



BIRDING MAN

A D V E N T U R E S

Corcovado: Costa Rica's Crown Jewel

Costa Rica, Central America

February 9th – 16th, 2025



Observing Scarlet Macaws in the wild is an unforgettable experience. Their streamer-like tails and flashes of color can't help but leave one with a feeling of freedom and wildness.



Trip Summary

I had the chance to visit Corcovado National Park back in 2013 when I was living in Central America. I can honestly say that my three days spent in the park comprised the most magnificent wildlife experience of my life – and that’s coming from someone who’s been on safari in South Africa. In and around the Sirena Ranger Station, I was treated to sightings of some of the most sought-after tropical wildlife: 3 species of parrots (Red-lored, Mealy, and Scarlet Macaw), 3 species of toucans (Fiery-billed Aracari, Yellow-throated, and Keel-billed), 4 species of monkeys (white-faced capuchin, squirrel, howler, and spider), Baird’s tapir, collared peccary, anteater (tamandua), 2-toed and 3-toed sloths, ocelot, puma, bull shark, basilisk lizard, 3 species of snakes, crocodiles, and at least 6 different kinds of tree frogs.

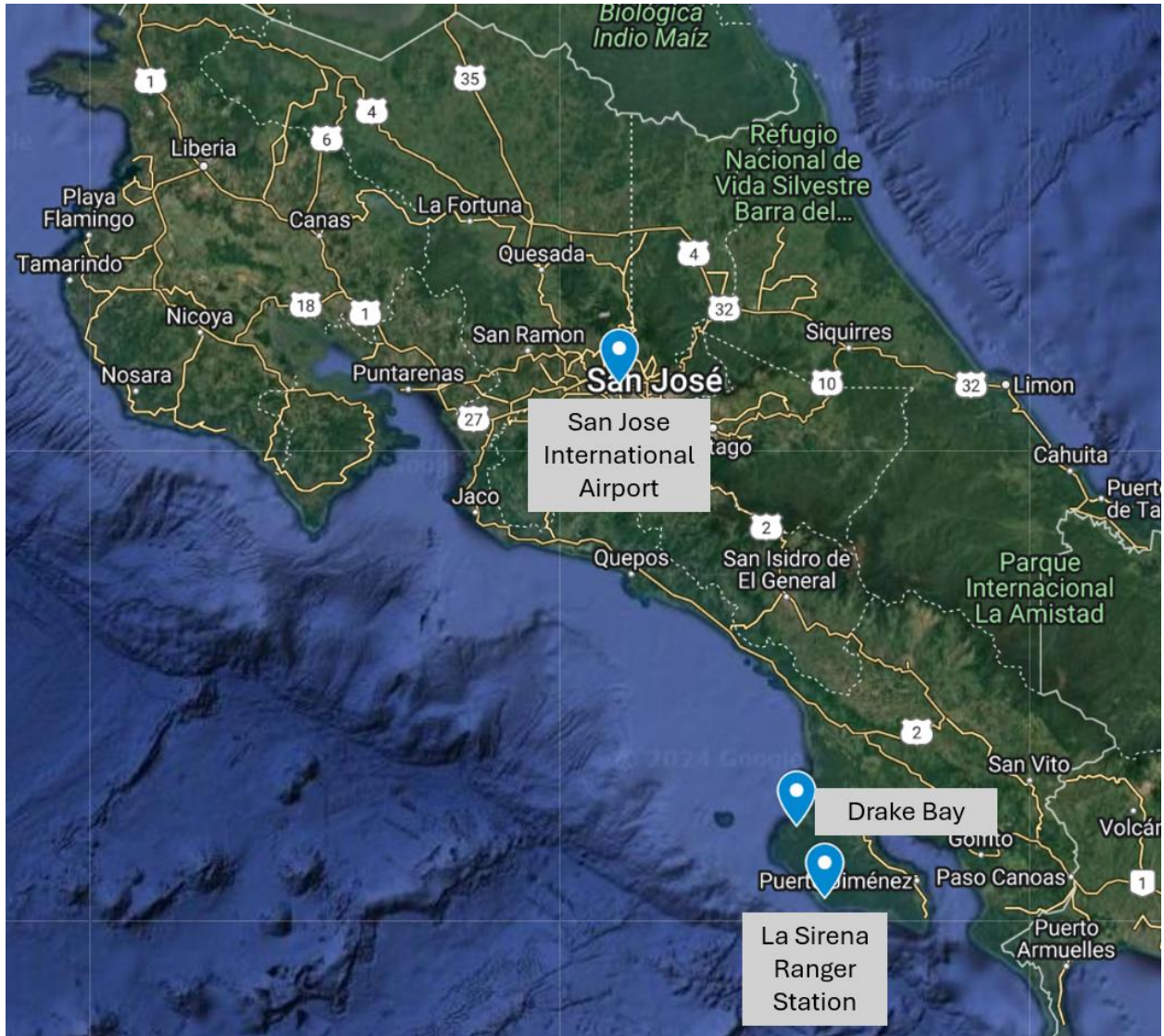
With over 2600 species of plants (67 of which are endemic), 370 species of birds, and 140 species of mammals, Corcovado protects the largest remaining expanse of primary rainforest on the Pacific coast of the Americas. National Geographic famously described Corcovado as being “the most biologically intense place on Earth” and that’s exactly what it is – intense. This trip includes a flight from San Jose to Drake Bay, a remote resort town on the fringes of the park. We will make Drake Bay our base and spend several nights there to allow for some self-paced exploration, beach time, and creature comforts. One day, we will explore one of Costa Rica’s marine highlights, the seas around Isla de Caño, taking a tour that will allow us to snorkel with sea turtles, sea horses, manta rays, stingrays, sharks, and hundreds of colorful fish. If you are certified to dive, you are welcome to do so for an additional cost.

