

\$350 EARLY SIGN-UP DISCOUNT
FIRST 6 SIGN-UPS ON DEC 2023 AND ALL 2024 DEPARTURES

Costa Rica Wildlife

A "NATURALLY" THRILLING TROPICAL ADVENTURE



Wilderness Travel



Costa Rica Wildlife

TRIP DATES

2023

December 21-28, 2023

December 27, 2023-January 3, 2024

2024

January 6-13, 2024

February 3-10, 2024

February 16-23, 2024

March 8-15, 2024

July 5-12, 2024

December 19-26, 2024

December 26, 2024-January 2, 2025

2025

January 11-18, 2025

February 1-8, 2025

February 15-22, 2025

March 8-15, 2025

March 21-28, 2025

July 10-17, 2025

December 20-27, 2025

December 26, 2025-January 2, 2026

A tropical realm of cloud forest, mangroves, volcanoes, and pristine beaches, Costa Rica has wisely protected its natural bounty in parks and reserves that are now world-famous. With our expert naturalist Trip Leader, we head out for walks in Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve, follow hanging bridges high in the forest below Arenal Volcano, and soar by zip line. In Tortuguero National Park, one of the last large areas of tropical rainforest in Central America, we glide through waterways that shelter fascinating wildlife, from manatees to three-toed sloths. Charming lodges give us a warm welcome in this natural wonderland.





Itinerary

TRIP DETAILS AT-A-GLANCE

- Length:** 8 days
- Arrive:** San Jose, Costa Rica
- Depart:** San Jose, Costa Rica
- Lodging:** 3 nights hotels, 4 nights well-appointed lodges in beautiful settings
- Meals:** All meals included except 1 dinner (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
- Activity:** Walking, Wildlife and Natural History
- Trip Level:** 1 2 3 4 5 6
Easy forest hikes and nature walks, optional zip lines

"This was such a wonderful trip. We saw an almost unbelievable variety of wildlife. Our leader was terrific - extraordinary knowledge of the plants and animals of Costa Rica. Education, fun, adventure, and exercise equals a great vacation."

Cathy and Richard L., Portola Valley, CA

DAY 1 SAN JOSE

Late evening arrival in San Jose, capital of Costa Rica, where you will be met and transferred to the Hotel Bougainvillea, set among 10 acres of lush tropical gardens in San Jose's residential district of San Domingo de Heredia...Meals on your own

DAY 2 MONTEVERDE / EL REFUGIO RESERVE

We enjoy a Welcome Breakfast and a trip orientation at 7:00 am this morning in San Jose, then head out for a drive up into the highlands to the spectacular Monteverde Biological Cloud Forest Reserve. This world-famous reserve, set at 4,600 feet in the Tiláran Mountains straddling the Continental Divide, was founded in 1951 by a small group of Quakers from Alabama, attracted to Costa Rica by its lack of an army and its peaceful policies that matched Quaker philosophy. They bought land and brought dairy farming and cheese production to the region (today, Monteverde's cheese is sold throughout the country). They preserved about a third of the land they purchased to protect the watershed above Monteverde, and in 1972, after visiting biologists noted the richness of the flora and fauna, the Quakers turned it into Monteverde Biological Cloudforest Reserve, owned and operated by the Tropical Science Center of San Jose. After settling into the Monteverde Lodge, we'll explore the grounds with our guide. The gardens are teeming with plants like tree ferns, bromeliads, and anthuriums, as well as several varieties of orchids, agapanthus, and hydrangeas. In addition to butterflies and a wide variety of birds, it's not uncommon to see mammals like white-nose coatis, agoutis, and white-faced capuchin monkeys. On a night tour this evening, we'll head to the nearby El Refugio Reserve to walk along the trails with a naturalist who will point out sleeping birds and nocturnal animals. Wildlife is unpredictable, but with our well-versed guide we may spot armadillos, scorpions, two-toed sloths, porcupine, bats, frogs, and many others. Regardless of what you see, the experience of walking in the forest after dark

is unique. Overnight at Monteverde Lodge...BLD
Driving Time: About 4.5 hours

DAY 3 MONTEVERDE BIOLOGICAL CLOUD FOREST RESERVE

We enjoy a full day at Monteverde, one of the outstanding nature reserves in the New World tropics. In this “cloud forest,” the forest floor is carpeted in fern, mosses, and shade-loving plants, while high above is a thick, green canopy made by the branches of tall trees reaching for sunlight. More than 400 species of birds reside here, including toucans, tanagers, barbets, and bellbirds. The most famed is the resplendent quetzal (*Pharomachrus mocinno*), sacred and imperial bird of the Mayas and Aztecs and the largest member of the trogon family. This magical avian, with its iridescent green plumage and crimson breast, is found only in certain high-altitude cloud forests in Central America. We enjoy guided walks on the forested paths of the reserve, some raised on wooden platforms, and visit the local butterfly garden (the Jardín de las Mariposas), with its gardens, greenhouses, and netted flyway. About 40 species of butterflies are represented in this garden. Time permitting, we may visit one of the local craft collectives in the area. Overnight at Monteverde Lodge...BLD

