

Tour Report Costa Rica's Wildlife Wonders 8 – 18 November 2025

Bordered patch butterfly



Green sea turtle hatchling



Golden-naped woodpecker



Red-eyed tree frog



Compiled by Max Vindas

Saturday 8 November 2025

Day 1:

Hotel Bougainvillea

There is no better base in Costa Rica's Central Valley than Hotel Bougainvillea. Its extensive gardens are filled with flowering plants and attract an excellent variety of birds. The stars of the grounds were the resident mottled owls (*Ciccaba virgata*), which roost in the bamboo. A delicious dinner rounded off our first evening.

Sunday 9 November 2025

Day 2:

Transfer to Tortuguero

A landslide closed the main Caribbean highway, giving us the opportunity to travel along a far more scenic route. We stopped at San Fernando Waterfall, where a small café maintains bird feeders. Here we enjoyed close views of silver-throated tanager (*Tangara icterocephala*), scarlet-rumped tanager (*Ramphocelus passerinii*), prong-billed barbet (*Semnornis frantzii*), and the striking crimson-collared tanager (*Ramphocelus sanguinolentus*).

Closer to the canals, we found a brown-throated three-toed sloth (*Bradypus variegatus*). It treated us to an unusually active display, moving between branches and allowing excellent photos and video. A memorable encounter.

Monday 10 November 2025

Day 3:

Tortuguero National Park

Our first morning at Mawamba Lodge began with a 6 a.m. bird walk. Wildlife appeared immediately. Yellow-throated toucans (*Ramphastos ambiguus*) fed nearby, while red-lored amazons (*Amazona autumnalis*) and Montezuma oropendolas (*Psarocolius montezuma*) moved through the canopy. A pair of great green macaws (*Ara ambiguus*) also passed overhead.

After breakfast, we visited Tortuguero village for a short cultural experience.

In the afternoon, we explored Tortuguero National Park by boat. Howler monkeys (*Alouatta palliata*) were very vocal. We also saw anhingas (*Anhinga anhinga*), several herons and egrets, northern jacanas (*Jacana spinosa*), and two elusive boat-billed herons (*Cochlearius cochlearius*).

Tuesday 11 November 2025

Day 4:

Tortuguero National Park

After breakfast, we returned to the canals. Spider monkeys (*Ateles geoffroyi*), with their long limbs and impressive prehensile tails, were especially entertaining. We also observed keel-billed toucans (*Ramphastos sulfuratus*), more yellow-throated toucans, white-faced capuchins (*Cebus capucinus*), and a fine selection of herons and egrets.

In the afternoon, we hiked up Tortuguero Hill. From the summit, we enjoyed sweeping views over the forest and coastline, as well as the village of Tortuguero.

Wednesday 12 November 2025

Day 5:

Savegre lodge

As we waited for our flight, a Hoffmann's two-toed sloth (*Choloepus hoffmanni*) crossed the open lawn—an extraordinary sight. After arriving in San José, we drove into the mountains of southern Costa Rica.

Lunch was at Mirador de Quetzales. Although the resplendent quetzal eluded us here, the hummingbird feeders were busy, including excellent views of the endemic fiery-throated hummingbird (*Panterpe insignis*).

Later that day, we arrived at Savegre Lodge, the premier lodge in the region.

Thursday 13 November 2025

Day 6:

Savegre Lodge

This was our quetzal morning. With coffee at 5:00 a.m., we set out soon after. Within ten minutes of arriving at a fruiting tree, a magnificent male resplendent quetzal (*Pharomachrus mocinno*) appeared. Its iridescent green plumage and long upper tail coverts captivated everyone. Cameras clicked in awe.

After breakfast, we walked the Creek Trail, one of the most enchanting paths of the trip.

Afternoon rain led us to visit Miriam's Café, a small local business with excellent feeders. The bird activity was superb: acorn woodpecker (*Melanerpes formicivorus*), flame-colored tanager (*Piranga bidentata*), yellow-thighed brushfinch (*Atlapetes tibialis*), and numerous hummingbirds. It was the perfect warm refuge for a rainy afternoon.

Friday 14 November 2025

Day 7:

Danta Corcovado Lodge

We travelled from the highlands to the South Pacific. At Mirador del Valle, we stopped for what our guide considers the best coconut flan in Costa Rica—well deserved. Bird activity was lively and included speckled tanager (*Ixothraupis guttata*), streak saltator (*Saltator striatipectus*), scarlet-rumped tanager, Lesson's motmot (*Momotus lessonii*), grey-headed chachalaca (*Ortalis cinereiceps*), and grey-cowled wood rail (*Aramides cajaneus*).

Our lodge, Danta Corcovado Lodge, sits deep in the forest and is a dream for nature lovers.

Saturday 15 November 2025

Day 8:

Danta Corcovado Lodge

Corcovado's forests are renowned for their biodiversity. A pre-breakfast walk produced squirrel monkeys (*Saimiri oerstedii*), yellow-throated toucans, trogons, tanagers, and flycatchers. The morning's highlight was the brilliantly coloured scarlet macaw (*Ara macao*).

After breakfast, we visited La Tarde, one of the entry points to Corcovado National Park. Birding was exceptional, with two special sightings: fiery-billed aracari (*Pteroglossus frantzii*), a regional endemic, and the much-sought-after turquoise cotinga (*Cotinga ridgwayi*).

Find out more about our [Costa Rica's Wildlife Wonders](#) trip or [contact us](#)

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Sunday 16 November 2025

Day 9:

Danta Corcovado Lodge

Today we explored the Golfo Dulce. From Playa Blanca, we boarded a small boat, entering the mangroves before searching the gulf for dolphins. We found several bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) that approached the boat closely. Scarlet macaws and toucans welcomed us back to shore.

That evening, we took a night walk. We encountered smoky jungle frog (*Leptodactylus savagei*), hourglass treefrog (*Dendropsophus ebraccatus*), and the highlight—Chiriquí glass frog (*Hyalinobatrachium valerioi*), a delicate and rarely seen species.

Monday 17 November 2025

Day 10:

Hotel Bougainvillea

After a final morning walk at Danta Corcovado, we drove to Puerto Jiménez for our flight back to San José. A local restaurant provided a traditional Costa Rican meal, and upon returning to our hotel, we explored the gardens once more, enjoying their excellent birdlife.

Tuesday 18 November 2025

Day 11:

Transfer out

On our final morning, we walked the gardens again. We said goodbye to the mottled owl and enjoyed last views of several species, including Lesson's motmot. We then travelled to the international airport for our flight home.

Images by Max Vindas

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