

COSTA RICA

COCOS ISLAND ENDEMICS AND PELAGIC BIRDS EXPEDITION

- ✓ ON THE SAFE AND MODERN OKEANOOS AGRESSOR I OR II.
- ✓ ALL DAYS GUIDED EXCURSIONS ON THE ISLAND.
- ✓ ALL DAYS SHORT PELAGIC EXCURSIONS ON BOAT.
- ✓ TALKS AT NIGHT ABOUT THE ENDEMIC CREATURES BY COSTARICAN EXPERTS.
- ✓ EXPERIECED GUIDES FOR PELAGIC BIRDING AND COCOS ISLAND ENDEMICS.
- ✓ OPTIONAL SNORKELING EXCURSIONS.
- ✓ DIVING EXCURSIONS AVAILABLE (ADDITIONAL FEE)



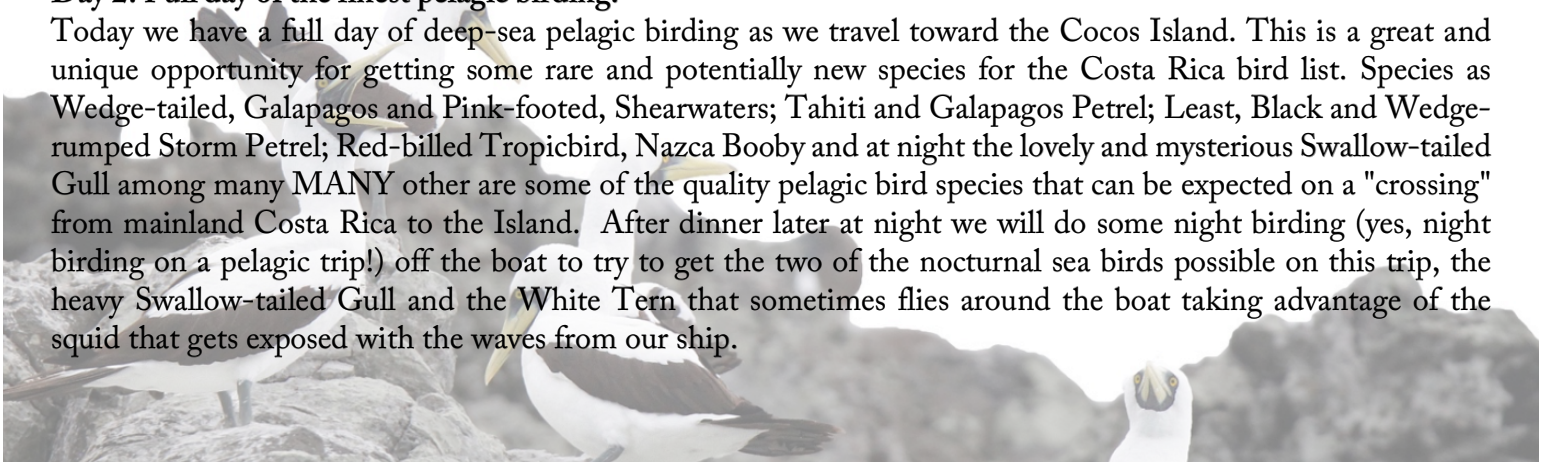
PROGRAM

Day 1. The adventure begins.

We will pick you up in San Jose at 11am to start the transfer to the dock located in Puntarenas. Once in the dock we will give you a quick briefing and the "crossing" to the Island will began. The afternoon we will sit in the front deck with a cocktail and your guide (s) will start the ID of all the close-from shore species. Elegant, Royal and Black Terns will be around as well as White Ibis, Laughing and Franklins Gulls and as we go a bit deeper into the ocean the first Bridled Tern and Red-billed Tropicbirds will do their appearances. This first few hours of the trip are excellent for sea mammals like Spotted, Common and Bottled-nosed Dolphins. Is not rare to see a Humpback Whale jumping off the water at the distance.

