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AMPHIBIANS & REPTILES

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

The Costa Rican International Herpetological
Symposium and Field Exploration
September 03- 06, 2026

To be held at Selva Verde Lodge & Rainforest Reserve

Come and enjoy herpetology in nature!





Summary

Selva Verde Lodge & Private Reserve is doing another exciting Herpetological Symposium this year! The Costa Rican International Herpetological Symposium is back for its sixth edition.

You already know that Costa Rica is home to 5% of the planet's biodiversity and at Selva Verde, and you will experience that diversity firsthand. Though small in geographic area, Costa Rica has one of the highest densities of herpetofauna in the world with more than 440 species of reptiles and amphibians in a surface of 51,000 km².

The Symposium will feature presentations and workshops in Spanish and English about herpetology and herpetoculture by organizations and individuals. Come and learn about new findings and research from all over the Americas and beyond or see how you can share your own work with conference participants and other interested people.

This is the 6th herpetological symposium at Selva Verde Lodge since they began in 2013. This event brings together herpetologists from Costa Rica, Central and South America, the United States and Europe, but we welcome herpetologists from all over the world! Join us for an exchange of knowledge, learning, and enjoyment of Costa Rica herpetology at its best!

Highlights

- Hear from renowned National Geographic explorer and herpetologist Bruce Means, one of the few specialists in the Guiana Shield tepuis. Author of many articles and books, Bruce will enchant us with his memorable adventures at the far corners of the Lost World.
- Come and learn about herping in wild and remote places searching for rare snakes, and filming documentaries for Discovery channel with Myke Clarkson.
- Meet Mario Urriola, owner of Serpentarium Maravillas Tropicales in Panama, and learn about Panamanian snakes.
- Listen to Aaron Gómez, one of the leading snake venom researchers in Costa Rica, who works with the famed Clodomiro Picado Institute.
- Join Rodolfo Vargas Leitón, owner of Refugio Animal/Herpetológico de Costa Rica, in discussions about conservation and legal issues when working with amphibians and reptiles in Costa Rica.
- Connect with Milton Salazar, leading herpetologist in Nicaragua, who will enlighten us about the state of knowledge of amphibians and reptiles in that country.
- Learn about the work of Erick Arias, herpetologist at the University of Costa Rica, focused on some of the lesser-known amphibians, the salamanders.
- Join Cesar Barrio-Amorós, taxonomist and global herpetological explorer, photographer, and adventurer who has put together the line-up for our Symposium and will serve as our emcee throughout the event.
- Enjoy 4 days and 3 nights of talks and field exploration to observe reptiles and amphibians in their natural habitat at Selva Verde.
- Investigate the impressive natural history of the Sarapiquí River, search for crocodiles, turtles, basilisks, and iguanas.
- Visit the nearby Lapa Verde Reserve for a night hike!





Costs for the Symposium

Price per Person:

\$640.00 Per person in double occupancy

\$785.00 Per person in single occupancy

\$560.00 Per person in triple occupancy

\$410.00 Per student & guide with valid ID (can be up to triple & quad occupancy)

\$ 60.00 Day pass for local people includes lunch

Includes: 3 nights / 4 days accommodation at Selva Verde Lodge, presentations and talks, Symposium t-shirt, all meals throughout the symposiums, field excursions, transportation within the symposium activities, entrance fees, and activities as described. All corresponding taxes.

Excludes: Transportation to and from San José to Sarapiquí and return (more info below). Alcoholic beverages, tips, etc.

Transportation: Transfers between Selva Verde Lodge and the airport or San José, a two-hour drive, are \$80 per person each way or \$160 round-trip. Pricing can decrease with groups of 4 or more passengers. This pricing is valid only for those arriving on September 03rd and departing on September 06th. Please be advised that passengers will be grouped together and it may be necessary to wait up to 3 hours from your flight arrival or departure for transportation.

Payment & Cancellations: Deposit and Payment: To confirm your reservations a 50% deposit is due. Final payment will be due by August 03rd 2026. Register before April 01st 2026, and receive a complimentary book, "Pocket Guide to the Amphibians and Reptiles of Costa Rica" by Twan Leenders. Cancellations received prior to August 03rd 2026 are refundable minus \$30 administration fee. Cancellations received between up are refundable less a penalty equal to 50% of the total cost of the symposium per person. If you choose not to participate in any part of the program, refunds are not available for any activities, meals, accommodations, or presentations. We are unable to grant refunds for any missed portions of your reservation because of missed or delayed flights. Additionally, no refund is guaranteed for unused reservations because of weather, personal health, or social disturbance.

