



BIODIVERSITY

The main attraction of the park are the birds, especially aquatic. More than 60 species of birds are associated with the wetlands of the park, among them the jacana (*Jacana Spinosa*), the piche (*Dendrocygna Autumnalis*), the great egret (*Ardea Alba*), and the jabiru (*Jabiru Mycateria*), which is the most emblematic. There are about 300 species in total in the park.

The Tempisque River is the western limit of the park, which protects one of the largest populations of american crocodiles (*Cocodylus Acutus*) in all its distribution. The group of mammals with its 89 representatives (most of which encompass a great diversity of bats, from fisher to vampires), is also one of the most expected to find in the park. Among the most common you can find the pizote (*Nasua Narica*), the raccoon (*Procyon Lotor*), the white-faced monkeys (*Cebus Capucinus*) and the congos or howler monkeys (*Alouatta Palliata*).

Amphibians and reptiles are around 56 species. From those, the most common to observe are the tungara frog, the frog of leaf litter, the toboba gata, the garrobo and the green iguana.

Currently, the list of plant species includes more than 750 species. Some of them are threatened species such as the cocobolo and the guayacan real (hollywood). Plus, there are around 410 species of mushrooms.

Due to this great biological diversity, the Palo Verde National Park is very attractive for tourists and researchers because it is a place that allows exploring a great variety of ecosystems.



Youtube



Waze



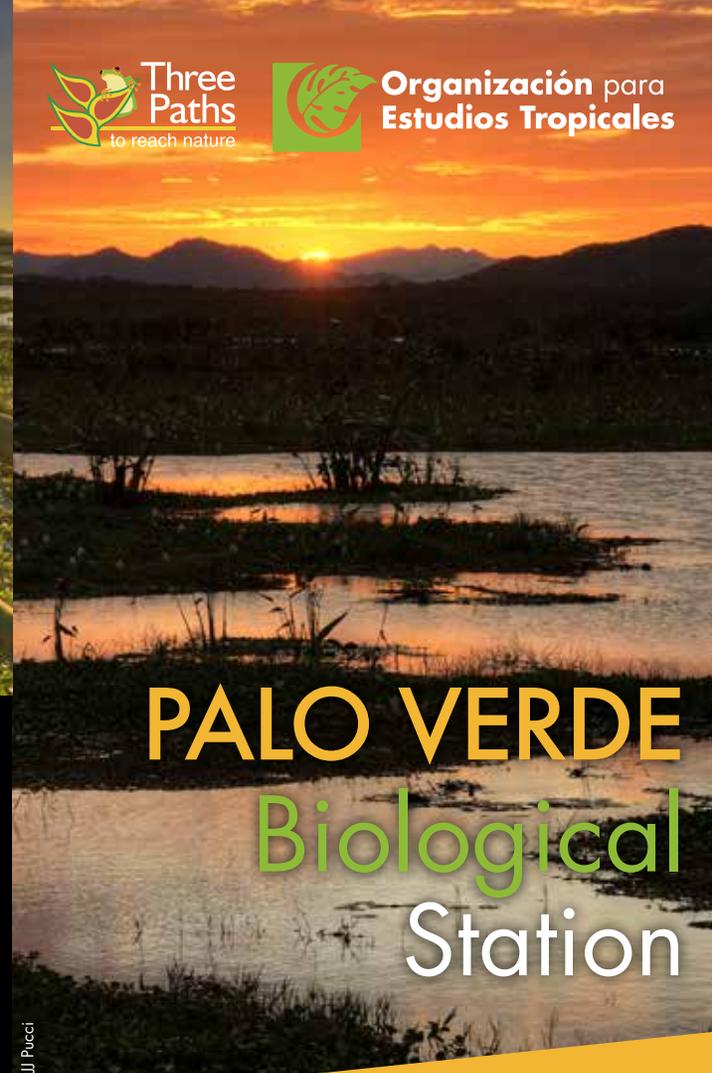
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** All visitors must pay the entrance fee to Palo Verde National Park: USD \$12 for foreigners and CRC 1000 for nationals and residents, in cash and directly to the park rangers ** Park hours are from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. without exceptions; outside that time the gate remains closed. The value of the entrance can change according to the SINAC.



