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#460602

Photo Costa Rica

Monday, June 22nd - Friday, July 3rd, 2026

Highlights:

- Explore one of the most biodiverse places in the world for an extraordinary wildlife and landscape photography experience.
- Visit local highlights to capture the history, arts, and daily life of the Costa Ricans.
- Stay in each place for several days in order to dive deep into the location and all it has to offer.
- Landscapes that include rainforests, beaches, hot springs, and a volcano – so much variety so close together.
- Get up in the canopy for a chance to photograph the fauna and foliage at all levels.
- Everything from toucans and hummingbirds, sloths and jaguars, iguanas and sea turtles, butterflies and poison dart frogs.
- The combination of rich subject matter, stellar instruction, and experienced guiding make this a must-do trip!

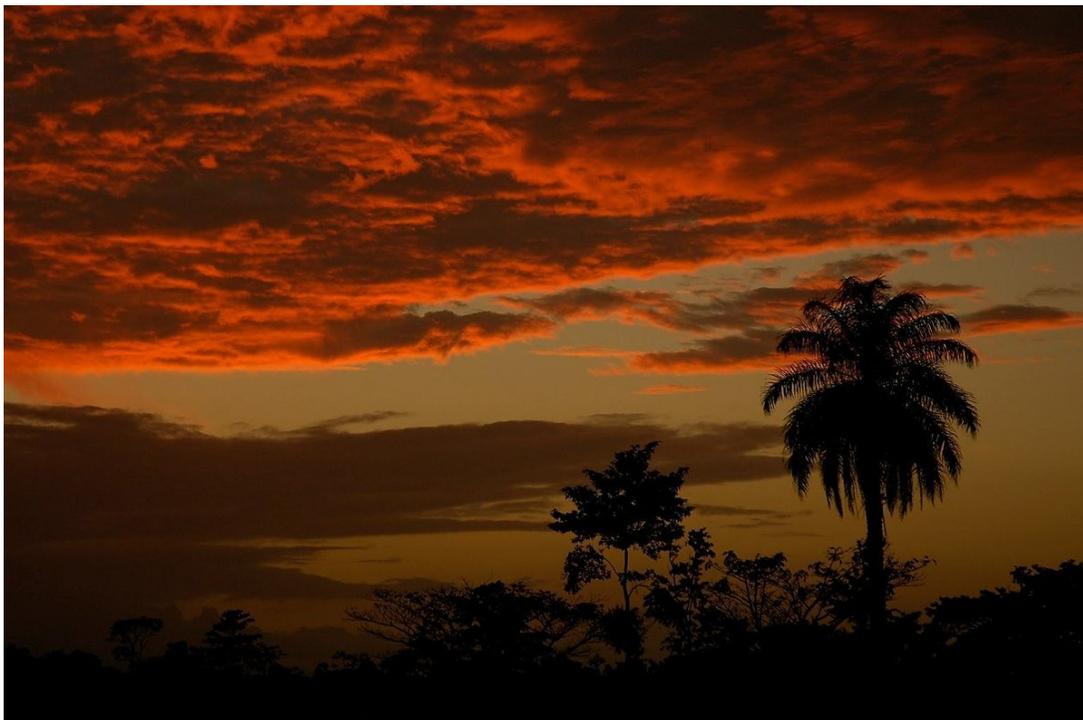
Trip style:

- Accommodations in unique lodging, staying for multiple days at each location.
- Walking on well-maintained nature trails, in towns, and on the beach.
- Travel by private bus, mostly for shorter distances but up to 5 hours.

Description:

Join Reed Hoffmann in exploring Costa Rica through your lens. Imagine capturing a howler monkey in the shadow of an active volcano, a sea turtle laying hundreds of eggs, a tropical paradise waterfall cascading through the forest. Overhead the gold colored tail of a loud calling oropendola swoops by. You will have the opportunity to capture the fading sun over the breaking waves of the Caribbean Sea, to photograph iguanas, brightly colored handcrafted ox carts being painted, bright red coffee beans and swirling clouds over the cloud forest. Each day will give you a diverse range of opportunities from tropical rain forest to local people fishing, working with poison dart frogs to thousands of beautiful butterflies. Try to capture the multi-colored beak of a toucan. During the day Reed will help you get the light just right, frame that scene or get that special moment in your lens. In the evening you will be able to discuss your shots with the group and your mentor Reed as you listen to sounds of the jungle on an open air veranda.

