



COSTA RICA

BIRDING AND MORE BY CAMERA with KS Nature Photography

December 4–13, 2022

For birders and photographers alike, the incredible avifauna of Costa Rica is certain to inspire. Accompanied by nature photography expert Krisztina Scheeff, you'll have the opportunity to receive personal instruction during field exploration, for all levels of experience and interest. Together with your camera, journey across a diverse range of ecosystems and elevations to spot some of the hundreds of bird species that call Costa Rica home: the Caribbean coastal waterways, the lowland forest of the Sarapiquí Valley, and the cloud forests of the Talamanca Mountain Range. Experience all that Costa Rica birding has to offer, with a chance to bring your photography to the next level!

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Sharpen your photography skills in both the classroom and the field with guidance from photography expert Krisztina Scheeff.
- Explore the canals of Tortuguero National Park for opportunities to photograph its abundant wildlife, like birds, monkeys, iguanas, and caiman.
- Journey through the world-renowned La Selva Biological Station to photograph some of the 400-plus bird species found here.
- Get more experience with ISO, shutter speed, and aperture as you photograph fast-moving hummingbirds zipping around feeders.
- Seek out the coveted Resplendent Quetzal, plus other high-elevation species in the cloud forests of the Cordillera de Talamanca.

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SUMMER TANAGER
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ITINERARY

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

DECEMBER 4 - SAN JOSÉ

Upon arrival 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 Krisztina Scheeff. 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 5 - TORTUGUERO

Take up your camera for early morning photography around the gardens at Hotel Bougainvillea. Then, after breakfast, head to Tortuguero, on Costa Rica's Caribbean coast. Upon arrival at the dock, set out on the boat trip along Tortuguero's canal system – the only way to access this seaside town. Check in at Evergreen Lodge, enjoy lunch and settle into your room. This afternoon embark on a boat for a photo safari through Tortuguero National Park. Although Tortuguero National Park is most notable for its sea turtle nesting sites and conservation efforts, its tree-lined waterways still offer ample opportunities for wildlife photography of birds, monkeys, sloths, river turtles, iguanas, and caiman. *Overnight at Evergreen Lodge. (BLD)*

DECEMBER 6 - TORTUGUERO

Today, continue exploring Tortuguero's canals by boat in the morning and afternoon, to photograph in different lighting conditions. Free time will be available to photograph the lodge grounds on your own. *Overnight at Evergreen Lodge. (BLD)*

DECEMBER 7 - TORTUGUERO

Today, continue exploring Tortuguero's canals by boat in the morning and afternoon, for more photography opportunities

and wildlife observation. Explore the lodge grounds for photography on your own. *Overnight at Evergreen Lodge. (BLD)*

DECEMBER 8 - SARAPIQUÍ

Enjoy one last photography session around Evergreen Lodge. Then, after breakfast, take the boat ride back to the dock, and travel to Sarapiquí by bus, stopping for lunch along the way. Arrive at Selva Verde Lodge & Rainforest Reserve in the Caribbean lowlands, at elevations ranging from 180 to 220 feet. Founded by the Holbrook family in 1985 on a tract of old growth forest once destined for logging, Selva Verde is renowned for its commitment to ecological preservation and sustainability. Enjoy afternoon photography around the lodge looking for iguanas, frogs, birds, and local flora. After dinner enjoy a guided hike on the lodge trails looking for nocturnal species. *Overnight at Selva Verde Lodge. (BLD)*

DECEMBER 9 - SARAPIQUÍ

After an early breakfast, depart for the world-famous Organization for Tropical Studies La Selva Biological Station for a birding hike and photography amid its tropical wet forests. La Selva consists of approximately 2,500 acres of land, over 90 percent of which is virgin forest. The area averages over 13 feet of rainfall each year, making it a prime spot to observe water birds. Over half of Costa Rica's recorded bird species have been spotted at La Selva, including the Bare-necked Umbrellabird, Red-capped Manakin, Great Antshrike, Chestnut-backed Antbird, Slaty-tailed Trogon, Striped Cuckoo, Slaty Spinetail, Yellow-tailed Oriole, and Rufous-tailed Jacamar. Return to Selva Verde Lodge for lunch, then return to La Selva Biological Station for more birding and photography opportunities. After dinner, take another optional guided nocturnal hike around the lodge. *Overnight at Selva Verde Lodge. (BLD)*

DECEMBER 10 - SARAPIQUÍ

Spend the day at Selva Verde Lodge, exploring the trails and botanical garden for local flora and fauna. Selva Verde's private reserve is home to a large assortment of avian life, including several types of herons, egrets, hawks, falcons, macaws, hummingbirds, flycatchers, warblers, sparrows and tanagers. Specific species often spotted at Selva Verde include the Keel-billed Toucan, Sunbittern, Crimson Tanager, Wood Thrush, Violet-crowned Woodnymph, and Grey-necked Wood-Rail. Selva Verde is also home to the endangered Great Green Macaw,



