Tour Highlights

- **Description:** All Inclusive Tour Package
- **9-day, 8-night tour** - Guided Hummingbird, Birding & Photography Tour to Costa Rica
- **Guided by:** Richard Garrigues, author of the book “The Birds of Costa Rica”
- **About Richard Garrigues:**
  A native of the US, Richard has been living in Costa Rica since 1981, where he has worked as a birding and natural history guide for more than 30 years. He is the author of the popular *The Birds of Costa Rica: A Field Guide*, now in its second edition, as well as the recently published *Photo Guide to Birds of Costa Rica*. In addition to guiding and writing, Richard is a member of the Scientific Committee of the Costa Rican Ornithological Association, and is currently the coordinator of the Costa Rican Rare Birds and Records Committee. He is also an eBird reviewer for Costa Rica. His other interests include travel, music, and putting about the garden.
- **Where:** Costa Rica: all 6 major Life Zones of the country are visited in this tour including Caribbean Lowlands, Caribbean Foothills, Middle Elevations, Highlands, Southern Pacific Lowlands and Northern Pacific Lowlands. Costa Rica’s Central Valley and Rain and Cloud Forests areas will also be visited during this tour.
- **When:** The Tour B begins on Nov 11 and ends on Nov 19, 2017
- **Expected Weather:** Depending on the areas being visited, usually clear skies in the morning, cloudy skies and even scattered rains and thunder showers in the afternoon. Temperatures will vary in the lowlands from usually humid 80 - 90 F highhs during the day to 68 - 70 F at night and in the highlands with highs of 75 F to comfortably cool minimum lows of mid 50s F at night.
- **Max Tour Group Size:** Tour limited to 12 participants, minimum 6, plus leading birding guide Richard Garrigues and a second local birding and photography guide.
- **Bilingual Guides** (English/Spanish)
- **Transportation Vehicle:** Recent model 20-24-passenger tour bus.
- **Tour Pace & Walking:** Mostly relaxed with some short walks. ** Non-strenuous, no heavy hiking involved. Suitable for participants of all ages!! **
- **Quality of Birding:** Top Quality / Top knowledge / Great Guides!!
- **Bird Species in Costa Rica:** 918
- **Top Birds:** In addition to lots of spectacular hummingbirds, we’ll hope to see a host of impressive species, including Resplendent Quetzal, Scarlet Macaw, Yellow-throated Toucan, Spectacled Owl, Boat-billed Heron, a wide variety of tanagers, and a good representation of neotropical groups such as motmots, puffbirds, antbirds, manakins, and cotingas.
- **Bird species to be covered in this tour:** We should be able to see anywhere from 250 to 350 species of birds, plus an interesting variety of mammals, reptiles, and amphibians.
- **What else?** Enjoy 25 to 35+ hummingbird species and one of the most beautiful countries in the world.
- **Photography Opportunities:** Although this is not itself a specialized photography tour, depending on birding hotspots being visited or location facilities, photography opportunities will be very good to superb throughout the entire tour.
• **Accommodations:** Excellent to beautiful and very comfortable accommodations according to the diverse areas scheduled to be visited.

• **Three nights of the Tour at beautiful Quinta GALEON Lodge**, one of the best places in the world to enjoy and photograph hummingbirds.

• Quinta GALEON Lodge will also be used as departing location for day visits to other excellent birding hotspots in the highlands.

**What else can you expect:**

• A relaxed and unforgettable exposure to the flora and fauna of Costa Rica—one of the most biodiverse countries in the world.

• Some of the best birding and the best hummingbird viewing hotspots in the entire country.

• Great birding and hummingbird photography opportunities throughout the 9-day tour.

• Great sightseeing around different areas of the country, including national parks, private protected reserves, and passing through several rural towns and larger cities.

• The second and third smallest hummingbird species on earth as well as one of the 10 largest hummingbirds in the world.

• Great country, great people, great service, great hospitality, and a great time!