In addition to photography there will be time to take a canopy tour, snorkel in the Caribbean Sea, stroll on the beach or wander around town. Costa Rica is one of the most diverse ecological areas on the earth. It has more land preserved in natural reserves than anywhere else in the world. You can range from the Caribbean seaside to the top of a cloud forest in one day. The country is stable, safe and considered the Switzerland of Central America. The flight to Costa Rica is not long from the US. The Ticos, as the locals call themselves, are a friendly, family-oriented culture. Enrique is the local guide and is one of our favorites. We have been to Costa Rica with him more than anywhere else in the world. He will help you find the hidden spots that are best to visit and great for photography.



About Reed - Reed Hoffmann has been a professional photographer for over 40 years. Working for newspapers in Indiana, Alabama and New York for two decades, he now splits his time between teaching photography and shooting assignments. He's been around the world: from Australia and New Zealand to the Atlas Mountains of Morocco, Argentina's Patagonia region, the Arctic and Antarctic and the High Peaks of the Adirondacks. His clients have included USA Today, The New York Times, American Photo, Nikon, Microsoft, Best Buy and Lowepro. He also taught Nikon School for 16 years, so is an accomplished instructor. Whether you've got a simple point-and-shoot or an advanced camera with all the lenses, this will be a fun-filled trip where everyone will come back with great pictures and fun stories to tell.

You can find out more about Reed at www.reedhoffmann.com. You're also welcome to contact Reed directly, reed@reedhoffmann.com

Itinerary- These lodgings may change, but the dates are unlikely to.

DAY 1 - Monday, June 22nd FLY

Arrival in San José. Depending on time of arrival we may stop for dinner on the way from the airport, or drive directly to the Courtyard Marriott Hotel in San José. -/-



DAY 2 - Tuesday, June 23rd Waterfall Gardens & Sarchi

After breakfast we'll drive to the [Waterfall Gardens](#) for an introduction to the history of Costa Rica and enjoy the coffee plantations and views of the mountain range in the Central Valley. The Waterfall Gardens are an amazing place, almost 6,000 ft in elevation, at the foothills of Poas Volcano. This place is an animal shelter for many wild species that have been confiscated from people that have kept them as pets, which is prohibited by law in Costa Rica. In the middle

of a very dense cloud forest you will have the opportunity to see many bird species in the huge dome where they can fly and learn to adapt themselves back to their natural habitat. Not only birds, but many other mammal species reside here, like sloths, monkeys, jaguars, and mountain lions. Also, they feature an amazing butterfly garden where you can observe all the stages of life of these beautiful creatures. After the exhibition we will have lunch, then continue our visit with a hike along the La Paz River which features 5 amazing waterfalls along a very well kept trail. We get back to our bus and drive for another hour and a half to the cradle of art craft in Costa Rica. Sarchi is the place where the artisans started building the ox carts that transported coffee to the coastline to be exported to Europe. We will visit one of the very old ox cart factories with all the machinery powered by a huge Pelton wheel. Afterwards we'll return to our hotel and then decide whether to dine at the hotel or at one of the other restaurants in the area. B/L/-



DAY 3 - Wednesday, June 24th Tortuguero National Park

Today, the Laguna Lodge Group will meet you very early in the morning to take you on a three-day, two-night tour of Tortuguero National Park and the surrounding area. They will pick you up with their own transportation and the first stop will be in the lowlands of the Caribbean side of Costa Rica to enjoy a delicious breakfast. You get back on the bus and soon you'll be boarding a boat that will take you along the canals towards Tortuguero. This is a very nice boat ride with a rich, deep forest on both sides of the canal which may offer magnificent photo opportunities. Upon arrival at the lodge, and after the check-in procedures, you will have time to get acquainted with the premises before lunch is served. On one side of the property is the Caribbean Ocean and on the other the serenity of the canal, with many places to explore in between. By visiting the colorful Tortuguero town, it is possible to appreciate the lifestyle of the people and learn a little of their customs and daily life. It was an ancient place of hunting, fishing

and agriculture, inhabited by different ethnic groups such as the Miskito-Zambo and Afro-Caribbean population. You will also learn about their more recent history, including the development of sawing wood in the mid-twentieth century and up to the present where tourism has raised awareness about the preservation of nature. Upon returning to the lodge a delicious dinner will be served and you will have more time to explore the area at night. B/L/D



