



THINGS YOU MAY SEE IN CAHUITA:

REPTILE TOUR

BOA CONSTRICTOR

These snakes rely on sheer muscle strength to squeeze their prey rather than using venom. Their patterns allow them to disappear against the forest floor and tree bark. Despite their heavy bodies, they are silent ambush hunters that can hang from branches or lie still for days waiting for a meal.



ANNULATED TREE BOA

These elusive snakes that spend nearly their entire lives high in the rainforest canopy. These constrictors use special heat-sensing pits along their lips to locate sleeping birds and bats in the dark.



EYELASH PALM PIT VIPER

Named for the distinctive scales above their eyes that look like tiny eyelashes. They come in a spectacular variety of colors. They ambush predators, hanging perfectly still from branches waiting for hummingbirds or lizards to come within striking distance.



FER-DE-LANCE

The most defensive snake in Costa Rica. Its zigzag pattern provides incredible camouflage that makes it nearly invisible among dead leaves on the forest floor. These pit vipers use specialized heat sensors near their nose to detect warm-blooded prey in complete darkness.



CAT-EYED SNAKE

They get their name from their vertical pupils that give them excellent night vision for hunting in the dark. These nocturnal snakes specialize in eating frogs and will often slurp up masses of frog eggs directly from leaves. They possess a mild venom delivered through rear fangs that helps them subdue slippery prey but is harmless to humans.



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PARROT SNAKE

When threatened, they perform a dramatic bluff by opening their mouths wide to look dangerous without actually biting. These slender snakes rely on high speed to chase down frogs and lizards in the trees.



GREEN IGUANA

Green Iguanas are excellent swimmers that use their long tails to escape through rivers. They possess a special third eye on top of their head to detect shadows of predatory birds. These large lizards can famously drop forty feet from trees without injury to flee from danger.



HELMETED IGUANA

Masters of patience that spend hours clinging motionless to vertical tree trunks. They have a triangular crest on the back of their head that makes them look like a piece of loose bark. Instead of running from danger, they freeze perfectly still and rely on their camouflage to become invisible to predators.



ANOLE

They can change their color from bright green to dark brown depending on their mood. Males have a colorful fan of skin under their throat called a dewlap that they flash to attract mates. They can also do rapid push-ups on branches to warn other lizards away from their territory.



GECKO

They have special sticky toe pads that allow them to run up smooth walls and walk upside down on ceilings. They do not have eyelids so they use their long tongues to lick their own eyes to keep them clean. They are also unique among lizards because they communicate with loud chirping or barking sounds to claim their territory.



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RED-EYED TREE FROG

These frogs have startle coloration. If a predator wakes them, they suddenly flash their bright colors to shock the attacker just long enough to escape. During the day, they tuck their neon legs in and sleep on the undersides of leaves to blend in perfectly with the greenery.



RAIN FROGS

They skip the tadpole stage entirely and hatch from their eggs as tiny, fully formed frogs. They rely on their patterned brown skin to camouflage among the dead leaves on the forest floor. Their name comes from their habit of calling loudly when humidity rises or a storm is approaching.



MASKED TREE FROGS

Named for the black bands across their eyes that resemble a bandit's mask. They're explosive jumpers that launch themselves from low bushes to the ground to catch crickets. During mating season, their call sounds surprisingly like a small chicken clucking in the rainforest.



TARANTULA

They rely on sensitive hairs on their legs to detect vibrations of prey walking nearby. They don't spin webs to catch food but instead ambush insects from the entrance of their burrows. If threatened, they often choose to flick itchy hairs from their abdomen at predators rather than using their fangs.



SCORPION

They're famous for their exoskeletons that glow a bright neon green under ultraviolet light. Most species here have a sting comparable to a bee and use their venom primarily to subdue crickets and roaches. Mothers are surprisingly gentle and will carry their babies on their backs for protection until they are old enough to hunt alone.



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STICK INSECT

They're masters of disguise that look exactly like twigs or branches to hide from hungry birds. They can remain perfectly still for hours or sway back and forth to mimic a twig in the breeze. If they lose a leg to a predator, young stick insects have the amazing ability to grow it back the next time they molt.



GLOWING BEETLE

They're have two bright bioluminescent spots on their backs that look like glowing green eyes. These lights are so intense that people historically used them as living lanterns to see trails at night. They also have a unique spine that snaps loudly to launch them into the air if they get flipped over.



GLASS FROG

They're famous for having transparent skin on their bellies that reveals their beating heart and internal organs. They protect their young by laying eggs on leaves that hang directly over streams. When the tadpoles hatch, they drop safely into the water below to begin their lives.



VINE SNAKE

These look exactly like living vines as they sway gently to mimic the wind. They have a unique pointed snout that gives them binocular vision for striking prey with perfect accuracy. When threatened, they puff up their necks to appear larger and scare away predators.



EMERALD BASILISK

They can hold their breath underwater for up to 30 minutes to hide from predators. They're famous for sprinting across the surface of the water on their hind legs to escape danger. Males look like miniature dragons with three distinct sails on their body and a tiny third eye on their head to sense sunlight.



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