



GREEN-AND-BLACK POISON DART FROG BY GREG BASCO

COSTA RICA

Photographing the Jewels of Nature

11 DAYS | Choose your dates | Best season to travel: **FEB - OCT***

Whether a master photographer or enthusiastic amateur, the incredible biodiversity and natural beauty of Costa Rica is certain to inspire a portfolio full of treasures. Accompanied by both a photography guide and naturalist guide, receive personal instruction while capturing the wonder of tropical plants, insects, amphibians, birds, and mammals. Costa Rica's lush environment is the perfect backdrop to practice macro photography with colorful poison dart frogs and discover how shutter speed impacts shots of fast-moving objects at the hummingbird feeders. Enjoy the vibrant flora and fauna of Costa Rica while bringing your photography to the next level!

***FEB - JUN:**

LEATHERBACK SEA TURTLE NESTING SEASON

JUL - OCT:

GREEN SEA TURTLE NESTING SEASON

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Enjoy the opportunity to capture a variety of subjects, including wildlife, flora, and landscapes.
- Visit the beaches of Tortuguero and search for nesting sea turtles.
- Practice photographing fast-moving objects and using flash set-ups at the hummingbird feeder.
- Discover macro and light management techniques while photographing tropical flowers, insects, poison dart frogs, and other wildlife.
- Take nocturnal excursions and practice shooting in low light.
- Learn about local wildlife, traditions, and history from your naturalist guide to provide a story behind every photo.

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- Bilingual local guide
- Driver
- Accommodations
- Activities
- Private transportation
- Meals
- Beverages with meals
- Carbon offsetting



VIOLET SABREWING BY ROZ NICKLIN



GEOFFROY'S SPIDER MONKEYS BY JERRY GOFFE | NATUREPHOTOWORKS.COM

ITINERARY

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

DAY 1 - SAN JOSÉ

Upon arrival in San José, meet your driver and guide and transfer to your accommodations. Hotel Balmoral is located right on Avenida Central, San José's most famous pedestrian boulevard, and offers unmatched access to the Gold Museum and National Theater. This afternoon, enjoy time on your own to photograph the bustling city. This evening, have a welcome dinner at El Patio for introductions and preparation for tomorrow's journey to Tortuguero. Please note: In order to arrive in time for orientation, participants must book flights that arrive in San José no later than 4:30 pm. *Overnight at Hotel Balmoral. (D)*

DAY 2 - TORTUGUERO

In the early morning, check out from the hotel and begin your transfer to the dock. For the duration of the program, both a photography and naturalist guide will accompany you. On the morning drive, take notice of the biodiversity of Braulio Carrillo National Park, a primary forest reserve with unsurpassed beauty. After a stop en route for a tropical breakfast buffet, continue to the dock and board a private boat to travel through the canal system to Tortuguero. Upon arrival, enjoy a welcome cocktail and check in at Pachira's Evergreen Lodge, situated just outside the Tortuguero National Park boundary. After settling in, board boats for a safari through Tortuguero National Park, which is mainly accessible via motorized boats and canoes. Encompassing over 40,000 acres, the park is an important nesting site of four of the world's eight sea turtles: leatherback, green, loggerhead, and hawksbill. *For opportunities to view turtles, travel should be planned during*

the appropriate nesting season. During any time of the year, the region is abundant with target species for photography, including mantled howler, spider, and capuchin monkeys, two-toed sloths, river turtles, caimans, basilisk lizards, Fiery-billed and Collared Aracaris, Yellow-throated and Keel-billed Toucans, Great Green Macaws, strawberry poison dart frogs, glass frogs, and much more! *Overnight at Pachira's Evergreen Lodge. (BLD)*

DAY 3 - TORTUGUERO

This morning after breakfast, enjoy a second photo safari, boating the canals to photograph in different lighting conditions. Have some free time to hike along the trails to photograph flora and fauna at your leisure, and then head out later for an additional boat safari. Guests have access to canoes for independent exploration on the water. *Overnight at Pachira's Evergreen Lodge. (BLD)*

DAY 4 - TORTUGUERO

After breakfast, set out on a final boat safari. This afternoon is at leisure to explore the lodge grounds for photography on your own. Optional afternoon presentation at the Sea



ANHINGA BY JAIME CULEBRAS

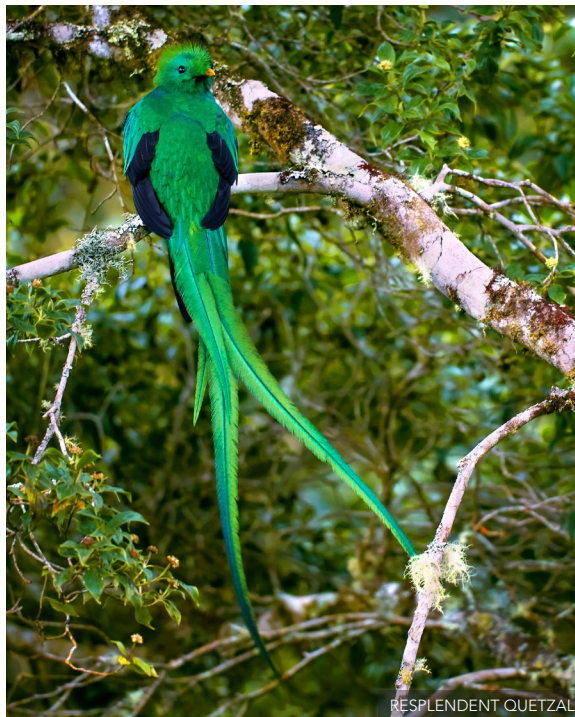
Turtle Conservancy, which has conducted research and monitoring programs in Tortuguero since 1959, followed by a walk in the colorful Tortuguero village. Here you can see the rugged coast, where turtles nest at night during nesting season. Optional nocturnal turtle walk can be added during nesting season. *Overnight at Pachira's Evergreen Lodge. (BLD)*

