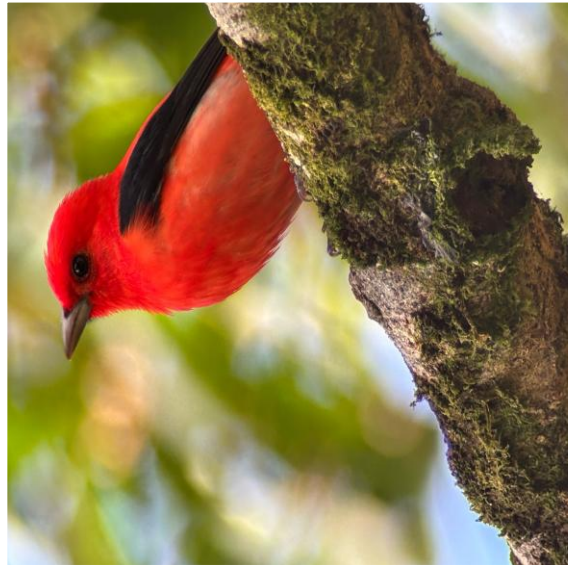


Tour Report Costa Rica Wildlife Wonders 14 – 24 March 2026

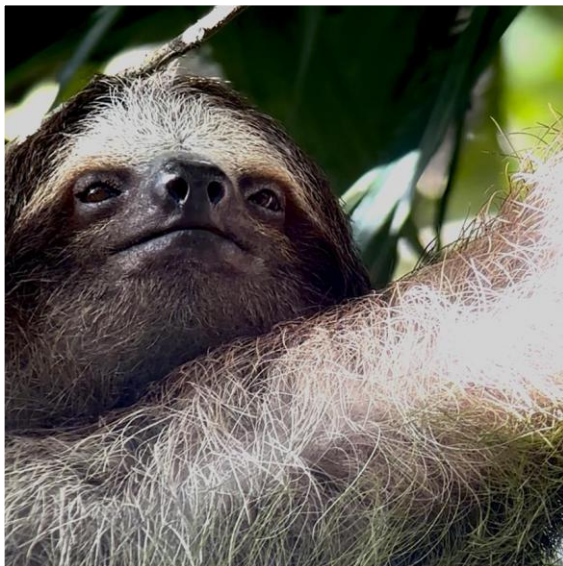
White-collared manakin



Scarlet tanager



Brown-throated three toed sloth



Green iguana



Compiled by Johan Fernández R

Saturday 14 March 2026

Day 1:

Bougainvillea, Day One in Paradise

Our arrival day was spectacular, San Jose in March has the most beautiful weather, and the Bougainvillea Hotel garden is fully decorated with colourful plants, and the resident Lesson's motmot and mottled owl were there to give us a warm welcome. Our group enjoy a delicious dinner in the hotel's restaurant and got all the instructions for the beginning of our adventure.

Sunday 15 March 2026

Day 2:

Tortuguero, Sloth Afternoon

We started our adventure travelling to the picturesque city of Heredia, driving to town and little coffee plantations, we had a nice and sunny drive through Braulio Carrillo National Park and enjoyed our first Costa Rican breakfast at Rio Danta. In the lowlands, the banana and casava plantations were part of the scene, driving to Caño Sirena to get in the boat that would take us to Tortuguero. In the canals we observed a nice spectacled caiman, several emerald basilisk and multiple birds including northern jacanas, little blue heron, bare throated tiger herons among others. Once in the hotel, we had great food in the restaurant ready for us. We explored the trails in the afternoon and got an important number of tropical birds, including the white collared manakin and Montezuma oropendola, but the highlight was a brown-throated three toed sloth hanging from the trees a few metres away. Our group enjoyed dinner together and we got a sky full of stars.

Monday 16 March 2026

Day 3:

Tortuguero, Canals and Boat Ride

Early bird gets the worm, so we had a very nice early morning walk around the hotel grounds, and we had a happy hour of toucans, with great views of keel-billed toucan and collared aracari; the best of the morning was a baby howler monkey hanging upside down and a family of them moving around the forest next to our rooms. Right after lunch, we got to see a nice juvenile emperor boa moving around the gardens, then we enjoyed the beautiful swimming pool and got ready for the boat ride in the canals of Tortuguero National Park. We had plenty of wildlife from our own boat, including mantled howler and spider monkeys, aningas, herons and northern jacanas, just to mention a few were part of the highlights of the boat trip.