DAY 4 - Thursday, June 25th Tortuguero National Park

Very early, even before breakfast, you will take a daybreak tour on the canals of the national park, which is one of the most unique activities of the trip. You will be immersed in the lush biodiversity of flora and fauna in this ecosystem, which is the most complex and dynamic of tropical America. Accompanied by your naturalist guide and an experienced boatman you will witness the amazing variety of the animal species in the area: three species of monkeys, 400 species of birds, hundreds of reptiles and amphibians (such as iguanas, crocodiles, alligators and turtles) as well as a large number of mammals. You'll then return to the lodge for breakfast and some relaxation time at the hotel's swimming pool or the beach. After lunch there will be another boat tour along the canals to observe more of the natural marvels of this place. The nesting season of the green sea turtle starts from July-August so you may be able to join a night walk to witness the nesting process. B/L/D

DAY 5 - Friday, June 26th Tortuguero National Park to Cahuita

Today you'll take the boat back for a new adventure. This boat/bus trip will take about two hours and they will stop for lunch at a restaurant near the main road. After that we'll board our own bus and head to the southern part of the Caribbean coast of Costa Rica. Once there, we'll stay at a cozy and comfortable hotel at Cahuita. Cahuita hosts one of the most beautiful national parks in Costa Rica, which will be within walking distance from our hotel. Lots of amazing

wildlife and an incredible coral reef at the end of the trail. Most likely we will get there before sunset, and although it's the East Coast, the sunsets are incredible. Once settled, you can have a relaxing time at the hotel or walk around the small town and dine at any of the many restaurants offering Caribbean cuisine. B/L/-



DAY 6 - Saturday, June 27th Cahuita National Park

After breakfast we'll take a hike in the national park and photograph its natural beauty. Those who want can rent snorkeling equipment to enjoy the crystal clear waters with a wide variety of fish and corals. We can try to bring a box lunch if we feel like we don't want to interrupt a photo session, or we can return to the town and have lunch there. You can spend as much time as you want in the park (until they close at 4 pm), or you can walk along the beach (in front of the hotel) or enjoy the swimming pool. B/L/-

DAY 7 - Sunday, June 28th Beach Exploration

After breakfast, we will board the bus and visit other beautiful areas, with forests that go all the way down to sandy beaches. Many bays and inlets offer spectacular photo ops of the rain forest and the amazing pristine beaches. We will find a nice place to have a light lunch and then continue with our beach exploration. Later we will find a local restaurant to have dinner along the oceanside. We return to our hotel in Cahuita. B/L/-

DAY 8 - Monday, June 29th La Fortuna

We'll have time to enjoy breakfast before packing our bags and getting ready for a 4-5 hour drive in our bus. After a break for lunch, we'll arrive at our next destination, La Fortuna, a small town, famous for being settled at the foothills of Arenal Volcano. The volcano was very active for

about 45 years after the big explosion in 1968. Today La Fortuna is one of the most visited places in Costa Rica because even though the volcanic activity has ceased, the beautiful rain forest and hot springs and other adventures for tourists makes it a place not to be missed. We will stay at a very nice hotel with a spectacular view of the volcano (weather permitting). Once you are settled in your room, we may drive to town to find a local restaurant to have dinner.
B/L/-



DAY 9 - Tuesday, June 30th Hanging Bridges and Observatory Lodge

After breakfast at the hotel we will visit [Mistico Park](#), one of the most iconic rainforest areas, with excellent trails and amazing hanging bridges where you can admire the forest from the understory, then the middle and the canopy as we walk along the suspended bridges from one side of the canyon to the other. Many marvels of the forest are there to be discovered. We can take all the time we want to look for the best shots and to enjoy the wonders of the rainforest. After we finish the trail, we return to our bus and drive to the [Observatory Lodge](#) for lunch. Apart from offering delicious food, it has a spectacular view of Lake Arenal and the southern slope of the Arenal Volcano. They also have birdfeeders, which gives you the chance to make amazing photos of the beautiful and colorful birds. We can wander their premises to capture various



views of the deep forest surrounding it. We'll return to our bus before twilight and drive back to our hotel in La Fortuna. You may want to rest for a while or explore the hotel premises before dinner. We may go to town or stay at the hotel's restaurant, famous for its delicious pizza. B/L/-

