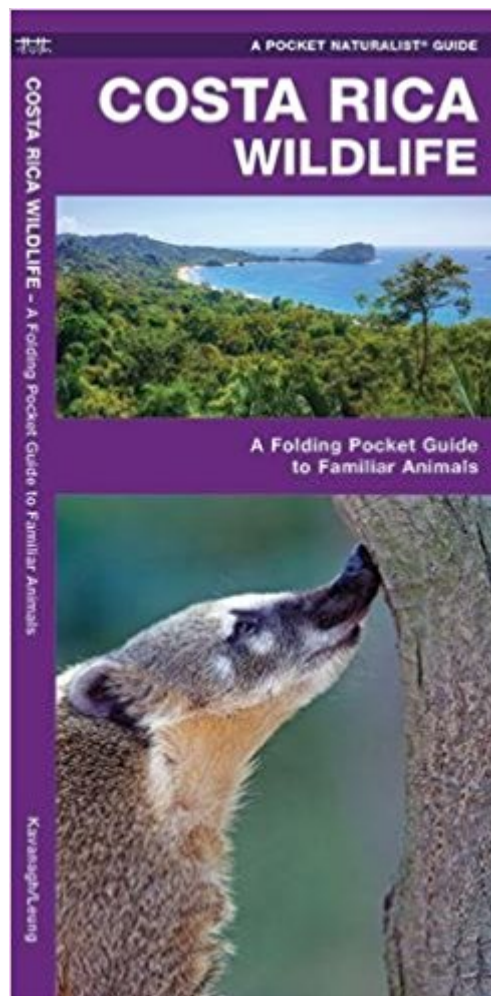




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Costa Rica Wildlife: A Folding Pocket Guide To Familiar Species (A Pocket Naturalist Guide)



Synopsis

One of the richest ecosystems on Earth, Costa Rica is home to over 500,000 species of animals (mostly insects). The Jesus Christ lizard (a basilisk that can run on water) is one of thousands of species of animals inhabiting the diverse ecosystems found throughout the region. This beautifully illustrated guide highlights over 140 familiar and unique species of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and butterflies. This convenient laminated guide is an ideal, portable source of practical information and ideal for field use by naturalists of all ages. Made in the USA.

Book Information

Age Range: 10 and up

Series: A Pocket Naturalist Guide

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Customer Reviews

Costa Rican Wildlife, An Introduction to Familiar Species, is a must-have reference guide for beginners and experts alike. This guide provides a simplified introduction to species that are familiar, widespread and/or unusual in Costa Rica. The Pocket Traveller Eco-Travel Guides provide simplified reference to the prominent wildlife species of the world's most popular eco-tourism destinations. Each pocket-sized, folding guide identifies up to 150 species of common and unique animals in each area and most feature a map highlighting natural vegetation zones. Each is laminated for durability. (3 1/2 X 8 1/4 folded, opens to 22 X 8 1/4, color illustrations)

Zoologist Jim Kavanagh has made a career out of introducing novices to plants, animals, the sciences and world cultures. In addition to creating over 500 simplified nature guides, he has also

authored guides to languages, cities and outdoor skills. An avid traveler and backpacker, Kavanagh's path has taken him around the world to many remote destinations including the upper , Africa, Australia, and the Arctic Circle (and this is just the As). He is also the author of a series of state-specific guides to common species and natural attractions and a children's book on evolution.

I wasn't sure if I was going to find this foldout identification guide and another I bought very useful for my trip to Costa Rica - they don't contain a lot of information. But I ended up buying two additional ones while I was there. These are perfect for identifying what you see on the spot or later while resting or having a cup of coffee. They don't have every species but most of the common ones and others you want to see. And they're so easy to carry in a purse or backpack when corresponding field guides are too heavy or take too much room when you're trying to travel light. Other travelers on our trip borrowed mine and were inspired to purchase their own copies. I recommend carrying a Sharpie to mark on them so you can look up more details about what you've seen later.

I wasn't holding out much hope for value on this little "brochure" of wildlife but it turned out to be very nice to have. We just returned from a trip to Panama and Costa Rica and the guides - experienced naturalists with National Geographic and also from the parks and the Smithsonian - used it along with others. They are available for different regions and types of wildlife and I purchased two more when I was down there. Easy to carry on a hike, easy to refer to and great for the kids. They are certainly very basic but we were in isolated areas and some of us only got glimpses of an anteater or agouti so as the naturalists were talking about it, we could look at the guide and try to spot it again. Then if I only saw the tail, I knew what it looked like! Hiking up 300-500 ft. on muddy uneven trails with a camera in one hand, binoculars around my neck and a small backpack with water and such, it was hard to pull out a book for reference so if your trip is going to be at all like that, I recommend them.

I bought this as a stocking stuffer for my 6 year old before a week long journey to Costa Rica. Yes, this is just a highlight of some of the most common species - but it gave him enough of an idea of what to expect to see and we were able to use it to facilitate conversations about what we wanted to see on our trip. our son took it everywhere with him and we cross-referenced it often. It did not, however have everything (which is to be expected for a small leaflet). In CR I saw several similar

guides sold for ten dollars apiece that were specific (one for birds, one for mammals, one for reptiles) - that guides used on our trips. But - for a concise little guide this worked well for us. If you are looking for a lot more detail you may want to invest in something else.

Nice as a pocket guide and certainly built sturdy, but given the sheer immensity of wildlife in CR, it only covered a few of the animals we saw. They should really make it a little bigger and include more of the common animals to make it useful for kids.

I was very disappointed in this guide. This guide had only about 1/3 of the animals we saw in our 8 day trip to Costa Rica. We were not going on a lot of tours primarily to see wildlife, and thought a simple guide would be sufficient. This was pitifully inadequate. And to top it off, the lamination is worthless. The first time we used it, we took it under a poncho while it was raining. It was not exposed to the rain and only taken out when the rain stopped. The humidity alone was enough to soak through at the edges. It was still usable, but barely.

Very little information and very few species. Hard to be helpful with such little information

My wife and I were traveling to Costa Rica for a week and planned on spending some time in the rain forest as well as at the beach. We saw several exhaustive books on the flora and fauna of the country priced at over \$30, but our interest was mostly in identifying the different critters we saw as we were relaxing, strolling in the woods, or driving between our destinations. This pocket guide covers just a fraction of what you'll see in Costa Rica. If you plan on doing any amount of birding, this guide will not suffice. If, like us, you just want to know what that furry creature is that's crept up to your door, (probably a coatamundi) this works just fine. If we return to Costa Rica for an extended trip, I'd want a better guide. But, for seven bucks, you get what you pay for.

I originally got this thinking it would be a novelty for my daughter on our trip. However, she really enjoyed having this with her whenever we went on hikes in order to identify anything we saw. The fact that it combined a variety of wildlife into one compact guide was a bonus. We did end up buying a similar guide for butterflies of Costa Rica during our trip. I do wish we had purchased something about the plants/trees as well, though with the amount of plant life that might end up not being so portable. This was a great way for my daughter to "study" up on the wildlife and enjoy verifying what she saw. I would recommend this for children (and grown-ups) looking for something compact,

sturdy and waterproof.

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