

# COSTA RICA

25<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY TO 6<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2016

RICHARD WEBB

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## INTRODUCTION

Although a popular mammal-watching destination I have resisted visiting Costa Rica up to now as I prefer wilderness to popular tourist destinations and wasn't sure I'd enjoy Costa Rica. While the tourist fears did prove to be true with far too many extremely noisy, particularly French and American tourists, at Manuel Antonio and Monteverde, the experience was far more enjoyable than I expected and it was a great trip with 36 species of mammals, 15 of which were new.

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## DRIVING

Several reports on both [mammalwatching.com](http://mammalwatching.com) and [cloudbirders.com](http://cloudbirders.com) have included comments about unpleasant and difficult driving conditions in Costa Rica but in my opinion this couldn't be further from the truth.

Driving in Costa Rica is easy if you stick to the main roads and use a good map. Given the comments in other reports I hired a GPS from Sixt but after the first morning when I drove from San Jose to Tirimbina did not use it at all until the last day when I used it to find the route back from Poas Volcano to Sixt to get some benefit for the money I had paid out. Everywhere else was well-signposted and I only needed to ask for directions once.

Road conditions are generally good the main problems being stuck behind slow moving lorries on hills, the occasional pothole, and delays caused by roadworks. I hired a Suzuki Jimny 4WD in order to try to drive to the beach at Santa Rosa but other than that only used it on the northern approach road to Monteverde and on other unsurfaced roads around Monteverde.

## MONEY

A supply of colones is useful for buying petrol, food etc. but where you can I strongly advise paying for hotels using dollars and most parks want dollars for entrance fees. If you do buy colones buy them in Costa Rica. The exchange rate at the airport for dollars was 20% higher than the rate offered by Travelex in Houston and the sterling rate 10% was higher than the rate available in the UK!

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## ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD

I pre-booked all accommodation either directly or through [www.bookings.com](http://www.bookings.com) as it was high season and most of the hotels I used particularly in the main tourist areas were full.

Although dollar payments incur a 13% tax charge whereas payments in colones do not, the dollar to colones exchange rate used by hotels varies widely and you end up paying far more if you pay in colones, in some cases up to 20% more. It is definitely worth paying in dollars and I also found it was cheaper to pay in cash than by card as hotels tend to convert the price to colones before charging it to your card. Details of the accommodation used at each site are included in the site guide.

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## REFERENCES

- **A Field Guide to the Mammals of Central America and Southeast Mexico.** Second Edition. Reid. Do not go without this even if you take the Wainwright book. Far more comprehensive than Wainwright particularly for rodents and bats.
- **The Mammals of Costa Rica: A Natural History and Field Guide.** Wainwright. Not as comprehensive as the first book although more compact for field use.
- **Birds of Costa Rica:** Garrigues and Dean.
- **Where to Find Birds Costa Rica:** Lawson. Contains very useful information including directions and maps on most of the sites visited. Well worth getting even if Lawson grossly over-estimates driving times in many cases.
- **International Travel Maps.** Costa Rica. More than adequate for navigating your way around.

I didn't take a reptile or amphibian guide with me but wish I had. Fortunately I managed to identify a lot of the reptiles and amphibians that I saw from posters in visitor centres etc. Some of the frogs are superb.

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## GUIDES

A lot of people seem to use guides when visiting sites in Costa Rica but you really don't need to at most of the sites that I visited on this trip, other than Damas, and to be honest if your priority is mammals you are better off going it alone at most sites as guides seem to want to spend most of the time looking for other things. At some sites the minimum of two clients means that you may need to pay USD100 or more for a two-hour guiding session which is most definitely not value for money.

## SITE GUIDE

There is already a lot of information on most of the sites visited on the Costa Rica pages on [www.mammalwatching.com](http://www.mammalwatching.com) so the following is designed to update or correct the previous information. It is also worth referring to the directions and maps in Brett Lawson's *Where to Watch Birds Costa Rica*. Page numbers are quoted where appropriate.

**TIRIMBINA:** [www.tirimbina.org](http://www.tirimbina.org).

Described by Jon Hall as a mammal-watcher's wet dream if you are into list-padders, i.e. bats, but for those with limited interest in bats it could probably be left out in favour of extra time at La Selva which offers much better mammal-watching and better chances of Honduran White Bats at the moment. The guides told me they had not seen Honduran White Bats at Tirimbina for several weeks.

