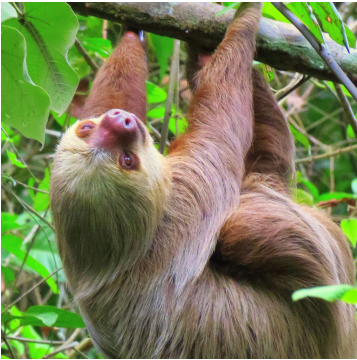


Costa Rica - Wildlife Spotting Guide

Hello and welcome to Costa Rica! Get your binoculars ready and keep your eyes peeled because you are about to see some really cool animals, birds and bugs. How many of these rainforest and beach residents are you going to find?



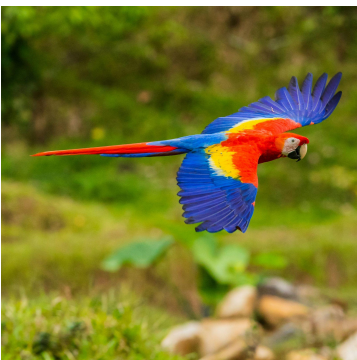
Sloth

Look up in the trees! Sloths move super slowly and love to nap. Sloths only climb down from trees about once a week to go to the bathroom! Costa Rica has two-toed and three-toed sloths. Algae grow on their fur, helping them blend into the trees. They can turn their heads almost all the way around, like an owl!



Toucan

These colorful birds have big beaks and love to eat fruit. Their beaks may look heavy, but they are super light and made of keratin, like your fingernails! They use their big beaks to toss food into their mouths. They sleep by tucking their beaks under their wings and curling up into a ball.



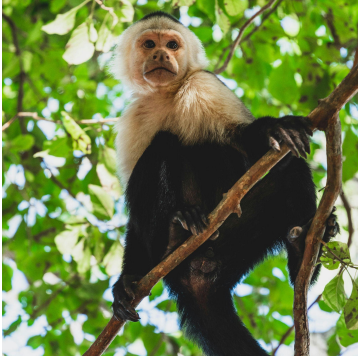
Macaw

These red, blue, and yellow parrots love to fly near the beach. They can live up to 50 years in the wild! They mate for life and are always seen in pairs. They can mimic human speech and other sounds!



Glass Frog

Look closely! You can see through its skin. Their transparent skin lets you see their heart beating and organs working! They are nocturnal and hide under leaves during the day. Fathers guard their eggs until they hatch into tadpoles!



Monkey

These little guys are playful and love to swing in trees. Howler monkeys can be heard from three miles away! Capuchins are one of the smartest monkeys and even use tools to get food. They rub certain plants on their fur to keep away insects. They live in groups of up to 30, and have strong social bonds.



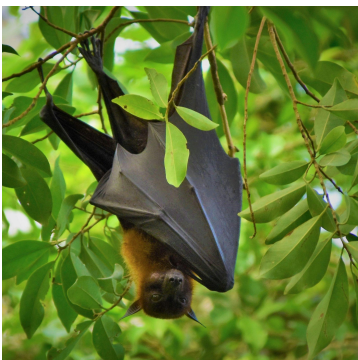
American Crocodile

They can grow up to 10 to 15 feet long. They are very good swimmers and can hold their breath up to an hour. They are very shy compared to other crocodiles and will swim away from humans if we come close.



Anteater

This long-nosed creature loves eating ants and termites. They have no teeth and use their long tongues to scoop up insects. Their tongues can flick up to 150 times per minute! They have super strong claws to break into anthills.



Bat

Costa Rica has 115 bat species including the rare 'Vampire Bat'. But these bats are not as scary as they sound - they live in little families and share their food with other bats who couldn't find a meal.



Tarantula

A big, hairy spider that is more gentle than it looks! They can grow back lost legs! They don't spin webs; instead, they ambush their prey. They have tiny hairs on their bodies that help them sense vibrations.



Blue Morpho Butterfly

One of the most beautiful butterflies in Costa Rica. Their wings look blue but are actually transparent! They taste food with their feet. Their caterpillars have a stinky smell to keep predators away.



Agouti

A cute little animal that looks a bit like a giant guinea pig. Agoutis love to eat nuts, fruits, and seeds. Agoutis are very quick and shy. They also have great hearing, so they can hear a fruit fall from a tree and race to get it before other animals do. Agoutis hop like little kangaroos when they run!



Coati

These curious and adorable animals live in groups and always chatting with each other using different sounds and body language. They can climb down trees head first. They are known to be naughty and might steal your snack!



