



Collared Aracari



COSTA RICA

PHOTOGRAPHING THE JEWELS OF NATURE

with Suzanne Renfrow

December 4 - 14, 2021

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!

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.

ITINERARY

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

DECEMBER 4 - SAN JOSÉ

Upon arrival in San José, meet with your driver and guide and transfer to Hotel Bougainvillea. This afternoon, enjoy time on your own to photograph the gardens on the property. Check-in is at 2 pm. *Overnight at Hotel Bougainvillea. (D)*

DECEMBER 5 - TORTUGUERO

In the early morning, check out from the hotel and begin your transfer to the dock. Program orientation will be on the bus en route. 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 National Park. Upon arrival, enjoy a welcome cocktail and check in at Pachira's Evergreen Lodge, situated just outside Tortuguero. After settling in, board boats for a safari through Tortuguero, 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, Chestnut-mandibled and Keel-billed Toucans, Great Green Macaws, strawberry poison dart frogs, glass frogs, and much more! *Overnight at Evergreen Lodge. (BLD)*

DECEMBER 6 - TORTUGUERO

This morning after breakfast, enjoy a second photo safari along the canals by boat 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 Evergreen Lodge. (BLD)*

DECEMBER 7 - 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. There will be an optional afternoon presentation at the Sea 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 night time turtle walk can be added during nesting season. *Overnight at Evergreen Lodge. (BLD)*

DECEMBER 8 - SARAPIQUÍ

In the early morning, go on 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 on 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 red-eyed tree frog, a must in every photographer's collection. *Overnight at Selva Verde Rainforest Lodge. (BLD)*

DECEMBER 9 - SARAPIQUÍ

After an early breakfast, transfer to Nature Pavilion for a two-hour session in the park. Have lunch at the lodge. This afternoon, visit the Macaw Farm; Don Alvaro Otoyá started the private initiative and has turned it into a successful breeding center for the two species of Costa Rican macaws: Scarlet and Great Green Macaws. Habitat loss and poaching have threatened these amazing birds, nearly bringing them to the point of extinction in some places. As a result, there is a high need for reintroducing them into the wild, 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 opportunities 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 Rainforest Lodge. (BLD)*

DECEMBER 10 - SARAPIQUÍ

Today, explore the primary and secondary forest trails as well as the river area in search of subjects. *Overnight at Selva Verde Rainforest Lodge. (BLD)*

DECEMBER 11 - SAVEGRE

Early morning birding photography on the lodge grounds. After breakfast check out and head south for Cerro de la Muerte, an area located at the top of the Talamanca Mountain Range that is 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 balcony of the lounge. The feeders are often active with resident Magnificent Hummingbird, Green Violetear, Gray-tailed Mountain-gem, Volcano Hummingbird, and tiny Scintillant Hummingbird. *Overnight at Savegre Hotel Natural Reserve and Spa. (BLD)*

DECEMBER 12 - SAVEGRE

Spend the morning exploring Savegre's trails, which wind through mostly virgin forest and consist of 100-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 and Spa. (BLD)*

DECEMBER 13 - 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 into the hotel. Enjoy a farewell dinner this evening. *Overnight at Hotel Bougainvillea. (BLD)*

DECEMBER 14 - DEPART

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

ABOUT YOUR LEADER



Suzanne Renfrow

Suzanne Renfrow has been photographing nature, birds, and other wildlife since 2013. She got hooked on photography with a trip to Alaska, and since then has traveled to numerous states and countries to photograph the birds and wildlife in those regions. She is returning to

Costa Rica and looks forward to once again seeing a spectacular variety of birds, certain to find even more lifers! With regard to photography, she is fanatical about getting sharp images, in good lighting (natural or with flash), and creating captivating images of all creatures, including through macro photography. She is eager to help everyone on this tour to get images that they will treasure for a lifetime.

Photo credit: Chris Greenwood



Red-eyed treefrog by Karen Straus

LAND PRICING

\$3,050 (8 participants)

Cost includes accommodations, meals, activities, and entrance fees as indicated in the itinerary, in-country transportation, internal flights, full-time guide for duration of program, bottled water on the bus, and carbon offset.

Does not include international airfare, tips/gratuities, 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 \$245 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, 2021 at which time non-refundable final payment is due.