I stayed at the resort itself where the rooms were fine but over-priced at USD80 including breakfast. I ate other meals at a nearby restaurant in La Virgen which was much cheaper, and gave you more options than the on-site restaurant.

My visit was hampered by heavy rain particularly on the first day but I walked all three trails over the bridge on both the afternoon and the following morning seeing a handful of **Central American Agoutis** and **White-nosed Coatis** but little else. **Mantled Howlers** were however around the cabins on both days and other visitors saw a Brown-throated Three-Toed Sloth near the restaurant and a Nine-banded Armadillo on the trails.

I did go on the organised night walk to access the far side of the bridge at night but it was a total waste of money, the guide barely stopping to look at the **Kinkajou** and **Northern Raccoon** on the suspension bridge being more concerned with amphibians and even walking past the one snake that I found, an **Annulated Tree-Boa**.

For nocturnal mammals I suspect the best bet is actually to wait in the small shelter just before the start of the suspension bridge and wait to see what comes across. I think it would be more productive than walking the trails particularly if you also checked the small rubbish tip between the bridge and the restaurant. I saw a probable **Common Opossum** here.

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**LA SELVA BIOLOGICAL STATION:** (Lawson pages 60-66) <http://www.threepaths.co.cr>.

A fabulous site 20 minutes' drive from Tirimbina. Although a lot of people stay at nearby lodges I stayed on site in the cabanas on site at a cost of USD195 for 2 nights including all meals in the canteen-style restaurant, and one guided walk which I chose not to undertake. The cabanas are about a kilometre from the reception and restaurant which offers spotlighting opportunities walking back along the wide bike track in the evening and indeed another visitor that I met had crippling views of Northern Tamandua one evening while I was there.

Although I didn't take any guided walks it is worth visiting the guide office next to the restaurant. The guides were very helpful giving me a location for a Honduran White Bat tent and information on Mexican Porcupines and Tayra.

The main advantage of staying at La Selva is it gives you access to the reserve on the other side of the river where you can wander the superb trail system on your own without a guide. You have to have a guide if staying elsewhere. However the track between the cabanas and reception also offers plenty of opportunities. I saw **Hoffman's Two-Toed Sloth** with young and a **Honduran White Bat** tent along here while Puma had been seen the week before my visit and a Mexican Porcupine had been regularly seen during the day a month earlier. Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth was seen by the restaurant just before my arrival.

Along the suspension bridge which takes you across to the research station and the trails I saw another **Hoffman's Two-toed Sloth**, **Common Opossum** and **Mantled Howlers**. Kinkajou, Mexican Porcupine, Central American Woolly Opossum and Neotropical River Otters are also regularly seen here.

The biological station and trails produced several groups of **Collared Peccary**, **Central American Agouti**, **White-faced Capuchins** and a troop of c.13 **White-nosed Coatis** which is apparently rare at La Selva now as the expanding peccary population has had a negative impact on them. A Tayra was being regularly seen about a kilometre along the wide STR trail and another visitor saw one along the SOR trail while I was there.

I also saw a **Forest Rabbit (Tapeti)** around the cabanas where I was staying.

**Note:** if you do stay offsite but stay until the evening to spotlight the reception side of the river the gates are locked by 10 pm and you will not be able to get out after that.

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#### **LAS HELICONIAS LODGE: (Lawson 80-83). [www.heliconiaslodge.net](http://www.heliconiaslodge.net)**

In the north-west of Costa Rica south-west of Upala and just east of Bijagua I stayed at the lodge itself at the cost of USD50 per night for a comfortable cabin with breakfast, although they did put me in a higher quality cabin than I had booked and tried to charge me extra. However they also charge you every time you visit a trail with or without a guide which means it is not as good value for money as you might otherwise think. I ate lunch in a restaurant in nearby Bijagua.

I visited to walk the Sendero Lago Dante trail which takes you to a laguna with a chance of Baird's Tapir and for the spotlighting opportunities but you are no longer allowed to walk this unmaintained trail without a guide so I never visited it and I saw absolutely nothing, other than a Mottled Owl by the cabins, in 4-hours of spotlighting split between the first evening and the following morning pre-dawn. I walked both other trails both during the day and the night and they look great but were virtually mammal-free apart from a solitary **Deppe's Squirrel** on the longer trail and howling **Coyotes**. I would give this a miss in favour of better sites elsewhere.

