



We have released our **2023 Summer Program Guide**. You can learn about this year's research efforts and preview the Institute's next major programming initiative by viewing or downloading the full guide [here](#). Stay tuned for our final reports in the coming weeks.

FEATURED PARK



Photos and facts of your favorite parks, one issue at a time

Lassen Volcanic National Park California

FACT 1: As its name suggest, all of Lassen's landscape has been shaped by geologically recent volcanic activity, with all four types of volcanoes found within the park's boundaries. In the century since Lassen Peak's last major eruption in 1915, the park's vegetation has recovered and almost fully obscured the event's remaining deposits.

FACT 2: As it passes the trailhead to Lassen Peak, the park's road reaches an elevation of 8,512 ft, making it the highest road on the entire 500 mile-long Cascade Range. That's more than

1.6 MILES UP



Nominate *your* favorite local, state, or national park [here](#) so our subscribers can learn about it.

PARK PERKS



Visualizing key research to show why parks matter

In countries seeking to expand sustainable tourism, even those exploring nature-based capital accounting, the balance between habitat conservation and built infrastructure can be delicate. In a study published last year in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, a team of American and Costa Rican researchers examined this issue. The authors used species distribution models, park and infrastructure maps, and Flickr metadata to assess the influence of biodiversity on tourism patterns in Costa Rica.

Across Costa Rica, sites closer to roads and protected areas as well as sites with more hotels attracted more tourists. Proximity to roads was the strongest predictor of tourism volume. And although hotel density was found to be a slightly stronger predictor of tourism than distance to protected areas, tourism ultimately decreased in areas with the highest hotel density. Biodiversity also affected tourism at a national level. Sites richer with threatened and endemic birds saw higher visitation than less biodiverse sites. Species richness of amphibians, reptiles, and mammals along with overall bird species richness (including non-threatened birds) also directly impacted tourism activity.

Tourism Patterns in Costa Rica

Site attributes predicting visitation



size indicates relative strength of association

* at low to moderate density levels

This portion of the research analyzed visitation patterns of *all* the nation's tourists, not just those with a predisposition for finding wildlife. The study suggests that, while the prevalence of infrastructure like hotels and roads is ultimately more influential, infrastructure and biodiversity *jointly* impact Costa Rica's economy, with tourism highest in places where both are present.

Which hummingbirds can push doorbell buttons?

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