DAY 4 HIKE IN MONTEVERDE OR OPTIONAL ZIP LINE TOUR / VOLCÁN ARENAL

In the morning we can either do a hike in Finca Ecológico, a private nature reserve just a 10-minute walk from our lodge, or an exhilarating zip line tour in Monteverde (optional, at an

additional cost of \$88), where we'll see the cloud forest from a whole new perspective. Later, we make a scenic journey to Arenal, first by 4WD vehicle, then by private boat across Lake Arenal, where we have our first views of Volcán Arenal, the most active volcano in Costa Rica. A perfect cone shape emerging 5,300 feet from gentle green hills, Arenal first became active in 1968 when it erupted in a spectacular fashion. Our overnight is at the Lost Iguana Resort, nestled among 120 acres of primal rainforest overlooking the mountain... BLD

Driving Time: 3 hours; Boat Travel: 30 minutes

DAY 5 ARENAL / HANGING BRIDGES / LA FORTUNA WATERFALL OR ARENAL HIKE / HOT SPRINGS

This morning we walk on a series of spectacular hanging bridges that give us access to the high rainforest canopy—a great way to enter the world of towering, orchid-draped trees in a 600-acre primary forest reserve. There are six bridges that lead us deep inside the canopy habitat. Views of Arenal can be particularly striking from these bridges. In the afternoon, we offer a hike through forests and meadows to the base of the spectacular, 200-foot-high La Fortuna Waterfall—the adventurous among us can take a refreshing dip in the cool waters below it—or take a hike along an old lava field that brings us close to Arenal. This afternoon, we head to a volcanic hot spring in a beautiful natural setting complete with thermal pools and a waterfall. It's a great place for an optional soak, and later we savor a typical Costa Rican dinner here. Overnight at Lost Iguana Resort...BLD



DAY 6 TORTUGUERO NATIONAL PARK / TORTUGA LODGE

A beautiful drive brings you across Costa Rica's lush countryside, passing through villages, small farms, and banana and coffee plantations. Arriving at the dock in Pavano, we journey by boat (1.5-2 hours) with our guide to Tortuguero National Park, a natural history wonderland of coastal forest and inland waterways. Our overnight is at the lovely Tortuga Lodge, set on 50 private acres along a river. Lunch is en route...BLD

Driving Time: 4 hours; Boat Travel: 1.5-2 hours

DAY 7 TORTUGUERO NATIONAL PARK / TORTUGA LODGE

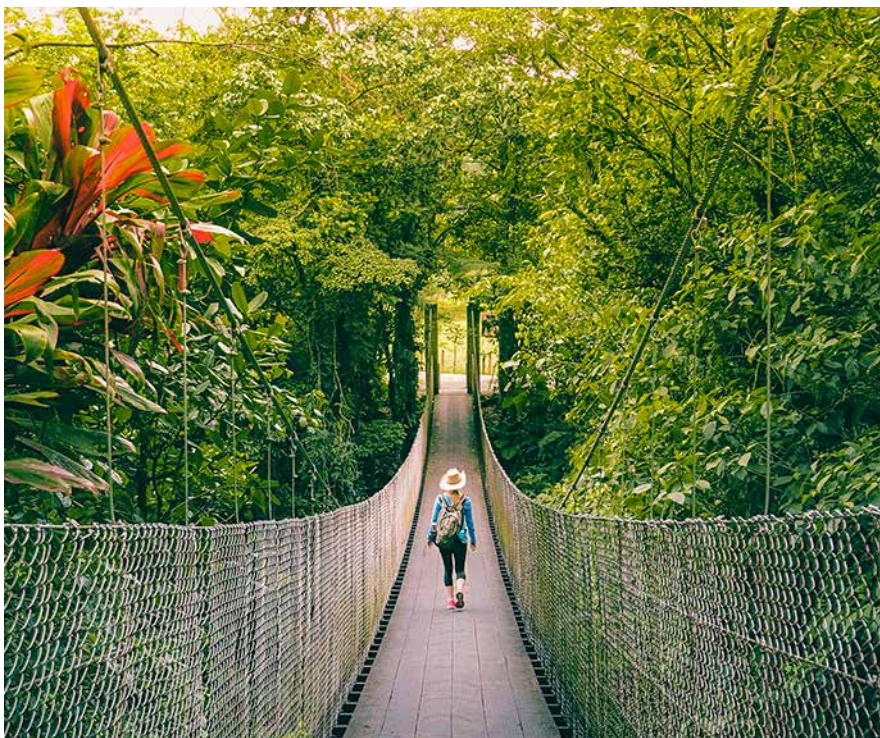
Tortuguero National Park protects one of the last large areas of tropical rainforest in Central America. On our memorable morning of boating in its secluded waterways and blackwater canals, we may see six-foot-long gar fish, turtles, manatees (an endangered species), crocodiles, caimans, river otters, and sloths, along with howler, spider, or white-faced monkeys. More than 320 species of birds have been recorded in the park, including all six species of kingfishers found in the New World, three species of toucans, eight species of parrots, and other neotropical species such as the slaty-tailed trogon, white-collared manakin, purple-throated fruitcrow, and white-fronted nunbird.