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CHESTNUT-MANDBILED TOUCANS
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which can occasionally be found feeding on the giant fruiting almond trees in the rainforest. *Overnight at Overnight at Selva Verde Lodge. (BLD)*

DECEMBER 11 - SAVEGRE

Take the chance to have one more early morning birding photography session on the Selva Verde grounds. Then, after breakfast, head for the Talamanca mountains and Savegre, stopping for lunch en route. After check-in at Savegre Hotel Natural Reserve and Spa, enjoy afternoon birding at the lodge before dinner. Take some time to visit the hummingbird feeders in front of reception and off the balcony at the lounge. The feeders are often active with resident Magnificent Hummingbird, Green Violetear, Gray-tailed Mountain gem, Volcano Hummingbird, and tiny Scintillant Hummingbird. Explore the trails looking for the Resplendent Quetzal with your guide. *Overnight at Savegre Hotel Natural Reserve & Spa. (BLD)*

DECEMBER 12 - SAVEGRE

Savegre is located in a small community in the Talamanca Mountains and houses its own private biological reserve. This high-elevation habitat of mostly oak and highland cloud forest is rich with insects, mammals, amphibians, and a huge variety of avifauna – 170-plus bird species. The large centennial oaks that cover the forest are laden with lichens and mosses that contrast with the colorful bromeliads. 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. Other species that can be seen here include Spotted Wood-Quail, Costa Rican Pygmy-Owl, Collared Trogon, Buffy Tuftedcheek, Ruddy Treerunner, Ochraceous Pewee, Barred Becard, Zeledonia, and Golden-browed Chlorophonia. During your stay you will also enjoy ample opportunities to practice hummingbird photography. In the afternoon visit Miriam's for bird photography. *Overnight at Savegre Hotel Natural Reserve & Spa. (BLD)*

DECEMBER 13 - DEPART

This morning you will be transferred to the international airport for your flight home. Flights should depart no earlier than 2:00 pm. (B)



SCARLET MACAW
KS-NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY

ABOUT YOUR LEADER



KRISZTINA SCHEEFF

Photographer / Guide / Owner
KS Nature Photography

Krisztina has been photographing the natural world, with an emphasis on wildlife, birds & landscapes, since the age of 18. She has been published in Wild Planet Photo Magazine, Audubon papers, won awards from National Audubon Society and local organizations. She had numerous art exhibits and she is a workshop leader every year at the San Diego Bird Festival run by

San Diego Audubon Society. Her enthusiasm and passion for wildlife photography rubs off on everyone who meets her.

Photography is an adventure, just like life itself. Come join me on this journey exploring the beautiful world of wildlife and landscapes!

ksnaturephotography.com

LAND PRICING

\$3,395 (10 participants minimum)

Cost includes meals, accommodations, and activities as indicated in the itinerary, in-country transportation, full time guide for duration of program, most tips/gratuities, bottled water on the bus, non-alcoholic beverages with meals, and departure tax.

Does not include international airfare, tips and gratuities for main guide(s) and drive, or items of a personal nature.

TRAVEL PROTECTION

Holbrook Travel purchases Travel Protection on behalf of all participants. 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.

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 \$325 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 August 31, 2022, at which time non-refundable final payment is due.

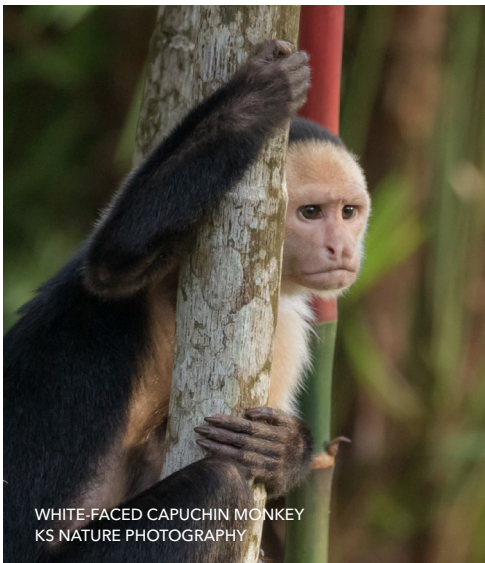
Please note: itineraries may be subject to change due to protocols and adjustments related to the COVID-19 pandemic. For the latest information regarding our COVID-19 policies, please visit holbrooktravel.com/covid19



CHESTNUT-MANDIBLED TOUCAN
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ROADSIDE HAWK
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WHITE-FACED CAPUCHIN MONKEY
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ANOLE LIZARD
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SPIDER MONKEY
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YELLOW-HEADED CARACARA
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FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ENROLL

Visit holbrook.travel/ksphoto-cr22 or contact Debbie Jordan at **866-748-6146** or email debbie@holbrooktravel.com