

Photo by Christa Markley

COSTA RICA

Butterfly Bonanza with the National Butterfly Center™

June 14 – 21, 2021



Costa Rica is world-renowned for its biodiversity, and its Lepidoptera populations are no exception—species numbers are estimated to be well in the thousands. Join the National Butterfly Center on this 8-day journey to explore some of the highlights of this tropical paradise, from the country's arid northwest to the lush lowlands of the Caribbean. Guided walks amid cultivated gardens and natural areas will be balanced with time at leisure to relax or explore on your own.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Experience world-renowned conservation projects, such as Santa Rosa National Park, where close to 1,500 butterfly species have been identified.
- Take guided walks and exciting hikes through gorgeous gardens and lush rainforests to enjoy the rich biodiversity and search for butterflies, birds, and other wildlife.
- Learn from one of Costa Rica's foremost lepidopterists, Ricardo Murillo, your trip's expert environmental educator.

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- Bilingual guide
- Accommodations
- Activities
- Entrance fees
- In-country transportation
- Meals & non-alcoholic beverages
- Bottled water on the bus
- Carbon offset



Photo by Isaac Bardas

ITINERARY

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER



JUNE 14 - LIBERIA

Upon arrival in Liberia, after clearing customs and immigration, you will be met and transferred to the Buena Vista Lodge. Check in and get settled in your room. Have a group dinner and orientation at the lodge this evening. *Overnight at Buena Vista Lodge. (D)*

JUNE 15 - LIBERIA

Start today with a walk around the lodge gardens and trails. The property features native plants, allowing for great butterfly and bird sightings. Enjoy lunch at the hotel and then take another butterfly walk. Late in the afternoon, you will have time at leisure to relax and enjoy the hotel amenities. Before dinner, attend a butterfly talk with your trip's expert environmental educator, Costa Rican entomologist Ricardo Murillo. *Overnight at Buena Vista Lodge. (BLD)*

JUNE 16 - ARENAL

Early this morning, depart for Santa Rosa National Park to learn about the University of Costa Rica Butterfly Conservation Project. Next take a butterfly observation walk in the park with Mr. Murillo. The abundance of butterfly species has made Santa Rosa National Park an important site for research over the last 30 years. To date, about 4,000 Lepidoptera species have been identified. After lunch in the area, depart for Arenal and Arenal Observatory Lodge. The lodge rests on a ridge amid lush rainforest between Arenal Volcano and Lake Arenal, and is the only hotel located within Arenal National Park. There will be time to freshen up and relax a little. After dinner, take a night hike where you will have the opportunity to use a black light for insect

observation. *Overnight at Arenal Observatory Lodge. (BLD)*

JUNE 17 - ARENAL

After breakfast, take a butterfly walk with Mr. Murillo. The lodge is located on 870 acres, including 270 acres of natural primary rainforest with rivers and waterfalls, 400 acres of reforested land, and tropical gardens. The gardens have been designed with flowering plants, shrubs, and trees chosen to attract wildlife and butterflies. After lunch, take another butterfly walk around the property. The remainder of the afternoon will be at leisure to relax and take in the beautiful views, enjoy the lodge's spa services (at additional cost), or take an optional tour in the area, such as visiting the local hot springs. Before dinner, enjoy another talk with Mr. Murillo. *Overnight at Arenal Observatory Lodge. (BLD)*

JUNE 18 - SARAPIQUÍ

This morning, depart for Sarapiquí and Selva Verde Lodge, located in the country's Caribbean lowlands. Selva Verde abuts the Sarapiquí River and consists of 500 acres of primary and secondary rainforest. The lodge is designed to have minimal impact on the environment and is a proud participant in the Certification for Sustainable Tourism Program (CST). After settling in, receive an orientation to Selva Verde's facilities and private reserve and enjoy the lodge's many trails. Have a talk with Mr. Murillo before dinner. This evening is at leisure. *Overnight at Selva Verde Lodge. (BLD)*

JUNE 19 - SARAPIQUÍ

After breakfast, take a butterfly observation walk around the lodge. There are many trails and gardens throughout the property in addition to a botanical garden, all with plants that attract many different species of butterfly. After lunch, relax or participate in an optional rainforest hike. In the evening, join Mr. Murillo for insect observation using a black light. *Overnight at Selva Verde Lodge. (BLD)*

JUNE 20 - SAN JOSÉ

This morning depart for San José via the Poás Volcano route. Upon arrival, explore the city of San José on foot. (No entrance fees are included.) Check in at the hotel and have time to freshen up before a final trip briefing and farewell dinner. *Overnight at Hotel Bougainvillea. (BLD)*

JUNE 21 - DEPARTURE

Transfer to the airport for your flight home. (B)

ABOUT YOUR COSTA RICAN EXPERT



Ricardo Murillo

Luis Ricardo Murillo H. discovered his passion for insects at the age of 5. What began with an enormous fear of beetles (*Phyllophaga*) turned to love! He started collecting flies and moths, and then at the age of 7 he decided to specialize in butterflies. At 13, he started working on a butterfly farm and volunteering at the University of Costa Rica Insect Museum, rapidly gaining lab and field experience. He went on to study tropical biology at the National University of Costa Rica, and he obtained a master's degree in science from the University of Costa Rica. Currently, Mr. Murillo is a professor of entomology and wildlife management at the University of Costa Rica School of Biology, where he founded the "Life of Butterflies" exhibit and butterfly breeding research laboratory. He is also the curator of Lepidoptera at the university's Zoology Museum and director of the Leonelo Oviedo Ecological Reserve. His current research focuses on the effects of hybridization and phylogeography of *Morpho* butterflies. He has published more than 20 research articles in international journals and is writing a book on the butterflies and moths of Costa Rica.



Photo by Stefanie Plein



Photo by Al Hovey



Photo by Dain Van Schoyck



Photo by Ann & Rob Simpson



Photo by Dain Van Schoyck

LAND PRICING

\$2,895 per person

Cost includes meals, accommodations, activities, and entrance fees as indicated in the itinerary, non-alcoholic beverages with meals, in-country transportation, full-time guide, bottled water on the bus, and carbon offset donation.

Does not include international airfare, gratuities, alcoholic beverages, additional services or optional activities, or items of a personal nature. Holbrook can assist with your flight arrangements if desired.

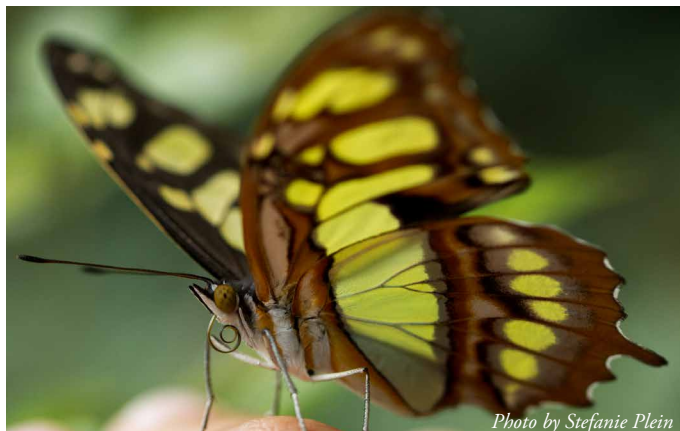
TRAVEL PROTECTION

Holbrook Travel purchases Travel Protection on behalf of all participants. 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 \$310 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 March 11, 2021, at which time non-refundable final payment is due.



FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ENROLL

Visit holbrook.travel/nbc-cr21 or contact Lisa Palmese-Graubard at lisa@holbrooktravel.com or 352-377-7111 x339.