COSTA RICA
PHOTOGRAPHY IN NATURE
with Gustafson Photo Safari

December 2 - December 11, 2019

Turtles hatch on a secluded beach, resplendent quetzals glide through a cloud forest, and the green macaw’s insistent call breaks the silence of the rainforest, here in Costa Rica at the ends of the Earth. Costa Rica’s vibrant flora and fauna offer photographic opportunities you will see nowhere else. This small, friendly country is home to a great diversity of habitats including the lowland tropical rainforest, an outstanding venue to capture shots of a lifetime! The forest is alive with striking plants and colorful flowers, insects, reptiles, amphibians, and a variety of bird life including toucans, parrots, jacamars, hummingbirds, and motmots. Images from Costa Rica that inspire a full chapter in To the Ends of the Earth Volume 3 The Natural World include a newly hatched green sea turtle entering the surf for the first time, a two-toed sloth peering through green vines as it clings to its perch on a rainforest tree, and a lemon yellow eyelash pit viper relaxing on a thin branch. With tips, techniques and personal instruction from a top digital photography expert, Todd Gustafson, you will return with an amazing portfolio of colorful images and a new sense of wonder about the tropics.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

• Macro photography sessions with local flowers, insects, and poison dart frogs.
• Demonstrate wildlife photo shooting methods with local birds and animals.
• Practice photographing fast moving objects and the use of flash set-ups during a hummingbird photo session.
• Discover close-up and light management techniques with tropical plants and orchids.
• Understand the story behind every photograph with site lectures on local wildlife, traditions, and history.
• Discuss results of applied techniques and present suggestions during evening feedback sessions.
• Enjoy free time to practice techniques for a personal appreciation of Costa Rica’s natural beauty.
B=Breakfast    L=Lunch     D=Dinner

DECEMBER 2 - SAN JOSÉ
Upon arrival in San José meet with your driver and guide and transfer to the hotel. This afternoon enjoy time on your own to photograph the famous gardens at Hotel Bougainvillea. Before dinner is an orientation to the program by Todd Gustafson. There is no specific arrival time required; however, if you wish to participate in dinner we suggest an early afternoon arrival. If you would like a pre hotel night, arrangements can be made for an additional cost. Overnight at Hotel Bougainvillea. (D)

DECEMBER 3 - TORTUGUERO
Early morning photography around the gardens. After breakfast take a transfer to the dock for the boat trip to Tortuguero. Upon arrival enjoy lunch and settle into your room. This afternoon take a boat ride in Tortuguero National Park, photographing species such as iguanas, monkeys, and a variety of birds. Overnight at Evergreen Lodge. (BLD)

DECEMBER 4 - TORTUGUERO
Continue exploring Tortuguero by boat during the morning and afternoon. Free time will be available to photograph the lodge grounds on your own. Overnight at Evergreen Lodge. (BLD)

DECEMBER 5 - TORTUGUERO
Continue exploring Tortuguero by boat in the morning and in the afternoon. Explore the lodge grounds for photography on your own. Overnight at Evergreen Lodge. (BLD)

DECEMBER 6 - TORTUGUERO
Continue exploring Tortuguero by boat in the morning and in the afternoon. Explore the lodge grounds for photography on your own. Overnight at Evergreen Lodge. (BLD)

DECEMBER 7 - SARAPIQUÍ
Early morning photography session around the lodge. After breakfast depart for the dock and then travel to Sarapiquí by bus, stopping for lunch at a local restaurant along the way. En route stop at Coopearte to photograph bats, owls, hummingbirds, and other species. Arrive to the lodge late in the afternoon. After dinner enjoy a guided hike around the lodge trails looking for nocturnal species. Overnight at Selva Verde Lodge & Rainforest Reserve. (BLD)

DECEMBER 8 - SARAPIQUÍ
After an early breakfast transfer to OTS La Selva Biological Station for a guided hike and photography. Lunch at Selva
Verde Lodge. In the afternoon, return to La Selva Biological Station for more photography. Tonight dinner will be at the Italian restaurant at Selva Verde downstairs. After dinner take another optional guided nocturnal hike around the lodge. Overnight at Selva Verde Lodge & Rainforest Reserve. (BLD)

DECEMBER 9 - SAVEGRE
Early morning birding photography on the lodge grounds. After breakfast head for the Talamanca mountains and Savegre, stopping for lunch en route. In the afternoon explore the trails, looking for the Resplendent Quetzal, and visit Miriam’s with your guide. Overnight at Savegre Hotel, Natural Reserve & Spa. (BLD)

DECEMBER 10 - SAVEGRE
Spend the morning exploring the property’s trails, which wind through mostly virgin forest consisting of hundred-year-old trees, multicolored plants, mushrooms, insects, amphibians, and mammals. Altitudes vary from 7,220 to 11,384 feet. Savegre is a paradise for birders and is known as one of the best places in the country to observe the Resplendent Quetzal. During your stay you will also enjoy hummingbird photography. In the afternoon visit Batsú Gardens for bird photography. Overnight at Savegre Hotel, Natural Reserve & Spa. (BLD)

DECEMBER 11 - SAN JOSÉ
This morning you will be transferred to the international airport for your flight home. Early morning flights might miss breakfast at the hotel. Check-in for international flights is three hours prior to departure time. The drive from Savegre to the airport is approximately two hours; if you are arranging your flights independently please reserve a flight no earlier than 2 pm. (B)
Price includes all transportation within Costa Rica, accommodations, meals, activities and excursions mentioned in the itinerary, water bottle, English-speaking guide throughout the program, and all tips except for guide and driver.

Price does not include international airfare, any beverages throughout the trip (except for non-alcoholic beverages with meals and water on bus), tips for guide and driver, and any personal extras such as phone calls, minibar, and laundry.

A $1,000 per person non-refundable deposit is necessary to confirm a booking. Final payments are due no later than 95 days prior to departure. Cancellations received less than 95 days prior to departure are not refundable.

$3,999 per person
Based on double occupancy. Single rooms are available for an additional $375.

Gustafson Photo Safari is owned and managed by the award-winning nature photographer Todd Gustafson. Todd has led more than twenty safaris in recent years. Gustafson Photo Safari’s custom itineraries are designed to get us to the right places at the right times to give the best chance to view wildlife. Our local guides understand the unique needs of photographers (quality and angle of light, the need for an early start etc.) and they know the difference between seeing a subject and photographing it. Join Gustafson Photo Safari to experience nature photography at its best!

THE FINE PRINT

TRAVEL PROTECTION

Holbrook Travel purchases Travel Protection on behalf of all participants traveling in 2018 or beyond. These plans help provide coverage once the trip has departed and offer benefits for Baggage/Personal Effects, Accident & Sickness Medical Expenses, Emergency Evacuation and more. Refer to the Plan Document for more details.

Optional additional coverage is available in the form of the Group Deluxe Plan, which offers benefits for Trip Cancellation/ Interruption, in addition to many other insurance benefits and non-insurance assistance services. If interested in this optional plan, we can provide you with rates and plan details.

ABOUT YOUR LEADER

CONTACT INFORMATION

Todd Gustafson | gustaphoto@aol.com | gustafsonphotosafari.net
Pelin Karaca | pelin@holbrooktravel.com | holbrooktravel.com