DAY 10 - Wednesday, July 1st Mt Arenal & Hot Springs

Once we have breakfast, we will go to the foothills of the Arenal Volcano and take a hike along the old lava flows of 1968, when the volcano exploded and changed the geography with new hills and crevices sculpted by the forces of nature. A local guide will provide us with important information about this powerful awakening of Mount Arenal. We return to our hotel a few minutes away for lunch and some rest time in the afternoon, before visiting [Baldi Hot Springs](#), one of the most beautiful hot springs in the area. We can just relax and enjoy the soothing pools and waterfalls with natural springs that sprouted after this intense volcanic activity. When you feel like having dinner, the bus will be waiting to take us to town to try some of the local restaurants in La Fortuna. B/L/-



DAY 11 - Thursday, July 2nd Return to San José

Once we have breakfast at the hotel, we will pack our bags and get ready to drive back to our hotel in San José. Lunch on the way. B/L/-

DAY 12 - Friday, July 3rd Departure

Depending on your flight schedule, our bus will be waiting to load your luggage and drive to the airport in San José to take your flight back home. B/-/-

Detailed Services

Included Services

- Double occupancy lodging
- Meals per itinerary
- Local guides
- Local transportation
- Reed Hoffmann, professional photographer and instructor
- Entrance fees
- Photo sessions

Not Included Services

- International airfare to San José
- Drinks and desserts
- Tips
- Single supplement (optional, please request)
- Transfers outside of our itinerary (special circumstance)
- Services not shown or detailed in the program, optional excursions



Lodging:

Double occupancy. Single supplement available upon request for an additional fee of \$1,500.

[Courtyard by Marriot](#)

[Laguna Lodge Tortuguero](#)

[Atlantida Lodge](#)

[Arenal Volcano Inn](#)

Level of Difficulty:

Riding in a private bus, sometimes for long distances. Walking on well-maintained trails and on the beach. Likely to be warm and humid.

Travel Information: We suggest that you coordinate your travel with us. We will let you know when it is time to book flights and tell you how. We suggest that you wait to book your flight until we let you know we have done so to coordinate the flights as much as possible. If you do land at a different time there is a small additional charge for your airport shuttle. We plan to book our airfare about 4 months in advance.

Group Size: We have limited the group to 11 participants so that you can get plenty of personal photo instruction from Reed.

Cost: \$5,490/person

\$1,000 nonrefundable deposit required to book and hold your space, and may be paid by check payable to Pack Paddle Ski and mailed to the address at the top of this document. If you prefer a single room, there is an additional fee of \$1,500/person for a single supplement. Final balance will be due April 24th, 2026 and is a cash price payable by check. An additional 4% convenience fee will be applied to accept the final balance on a MasterCard or Visa.

When is more information coming out? We will send you information on airfare when it is time to book and a final information packet when your final balance is due. Once you register you will receive more information on packing and planning.

Travel Insurance: We highly encourage you to investigate this as a way to protect your investment. Details will be in the registration packet.

PPS Refund Policy

We understand that you may have registered well in advance of your trip. We appreciate that work schedules and plans may change and unforeseen emergencies do occur. Therefore, we have established the refund policy below to try to fairly accommodate such eventualities and yet maintain quality programs. Please realize that once you have registered for a course, we immediately incur expenses on your behalf. Because many people start planning longer trips a year or more in advance, it can be difficult to fill an empty spot at the last minute.

In order to receive a refund for a course, we require you to submit a written notice of cancellation. Your refund comes from your travel insurance. If you elected not to take travel insurance there is no refund. Rev. 1/09

What Next?

Contact Reed at reed@reedhoffmann.com if you are interested in joining him.