Tuesday 17 March 2026

Day 4:

Tortuguero Hill

Our day started with a wonderful boat ride along the canals of Tortuguero National Park, slider turtles, purple gallinule and great green macaw were some of the most flamboyant animals of our trip. Resting on top of the tree, we found an elusive great potoo, and a good number of toucans, Montezuma oropendola and green ibis were some of the new auditions to our list, after our delightful breakfast we visited the extinct volcano, now called, 'Cerro Tortuguero', the highest mountain in the national park. A couple of long-nosed bats and golden orb-weaver spiders were guarding the entrance of the cave at the base of the mountain. Once we went back to our hotel, we were able to find a Hoffman's two-toed sloth and finishing the day with a nice night walk in the vicinity of the hotel with some interesting insects and glowing mushrooms.

Wednesday 18 March 2026

Day 5:

San Gerardo de Dota, Resplendent Day

Traveling from the Caribbean lowlands to the Mountain of Talamanca on a sunny day is great, departing early in the morning and taking our flight from Tortuguero to San Jose. Spectacular aerial views of the Braulio Carrillo Park, Turrialba Volcano and Poas. There was an interesting contrast with the banana and pineapple plantations. After crossing to the capital, we made our way to the highlands, and a rain of hummingbird adorned our lunch time, fiery-throated, Talamanca and volcano hummingbirds zoomed by and posed for our cameras. After our lunch at Mirador de Quetzal, we continued our journey to San Gerardo de Dota, and in the late afternoon our day finished with the splendour of green feathers of the resplendent quetzal male, perched a few metres away from us.

Thursday 19 March 2026

Day 6:

San Gerardo de Dota, Hummingbirds

Day in the mountains, a cooler temperature than the rainforest lowlands. Our hotel garden with colourful flowers and hummingbirds flew around. The Savegre River runs along the valley and allows us great views of American dipper and torrent tyrannulet, red tailed squirrels and of course, we found the resplendent quetzal. After a nice walk in the river trail, we visit the Miriams Quetzal restaurant, we had a family-style typical lunch and enjoyed the bird feeding stations with large-footed finches, flame-coloured rangers and acorn woodpecker.

Friday 20 March 2026

Day 7:

Corcovado, From the Mountain to the Ocean

Traveling day from the highlands to the Pacific coast. There are a very few countries you could travel from 3000 metres over sea level to the ocean in just three hours. We started with breakfast in the mountain, surrounded by hummingbirds, and then finished eating delicious food with the Pacific Ocean of Costa Rica outside our window. In our traveling we stopped at the Paramo, searching for volcano juncos and volcano hummingbirds, then near San Isidro to enjoy a delicious fruit smoothie and get close looks of red-legged honeycreepers, palm and blue-grey tanagers. Getting our first scarlet-rumped tanagers and euphonias as well. After a welcome of red-backed squirrel monkeys and a nice shower in the hotel we went for our night walk, and go to see red-eyed tree frogs, gladiator and masked tree frogs.

Saturday 21 March 2026

Day 8:

Corcovado, Los Patos Station

Our day in the rainforest in the Pacific started with a nice coffee, pancakes and yogurt, then a tractor ride to observe birds along Rincon River. Tractors are the best means of transportation to go to Los Patos, one of the stations for Corcovado National Park. Our morning got interesting after seeing the interaction among birds, toucans, fork-tailed flycatchers, swallow-tailed kite and tropical kingbirds. We walked in the lush forest of Corcovado. Graceful black-throated trogons, striped-throated hermits and a nice waterfall at the end of a challenging trail. On our way back, we found some flamboyant scarlet macaws and roseate spoonbills, big iguanas and brown basilisks.

Sunday 22 March 2026

Day 9:

Corcovado and Golfo Dulce

Started sailing from Playa Blanca, our oceanic adventure begun with some brown pelicans, common terns and even a yellow-headed caracara near the shore in Penas Blancas National Park. We spotted from the distance a Pacific green turtle, a nice school of mahi-mahi swimming under our boat, spotted eagle ray and black tuna interacting with the pelagic birds like brown boobies and black terns. In our snorkelling immersion, we found parrot fish, angelfish and many others. However, the best sighting of the day was an endemic subspecies of yellow-bellied sea snake, also known as, Golfo Dulce.

Monday 23 March 2026

Day 10:

Canopy Tower and Return to San Jose

Nice chorus of birds in the morning, we spent a nice time in the canopy tower of Danta Corcovado Lodge. Yellow-throated toucans, golden-naped woodpeckers, blue dacnis, scarlet macaws, golden-hooded tanagers and Baltimore oriole made our morning the most colourful of all. After our last gallo pinto (Costa Rican typical breakfast), we started our journey back to San Jose. Our internal flight gave us great views of most of the country's central pacific coast. We were able to see the emblematic rock formation called, the 'whale tail' of Ballena National Park, and the point of Manuel Antonio National Park. Our walk in Bougainvillea produced two species of owls, tropical and mottled, and stunning views of Lesson's motmot.

