



NATURE'S TAPESTRY PHOTO
**ADVENTURE
TOURS**

Central Costa Rica

April 19-27, 2024

DISCOVER THE AMAZING PHOTOGRAPHY OPPORTUNITIES THAT EXIST IN THE HEART AND SOUL OF THIS INCREDIBLE COUNTRY FROM THE STEAMY RAINFORESTS TO THE HIGH TALAMANCA MOUNTAINS, ALL IN THE CENTRAL PART OF COSTA RICA. A PHOTOGRAPHER'S PARADISE!

Nine amazing days of photography from the moment you arrive in San Jose until the time you leave this wonderful country to head back home. Our tour journey will take us to the central part of the country where the exposure to wildlife will be outstanding!

The Republic of Costa Rica is a jewel in Central America. The country has coastlines in both the Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean with a climate that is ideal. It is known for its immense biodiversity of huge rainforests and towering mountains.

The scheduled wildlife tour this year is a perfect time to come with Nature's Tapestry Photo Adventure Tours. Springtime is ideal to photograph the huge quantity of birds that are nesting with their vibrant breeding colors that will amaze you.

In addition to the many species of birds you will see, there are also opportunities to get prize photos of the frogs that exist in the forests of Costa Rica. The Red Eyed Tree Frog is a favorite, as well as the smaller, but distinctive, collection of poison Dart frogs and the transparent Glass Frog.



APRIL 19 - 27, 2024

TOUR LEADERS

The Costa Rica tour adventure has been designed by Judy Lynn and Gary Malloch. Both are very experienced wildlife photographers who specialize in planning and leading tours for adventure-some photographers and annually conduct tours to Africa, Ecuador, Brazil, India, and Costa Rica. We also welcome people who are not photographers but just want to come and enjoy the experience of seeing wildlife in their natural habitat.

TOUR GUIDE

Our tour guide is a bilingual naturalist who knows every bird, frog, animal, and reptile found in Costa Rica. He is a very experienced wildlife photographer and a good friend whom we have known since we began coming to Costa Rica over 10 years ago.



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Special events are planned for evening photography. One will be to photograph bats using a special set up specifically for shooting photos of bats and evening searches for owls in the Pacific coastal region.

You will also have opportunities to film reptiles such as the Pit Viper and other species of snakes. Monkeys and sloths are present throughout the country, and we will always be on the lookout to find them when driving from lodge to lodge.

DAILY ITINERARY

Day 1 – April 19

Arrival in San Jose by 1:00pm and transfer to our first lodge in the Pacific Coastal area. This is one of the locations where we have planned the first special event for the evening: a search for owls!

Day 2 – April 20

Early breakfast and departure for morning birding with Alvaro Gutierrez, a noted area guide to search and photograph Ground Cuckoos and Long Tailed Manakins. Lunch back at the Lodge. Afternoon is a boat trip on the Tarcoles River. Here we will see Kingfishers, unique herons, and a quantity of other water birds. Dinner at the hotel and then another evening with Alvaro looking for owls.

Day 3 – April 21

After breakfast we will depart for the next area in the Talamanca Mountain range. This general area is known as Savegre. It is home to the famous Resplendent Quetzal. However, quantities of hummingbirds, tanagers, and many other colorful species are found here as well. After our morning photography session, we will have lunch in one of the restaurants in the area. After lunch we will be out again at various locations in the Savegre area photographing. We will check in at the lodge late afternoon and have a relaxing dinner.

Day 4 – April 22

Up early and out for more time to search for the Quetzal before breakfast at the lodge. Later, guests can walk around the gardens of this mountain lodge and



take photos of the birds that come through to visit the feeders.

After lunch, the group will visit a special set up near the lodge for hummingbirds and other tropical species that live in the high mountains. Most of the afternoon will be spent here and you can expect to get fabulous action shots of the great variety of species you will see, but especially the numerous species of hummingbirds. Back to the lodge in late afternoon and prepare for dinner.

Day 5 – April 23

After morning breakfast and check out we will depart for the Sarapiquí region. On arrival, check in and lunch. Today we will have macro sessions to photo the frogs of Costa Rica. The Red Eyed Tree Frog, Poison Dart Frogs and the elusive Glass Frog are on our list. In addition, there are vast gardens to explore where you can have opportunities to film Howler Monkeys, Toucans, Acari, Tanagers of all types plus other species of birds. This

lodge has a very nice swimming pool for those who wish to have a relaxing time in the afternoon. Dinner at the lodge.

Day 6 – April 24

Today guests can come to the restaurant area in the early morning and sit outside to photograph birds at the feeder prior to break-



fast. Departure will be after breakfast to the next surprise location on our tour agenda. We will pack up, check out and head for the Boca Tapada Region of Costa Rica. Boca Tapada is in the north of the country close to the Nicaraguan border. On our way we have a planned stop at a local farm where the owner has raised a large flock of macaws. Here we will spend about two hours filming these birds in flight as well as action shots of them in his garden.

From this farm we will continue our drive to the next lodge and on the drive, we will drive through some of the vast plantations of fields growing pineapple which Costa Rica exports all over the world.

We have often encountered monkeys and a variety of hawks along with other bird species on this drive. We will stop the vehicle at any time for photo opportunities.

