



Manuel Antonio National Park
Photo by Ed Ogle



COSTA RICA

NATIONAL SHELL MUSEUM

February 8 - 16, 2018



The BAILEY-MATTHEWS
NATIONAL SHELL MUSEUM

Delve into Costa Rica's diverse habitats, national parks, and private reserves on this 9-day expedition with the National Shell Museum. Accompanied by your expert leaders and guide, you'll view the picturesque Arenal Volcano, hike through the cloud forest in search of the many molluscan species that call this environment home, and observe the abundant marine mollusks on the country's Pacific Coast.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore some of Costa Rica's most awe-inspiring parks and reserves, including Curi Cancha Wildlife Refuge, Manuel Antonio National Park, and Marino Ballena National Park, Costa Rica's first marine park.
- Learn about the diverse Costa Rican mollusks from world-renowned malacologist, Dr. José H. Leal.
- Discuss Costa Rica's geological history while hiking in Arenal Volcano National Park.
- Go snorkeling at Caño Island to view marine mollusks and immerse yourself in Costa Rica's marine habitats.
- Examine issues of conservation and sustainability as they relate to tourism.

ITINERARY

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

FEBRUARY 8 - ARENAL

Early afternoon arrival in San José. (The group will be traveling together from Fort Lauderdale. At this time it is still too early to confirm the flights, estimated \$450 is included in the trip price.) Depart for Arenal. *Overnight at Arenal Manoa. (LD)*

FEBRUARY 9 - ARENAL

Morning visit to Arenal National Park. Have lunch in La Fortuna, with an afternoon visit to Danaus Eco Center. Night hike this evening. *Overnight at Arenal Manoa. (BLD)*

FEBRUARY 10 - MONTEVERDE

If conditions permit, take a boat trip across the lake and then travel by Jeep to Monteverde, where the bus will meet us. This afternoon visit the Monteverde Butterfly Garden and Bat Jungle. *Overnight at El Establo. (BLD)*

FEBRUARY 11 - MONTEVERDE

Walk in the cloud forest this morning at Curi Cancha Wildlife Refuge. This afternoon take part in a service project in Santa Elena Reserve. Night hike this evening. *Overnight at El Establo. (BLD)*

FEBRUARY 12 - UVITA

We have a long travel day today, first making our way back down the mountain and then heading south to the Pacific coast. Lunch en route and stop for a boat ride along the Tárcoles River. *Overnight at La Cusinga Lodge. (BLD)*

FEBRUARY 13 - UVITA

Morning snorkeling excursion. Learn how the Marino Ballena National Park, Costa Rica's first marine park, was created and how sustainable tourism activities have impacted the region. Afternoon at leisure. *Overnight at La Cusinga Lodge. (BLD)*

FEBRUARY 14 - UVITA

Snorkeling excursion at Caño Island. *Overnight at La Cusinga Lodge. (BLD)*

FEBRUARY 15 - SAN JOSÉ

Visit Manuel Antonio National Park before departure for San José. Farewell dinner at the hotel. *Overnight at Herradura. (BLD)*

FEBRUARY 16 - DEPARTURE

Depart for the airport for flight back to the U.S. (B)

Please be aware that shell collecting in Costa Rica is against the law.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ENROLL:

Contact Debbie Sturdivant Jordan at debbie@holbrooktravel.com or 866-748-6146

Visit holbrook.travel/shellmuseum-cr18

ABOUT YOUR LEADERS



José H. Leal, Ph.D., Science Director & Curator

Dr. José H. Leal was Director of the Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum between February 1996 and August 2013, and is now its Science Director and Curator. His love for shells and sea life goes back to his childhood years in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Dr. Leal holds honorary faculty positions at the University of

Miami and Florida Gulf Coast University (Fort Myers), where he is an affiliate member of the Coastal Watershed Institute. He is also a Past President of the American Malacological Society and of Conchologists of America, and a past board member of the Florida Association of Museums. Dr. Leal has conducted field research on Costa Rica's Pacific and Caribbean coasts with his colleagues from the University of Costa Rica.



Leigh Gay graduated from North Carolina State University with a bachelor's degree in Zoology. She has worked for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in California and Florida and the National Audubon Society in Pennsylvania as an environmental educator and visitor services associate. She hopes to pursue a career in science education and loves getting students of all ages to experience nature in their own

way. Her hobbies include birding, kayaking, snorkeling, fishing, shelling (of course!); and as a self-proclaimed "beach bum," she loves anything to do with the ocean.

PROGRAM PRICING

\$3,350 (15 participants)

Cost includes \$450 estimated roundtrip airfare from Fort Lauderdale, accommodations, meals including non-alcoholic beverages, entrance fees and activities as indicated in the itinerary, private vehicle transportation, full-time guide, donation to Shell Museum, and carbon offset.

Cost does not include gratuities or items of a personal nature.

THE FINE PRINT

Price is based on double occupancy; single rooms may be available at \$240 additional cost. A \$400 per person deposit and enrollment form are required to secure your space on the trip. This deposit is refundable excluding a \$200 cancellation fee until November 5, 2017, at which time final non-refundable payments are due. Travel/trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. For more information call Travel Insured at 800-243-3174. Holbrook Travel's agency number is 15849.