

SPECIAL EDITION

# COSTA RICA: TORTUGUERO SEA TURTLE NESTING

Tortuguero & Papagayo Peninsula



*Classic*  
JOURNEYS



“Classic Journeys provides unbeatable access to experiences around the globe.”

— *Travel + Leisure*

## Natural Miracles, Non-Stop Fun

Costa Rica is barely the size of West Virginia, yet it has more biodiversity than anywhere else on earth. It's a nation where a "transcontinental" flight takes only an hour or so. It's a land with Afro-Caribbean culture and cowboys. And don't even try to count the keeled-bill toucans, jaguars, orchids, howler monkeys and river otters—though you may be tempted as you transition from Atlantic coast to Pacific on this amazing trip. On this Special Edition departure, timed to coincide with the magnificent nesting of the Green Sea Turtles in Tortuguero National Park, you'll adventure first to the tiny island of Tortuguero, and then to the surprisingly un-rainy forests of Guanacaste with whitewater rafting, zipline glides, boat rides and more in between. Our local guides will introduce you to a diverse mix of natives too, right where they live in remote villages. At our waterfront lodges, the views are amazing and the living is easy and comfortable. Best of all, every activity you read about in this itinerary is included at no extra cost.

## DAY 1

## TORTUGUERO

- Witness the green sea turtles who have returned to nearby nesting beaches for millennia
- Go kayaking through the lagoons...or for a jungle walk

You meet in San Jose for a brief morning flight to Tortuguero National Park. The word "tortuguero" means turtle catcher, an activity that was once incredibly easy here as these Caribbean beaches are legendary breeding grounds of leatherback, hawksbill and green sea turtles. Today, they are carefully protected.

The only way to reach our riverfront hotel is by boat, a perfect introduction to this land where saltwater and freshwater habitats meet and attract a rich variety of wildlife. After lunch, you can slip into a kayak for a guided paddle through the lagoons and creeks that connect to the Tortuguero River. Or, if you prefer, go for a guided jungle walk. Either way, you may catch your first glimpse of white-faced capuchin monkeys, black river turtles, crocodiles, macaws, and the long-legged anhinga birds that seem to walk on water.

This evening, get ready to witness one of Mother Nature's most amazing feats. Join your guide on a short boat ride to a secluded beach where you have a terrific chance to see the giant Green Sea Turtles come ashore, lay eggs, and slowly head back to the ocean. Cemented in their DNA over centuries, these mother turtles return each year to lay over 100 eggs each with the hope of continuing on the species. This natural process is so sensitive to outside stimuli that no cameras or flashlights are even permitted. Follow your guide to learn how to spot these creatures with red light and capture the moment in your memory forever.

**OVERNIGHT: TORTUGUERO**  
**MEALS: L, D**

## DAY 2

## TORTUGUERO

- Enjoy a boat tour of the lagoons and creeks
- Meet the locals in isolated Tortuga village
- Visit the Turtle Conservancy Center

Situated right on the river, our lodge is the perfect launch point for a boat tour of the coastal rain forest. The waters are still and the banks are near, so it's the ideal way to get up close to all of the varied wildlife. Caimans, close cousins to crocodiles, float log-still in the water. In the trees, egrets and tiger herons shuttle to and from their nests, and white-faced capuchin monkeys keep a curious eye on us.

After lunch, we're off to Tortuguero village—and the only way to get there is on the river. This is a village with no streets and no cars. We'll walk the sandy paths lined with colorful Afro-Caribbean homes. With our guide, we have a chance to chat with the residents. When school is in session, we'll meet the students in their classrooms.

The Sea Turtle Conservancy does the critical work of protecting the species that have returned to these beaches for eons. On a visit to their headquarters, we'll get fascinating insight into this natural phenomenon and the dedicated efforts of researchers and volunteers who work daily to protect the turtles. Back at the lodge, enjoy a leisurely evening and dinner on the terrace.

**OVERNIGHT: TORTUGUERO**  
**MEALS: B, L, D**

## DAY 3

## TORTUGUERO - GUANACASTE

- Transfer to Guanacaste
- Go for zipline ride in through the treetops

Across the country, Guanacaste shows off yet another face of Costa Rica. It's home to volcanic formations and tropical forest. This region has more wildlife than you can imagine from white-collared peccaries and coatis to orange-fronted parakeets and tanagers. This day could be full of chances to see many of them.

