



Roseate Spoonbill

COSTA RICA

Osa Peninsula | Grand Valley Audubon
September 1 - 8, 2021



Accompany Grand Valley Audubon on a birding excursion in the Osa Peninsula to seek out the spectacular abundance of avifauna, flora, and wildlife inhabiting the primary and secondary rainforest. Hike through Corcovado National Park—the largest national park in Costa Rica—and observe the area's richness in biodiversity, learn about conservation initiatives, explore Caño Island, and search for water and shore birds along the Tárcoles River on this 8-day journey through a natural hub for wildlife and beautiful scenery.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Go birding in the primary rainforest of Corcovado National Park.
- Visit Caño Island Biological Reserve and watch for Osprey, Cattle Egret, black hawk, and phalarope.
- Enjoy a whale watching tour with a local expert from the KETO foundation.
- Search for white-faced capuchin and spider monkey in the Barú National Wildlife Refuge.
- Look for Double-striped Thick-knee, Roseate Spoonbill, jacanas, and ducks along the Tárcoles River.

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- Accommodations
- Activities
- Entrance fees
- Meals & beverages
- In-country transportation
- Full-time guide
- Most tips/gratuities
- Bottled water on bus
- Carbon offset



Hiking in Corcovado National Park

ITINERARY

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

SEPTEMBER 1 - ARRIVAL

Arrivals in San José. Bird the grounds of the hotel on your own. Attend orientation and then a welcome dinner at the hotel. Check-in starts at 3 pm. *Overnight at Buena Vista. (D)*

SEPTEMBER 2 - OSA PENINSULA

Have a boxed breakfast for early transfer to the airport for your flight to the Osa Peninsula. Arrive in Drake Bay, and transfer by bus to Punta Marenco Lodge. The lodge is located on a hill about 165 feet above sea level, about 200 feet from the coastline, in front of Caño Island, and surrounded by its own Punta Rio Claro National Wildlife Refuge. Following lunch and check-in, there will be time to explore the new surroundings with your guide. Attend a bird checklist meeting. After dinner, gather for a discussion about the conservation and climate change initiatives that are taking place on the Osa Peninsula. *Overnight at Punta Marenco Lodge. (BLD)*

SEPTEMBER 3 - OSA PENINSULA

After breakfast, gear up for a day birding in Corcovado National Park. Corcovado has been referred to by National Geographic as “the most biologically intense place on Earth in terms of biodiversity.” At 164 square miles, it’s the largest national park in Costa Rica, the largest primary forest on the American Pacific coastline, and one of the few remaining large areas of lowland tropical rainforest in the world. The area holds thousands of species of flora and fauna, many of which are unique to the area. Travel from Drake Bay to Sirena Ranger Station by boat, and depart on several nature walks from the station. At Sirena, the secondary rainforest—which is drier than primary rainforest—is dominant with more open space between trees. Enjoy a picnic lunch near the station, and later return to Drake Bay by boat. (Note: Most boat trips in Corcovado involve “wet landings,” so plan to have water shoes in addition to shoes appropriate for hiking, or shoes that are suitable for both boating and hiking.) Attend a bird checklist meeting and dinner. *Overnight at Punta Marenco Lodge. (BLD)*

SEPTEMBER 4 - OSA PENINSULA

Today, embark on an excursion and go birding and (optional) snorkeling at Caño Island. On the way to the island, you may spot dolphins and humpback whales. The Caño Island Biological Reserve is home to over 70 species of oceanic wildlife, including sea turtles, whales, and several types of mollusks. Watch for Osprey, Cattle Egret, black hawk, and phalarope. Attend a bird checklist meeting and dinner. *Overnight at Hotel Punta Marenco Lodge. (BLD)*

SEPTEMBER 5 - UVITA

Early morning birding and breakfast at lodge. Transfer by boat to Sierpe and then by bus to La Cusinga. Go birding around La Cusinga, and attend a bird checklist meeting. Dinner is at the lodge. Attend an evening talk from KETO foundation about the marine wildlife. *Overnight at La Cusinga Lodge. (BLD)*

SEPTEMBER 6 - UVITA

Have breakfast and then set out on a morning whale watching tour with a local expert from the KETO foundation. After lunch, visit Hacienda Barú, located in the 815-acre Barú National Wildlife Refuge and founded by Jack Ewing, author of “Monkeys Are Made of Chocolate.” This afternoon, take a guided walk in

search of the two species of monkeys found in the area—the white-faced capuchin and the spider monkey—ending up at the beach. Visit and bird around Uvita Waterfall before you return to the lodge for the bird checklist meeting and dinner. This evening, take a guided night hike in search of nocturnal creatures. *Overnight at La Cusinga Lodges. (BLD)*

SEPTEMBER 7 - SAN JOSÉ

Transfer back to San José, stopping at the Tárcoles River on the Pacific coast. During a boat ride on the river, view the giant American crocodiles that reside here, and learn about the regional importance of this mangrove ecosystem. Watch for both water and shore birds like Double-striped Thick-knee, Roseate Spoonbill, jacanas, and ducks. Have lunch on site, and then continue on to San José. Attend the bird checklist meeting and a farewell dinner. *Overnight at Wyndham Herradura. (BLD)*

SEPTEMBER 8 - DEPARTURE

Transfer to the airport for flights home. Check out is at noon. (B)

PROGRAM PRICING

\$2,875 (based on minimum 8 participants)

Price includes accommodations, meals, activities and entrance fees as indicated in the itinerary, in-country transportation (including internal flights and boat and ground transportation), full-time guide for duration of the program, most tips/gratuities except for main guide(s) and driver, bottled water on the bus, and carbon offset.

Does not include international airfare to San José from your home city, gratuities for guide(s) or driver, 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. Refer to the Plan Document for more details.

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

Price is based on double occupancy with individual beds. For a single room throughout the trip, add \$280 per person. 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 May 29, 2021, at which time final non-refundable payment is due.



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

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ENROLL:

Visit holbrook.travel/gvas-cr21 or contact Kevin Van Dien at kevin@holbrooktravel.com or 877-295-7927.