



## **TAMBOR BAY BIRDING TOURS**

### **Birds of Tambor Bay and the Cloud Forest**

#### **WHERE**

Tambor Bay along the Pacific Coast and the Cloud Forests of Central Costa Rica

#### **WHEN**

Contact Us for upcoming dates @ [info@tambortropical.com](mailto:info@tambortropical.com)

#### **PRICE**

\$2,900 USD based on 6 participants

Single supplement \$600 USD

#### **WHAT'S INCLUDED**

- All lodging on specified dates
- All meals on specified dates
- All transportation w/ private driver in air conditioned tour van
- Professional, full-time guiding services
- Tambor airport improvement fee
- All entrance fees

#### **THIS ITINERARY DOES NOT INCLUDE:**

- International airfare
- Airport departure tax
- Alcoholic drinks
- Non-mealtime snacks and drinks

#### **IS THIS TRIP FOR YOU?**

Do you want to experience world-class bird watching and nature viewing in Costa Rica while relaxing in luxurious beachfront and mountain-top accommodations? Then this tour is for you!

## TOUR PACE

The tour is based at only two locations, each with highly diverse habitats. This allows for a more relaxed pace where, for example, a spouse may wish to enjoy the other activities of the area rather than birding with the group. All trails we visit are “easy” with only very short sections considered “moderate”. As such, they are accessible by anyone who can easily climb a flight of stairs.

## BOOKING A TOUR WITH US IS A SIMPLE STEP BY STEP PROCESS!

**Step 1** – E-mail us to reserve your tour of choice

**Step 2** – Send us your deposit

**Step 3** – Book your international air travel

**Step 4** – Send us your traveler information

**Step 5** – We will book and deliver your in-country flights

**Step 6** – We’ll send your final invoice

**Step 7** – We’ll send all the info you need before you board your first flight!

BIRDING HIGHLIGHTS	WHAT TO BRING
<p>Expect up to 200 species including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• King Vulture</li><li>• Resplendent Quetzal</li><li>• White Hawk</li><li>• Turquoise-browed Motmot</li><li>• Scarlet Macaw</li><li>• Three-Wattled Bellbird</li><li>• Boat-billed heron</li><li>• Long-tailed Manakin</li><li>• Toucans</li><li>• Trogons</li><li>• Hummingbirds</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A good pair of binoculars – 8×42 recommended</li><li>• Sunglasses and hat plus a high-SPF sunscreen</li><li>• Light, quick-dry long-sleeve shirt and long pants</li><li>• A water-proof shell and a fleece layer for Monteverde</li><li>• Closed-toed sandals or shoes for birding</li><li>• A guide to birds of Costa Rica – Nick recommends Dean/Garrigues</li><li>• A reusable water bottle that can be filled each day</li></ul>

## TOUR ITINERARY

### Day 1

Arrival to Costa Rica at the Juan Santamaria International Airport. Domestic flight to Tambor Bay Airport (domestic air fare is included in tour price) where you will meet our

representative for a short transfer to the Tambor Tropical Hotel. Evening meet and greet and welcome cocktail with your guide, Nick Hawkins.

### **Day 2**

Coffee and sunrise breakfast on the terrace. Breakfast is self-serve consisting of sliced fresh tropical fruit and a choice of cereal, granolas, yogurt and milk. Cooked breakfast can be ordered from the restaurant.

After breakfast, we depart by foot to explore the extensive trail system along the Panica River that empties into the Pacific ocean Ocean adjacent to the hotel. Beginning at the beach we will explore a stunning estuary, rich mangroves and tropical forest, where over 100 bird species can be seen in a single morning, making this one of the most productive birding trails in Costa Rica. At the trails head we will enjoy a "birders brunch" at a local restaurant.

Afternoon leisure – spend your time in the heat of the day as you wish! This can be on the veranda of your room, in your air-conditioned room or poolside. Our friendly staff at our poolside bar are happy to meet your thirst or food requirements. Hotel gardens and bench areas with a feeding station invite birding or one can always walk the short trails on the property or explore the beach and river mouth.