In the afternoon, we will visit Casa Cecropia, where we'll learn about the history of chocolate, how it's produced, and

even participate in the chocolate-making process, from tasting cacao beans to roasting and grinding them, and seeing how the delicious chocolate elixir is produced. We will also have options to visit the tiny village of Tortuguero and the park headquarters, as well as the Green Turtle Research Station, where turtle migration and behavior have been studied since 1962 (the longest running continuous study of its kind in the world). The beach at Tortuguero is the most important seasonal nesting site of the endangered green sea turtle in the Western Hemisphere. Huge green turtles nest here in large numbers between July to October, and if you are here at this time, it's a spectacular experience to watch them laying their eggs or see the eggs hatching. Although Tortuguero's green turtles may wander as far as Florida and Venezuela to feed, none of the more than 28,000 turtles tagged at Tortuguero has ever been found to mate and nest at any other beach. Leatherback turtles also nest here, in smaller numbers, as do hawksbill turtles. In the evening, we gather for a festive Farewell Dinner. Overnight at Tortuga Lodge...BLD

DAY 8 RETURN TO SAN JOSE / DEPART

From the Tortuguero airstrip, we fly after breakfast to San Jose and transfer to the international airport for homeward-bound flights. Or you can extend your stay in Tortuguero, join our optional extensions to the Corcovado Rainforest on the Pacific Coast or the Pacuare Lodge & River Rafting Extension...B



Trip Details

DATE AND PRICING INFORMATION

TRIP COST

Prices are per person, valid through 2024

\$6195 (10-14 members)

\$6495 (7-9 members)

\$6895 (4-6 members)

Single supplement: \$1495

Internal airfare: \$330 (subject to change)

December Holiday surcharge: \$395

2025 Trip Costs: Please call for details

To offer the lowest possible cost, our trips are priced according to the number of participants on the trip. All costs are per person, based on double occupancy. If you wish to have a single room, you must pay the single supplement fee. Please note that Wilderness Travel staff, or guests of Wilderness Travel such as travel writers, photographers, or leaders-in-training, are not included in the tier pricing count.

CURRENCY EXCHANGE RATE

Because the prices published for our program are set so far in advance of the trip dates, we are occasionally faced with exceptional cost increases and/or currency fluctuations that affect the actual cost of running the trip. In most years, no price changes are necessary. However, we do reserve the right to raise or lower the trip price if there is a significant change in costs or exchange rates. If this is the case, your final invoice will reflect the difference in trip cost.

TRIP COST INCLUDES

- Expert leadership of a Wilderness Travel Trip Leader and local guides
- Accommodations in first-class hotels and lodges
- All meals included except 1 dinner as indicated in the Detailed Itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
- Land transportation, airport transfers as noted

TRIP COST DOES NOT INCLUDE

International airfare, any meals not specified after each itinerary day, airport departure taxes, optional tipping or gratuities to leaders or staff, additional hotel nights that may be necessitated by airline schedule changes or other factors; airport transfers not on group dates; pre-trip expenses of medical immunizations (if any), travel insurance, or passports and visas; and other expenses of a personal nature (alcoholic beverages, laundry, etc.).

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

At time of reservation: \$600

90 days prior to departure: Balance

CANCELLATION AND TRANSFER FEE SCHEDULE

Up to 91 days prior to departure: No charge!

