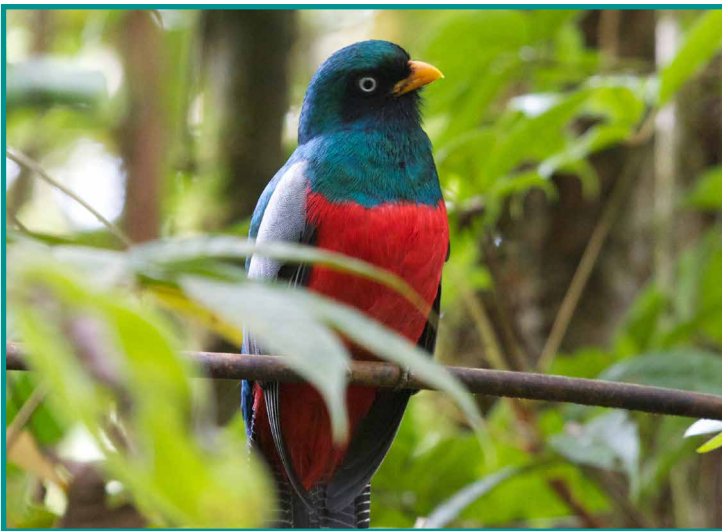
Cost is based on double occupancy; for a single room throughout the trip add \$175 per person. A \$200 per person deposit and enrollment form are required to reserve your space on the trip. This deposit is refundable excluding a \$100 cancellation fee until September 08, 2021 at which time non-refundable final payment is due.



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



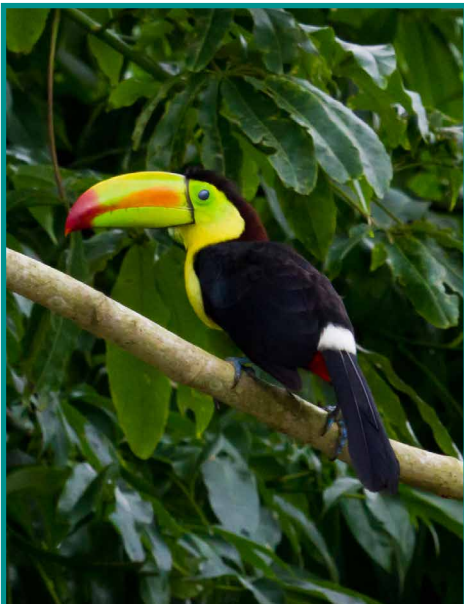
Savegre River by Brian Ralphs



Lattice-tailed Trogon by Matt Macgillivray



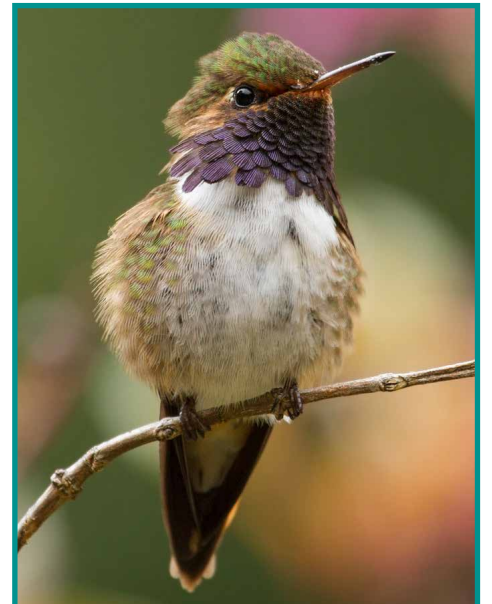
White-throated Mountain-gem by Don Faulkner



Keel-billed Toucan



Resplendent Quetzal by Francesco Veronesi



Volcano Hummingbird by Chris Jimenez

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ENROLL

Visit holbrook.travel/chriseberly-cr21 or contact Debbie Jordan at debbie@holbrooktravel.com or 866-748-6146.