

DAY TRIP
EL TAPIR and QUEBRADA GONZALEZ, BRAULIO CARRILLO NATIONAL PARK
CARIBBEAN SLOPE FOOTHILL RAINFOREST



Only an hour's drive from the city, the fantastic, **Caribbean slope, foothill rain forests** of [Quebrada Gonzalez](#) and El Tapir are the closest, most accessible rain forests to San Jose. This is also a good day trip while staying in the Sarapiquí (La Selva) area as it takes a bit less than an hour to get there and hosts a number of bird species not found in the lowlands. The dense vegetation and tall canopy can be tough to bird but always produce rare species difficult to see elsewhere. Some of the specialties that are regular and/or easier to encounter here (a spot I have been birding since 1993) include:

- King Vulture
- Hawk-Eagles, other raptors
- Olive-backed Quail-Dove
- Snowcap (pictured above)
- Lattice-tailed Trogon (pictured above)
- Yellow-eared Toucanet
- Cinnamon Woodpecker
- Black-crowned Antpitta
- Russet Antshrike
- Dull-mantled Antbird
- White-ruffed and White-crowned Manakins
- Nightingale Wren
- Black-headed Nightingale Thrush

- Pale-vented Thrush
- Black-and-yellow Tanager along with many other tanagers and other small bird species that troop through the forest in large, mixed flocks.



Other animals:

In general, this site is an excellent place to experience primary rainforest. Three species of monkeys, Northern Tamandua, and various frogs and reptiles are frequently encountered.

Itinerary:

- Arrive at El Tapir by 6 or 6:30 A.M..
- Bird the hummingbird garden and forest edge until 8 A.M. This is one of the most accessible sites on the planet for Snowcap and several other hummingbirds are also possible including Bronze-tailed Plumeleeter, Black-crested Coquette, and Green Thorntail. The canopy and forest edge can also host toucans, parrots (including occasional Great Green Macaw), various tanagers, perched raptors, Pale-vented Thrush, and other birds.
- At 8, after a two minute drive to Quebrada Gonzalez, we continue searching for rainforest and foothill forest specialties along a well-maintained, short, loop trail. Many species are possible, we hope to run into big mixed flocks, and will watch carefully for quail-doves, antbirds, and other shy forest species.
- 12 P.M. Lunch at a nearby restaurant. As the restaurant is in the lowlands, we will likely see a different suite of bird species and may have a chance to visit a nearby river sometimes frequented by Fasciated Tiger- Heron and Sunbittern. In the afternoon, we will visit Quebrada Gonzalez once again to look for species missed during the morning, leaving for San Jose or elsewhere by 4 or 5 P.M.

Price:

1 to 4 participants: \$140 for the group plus expenses for lunch or \$110 for half a day.
 5-8 participants: \$180 for the group plus expenses for lunch or \$140 for half a day.

Price does not include costs for transportation nor park entrance fees (\$22-\$27 for non-residents, \$2 for guide).

If transportation is needed, please mention this in your email.

To reserve this tour, please email information@birdingcraft.com

Site list with abundance for bird species of Quebrada Gonzalez and El Tapir.

Species in bold are easier to see at Quebrada Gonzalez and El Tapir than many other sites in Costa Rica.

Species	Abundance:
	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
Great Tinamou	Rare
Slaty-breasted Tinamou	Rare
Little Tinamou	Rare near Rio Sucio
Great Curassow	Very rare
Crested Guan	Uncommon
Black-eared Wood-Quail	Uncommon but very inconspicuous
Fasciated Tiger Heron	Rare
Sunbittern	Rare
Osprey	Uncommon migrant
King Vulture	Fairly common
Turkey Vulture	Fairly common
Black Vulture	Fairly common
Gray-headed Kite	Rare
Double toothed kite	Uncommon
American Swallow-tailed kite	Uncommon
Bicolored Hawk	Very rare

Tiny Hawk	Rare
White Hawk	Uncommon
Barred Hawk	Fairly common
Broad-winged Hawk	Fairly common
Semiplumbeous Hawk	Uncommon
Short-tailed Hawk	Fairly common
Great Black-Hawk	Rare (formerly fairly common)
Solitary Eagle	Very rare
Swainson's Hawk	Uncommon during migration
Black Hawk-Eagle	Uncommon
Ornate Hawk-Eagle	Uncommon
Black and white Hawk-Eagle	Rare
Crested Eagle	Very rare
Red-throated Caracara	Very rare
Collared Forest-Falcon	Rare
Barred Forest-Falcon	Rare
Bat Falcon	Fairly common
Grey-necked Wood-Rail	Uncommon
Spotted Sandpiper	Uncommon in winter
Band-tailed Pigeon	Fairly common during dry season (migrant from higher elevations)
Short-billed Pigeon	Fairly common
Olive-backed Quail-Dove	Uncommon
Purplish-backed Quail-Dove	Uncommon
Gray-chested Dove	Rare
Violacious Quail-Dove	Very rare
Great Green Macaw	Rare, former regular seasonal visitor.
Mealy Parrot	Rare, formerly more common.
Brown-hooded Parrot	Fairly common
White-crowned Parrot	Uncommon