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Checklist for Costa Rica's Wildlife Wonders



	Common Name	Scientific Name	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8	Day 9
	BIRDS										
1	Grey-headed chachalaca	<i>Ortalis cinereiceps</i>								✓	
2	Black guan	<i>Chamaepetes unicolor</i>				✓	✓				
3	Black-bellied whistling duck	<i>Dendrocygna autumnalis</i>				✓					
4	Grey-rumped swift	<i>Chaetura cinereiventris</i>		✓	✓						
5	Stripe-throated hermit	<i>Phaethornis striigularis</i>							✓		
6	White-necked jacobin	<i>Florisuga mellivora</i>							✓		✓
7	Lesser violetear	<i>Colibri cyanotus</i>				✓	✓				
8	Green-breasted mango	<i>Anthracothorax prevostii</i>	✓								✓
9	Fiery-throated hummingbird	<i>Panterpe insignis</i>				✓	✓				
10	Rufous-tailed hummingbird	<i>Amazilia tzacatl</i>	✓	✓	✓						
11	White-throated mountaingem	<i>Lampornis castaneiventris</i>					✓				
12	Talamanca hummingbird	<i>Eugenes fulgens</i>				✓	✓				
13	Volcano hummingbird	<i>Selasphorus flammula</i>				✓	✓	✓			
14	Scintillant hummingbird	<i>Selasphorus scintilla</i>					✓				
15	Groove-billed ani	<i>Crotophaga sulcirostris</i>			✓						
16	Squirrel cuckoo	<i>Piaya cayana</i>	✓	✓							✓
17	Rock dove	<i>Columba livia</i>				✓					
18	Band-tailed pigeon	<i>Patagioenas fasciata</i>				✓					
19	Pale-vented pigeon	<i>Patagioenas cayennensis</i>			✓				✓	✓	✓
20	Red-billed pigeon	<i>Patagioenas flavirostris</i>									✓
21	Ruddy ground dove	<i>Columbina talpacoti</i>							✓		
22	White-tipped dove	<i>Leptotila verreauxi</i>		✓							
23	Purple gallinule	<i>Porphyrio martinica</i>			✓						
24	Southern lapwing	<i>Vanellus chilensis</i>							✓		
25	Northern jacana	<i>Jacana spinosa</i>	✓	✓	✓						
26	Hudsonian whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>			✓						
27	Least sandpiper	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>							✓		

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28	Spotted sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularius</i>							✓		
29	Laughing gull	<i>Leucophaeus atricilla</i>								✓	
30	Royal tern	<i>Thalasseus maximus</i>		✓						✓	
31	Sandwich tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>								✓	
32	Magnificent frigatebird	<i>Fregata magnificens</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓	
33	Neotropic cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax brasilianus</i>	✓	✓	✓						
34	Anhinga	<i>Anhinga anhinga</i>	✓	✓	✓						
35	Green ibis	<i>Mesembrinibis cayennensis</i>			✓						
36	American white ibis	<i>Eudocimus albus</i>							✓		✓
37	Roseate spoonbill	<i>Platalea ajaja</i>							✓		
38	Bare-throated tiger heron	<i>Tigrisoma mexicanum</i>	✓		✓						
39	Boat-billed heron	<i>Cochlearius cochlearius</i>		✓							
40	Green heron	<i>Butorides virescens</i>	✓	✓					✓		
41	Western cattle egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	✓					✓	✓		✓
42	Great blue heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>							✓	✓	
43	Great egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>						✓			
44	Little blue heron	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	
45	Snowy egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	✓						✓		
46	Brown pelican	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>	✓							✓	
47	Turkey vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
48	Black vulture	<i>Coragyps atratus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
49	Western osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>		✓	✓						
50	Swallow-tailed kite	<i>Elanoides forficatus</i>				✓			✓		
51	Double-toothed kite	<i>Harpagus bidentatus</i>								✓	
52	Common black hawk	<i>Buteogallus anthracinus</i>	✓						✓		
53	Roadside hawk	<i>Rupornis magnirostris</i>						✓	✓	✓	
54	Broad-winged hawk	<i>Buteo platypterus</i>						✓			
55	Resplendent quetzal	<i>Pharomachrus mocinno</i>				✓	✓				
56	Slaty-tailed trogon	<i>Trogon massena</i>									✓
57	Black-throated trogon	<i>Trogon rufus</i>							✓		
58	Green kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle americana</i>							✓		
59	Amazon kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle amazona</i>							✓		
60	Ringed kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle torquata</i>			✓				✓		
61	Collared aracari	<i>Pteroglossus torquatus</i>	✓	✓							