That's especially true as we head for the forest canopy this afternoon. The soaring forest and ocean views in these parts is much different than the ones we saw at the beginning of the week. On the swanky Papagayo Peninsula, harnessed safely onto a series of ziplines, you'll have the thrill of zooming through the treetops. It's a classic Costa Rican experience you won't want to miss as you take in nature from a completely different perspective.

After, we'll head to our beachfront home for the next three nights. You'll have views of the Pacific surf from your room. That stretch of sand out front is Hermosa Beach, renowned for its outstanding marine fauna.

**OVERNIGHT: GUANACASTE**  
**MEALS: B, D**

## DAY 4

## GUANACASTE

- Raft the white waters of the Tenorio River

Early this morning, we head inland for a full day of whitewater rafting. *Please note the drive time is approximately 2 to 2.5 hours one way.*

River experts will outfit the rafters for a wild, wet and safe tumble on the Tenorio River. The rapids are rated Class III-IV to provide plenty of thrills as you ride the current and whizz past the surrounding forest. You'll float down this incredible river for four hours, passing through sections which are dominated by white water. Hold on tightly to your paddle as you plunge through the cataracts and are sprayed with water! During the smoother sections, take a look around at the lush, forested scenery and try to spot tropical birds perched high in the trees. The rafting trip includes a memorable riverside lunch along the way.

After, we'll drive back to the resort where you'll have the evening at leisure.

**OVERNIGHT: GUANACASTE**  
**MEALS: B, L**

## DAY 5

## GUANACASTE

- Go snorkeling from the deck of your private boat
- Farewell dinner at a local restaurant

Tucked into the northwest corner of Costa Rica, Guanacaste is full of contrasts between ocean and drier terrain. Today we get a taste of both.

## DAILY ITINERARY

COSTA RICA: TORTUGUERO SEA TURTLE NESTING | TORTUGUERO & PAPAGAYO PENINSULA | SPECIAL EDITION

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It's a pure Pacific morning with plenty of options. We've arranged for you to join a private boat that lets you skim across the waves as we head along the coast. We'll stop for some terrific snorkeling—the waters here are as rich as the forests. Or you can sunbathe on the deck or a nearby beach. We'll cruise along Costa Rica's Gold Coast while passing some of Guanacaste's exotic bays, white sand beaches and tropical jungles. Gaze off the bow to scan for dolphins, sea turtles, flying fish or even a breaching whale (depending on the season). Stop in a tranquil bay, drop anchor and frolic in the blue Pacific. Snorkel in the bay or walk down the deserted white sand beach while your guide prepares a snack.

The remainder of the afternoon is yours for taking advantage of everything the resort has to offer. You may want to head to the beach for a dip or stretch with a glass of something cold by the pool. Tonight we will join

together for our memorable farewell dinner at one of our favorite local restaurants.

**OVERNIGHT: GUANACASTE**  
**MEALS: B, D**

### DAY 6

## GUANACASTE

• Enjoy a morning at leisure before departing for home

Morning to night, the Costa Rican climate is just about perfect. So take time this morning for a final beach stroll on your own or sleep in. Later, we part company at nearby Liberia Airport for our homeward flights.

**MEALS: B**

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## Tour Hotels



### Tortuga Lodge

Located only minutes away from the extraordinary Tortuguero National Park, this lodge is surrounded by a network of slow-moving creeks and rivers. Rooms have private decks and lovely wood-beamed ceilings. Be sure to check out the waterside pool.

**OVERNIGHT: TORTUGUERO | NIGHTS: 2**



### Bosque Del Mar Playa Hermosa

A unique beachfront property in Hermosa Bay, Guanacaste, with a high-end boutique eco-concept, relaxed all-suite rooms, and steps from the beach with clear ocean waters and beautiful soft sand. Come relax and enjoy tranquility while watching monkeys play.

**OVERNIGHT: GUANACASTE | NIGHTS: 3**

## DAILY ITINERARY

COSTA RICA: TORTUGUERO SEA TURTLE NESTING | TORTUGUERO & PAPAGAYO PENINSULA | SPECIAL EDITION

### Tour Dates & Prices

Tour Dates	Price per Person	Price per Person
	Double Occupancy	Single Occupancy
August 9-14, 2020	\$3,595	\$4,190
Sep 27-Oct 2, 2020	\$3,495	\$4,090
August 8-13, 2021	\$3,595	\$4,190
Sep 26-Oct 1, 2021	\$3,495	\$4,090

Want a different date? Or your own date? Visit [CLASSICJOURNEYS.COM/PRIVATE](http://CLASSICJOURNEYS.COM/PRIVATE) to learn more about private journeys.