61-90 days prior to departure: 25% of trip cost

46-60 days prior to departure: 50% of trip cost

45 days or less: 100% of trip cost

TRAVEL INSURANCE

We highly recommend you purchase travel insurance. You can take advantage of a comprehensive Travel Protection Plan designed for Wilderness Travel by Travelex, or purchase other insurance on your own. See our website for details:

www.wildernesstravel.com/insurance

Pacuare Lodge & River Rafting Extension

The perfect extension to your adventure in Costa Rica—a stay at Pacuare Lodge, a wonderfully remote eco-hotel set on the banks of the Rio Pacuare, one of Costa Rica's top whitewater rivers. And what better way to arrive there? By raft, of course! The Rio Pacuare courses through a beautiful granite canyon lined with cascading waterfalls and lush rainforest vegetation. With exhilarating rapids and spectacular scenery, it's a rollicking ride and offers tons of excitement for the adventurous traveler (not to worry—previous rafting experience is not necessary). Once at the lodge, take your pick of a variety of exciting nature- and cultural-based excursions, from guided birdwatching tours and waterfall hikes to zip lining through the tropical rainforest canopy.

DAY 1 SAN JOSE / RIO PACUARE RAFTING

After an early morning pickup from your hotel in San Jose, drive toward the town of Turrialba, with a typical Costa Rican breakfast en route. Once at the put-in on the Pacuare, a rafting orientation with your river guides sets you up for a couple of hours of unbelievable fun. Side creeks cascade into quiet pools of the river while iridescent blue morpho butterflies whirl around you, their wings winking in the sunlight. You'll paddle, splash and float your way on Class I-III rapids to Pacuare Lodge, where more fun experiences await you. Accommodations are in Garden Suites, which include a private terrace with hammock and sitting area, king size or two full size canopy beds, and en suite bathroom with indoor and outdoor showers. Dinner and overnight at Pacuare Lodge...BLD

Note: Minimum age for rafting is 12. Arrival by land (via 4WD vehicle) or helicopter (at additional expense) is also available if you don't wish to raft. Call us for the details.

DAY 2 PACUARE LODGE

The lodge offers a variety of optional activities, including—but not limited to!—the following (note: minimum age is 12 for most excursions, 9 for easier activities):

- Early morning guided birdwatching tours, right on the lodge's grounds. Enjoy a cup of coffee before you head out, then return to the lodge for breakfast afterwards.
- A variety of hikes, from a moderately challenging hike to visit a clan of the indigenous Cabécar people (4-5 hours) to an easy loop hike (1.5 hours) that ends with a refreshing splash in a local waterfall.
- Most of the action in the rainforest is up in the treetops!



Experience it all with a zip line offering dramatic views, exotic birdlife, rappelling down trees, and sliding on cables from tree to tree (2 hours).

- Feeling fit and adventurous? Try canyoning, combining rock climbing, rappelling a rock face, descending a waterfall—all in the lush environment of the rainforest (2.5 hours).
- Or just take it easy—relax at the lodge's infinity pool or indulge in a soothing spa treatment.

Overnight at Pacuare Lodge...BLD

DAY 3 RETURN TO SAN JOSE

Once again, board rafts and head through the Pacuare's Class III-IV rapids to the town of Siquirres (this is a more challenging part of the river). You can return to San Jose by vehicle if you do not choose to raft this harder section, arriving at your hotel around 6:00 pm. End of services...BL

2024 EXTENSION COST

Prices are per person, valid through December 15, 2024

\$1735 per person, double occupancy (Garden Suite*)

Single supplement: \$430

Call for December holiday pricing or Peak season (rates are quoted separately): December 15, 2024-January 5, 2025

*Room upgrades available at additional cost. Ask for details.

Prices are not guaranteed until services are confirmed.

Extension Cost Includes: Accommodations at Pacuare Lodge, meals as specified, transfer by 4x4 vehicle or rafting to lodge, afternoon coffee with homemade pastry, choice of up to 8 excursions at Pacuare Lodge, rafting out of lodge or ground transfer back to San Jose hotel. **Does Not Include:** Alcoholic beverages and non-alcoholic mixed drinks, spa treatments, optional tours, suite upgrade costs, incidentals, and additional hotel overnights as needed in San Jose.

Corcovado Rainforest Extension

We offer an extension to beautiful Corcovado National Park with three well located lodges to choose from, SCP Corcovado Wilderness Lodge, Aguila de Osa Inn, or La Paloma Lodge. All lodges are lovely. Aguila de Osa is the probably best choice for more fit travelers or travelers without young children because the rooms are arranged on a steep hillside and there is some steep walking to get between the rooms and the restaurant. *Please check with our office for lodge availability before you book your international flights. An additional night in San Jose on Day 4 is recommended.*



DAY 1

SAN JOSE / PALMAR SUR / CORCOVADO NATIONAL PARK

From San Jose, fly by charter flight to Palmar Sur. On arrival, you are met and transferred to a jetty for a one-to one-and-a-half hour ride by motor launch to either SCP Corcovado Wilderness Lodge, Aguila de Osa Inn, or La Paloma. Overnight at the lodge...BLD

