



Photo by Karen Straus



COSTA RICA

ENCHANTING GARDENS & THE ESCAZÚ ORCHID FESTIVAL

February 13–19, 2019

The Escazú Orchid Festival is a stunning display of colors, shapes, and textures, where more than 1,500 species will be on exhibition. Enjoy a full day at this special event, where you can explore at your own pace. During this 7-day program you'll also have the chance to meet with horticultural experts, conservationists, and garden directors while exploring botanical collections at some of the country's premier public and private gardens. Immerse yourself in the tropical flora and fauna that make this country so special.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Enjoy a full day at the Escazú Orchid Festival in the trendy, upscale town of Escazú.
- Meet the president of the board of directors of SACRO (Save Costa Rican Orchids), a private, non-profit organization created to assist in the conservation of orchids in Costa Rica.
- Go behind the scenes at Lankester Botanical Garden, home to one of Central America's premier orchid research centers.
- View orchids, ferns, bryophytes, and heliconias in the premontane cloud forest of Nectandra Botanical Gardens.
- Attend a presentation by a senior staff member at Else Kientzler Botanical Garden in Sarchí.
- Visit the Orchid Garden in La Garita de Alajuela and learn about their controlled orchid propagation and breeding program.

ITINERARY

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

FEBRUARY 13 - SAN ANTONIO

Upon arrival at the San José International Airport, after clearing customs and collecting your luggage, you will be met and transferred to Hotel Robledal. Hotel check-in is available beginning at 2 pm. This evening meet your guide and enjoy a special welcome dinner at the hotel. *Overnight at Hotel Robledal. (D)*

FEBRUARY 14 - SAN ANTONIO

After breakfast, meet your guide in the gardens for a program orientation and a short, informal discussion about Costa Rica's biodiversity. You will then depart, traveling south to meet Ileana Terán, who is the president of the board of directors of SACRO (Save Costa Rican Orchids), a private, non-profit organization created to assist in the conservation of orchids in Costa Rica. They believe that the most effective means of conservation is through education. After your discussion with Señora Terán, continue your day with lunch at a local restaurant in Cartago. This afternoon, visit Lankester Botanical Garden, where you will be given a behind-the-scenes tour and presentation by the new director or one of the curators. Later, return to the hotel for dinner and overnight. *Overnight at Hotel Robledal. (BL)*

FEBRUARY 15 - SAN RAMÓN

This morning have breakfast, check out of the hotel, and enjoy a full day at the National Orchid Festival in Escazú, hosted by the Escazú Orquideological Association. Your guide will be with you for the transfers to and from the festival, and both the driver and guide will stay with the vehicle and luggage while you're at the festival. After the festival, you will be transferred to Villa Blanca, situated in the mist-shrouded cloud forest north of San José. Check in and have dinner. *Overnight at Villa Blanca. (BD)*

FEBRUARY 16 - SAN RAMÓN

Early birding with your guide for those who wish, followed by breakfast, and then meet back up with your guide for a walk through the trails on the property, which is quite expansive. Return to the lodge for lunch and some free time. Later this afternoon, your guide will show you the lodge's organic garden, the JMA Research Facility, and the chapel built by the late Rodrigo Carazo, former president of Costa Rica, as a testament of love to his wife. You may wish to have a warm drink by the fireplace in the lobby of the lodge following your outing, and then dinner later this evening. *Overnight at Villa Blanca. (BLD)*

FEBRUARY 17 - SAN ANTONIO

Optional early morning bird walk followed by breakfast, and mid-morning departure to San Antonio; en route visit Nectandra Botanical Gardens. Have lunch at a local

restaurant and then continue to Hotel Robledal. *Overnight at Hotel Robledal. (BLD)*

FEBRUARY 18 - SAN ANTONIO

Early morning birding (optional), have breakfast, and then you'll visit Else Kientzler Botanical Garden in Sarchí. You will be given a presentation by one of the senior staff members. Have lunch at a local restaurant and then visit the Orchid Garden in La Garita de Alajuela and learn about their controlled orchid propagation and breeding program. This evening, enjoy a farewell dinner at a local restaurant. *Overnight at Hotel Robledal. (BLD)*

FEBRUARY 19 - DEPARTURE

This morning you will be transferred to the San José International Airport for your flight home. Hotel check-out is 12 pm. *(B)*

LAND PRICING

\$1,725 (based on a minimum of 8 participants)

Cost includes meals, accommodations, and activities as indicated in the itinerary, in-country transportation, and full-time guide.

Does not include international airfare, gratuities, or items of a personal nature. Holbrook can assist with your flight arrangements if desired.

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.

THE FINE PRINT

Cost is based on double occupancy; for a single room throughout the trip add \$400 per person. A \$200 per person deposit and enrollment form are required to reserve your space on the trip. This deposit is refundable excluding a \$100 cancellation fee until November 10, 2018, at which time non-refundable final payment is due.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit holbrook.travellorchidfest-cr19 or contact Sandy Schmidt at schmidt@holbrooktravel.com or 877-907-5360.