



Self-guided nature trail

“Ave del Sol”

Sustainability Department

Hotel Belmar, Monteverde

2013



Auto-guide of nature trail “Ave del Sol”



Natural Reserve Hotel Belmar

The natural reserve of Hotel Belmar, corresponds to a conservation area of 2 hectares of primary and secondary gallery forest, is part of the Costa Rican Network of Private Nature Reserves and Pájaro Campana Biological Corridor. The reserve is located within the same property of the Hotel, about 3 km from the community of Santa Elena and 300 m. east of the Monteverde railway station (Figure 1).

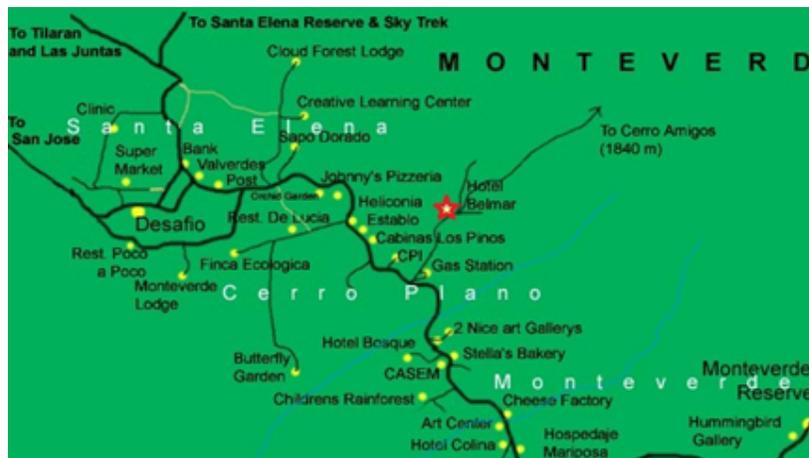


Figure 1. Location Map of Hotel Belmar, Monteverde (Martínez, D., 2011)

This area, as in the whole area and the region, is influenced by the trade winds that come loaded with moisture from the Caribbean Sea to the Pacific. The winds are cooled to climb over the mountains causing fog and rain. They pass the Pacific slope warming as they descend; although the site is more protected from the wind because it forms a canyon. The warmest months are April and May, while the coldest months are January and February, the average temperature is 18.8 ° C. (Martínez, D., 2011)

Life forms present in this book are those of the very wet pre-mountain forest, with a height of 25 m. 40 m. and a diversity of floristic elements. The vegetation is mostly evergreen, some deciduous species are leafless for one to three months. Another characteristic of this habitat is an abundance of mosses, epiphytes and lianas. (Martínez, D., 2011)

As for animal life, it must be said that the present herpetofauna in Monteverde is very particular, a revised list includes 161 species, 60 amphibians and 101 reptiles (Pounds, J.A., 2000, citado por Martínez, D., 2011). The avifauna consists of permanent resident species, migratory species of both long-distance and altitudinal, where most are primarily insectivorous. Meanwhile,

most mammalian species in Monteverde, as in the rest of the world, are small (less than 0.5 kg), nocturnal and elusive. (Martínez, D., 2011)

"Ave del Sol" Nature Trail

The Natural Reserve Hotel Belmar offers the "Ave del Sol" trail, which is a circuit of approximately 466 m. and 1 m. wide. The entrance to this trail is at the parking entrance of the Chalet and the exit leads to the garden on the west side of the building, through a tour of rugged relief. The trail is traced in steps, for which descends during the first 82 m. to the river "Quebrada Máquina", after the field is more or less flat (with some short descents) for just over 200 m., to begin to climb and reach the exit (Figure 2). This corresponds to a distance of approximately 20 minutes (Martínez, D., 2011).

This trail has signs indicating different content: guidance, caution, ban, and scientific information for some species. The latter is a series of signs with taxonomic information and natural history of some of the native trees and plants that can be seen along the trail and green areas of the Hotel. This document seeks to extend this information, not only with respect to other elements of flora and fauna of the locality, but also other wild areas of the country in general.

Being a self-guided trail, it is assumed to be no need for the presence of (a) guide. The visitor is given a map of the site, information on its features and what they can find in that space. This self-guide to the "Ave del Sol" trail, is available in the front desk like other photographic prints, books and other material information regarding wilderness of Costa Rica and recommendations for responsible visitation.