After arrival and check in, lunch will be served. In the afternoon, we will spend our time in photo sessions to capture



Day 7 – April 26

Early morning, we will make a short drive to another lodge in the area recognized as a prize location for photography. Starting with tripods set up on a covered balcony, you will photograph a variety of birds that land on a well set up perch. Various trees are in the area that the birds will land on prior to heading for the perch. Breakfast

will be served around 9:00am. Afterward, guests will depart to a hide or blind. Here you will get spectacular shots of the King Vulture, the largest vulture in the country. It is a very distinctive bird and makes for a great photography subject. After lunch we will have another macro session with snakes and frogs. Dinner at the lodge followed by a second evening bat session.

Day 8 – April 26th

Breakfast, check out and departure for the trip back to San Jose. On the way we will be stopping at locations that are great places to get last minute photo opportunities. One such place is a location up high in the mountains and well known for its scenery of a huge waterfall. When having lunch here you will be able to take pictures of birds just outside a small balcony and then across this huge valley to the waterfall in the distance. Great scenic photo opportunities! We will arrive back in San Jose in the mid-afternoon. Overnight will be at a hotel close to the airport.

Day 9 – April 27

Breakfast will be at the hotel. After packing our bags and making sure we have all our photo gear securely put in its travelling bag, we will be taken to the airport to check in for our flights home. The airport is a wonderful place to purchase mementos of your trip to Costa Rica with an extensive choice of shops and restaurants.

Toucans, parrots, small owls, various tropical birds, including tanagers, honeycreepers, Aracari, Oropendolas, finches, flycatchers, woodpeckers, and hummingbirds plus many more. Once the sun has set, we will enjoy another special event: Bat photography. This is a flash set up and it requires a special place where bats frequent. You will have an exciting time experiencing this activity. Late dinner back at the Lodge.

TOUR COST

Cost of the nine-day Nature's Tapestry Photo Adventures tour to Costa Rica is US\$5,790 per person sharing a double room. Single supplement is an additional US\$700.

Initial deposit in the amount of US\$2,895 is due when you make a commitment to join our tour group on this exciting trip. The final balance will be due on or before January 15, 2024.

Nature's Tapestry Photo Adventure Tours always attempts to restrict the tour group to six guests as this size allows for better opportunities for all people to get many great shots of all wildlife encountered on the tour.

WHAT THE TOUR COST INCLUDES

- All overnight accommodations based on double occupancy all rooms have private bathrooms.
- All meals either at each lodge or restau-

rants while transferring from lodge to lodge.

- All in-country transportation in either a large passenger van or a small bus (tourist type). Both are comfortable and air-conditioned vehicles.
- All fees for special activity at lodges or surrounding locations.
- Photo assistance when requested
- Any photo presentations.

WHAT THE TOUR COST DOES NOT INCLUDE

- International airfare from your home departure to San Jose, Costa Rica and return.
- Personal items such as laundry service, internet service if charged (some lodges do not have internet availability).
- Passport fees, visas or airport exit fees.
- Service gratuities at the lodges. Any gratuity is at your discretion and not required except for the principal guide. Generally, each guest will contribute \$100, and it will be collected by Gary Malloch and

presented on behalf of the guests to the guide the last dinner of the tour.

- Trip cancellation and medical coverage insurance. Recommend for all guests.
- Special medication or shots for traveling to Costa Rica.
- All alcoholic beverages and purified water for personal use.
- Snacks or items for personal consumption.



OTHER GUEST INFORMATION

- General information on what to bring on tour to Costa Rica will be sent out approximately 60 days prior to the tour start date. Such items will include type of clothes to bring, camera and lenses and peripheral gear. In addition, general personal items found to be useful will be noted.
- It is highly recommended to purchase trip cancellation and medical insurance for your personal protection to cover any unforeseen event on the tour. Travel insurance usually covers trip cancellation, delays, lost baggage, etc. while medical insurance covers any medical issue you may encounter on your trip. This type of insurance can be readily researched on the internet as there are many reliable companies offering this service. It is recommended to review the claims experience people have had as it often is a good gauge of the company should you have to make a claim.
- Passports need to be up to date with a minimum of six months validity left prior to expiry date. Also, it is very important to insure there are at least 2 pages of blank VISA pages at the end of your passport. Please make sure you do not confuse VISA pages with ENDORSEMENT pages as they are two completely different items.
- Review and update any health shots with your doctor that you may need for traveling to Costa Rica. Your Dr. should know what you need, but if he does not, call your local health department for advice. Of course, you should have had by now all the appropriate Covid 19 shots.



Nature's Tapestry Photo Adventure Tours

- All guests that come on any tour offered by Nature's Tapestry Photo Adventure Tours are required to read and sign Disclaimer and Assumption of Risk documents. These forms will be sent to you once you commit to the tour.
- Remember that you do not need to be a photographer to come on our tours. It doesn't matter if you are a novice or a pro or just using your iPhone. You are welcome to join our tours.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Please give us an indication of your interest in this tour as soon as possible as bookings are tight for accommodations currently and reservations will have to be made to ensure we have space in each Lodge. Costa Rica is a wonderful place to visit and photograph wildlife. Guaranteed you will want to come back!



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