

Q and A with Harry S. Pariser about **Explore Costa Rica**

NEWS RELEASE



Owls at Hacienda Barú in Costa Rica. *Explore Costa Rica* contains a number of wildlife photos, both in color and in black and white.

Q. *Why is Costa Rica so appealing to travelers?*

“For many reasons. Costa Rica has a good infrastructure relative to its neighbors. It is peaceful, friendly and environmentally concerned and has relatively high standards of living, literacy, education, hygiene, and safety. One may visit both coasts in the course of a single day, and Costa Rica offers virtually *every* type of activity you can imagine: kayaking, hiking, windsurfing, surfing, rock climbing, mountain climbing, horseback riding, ballooning, and more!”

Q. *What are the most distinctive things about Costa Rica?*

“Costa Rica is compact and relatively easy to get around in. It maintains extensive tracts of rainforest, a number of cloud forests, tropical dry forests, and spectacular volcanoes; beaches line both coasts. Legendary for its biological diversity, it is easy to spot monkeys, toucans, coatis, and other creatures. Costa Rica is also unique in having hundreds of nature lodges and bed-and-breakfast inns. Many of these are quite amazing places to stay: each has a *distinct* character and personable proprietors. Some own private nature preserves with trails. All are covered in my book.”

Q. *What makes your guide distinct from other travel guides to Costa Rica?*

“Mine is more *personal* than most. Included are many useful tips, readings, reader recommendations, and *special places*. I provide extensive information on wildlife, rainforests, national parks, ecotourism projects, history, and environmental controversies. It is hand-tailored for visitors who travel to learn and grow. Included are numerous color and black-and-white photos, 36 maps, and *thousands* of fax numbers, web sites, and e-mail addresses.

Q. *Who should read your guide?*

“Anyone planning to visit. It is helpful for *every* visitor—students, surfers, divers, parents with children, birdwatchers, and hikers.”

Q. *Where may people buy your book?*

“Explore Costa Rica is distributed in the US and Canada by SCB Distributors (www.scbdistributors.com). Gazelle distributes Manatee Press titles in Europe and the UK. If your bookstore does not have *Explore Costa Rica*, ask them to order a copy.

► Purchase it on the internet at www.EcoCostaRica.com

Harry S. Pariser has authored ten travel guides to Central American and Caribbean destinations. He is the recipient of the Lowell Thomas Award (Best Guidebook—1995 Silver) from the Society of American Travel Writers for *The Adventure Guide to Barbados*. His articles have appeared in *The San Jose Mercury News*, *Caribbean Travel & Life*, *The Japan Times*, *Costa Rica Outlook*, *Belize First*, *Atevo.com*, *Weissmann's Travel Reports*, and other publications. Mr. Pariser resides in San Francisco, California.

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