With the thundering surf of the Pacific to the west and the calm tropical waters of the Golfo Dulce to its east, Costa Rica’s Osa Peninsula is a paradise, both for those yearning for an exotic escape and those seeking a wilderness adventure. Once isolated from the mainland as an island, it hosts a unique biogeography with bird species found nowhere else, and sports a stunning variety of plants and animals. Costa Rica has for decades served as a pioneer in the ecotourism industry, yet the Osa Peninsula is perhaps the least-visited region of this most hospitable nation. Much of it is protected within the nation’s largest national park, Corcovado, which accounts for about 1/3 of the peninsula’s land area. The wonderful mix of mangroves, marshes, and coastal forest fringed by beautiful beaches offer an abundance of wildlife. Unique and sought-after birds such as the Yellow-billed Cotinga, White-crested Coquette, the endemic Black-cheeked Ant Tanager and the raucous Scarlet Macaw are
all good possibilities on this fabulous trip; while animals such as sloths, sea-turtles, armadillos, and several species of monkey can be seen as well. Gather your friends and journey to the jungles and beaches of the wonderful, wild, Osa Peninsula!

Conservation Host: Osa Conservation
The remote south-west corner of Costa Rica that is the Osa Peninsula harbors 2.5% of the biodiversity of the entire planet in less than a thousandth of a percent of its total surface area. Osa Conservation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting the globally significant biodiversity of the Osa Peninsula, with a focus on bird and sea turtle conservation, developing sustainable eco-farms, camera-trapping big cats, and working with native species nurseries and seed banks. Rockjumper is proud to partner with Osa Conservation on this unique tour, that will directly benefit their work in wildlife conservation and community building.

THE TOUR AT A GLANCE…

OSA PENINSULA EXTENSION

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TOUR ROUTE MAP…

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Rockjumper Birding Tours
THE TOUR IN DETAIL...

**Day 1: Arrival in San Jose.** After your arrival into San Jose, you will be transported to our comfortable hotel and then join your guide and the rest of your group for a welcome dinner and a brief orientation on our plans for the coming week.

**Day 2: San Jose to Osa Verde, via Puerto Jimenez.** A morning flight will find us in the largest town on the Osa Peninsula, Puerto Jimenez. This coastal town has about 9,000 inhabitants, and rests on the shores of the “Sweet Gulf”, here known as Gulfo Dulce. After we touch down, we’ll drive about an hour, hugging the coast of Gulfo Dulce, until it gives way to the Pacific Ocean and we reach our home for the next five nights: Osa Verde BioLodge. We’ll settle in, and explore the grounds which include beach and a variety of forest habitats, with a good network of trails allowing access to the 6,000 acres of property. Our first birds could include Red-legged Honeycreepers, Scarlet Macaws and Charming Hummingbirds. Over dinner tonight, we’ll learn about Osa Conservation initiatives from resident scientists to provide some context for the places we’ll be visiting over the coming days.

**Days 3 - 6: Birding and exploring the Osa Peninsula.** While based at Osa Verde, with four full days to explore this magical biodiversity hotspot, we’ll have ample opportunity to see an incredible array of birds and some spectacular flora and fauna. Each day your Rockjumper guide, together with your local guide, will examine the weather and assess the best option for the day, depending on the conditions and the group’s agenda. Each night there are opportunities to learn from resident scientists about the work and research being undertaken in the surrounding areas. Some of the options we’ll take advantage of include:

**Osa Verde Retreat Center**

The network of trails and the habitats right around our lodging offer fantastic birding with a great variety of lovely hikes and walks to choose from. There are also several birding platforms where we can station ourselves to see what comes into view. A walk to the BioStation can be quite productive, featuring birds like Barred Forest Falcon, Bat Falcon, Long-billed Hermit, flashy White-necked Jacobins, several woodcreeper species, Blue-crowned Manakins,
Spectacled Owl, Streak-chested Antpitta, Red-capped Manakins, and Collared Aracari, to name just a few. The birding options here are many, and the grounds and trails could keep us busy for days, if we so wished, and there is always the option of a sunset stroll along the beach to look for the Green Flash.

**Sea Turtle Hatchery**

Osa Conservation is working to protect four species of sea turtles that visit the Osa Peninsula, including Olive Ridley, Green, Hawksbill and the biggest turtle in the world, the Leatherback. Leatherbacks can measure over 9 ft long, reach over 2,000 lbs, and may live beyond 100 years old. There is always something going on at the hatchery, and this varies with the time of year and the annual cycle of the turtles’ lives, and any visit here always leaves visitors in awe and inspired by these iconic animals. The center releases thousands of turtle hatchlings each year.

**Luna Lodge**

Surely one of the Osa’s most strikingly beautiful birds is the stunning Turquoise Cotinga, and about a 90-minute drive from Osa Verde rests the Luna Lodge, which can be a great place to see this magnificent bird. Restricted in range to south-west Costa Rica and north-west Panama, this regional specialty is at times seen perched prominently atop the forest canopy or flying between fruiting trees where it feeds. We will search for this bird and may also encounter other dazzling birds such as Limpkin, Bare-throated Tiger Heron, raucous groups of Scarlet Macaws, hiccupping troupes of Collared Aracari, and we’ll watch the water for crocodiles too.

