



ADVENTURES
IN GOOD COMPANY



COSTA RICA: FROM SEA TO MOUNTAINS

TRIP SUMMARY

HIGHLIGHTS

- Kayaking through the jungle canals and lagoons of Tortuguero National Park
- Rafting through the rainforest on the Sarapiquí River
- Soaking in the hot springs in Arenal
- Learning about the unique Cloud Forest Ecosystem
- Enjoying Costa Rican cuisine and hospitality

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TRIP AT A GLANCE

- Location:** San Jose, Costa Rica
Activities: Multisport
Arrive: Arrive before 3:30 p.m. on Day 1 at the San Jose airport
Depart: You are free to leave anytime on the last day. You will need to be at the airport 2 hours before departure.

TRIP OVERVIEW

Costa Rica, a pioneer in the field of ecotourism, is known both for the diversity of its ecosystems and for the government's efforts to protect those ecosystems in National Parks. In fact, Costa Rica has managed to protect a larger proportion of its land than any other country in the world, with 25% receiving some form of protection. This is a country of rainforests and beaches, mountains and jungles, and Costa Rica's flora and fauna, particularly birds and flowers, are amazingly rich. In this land of jewels, we have picked out the three best, the three places that you have to visit to begin to appreciate just how diverse this country is. After arriving in San Jose, we travel to Tortuguero National Park with its system of jungle canals on one side and the Atlantic Coast on the other. We then visit the Arenal area, best known for its volcano and hot springs. And finally, we end in the cloud forest of Monteverde. We haven't seen it all, but in 10 days we've seen so much!
Maximum group size: 12

RATING

This trip is rated 1 and is designed for active women who want to immerse themselves in the natural history of this fascinating country. While the trip is active, none of the activities are strenuous and all are designed to give you different perspectives on the flora and fauna. **Rating:** [1](#) 2 3 4 5

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- A naturalist Costa Rican guide and an AGC guide (If there are fewer than 8 on the trip there will not be an AGC guide)
- Nine nights double occupancy lodging
- All activities specified on the itinerary
- Private transportation within Costa Rica
- All meals from dinner the first night through breakfast the last
- Airport transfer to and from San Jose (on day of arrival and departure at scheduled times)
- Gratuities for drivers and incidental guides

Not included: airfare to San Jose; guide gratuities; departure taxes (\$29); alcoholic beverages; insurance

OUR ITINERARY

Below is the itinerary we have planned for the trip. As is true on any adventure travel trip, plans for any specific day may be modified due to weather considerations, unforeseen circumstances, new opportunities, and group interests.

DAY 1

Pura vida! It's time to shake off those winter blues and revel in the wonders of the tropics. Plan to arrive in San Jose, Costa Rica and be through customs by 4pm local time. Upon arrival you will be welcomed by our team of friendly leaders; our AGC guide and local partner. From the airport, we'll drive 30 minutes to our hotel in the bustling Capital. During our group orientation, we'll learn more about this incredible country that hosts more than 5% of the world's biodiversity and then we'll learn about the delicious cuisine over a shared group dinner. Overnight at the Radisson. (D)

DAY 2

Costa Rica boasts more than 801 miles of coastline and we will travel to the Caribbean side to check out Tortuguero National Park - our home away from home for the next few days. On the way, we'll drive through Braulio Carrillo National Park and then on to Caño Blanco to board a scenic boat ride to our hotel. Once we get settled in, we'll learn some kayaking basics and then explore the serene waterways to spot wildlife. Bask in the quiet river tributaries while on the lookout for monkeys, sloths and an abundance of birds (red-lore parrots, hummingbirds, herons, yellow-billed caciques and more!) Overnight at Pachira Lodge. (B, L, D)

DAY 3

This morning, we will board a small private boat with a local naturalist and venture deep into the canals of the park to explore the extensive network of freshwater creeks and lagoons. These lush areas are home to seven species of river turtles, Spectacled Caiman, Southern River Otters, a number of crustaceans, and over 50 species of freshwater fish. If we are lucky, we might spot an endangered West Indian Manatee! In the afternoon we'll stretch our legs with an easy walk on a nature trail to look for more wildlife. The rest of the day is free; you can relax at the swimming pool or hang out at the beach. Overnight at Pachira Lodge (B, L, D)

DAY 4

Get one last stroll on the beach if you desire before we continue back inland by boat and private bus, stopping for lunch along the way. Our landing spot today is the Sarapiquí Rainforest, which has been described as an "adventure seeker's dream destination". Sarapiquí is one of the few remaining areas in Costa Rica where the endangered Green Macaw lives. This region is also a major agricultural producer because the land is very fertile due to the consistent flows of the Rio Sarapiquí and the mild year-round climate. On the drive we'll see fields of coffee, cardamom, cacao, corn and banana. Overnight at Hotel El Bambu (B, L, D)

