

Explore Costa Rica Itinerary

February 19-February 27, 2010 Limited to 18 people

Relax, explore, and experience adventures on this trip to the jewel of Central America.

Costa Rica is a country the size of West Virginia. It has 12 different climate zones and 5% of the planet's biodiversity. It is an emerging 3rd world country. The roads are bumpy. There has not been an army since 1949. Instead, resources are used for education and health care. The current president, Oscar Arias, won a Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts in establishing a model for peace in Central America. My hope is that you take home an appreciation for the wonders of nature that we need to work hard to preserve and a place in your heart for the friends you meet along the way.

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Day 1 Arrive San Jose and be transferred to historic hotel in the city. Dinner at local typical restaurant. **D**

Day 2 Tour to Irazu volcano and Cartago, the colonial capital and the beautiful Orosi Valley, one of the many coffee growing areas of Costa Rica. **B/L**

Day 3 Transfer by bus and boat to Tortuguero, driving through the Braulio Carrillo National Park and experiencing the Tortuguero canals. Stay overnight at the jungle Laguna Lodge or similar. **B-L-D**

Day 4 Boat tour of the canals, observing the native wildlife, flora and fauna. Short jungle hike on the Caribbean. Transfer to Los Lagos resort at the foot of the Arenal volcano in time to relax in the hot springs pool before retiring for the night. **B-L-D**

Day 5 Experience an adventure that Costa Rica is famous for--the canopy zip line. Ascend the mountain through the rainforest in a tram and return by 'zipping' harnessed to a series of cables high above the forest with views of the volcano. If you do not care to zip-line, return in the tram. Then we travel a short distance to have a delightful tour of an organic farm and lunch. Stop in La Fortuna to shop if the group desires. **B-L**

Day 6 We have been busy! Today is free for you to relax and enjoy the resort, or find your own adventure such as horseback riding, ATVing, birding--whatever pleases you. **B**

Day 7 Early morning departure for the Pacific coast and a boat ride through the Gulf of Nicoya to idyllic Isla Tortuga with it's palm tree lined white sand beach. Enjoy an afternoon of pure relaxation. Transfer to Hotel Playa Hermosa on Playa Hermosa Guanacaste. **B-L**

Day 8 Free to relax by the pool, walk the beach and pack for the return home. Farewell dinner. **B/D**

Day 9 Transfer to Liberia Airport for your flight home. **B**

In order to have the best possible experience, I suggest that your flights fit into the following parameters.

Arrival in San Jose (SJO) Please try to arrange your arrival in San Jose for late morning or afternoon in order to be included in our welcoming dinner.

Depart Liberia (LIR) Please try to arrange for an afternoon departure. If a morning departure is all that is available for your connections, we will be sure that you get transferred to the airport.