



HOLBROOK  
TRAVEL



Sunbittern by Sanford M. Sorkin

# COSTA RICA

An Introduction to Neotropical Birding with Fern Ferner

March 14 – 20, 2020

*If you've always wanted to go birding in Costa Rica — or never taken a birding trip abroad at all — this program with Fern Ferner 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 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 300-foot 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.



Slate-throated Redstart by Al Hovey

# ITINERARY

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

## MARCH 14 - SAN JOSÉ

Individual arrivals in San José. Check-in starts at 3 pm. *Overnight at Villa San Ignacio.*

## MARCH 15 - SARAPIQUÍ

Meet for breakfast and an orientation in the hotel restaurant. Afterwards, receive an introduction to tropical birding from a local expert. Check out from the hotel and travel by bus to La Paz Waterfalls, where you will have lunch and 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. An optional walk after dinner to discover nocturnal frogs and insects. Elevation change: from 3,000 feet above sea level in San José to 225 feet in Sarapiquí, with the highest point visited today at 6,200 feet in La Paz Waterfall. *Overnight at Selva Verde Lodge. (BLD)*

## MARCH 16 - SARAPIQUÍ

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 Central America, which provides habitat for the endangered Great Green Macaw. Return in time for lunch. Later this afternoon visit Tirimbina Biological Reserve for a guided hike. The trails are designed to approach areas of high interest for wildlife watching or for viewing highlights of rainforest biodiversity. A high proportion of rainforest life thrives in the forest canopy, and Tirimbina visitors can experience a view of the richness of treetop flora and fauna from a 300-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)*

## MARCH 17 - SARAPIQUÍ

This morning depart early for the Organization for Tropical Studies La Selva Biological Station. Established in 1968, La Selva is world-renowned for scientific research on rainforest ecosystems and has been studying this forest for over 60 years. 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 on-site). You can also opt to spend time by the pool or look for avian visitors in Selva Verde's botanical garden area. Later this afternoon, enjoy a guided birding hike or take in the river views from the patio overlooking the Sarapiquí River. *Overnight at Selva Verde Lodge. (BLD)*

## MARCH 18 - SAN GERARDO DE DOTA

Early this morning check out of the lodge and depart for San Gerardo de Dota. En route, visit El Tapir for birding. At a slightly higher elevation and with heavier rainfall, this area holds many specialty birds not typically found in the Sarapiquí region. Regular sightings include Lattice-tailed Trogon, Yellow-eared Toucanet, Streak-crowned Antvireo, Tawny-faced Gnatwren, White-throated Shrike-Tanager, Ashy-throated Bush-Tanager, and Tawny-crested, Emerald, and Blue-and-gold Tanagers. Rarities seen here on occasion include Rufous-fronted Wood-Quail, Red-fronted Parrotlet, Rufous-vented Ground-Cuckoo, Black-crowned Antpitta, Gray-headed Piprites, and Sharpbill. Have lunch en route and then check in at Savegre. Located in San Gerardo de Dota, a small community in the Talamanca Mountains, Savegre sits at an elevation of 7,220 feet. The surrounding forest is home to massive oaks, colorful plants, and an incredible variety of animal life. It is rich with

insects, mammals, and amphibians, and the pristine valley is a paradise for birders, with more than 170 species recorded. The crown jewel is the Resplendent Quetzal, which lives in the region year round. After settling in at the lodge, spend some time at the hummingbird feeders in front of reception and off the balcony of the lounge. The feeders are always active with resident Magnificent Hummingbird, Green Violetear, Gray-tailed Mountaingem, 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 to feed. Natural vegetation near the feeders offers great photographic opportunities. *Overnight at Savegre Hotel Natural Reserve & Spa. (BLD)*

## MARCH 19 - 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)*

## MARCH 20 - FAREWELL!!

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

## PROGRAM PRICING

**\$1,995** (based on a minimum of 8 participants)

Price includes accommodations, meals, activities and entrance fees as described in the itinerary, in-country transportation, full time guide for duration of program, bottled water on the bus, and carbon offset.

Does not include international airfare, gratuities, 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. Refer to the Plan Document for more details.

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

Price 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 hold your space on the trip. This deposit is refundable minus a \$100 cancellation fee until December 10, 2019, at which time final non-refundable payment is due.



This program includes optional carbon offsetting with ClimateSafe. Learn more at [holbrooktravel.com/climatesafe](http://holbrooktravel.com/climatesafe)

## FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ENROLL:

Visit [holbrook.travel/ferner-cr20](http://holbrook.travel/ferner-cr20) or contact Sandy Schmidt at [schmidt@holbrooktravel.com](mailto:schmidt@holbrooktravel.com) or 877-907-5360.