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



Resplendent Quetzal

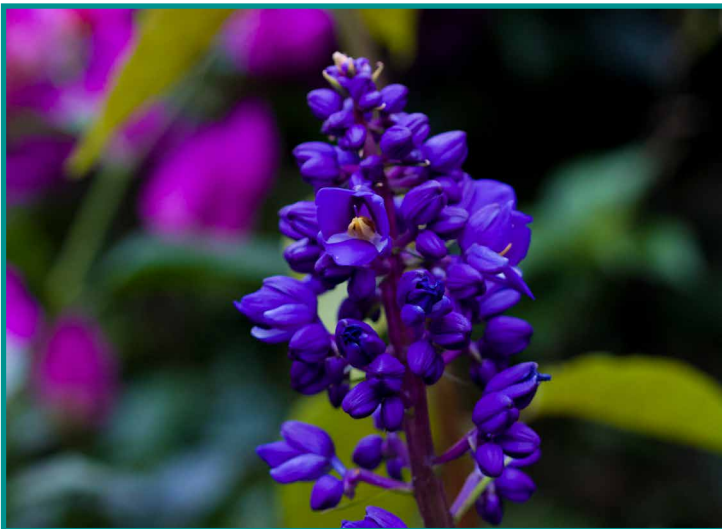
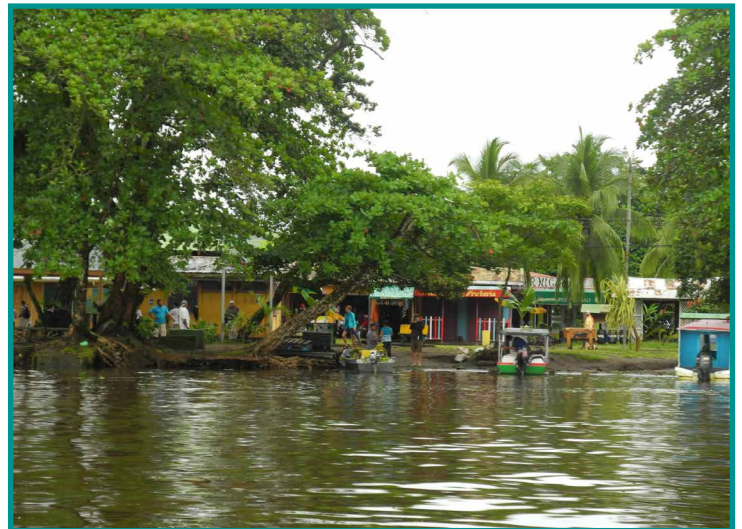


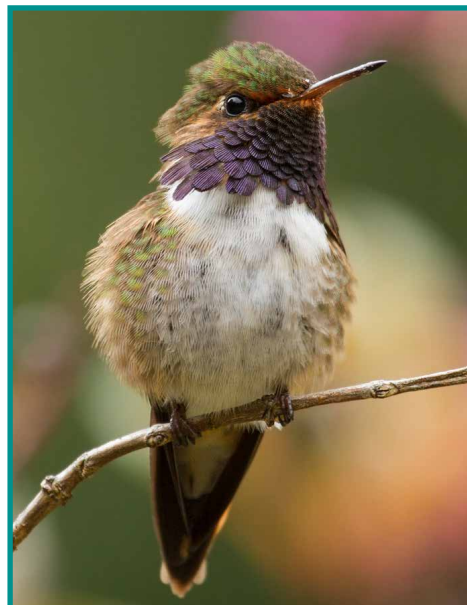
Photo by Stefanie Plein



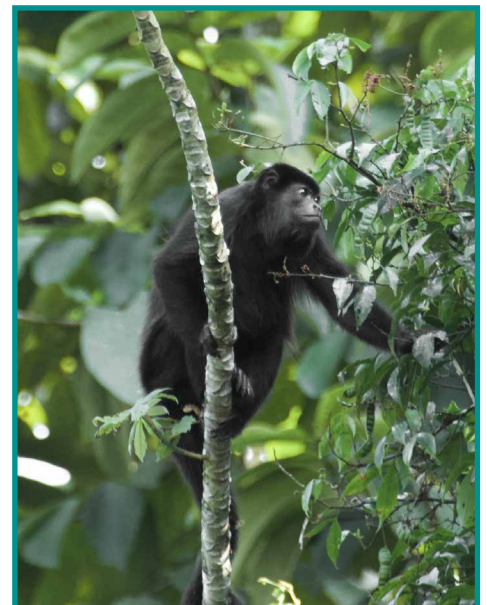
Tortuguero Village by M Prinke



Scarlet Macaw



Volcano Hummingbird by Chris Jimenez



Mantled howler monkey by Stefanie Plein

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ENROLL

Visit holbrook.travel/renfrow-cr21 or contact Sandy Schmidt at schmidt@holbrooktravel.com or 877-907-5360.