To enroll & for more information: contact Keyla Campos, Reservations, Selva Verde Lodge, reservaciones@selvaverde.com or +506-4001 3677 (Costa Rica), +1 800-720-1165 (other countries), +506-6025-4400 (WhatsApp only).



We will confirm your reservations upon receipt of your deposit.





AMPHIBIANS and REPTILES of Costa Rica



IF YOU SIGN UP BEFORE APRIL 1ST,
WE'LL GIVE YOU THIS BOOK FOR FREE!

TWAN LEENDERS





Presentations & Posters:

Talks: the topic for presentations should focus on research results in scientific knowledge or conservation of amphibians and reptiles. English or Spanish. 30 minutes maximum (mention the duration). The abstract should be in Arial 12. Maximum 300 words.

Posters: posters must have dimensions of 80 cm wide x 1.20 m high. English or Spanish. The funding is the responsibility of the author and may have sponsors.

Deadline: for us to receive your abstract for your talk or poster is August 3. Please email jcastillotus@gmail.com

For questions about posters & papers: Jose Ivan Castillo Gomez, Naturalist guide, email jcastillotus@gmail.com or WhatsApp +506 8622 2319





Schedule

Day 1 / Thursday, Sept 3rd

- 2:00-4:00 pm Check in at Selva Verde Lodge
- 4:30 pm to 5:00 pm Welcome to V Costa Rica's International Herpetological Symposium
- 5:00 pm a 5:30 pm Introduction to Selva Verde Lodge and its Herpetofauna, by Iván Castillo
- 6:30 to 8:00 pm Dinner
- 8:15 pm to 10:15 pm Night walk in Selva Verde Rainforest Reserve

Day 2 / Friday, Sept 4th

- 7:00 am to 8:50 am Breakfast
- 9:00 pm to 10:00 pm Opening Conference: Bruce Means; The herpetological exploration of the Lost World (Guianan tepuis)
- 11:00 to 12:00 Herpetofauna conference: Cesar Barrio-Amorós, A glimpse of diversity of Neotropical amphibians
- 12:00 to 12:30 Herpetofauna conference. To be determined
- 12:30 pm to 2:00 pm Lunch
- 2:10 to 3:10 pm conference Herpetofauna: Rodolfo Vargas
- 3:15 to 4:15 pm Herpetofauna conference: Aaron Gómez, ICP
- 4:15-4:30 short break
- 4:30 to 5:00: Herpetofauna conference. To be determined
- 5:00 to 5:45 pm Herpetofauna conference: Erick Arias
- 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm Dinner

Day 3 / Saturday, Sept 5th

- 7:00 am to 9:00 am Breakfast
- 9:30 am to 12:00 am Sarapiquí River Boat Safari, "Herpetology and Natural History Field Trip". Crocodile adventure
- 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm Lunch
- 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm - artisan exhibition
- 2:10 to 3:10 pm Afternoon Herpetofauna conference: Mike Clarkson
- 3:15 to 3:45: Herpetofauna conference. To be determined
- 3:45-4:00: Short break
- 4:00-4:20: Herpetofauna conference. To be determined
- 4:20-4:50
- 4:55 to 5:55 Pompilio Campos, Serpentarium La Virgen, Costa Rica
- 6:00 to 7:00 Dinner
- 7:30 am to 10:30 pm Field Trip: Visit to Lapa Verde Reserve





Schedule

Day 4 / Sunday, Sept 6th

- 7:00 am to 8:30 am Breakfast
- 9:00 am to 10:00 Conference Herping: Cesar Barrio-Amorós
- 10:00 to 11:00: Milton Salazar: Herpetofauna de Nicaragua
- 11:00 to 11:59 Mike Clarkson
- 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm Lunch
- 2:00 pm a 2:30 pm: Certification for CECOS participants
- 2:30 pm to 3:00 pm. Certification
- 3:00 pm to 3:45 pm Close up Conference. Bruce Means
- 4:00pm: Check out

Collaborative institution and Sponsors