Sea Turtle

If you're lucky, you might see baby sea turtles hatch at night and follow the moonlight to the ocean! Mama sea turtles always return to the same beach where they were born to lay eggs. 'Arribada' is when thousands of turtles lay their eggs together on the beach at the same time



Dolphin

These playful swimmers love to leap out of the water! They communicate with clicks and whistles. They can swim up to 20 miles per hour! Dolphins are very social and live in groups called pods.



Green Basilisk

They are also called the "Jesus Christ Lizard" because it can run on water for up to 15 feet! They are excellent climbers and swimmers. Their long tails help them balance while running. They can grow up to 3 feet long.



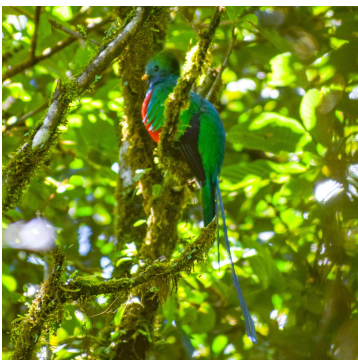
Red Eyed Leaf Frog

One of the most famous frogs in Costa Rica! They use their bright colors to startle predators. They have sticky toes to climb trees. They only come out at night. In the daytime they hide under leaves scrunched up into a little ball.



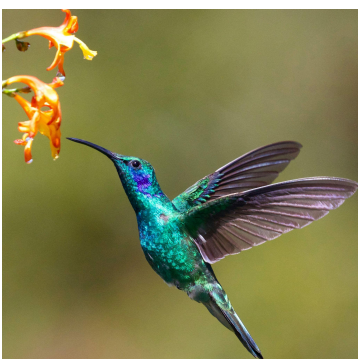
Iguana

Spot these sunbathing lizards on rocks and trees. If an iguana feels threatened, it can detach its tail and grow a new one! They have a third eye on top of their head to sense light and danger. Green Iguanas are the largest lizards and can be up to 5 ft long!



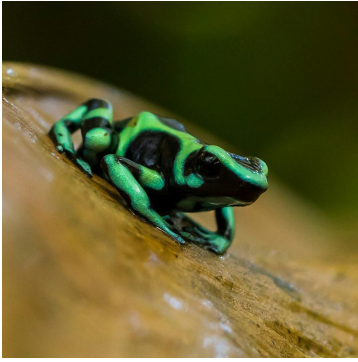
Resplendent Quetzal

These birds are very rare and beautiful. To see one is a birdwatcher's dream come true. The quetzal was considered sacred by ancient Mayans and Aztecs. Males have long tail feathers that can grow over three feet long. They nest in holes carved into rotting trees.



Hummingbird

The tiny bird with super speed! Their wings beat up to 80 times per second. They can fly backwards and hover in one place. They need to eat almost constantly to stay energized. Costa Rica has 50 species of hummingbirds.



Poison Dart Frog

These tiny, bright frogs are cool to look at, but don't touch! Some indigenous tribes used their poison on blow darts for hunting. They get their bright colors from the insects they eat. Not all poison dart frogs are poisonous—only those in the wild, because of their diet!



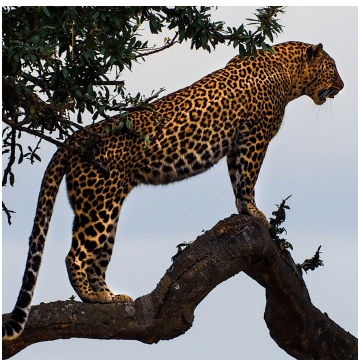
Humpback Whale

These giants of the sea are famous for their songs. Their songs can travel for miles underwater. They migrate thousands of miles every year. Costa Rica is the only place in the world where whales visit from the northern and southern hemispheres. They can leap completely out of the water!



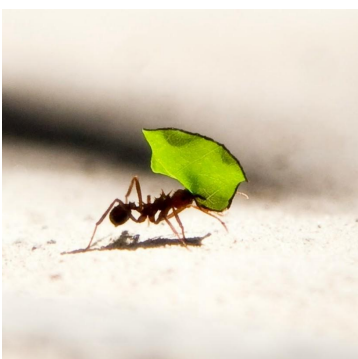
Peccary

A wild pig that roams the forest. They have a strong smell to recognize each other and mark their territory. Peccaries live in herds as large as 300 animals. They use their sharp tusks to defend themselves.



Jaguar

Jaguars have the strongest bite of any big cat. They love to swim and hunt in the water. They mostly hunt at night and they are very good at hiding so you most likely will not see one in the jungle. But you can see them in sanctuaries and rescue centers.



Leafcutter Ant

These tiny ants carry leaves bigger than themselves! They don't eat the leaves—they use them to grow fungus for food. A colony can have millions of ants! They are some of the strongest animals for their size.