Crimson-fronted Parakeet	Uncommon
Red-fronted Parrotlet	Rare
Squirrel cuckoo	Fairly common
Rufous-vented Ground-Cuckoo	Very rare
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Rare migrant
Black-billed Cuckoo	Rare migrant
Crested Owl	Rare
Black and white Owl	Rare
Spectacled Owl	Uncommon
Mottled Owl	Rare
Vermiculated Screech-Owl	Rare
Central American Pygmy-Owl	Rare
Short-tailed Nighthawk	Uncommon
Common Pauraque	Uncommon near Rio Sucio
Chick-will's-widow	Rare migrant
Common Potoo	Rare
White-collared Swift	Fairly common
Chestnut-collared Swift	Uncommon
White-chinned Swift	Very rare
Gray-rumped Swift	Uncommon
Chimney Swift	Fairly common migrant
Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift	Uncommon
Stripe-throated Hermit	Fairly common
Long-billed Hermit	Uncommon
Green Hermit	Fairly common
White-tipped Sicklebill	Rare
Green-crowned Brilliant	Rare
Purple-crowned Fairy	Fairly common

Crowned Woodnymph	Fairly common
Bronze-tailed Plumeleteer	Fairly common
Rufous-tailed Hummer	Rare
Brown Violetear	Uncommon
White-necked Jacobin	Uncommon
Green Thorntail	Uncommon
Black-crested Coquette	Uncommon
Snowcap	Uncommon
Violet-headed Hummingbird	Uncommon
Black-bellied Hummingbird	Rare altitudinal migrant
Green-fronted Lancebill	Rare altitudinal migrant
Resplendant Quetzal	Rare migrant from higher elevations
Slaty-tailed Trogon	Rare
Lattice-tailed Trogon	Fairly common
Collared Trogon	Uncommon
Gartered Trogon	Uncommon
Black-throated Trogon	Uncommon
Rufous Motmot	Rare
Broad-billed Motmot	Fairly common
Ringed Kingfisher	Uncommon
Green Kingfisher	Uncommon
Lanceolated Monklet	Very rare
White-whiskered Puffbird	Uncommon
Red-headed Barbet	Uncommon
Collared Aracari	Uncommon
Yellow-throated (Chestnut-mandibled) Toucan	Uncommon
Keel-billed Toucan	Rare
Yellow-eared Toucanet	Rare
Emerald (Blue-throated)	Rare migrant from higher elevations

Toucanet	
Pale-billed Woodpecker	Uncommon
Lineated Woodpecker	Rare
Cinnamon Woodpecker	Fairly common
Rufous-winged Woodpecker	Fairly common
Smoky-brown Woodpecker	Uncommon
Black-cheeked Woodpecker	Fairly common
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Rare during winter months
Slaty Spinetail	Rare near Rio Sucio
Plain Xenops	Fairly common
Spotted Barbtail	Uncommon
Striped (Western) Woodhaunter	Uncommon
Buff-throated Foliage-gleaner	Uncommon
Tawny-throated Leaf-tosser	Rare
Wedge-billed Woodcreeper	Fairly common
Strong-billed Woodcreeper	Very rare
Spotted Woodcreeper	Fairly common
Northern Barred Woodcreeper	Uncommon
Black-striped Woodcreeper	Rare
Plain-brown Woodcreeper	Uncommon
Brown-billed Scythebill	Uncommon
Russet Antshrike	Fairly common
Chestnut-backed Antbird	Uncommon
Dull-mantled Antbird	Uncommon
Zeledon's Antbird	Rare
Ocellated Antbird	Uncommon
Bicolored Antbird	Uncommon
Spotted Antbird	Fairly common
Dot-winged Antwren	Rare near Rio Sucio
Checker-throated Antwren	Fairly common

White-flanked Antwren	Rare
Streak-crowned Antvireo	Uncommon
Plain Antvireo	Rare
Thicket Antpitta	Rare
Streak-chested Antpitta	Uncommon
Black-crowned Antpitta	Rare (formerly more regular)
Black-headed Antthrush	Very rare (formerly more regular)
Black-faced Antthrush	Uncommon
Brown-capped Tyrannulet	Rare
Paltry Tyrannulet	Fairly common
Golden-crowned Spadebill	Uncommon
Rufous-browed Tyrannulet	Rare
Yellow-margined Flycatcher	Uncommon
Ochre-bellied Flycatcher	Uncommon
Olive-striped Flycatcher	Uncommon
Slaty-capped Flycatcher	Fairly common
Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher	Uncommon
Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher	Uncommon
Scale-crested Pygmy-Tyrant	Uncommon
Eye-ringed Flatbill	Rare
Bright-rumped Attila	Uncommon
Rufous Mourner	Uncommon
Dusky-capped Flycatcher	Fairly common
Great crested Flycatcher	Fairly common during winter months
Torrent Tyrannulet	Rare (formerly more common)
Olive-sided Flycatcher	Uncommon migrant
Eastern Wood Pewee	Fairly common migrant
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	Uncommon during winter months
Acadian Flycatcher	Rare during winter months
Tufted Flycatcher	Uncommon
Black Phoebe	Rare
Tropical Kingbird	Rare
Piratic Flycatcher	Uncommon

