



COSTA RICA: PHOTOGRAPHY BEYOND THE SENSES...

October 17-24, 2015

All levels of
photography
experience welcome

**MAXIMUM 8
PARTICIPANTS**

\$2,349* USD dbl occ.
(airfare extra)
\$2869.00 USD sgl. occ.

Why Costa Rica?

Travel in one of the most beautiful natural environments in the world and learn how to maximize your photo skills and equipment with our two accomplished photographers, Steve Baylin & Steve Hiscock. For Nature lovers there is a great variety of exotic wildlife and tropical plants; butterflies and orchids, caimans & spectacular birds, rainforests and unique and varied landscapes are everywhere.

Your tour will be led by an expert Costa Rican guide and an experienced photographer who will share tips along the way to take that “perfect picture”. The environment is challenging and you will be provided with suggestions for equipment to bring; advice on taking pictures in a diverse and humid climate and assistance in working with extremely diverse lighting conditions. All cameras are welcome though emphasis will be on DSLR’s. The strength of the tour will also depend on the willingness of participants to share their own photography ideas and skills during the tour.

There will be a pre-trip seminar to provide advance information to all participants (by video-conference if outside the Calgary area) and prepare everyone for our tour.



Steve Baylin – Landscape and Nature Photographer



Steve Baylin, originally from Montreal, Quebec, is a retired paediatric dentist who was living and practising dentistry in Calgary, Alberta, Canada from 1978 - 2011. In 2012 he and his wife moved to beautiful Canmore, Alberta where Steve could, amongst other things, spend more of his time as a landscape and nature photographer.

Steve's passion for nature's abundant colors and species, observed in the intricate anatomical detail of flowers, frozen abstract palettes of winter, the beautiful flowing lines that landscapes present, and the wildlife his own 'backyard' have been the mainstay of his choice of subject matter.

Steve has a diverse appreciation for various landscape perspectives: The majestic grandeur of the mountains with their streams and lakes, the wide expanse of coastal beaches and tidal waters, as well as the quiet beauty of the desert. Most of his images have been captured in Quebec, Alberta, British Columbia and the south-western United States. His work has been shown and is on display in numerous venues in Alberta and has been published in magazines.

Steve is an avid summer and winter sports enthusiast. He has a zest for life and especially enjoys walking and hiking in the great outdoors. He will be spending time in Costa Rica prior to the group's arrival to work with local guides in preparation for your arrival.

Steve Hiscock – Sports & Action Photographer



Steve Hiscock has loved Photography since he borrowed his dad's Yashica rangefinder camera for a school trip. When he picked up the B&W prints from the local drug store a week later, he was hooked! Mostly a sports photographer, Steve also enjoys shooting landscape and Lifestyle images. His images have been featured in magazines, calendars, billboards and other media.

Living in Saskatoon, Steve has photographed many team sports including the Saskatchewan Roughriders, The U of S Huskies, the Saskatoon Hilltops and the New York Islanders training camp, as well as many NHL preseason games in Saskatoon. He has also been the Saskatoon Blades team photographer for the last ten years.

A few of the highlights of his sports career was shooting the 2010 World Juniors and the 2013 Memorial Cup in Saskatoon as well as the 101st Grey Cup in Regina from inside a helicopter for the first half of the game and on the field for the victory celebration.

He enjoys the challenge of capturing the decisive moment in all areas of photography, whether it is a glint of sunlight on the wings of a bird in flight; the split second that a puck hits the back of the net or the tear in a father's eye as he dances with his daughter at her wedding. Steve is always challenging himself to find a new angle or viewpoint in his photography, and enjoys learning about and sharing photography ideas with others.