DAY 5 - SARAPIQUÍ

In the early morning, enjoy a quick photography session around the lodge. After breakfast, take a boat back to the dock and begin the bus journey to Sarapiquí. Have lunch at a local restaurant along the way. Continue to Selva Verde Lodge & Rainforest Reserve, located in the lush lowlands of north-central Costa Rica, on a private tract of primary and secondary tropical rainforest. After settling in, receive an orientation to the lodge's facilities and 500-acre private reserve. This afternoon, enjoy free time for photography around the grounds, in search of some of the 300 bird species found here, including a variety of colorful hummingbirds, trogons, and toucans. After dinner, venture out on a night walk to spot a variety of nocturnal life including the colorful red-eyed tree frog, a must in every photographer's collection. *Overnight at Selva Verde Lodge. (BLD)*

DAY 6 - SARAPIQUÍ

After an early breakfast, transfer to the Nature Pavilion for a two-hour session in the park. Have lunch back at the lodge. This afternoon visit the Macaw Farm, a private initiative started by Don Alvaro Otoya that has turned into a successful breeding center for the two species of Costa Rican macaws: Scarlet and Great Green. Habitat loss and poaching have threatened these amazing birds, nearly bringing them to the point of extinction in some places. As a result, the need for reintroduction into the wild is high, in particular for Great Green Macaws. Projects like Don Alvaro's have allowed local authorities to bring the populations back in some areas, and now macaws can be seen flying high where they were absent for decades. The macaws at Don Alvaro's are not caged, and fly free through the surrounding rainforest. Take advantage of the opportunity to capture amazing images of macaws in flight, with more controlled light than in the forest, while contributing to the effort of protecting and reintroducing the macaws back to their habitat. Return to the lodge for dinner. This evening, there is another optional guided nocturnal hike around the lodge. *Overnight at Selva Verde Lodge. (BLD)*



DAY 7 - SARAPIQUÍ

Today, explore Selva Verde's primary and secondary forest trails and the river area in search of subjects to photograph. *Overnight at Selva Verde Lodge. (BLD)*

DAY 8 - SAVEGRE

Early morning birding photography on the lodge grounds. After breakfast, check out and head south toward Cerro de la Muerte, an area located at the top of the Talamanca Mountain Range, famous for its diversity of endemic wildlife. Consisting of temperate forest and páramo habitats, the natural vegetation attracts an immense amount of bird life, such as the rare Red-fronted Parrotlet and the photogenic

Resplendent Quetzal. Enjoy a traditional lunch en route and continue the journey to the cloud forest realm. Upon arrival at the lodge, take some time to visit the hummingbird feeders in front of reception and off the lounge balcony. The feeders are often active with resident Magnificent Hummingbird, Green Violetear, Gray-tailed Mountain-gem, Volcano Hummingbird, and the tiny Scintillant Hummingbird. *Overnight at Savegre Hotel Natural Reserve & Spa. (BLD)*

DAY 9 - SAVEGRE

Spend the morning exploring Savegre's trails, which wind through mostly virgin forest. Be on the lookout for 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 known as one of the best places in the country to observe the Resplendent Quetzal. During your stay, you will have ample opportunities to photograph hummingbirds. In the afternoon, visit Miriam's Quetzals, a local gem for bird photography. *Overnight at Savegre Hotel Natural Reserve & Spa. (BLD)*

DAY 10 - SAN JOSÉ

This morning, have breakfast at the hotel and time to explore the grounds on your own. After lunch, transfer back to San José and check in at the hotel. Enjoy a farewell dinner this evening. *Overnight at Wyndham Herradura. (BLD)*

DAY 11 - FAREWELL!

Transfer from the hotel to the airport. Check-out is at 12 pm. (B)

PROGRAM PRICING

\$2,760 (15 participants + 1 leader)

\$3,210 (10 participants + 1 leader)

Price includes accommodations, meals, entrance fees, and activities as indicated in the itinerary, private transportation unless otherwise noted in itinerary, non-alcoholic beverages with meals, local guides in each region for duration of program, and carbon offset.

International airfare, gratuities, and items of a personal nature are not included.

Valid for travel in 2021.

THE FINE PRINT

A \$200 per person deposit and enrollment form is due to secure your reservation. This deposit is refundable until 95 days prior to departure excluding a \$100 cancellation fee. Non-refundable final payments are due no later than 95 days prior to departure.

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. 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.



This program includes optional carbon offsetting with ClimateSafe. Learn more at holbrooktravel.com/climatesafe



ACTIVITY LEVEL **2** EASY-MODERATE

WHAT TO EXPECT

This photography-focused adventure invites you to photograph many different species of flora and fauna (plus local people and scenery) in various ecosystems, ranging from Caribbean coastal beaches and wetlands, to the Central Valley rainforests, and the Talamanca Mountain cloud forests. Many of your photo excursions will be conducted aboard boats. Others take place on foot, where you may cover up to a mile, taking your time and pausing to shoot along rainforest trails, village streets, and the gardens and grounds of your lodges. There will be several nocturnal walks and photo sessions. Because you will be in the tropics, expect high humidity with temperatures ranging between 60° and 86° F. Elevation changes will take you from sea level to altitudes of up to 11,384 feet. There will be long bus transfers on private, air-conditioned motorcoaches. The longest drive is 5 hours, on curvy mountain roads with scenic stops en route.



GREEN TURTLES BY MARTIN VAN LOKVEN

GREEN BASILISK BY JAIME CULEBRAS