DAY 2 CORCOVADO NATIONAL PARK

Enjoy a guided tour of Corcovado National Park, which protects the best rainforest environment on the Pacific Coast of Central America. Nearly 400 species of birds, about 140 species of mammals, and more than 500 species of trees have been recorded here. Costa Rica's largest population of scarlet macaws lives in Corcovado, along with an array of other tropical wildlife. The park's trails ascend and descend through verdant rainforest. Overnight at SCP Corcovado Wilderness Lodge, Aguila de Osa Inn, or La Paloma...BLD

DAY 3 CANO ISLAND SNORKELING ADVENTURE

Boat to Cano Island for snorkeling amid a colorful spectrum of Pacific Coast reef fish as well as rays and sea turtles. Overnight at SCP Corcovado Wilderness Lodge, Aguila de Osa Inn, or La Paloma....BLD

DAY 4

TO SAN JOSE

Return by motor launch and charter flight to San Jose, then transfer to the hotel or to the airport for departure...B

2024 EXTENSION COST

Prices are per person, valid through December 15, 2024

Aguila de Osa Inn

\$1955 per person, double occupancy (Deluxe room)

Solo Traveler: \$2510

Single supplement: \$555

SCP Corcovado Wilderness Lodge

\$1895 per person, double occupancy (Deluxe Casita)

Solo Traveler: \$2195

Single supplement: \$270

La Paloma Lodge

\$2125 per person, double occupancy (Deluxe Ranchos Room)

Solo Traveler: Call for pricing

Single supplement: \$1700

Call for December holiday pricing or peak season (rates are quoted separately): December 15, 2024-January 5, 2025

Prices are not guaranteed until services are confirmed.

Extension Cost Includes: San Jose airport transfers, 3 nights accommodations, charter flights to/from Palmar Sur, round-trip land and boat transportation to the jetty and the lodge, meals as noted (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner), two tours: Corcovado National Park and Cano Island snorkeling tour with a guide, park fees and taxes. Tours cannot be substituted but they can be deducted from the package at time of booking.

Does Not Include: Meals not specified after each itinerary day, beverages, snacks, additional hotel nights necessitated by airline schedule changes, gratuities or additional tours.

Tortuga Lodge Extension

With its lush rainforest and exotic flora and fauna, Tortuguero National Park on Costa Rica's Caribbean Coast is a haven for active adventures and tremendous wildlife viewing, and a wonderful place to extend your Costa Rica journey. Your base during your explorations here is the charming Tortuga Lodge, set right on the Tortuguero River and with its own private nature reserve. Travelers are welcomed into the relaxing atmosphere, where guest rooms are nestled into the tropical landscapes and various adventures are right out your front door. Choose from a wide variety of activities that can be booked directly at the lodge—from visiting a sea turtle nesting site to hiking Cerro Tortuguero and a kayaking excursion in the mystical waterways of Tortuguero National Park. Please note activities are an "on your own" expense. This is the perfect extension for those looking to unwind and relax after our Costa Rica Wildlife journey.

DAY 1 TORTUGA LODGE

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast after your main Costa Rica Wildlife adventure comes to an end and relax in your room or near the pool. In the afternoon, you can head out on one of the excursions listed below or simply soak in the tranquility of the property. Tortuga Lodge is the only hotel in Tortuguero with its own private nature reserve, and there are four short walking trails behind the property if you wish to explore at no additional charge...LD

Activities:

- **Visit a turtle nesting site at night** (July through October only). In groups of 10 led by local guides, you'll have the opportunity to see Atlantic Green Sea turtles as they lay their eggs. These turtles can weigh up to 300-pound and lay 80-100 eggs. Groups set out at 8 pm or 10 pm.
- **Boat Excursion.** After an early breakfast at the lodge, join your fellow guests and the local naturalist guide for a three-hour boat expedition into Tortuguero National Park.
- **Kayak in Tortuguero National Park.** Spend a couple hours in the morning or afternoon kayaking through the majestic canals of Caño Chiquero or Caño Mora, natural waterways designated for non-motorized boats only. You will be accompanied by a bilingual Tortuguero guide for the duration of the trip.
- **Hike Cerro Tortuguero.** Get a birds-eye view of the majestic Caribbean lowlands on this two-hour hike up Cerro Tortuguero. After breakfast at the lodge, join

your fellow hikers and the bilingual naturalist guide for a boat transfer to the Caribbean village of San Francisco and gateway to Barra del Colorado National Wildlife Refuge.