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#### **SANTA ROSA NATIONAL PARK: (Lawson 124-128)**

In the north-west of the country, and my favourite site in Costa Rica with far fewer tourists than most of the other main sites. I stayed at Rancho Curubande <http://www.rancho-curubande.com/index.htm>. Make sure you pay in dollars as the conversion rate to colones was a total rip-off. I paid

USD60 per night including breakfast and ate other meals in Liberia a few kilometres to the south. Santa Rosa lies 30 kilometres to the north. I saw a **Grey Fox** in a field adjacent to the lodge and the black-and-white *rigidus* form of **Variiegated Squirrel** in the grounds of the lodge itself. They also occasionally see skunks around the lodge.

Santa Rosa like many other parks has ridiculous opening hours of 0800-1530 and I was initially refused entry at 1520 hours although you are allowed to camp in the park and drive to the beach so the 1530 closing time is meaningless and they did let me in. If you turn up after 1530 there is nobody on the gate and you can drive in without having to pay the USD15 entry fee. The same applies if you drive in before 0800 in the morning, although you will have to pay when you leave if you leave before 1530.

I spent three evenings and two mornings in the park. My main plan had been to drive to the beach and the pools behind the beach at Naranjo to look for tapirs but the 4WD 11-kilometre track to the beach is incredibly rough and I stopped on the first evening 3 kilometres down the road at a trail which I believe was called Sendero Los Patos. This trail on the left of the road heads to a viewpoint but before you get there, there is a pool in the river bed which looked great for mammals and I spent a couple of hours on the first two evenings, and on the second morning staking the pool out without any joy. On the second morning I nearly trod on a **Costa Rican Rattlesnake!**

I did however see **Baird's Tapir** on my final evening along the main entrance road about 4 kilometres in from the main road. One of the guards at the gate had suggested that the road was a good area to look and it was feeding along the road verge. Not being keen on looking for the habituated animals at Corcovado this was the undoubted highlight of the trip. It was most definitely a skin of the teeth job. Five minutes after seeing it I was asked to stop spotlighting by a park ranger as was another vehicle.

Most other mammals that I saw in the park were either on or around the entrance road, **Central American Agouti** (at dawn) and **Collared Peccary** (at dusk) or around the campsite and administration area **Central American Spider Monkey**, **White-faced Capuchin** and **White-tailed Deer**. The latter was also seen in grassland along the access road and the road towards Naranjo.

As Jon Halls says Santa Rosa is very good for bats. The museum at La Casona held three or four species. The upper room held an as yet unidentified species while rooms at ground floor level held **Grey Sac-winged Bat**, **Seba's Short-tailed Bat** and another unidentified species.

The caves under the Inicio Desnudos Trail held large numbers of **Common Moustached Bat** and a second brighter smaller species which I unfortunately couldn't photograph or identify.

I checked three culverts under the entrance road one of which held on unidentified bat while the main culvert held at least eight **Common Long-tongued Bats**.

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#### **MONTEVERDE: (Lawson 231-237)**

One of the most-touristy areas that I visited but you can still get away from people if you want to. As Lawson says there are three routes into Monteverde from route 1 and he recommends against using

the northern route. I agree with him that the road is badly maintained but the views out across to the Pacific are great so if you are approaching from Santa Rosa and have 4WD I would still go that way.

I stayed at Belcruz B&B, <http://www.belcruzmonteverde.com>, a couple of bumpy kilometres north of Santa Elena on the road to Tilaran. I thoroughly recommend staying here, the rooms are great, the food at the restaurant good and the owner Raymond is extremely helpful, being happy to prepare early breakfasts and book night walks at the nearby Kinkajou Night Tours if you require them.

The grounds offer great birding and some good mammals. I had great views of a **Nine-banded Armadillo** (for 20 minutes) and a **Common Opossum** and Kinkajou are occasionally seen and Mexican Porcupine has been seen more than once. I also saw the *rigidus* form of **Variegated Squirrel**.

I checked out three sites around Monteverde.

#### **Hummingbird Gallery just before Monteverde Cloud Reserve.**

- Still the site for **Bushy-tailed Olingo**. I got there at 1515 as I met someone who'd scored at 1545 the week before. Unfortunately the first two hours were a total waste of time as a procession of incredibly noisy French tourists, proceeded to take photos of hummingbirds with their cameras and camera phones no more than six inches from the feeders.
- According to the person running the shop most day time sightings are in the morning before it gets busy and it was slightly concerning that she was taking down all the feeders before it got dark. Thankfully she agreed to leave three in place and the olingo appeared at 1715 on the one feeder on the forest edge. However stupidly I called across to some French tourists at another feeder so they could see it and one of them decided it was a good idea to try to stick her camera phone up the olingo's backside and flushed it. It didn't return in the next 90 minutes!
- I went back at 1915 the following evening but the feeder that the olingo had used the day before hadn't been left out and rangers claimed that I wasn't allowed to be there. Marvellous.