#### INTERNAL AIRFARE

Please note: Baggage restriction on this tour is limited to 30 lbs per person due to the internal airline's weight restriction. The total cost for the internal flights is approximately \$150.00 per person.

### Trip Essentials

**TRIP LENGTH:** 6 Days, 5 Nights

**START:** 6:30 AM Lobby of San Jose Marriott, San Jose, Costa Rica

**END:** 1:00 PM Liberia Airport, Liberia, Costa Rica

**TERRAIN:** Easy to moderate forest, beach and jungle trails.

### What's Included

- Memorable accommodations for 5 nights
- All breakfasts, 3 lunches, 4 dinners
- Full-time experienced guide(s) who are with you throughout the trip and handle behind-the-scenes logistics
- Admissions to scheduled events as noted in the detailed daily itinerary
- Gratuities for hotels, meals, and baggage
- All land transportation during the trip

### Above & Beyond Benefits

- **Invisible Check-In**
- **Privileged Access Events**

**READY TO BOOK?**  
CLICK TO MAKE A RESERVATION

### Or give us a call

**1-833-387-1210**

Mon-Fri 8:00AM – 5:00PM PST

[moreinfo@classicjourneys.com](mailto:moreinfo@classicjourneys.com)

**Kids GET A PRICE BREAK**

When sharing a room with two full-paying guests, kids and teens ages 11-16 receive a \$500 discount; ages 7-10 receive a \$750 discount; ages 3-6 receive a \$1250 discount, and ages 2 and younger receive a \$1750 discount. When sharing a room with one full-paying guest, kids receive a \$250 discount.

#### TRAVEL WORRY-FREE!

It's easy with insurance from Travel Guard. Your policy can cover trip cancellation, travel delays, lost luggage, medical emergencies, and more. If you are traveling with kids, add them to your policy at no extra cost. [Click here](#) or call 800-826-4919 for details.

#### AMBASSADOR CLUB

As a Classic Journeys guest, you are invited to join the Ambassador Club after your first Classic Journeys tour. As a member, you'll have access to a [whole suite of Ambassador benefits](#) you can use immediately and as often as you like.

#### ENJOY THE UNEXPECTED

When you travel with Classic Journeys, you can expect handcrafted surprises built into every trip, but some things just can't be anticipated. Unusual weather, a once-a-year festival or an unscheduled site closing will inspire us and your local guide to improvise and modify this itinerary. Likewise, the hotels named here are used on the majority of our trips, but occasionally one of them can't accommodate us. If that happens, you can count on us to let you know before departure and make sure you're in a hotel of equal or better quality. It's our goal to make your trip exceptional!

\*\*Any discount offered cannot be combined with other offers, and only applies to published (regularly scheduled public) departure dates in our catalogs or on our website.

# THE Classic Journeys Difference

## HANDCRAFTING TRIPS OF A LIFETIME.

At the end of the day, we fundamentally believe that every guest on every departure of every trip should have a trip of a lifetime. We're fortunate to play the role of well-connected friend, linking our guests with amazing guides, artisans, winemakers, hoteliers, restaurateurs, naturalists, and too many others to list here.

That's what motivates me and our team — in our La Jolla HQ and around the world — every day. Join Us!



President & Founder



## You can expect the highest standards:



### Luxurious Lodgings:

Ours include coveted properties that appear in "World's Best" and "Gold List" rankings.



### Included Activities:

You'll never be surprised with add-on fees on your activities that include snorkeling to cooking lessons.



### Local Guides:

Your guides are locals who are always at your side like well-connected friends.



### Small Group Travel:

With an average of just 10-12 guests, it's a small footprint that guarantees you access that's off-limits to larger groups.



### Amazing Cuisine:

From Michelin-starred restaurants to lunch in a farmhouse kitchen, you'll have a seat for the region's signature dishes.



### Unmatched Value:

"Excellent value" and "unbeatable access" are two of the reasons that Travel + Leisure has consistently voted us a World's Best Tour Operator.

## You'll enjoy these handcrafted travel experiences in Costa Rica...

- Observing Green sea turtles as they nest
- Kayaking through the lagoons and creeks of Tortuguero National Park
- Spotting white-faced Capuchin monkeys, macaws and more
- Rafting on the Tenorio River past surrounding forest and wispy waterfalls
- Zooming past treetops on a zipline at Witch's Rock

*"Our guide went above and beyond. He is a wealth of knowledge! His rapport with children is fabulous. I can't say enough good things about him!"*

—Lizabeth F., Waccabuc, NY

Let's Go!

