Costa Rica is one of the most biodiverse countries on Earth, with 12 climatic zones and numerous micro-ecosystems within its small borders, making it a haven for neotropical flora and fauna. On this 9-day trip, travelers will get the opportunity to experience various ecosystems, from lush rainforest to cloud forest and coastal floodplains, while observing the animals that inhabit each. Also learn about conservation efforts to protect endangered and threatened species, and assist with sea turtle research in Tortuguero National park during monitoring patrols.

- Learn about sea turtle conservation while helping researchers gather data on turtle monitoring patrols on the Caribbean coast.
- Hike around the base of Arenal Volcano at Arenal National Park and relax in the geothermal hot springs.
- Visit the Organization for Tropical Studies La Selva Biological Station, one of the most important sites in the world for research on tropical rainforests.
- Experience the beautiful, extensive networks of waterways and the diverse marine life that resides in Tortuguero National Park.
- Walk across the Arenal Hanging Bridges for a unique view of the forest canopy.
AUGUST 15 - SAN JOSÉ
Upon arrival at the Juan Santa María International Airport you will be met by a representative and transfer to the hotel. In order to arrive in time for orientation, participants must book flights that arrive into San José no later than 4:30 pm. Hotel check-in is available beginning at 2 pm. This evening, attend dinner with program orientation to follow. Overnight at Hotel Bougainvillea. (D)

AUGUST 16 - TORTUGUERO
Early this morning travel by bus to La Pavona dock, with breakfast en route. Then, board a private boat for the water transfer to Aninga Lodge. 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 see spider monkeys, crocodiles, three-toed sloths, wading birds, manatees, and caimans. From late June through late October, Tortuguero is the most important nesting site in the western Caribbean for the endangered green sea turtle. Other turtles that nest on these beaches include the hawksbill, leatherback, and the occasional loggerhead. Upon arrival at the lodge, relax with a cocktail and lunch. This afternoon, visit the Sea Turtle Conservancy museum to learn about sea turtle conservation. Meet with a Sea Turtle Conservancy (STC) research biologist at the John H. Phipps Biological Field Station for an orientation and slide presentation in preparation for your first evening of turtle monitoring. Spend the afternoon exploring the tiny town of Tortuguero. Have dinner at the lodge, then participate in turtle monitoring this evening. Monitoring is done in small groups during a shift from 8 pm to 12 am. Walk along the beach in search of nesting females while assisting researchers with measuring and collecting data, including each turtle’s size and nesting location. Overnight at Aninga Lodge. (BLD)

AUGUST 17 - TORTUGUERO
This morning, have breakfast at the lodge and then experience the flora and fauna of Tortuguero National Park while boating through the waterways of Tortuguero. The extensive network of freshwater creeks and lagoons in Tortuguero are home to seven species of river turtles, spectacled caimans, southern river otters, many crustaceans, and more than 50 species of freshwater fish. You may also see spider, howler, and white-faced capuchin monkeys, several different species of birds, three-toed sloths, and crocodiles. If lucky, you might spot an endangered West Indian manatee. Return to the lodge for lunch. This afternoon, set out on an interpretive hike along the lodge’s trails to explore the mysterious jungle of Tortuguero. The rest of the afternoon is at leisure. Dinner at the lodge. Evening beach patrol with STC from 8 pm to 12 am. Overnight at Aninga Lodge. (BLD)

AUGUST 18 - SARAPIQUÍ
This morning transfer to Selva Verde Lodge & Rainforest Reserve, first by boat and then by bus. Located in the lush lowlands of north-central Costa Rica, Selva Verde comprises an ecolodge and a private tract of primary and secondary tropical rainforest. Look for tropical birds and wildlife among the dense vegetation. Protecting 500 acres of rainforest, Selva Verde offers many trails and lookout points. You’ll have the chance to see species such as the Keel-billed Toucan, Great Green Macaw, White-winged Becard, Sunbittern, Red-throated Ant-Tanager, and White-collared Manakin. After lunch, take a guided hike in the primary forest reserve to the 700-year-old almond tree. Dinner is at the lodge. Overnight at Selva Verde Lodge. (BLD)