#### **Hidden Valley**

- Still a good site for **Mexican Porcupine**. The night before my arrival they had seen a female with a young one on the guided night walk so I spent a morning and late afternoon on the reserve and booked a guided night walk. If you do pay for an unguided day visit you receive a discount on the price of the guided night walk.
- Hidden Valley is accessed from the tarmac road from Santa Elena to Monteverde. Turn right just after Johnny's Pizzeria opposite Helicornia Spa and take the second or third turn on the left down past the Butterfly Farm to Monteverde Inn.
- The owner is very helpful and gave me a couple of locations where porcupines den but I couldn't find them during the day although I did see **Central American Agouti**, **White-nosed Coati** and **Red-tailed Squirrel**. The first den as you enter the reserve is just 50 metres or so in, just past a right hand turn. It is in the second of two trees immediately to the left of the trail. You need to pass the first tree to view a large hole on the left hand side of the second. The second denning

tree is the large fig, the Gran Ficus, further down the trail. Unfortunately I couldn't find them during the day.

- The night walk was incredibly frustrating even though I did see a porcupine. There were two groups with separate guides and everyone was a general tourist with no particular interest in mammals. Although we managed to see the **Mexican Porcupine**, and a **Vesper Rat**, in the Gran Ficus initially by squeezing inside the routes of the tree and looking upwards neither the guide or anyone in the group wanted to wait to see it properly even though it had started moving. He wouldn't even let me sit there to wait for it to show properly even though it was less than 100 metres from the entrance. Infuriated by the lack of flexibility, apparently caused by the fear of litigation if something went wrong, thanks to the American litigation culture not, I just left rather than get increasingly annoyed during the remainder of the walk.

**Curi Canchi:** <http://reservacuricancha.com>

- A terrific cloud forest site 3-4 kilometres from the much busier Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve.
- I mainly went there to see the fabulous **Resplendent Quetzels**. Self-guided walks cost USD14 but there were several groups being guided and guided night walks are available. I tried to find out what they saw on the night walks but the reception couldn't tell me unfortunately.
- Mammal-wise I saw **Central American Agouti** and **White-nosed Coati** near the entrance, two troops of **White-faced Capuchin**, and three **Red-tailed Squirrels**, the latter being much darker than the one at Hidden Valley.

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**CHOMES: (Lawson 281-284)**

I visited Chomes on the Pacific coast to look for **Double-striped Thick-knee** and was there in the middle of the day. Nevertheless I still had a group of 20 **Mantled Howlers** and frustratingly what was almost certainly a **Greater Grison**, which was annoyingly only silhouetted as it crossed the road ahead of me.

I wish I'd had more time here and been here early or late in the day as the road from route 1 to Chomes (just south of route 132) runs through excellent open fields and marshes which would possibly be quite rewarding for spotlighting.

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**MANUAL ANTONIO NATIONAL PARK: (Lawson 167-172) Closed Mondays.**

If you don't like crowds avoid Manual Antonio or get there early in the day. By 0900 it is horrendous with literally 100s of people with guides on the main trail although it does make spotting sloths and roosting bats easier.

I stayed about two kilometres away at Hotel Flor Blanca <http://www.florblanca.co.cr> on the main road between Quepos and Manual Antonio. It was reasonably priced, relatively close to the park entrance and had supermarkets and restaurants within a few minutes' walk.

It is worth getting to the park entrance prior to opening. Ignore the people trying to persuade you to pay for parking as you drive down the coast road and continue to the turning circle where you can park for free at the restaurant. Walk back up the road and turn right and follow the signs to the park. The ticket office is not at the gate itself but c.100 metres along the road before the gate. If you get there early, by 0645, you can avoid queuing behind guides who buy 30-40 tickets at a time. Even at 0700 there was a large group ahead of me but it was still relatively peaceful compared to the pandemonium by 0900 other than when one ignorant tourist decided to try to attract Mantled Howlers with a loud Chimpanzee impression. I despair.