The focus of this trip, however, will be Corcovado National Park. We will take an hour and fifteen-minute boat ride to the Sirena Ranger Station where we will spend two nights. Our private guide will lead us through the primary rainforest during the most active wildlife hours. Maximizing our time spent here around dawn and dusk will heighten our probability of finding some of the most iconic tropical wildlife.

Corcovado is not for everyone. The accommodations at Sirena are less than glamorous (bunk beds with mosquito nets) and the heat and humidity can cause some level of discomfort for people. However, if you love observing wildlife in pristine rainforest, you are in for a real treat. Don’t miss this wonderful opportunity to explore one of the most biodiverse places on the planet! You will never forget the magnificence of this place – a place often referred to as Costa Rica’s last frontier and crown jewel.

Itinerary in Brief

Day	Activities	Food	Lodging
1	Arrival to San Jose Transfer to Hotel Robledal	D	San Jose
2	Morning birding at hotel Transfer to airport Flight to Drake Bay	BLD	Drake Bay
3	Isla del Caño snorkeling tour Free time	BLD	Drake Bay
4	Boat ride to Sirena Afternoon wildlife tour	BLD	Sirena Ranger Station
5	Morning wildlife tour Afternoon wildlife tour	BLD	Sirena Ranger Station
6	Morning wildlife tour Return to Drake Bay Free time	BLD	Drake Bay
7	Transfer to airport Flight to San Jose	BLD	San Jose



Destinations for the proposed 7-day itinerary



A three-toed sloth climbs into the canopy with her baby in tow

Itinerary

Day 1: Home | San Jose, Costa Rica

- Arrival to Juan Santamaría International Airport
- Transfer to Hotel Robledal (25 minutes)
- Relax at hotel with optional birding in the garden
 - **Target Birds:**
 - *Ferruginous Pygmy Owl*
 - *Clay-colored Thrush (Costa Rica's National Bird)*
 - *Inca Dove*
 - *Lineated Woodpecker*
 - *Blue-vented Hummingbird*

- Welcome Dinner at hotel
- Overview of Trip/Introduction to the Osa Peninsula

Lodging: [Hotel Robledal](#)