### **Day 3**

After breakfast we depart for the Curu Wildlife Refuge, a short drive from the hotel. The park protects a stunning mature red mangrove forest and primary tropical forest where many unique bird species can be found. It is also an excellent place to see rainforest mammals like agoutis, coatimundis and white-faced capuchin monkeys. We will return for lunch at Tambor Tropical around noon. Afternoon leisure or join Nick for a primer on digital nature photography. Whether you use a point and shoot camera or a high-end camera and prime lenses, Nick will share his techniques and insights that have garnered him international awards..

### **Day 4**

After breakfast we depart for Los Delfines, a local golf course where the open environment, planted gardens and lagoons attract a large variety of birds. The course is closed on Mondays to golfers and we will explore this rich area by luxury golf cart! Afterwards we will visit ASOPROLAPA – an innovative project to reestablish the Scarlet Macaw back to Tambor Bay. The program has been successful in returning this incredible bird back to it's previous abundance in the area and the local biologist will show you the inner workings of it all. Of course, you will also get up close and personal with the Scarlet Macaw and many other species of colourful parrots! Afterwards, we return to the Tambor Tropical Hotel for an afternoon of leisure or a continuation of Nick's nature photography discussion..

### **Day 5**

After breakfast we depart for the Rio Lajas/Cabuya area. We will visit a rookery of Boat-billed herons and watch them build their nests at the mouth of the Lajas river. We will bird around the area before departing to search for the three-wattled bellbird, a fascinating and endangered species that is a local migrant to the area for a short time each year. Lunch will be served at a local restaurant.

## **Day 6**

After an early breakfast we depart for Raptor Ridge, a spectacular birding retreat perched at 1400 feet, with a panoramic view of Tambor Bay. Our hosts, Larry and Ruth of Rainforest Publications, have created a truly special place for birds and birders. Their pond attracts many species that are viewed from the comfort of a blind, allowing intimate views of beautiful species as they come to drink and bathe. The planted gardens surrounding the property offer many discoveries, while eyes trained towards the skies can spot over a dozen species of raptors, including the rare white hawk. We also try for a close encounter with the elusive King Vulture – but you'll have to visit to find out more! A barbecue lunch is prepared by our hosts and served on the patio overlooking the Pacific ocean. The afternoon is spent enjoying the property, birding from the pool and enjoying the good company before leaving for the hotel.

## **Day 7**

After breakfast we depart for the cloud forests of Monteverde, approximately a three hour drive from the hotel, with a beautiful ferry crossing over the Gold Gulf of Nicoya where one has the chance to spot seabirds. After checking into our hotel we visit the Monteverde Hummingbird gardens.

## **Day 8**

After breakfast we depart for the Monteverde Cloud forest reserve to spend the morning searching for the famous Resplendent Quetzal and other cloud forests specialities. The unique character and lush growth of this forest is sure to impress. Lunch is served at the entrance to the reserve. The afternoon is spent birding around the hotel grounds.

## **Day 9**

After breakfast we depart for the Cruz Family farm and Grettel's orchid garden. This local family's property offers excellent birding – afterwards we will take a tour through Grettel's orchid garden. Grettel is a self-taught orchid expert that is currently in the process of describing new species. Her knowledge is unparalleled and her garden is home to over 400 species of orchids, most all are endemic to the Monteverde area and her collection contains some of the smallest orchids in the world.

## **Day 10**

After breakfast and a bit of birding around the hotel grounds we depart to San Jose for drop-offs and international departures from the Juan Santamaria International Airport. NOTE: Any time one can decide not to go birding and enjoy the hotel amenities or instead explore other local activities. These other activities can be arranged easily through Tambor Tropical. The activities are not included in the price of the tour. Sometimes non-birding partners in particular find alternate activities attractive. See our website for possibilities or just ask us to arrange this for you.