I only had time to stay for two hours but it was extremely productive with nine species of mammal by simply walking up the main trail and back along the 'sloth' boardwalk and main trail. The highlight was a solitary **Red-backed Squirrel Monkey** (loosely associating with a troop of extremely tame **White-faced Capuchins**). **Mantled Howler** was common and I also saw **Central American Agouti**, two **Hoffman's Two-toed Sloth** and a single **Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth**, **White-tailed Deer**, the dark *melania* form of **Variiegated Squirrel** and three **Lesser White-lined Bats**. I could have seen many more sloths had I had time to stop to look at what every guided group was looking at. Other people saw Northern Raccoon on the beach, and a roosting Jamaican Fruit-Bat.

I also saw **Red-backed Squirrel Monkey** on both days along the main road just south of the Tres Banderas Hotel between Quepos and Manuel Antonio.

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## DAMAS

I also visited Damas mangroves to the north of Manuel Antonio, to look for Silky Anteater with Aventura, [www.avenatura.com](http://www.avenatura.com). Unfortunately despite spending over two hours searching the mangroves we were unsuccessful as were several groups of kayakers out looking at the same time. We did however manage to see a **Northern Tamandua** asleep in the top of a palm. By viewing the tree from just about every angle possible it was possible to piece together a jigsaw of what it looked like. Thankfully the head was clearly visible.

If you are travelling alone Aventura are quite expensive as you have to pay for a minimum of two people USD138 and it may be worth investigating cheaper options with other tour companies as even the kayakers seem intent on finding the anteater for their customers.

As many people do I also visited the nearby bat caves with Maurelio seeing three **Red-backed Squirrel Monkeys** just outside the caves.

If you do plan to visit the caves be aware that they contain a lot of bats including vampires and you need to be well prepared with:

- suitable clothing to take the brunt of any barrage from the bats,
- ideally a peaked cap and glasses to protect your eyes from debris, and
- some sort of mouth and nose protection. I had a scarf.

Even with all of this, kindly provided by Maurelio, I managed to get unidentified debris sprayed in my eyes when removing the glasses to take photos, and have had to have post-exposure rabies

vaccinations due to the fact that bat saliva in the eyes is a rabies risk. Not knowing exactly what the debris was it's better safe than sorry.

The cave itself seemed to contain at least seven species of bat of which I have been able to identify **Common Vampire Bat** (several groups and possibly a second larger vampire species), **Seba Short-tailed Bat** (extremely common), **Lesser White-lined Bat** (around the entrances of the cave), **Lesser Doglike Bat** and **Greater Spear-nosed Bat** the last two of which have been based on comparisons with Jon Hall's photos.

**The caves are an interesting place but do take the necessary precautions.**

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#### **RIO PARRITA: (Lawson 172)**

I visited the mouth of the river which lies about 30 kilometres north of Manuel Antonio mid-morning on route to Poas Volcano. It was mainly to look for birds but I did see a superb *atrirufus* **Variegated Squirrel** and Maurelio has seen Jaguarundi here. I suspect that the road and river banks could be productive at dawn and dusk. The area is accessed along the road that heads towards the coast a hundred metres or so south of the bridge at Parrita.

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#### **POAS VOLCANO: (Lawson 254-258)**

Poas Volcano National Park lies only about an hour from San Jose airport so is ideally located for a day at the start or the end of the trip. I stayed at El Churrasco Hotel and Restaurant which is about 10 kilometres from the entrance gate. <http://www.elchurrascocr.com/english/aboutus.html>. The rooms were reasonably priced and the food in the restaurant very good albeit over-priced. Breakfast was very slow.

Unfortunately PV is another park with annoying opening hours 0800-1530 and I was refused admission at 1440! The gate is locked shortly after 1530! However Lawson describes an excellent alternative by the turning circle immediately outside the entrance gate. On the left hand of the road a rough track leads to a Radio Station. You can park at the start of the track and walk slightly uphill to the station for a kilometre or so and then continue on past the radio station for another half kilometre or so until the track enters more open areas. The forest along this track looks great and I spent an afternoon here and also spotlighted on foot. Unfortunately however the weather was crass, strong winds, low cloud and very cold and I saw no mammals at all. However I did find fresh tapir droppings on a trail inside the forest half a kilometre past the radio station and suspect Montane Squirrel and other species would definitely be possible in better weather. The road from the turning circle back towards Poasito looks to have potential for squirrels as well and is certainly within altitudinal range for Montane Squirrel.

