



PHOTO BY JULIO LARRAMENDI



CUBA

INTERNATIONAL NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

Digital Nature 2017 - 6th Edition

September 10 - 17, 2017

Please join us for the 6th Annual International Nature Photography Contest, held in Topes de Collantes nature reserve. Situated in Cuba's Escambray Mountain Range just 20 kilometers from historic Trinidad, the park is known for its lush forests, crystalline waterfalls, and amazing biodiversity.

At this unprecedented time in Cuba's history, when U.S. travelers are flocking to see the island nation, this is an exciting opportunity to connect with resident photographers, learn about the country's fascinating natural areas, and join like-minded people from all over the world who are as enthusiastic about nature and photography as you are!

CONTEST HIGHLIGHTS

- Contest categories are: Landscape; Flora and Fauna; Man and Nature; Macro Photography; and Exotic and Invasive Species (special category).
- Photographers may submit up to three images in each category with works made in Topes de Collantes during the event.
- Images should be in digital format. Full computer stations will be provided for editing.
- The jury will include Cuban photographers and biodiversity specialists and will be headed by distinguished Cuban photographer Dr. Julio Larramendi, whose award-winning works have appeared in numerous books, magazines, and other publications in Cuba and abroad, as well as in dozens of individual and collective exhibitions in Europe, Africa, and the Americas.

ITINERARY

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

SEPTEMBER 10 - HAVANA

Upon arrival at the Havana International Airport, after clearing customs and collecting your luggage, you will be met by your guide and driver, and transferred to your hotel. *Overnight at Hotel Kholy.*

SEPTEMBER 11 - TOPES DE COLLANTES

This morning at 7:00 am, join all of the contest participants for your transfer to Topes de Collantes. This nature reserve, located 20 kilometers from the city of Trinidad in the heart of the Guamuha Mountains, extends into the provinces of Villa Clara, Cienfuegos, and Sancti Spiritus. It covers more than 20,000 hectares of rugged land at elevations between 250 and 900 meters above sea level. This protected area stands out for its rich biodiversity, and beautiful landscapes formed by exuberant forests, rivers, and streams, with fanciful waterfalls and natural ponds. Have lunch at Parque el Cubano, then proceed to your hotel. After check in, you'll meet with the group at 3:00 pm for Inaugural Conferences and Technical Congress. At 5:00 pm you will be able to go to some areas in the park for nighttime photos before the welcome dinner at your hotel at 7:00 pm. *Overnight at Hotel Los Helechos. (L)*

SEPTEMBER 12 - TOPES DE COLLANTES

Early this morning at 6:00 am you will set off for the parks and trails selected by the contestants, and according to draw: La Batata, Codina, Caburní, Vegas Grandes, El Nicho, Camino de la Barbera, Guanayara, El Cubano, and Gruta Nengoa. The terms and conditions for the contest are as follows: All interested photographers can participate with works made in Topes de Collantes during the event. Photographers may submit up to three images in each category. The images should be submitted in digital format in TIFF or JPEG (300 dpi). The jury will be presided over by Dr. Julio A. Larramendi and made up of prestigious photography artists and specialists in Cuban biodiversity. The jury's verdict is final. The themes for the contest are: Landscape; Flora and Fauna; Man and Nature; and Macro Photography. Dinner is back at the hotel at 5:00 pm. *Overnight at Hotel Los Helechos. (BLD)*

SEPTEMBER 13 - TOPES DE COLLANTES

Again, this morning will begin at 6:00 am on the trails, with your boxed breakfast. Dinner is at 5:00 pm, and this evening at 8:30 you will be taken to the Art Museum for the Inauguration of the Photo Exhibition with lectures on cultural activities, on topics of photography and nature. *Overnight at Hotel Los Helechos. (BLD)*

SEPTEMBER 14 - TOPES DE COLLANTES

Another day of photography on the trails, followed by dinner at the hotel. This evening, the competition is closed at 10:00 pm, by which time all images should have been delivered to the jury. *Overnight at Hotel Los Helechos. (BLD)*

SEPTEMBER 15 - TOPES DE COLLANTES

This morning you will depart at 7:30 am to the location of El

Nicho via truck to Jibacoa and then by boat to Hanabanilla Dam. At 3:30 pm you will return to the hotel for dinner. This evening, at 9:00 pm, is the Awards Ceremony at the parlor of Kurhotel Escambray. *Overnight at Hotel Los Helechos. (BLD)*

SEPTEMBER 16 - HAVANA

After breakfast at the hotel you will be transferred back to Havana. Lunch is on own and the afternoon is at your leisure. *Overnight at Hotel Los Helechos. (B)*

SEPTEMBER 17 - DEPARTURE

This morning you will be transferred to the Havana International Airport for your flight back to the States. (B)



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PROGRAM PRICING

\$720

Price is based on single occupancy. Double room credit is \$60 per person.

Includes accommodations, meals per itinerary with non-alcoholic beverages, in-country transportation, activities as mentioned, and full-time guide.

Cost does not include gratuities, items of a personal nature, or International airfare.

THE FINE PRINT

A \$200 per person deposit and enrollment form are required to hold your space on the trip. This deposit is refundable, minus a \$100 cancellation fee, until July 17, 2017, at which time non-refundable final payment is due. Traveltrip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. For more information call Travel Insured at 800-243-3174 or visit www.travelinsured.com. Holbrook Travel's agency number is 15849.

Please note that this event is sponsored and organized by a Cuban tourism operation and is different from our other programs. All activities, contest rules, guiding, etc., are established by the Cuban organizing entity. This is not an itinerary with a comprehensive series of sites and points of interest. Holbrook cannot make modifications to the program, as it is an event organized by an outside entity.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ENROLL:

Contact Sandy Schmidt at schmidt@holbrooktravel.com or 877-907-5360

Visit holbrook.travel/cubaphotocontest17