



Costa Rica – A Tropical Paradise

January 23 – February 1, 2018 (10 Days)

Costa Rica is a special place, a clean and safe country of natural beauty and wildlife. Costa Rica is known for its incredible scenery and immense biodiversity. Roughly a quarter of its area is made up of protected jungle, brimming with exotic wildlife. Our Costa Rican naturalist/guide leads us from coast to coast through the many ecosystems. The animals are equally as impressive be it a jaguar (the largest cat in the New World), the ever-elusive [Margay](#), or the wonderful birds like the green or scarlet macaws. The amphibians are also quite impressive. The [poison dart frogs](#), with their bright colors, are bound to catch your attention.

Included meals are denoted: Breakfast: **B**, Lunch: **L**, Dinner: **D**

Day 1

We fly to San Jose, Costa Rica's capital city, meet our naturalist/guide, and transfer to the [Aurola Holiday Inn](#), where we lodge for two nights.

Day 2 **B,L,D**

This morning takes us to Sarchi, where we enjoy shopping and sightseeing. [Sarchi](#) is renowned for the vibrantly hand-painted oxcarts which have become the unofficial symbol of Costa Rica. Later that day, we visit the [Espiritu Santo Coffee Estate](#) for an informative tour that describes the entire coffee-making process from seed to cup. As a special treat before dinner, we enjoy a presentation by [Jack Donnelly, an American ex-patriot](#) who has lived in Costa Rica for many years. His insights will entertain and enlighten us. In addition, all guests will receive a complimentary copy of his book. Afterwards, we enjoy another delicious dinner at our hotel.

Day 3 **B,L,D**

We travel through the lush [Braulio Carrillo National Park](#) rainforest, en route to [Tortuguero National Park](#) (on the North Eastern Costa Rican coast) where we have lunch. Then we visit the nearby village of Tortuguero with our guide and learn about the thousands of sea turtles which nest on the beach every year. Located in an unspoiled jungle close to the Caribbean Sea, the [Pachira Lodge](#) is home for the next two nights.

Day 4 **B,L,D**

Considered "The Amazon of Costa Rica," [Tortuguero National Park](#) is a tropical wetland filled with exotic flora and fauna waiting to be discovered. We travel in specially-designed boats to explore the extensive network of waterways that wind through the wildlife-rich vegetation. Watch for monkeys, sloths, iguanas, crocodiles, frogs, flowers, turtles, and birds by the hundreds. In the afternoon, our guide leads a nature walk on some of the jungle trails.

Day 5 **B,L,D**

We enjoy an early breakfast, then take a boat ride and transfer to [El Ceibo](#) restaurant for lunch. Continuing on to [Arenal](#), we stop en route at [El Muelle](#) to see the large number of green iguanas that inhabit the trees and bamboo beside [Las Iguanas Restaurant](#). There will be free time to relax and enjoy the hot springs at the hotel before dinner. We stay at [Arenal Kioro](#) for two nights.



Day 6 **B,L,D**

Our day starts with a tour of the [Arenal Hanging Bridges](#). Our guide points out the interesting flora and fauna. Monkeys, sloths, colorful birds, and reptiles are abundant and likely to make an appearance for our cameras. We savor lunch at [La Pradera](#), a local restaurant in the town of La Fortuna. Our free afternoon gives us plenty of time for shopping or relaxing at our beautiful resort hotel with on-site hot springs. Dinner this evening is at [Benedictus Restaurant](#).

Day 7 **B,L,D**

After breakfast this morning, we leave the Arenal area and drive south to the Pacific Coast and board our [Jungle Crocodile Safari Tour](#) pontoon boat. We navigate through mangroves and sail up the [Tarcoles River](#). The up-close views of basking and swimming crocodiles are fascinating and the variety of birdlife is remarkable. It truly is a bird watcher's paradise! We continue to Manuel Antonio National Park where we lodge two nights at [Hotel El Parador Resort and Spa](#). (Trip Advisor has given this property its 2017 Traveler's Choice designation!)

Day 8 **B,D**

After breakfast, we will walk the trail in Manuel Antonio National Park, enjoying the alluring, pristine beaches. Those with a stronger sense of adventure may choose to hike some of the more challenging trails. We will have the option to go into the nearby town of [Quepos](#) for shopping, or return to the resort to enjoy the pool and other luxury facilities. Late afternoon finds us on a delightful sunset dinner cruise along the coastline. Watch for dolphins on this one!

DAY 9 **B,L,D**

After breakfast, walk the trails at El Parador before departing for San Jose. We stop for lunch at [Hacienda Nosavar](#), then go into the city for a tour of the [National Theater](#). A farewell dinner this evening at our hotel is a fitting end to the day.

DAY 10 **B**

After a very early breakfast, we transfer to the airport for our departure from stunning, and unforgettable, Costa Rica.

PLEASE NOTE: This tour includes extensive trail-walking and hiking in the parks to observe the birds and animals and view the natural beauty. People of any age who are in normal good health can participate. People who cannot comfortably walk a slow mile, or climb steps, may choose to miss some of the activities.

Itinerary subject to change



PRICE PER PERSON:

\$3,295 Double occupancy

\$4,090 Single occupancy

TOUR PRICE INCLUDES:

- Roundtrip airfare to and from ABQ
- Transportation by deluxe motorcoach
- 9 nights' lodging at excellent hotels
- Baggage handling at hotels (for one piece)
- 9 breakfasts, 7 lunches, 8 dinners
- Admission to all listed attractions
- Professional Costa Rican Tour Guide / Naturalist
- Your SUN TOURS Escort (with 20 or more travelers)
- All taxes and tips for included items (except hotel housekeeping)

****PASSPORT REQUIRED****

DEPOSIT: \$200 per person **now** holds your place

FINAL PAYMENT DUE: October 6, 2017

CANCELLATION FEES:

None ... Through October 6, 2017

\$200 ... October 7 – 24, 2017

50%* ... October 25 – November 9, 2017

100% ... After November 9, 2017

*Percentage of total price

TRAVEL PROTECTION IS ENCOURAGED