Dice's Cottontail has been reported at Poas Volcano but according to the IUCN Redlist Map <http://maps.iucnredlist.org/map.html?id=21209> it only occurs to the south of San Jose so this needs further investigation as Forest Rabbit (Tapeti) should be the species here.

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**ITINERARY**

- 25<sup>th</sup>** Having had my flight to Newark cancelled due to Winter Storm Jonas I arrived in San Jose shortly after midnight and transferred to the Courtyard Marriott from where Sixt picked me up at 0730. Drove to Tirimbina and had lunch in nearby La Virgen before walking the trails in extremely wet conditions. Post-dinner guided walk in the reserve followed by time spent near the suspension bridge.
- 26<sup>th</sup>** Morning on the trails at Tirimbina before transferring to La Selva. Spent afternoon and evening along trail between cabanas and reception and on reserve trails.
- 27<sup>th</sup>** Pre-dawn spotlighting, early morning, late afternoon and early evening spotlighting sessions around La Selva reserve and the trail between the cabanas and reception.
- 28<sup>th</sup>** Early morning La Selva followed by drive to Los Helicornias. Lunch in Bijagua then late afternoon and evening on trails at Los Helicornias.
- 29<sup>th</sup>** Pre-dawn spotlighting and early morning on trails at Los Helicornias. Left late morning and drove to Rancho Cuburande before spending late afternoon and evening in Santa Rosa along 4WD track towards Naranjo and at pool along Sendero Los Patos..
- 30<sup>th</sup>** Morning in Santa Rosa around La Casona Museum and along Inicio Desnudos Trail and along access road. Returned to Rancho Cuburande in heat of day. Returned to Santa Rosa and spent evening at pool along Sendero Los Patos.
- 31<sup>st</sup>** Early morning along Sendero Los Patos Trail followed by return visit to La Casona Museum and Inicio Desnudos Trail. Returned to Rancho Cuburande. Fortunately abortive visit to Rincon de La Vieja (closed from 1530 and all day on Mondays) so returned to Santa Rosa spotlighting along track off of entrance road and along the entrance road itself jamming in on Baird's Tapir.
- 1<sup>st</sup>** Left Rancho Cuburande early morning for drive to Monteverde arriving midday. Mid-afternoon to early evening at Hummingbird Gallery at Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve. Short spotlighting session back at Belcruz B&B.
- 2<sup>nd</sup>** Morning Hidden Valley returning to Belcruz B&B late morning. Returned to Hidden Valley late afternoon and for guided night walk. Brief visit to Hummingbird Gallery before returning to Belcruz B&B and a further short spotlighting session.
- 3<sup>rd</sup>** Curi Cancha until mid-morning before driving to Chomes. Returned south to Manual Antonio arriving late afternoon.
- 4<sup>th</sup>** Manual Antonio NP from 0700-0910 then returned to hotel where met with Aventura at 1000. Mangroves trip from 1035-1315 followed by lunch and a visit to Damas Bat Caves. Returned to hotel late afternoon.
- 5<sup>th</sup>** Drove from Manual Antonio to Poas Volcano with short stops at Rio Parrita and Tarcoles. Arrived Poas Volcano early afternoon. Late afternoon and evening spotlighting session along Radio Station track.
- 6<sup>th</sup>** Returned to San Jose for flight home.

**MAMMAL LIST**

<b>Common Opossum</b>	<i>Didelphis marsupialis</i>	Singles La Selva and Belcruz B&B (Monteverde) plus a probable Tirimbina.
<b>Northern Tamandua</b>	<i>Tamandua mexicana</i>	One Damas. Another probable from a moving car between Santa Rosa and Liberia and three scattered road casualties.