Day 2. Full day of the finest pelagic birding.

Today we have a full day of deep-sea pelagic birding as we travel toward the Cocos Island. This is a great and unique opportunity for getting some rare and potentially new species for the Costa Rica bird list. Species as Wedge-tailed, Galapagos and Pink-footed, Shearwaters; Tahiti and Galapagos Petrel; Least, Black and Wedge-rumped Storm Petrel; Red-billed Tropicbird, Nazca Booby and at night the lovely and mysterious Swallow-tailed Gull among many MANY other are some of the quality pelagic bird species that can be expected on a "crossing" from mainland Costa Rica to the Island. After dinner later at night we will do some night birding (yes, night birding on a pelagic trip!) off the boat to try to get the two of the nocturnal sea birds possible on this trip, the heavy Swallow-tailed Gull and the White Tern that sometimes flies around the boat taking advantage of the squid that gets exposed with the waves from our ship.



Day 3. Cocos Endemics!

Today we will wake up already at the Island and enjoy the magnificent views of the first impressions of this majestic paradise in middle of the Pacific Ocean. After a delicious breakfast at the boat we will do the first scouting on the Island and most likely will be around Wafer Bay to scout around the park rangers house and other open areas. The three endemics will be always targets, the chances to get longed and nice close ups views of the three endemic species are very high. Also we will spend some time on the beach side to get good views of the endemic subspecies of Yellow Warbler.

We will get back to the boat to have a good lunch and for the afternoon we will get on a fast smaller boat to explore the rocky islets looking for the sea birds that nest here, Red-footed, Brown, Masked and occasionally Blue-footed Booby along with Brown and Black Noody. Also Great and Magnificent Frigatebirds are quite regular.

Day 4. The majestic Island, waterfalls and bays.

After breakfast we will head again to the Island to walk a bit on the road to Cerro Yglesias and have terrific views of the Pirates Bay. On the way close encounters with White Tern (seasonal March to June) are very possible as they hover right over you when you walk close to their nesting sites. Then back to the boat for Lunch and then mid afternoon to do another scouting on the rocky islets but this time the ones in the south side of the Island (the side that faces Galapagos Islands) expecting to get some of the species that get lost from the south like Blue-footed Booby, Swallow-tailed Gull, Markham's Storm Petrel or even a Waved Albatross. Optional Snorkeling activity also available.

Day 5. Pelagic Birding from the Island.

Morning after breakfast again on the Island, this time to Chatam Bay to explore this very famous calm waters Bay and hike up the "Avocado" view point to see eye-level views of the Great Frigatebird, White Terns and Black Noody. Also is a great site for finding some rarities and new records for the Islands. All swallows, buntings, grosbeaks or sandpipers that migrate long distances can show up here as is one of the highest points in this side of the Island and adding new records for the Islands is relatively easy.

Afternoon we will get on the fast boat and move to deeper waters and using some special "chum" as bait to attract Shearwaters, Petrels and Storm Petrels we will try to get close views of them. Galapagos, Wedge-tailed and Pink-footed Shearwaters, Christmas and Tahiti Petrel, Markham's, Black, Wedge-tailed, Leach's and maybe Band-rumped Storm Petrels will be targets among many many other unexpected species as this has never been done in such a great location.

Day 6. Pelagic Birding from the Island.

In the morning we will be repeating the "chum" bait for more close ups of the pelagic species and in the afternoon we will start our trip back to mainland. On the afternoon departure toward the island we will be birding and using Chum trail to attract birds to follow our boat.

Day 7. Full day of deep sea pelagic birding.

Full day of deep-sea pelagic birding as we travel back to mainland. Since the first hours of day light your guides will be at the front deck looking for any pelagic bird and marine mammals.

Day 8. Back home.

Arrive at the dock in the early morning and transfer back to your hotel in San Jose or to the airport for your flights back home in late afternoon.

