



Sabrewing Nature Tours

Costa Rica *with Holliday Park*

February 11 - 19, 2021



Join us on our 4th annual Friends of Holliday Park fundraising tour! We'll be returning to Costa Rica to explore more of this remarkable country. This tour will be mainly based out of the wonderful Arenal Observatory Lodge from which we will use day tours to visit a variety of habitats during the trip. Some of the many potential highlight species for this tour include Three-wattled Bellbird, Coppery-headed Emerald, a variety of antbirds, several species of woodcreepers, and much more!

Itinerary Overview

Thursday, February 11: Arrival in San Jose, Costa Rica and transfer to Villa Blanca Cloud Forest Lodge
Friday, February 12: Cloud Forest Birding, Three-wattled Bellbird Lek, and drive to Arenal Observatory Lodge
Saturday, February 13: Birding at Arenal Observatory Lodge and surrounding areas
Sunday, February 14: Birding at La Selva Biological Station
Monday, February 15: Birding at Arenal Observatory Lodge and surrounding areas
Tuesday, February 16: Birding at Caño Negro Wildlife Refuge
Wednesday, February 17: Sky Adventures and Birding around La Fortuna
Thursday, February 18: Drive to San Jose on route birding at Virgen del Socorro and Cinchona
Friday, February 19: Depart for Home

Detailed Itinerary

February 11: Arrival in San Jose, Costa Rica and transfer to Villa Blanca Cloud Forest Lodge

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 in the mountains for the night. We'll do some birding around the property in the afternoon if time permits and then have a wonderful welcome dinner and plenty of time to relax before our adventures begin early the next morning.

Overnight at Villa Blanca Cloud Forest Lodge

February 12: Cloud Forest Birding, Three-wattled Bellbird Lek, and drive to Arenal Observatory Lodge

The day will start early with a birding walk in the gardens and surroundings of the lodge. We will experience the incredible cloud forest and start picking up some of the bird species present here.

After breakfast we'll drive to a private farm to witness the interesting displays of Three-wattled Bellbirds. This incredible display is quite a sight to see! Other colorful species such as Northern Emerald Toucanet, Collared Trogon, Elegant Euphonia, Tropical Parula; Silver-throated, Bay-headed, and Speckled Tanagers are possibilities for our morning list. Our targets for the morning will also include the near-endemics Black Guan, Golden-bellied Flycatcher, and Prong-billed Barbet.

After an exciting morning we will head to a local restaurant for lunch where we will enjoy the hummingbird feeders and then drive to our hotel in the Arenal area.

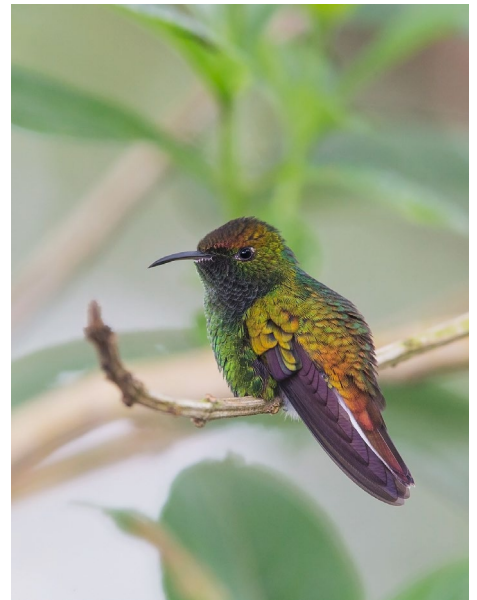
Overnight at Arenal Observatory Lodge

February 13: Birding at Arenal Observatory Lodge and surrounding areas

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. We will keep birding the grounds in the afternoon as well since there is so much to see! Highlights today could include Dull-mantled and Spotted Antbirds, Black-headed Nightingale-Thrush, Buff-rumped Warbler, White-collared Manakin and a number of range-restricted species including Rufous-winged Woodpecker, Yellow-eared Toucanet, Streaked-crowned Antvireo, Thicket Antpitta, Bare-necked Umbrellabird, Striped-breasted Wren, White-throated Shrike-Tanager and Tawny-crowned Euphonia. Then, after dinner, we'll head out for some owling in hopes of seeing Black-and-white Owl, Spectacled Owl, and more!

Overnight at Arenal Observatory Lodge



Coppery-headed Emerald

February 14: Birding at La Selva Biological Station

Our day will start with an early departure from the lodge. We are heading east to visit one of the most renowned birding spots in Costa Rica, La Selva Biological Station.

La Selva is one of the best-known research stations for tropical studies and the habitat protected here is home to hundreds of resident and migratory species of birds. Snowy Cotinga, Gray-headed Kite, Rufous and Broad-billed Motmots, Purple-throated Fruitcrow, Black-capped Pygmy-tyrant, Red-capped Manakin, and Rufous Mourner are some of the many targets we will be looking for today.

