

COSTA RICA BIRD WATCHING ITINERARY IDEA:

14 night itinerary

Δ 2 nights San Jose – Xandari Plantation y Spa Hotel BB

With a private guided tour to Poas Volcano & La Paz Waterfall gardens with lunch included

Δ 2 nights La Ensenada Wildlife Refuge – La Ensenada Lodge BB

Δ 2 nights Sarapiquí – La Quinta de Sarapiquí Lodge BB

Δ 2 nights Tortuguero – Evergreen Lodge FB

Δ 2 nights San Gerardo de Dota – Savegre Lodge (Jr Suite) BB

Δ 3 nights Golfito – Tiskita Jungle Lodge FB

Δ 1 night San Jose – Xandari Plantation y Spa BB

Day 1

On arrival into **San Jose** International Airport you will be met by our ground agents and have a private transfer to **Xandari Plantation y Spa Hotel** for 2 nights BB.

- The **Xandari Plantation & Spa Hotel** is a small exclusive hotel set in a tropical paradise with panoramic views of the central valley. The hotel has 16 villas scattered among coffee plantations and exotic gardens. Each room has its own terrace; rooms are large and carefully decorated to give them originality. The hotel also has 2 swimming pools, Jacuzzi & wonderful spa area with each hut having a Jacuzzi with spectacular views of the valley. The spa also has a special yoga room and weights, which can be taken to guest's rooms.

Day 2

Private guided tour to Poas Volcano & La Paz Waterfall Gardens, with lunch included. At **La Paz Waterfall Gardens** has an excellent educational centre where you will learn about butterflies, Orchids, frogs, snakes and hummingbirds. Five magnificent waterfalls with nine observation platforms gives you a close up view of the falls and the spectacular La Paz River. Waterfall Gardens is proud to have the largest Butterfly Observatory in the world. The enclosed structure allows butterflies to soar freely while guests walk amid the natural habitat. An on site laboratory is a breeding ground for the eleven fluttering species.

In the Hummingbird garden, you will be fascinated by the birds antics as they play and fight with each other at amazing speeds. After exploring Waterfall Gardens , you will enjoy a delicious buffet style lunch at the terrace dining room.

Enjoy the contrasts of urban and rural areas, as we drive to the **Poas Volcano National Park** and continue up the mountains toward San Pedro de Poas. Poas Volcano National Park is considered the largest geyser in the world, due to its explosive, geyser-like eruptions, which it frequently displays at irregular intervals.

Day 3

Private transfer (3½ hours approx) to the **La Ensenada National Wildlife Refuge** area staying at **La Ensenada Lodge** for 2 nights.

- **La Ensenada National Wildlife Refuge**, with 1000 acres, is located on the pacific coast in the province of Puntarenas, on the Gulf of Nicoya. It is an ideal place for horseback riding; for naturalists, for bird watchers and nature lovers. The most important activities of this ranch are cattle and horses, the production of salt and fruit. It is also a paradise where you will find the perfect point of balance between place, excitement and adventure. You will become part of the typical life of Costa Rican ranch. The gulf of Nicoya, the mangroves and the salina offer those who love birds and photography many different species and variety of birds such as pelicans, herons, parrots, Montezuma oropendula, bellbird, white iris, great egret, etc.

Day 4

Morning group Guided Boat Tour to Palo Verde National Park

Day 5

Private transfer to **Sarapiquí** for 2 nights staying at **La Quinta de Sarapiquí Inn**

- **La Quinta de Sarapiquí Inn** is a tropical rainforest inn, which caters mainly to eco-tourists. In addition to its private cabins, this hotel offers a pool, library, extensive trails and frog and butterfly gardens. It is well located just minutes from world-class river rafting mountain biking trails and the vast Braulio Carrillo National Park, an extensive primary tropical rain forest, and La Selva Biological Station.

Day 6

Morning Private Guided Tour to La Selva Biological Station with resident naturalist

Day 7

Early morning transfer to Guapiles (approx 45 mins) for breakfast & to join the group coming from San Jose. You then continue with the group & guide to continue by road &

then boat to **Tortuguero** to stay at the **Evergreen Lodge** for 2 nights. You are escorted by a guide and a driver, stopping en route at some amazing viewpoints and places of interest.

- **Evergreen Lodge.** This lovely lodge has 26 comfortable rooms, all are spacious, with comfortable beds, private bathrooms, hot water, and ceiling fans, swimming pool. The property has an excellent restaurant (built on stilts) and bar services and offer bilingual guided tours in the area. The beautiful main dining room with soaring ceilings provides first class meals in an atmosphere that reflects and compliments the jungle paradise surrounding it. Is a new lodge owned & operated by Pachira Lodge. They also have there own swimming pool.

Note: As the return flight has a **30Lb** luggage limit you will leave the majority of your with the driver taking you to Guapiles. The driver will have this luggage with him when they meet you off your flight from Tortuguero.

Day 9

After breakfast you will be transferred by riverboat to the local airfield to take a short **domestic flight back to San Jose**. On arrival you will be met by our ground agents (they will have the luggage you previously left with the driver). You will then **have private transfer** to Savegre Lodge in the San Gerardo de Dota area for 2 nights

- **The Savegre Mountain Lodge**, also known as Cabinas Chacón, is located in San Gerardo de Dota, a small community deep in the Talamanca mountains in the midst of a precious ecosystem. Here you will find a deep cloud forest filled with massive oaks and other native species. The woods serve as a sanctuary for a large number of mammals and innumerable species of insects, amphibians, amazing plants and colourful birds. The Savegre Lodge and the San Gerardo de Dota area has become a paradise for birdwatchers, hikers, and trout fishers. They developed this wonderful hotel, and taking advantage of the crisp weather are growing apples, plums, and peaches, which you will sample in your meals. Rainbow trout abound in the Savegre River which is great for fly fishing. Over 170 bird species have been observed in the area of the Savegre Lodge Hotel and its multiple hiking trails into the Cloud Forest. This area is known as one of the best to observe quetzals, who live here year around.

Day 10

Morning Group guided Quetzal Tour

Day 11

Private transfer to San Jose Airport to take a flight to Puerto Jimenez. On arrival you then take an air taxi to **Tiskita Jungle Lodge** for 3 nights on a full board basis with guided walks included.

- **Tiskita Lodge** is a small 16 room lodge located in the middle of a private 400-acre rain forest reserve, in the remote area of Golfito, on the South Pacific coast. Here you will have the opportunity to walk through the jungle and enjoy its fresh jungle pools and the beautiful isolated beaches. There are over 285 different bird species, so an ideal place for bird watchers. Tiskita is also an experimental farm for exotic tropical fruits. Several activities are organised from the lodge: horseback riding, visits to the small neighbouring town etc.

Day 12

Morning group guided Wildlife Tour

Day 13

Morning group guided Wildlife Tour

Day 14

Air taxi & domestic flight back to **San Jose** for the final night in Costa Rica back at the **Xandari Plantation y Spa**. BB

Day 15

Private transfer to the airport to check-in for your return flights back to the UK.