

DAY TRIP FOR HIGH ELEVATION ENDEMIC AND A VOLCANO



Irazu Volcano National Park birding day trip

Looking over the Central Valley, massive Irazu Volcano beckons with fantastic scenery and excellent high-elevation birding. Only an hour's drive from San Jose, Irazu is often overlooked by birders because similar, high-elevation forests are found on the more frequently visited Cerro de la Muerte. Irazu, however, offers up many of the same birds and is more suitable as a day trip due to its proximity to San Jose.

In addition to birds, visitors also get the chance to look into its immense crater. Although much of Irazu is used for agriculture, the good road that ascends the volcano provides access to patches of habitat that harbor a number of high elevation bird species.

Costa Rican Pygmy-Owl (see photo above), Acorn Woodpecker, **Resplendent Quetzal** (see photo above), Ruddy Treerunner, Black-capped Flycatcher, Gray-breasted Wood-Wren, Sooty Robin, Zeledonia, Yellow-thighed Finch, and Flame-colored Tanager are a small sample of species likely to be seen when birding Irazu, Costa Rica. Irazu is also one of two easily accessible sites in Costa Rica to see Volcano Junco and Timberline Wren.

Itinerary:

Leaving San Jose by 6 A.M., as we ascend the slopes of Irazu, we will stop at patches of forest along the road that offer very productive birding and beautiful scenery. We will drive up to the top to look into the impressive crater and search for Volcano Junco, Timberline Wren, and Slaty Flowerpiercer before birding an excellent area of high-elevation oak forest on our way back down. For lunch, we will eat at the friendly Noche Buena Restaurant and enjoy the Volcano, Magnificent, and Fiery-throated Hummingbirds that visit their feeders. After lunch, we will search for whatever high elevation specialties we still need along the trails at the restaurant, leaving the area for San Jose by 4 P.M.

Price:

1 to 4 participants: \$90 plus expenses for lunch or \$65 for half a day.

5-8 participants: \$150 plus expenses for lunch or \$125 for half a day.

Price does not include transportation nor park entrance fees (\$10 for non-residents, \$2 for guide).

Site list with abundance for bird species at Irazu National Park and vicinity.

Species in bold are more commonly seen here than at many other sites in Costa Rica.

Species	Abundance
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	Fairly common- Recorded most visits
	Uncommon- Recorded once every every 3 visits
	Rare- recorded once every 5 visits
	Very rare- Only recorded a few times and may no longer occur
Black Guan	Uncommon
Buffy-crowned Wood-Partridge	Uncommon
Spotted Wood-Quail	Rare
Red-tailed Hawk	Fairly common
Band-tailed Pigeon	Fairly common
Mourning Dove	Fairly common
Maroon-chested Ground-Dove	Rare
Buff-fronted Quail-Dove	Uncommon
Barred Parakeet	Uncommon
Bare-shanked Screech-Owl	Rare
Costa Rican Pygmy-Owl	Uncommon
Unspotted Saw-whet Owl	Very rare
Great Horned Owl	Very rare
Dusky Nightjar	Uncommon
White-collared Swift	Fairly common
Vaux's Swift	Uncommon

Fiery-throated Hummingbird	Fairly common
Magnificent Hummingbird	Fairly common
Volcano Hummingbird	Fairly common
Green Violetear	Uncommon
Purple-throated Mountain-Gem	Uncommon
Scintillant Hummingbird	Uncommon
Resplendent Quetzal	Uncommon
Collared Trogon	Uncommon
Acorn Woodpecker	Fairly common
Hairy Woodpecker	Fairly common
Red-faced Spinetail	Uncommon
Ruddy Treerunner	Fairly common
Buffy Tuftedcheek	Uncommon
Spot-crowned Woodcreeper	Fairly common
Silvery-fronted Tapaculo	Fairly common
Paltry Tyrannulet	Fairly common
Mountain Elaenia	Fairly common
Ochraceous Pewee	Rare
Olive-sided Flycatcher	Uncommon migrant
Dark Pewee	Uncommon
Western Wood Pewee	Fairly common migrant
Yellowish Flycatcher	Uncommon
Black-capped Flycatcher	Fairly common
Tufted Flycatcher	Uncommon
Black Phoebe	Uncommon
Social Flycatcher	Uncommon
Tropical Kingbird	Uncommon
Barred Becard	Rare

Yellow-winged Vireo	Fairly common
Rufous-browed Peppershrike	Uncommon
Silvery-throated Jay	Rare
Blue and white Swallow	Fairly common
Cliff Swallow	Fairly common migrant
Barn Swallow	Fairly common migrant
House Wren	Uncommon
Ochraceous Wren	Fairly common
Timberline Wren	Fairly common
Gray-breasted Wood-Wren	Fairly common
Black-billed Nightingale-Thrush	Fairly common
Ruddy-capped Nightingale-Thrush	Uncommon
Sooty Robin	Fairly common
Black-faced Solitaire	Rare
Mountain Robin	Fairly common
American Dipper	Uncommon
Long-tailed Silky-Flycatcher	Fairly common
Black and yellow Silky-Flycatcher	Fairly common
Flame-throated Warbler	Fairly common
Black-throated Green-Warbler	Fairly common during winter months
Blackburnian Warbler	Fairly common during winter months
Townsend's Warbler	Rare during winter months

Hermit Warbler	Rare during winter months
Black-cheeked Warbler	Fairly common
Canada Warbler	Rare migrant
Wilson's Warbler	Fairly common during winter months
Slate-throated Redstart	Uncommon
Collared Redstart	Fairly common
Wrenthrush	Uncommon
Common Bush-Tanager	Uncommon
Sooty-capped Bush-Tanager	Fairly common
Summer Tanager	Uncommon during winter months
Flame-colored Tanager	Fairly common
Spangle-cheeked Tanager	Fairly common
Yellow-faced Grassquit	Uncommon
Slaty Finch	Rare
Peg-billed Finch	Uncommon
Slaty Flowerpiercer	Fairly common
Large-footed Finch	Fairly common
Yellow-thighed Finch	Fairly common
Rufous-collared Sparrow	Fairly common
Volcano Junco	Fairly common
Grayish Saltator	Uncommon
Black-thighed Grosbeak	Uncommon
Yellow-billed Cacique	Uncommon
Lesser Goldfinch	Uncommon
Yellow-bellied Siskin	Uncommon
Golden-browed Chlorophonia	Uncommon
Elegant Euphonia	Uncommon