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62	Keel-billed toucan	<i>Ramphastos sulfuratus</i>		✓	✓						
63	Yellow-throated toucan	<i>Ramphastos ambiguus</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
64	Acorn woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes formicivorus</i>				✓	✓				
65	Black-cheeked woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes pucherani</i>			✓						
66	Hoffmann's woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes hoffmannii</i>									✓
67	Pale-billed woodpecker	<i>Campephilus guatemalensis</i>	✓		✓						
68	Northern crested caracara	<i>Caracara cheriway</i>						✓			
69	Yellow-headed caracara	<i>Milvago chimachima</i>								✓	
70	Red-lored Amazon	<i>Amazona autumnalis</i>		✓	✓					✓	
71	Sulphur-winged parakeet	<i>Pyrrhura hoffmanni</i>					✓				
72	Great green macaw	<i>Ara ambiguus</i>		✓	✓						
73	Scarlet macaw	<i>Ara macao</i>							✓	✓	✓
74	Cocoa woodcreeper	<i>Xiphorhynchus susurrans</i>									✓
75	Ruddy treerunner	<i>Margarornis rubiginosus</i>				✓					
76	Mountain elaenia	<i>Elaenia frantzii</i>				✓	✓				
77	Common tody-flycatcher	<i>Todirostrum cinereum</i>		✓							
78	Yellowish flycatcher	<i>Empidonax flavescens</i>					✓				
79	Piratic flycatcher	<i>Legatus leucophaeus</i>						✓			
80	Social flycatcher	<i>Myiozetetes similis</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	
81	Grey-capped flycatcher	<i>Myiozetetes granadensis</i>							✓		✓
82	Great kiskadee	<i>Pitangus sulphuratus</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
83	Boat-billed flycatcher	<i>Megarynchus pitangua</i>									✓
84	Tropical kingbird	<i>Tyrannus melancholicus</i>	✓		✓				✓	✓	✓
85	Bright-rumped attila	<i>Attila spadiceus</i>								✓	
86	White-collared manakin	<i>Manacus candei</i>	✓								
87	Black-crowned tityra	<i>Tityra inquisitor</i>						✓			✓
88	Yellow-winged vireo	<i>Vireo carmioli</i>				✓					
89	Brown jay	<i>Psilorhinus morio</i>	✓								✓
90	Long-tailed silky-flycatcher	<i>Ptiliogonys caudatus</i>				✓	✓				
91	Grey-breasted martin	<i>Progne chalybea</i>			✓				✓		
92	Blue-and-white swallow	<i>Notiochelidon cyanoleuca</i>					✓	✓			
93	Northern rough-winged swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>			✓				✓		
94	Southern rough-winged swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx ruficollis</i>							✓	✓	
95	Rufous/backed wren	<i>Campylorhynchus rufinucha</i>	✓								

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96	House wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>								✓	
97	Grey-breasted wood wren	<i>Henicorhina leucophrys</i>				✓	✓				
98	Black-billed nightingale-thrush	<i>Catharus gracilirostris</i>				✓					
99	Ruddy-capped nightingale-thrush	<i>Catharus frantzii</i>					✓				
100	Sooty thrush	<i>Turdus nigrescens</i>					✓	✓			
101	Mountain thrush	<i>Turdus plebejus</i>				✓	✓				
102	Clay-colored thrush	<i>Turdus grayi</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
103	Golden-browed chlorophonia	<i>Chlorophonia callophrys</i>					✓				
104	Rufous-collared sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia capensis</i>				✓	✓	✓			
105	Orange-billed sparrow	<i>Arremon aurantirostris</i>									✓
106	Large-footed finch	<i>Pezopetes capitalis</i>				✓	✓				
107	Yellow-thighed finch	<i>Pselliophorus tibialis</i>				✓	✓				
108	Common bush tanager	<i>Chlorospingus flavopectus</i>					✓				
109	Sooty-capped bush tanager	<i>Chlorospingus pileatus</i>				✓	✓				
110	Montezuma oropendola	<i>Psarocolius montezuma</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓					
111	Baltimore oriole	<i>Icterus galbula</i>									✓
112	Black-cowled oriole	<i>Icterus prosthemelas</i>	✓								
113	Melodious blackbird	<i>Dives dives</i>		✓	✓						
114	Great-tailed grackle	<i>Quiscalus mexicanus</i>		✓	✓	✓					✓
115	Tennessee warbler	<i>Leiothlypis peregrina</i>					✓	✓			
116	Chestnut-sided warbler	<i>Setophaga pensylvanica</i>	✓	✓							
117	Wilson's warbler	<i>Cardellina pusilla</i>				✓	✓				
118	Collared whitestart	<i>Myioborus torquatus</i>					✓				
119	Flame-colored tanager	<i>Piranga bidentata</i>					✓				
120	Summer tanager	<i>Piranga rubra</i>						✓			
121	Blue-grey tanager	<i>Thraupis episcopus</i>	✓				✓	✓	✓		✓
122	Palm tanager	<i>Thraupis palmarum</i>						✓			✓
123	Silver-throated tanager	<i>Tangara icterocephala</i>					✓				
124	Golden-hooded tanager	<i>Tangara larvata</i>						✓			✓
125	Red-legged honeycreeper	<i>Cyanerpes cyaneus</i>						✓			
126	Slaty flowerpiercer	<i>Diglossa plumbea</i>				✓	✓				
127	Variable seedeater	<i>Sporophila corvina</i>		✓	✓			✓			
128	Lesson's motmot	<i>Momotus lessoni</i>	✓								
129	Scarlet tanager	<i>Piranga olivacea</i>	✓								

