

Join us at Mangofish Studios and Volunteer with Photography Inspiring Children in Conservation!

Building local capacity and empowering youth in conservation actions:



PC: S. Hooper, Mangofish Studios

In May 2023 we will be conducting a number of Photography Inspiring Children in Conservation (PICC) sessions with local schools on the Azuero peninsula, a unique and biodiverse area that is the focus of many conservation projects (see PhotographyInspiringConservation.org for past PICC projects; click [here](#) to see pdf of 2022 PICC conservation coloring book).



PC: K. West 2022, Mangofish forest

We would love to have your participation and volunteer skills to share your passion in wildlife conservation!

Contact PICC Director Kathy West to learn more:
PICC.director@gmail.com

Itinerary:

May 3: – Arrive in Panama City and travel to Mangofish Studios, Los Santos, Panama

May 4-5: – Your time to explore: go birding, hiking, monkey watching, wildlife photography, beach time, shopping, dining

May 6: Morning training in PICC program and wildlife photography, afternoon hosting a conservation club from Pedasi and training them in photography, field sketching, conservation issues, primate ecology and behavior, etc.

May 7: Mostly a free day to choose an activity, some time to help prep materials and organize for school programs

May 8-11: Morning PICC sessions with children in Pedasi, Cañas and other areas, afternoons free to relax

May 12: Teaching at school in am, printing the children's art, photographs and stories

May 13: Tentatively planned community celebration with gallery display of students' works

May 14: Return travel to Panama City. You are welcome to extend your stay at Mangofish for \$100 / night / per person

Volunteer fee: May 3-14, 2023 \$3,000/11 nights. Includes local transportation, full-board lodging, and PICC training.

Included:

RT Transportation (car/private bus) from Panama City to Mangofish

Full-board and lodging at Mangofish Studios (3 meals a day, plus open access to kitchen for individual cooking and use of refrigerator)

Large, air-conditioned room with private bathroom, electricity, wifi

Freshwater pool

Private beaches

Not Included:

International flights to Panama City, Panama

Photography and Tourism Opportunities

We are excited to share the beautiful and biodiverse [Mangofish Studios](https://MangofishStudios.com), a private 10-room villa on the Pacific Ocean with extensive wildlife habitats! We will be the only guests during this 11-day period – space is limited.

There are incredible photography experiences while staying here: walk up the driveway in the evening to watch the "Mangofish" Azuero howler monkeys family feed and settle in for the night; watch right from your second floor deck in the early light to see tayra (*Eira barbara*) trot across the grounds; photograph gorgeous

rufus-tailed hummingbirds (*Amazilia t. tzacatl*), fork-tailed flycatchers (*Tijereta sabanera*), blue-gray tanagers (*Thraupis episcopus cana*) and flocks of parakeets while eating breakfast on the terrace; watch a nesting pair of habituated yellow-headed caracara (*Caracara caeciamarilla*) on the private beach; see even more Endangered Azuero howler monkeys in the forests around the schools and towns; and watch squirrel cocoos (*Cuco ardilla*) and Chestnut-headed oropendola (*Oropendola cabecicastana*) displaying in the evening light. Other birds easily seen in the area (but certainly not an inclusive list!) are Lance-tailed manakins (*Chiroxiphia lanceolata*) (think "Michael Jackson slide dance"!), Blue-crowned manakins (*Pipra coronate miniscula*), Great black hawks (*Buteogallus urubitinga ridgwayi*), Magnificent frigatebirds (*Frigata magnifica*), and tanagers, warblers, grackles, and kingbirds. The night sky at MangoFish is pitch black and I have enjoyed taking night sky pictures and watching the lightning storms in the distance over the Pacific. Park yourself on the bench or hammock on the bluffs and take in the crashing waves, lines of pelicans, ever-changing ocean light, and quiet peacefulness of being alone on the Pacific coast.

Watch the trailer and learn more about how [Mangofish Studios](#) is developing their sustainable and off-the-grid luxury villa. The perfect sweet spot between wildness and luxury.

Optional activities can be arranged (at your own cost; let me know of your interests and we can make your arrangements with trusted guides / businesses):

- Horseback riding in Los Santos mountains (private reserve) to search for Critically Endangered Azuero Spider monkey (\$50 per person for 2-hour forest trail ride on horseback)
- Custom birding trips to National Parks or on water (via small fishing boats) to Isla Iguana
- Surfing
- Beach community restaurants, bars, dancing
- Rental cars can be picked up in Pedasi and gives you the freedom to explore the local areas on your own. Safe, friendly and comfortable areas to explore.

More about Los Santos area:

Pedasi is a quaint and colorful small town with a mix of Panamanians and expats. There are a few grocery stores (many of which stock "gringo" gluten-free and organic items), a couple of banks, several small hotels and hostels, cafés, restaurants and bars, a rental car business, and gas stations.

Playa Venao is one of a few surf communities on the Azuero and a popular tourist destination. There is a small grocery store with fresh, local produce, a gas station with a general store and ATM, several hotels and hostels, and numerous restaurants and bars on the beach.