**Yellow-billed Cotinga Sanctuary**

The last stronghold for this highly endangered endemic bird is amid the mangrove forest habitat found only here on the Osa Peninsula. The Sanctuary is about a 90-minute drive north along Gulfo Dulce, and once there we have the chance to see this rare regional specialty, and might also see such stunners are Ringed and American Pygmy Kingfishers, Double-toothed Kite, Scaly-breasted Hummingbird, Slat-tailed, Gartered and Baird’s Trogons, Yellow-throated Toucan, and much, much more. Nearby, there
is a local and sustainable Kobo chocolate farm, where we can learn about organic cacao cultivation and taste some organic, locally grown chocolate.

**Rio Piro**

A beautiful, clear water stream, the Rio Piro meanders through tall secondary forest, and harbors riparian specialists like North America’s smallest kingfisher, the diminutive American Pygmy, and also the “Jesus Christ Lizard”, more often known as the Basilisk Lizard (the only reptile that can literally run across the surface of the water, hence its colloquial name). Other birds to keep an eye out for include Black-crowned Tityra, the various trogon species, Blue-black Grosbeak, Blue Ground Dove, Charming Hummingbird, Blue-throated Goldentail, Purple-crowned Fairy, Cocoa Woodcreeper and much, much more.

**Day 7: Osa Verde to San José via Puerto Jimenez.** After a final farewell dinner at our lovely lodge, we’ll rise early this morning to bid our friends at Osa Verde well as we depart for our return flight to San Jose. Upon our return to the San Jose Airport the tour concludes, until your next Rockjumper adventure!

**FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS:**
Tour prices can be adjusted to accommodate different group sizes in some cases. For more info on pricing, please contact Rockjumper’s Conservation Tours Department at: conservationtours@rockjumperbirding.com.

- **Tour Price:**
  - Based on 4 participants $4600.00
  - Based on 8 participants $3500.00
  - Based on 10 participants $3200.00

- **Single Supplement:** $350.00
  - Internal Flight: San José – Puerto Jimenez – San José $350.00 Subject to change

**This includes:**
- All meals from lunch on day 1 to breakfast on day 7;
- Drinking water each day;
- All lodgings during the tour;
- All ground transportation;
- All national park and other reserve entrance fees; and
- All guiding services (including tips for local guides and services).
This excludes:
- ANY flights and airport/departure taxes;
- Visa fees;
- Any beverages;
- Special gratuities; and
- Telephone calls, laundry and other items of a personal nature.

IMPORTANT NOTES:
a) Due to constantly fluctuating exchange rates, we quote our tours in 4 currencies. The tour price is however fixed only in the currency printed in bold, and the actual cost in the other currencies listed will be adjusted according to prevailing exchange rates at the time of final invoicing (usually 4 months before the tour.) The same applies to approximate flight and single supplement rates, which are also quoted in the respective fixed currency.
b) Rates are based upon group tariffs; if the tour does not have sufficient registration a small party supplement will have to be charged.
c) Furthermore, these costs are subject to unforeseen increases in tour related costs and may have to be adjusted as a result.
d) Lastly, we may be forced to change or alter the itinerary and / or the designated Rockjumper leader/s at short or no notice due to unforeseen circumstances; please be aware that we will attempt to adhere as close to the original program as possible.

Please Note:
- It is important for the comfort of your fellow travellers that you do not over-pack. Kindly stick to 20kg (44lb) for check in luggage and 8kg (+-18lb) for hand luggage.
- It can be hot with harsh sun, especially along the coast and in the lowlands, so please come prepared with hats and sun cream for protection. Humidity levels are also high throughout most of the country, and rain is also possible.
- Mosquitoes and tiny bloodsucking flies can be numerous at times and it’s advisable to pack a good supply of DEET or another effective insect repellent.
- Accommodation throughout the trip is quite comfortable and a variety of western and local cuisines are available throughout the tour.

ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE DETAILS:
This tour does not include any airfares.

The tour begins with a transfer from SJO to your hotel in San Jose. The tour will conclude upon our return to Juan Santamaria International Airport on day 7, after the flight from Puerto Jiminez.

The above information in respect of arrivals and departures is a guide only. Precise arrival and departure information will be sent to you in your Tour Confirmation package once the tour has been officially confirmed. If you wish to arrive early and/or depart late and would like assistance in this regard, kindly contact the Rockjumper office.

FLIGHTS:
Rockjumper has an in-house travel agent who can assist with booking flights. Ask us for help at conservationtours@rockjumperbirding.com.
Juan Santamaría International Airport, San José (IATA: SJO) is the main port of entry for international flights into Costa Rica and is serviced by several international carriers. As our guests come from all over the planet we do not include international flights in our tour prices.

However, please DO NOT book your international flights until you have consulted the Rockjumper office for confirmation on the status of the tour.

Rockjumper Birding Ltd
Vanilla Village, Royal Road
Black River
Mauritius

Tel: (USA & Canada) toll-free: 1-888-990-5552
Email: info@rockjumperbirding.com
Alternative email: rockjumperbirding@yahoo.com
Website: www.rockjumperbirding.com