Meals included: D



The lush vegetation around Hotel Robledal provides ample birdwatching opportunities only a short distance from the International Airport



Hotel Robledal is a quiet oasis near the city of San Jose, Costa Rica

Day 2: San Jose | Drake Bay

- Breakfast at hotel
- Transfer to airport
- Flight to Drake Bay (50 min)
- Transfer to Finca Maresia
- Lunch
- Free time/hiking/beach
- Optional afternoon birding
 - Target Species
 - Scarlet Macaw
 - Fiery-billed Aracari
 - Black-mandibled Toucan
 - Pale-billed Woodpecker
 - Rufous-tailed Jacamar
 - White-whiskered Puffbird
 - Red-capped Manakin
 - Red-lored Amazon
- Group dinner

Lodging: [Finca Maresia](#)

Meals included: B, L, D



We will spend the our first two nights at Finca Maresia, an eco-lodge with wonderful character



Isla del Caño is known as one of the best snorkeling and diving destinations in Costa Rica

Day 3: Isla del Caño

- 6 am: Breakfast
- 6:45 am: Depart hotel
- 7:00 am: Meet at Drake Divers
- 7:30 am: Depart for snorkeling tour
 - **Target Birds:**
 - Masked Booby
 - Brown Booby
 - Red-footed Booby
 - Royal Tern
 - Brown Noddy
 - Magnificent Frigatebird
 - Red-billed Tropicbird
 - **Target Reptiles:**
 - Loggerhead Sea Turtle

- Hawksbill
- Green Sea Turtle
- **Target Mammals:**
 - Pacific Bottlenose Dolphin
 - Humpback Whale
- **Target Fish:**
 - Sargent Major
 - Moorish Idol
 - Squirrelfish
 - Pacific Angelfish
 - Moray Eel
 - Manta Ray
 - Sting Ray
 - Black-tip Reef Shark
 - Sea Horse
- 12:00 pm: Lunch
- Transfer to hotel
- Free time/hiking/beach
- 6:00 pm: Dinner
- 7:30 pm – 10:30 pm: The Night Tour with Tracy “The Bug Lady”

Lodging: [Finca Maresia](#)

Meals included: B, L, D



Humpback Whales can often be seen from the boat when cruising the coast of the Osa Peninsula

Day 4: Corcovado National Park

- 5:30 am: Breakfast
- 6:00 am: Boat trip to Sirena Ranger Station (1 hour 15 minutes)
- 7:15 am: Morning wildlife observation
 - **Target Birds:**
 - Giant Tinamou
 - Great Curassow
 - Fiery-billed Aracari
 - Yellow-throated Toucan
 - Keel-billed Toucan
 - Mealy Parrot
 - **Target Mammals:**
 - Baird's tapir
 - Three-toed and two-toed sloths
 - White-nosed coati
 - Collared and white-lipped peccaries
 - Puma
- Lunch
- Rest and relaxation
- 3:30 pm: Afternoon/evening wildlife observation
 - **Target Birds:**
 - Black-cheeked Ant-Tanager
 - Baird's Trogon
 - Collared Trogon
 - **Target Mammals:**
 - Baird's Tapir
 - Tamandua
 - Spider Monkey
 - Squirrel Monkey
 - Ocelot
 - **Target Reptiles**
 - Pacific crocodile
 - Emerald basilisk
 - Eyelash Viper
 - **Target Amphibians**
 - Masked tree frog
 - Strawberry poison-dart frog
- 6:00 pm: Dinner
- 8:30 pm: Lights out

