



THE UNIVERSITY of NORTH CAROLINA
GREENSBORO

COSTA RICA

SEA TURTLE RESEARCH & RAINFOREST ECOLOGY

July 26 – August 03, 2025



The beaches of Tortuguero on Costa Rica's Caribbean coast serve as some of the most important nesting sites in the Western Hemisphere for the endangered green turtle. In addition, leatherback, hawksbill, and loggerhead sea turtles also nest here. Since 1959, the Sea Turtle Conservancy's research and conservation initiatives have been instrumental in protecting sea turtles from immediate extinction, as well as raising awareness and protection for sea turtles across the globe.

On this 9-day program, you will not just observe biodiversity, but also play a key role in protecting wildlife and understanding the importance of conservation. Take part in turtle monitoring research currently underway in Tortuguero to protect the endangered green sea turtle. By working directly with nesting turtles in their natural habitat, you will gain a deep appreciation of the ecosystem and conservation efforts underway.

The journey continues in the Caribbean lowland rainforest of Sarapiquí, where you will explore the ecology of the rainforest and have independent time to enjoy the amenities.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Assist researchers at the Sea Turtle Conservancy with green sea turtle nest monitoring and beach patrols along the black sand beaches of Tortuguero.
- Explore the remote coastal rainforests of Tortuguero National Park.
- Witness the biodiversity in the primary rainforest of Selva Verde Rainforest Reserve.

Please note: Sea turtle research involves strenuous 4-hour walks on the beach in the dark each night.

ITINERARY

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

JULY 26 - SAN JOSÉ

Upon arrival at the international airport, meet your guide and transfer to the hotel. The rest of the day is free to explore the capital on your own. Before dinner, have an evening lecture on tropical ecology. Dinner at the hotel. We suggest arriving no later than 4 pm so that you will be at the hotel in time for the lecture and dinner. Program includes one group transfer. We can make additional arrangements for participants arriving on different flights at an extra cost, or we can provide information on taxi service available at the airport. *Overnight at Radisson San Jose. (D)*

JULY 27 - TORTUGUERO

After breakfast transfer to Caño Blanco dock for your private boat transfer to Tortuguero (end of guide services). Upon arrival, meet with the Sea Turtle Conservancy staff and get an orientation to the turtle research program. Tonight you will have your first outing on the beach. *Overnight at Sea Turtle Conservancy station dorms. (BLD)*

JULY 28 - TORTUGUERO

Turtle research program. *Overnight at Sea Turtle Conservancy station dorms. (BLD)*

JULY 29 - TORTUGUERO

Turtle research program. *Overnight at Sea Turtle Conservancy station dorms. (BLD)*

JULY 30 - TORTUGUERO

Turtle research program. *Overnight at Sea Turtle Conservancy station dorms. (BLD)*

JULY 31 - TORTUGUERO

Turtle research program. *Overnight at Sea Turtle Conservancy station dorms. (BLD)*

AUGUST 1 - TORTUGUERO

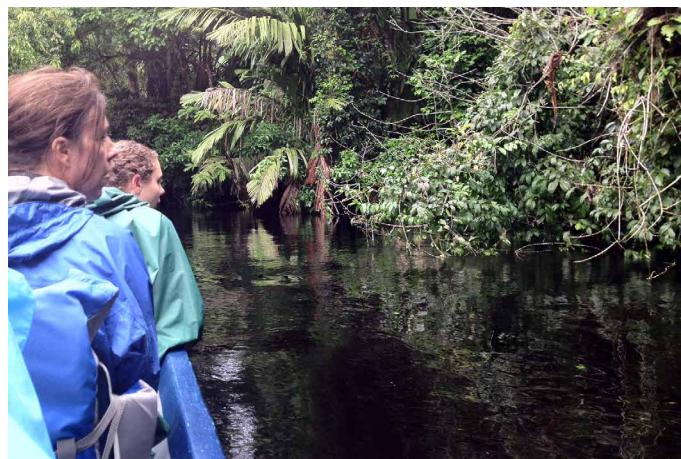
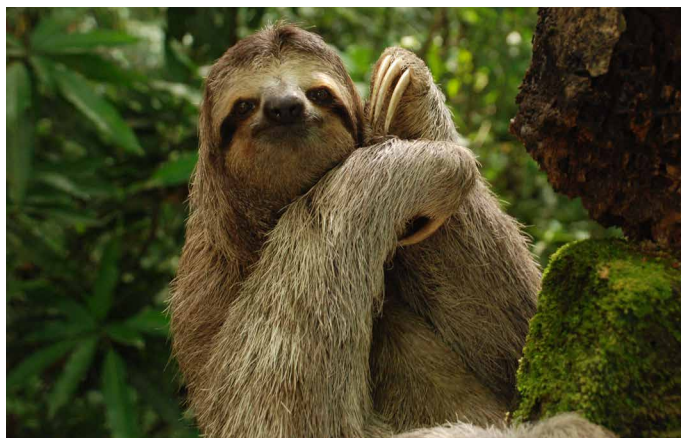
Turtle research program. *Overnight at Sea Turtle Conservancy station dorms. (BLD)*

AUGUST 2 - SARAPIQUÍ

After an early breakfast, take a private boat transfer to Caño Blanco dock. Upon arrival, you will be transferred to Selva Verde Lodge, arriving in time for lunch. Afternoon will be at leisure to explore the lodge grounds on your own. Please note that the private reserve can only be visited with a local guide. After dinner, you can join Selva Verde's resident naturalist guide for a walk around the lodge trails looking for nocturnal species. (No private guide services included.) *Overnight at Selva Verde Lodge & Rainforest Reserve. (BLD)*

AUGUST 3 - DEPARTURE

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for the flight home. Please note that it takes about two hours to transfer from Sarapiquí to the international airport, so flights need to be in the afternoon. (No guide services included.) (B)



THE FINE PRINT

Accommodations are in triple/quadruple occupancy. A limited number of single rooms at hotels may be available at additional cost.



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

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ENROLL:

Visit holbrooktravel.com/uncgturtles-cr25 or contact Pelin Karaca at 800-451-7111 x338 or pelin@holbrooktravel.com