AUGUST 19 - SARAPIQUÍ
After breakfast, depart for the Organization for Tropical Studies La Selva Biological Station, one of the world’s leading institutions in tropical education and research. La Selva was originally established in 1954 by Dr. Leslie Holdridge as a farm dedicated to experimentation on mixed plantations for the improvement of natural resources management. It was purchased in 1968 by the Organization for Tropical Studies and declared a private biological reserve and station. Since then, it has become one of the most important sites in the world for research on tropical rainforests. Over 240 scientific papers are published yearly from research conducted at the site. Be on the lookout for the coatis, collared peccaries, mantled howler monkeys, agoutis, three-toed sloths, Ornate Hawk-Eagle, Crested Guan, Great Tinamou, Pied Puffbird, and Spectacled Owl. Return to Selva Verde for lunch. This afternoon go on an optional, exciting whitewater rafting adventure! The river has a gentle current with several minor class I, II, and III rapids. A professional river guide escorts all rafting trips and all of the necessary safety equipment (helmet, life jackets, etc.) is provided, along with a lesson on rafting safety instructions and procedures. For those not interested in rafting, a boat trip along the river can be arranged as an alternative. Dinner at the lodge. After dinner, you may choose to continue your exploration with an evening night walk with your guide. Overnight at Selva Verde Lodge. (BLD)

AUGUST 20 - ARENAL
This morning depart Selva Verde and visit Don Alvaro’s Macaw Farm, where you’ll get an up-close experience with the macaws that live there. The farm is home to previously caged or abused macaws, and is unique in that the macaws actually fly free through the surrounding rainforest. Continue to La Fortuna town;
enjoy lunch en route. Upon arrival at Arenal Paraíso, check in and enjoy the rest of the afternoon at leisure to relax in the thermal hot spring pools heated by the nearby Arenal Volcano. Dinner this evening is in the dining room. After dinner, hear a talk by Costa Rican biologist Willy Pineda. Weather permitting, the hotel affords excellent views of the immense volcano from every room. Overnight at Arenal Paraíso. (BLD)

AUGUST 21 - ARENAL
This morning, explore the rainforest at Arenal Hanging Bridges. The site consists of 15 bridges ranging from 16 to 330 feet long, offering a unique view of the forest canopy from below and above. Six of the 15 bridges are suspended in the upper canopy of this mature forest trail system. The elevation is approximately 1,900 feet. The trail system straddles different types of ecosystems, forming a transitional vegetation strip with high biodiversity where both highland and lowland species occur. Next, visit Arenal Vida Campesina to learn about agricultural practices in the region like growing vegetables and dairy farming. While there, visit a sugar cane mill for a lesson in traditional methods of sugar cane processing. Before lunch, wake up your inner chef (and your appetite) by joining in a tortilla-making activity where you will learn how to make tortillas from scratch and cook them on a wood stove. This evening, enjoy dinner at the hotel. Overnight at Arenal Paraíso. (BLD)

AUGUST 22 - SAN JOSÉ
Early morning hike in Arenal Volcano National Park. Return to the hotel and check out. Depart for San José, with lunch en route. This evening, attend a farewell dinner at Hotel Bougainvillea. Overnight at Hotel Bougainvillea. (BLD)

AUGUST 23 - DEPART
This morning transfer to the airport for flights back to the US. Hotel check-out by noon. (B)

LAND PRICING
$2,745 per person

Cost includes meals, accommodations, and activities as indicated in the itinerary, in-country transportation, local guides in each region, and carbon offset.

Does not include international airfare, tips/gratuities, or items of a personal nature.

TRAVEL PROTECTION
Holbrook Travel purchases Travel Protection on behalf of all participants traveling in 2018 or beyond. 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 $175 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 May 12, 2020 at which time non-refundable final payment is due.