- **Visit Tortuguero Village.** Get a glimpse of Costa Rica's Caribbean Coast and the fascinating history and culture of Tortuguero Village. This fun, two-hour experience begins with a boat ride from the lodge to town, where you can visit the local school (during weekdays and school year), stroll through the Sea Turtle Conservancy center and museum, visit local artisan shops, a general goods store, and walk down the quaint streets of colorful Afro-Caribbean homes.
- **Atlantic Coast Fishing.** Available for a half-day (6 hours) or full-day (8 hours), set out with your guide on one of the lodge's boats to fish for tarpon, four varieties of snook, rainbow bass, jack cravelle, and much more.

DAY 2 TORTUGA LODGE

Enjoy a number of activities you can book through the lodge or simply savor extra time in this serene setting...BLD

DAY 3 TORTUGA LODGE / DEPART

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for homeward-bound flights.

2024 EXTENSION COST

Prices are per person, valid through December 15, 2024

\$680 per person, double occupancy

Solo Traveler: \$1055

Internal airfare: \$265 (subject to change) includes SJO airport transfer

Call for December holiday pricing or peak season (rates are quoted separately): December 15, 2024-January 5, 2025

Prices are not guaranteed until services are confirmed.

Extension Cost Includes:

- Accommodations
- Meals as indicated (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
- Airport transfers
- Taxes

Does Not Include: Meals not specified after each itinerary day, activities booked with the lodge, and gratuities.

Arrival & Departure

Upon confirming your trip reservation, we will send you a Welcome Packet that includes a list of documents (passport, visas, etc.) required for your trip. Please feel free to call if you would like this information before making your air arrangements.

If you have booked extra services before or after the trip, an Extra Services Confirmation will be sent with your Final Documents.

ARRIVAL & MEETING PLACE

San Jose, Costa Rica

Suggested Airport: Juan Santamaría Int'l Airport (SJO)

Suggested Date & Time: Day 1, anytime

Meeting Place: You will meet your Trip Leader in the lobby of the Hotel Bougainvillea at 7:00 am on Day 2 for a welcome breakfast/trip orientation before driving to Monteverde. Please have your luggage ready to go.

A complimentary transfer is provided from the San Jose airport to the Hotel Bougainvillea for all trip members upon arrival. A WT representative will meet you outside the customs area and will be holding a Wilderness Travel sign.

DEPARTURE

San Jose, Costa Rica

Suggested Airport: Juan Santamaría Int'l Airport (SJO)

Suggested Date & Time: Day 8, anytime after 12 noon

On Day 8, you will fly from Tortuguero to San Jose and transfer to the international airport for flights home.

INTERNATIONAL AIR TRAVEL

You are responsible for making your own arrangements for flights to and from Costa Rica. Airlines with the most convenient schedules for this trip include:

American Airlines (via Miami)

www.aa.com

Delta Airlines

www.delta.com

Avianca Airlines

www.avianca.com

United Airlines (via Houston)

www.united.com

There are many online consolidators for booking travel, but for more personal help arranging air transport, you can contact Exito Travel at 1-800-655-4053 in the US or 1-800-670-2605 in Canada. They are very adept at putting flight itineraries together, to even the most far-flung places. More information can be found on Exito's website at www.exitotravel.com.

Depending on your routing, it may be necessary to depart from the US one day prior to Day 1 of the trip itinerary. The name on your airline ticket must match the name on your passport exactly, and your passport must be valid for at least six months after your date of return to the US.

Please do not purchase your tickets until you are confirmed on the trip and have reviewed your proposed air schedule with our office. Once your tickets have been purchased, please send us a copy of your airline schedule so we can reserve your airport transfers.

CHARTER FLIGHTS

The private charter flight on the trip is typically on a small 12-passenger Cessna plane with two pilots. Flights are booked through our local operator in San Jose and your guide handles the tickets. Note: There is a 40-lb. checked bag and 10-lb. small bag carry-on per person weight limit for the Costa Rica internal flights booked by WT. Excess luggage can be stored in San Jose if needed, just let us know.

Accommodations



HOTEL BOUGAINVILLEA

San Jose, Costa Rica

Day 1 (1 night)

The Hotel Bougainvillea is set among 10 acres of lush tropical gardens in the residential district of San Domingo de Heredia, just 15 minutes from downtown San Jose. This hidden gem of a hotel offers spacious rooms with comfy beds, tranquil grounds for strolling and birdwatching (wonderful butterflies, too), a swimming pool, tennis, and a fine restaurant. And don't forget to try a Guaro Sour—the Costa Rican national drink—at the bar.