• **SPECIAL NOTE:** To be reconfirmed, 2 similar Birding, Hummingbirds and Photography Tours will be conducted by Richard Garrigues on the following dates: **Tour A begins on Nov 04 and ends on Nov 12, 2017** and/or **Tour C begins on Nov 18 and ends on Nov 26, 2017**. Should dates be of no conflict and more convenient for you, please fill out the enclosed Registration Form and make sure to select the appropriate tour option/schedule.

• In all cases, registrations to any of the tours A, B or C, will be confirmed once initial information is filled out, sent to Tour Management, initial deposit has been received, and in full compliance with enclosed Tour Policies.

• For arrivals before the tour begins or for later departures, additional hotel bookings can be made upon request.

---

**Tour Itinerary**

**DAY 1, SATURDAY: ~> Arrival to Costa Rica Airport/San José or Tour Hotel 1st night / Alajuela <~**

Arrive in San Jose, Costa Rica, at the Juan Santamaria International Airport, where our representative will assist you and transfer you to our hotel outside the city of Alajuela. Our hotel is surrounded by a beautiful view and gardens perfect for some initial birding and photography opportunities. We will have a welcome dinner and orientation gathering at our hotel that evening to discuss all the exciting adventures we will enjoy ahead in the tour.

**Life Zones: Costa Rica Central Valley / Middle Elevations**

---

**Day 2, SUNDAY: ~> San José, Central Valley Highlands, Atlantic Lowlands <~**

After a great night’s sleep and breakfast, we will begin our fantastic journey towards the Central Valley highlands en route to the Atlantic Lowlands.

Some pre-breakfast birding on the hotel grounds will give us a chance to get acquainted with some of Costa Rica’s most common species, including the national bird, the Clay-colored Thrush. Other species should include
Rufous-tailed Hummingbird, Great Kiskadee, Tropical Kingbird, and Blue-gray Tanager.

Additionally, this will likely be our best opportunity of finding Lesson’s Motmot, Rufous-capped Warbler, and White-eared Ground-Sparrow.

En route to the Caribbean Lowlands, we will make a couple of birding stops near La Paz and Cinchona areas. Between the two places we will have the opportunity to enjoy near-endless, head-spinning viewing of more than a dozen species, among them the endemic Coppery-headed Emerald and near-endemic Purple-throated Mountain-gem, Magenta-throated Woodstar, and Black-bellied Hummingbird, plus many others. In addition to admiring a series of impressive waterfalls, a walk along the well-built trail system will give us the chance to seek out such birds as Black Guan, Red-headed Barbet, Red-faced Spinetail, Sooty-faced Finch, and Tawny-capped Euphonia.

We will arrive at our next destination lodge in time to enjoy the grounds in the late afternoon.

Life Zones: Central Valley, Middle Elevations, Caribbean Foothills, Caribbean Lowlands

Potential Hummingbird Species to look for:


Day 3, MONDAY: ~> Atlantic Lowlands, Atlantic Slopes, Central Valley, Dota Highlands / Talamanca Mountain Range <=

Before breakfast, we’ll have the opportunity to enjoy birding on the grounds around the lodge surrounded by ponds, rivers and exuberant vegetation.

After breakfast, we’ll visit an extraordinary place, Cope Wildlife, owned and personally run by our friend Cope, whose gardens and nearby woods are full of photography opportunities, including tanagers, honey-creepers, toucans, woodpeckers, owls, frogs, reptiles and extraordinary hummingbirds.

After lunch, we will head south to cross the Braulio Carrillo National Park, the Central Valley Mountain Range and continue on to our next destination—our beautiful, cozy and secluded Quinta GALEON Lodge, located in the highlands of Costa Rica, overlooking the coffee valley of Santa María de Dota.

Credits: Photos by Edgar Méndez, Raúl Vega, Jorge Chinchilla, Steve Herman, Richard Garrigues, Pablo Garro
Life Zones: Caribbean Lowlands, Caribbean Foothills, Highlands

Potential Hummingbird Species to look for:


Day 4, TUESDAY: ~> Dota Highlands / Talamanca Mountain Range <~

We’ll enjoy hummingbirds at their best. You will have the chance to view and photograph 12 to 17+ hummingbird species swarming around in one single day. Quinta GALEON Lodge is known as one of top places in the world to enjoy and photograph hummingbirds in the world.