Organización para Estudios Tropicales

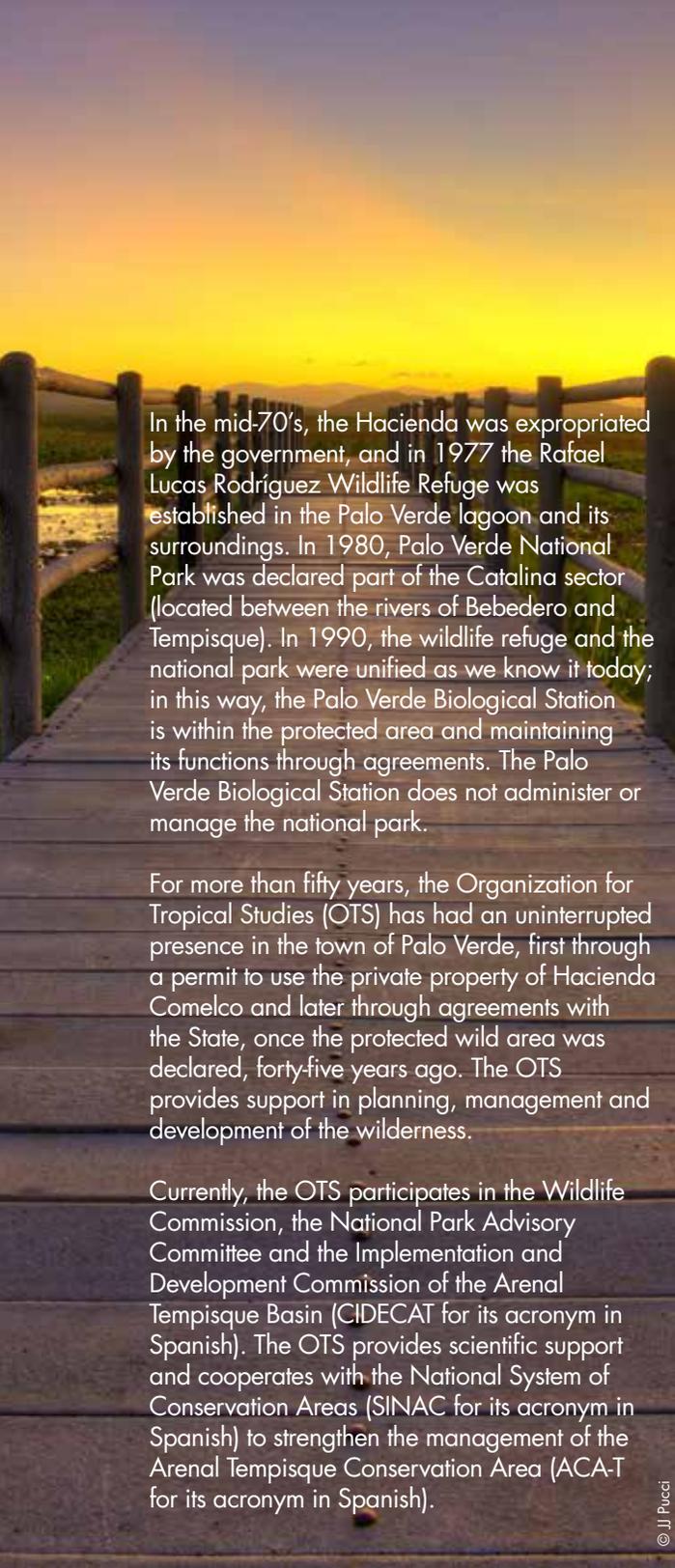


PALO VERDE Biological Station

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In the mid-70's, the Hacienda was expropriated by the government, and in 1977 the Rafael Lucas Rodríguez Wildlife Refuge was established in the Palo Verde lagoon and its surroundings. In 1980, Palo Verde National Park was declared part of the Catalina sector (located between the rivers of Bebedero and Tempisque). In 1990, the wildlife refuge and the national park were unified as we know it today; in this way, the Palo Verde Biological Station is within the protected area and maintaining its functions through agreements. The Palo Verde Biological Station does not administer or manage the national park.

For more than fifty years, the Organization for Tropical Studies (OTS) has had an uninterrupted presence in the town of Palo Verde, first through a permit to use the private property of Hacienda Comelco and later through agreements with the State, once the protected wild area was declared, forty-five years ago. The OTS provides support in planning, management and development of the wilderness.

Currently, the OTS participates in the Wildlife Commission, the National Park Advisory Committee and the Implementation and Development Commission of the Arenal Tempisque Basin (CIDECA for its acronym in Spanish). The OTS provides scientific support and cooperates with the National System of Conservation Areas (SINAC for its acronym in Spanish) to strengthen the management of the Arenal Tempisque Conservation Area (ACAT for its acronym in Spanish).

In the Palo Verde National Park, where the station is located, it is possible to identify around 10 different types of habitats, from wetlands and mangroves in the lower areas of the park, to the limestone hills and the dry forest that grows in them. This wide variety of environments allows the existence of an abundant flora and fauna, which manage to find food, shelter and breeding sites in the protected area.

Palo Verde constitutes one of the main sanctuaries in Central America for the migratory and resident aquatic species, both of the dry forest and of the extensive seasonal wetlands that make up the right edge of the Tempisque River. During most of the year, the wetlands that can be seen from the station and that are accessible within a few minutes, provide shelter for storks, herons, divers, ibis, ducks, jacanas and other waterfowl, many of them migratory.

It is located in Guanacaste province, in the northwest of Costa Rica (10 ° 21N, 85 ° 21W). Distance from San José: 230 km, approximately 4 hours. The park covers an area of almost 20,000 hectares, which combines dry tropical forest and almost 9,000 seasonal wetlands.

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TOURS

A two-hour guided natural history walk is offered at 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. There is also a two-hour boat tour through the Tempisque River as well as a morning bird watching tour or nocturnal wildlife viewing tour; prior reservation must be made, according to availability, with our reservations department.

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FACILITIES

- 5 rustic rooms with private bathroom
- Dining room
- Parking
- Free WiFi
- Trails (entrance fee must be paid when entering the park)

MEALS

The food is served in our family-style dining room with a capacity for up to 40 people. Vegetarian foods are a daily option and we are prepared for food restrictions (with prior notice). We also manage the take-away mode (with prior request).

By staying at our biological station you will have free access to the indicated trails; please check our reservations rates.

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