La Selva will also provide opportunities to see the Great Green Macaw, a species that was listed as critically endangered and now, thanks to the conservation efforts, can be seen flying over the station.

Overnight at Arenal Observatory Lodge



Great Curassow

February 15: Birding at Arenal Observatory Lodge and surrounding areas

We will spend the morning birding along some of the upper trails of the property, looking for forest specialties that accompany army ants such as Ocellated, Spotted, Bicolored, Zeledon's and Dull-mantled Antbirds, Song and Stripe-breasted Wrens, Northern Barred-Woodcreeper, and Slaty-capped Flycatcher to name a few.

After an active morning we will have lunch at the lodge and then head out to the Peninsula Road of Arenal Volcano National Park. Along this road, we have a chance of picking up Rufous, Broad-billed, and Keel-billed Motmots, White-fronted Nunbird, Bare-crowned Antbird, Black-headed Tody-Flycatcher, and Rufous-tailed Jacamar.

We will return to the lodge in the afternoon and have time to relax before dinner.

Overnight at Arenal Observatory Lodge

February 16: Birding at Caño Negro Wildlife Refuge

Our day will start before sunrise driving north almost to the Nicaraguan border to visit Caño Negro Wildlife Refuge. This wonderful RAMSAR site protects the Rio Frio, its seasonal lagoons, and the adjacent freshwater marshes. This refuge is home to a great variety of resident and migratory species. Before breakfast, we'll explore the gallery forest of Rio Frio by boat. Then, after a break for breakfast, we'll continue our boat trip along the northern part of the wildlife refuge. Our bird list for the morning should be incredible! Some of the possible highlights are American Pygmy-Kingfisher, Black-collared Hawk, Sungrebe, and Agami Heron among many, many others.

After lunch we'll enjoy a boat ride at Medio Queso Wetlands. The northern plains of Costa Rica encapsulate a great variety of ecosystems, and these wetlands near the Nicaraguan border are some of the most diverse in the country. They host a great deal of specialties, including Pinnated Bittern, White-throated Crake, Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture, and Nicaraguan Grackle.

After the boat ride, we'll drive back to Arenal for dinner.

Overnight at Arenal Observatory Lodge

February 17: Sky Adventures and Birding around La Fortuna

Our day will again start at Arenal Observatory Lodge. After breakfast, we'll make a short drive to Sky Adventure Park. The trails here have hanging bridges above the canopy, perfect for spotting the mix flocks of birds that move around the treetops. We also hope to find a swarm of army ants, which would mean antbirds and other species following the swarm to feed on the insects that the ants scare up. Highlights we hope to see this morning include Ocellated Antbird,

Spotted Antbird, Bicolored Antbird, and Ornate Hawk-Eagle. After we are finished birding here, we'll return to the lodge to enjoy more time at this beautiful property

Overnight at Arenal Observatory Lodge

February 18: Drive to San Jose on route birding at Virgen del Socorro and Cinchona

On the way to the San Jose area, we'll make birding stops at the Cinchona feeders and Virgen del Socorro Road. This middle elevation habitat hosts a great diversity of quality species that often travel in mixed flocks. A few of the many target birds for the day are White Hawk, Northern Emerald-Toucanet, Silver-throated Tanager, and the endemic Copper-headed Emerald.

Overnight at Bougainvillea Hotel

February 19: Depart for Home

Trip Details

Cost:

Price per person (double occupancy), from San Jose, Costa Rica: \$4,199

Single Supplement: \$850

Minimum Participants: 8

Maximum Participants: 12

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 (November 11, 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.

Responsibility/Disclaimer Statement:

Sabrewing Nature Tours acts only as an agent for the various independent suppliers that provide hotel accommodations, transportation, sightseeing, activities, or other services connected with this tour. Such services are subject to the terms and conditions of those suppliers. Sabrewing Nature Tours and their respective employees, agents, representatives, and assigns accept no liability whatsoever for any injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or any other incident which may be caused by the negligence, defect, default of any company or person in performing these services. Responsibility is not accepted for losses, injury, damages or expenses of any kind due to sickness, weather, strikes, hostilities, wars, terrorist acts, acts of nature, local laws, or other such causes. All services and accommodations are subject to the laws and regulations of the country in which they are provided. Sabrewing Nature Tours is not responsible for any baggage or personal effects of any individual participating in the tours/trips arranged by Sabrewing Nature Tours. Individual travelers are responsible for purchasing a travel insurance policy, if desired, that will cover some of the expenses associated with the loss of luggage or personal effects.



Sabrewing Nature Tours

REGISTRATION
Costa Rica
2021 Holliday Park

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 and 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 and 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.