From some of the smallest hummingbirds in the world to perhaps the largest ones in Central America, Quinta GALEON Lodge and its “La Ruta del Colibrí Hummingbird Experience Tour” will offer you plenty of hummingbird photography setups, light, background and ambiance conditions to maximize your hummingbird photography opportunities.

We will enjoy delicious home-cooked cuisine breakfast, lunch and dinner, as well as mid-morning and mid-afternoon treats and world class coffee harvested and processed in the area from our local producers.

Besides hummingbirds, at Quinta GALEON Lodge you will enjoy other birds, including Acorn Woodpecker, Flame-colored Tanager, Blue-and-white Swallow, Brown Jays, and Sulphur-winged Parakeets, as well as great and unique opportunities to do macro, landscape and nighttime photography.

Life Zones: Highlands

Potential Hummingbird Species to look for:

Day 5, WEDNESDAY: ~> Dota Highlands / Talamanca Mountain Range <<

We’ll start the day with an early trip in quest of the Resplendent Quetzal, some 30 minutes from Quinta GALEON Lodge. In addition to the incredible quetzal, we will also hope to see a variety of highland endemics such as Ruddy Treerunner, Black-capped Flycatcher, Yellow-winged Vireo, Timberline Wren, Black-billed Nightingale-Thrush, and Black-and-yellow Silky-flycatcher. Eventually, we’ll descend to the nearby town of Copey for more great birding, including perhaps Emerald Toucanet, Red-faced Spinetail, American Dipper, Tropical Mockingbird, White-winged Tanager, and Silver-throated Tanager.

We’ll return to our lodge early in the afternoon for some more birding / hummingbirds, a delicious afternoon coffee, more photography and “well-deserved and spirited” dinner in the evening.

Life Zones: Highlands

Potential Hummingbird Species to look for:


Day 6, THURSDAY: ~> Dota Highlands / Talamanca Mountain Range, Pacific Foothills, South and Central Pacific Lowlands <<

Today we travel to the Central Pacific lowlands. However, prior to arriving there, we’ll make several interesting stops en route, beginning with a visit to the unique paramo habitat at 11,000 feet above sea level. As well as admiring the subalpine plant life, we will search for the near-endemic Volcano Junco. Descending to about 6,000 feet, we’ll make a mid-elevation stop for species such as Scaled Pigeon, White-tailed Emerald, Snowy-bellied Hummingbird, Red-headed Barbet, Tropical Parula, Cherríe’s Tanager, Speckled Tanager, and White-naped Brushfinch. Upon arriving at the town of San Isidro de El General, we will attempt to find the stunning Turquoise Cotinga, before continuing on over the Coastal Range and reaching the Pacific coast.

Life Zones: Highlands, Middle Elevations, Southern Pacific Lowlands

Potential Hummingbird Species to look for:


Day 7, FRIDAY: ~> Central Pacific Lowlands <~

Today we may well be awakened by the sounds of Scarlet Macaws flying over the lodge. Along the little stream at the edge of the garden we will hope to encounter Bare-throated Tiger-Heron, White Ibis, Green Kingfisher, and Buff-rumped Warbler, along with the impressive Lineated Basilisk that looks like something right out of a Lost Continent movie. Turning our attention to the trees in the garden, we might spy Squirrel Cuckoo, Purple-crowned Fairy, Scaly-breasted Hummingbird, Blue-throated Goldentail, Slaty-tailed Trogon, Fiery-billed Aracari, Yellow-throated Toucan, and Golden-hooded Tanager, to name just a few species.