Lodging: Sirena Ranger Station

Meals included: B, L, D



The wild coastline near Corcovado National Park

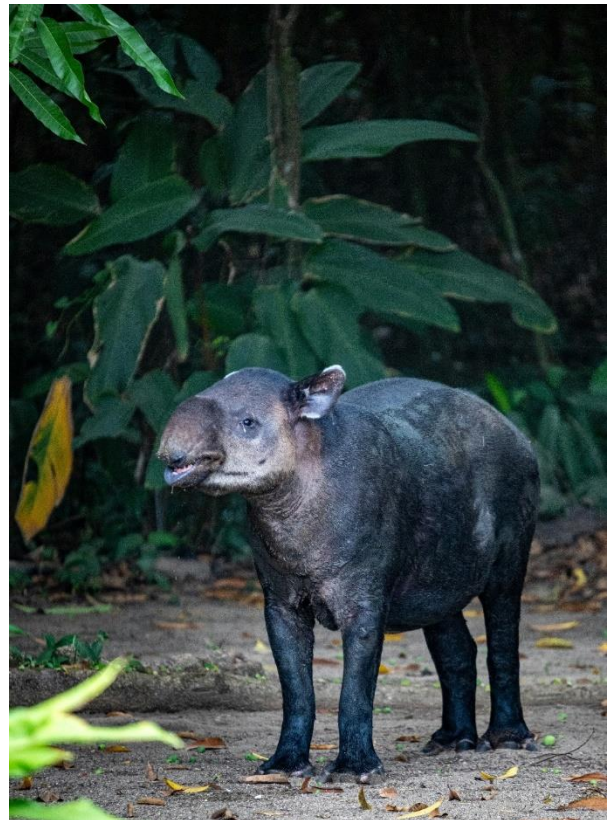


Day 5: Corcovado National Park

- 5:30 am: Breakfast
- Morning wildlife observation
 - **Target Birds:**
 - Marbled Wood-Quail
 - Crested Guan
 - White-tipped Sicklebill
 - Mangrove Hummingbird
 - Uniform Crake
 - Roseate Spoonbill
- Lunch
- Rest and relax
- 3:30 pm: Afternoon wildlife observation
- 6:00 pm: Dinner
- 7:15 pm: Nocturnal wildlife hike (optional)
- 8:30 pm: Lights out

Lodging: Sirena Ranger Station

Meals included: B, L, D



Baird's Tapir often roams the trails around the Sirena Research Station. Photo by Bernd Dittrich.



The Collared Trogon is one of several species of Trogons we may see. Photo by Bernd Dittrich.

Day 6: Corcovado | Drake Bay

- 5:30 am: Breakfast
- Morning wildlife observation
 - **Target Birds:**
- 9:00 am: Return to Drake Bay
- Return to Hotel Jinetes de Osa
- Free time/relax
- Group dinner

Lodging: [Hotel Jinetes de Osa](#)

Meals included: B, L, D

Day 7: Drake Bay | San Jose

- Breakfast
- Flight to San Jose
- Transfer to Hotel Robledal
- Lunch
- Dinner

Meals included: B, L, D



The puma is an elusive cat that can sometimes be found in the forests around Sirena



Price per person: \$3,200.00, single supplement \$500

Cost is based on Double Occupancy

Includes:

- ✓ Driver professional naturalist guides throughout the tour
- ✓ In-country air and ground transportation
- ✓ All hotels
- ✓ All food
- ✓ All fees and permits
- ✓ Water and snacks throughout the trip
- ✓ General liability insurance and auto insurance
- ✓ 24-hour assistance in case of emergency

Does not include:

- × Medical insurance
- × Travel insurance
- × Evacuation costs
- × Alcoholic beverages
- × Personal expenses
- × Activities and food not included on the itinerary

Tour Pace:

This tour is designed for beginner to intermediate wildlife enthusiasts and photographers. We consider the difficulty level to be moderate, with most of the wildlife observation on flat trails. However, the jungle is hot and humid and you can expect early morning starts. We will make sure to allow for plenty of time to rest and relax in and around the lodges.

Transportation:

We will fly from San Jose to Drake Bay. Transportation to and from our lodge will be via taxi. Corcovado National Park will be reached by boat.

Lodging:

We will be staying at a combination of 2- and 3-star hotels and eco-lodges throughout the tour. Each accommodation has been diligently vetted for quality and assurance. Sirena Ranger Station is a rustic headquarters with basic accommodations, but there is electricity and running water along with full meals.