Highlights of the Tour:

- Private transportation from the international airport to the hotel in San Jose and return
- Dinner on arrival and breakfast on departure day and breakfast, lunch & dinner throughout tour
- 4* hotels or lodges in good locations throughout tour (see detailed itinerary)
- Pre-tour seminar/webinar to help prepare participants for our tour with equipment advice
- 16 seat coaster bus throughout tour with driver, professional guide, tour leader and photographer
- Maximum 8 participants so terrific opportunity for interaction with fellow photographers and good sight lines at venues

Site Visits for Photo Shoot & Tour (details in full itinerary provided to all interested photographers)

- San Jose – Capital city of Costa Rica
 - Poas Volcano National Park – two crater volcano with 4 habitats of vegetation, stunted forest, cloud forest and an area of arrayans.
 - La Paz Waterfall Gardens – 70 acres of natural preserve, wildlife and forest to explore
 - Cano Negro Wildlife Refuge (Rio Frio) – richest biological diversity in Costa Rica
 - Arenal Lake Crossing (by microbus and boat)
 - Trapiche Tour (Costa Rican family project) – hands-on collecting coffee; sugarcane; farming etc.
 - EcoJungle Boat trip – Guacaililo Estuary and Tarcoles River – 250 different birds, wild crocodiles and the most important conservation area for the Scarlet Macaw in the country
 - Manuel Antonio National Park – a 2.5 hour nature walk/hike to the interior of the forest to observe the variety of flora and fauna including white-faced capuchin monkeys, raccoons, rodents and unique birds. You will have an opportunity to take a swim in the warm waters of the Pacific as well
 - Carara National Park – You will visit the northernmost region of Pacific rainforest remaining in Costa Rica and is a cross between a dry tropical reserve and humid jungle
- Note: Park entrance fees included in the cost of the tour.

Important Information



INCLUDED ON YOUR TOUR

- Private airport transportation to and from San Jose International Airport
- 7 nights' accommodation 4* hotels or lodges
- Dinner on arrival and breakfast on departure days – B, L, D on touring days
- All local transportation in an air-conditioned 16 seat coaster bus; boat and microbus transportation as required and noted in the itinerary
- All site visit admissions and park entry fees noted in the itinerary
- Services of a local professional guide; Merit Travel tour host; host photographer
- Pre-tour seminar/webinar to provide tour information and to assist in preparing your photographic equipment for the tour

NOT INCLUDED ON YOUR TOUR

- International airfare (Merit Travel can assist in booking your air if required)
- Trip cancellation and medical insurance (Merit Travel offers very competitive rates & coverage)
- Passport and travel documents as required
- Items of a personal nature
- Alcoholic beverages with meals
- Any site visits not listed on the itinerary or marked as optional
- Gratuities for guides and drivers
- Costa Rican departure tax payable at the airport in USD

Merit Travel delivers authentic travel experiences to the world's top destinations, with a team of passionate and dedicated Travel Consultants at over 25 offices across Canada. We have cruised, meandered, trekked, dived, golfed, skied, cycled, worked, and volunteered all over the planet! We put the pieces together, do the research, negotiate the deals, customize itineraries and create the perfect travel experience for you.

Small Group Travel: Our hosted tours have experienced group leaders "who have been there". Your photo shoot tour has been customized to meet the interests and unique needs of photographers and sites and venues have been selected to optimize your experience in capturing this incredible country. We have obtained the services of wonderful photographers who relate extremely well to enthusiasts and experts alike looking for a challenging yet rewarding photo shoot opportunity. All levels of experience welcome.

Merit Travel offers full travel insurance options that cover trip cancellation, full medical and baggage insurance if required. We also can assist with air bookings and those travelers who request additional services beyond the group tour.



Ron Jeffery B.Ed., M.Ed will be your host in Costa Rica. Ron is the manager of educational group travel and custom accounts for Merit Travel. He has travelled to over 32 countries with over 1,200 passengers. He was an educator for 32 years for the Calgary Board of Education and worked for 8 years for CBC Newsworld as an educational consultant. Ron is an enthusiastic travel photographer and loves Costa Rica!

To Book Your Tour And For Further Information Please Contact:

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