MONTEVERDE LODGE

Monteverde, Costa Rica

Days 2 to 3 (2 nights)

The winding paths of Monteverde Lodge's beautifully manicured gardens are flanked by ferns and bromeliads, a magical butterfly and hummingbird garden, and a stream, pond, and small waterfall provide a habitat for riverine birds and a host of reptiles and amphibians. After an active day exploring the cloud forest, relax in a hammock or take a dip in the solar heated swimming pool. The elegant dining room, with its cloud forest mural and abundant tropical flora, offers excellent Costa Rican specialties. Spacious rooms with private bath have two double beds with fluffy comforters and large windows, and are designed to put you “in the forest”—there are no TVs!



LOST IGUANA RESORT AND SPA

Arenal Volcano, Costa Rica

Days 4 to 5 (2 nights)

This wonderful resort is like an oasis in the middle of nowhere. While the rooms are not luxurious, they are very comfortable and private, and feature balconies with fantastic views of Arenal Volcano (assuming clear weather). An open-air restaurant serves delicious meals (try the ceviche and tilapia dishes) and the free in-room Wi-Fi is a plus. There are also beautiful gardens, a spectacular double pool with swim-up bar, and if you have some extra time, treat yourself to a soothing spa treatment.



TORTUGA LODGE

Tortuguero National Park, Costa Rica

Days 6 to 7 (2 nights)

Surrounded by acres of landscaped gardens and dense forest, Tortuga Lodge offers 27 spacious and comfortable rooms with private bathrooms and screened windows. Its airy bar-restaurant is right on the river, as is the swimming pool. The lodge is located right next to Tortuguero National Park, but there's plenty of wildlife on the grounds, too—take a walk on the trails behind the lodge and see what you can find! Solar energy is used at the lodge, which earned Tortuga ecotourism awards from Travel & Leisure and Condé Nast Traveler. The lodge supports the local community through sustainable development, hires local staff, and supports local conservation projects.

These are our signature accommodations for this trip. Although it is highly unlikely, we may make substitutions when necessary. To see more photos and descriptions, please visit our *Costa Rica Wildlife* webpage and click on the “Accommodations” tab.

Our Guides

MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE

Wilderness Travel Trip Leaders have a passion and a joy for creating an unforgettable journey. We are extremely proud of them and the incredible travel experiences they make possible. For more information, including client comments about them and which specific trips they will be leading, please visit our webpage and click on "Trip Leaders": www.wildernesstravel.com/trip/costa-rica-wildlife-monteverde-arenal-tour/



FEDERICO ALBAN

If you want to know what the Pura Vida lifestyle looks like, look no further than Federico Alban. Though he lived in Spain, Israel, and the United States from age seven to nineteen, Federico is a Costa Rican local at heart and welcomes Wilderness Travel guests to experience all the country has to offer. He has led trips for us since 2003, and says, "Costa Rica is all about the Pura Vida lifestyle. When guests leave, they are not guests anymore, they are now friends." Federico completed a BA in natural resource management from Universidad Estatal a Distancia. When not guiding, he can usually be found riding his mountain bike or photographing wildlife, two of his favorite pastimes.

What the Trip is Like

WHAT THE TRIP IS LIKE

The trip is Level 2, Easy to Moderate, according to our trip grading system. Wildlife viewing takes place during nature walks on mountain rainforest trails and on lagoon trips by boat. The walks are about two to four miles, covering a variety of terrain and usually on well-marked trails. There is no extensive hiking on the trip, but you should be in good physical shape to enjoy it to the fullest. Accommodations range from a modern hotel in San Jose to charming wildlife lodges. The Corcovado Extension and Pacuare River Rafting Extension are Level 3, Moderate.

WEATHER

The temperature in Costa Rica does not change drastically with the seasons. Lowland areas are warmer, while in the mountains, it is cooler, especially at night. If you are sensitive to the cold, bring a warm layer for cold early mornings and evenings, especially in the winter months, when it can be quite chilly. On the Pacific Coast and in the highlands, the rainy season begins in late May and ends by November. Mornings are usually bright and sunny, with typical afternoon rains that come as short downpours. December through April is the dry season, but Costa Rica is tropical so you can expect some rain at any time of the year.

CHOOSING THE RIGHT TRIP

Adventure travel often involves exotic destinations, unusual levels of physical exertion, or activities you may not have participated in previously. We work hard to help you choose the right trip for you, paying attention to your individual interests, abilities, and needs. If you have questions about the level of comfort or any of the activities described in this itinerary, please call Wilderness Travel at 1-800-368-2794 and ask for the Latin America Manager or email us at latinamerica@wildernesstravel.com.