TO RESERVE: 833.493.5038 | CLASSICJOURNEYS.COM/RESERVATIONS

You might also enjoy...



## Galápagos & Andes

Islands, Wildlife & Mountain Villages

Family

### PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Close encounters with sea lions and giant tortoises
- Snorkeling and kayaking in clear, blue water
- Exploring a valley in the Andes on horseback

For more information, visit <https://www.classicjourneys.com/ecuadorfamily/>.



## Galápagos

Island-Based Wildlife Adventure

Multisport

### PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Coming face to face with giant tortoises and Galápagos penguins
- Checking off your bucket list as you spot each of the Galapagos Big Five
- Meeting the locals on a sustainable coffee plantation

For more information, visit <https://www.classicjourneys.com/galapagos/>.



## Panama

Canal, Rainforest & Highlands

Multisport

### PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Swimming in a natural pool beneath a waterfall
- Being "buzzed" by fiery-throated and violet-tailed sylph hummingbirds
- Plucking coffee beans at a mountainside plantation

For more information, visit <https://www.classicjourneys.com/panama/>.



You might also enjoy...



## Panama & Costa Rica

Canal & Rainforest to Guanacaste Coast

Special Edition

### PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Spotting monkeys, caimans, tiger herons and tapirs
- Rafting on the Tenorio River
- Ziplining and snorkeling

For more information, visit <https://www.classicjourneys.com/panama-costa-rica-adventure-vacation/>.

# HANGING AROUND COSTA RICA...

TAKE THE LIGHT AND EASY  
APPROACH TO A CAREFREE  
COSTA RICA VACATION.

**You've barely stepped away from the luggage carousel in San Jose, when you find yourself standing in a swirl of 4,000 or so butterflies.**

"This," you say to the Silver Emperor that lands on your nose, "is why I came to Costa Rica." The hyper-abundant biodiversity of Central America's premier paradise never disappoints.

Wait. Let me qualify the word "never." Because this land with more than 500,000 species of one kind or another, where the howler monkeys and toucans roam, can easily overwhelm. In a country that's roughly the size of West Virginia, there are more hotels than you can ever vet on Trip Advisor, and "naturalist" guides offering their services are thicker on the ground than Starbucks stores back home. Google "Costa Rica vacation," and you get 62,800,000 hits. At some point, rich diversity turns into hyper-distraction. You can lose yourself in the logistics and spend your whole trip second-guessing yourself.

Instead, go with your instincts and let Classic Journeys handle everything. We've flitted the length and breadth of Costa Rica for two decades, comparing cloud forests, splash-testing whitewater outfitters, tracking capybaras, and curating itineraries that deliver exactly what you came for and more.

Instead of white-knuckling it in a rental car on a windy mountain road, you'll be off walking on a platform suspended in the rainforest canopy or weaving through lava fields on the slopes of Arenal Volcano. While the do-it-yourselfers compete for the last ticket on a wildlife cruise, you're already in your kayak gliding through a mangrove estuary, spotting anteaters and egrets. While a crowd huddles around a sign in Tortuguero National Park to read about endangered sea turtles, you're off with your own local guide-naturalist who explains it all for you. (And takes you to the secret place where the turtles lay their eggs.)

In fact, our expert team of local guides makes up one of the rarest species in Costa Rica. They are native Ticos, so they can give you a homier, insider sense of their country.





You'll be blown away by their encyclopedic knowledge about everything from sloths to scarlet macaw mating habits to stand up paddle boarding techniques.

The best part is that your full-time guide happily shoulders all of the when, where and how of your vacation. Almost like magic, they produce all of the gear you need for snorkeling on a Pacific reef or a zooming along a zip line — and you never pay an extra penny for any of it. And at the end of the day, when you are relaxing in a geothermal spa or sitting on your balcony overlooking the ocean, you never feel resort-envy because the hotel you booked online doesn't live up to its photos. We're also old friends with the best luxury boutique properties in the country. When you're with Classic Journeys, there is always room at perfectly sited in-spots with an abundance of comfort and amenities.

Our approach works so well because every inch of the way, you're in the moment — ready to make a cowabunga leap from your private catamaran, to absorb the sunset (and a margarita) from the deck of your lodge perched in the most spectacular jungle setting, or to freeze mid-step as a Violet Sabrewing hummingbird hovers a tongue-flick away. If you really want to spread your wings in Costa Rica, visit with Classic Journeys and float free through an amazing week crowded only with nature, fun and luxury.