Boat-billed Flycatcher	Uncommon
Social Flycatcher	Uncommon
Common Tody-Flycatcher	Uncommon
Black-headed Tody-Flycatcher	Uncommon Rio Sucio
Cinnamon Becard	Uncommon
Masked Tityra	Uncommon
Black-crowned Tityra	Uncommon
Rufous Piha	Rare (formerly more common)
Speckled Mourner	Very rare
Lovely Cotinga	Very rare
Bare-necked Umbrellabird	Rare
Sharpbill	Rare
White-collared Manakin	Uncommon near Rio Sucio
Red-capped Manakin	Rare
White-crowned Manakin	Uncommon, fairly common early wet season
White-ruffed Manakin	Fairly common
Gray-headed Piprites	Very rare
Northern Schiffornis	Rare
Yellow-throated Vireo	Fairly common during winter months
Red-eyed Vireo	Fairly common migrant
Philadelphia Vireo	Uncommon during winter months
Green Shrike Vireo	Uncommon
Tawny-crowned Greenlet	Uncommon
Lesser Greenlet	Fairly common
Barn Swallow	Fairly common migrant
Cliff Swallow	Fairly common migrant
Blue and white Swallow	Rare
Tropical Gnatcatcher	Uncommon

Long-billed Gnatwren	Rare
Tawny-faced Gnatwren	Uncommon
Band-backed wren	Uncommon
Stripe-breasted wren	Fairly common
Bay Wren	Uncommon
Black-throated Wren	Rare
House Wren	Uncommon
White-breasted Wood-Wren	Fairly common
Nightingale Wren	Uncommon
Song Wren	Rare
Pale-vented Thrush	Fairly common
Black-faced Solitaire	Rare migrant from higher elevations
Wood Thrush	Uncommon
Swainson's Thrush	Fairly common migrant
Black-headed Nightingale-Thrush	Fairly common
American Dipper	Rare
Bananaquit	Uncommon
Tennessee Warbler	Fairly common migrant
Golden-winged Warbler	Uncommon during winter months
Chestnut-sided Warbler	Fairly common during winter months
Blackburnian Warbler	Uncommon during winter months
Kentucky Warbler	Uncommon during winter months
Black-throated Green Warbler	Uncommon during winter months
Yellow Warbler	Uncommon during winter months
Bay-breasted Warbler	Uncommon migrant
Yellow-rumped Warbler	Rare during winter months near Rio Sucio
Black and white Warbler	Fairly common during winter months
American Redstart	Uncommon during winter months
Ovenbird	Rare during winter months
Louisiana Waterthrush	Uncommon during winter months

Slate-throated Redstart	Rare
Buff-rumped Warbler	Fairly common
Common Bush-Tanager	Uncommon
Ashy-throated Bush-Tanager	Rare (formerly more common)
Carmiol's Tanager	Fairly common
Dusky-faced Tanager	Fairly common
White-shouldered Tanager	Uncommon
Tawny-crested Tanager	Fairly common
Blue-and-gold Tanager	Uncommon
Black-and-yellow Tanager	Fairly common
White-throated Shrike-Tanager	Uncommon
Summer Tanager	Fairly common during winter months
Scarlet Tanager	Fairly common migrant
Passerini's Tanager	Fairly common
Crimson-collared Tanager	Uncommon
Blue-gray Tanager	Uncommon
Palm Tanager	Uncommon
Emerald Tanager	Fairly common
Speckled Tanager	Uncommon
Silver-throated Tanager	Fairly common
Golden-hooded Tanager	Fairly common
Rufous-winged Tanager	Rare
Bay-headed Tanager	Fairly common
Green Honeycreeper	Fairly common
Shining Honeycreeper	Fairly common
Scarlet-thighed Dacnis	Uncommon
Variable Seedeater	Common
Orange-billed Sparrow	Fairly common
Black-striped Sparrow	Rare
Buff-throated Saltator	Fairly common
Black-faced Grosbeak	Fairly common

Slate-colored Grosbeak	Uncommon
Black-thighed Grosbeak	Rare
Blue-black Grosbeak	Uncommon
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	Rare during winter months
Chestnut-headed Oropendola	Fairly common
Montezuma Oropendola	Uncommon
Scarlet-rumped Cacique	Fairly common
Yellow-billed Cacique	Rare
Baltimore Oriole	Fairly common during winter months
Tawny-capped Euphonia	Fairly common
Olive-backed Euphonia	Fairly common
White-vented Euphonia	Rare