<b>Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth</b>	<i>Bradypus variegatus</i>	One Manual Antonio NP.
<b>Hoffmann's Two-toed Sloth</b>	<i>Choloepus hoffmanni</i>	Two La Selva (one with young), two Manual Antonio NP.
<b>Nine-banded Armadillo</b>	<i>Dasybus novemcinctus</i>	One Belcruz B&B (Monteverde).
<b>Proboscis Bat</b>	<i>Rhynchonycteris naso</i>	Groups of 11 and 8 in the mangroves at Damas.
<b>Lesser White-lined Bat</b>	<i>Saccopteryx leptura</i>	Three Manual Antonio NP, 10+ Damas Caves
<b>Grey Sac-winged Bat</b>	<i>Balantiopteryx plicata</i>	2+ in museum at Santa Rosa.
<b>Lesser Doglike Bat</b>	<i>Peropteryx macrotis</i>	Small numbers Damas Bat Caves.
<b>Common Moustached Bat</b>	<i>Pteronotus parnellii</i>	50+ in caves along Inicio Desnudos Trail at Santa Rosa
<b>Common Vampire Bat</b>	<i>Desmodus rotundus</i>	At least three groups in the Damas Bat Caves.
<b>Seba's Short-tailed Bat</b>	<i>Carollia perspicillata</i>	3+ in museum at Santa Rosa, common Damas Bat Caves.
<b>Greater Spear-nosed Bat</b>	<i>Phyllostomus hastatus</i>	c.10 Damas Bat Caves
<b>Common Long-tongued Bat</b>	<i>Glossophaga soricina</i>	8+ in culvert along entrance road at Santa Rosa.
<b>Honduran White Bat</b>	<i>Ectophylla alba</i>	Five La Selva
<b>White-throated Capuchin</b>	<i>Cebus capucinus</i>	Common La Selva, 6+ Santa Rosa, two groups Curi Cancha (Monteverde), common Manual Antonio NP, one Damas.
<b>Red-backed Squirrel Monkey</b>	<i>Saimiri oerstedii</i>	One Manual Antonio NP, three near the entrance of the Damas Bat Caves, and at least one seen near the Tres Banderas Hotel between Quepos and Manual Antonio on two consecutive days.
<b>Mantled Howler Monkey</b>	<i>Alouatta palliata</i>	Up to four on both days at Tirimbina, common La Selva and Manual Antonio NP, 20+ on route to Chomes. Heard Curi Cancha (Monteverde).
<b>Central American Spider Monkey</b>	<i>Ateles geoffroyi</i>	Two adults plus a juvenile Santa Rosa.
<b>Deppe's Squirrel</b>	<i>Sciurus deppei</i>	One Las Heliconias
<b>Red-tailed Squirrel</b>	<i>Sciurus granatensis</i>	One Hidden Valley (Monteverde) and three Curi Cancha (Monteverde).
<b>Variagated Squirrel</b>	<i>Sciurus variegatoides</i>	<i>Rigidus</i> form Rancho Curubunde (Liberia) and Belcruz B&B (Monteverde), <i>melania</i> form Manual Antonio NP and superb <i>atrirufus</i> form Rio Paritta River Mouth.
<b>Vesper Rat</b>	<i>Nyctomys sumichrasti</i>	One Hidden Valley (Monteverde)
<b>Mexican Hairy Dwarf Porcupine</b>	<i>Sphiggurus mexicanus</i>	One Hidden Valley (Monteverde)
<b>Central American Agouti</b>	<i>Dasyprocta punctata</i>	Four Tirimbina, four La Selva, two Santa Rosa, five Hidden Valley (Monteverde), two Curi Cancha (Monteverde), one Manual Antonio NP.
<b>Forest Rabbit</b>	<i>Sylvilagus brasiliensis</i>	One La Selva.

<b>Coyote</b>	<i>Canis latrans</i>	2+ heard Las Helicornias.
<b>Grey Fox</b>	<i>Urocyon cinereoargenteus</i>	One Rancho Cuburande, Liberia
<b>Bushy-tailed Olingo</b>	<i>Bassaricyon gabbii</i>	One Hummingbird Gallery, Monteverde.
<b>Kinkajou</b>	<i>Potos flavus</i>	One Tirimbina.
<b>White-nosed Coati</b>	<i>Nasua narica</i>	Six Tirimbina, c.13 La Selva, one Hummingbird Gallery (Monteverde), eight Hidden Valley (Monteverde) and one Curi Cancha (Monteverde).
<b>Northern Raccoon</b>	<i>Procyon lotor</i>	One Tirimbina.
<b>Greater Grison</b>	<i>Galictis vittata</i>	Frustratingly untickable views of a probable along the road to Chomes.
<b>Collared Peccary</b>	<i>Pecari tajacu</i>	La Selva, a minimum of five groups and 17 animals including one group of eight and four Santa Rosa.
<b>Baird's Tapir</b>	<i>Tapirus bairdii</i>	One along access road to Santa Rosa NP. Fresh droppings were also found at Poas Volcano.
<b>White-tailed Deer</b>	<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>	Four Santa Rosa and 2+ Manual Antonio NP.