



**PACUARE RESERVE**  
ECOLOGY PROJECT INTERNATIONAL

# Pacuare Reserve

A Unique Destination for Conservation, Research, and Environmental Education in Costa Rica



**Pacuare Reserve** was founded in 1989. Its area covers 688.6 hectares of wetlands and tropical forests (about 1980 acres), along with 6km (3.7 miles) of Costa Rican Caribbean seashore. The Reserve is located in Matina in the province of Limón, just 30 km south of Tortuguero. The area of The Reserve is surrounded by Tortuguero Canals and the Caribbean Sea, places rich in wild fauna and flora.

**Ecology Project International (EPI)** has served as **steward of Pacuare Reserve** since 2016. EPI is an international nonprofit organization with a leading role in bioliteracy. The organization's mission is to inspire youth with nature and empower them with science, helping to foster tomorrow's leaders.

In alignment with EPI's mission, Pacuare Reserve seeks to promote sustainability its operations and positively impact development of the surrounding communities through educational programs, ecotourism, volunteering, and biodiversity research.



Main nesting beach for leatherback sea turtles

Photo: Álvaro Cubero



The only nesting site known in Central and North America for the colony of the agami heron (*Agamia agami*)

Photo: Juan José Pucci



An important biological corridor for species of wild cats such as jaguars and ocelots

Photo: Isabel Troyo



30+ species of mammals



253 species of birds



20 species of amphibians

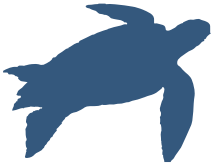


40 species of reptiles

## Research Program | Conservation and Research of Sea Turtles

### Activity for visitors

Nocturnal census



You can participate in the sea turtle census by observing and helping in the monitoring process, registering data and triangulation of the nests, and witnessing directly the process of nesting. Visitors receive an introductory training and protocol for the beach work, along with guidance on appropriate attire for the activity.

#### Availability

From March to October

#### Seasonality

Leatherback nesting: from March to July.

Green Turtle and Hawksbill turtle nesting: from July to October.

### Activity for visitors

The birth of hatchlings



You can visit the area dedicated to sea turtle egg protection, observe the hatchlings, and participate in the nest exhumation process.

#### Availability

From May to October

#### Seasonality

Peak: June and July

## Research Program | Monitoring of the Agami Heron Nesting Colony

### Activity for visitors

Unique species observation



Walk through the forest trails to the Agami Sanctuary. You'll get a chance to admire this bird in one of the few nesting sites that can be reached by humans around the world. You'll learn the natural history of the species while collecting valuable data for research.

\*This visit to observe agami heron must follow the established framework and guidelines set by the research program.

[Check the observation protocol for agami heron here](#)

**Seasonality** | From May to August

## Recreational Activities for Visitors

Activity	Description	Time of Year
Tour in the Canals	Unforgettable experience of observing diverse species such as birds, mammals, and reptiles, while admiring the beautiful scenery of the site.	All activities are offered year round
Forest Walks	Walk the tropical rain forest trails to observe native wildlife, flora, and fauna.	
Night Walks	Walk through "the gardens" and along the seashore to find amphibians, reptiles, and nocturnal fauna.	

**Sample Itinerary** | This is just a taste of the experience you could have in Pacuare Reserve. The order and nature of the activities depend on weather, season, and logistics.

### Day 1

Check in Pacuare Reserve

Welcome and walk to the station

Introduction for the Sea Turtles Research Program and protocol

Sea Turtle Census

### Day 2

Forest Walk

Canal Tour

Sea Turtle Census

### Day 3

Agamis Heron Observation

Canal Tour

Nocturnal Walk

### Day 4

Check out

## What you should you pack:

What do you need to bring to participate in all the activities we offer? Please check out the packing list and get ready to prepare yourself to live the Pacuare Reserve experience!

[Check the PR packing list here](#)

## How to reach Pacuare Reserve:

Access to The Reserve is only available by boat through the canals. To reach the boat dock, visitors have these options:

### By car | Option 1

Leave your vehicle in the private parking of Bataán and take a taxi to reach the dock. Check these useful links to reach the private parking service.



### By car | Option 2

Drive to the Goshen dock, accessing Bataán way. Leave the vehicle in a private parking service there. You can use this useful links.



[Click to see the exact location](#)

### By regular bus service

You need to take the bus route **San José-Siquirres** in the terminal **Caribeños** (if you are considering this option be sure to be there at early morning). When you reach **Siquirres**, get off and get another bus for **Bataán**, and then you would need a taxi to reach the indicated dock when you made your reservation.

*Note: Pacuare Reserve can provide you with the contact information of the taxi service for Bataán.*

## Schedule for pick up at the dock:

**11:00 and 14:00** Standard pick up times at the dock.  
**16:00** last pick up time at the dock.

The boat transportation is pre-planned and pick-up times should be scheduled at least one week in advance to ensure a boat is available.

Pacuare Reserve's check in time: **11:00** or **14:00** | Reserve's check out time: **10:00**

It is possible to arrange schedules for pick ups at different times, but they would depend on the offer and preplanned request, at least one week before the arrival. Be sure to contact our agent at the reservation office, by phone or WhatsApp message, when you reach **Bataán** town. Also, it is important to report any delay.

## Special Conditions of the Place

Pacuare Reserve is located in a remote area and its sustainable operation works based on green energy sources and special communication alternatives:



There is only solar energy, we depend on the environmental conditions to provide this service. Bringing a flashlight is very important for your visit.



There is light only in the rooms of Ecolodge (Casa Grande and Casa Baula bungalow), in the dining room, and at the lab, but this service is not always guaranteed.



Due to the remote conditions of The Reserve, there is no cell phone service. We offer Wi-Fi in certain areas, however this service may fail at any time.



Meals are offered in a communal dining area that is shared with other visitors and staff.

## Security Standards and Co-habitation Rules

In order to offer a contact with nature experience that is safe and secure for both visitors and wildlife, there are some security standards and co-habitation rules to follow during your visit:



Swimming in the sea is not allowed. The area is open sea, so the currents are strong and dangerous.



Do not approach or swim in the canals, due to the proximity of crocodiles and boat traffic.



Trails can be used only when accompanied by our Pacuare Reserve Staff.



Alcohol consumption is only allowed in Ecolodge Area (Casa Grande y Casa Baula) and only for guests who booked a room in this area.



Any use of illegal drugs is prohibited.



At 20:00 quiet hours are in effect and lights must be turned off, due to sea turtle night census protocols.

## Wildlife Protection Guidelines

Because our research programs are active year-round, certain activities are regulated to avoid a negative impact interference on wildlife.

- 1 During sea turtles nesting, at night, you cannot walk freely at the beach. You must be part of the nocturnal census group.
- 2 Cameras are not allowed in the census nor any equipment that generates light according to SINAC (The official institution which regulates research in the Conservation Areas of Costa Rica.)
- 3 Visiting the agami heron sanctuary is only allowed with a qualified member of our staff and proper protocol must be followed.
- 4 We reserve the right of implementing new rules if needed to protect health and wellbeing of visitors and wildlife.

[Check the observation protocol for Agami Heron here](#)



**If you need assistance with your reservation or more information, feel free to contact us by these means:**

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**Reservation Office**

**Line 1:** +506 89099122 | **Line 2:** +506 62741035

**Email**

[esteban@ecologyproject.org](mailto:esteban@ecologyproject.org) | [jenny@ecologyproject.org](mailto:jenny@ecologyproject.org)



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