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130	Russet-naped wood-rail	<i>Aramides albiventris</i>			✓						
131	Great potoo	<i>Nyctibius grandis</i>			✓						
132	Black and yellow silkyflycatcher	<i>Phainoptila melanoxantha</i>				✓					
133	Ruddy pigeon	<i>Patagioenas subvinacea</i>				✓					
134	American dipper	<i>Cinclus mexicanus</i>				✓					
135	Dark pewee	<i>Contopus lugubris</i>				✓					
136	Torrent tyrannulet	<i>Serpophaga cinerea</i>				✓					
137	Golden-winged warbler	<i>Vermivora chrysoptera</i>				✓					
138	Volcano junco	<i>Junco vulcani</i>						✓			
139	Red-crowned woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes rubricapillus</i>						✓			
140	Blue dacnis	<i>Dacnis cayana</i>						✓			✓
141	Orange-chinned parakeet	<i>Brotogeris jugularis</i>						✓			
142	White-crowned parrot	<i>Pionus senilis</i>								✓	
143	Mealy Amazon	<i>Amazona farinosa</i>								✓	
144	Gray-cowled wood-rail	<i>Aramides cajaneus</i>								✓	
145	Fork-tailed flycatcher	<i>Tyrannus savana</i>								✓	
146	Charming hummingbird	<i>Polyerata decora</i>								✓	
147	Smooth billed ani	<i>Crotophaga ani</i>								✓	
148	Striped cuckoo	<i>Tapera naevia</i>								✓	
149	Greater yellowlegs	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>								✓	
150	Cocos booby	<i>Sula brewsteri</i>									✓
151	White-crested coquette	<i>Lophornis adorabilis</i>									✓
152	Blue-throated goldentail	<i>Chlorestes eliciae</i>									✓
153	Great tinamou	<i>Tinamus major</i>									✓
154	Costa Rican swift	<i>Chaetura fumosa</i>									✓
155	Tropical screech-owl	<i>Megascops choliba</i>									✓
156	Mottled owl	<i>Ciccaba virgata</i>									✓
157	Golden naped woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes chrysauchen</i>									✓
158	Crimson-fronted parakeet	<i>Psittacara finschi</i>									✓
	MAMMALS										
1	White nose coati	<i>Nasua narica</i>							✓		
2	Red tailed squirrel	<i>Sciurus granatensis</i>			✓						
3	Long nosed bats	<i>Rhynchonycteris naso</i>		✓							

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4	Hoffman's two toed sloth	<i>Choloepus hoffmanni</i>		✓							
5	Kinkajoo	<i>Potos flavus</i>								✓	
6	Red backed squirrel monkey	<i>Saimiri oerstedii</i>									✓
	REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS										
1	Central America whiptail lizard	<i>Hocopus festivus</i>		✓							
2	Red eyed tree frog	<i>Agalychnis callidryas</i>									✓
3	Masked tree frog	<i>Smilisca phaeota</i>									✓
4	Gladiator frog	<i>Boana rosenbergi</i>									✓
5	Helmet basilisk	<i>Corytophanes cristatus</i>									✓
6	Praying mantis	<i>Mantis religiosa</i>									✓
7	Smoky jungle frog	<i>Leptodactylus pentadactylus</i>									✓
8	Blue morpho	<i>Morpho peleides</i>								✓	