REFERENCES

We'd be happy to put you in touch with a past client that has traveled with us on this or a similar trip.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

At www.wildernesstravel.com, you can book your trip online or find out about added departures, last-minute deals, and one-time Limited Edition adventures that aren't listed in our catalog. You can also access our complete library of detailed itineraries filled with enticing photos and videos, read bios of our Trip Leaders, find descriptions of trip accommodations, and check real-time availability of any trips that interest you.

Average Daily Max/Min °F												
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
San Jose	73/59	75/59	77/61	77/61	77/63	77/63	75/63	75/63	75/63	75/63	75/61	73/61
Tortuguero	84/73	86/73	88/75	90/77	88/75	86/73	85/75	86/73	84/73	84/73	84/72	84/72
Rainfall - Inches												
San Jose	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.2	10.3	11.7	8.1	11.1	14.6	13.5	6.11.4	1.5
Tortuguero	16.2	10.1	7.0	9.9	13.3	17.0	24.6	18.2	11.9	15.7	23.6	24.4

Toucan Club Rewards & Discounts

We are very proud to have one of the highest rates of repeat travelers in the business, and have established the Wilderness Travel Toucan Club to reward you for your loyalty. For more information, please visit the Toucan Club page of our website at www.wildernesstravel.com/toucan.

Here's how it works:

YOUR FIRST TRIP

As a first-time traveler, you receive a lightweight Wilderness Travel T-shirt and set of durable WT Luggage Tags. On subsequent trips, we're happy to send you a new WT T-shirt and set of Luggage Tags by request.

YOUR SECOND TRIP

A top quality Wilderness Travel insulated stainless steel water bottle by CamelBak and a cozy Wilderness Travel fleece vest by Patagonia (\$130 value).

YOUR THIRD TRIP

A versatile Wilderness Travel R-1 pullover by Patagonia (\$140 value).

YOUR FOURTH TRIP

Discounts on the cost of your trip begin! You receive a 4% discount on the tour cost.

FIVE AND MORE TRIPS

You receive a 5% discount on the base trip cost. On your sixth trip, you receive a 6% discount, and so on up to your 10th trip. The maximum discount is 10%, with a ceiling of \$500.

Note: Due to special pricing considerations, Toucan Club discounts do not apply to our Private Journeys or Special Events. However, your participation on these trips does count toward your Toucan discount on future departures of Wilderness Travel's regular adventures.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Toucan Club travel discounts cannot be used in conjunction with any other discount, unless otherwise specified. Discounts are deducted from the base trip cost and shown on the final invoice. The base trip cost is the main land/tier cost and does not include single supplement fees, extensions, internal airfare, or other additional charges. Bonus gifts (T-shirts, luggage tags, vests, water bottles, and pullovers) will be mailed approximately three weeks prior to trip departure. Terms and conditions of Toucan Club bonuses are subject to change or cancellation at the discretion of Wilderness Travel, Inc.



MEN'S T-SHIRT



WOMEN'S T-SHIRT



PATAGONIA SYNCHILLA FLEECE VEST
PLUS INSULATED CAMELBAK WATER BOTTLE



PATAGONIA R1 PULLOVER



WILDERNESS TRAVEL HAS BEEN AWARDED:

World's Best Tour Operators: *Travel + Leisure*, 2022, 11-time winner

Best Travel Specialists in the World: *Conde Nast Traveller*, 2022, 3 years in a row

Best Wildlife, Hiking & Walking Trips: *AFAR Magazine*, 3 years in a row

Best Adventure Travel Companies: *USA Today*

Trip of the Year: *Outside Magazine*, 9-time winner

50 Tours of a Lifetime: *National Geographic Traveler*, 9 years in a row

Best Adventure Travel Companies: *National Geographic Adventure*, 3-time winner

Please be advised that California has established a Travel Consumer Restitution Fund under the California Seller of Travel Law that took effect January 1, 1996. This fund is designed to protect consumers from unscrupulous practices by discount airfare ticket sellers or air charter operators. Unfortunately, this law does not cover non-California residents and, even in the case of California residents, it does not cover any foreign travel where the foreign "providers of transportation or travel services" are not in compliance with the Sellers of Travel Law (compliance being defined as registered as a Seller of Travel in California and a participant in the Travel Consumer Restitution Fund). Thus none of Wilderness Travel's tours qualify and we are required by law to advise each client that they are not covered by the California Travel Consumer Restitution Fund. California law requires sellers of travel to maintain a trust account or bond. This business has a trust account. California Seller of Travel #100769640

While as accurate as possible at the time of printing, this itinerary should be considered an approximate indication of the schedule and scope of activities and trip routing, rather than an inflexible schedule of events; it is subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control. This trip is subject to the Limitation of Liability and all the terms and conditions as detailed in the General Information section of the Wilderness Travel Catalog.

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