

Tortuguero & Papagayo Peninsula

Costa Rica: Tortuguero
Sea Turtle Nesting
Limited Edition



Classic
JOURNEYS™

DAILY ITINERARY

Costa Rica: Tortuguero Sea Turtle Nesting: Tortuguero & Papagayo Peninsula | Limited Edition



“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. 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



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

Tour Dates & Prices

To see the full list of dates and prices for this tour, go to our website by clicking [here](#).

Want to travel with just your group on a date of your choosing? Visit CLASSICJOURNEYS.COM/PRIVATE to learn more about Private Journeys.

Trip Essentials

- TRIP LENGTH** 6 Days, 5 Nights
- START** Lobby of Costa Rica Marriott Hacienda Belen , San Jose, Costa Rica
- END** Liberia Airport, Liberia, Costa Rica
- TERRAIN** Easy to moderate forest, beach and jungle trails.

What's Included

- 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

1-800-200-3887
Mon-Fri 8:00AM – 5:00PM PST
moreinfo@classicjourneys.com

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: Tortuguero Sea Turtle Nesting...

- 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

"Classic Journeys excels in providing exceptional guides familiar with the local area."

-Bert and Jo Ann E.,