

COSTA RICA SKETCHING HOLIDAY WITH CHRISTINE ELDER

July 15-22, 2023 / Approximately \$2200

July 15: Arrive in Costa Rica at the Juan Santamaria [International Airport](#) (SJO) then arrange your own transportation to the [Hotel Bouganvillea](#) (about 30 minutes away). We will first meet at dinner or breakfast the next morning if your flight arrives late in the evening.

July 16: After breakfast at [Hotel Bouganvillea](#) we'll drive south one hour to spend the morning visiting the University of Costa Rica's [Lankester Botanical Gardens](#). We'll explore the beautiful trails and exhibits while we sketch the wide variety of tropical plants including many natives, with a special emphasis on their orchids. We'll then grab a quick lunch then drive two hours south to our home away from home for the next 5 nights at [Rancho Naturalista](#).

July 17: Settle in at the ranch where we'll relax on the deck overlooking the gardens watching the hummingbirds and wildlife that visit the fruit feeders, then you may choose to either take a hike on the trails, do some sketching and painting, or enjoy a nap in your lovely, quiet room.

July 18: Day-long visit to either Irazu or Turrialba Volcano to search for and sketch a variety of unique birds including the resplendent quetzal, silky-flycatchers and many species of hummingbirds. These high elevation slopes also host a cloud forest of interesting plants such as orchids and bromeliads. On all our excursions, we'll have the expert guidance of Rancho Naturalista's own nature guide with a driver and comfortable vehicle.

July 19: Visit the Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Centre in nearby Turrialba then visit local river habitats to search for the stunning sunbittern and many other fancy birds.

July 20: Relax at the ranch before heading back to the city tomorrow, where you can take a stroll on the trails, do more sketching and painting, OR we may choose to visit a lowland rainforest habitat on the Caribbean side of the mountains as an optional excursion depending upon weather and our energy levels.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES AT RANCHO NATURALISTA TO DO IN YOUR FREE TIME

- Night walks led by Christine to search for nocturnal insects, amphibians, and reptiles. We'll also enjoy nights and mornings watching for cool beetles and moths and their predators at the insect light.
- Enjoy relaxing on the decks watching the birds and mammals visiting the hummingbird and fruit feeders.
- Wander the ranch's extensive trail network, visit the yoga pavilion to stretch and look out over the canopy of trees, work on your nature sketches or simply take a nap while the afternoon rains serenade you to sleep.

July 21: Depart Rancho Naturalista towards San Jose with a visit and lunch at the lovely [Casa Dowii](#) Nature Preserve, owned by friend Serge Arias, and founder of Costa Rica Birding and Birdwatching Central America. This highland location supports different flora and fauna than we've seen thus far.

July 22: Today we'll visit the [Toucan Rescue Ranch](#), a wildlife rescue center where we'll be treated to a special behind-the-scenes tour of the facility followed by sketching the rescued animals including parrots, monkeys, cats and their focus species; sloths. The remainder of the day we'll explore the lovely gardens of the hotel. You can then choose to either spend another night at the hotel or take a late flight home.

TOUR BONUS

- Lifetime access to my [Nature Nook](#) program of online classes including ones on Neotropical birds, mammals, flowers and my newest, Travel Like a Pro, all of which will help you prepare for this trip (\$75/month value).

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THIS UNIQUE TOUR

This trip will work a bit differently than an official tour organized by a tour operator since I'm not a licensed guide and won't be responsible for taking your payments. Here's what to do once you decide to join us.

1. Contact me (hello@christineelder.com) or feel free to call me at +1 831-227-6996.
2. Make your own reservations at [Hotel Bouganvillea](#) for the nights of July 15 and 21st.
3. Make your own reservations at [Rancho Naturalista](#) for the nights of July 16-20 (tell them you're in my group).
4. You'll pay the ranch individually for your room and our group excursions that they'll organize and lead.
5. Pay my fee before the trip starts via [Paypal](#) or [Venmo](#) or personal check. This fee covers my time for organizing and guiding the 8-day trip.
6. Purchase your flights to arrive and leave from San Jose, Costa Rica's Juan Santamaria [International Airport](#) (SJO) and purchase your travel insurance. Arrive by the evening of July 15^h and depart after 10 pm on July 22 (or another day if you choose to remain in the country).
7. Once you've completed the above steps, contact me and I'll send you the link to register for my included bonus of online courses ([The Nature Nook](#)).
8. You're all set. See you in Costa Rica. Pura Vida!

APPROXIMATE COSTS PER PERSON

(Based on a minimum of four guests)

This will be a very reasonably priced trip since it is low season in Costa Rica and since you don't have to pay for my flights since I'll already be in the country. This trip is a great value at approx. \$300/day compared to most birding, art, or nature tours that average \$350-\$500/day!

Hotel Bouganvillea (3 nights plus estimated meal cost at their restaurant)	\$600
Toucan Rescue Ranch Tour (and transport between there and hotel)	\$100
Lankester Botanical Gardens Tour and lunch	\$30
Casa Dowii visit and lunch	\$30
Rancho Naturalista lodging and meals	\$700
Rancho Naturalista day excursions for van, driver and guide (3 trips @ \$75 each)	\$225
Group van transportation between San Jose and Rancho Naturalista	\$35
Guiding fee for Christine Elder	\$500
TOTAL FEE	\$2200

NOT INCLUDED: flights, travel insurance, tips, sundries, alcoholic beverages, laundry, gifts, etc.

QUESTIONS? Contact me by email (hello@christineelder.com) or by phone at +1 831-227-6996.