



RESEARCHING NEOTROPICAL BIRDS OF TORTUGUERO COSTA RICA 2010



A critical link for neotropical migrants, Costa Rica's rich biological diversity has earned its reputation as one of the world's top birding destinations. In partnership with the Caribbean Conservation Corporation, participants will explore and assist in research of avian biodiversity in the dry forest, waterways, and marine environments of the northern Atlantic coast of Costa Rica. This specially designed expedition will allow you to engage in bird research activities, such as mist-netting, observational transects, and point-counts in the rainforest, rivers, canals, and beaches of Tortuguero. Long regarded as one of the best locations in the country for birding, Tortuguero is part of a significant coastal route for birds migrating between North and South America. Large numbers of migrants winter in this breathtaking coastal environment, providing biologist an excellent vantage point for annual movements. Participants may expect to enjoy a variety of interpretive hikes, boating excursions in the myriad of waterways, and formal citizen science research activities in this 9 day adventure of learning. No previous experience of research is required. Make a difference this year!

HIGHLIGHTS

- Tortuguero National Park (47,000 acres) and the surrounding area is truly a birder's paradise
- The beautiful swamp forests, freshwater sloughs, beach, river mouth and primary and secondary forest habitats support over 300 resident and migrant bird species
- Neo-tropical migrants include such species as warblers, flycatchers, and raptors
- Resident bird species such as tiger herons, toucans, macaws, sunbitterns, long-tailed manakins and oropendolas abound in the forests and waterways of Tortuguero
- Join CCC in cooperation with Partners in Flight and the US Forest Service, to monitor resident and migrant species in and around Tortuguero
- Assist scientists with several important tasks including gathering information on the relative abundance of the species, their habitat preference and use, and specific physical condition of captured-released birds
- All participants will receive specific training for the project: mist-netting, walking transects, and point counts

TRIP DETAILS

SUGGESTED TOUR MONTHS

March - May
August - October

TRIP LENGTH

9 days

LAND PRICING

Starting from
\$1399 per person
Price is land only



EDUCATIONAL CONNECTIONS:

- Service Learning
- Investigation
- Voluntourism
- Biology
- Conservation
- Research

Rates are based on single and double occupancy for participants. Holiday surcharges may apply. Program may incur unforeseen fuel surcharges. A \$200.00 per person deposit and enrollment form is due upon booking and no later than four months prior to departure. This deposit is refundable until 75 days prior to departure excluding a \$100.00 cancellation fee. Final payments are due no later than 75 days prior to departure. Cancellations received less than 95 days prior to departure are not refundable. Travel/trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. For more information call 800-243-3174. Holbrook's agency number is 15849.



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Photo from Caribbean Conservation Corporation

de Tortuguero to relish panoramic views or to visit the village of Tortuguero. If you are participating in the 16-23-day programs, you will stay at Tortuguero accordingly. **Overnight at Tortuguero.** (BLD)

Day 8

San Jose

Today you will be transferred to the Tortuguero airstrip for your flight to San José. Your Nature Air flight #211 departs Tortuguero at 7AM, and you must check in by 6:30AM. Please note that you are allowed a maximum of 30 pounds of luggage per person. Any additional baggage is charged to the passenger by weight and is subject to weight requirements and space availability aboard the aircraft. Upon arrival at the Pavas Airport in San José, you will be met and transferred to your hotel. Following check in, you will have the remainder of the day at leisure. **Overnight at Gran Hotel Costa Rica.** (B)

Day 9

Tortuguero

Today you will be transferred to the airport for your international departure flight. Check in at the International Airport is 3 hours prior to flight time. There is a departure fee from Costa Rica of \$26.00 per person, this may be paid in US cash, colones or Visa Credit Card. (B)

Day 1

Arrival in Costa Rica

Upon arrival at the Juan Santamaría International Airport, you will clear customs and meet our representative outside baggage claim and you will be transferred to Gran Hotel Costa Rica. The vibrant capital city of San José located in Costa Rica's Central Valley has daily temperatures that rarely dip below 68°F or rise above 78°F. Following check-in, you will have the remainder of the day at leisure to explore (depending on flight arrival time). Sights of interest within the city include the National Museum of Costa Rica and the Jade Museum, both of which display pre-Columbian artifacts; the Gold Museum featuring over 20,000 troy ounces of golden artifacts; the National Gallery of Contemporary Art; and the city's largest central park, Parque Nacional. **Overnight at Gran Hotel Costa Rica.**

Day 2

Tortuguero

This morning, enjoy breakfast while traveling by bus and boat to Tortuguero National Park, located on the northern Caribbean coast. Tortuguero consists of a series of natural interconnecting canals, and provides a unique opportunity to observe wildlife by boat. Along the inland waterways, you may observe spider monkeys, crocodiles, three-toed sloths, wading birds, manatees, and caiman, just to name a few. Apart from having a large resident bird population, Tortuguero is part of a significant coastal route for birds migrating between North and South America. Among the migrating birds that visit the area are warblers, flycatchers, and raptors. The resident bird population includes tiger herons, toucans, macaws, sun bitterns, long-tailed manakins, and oropendolas. In all, more than 300 bird species can be counted in Tortuguero. Following check-in at the accommodations of your choice, you will meet with a CCC research biologist for an orientation and bird research training session. **Overnight at Tortuguero.** (BLD)

Day 3 to 7

Tortuguero

Over the next four days you will engage in bird research activities. Beginning early each morning, you will participate in mist-netting, walking transects, and point-counts in a variety of settings—in the rainforest, along the rivers and canals, and on the beach. Spend the late afternoons and evenings at leisure exploring the area. You may choose to further explore the jungle nature trails, waterway systems, and beachfront. Or, you may decide to hike nearby Cerro



Photo from Caribbean Conservation Corporation

CCC supports the longest Bird Banding and Monitoring Project in Latin America. The program began in Tortuguero, Costa Rica in 1994 as part of the "Partners in Flight" program, in association with Costa Rican and North American ornithologists. Resident and neotropical migrant bird species are surveyed in natural and disturbed habitats of the area and vital statistics are collected. The project also seeks to train Latin American wildlife biologists in ornithological field techniques and conduct outreach in Tortuguero and throughout Costa Rica.