After breakfast, a visit to Carara National Park awaits us. Situated at the northern end of the southern wet forest life zone and the southern end of the dry forest life zone, Carara is home to an amazing diversity of birds and other wildlife. Central American Agouti, White-nosed Coati, Northern Tamandua, or any of three species of monkeys could all prove to be distractions from birds such as Great Tinamou, Ruddy Quail-Dove, Long-billed Hermit, Stripe-throated Hermit, Baird’s Trogon, White-whiskered Puffbird, Pale-billed Woodpecker, or Streak-chested Antpitta.

In the afternoon, you will have the chance to return to Carara for another trail walk, or just relax and/or further explore the hotel garden.

Life Zones: Southern Pacific Lowlands

Potential Hummingbird Species to look for:

Day 8, SATURDAY: ~> Central Pacific Lowlands, Pacific Middle Elevation Slopes, Central Valley, Alajuela <~

Another obligatory activity in the Carara area is a visit to the Tarcoles River and the associated mangrove estuary. Here we will likely add a good number of wading birds and shorebirds to our trip list, while also watching American Crocodiles basking on the riverbanks—or eerily swimming beside our vessel! Primary avian targets during our boat ride will be Boat-billed Heron, Common Black Hawk, American Pygmy Kingfisher, Panama Flycatcher, Mangrove Vireo, and, of course, the endemic Mangrove Hummingbird.

A drive through the dry forest life zone should also produce more new species for us, including perhaps Crested Bobwhite, Common Ground-Dove, Lesser Ground-Cuckoo, Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl, Cinnamon Hummingbird, Black-headed Trogon, Turquoise-browed Motmot, Orange-fronted Parakeet, White-throated Magpie-Jay, Stripe-headed Sparrow, Streak-backed Oriole, and Scrub Euphonia.

By mid-afternoon, we should be back at our hotel overlooking the Central Valley, where you will have a chance to relax and unwind prior to returning home.

Life Zones: Southern Pacific Lowlands, Northern Pacific Lowlands, and Central Valley

Potential Hummingbird Species to look for:


Day 9, SUNDAY: ~> Depart for home / Flight back home

-related content-
BHP Tour Pricing and Details

Tour Information

| A-Tour BHP-CR / Nov 04-12, 2017 | Itinerary |
| B-Tour BHP-CR / Nov 11-19, 2017 | Itinerary |
| C-Tour BHP-CR / Nov 18-26, 2017 | Itinerary |

Tour Price:
- **Double Occupancy:** US$ 3,600
- **Single Supplement:** Add US$ 600 *(Based on availability)*
- **Triple Occupancy:** Deduct US$ 600 *(3rd Pax Only)*
- **Reserve Deposit:** US$ 1,000. Balance due 90 days before tour begins.

(~) TOUR PRICING:
- Based on Double Occupancy: $ 3,600 / per participant
- Single Supplement / Occupancy: Based on previously approved availability, add US $ 600
- Triple Occupancy: Third Pax, please deduct $ 600 (3rd Pax Only)
- **RESERVE DEPOSIT:** $ 1,000 / Money Transfer or Credit Card charge upon sign up.

(*) INCLUSIONS:
- Private transfers from the SJO (Juan Santamaría International) Airport to our first night hotel
- Lodging and Meals as specified. Taxes for all specified services
- Transportation as specified w/private driver in spacious air-conditioned tour bus
- Professional assistance from your tour leaders and guides. Bilingual Guides (English/Spanish)
- Entrances and fees for all described activities, birding and hummingbird hotspots
- Private transfers to SJO Juan Santamaría International Airport for your flights home

(*) EXCLUSIONS:
- Airfare to and from Costa Rica. Airport departure tax (US $29, may be included in the price of your plane ticket)
- Alcoholic Drinks. Non-mealtime snacks and drinks
- Birding Tour Guides, Hospitality Personnel and Service Gratuities / Tips
- Optional activities (unless specified). Optional activities can be paid for, while in Costa Rica
- Single room supplement surcharge, based on previously approved availability.
- Once REGISTRATION FORM is received we will e-mail, information, instructions and/or Registration Confirmation will be received within 48 hours of booking, subject to availability and in compliance with Tour Policies. Please refer to Tour Policies document.