DAY 5

Buckle up your lifejacket and grab your paddle, we are going white water rafting on the Sarapiquí River! The Sarapiquí River is perfect for first time paddlers looking for a safe adventure with Class II and III rapids (depending on water levels and recent rainfall). We'll float past dense trees and abundant wildlife, alternating paddling through calm waters and paddling through fun liquid mini rollercoasters. After lunch we will continue traveling northwest to Arenal Volcano, which is one of the most notable land features of Costa Rica. This impressive volcano is located within the nearly 30,000-acre National Park that serves to protect it. Though the volcano is estimated to be 3,000 years old, it is considered "young" geologically (60 doesn't feel so old now to me!). Arenal began its last and current period of activity in 1968 but has been "sleeping" since 2010 with decreased lava flow and seismic activity. Our hotel for the following two nights is located right in front of the volcano, with an unparalleled view of the mountain. Rejuvenate your paddling muscles with a nice long soak in the healing waters of our hotel's natural hot springs. Overnight at Los Lagos hotel. (B, L, D)

DAY 6

Another beautiful day in the rainforest! Today we dive deeper into the flora and fauna of our surroundings on a guided nature walk. Did you know that Costa Rica is considered a "hummingbird capital" because there are 52 unique species of hummingbirds here? We'll walk across the iconic Arenal Hanging Bridges to get closer to monkeys, bats and other mammals. With 10% of the world's butterflies calling Costa Rica home, we are sure to see many exotic varieties during our trip too. At lunch we'll learn how to make a traditional tortilla. Finally, homework you can eat! This afternoon we'll rest and relax in the hot springs. Overnight at Los Lagos hotel. (B, L, D)

DAY 7

We start the day by boating across Lake Arenal, the largest lake in Costa Rica. It was enlarged to its present size in 1979 as part of a hydroelectric project to bring electricity to rural areas. There are two primary species of fish in Lake Arenal, machaca and bass. The ecosystem that encompasses the lake includes over 120 mammals, including jaguar, tapir and quetzal. Get your cameras ready for absolutely picturesque views of the volcano as we cruise across the lake in our private boat!

The Cloud Forests of Monteverde Costa Rica are often described as Mother Nature's playground where you can see a stunning diversity of plant-life. The tropical science center of Monteverde's Cloud Forest Biological Reserve was the first private area for the conservation of wildlife in Costa Rica and hosts half of all the wildlife in the country and where we will continue to learn about the natural ecosystems. After dinner we'll venture out again for a nocturnal tour to meet the other half of Costa Rica's diverse animal populations. Overnight at Aguti Hotel. (B, L, D)

DAY 8

This morning we hone our wildlife spotting skills with another wonderful guided tour of the cloud forest. Get ready for adrenaline in the afternoon as we fly between trees in harnesses! Unleash your inner Tarzan as we soar through the canopy, eye level with the birds we have been admiring all week. Not a fan of ziplining? No problem! You can trade ziplining for a horseback riding tour in advance. Overnight at Aguti Hotel (B, L, D)

DAY 9

Last day in the tropics! We head to a nearby farm to see how a real “Trapiche” or traditional sugar cane press works. Our tour begins with a short walk through the farm where we can glimpse different crops like sugar cane, coffee, bananas, plantains, tubers, and oranges. After a ride on an authentic Costa Rican oxcart we will learn how to make liquor from the sugar cane, producing the traditional drink “guaro”. In the afternoon, we head back to the Santa Elena village for a delicious lunch before finally driving back to San Jose. Our farewell dinner tonight is at one of the finest restaurants of the city, a chance to celebrate new friends made and an incredible trip. Overnight at Radisson San Jose (B, L, D)

DAY 10

Adios! Today we bid farewell to the tropics and head home. We will be transferred as a group to the international airport at 9 a.m. and you can plan to leave any time after 11 a.m. If you need to leave either earlier or later, we're happy to help you arrange transportation. (B)

ADDITIONAL TRIP INFORMATION

GETTING THERE

Plan to fly into Juan Santamaria International Airport (SJO). A group shuttle will be arranged, and the shuttle driver will meet you outside the airport at 4 p.m. for the 30-minute transfer to our hotel. If you are arriving earlier, we can either arrange a shuttle for you for an additional fee or you can take a taxi (about \$30).

Our official meeting time is **5:30 p.m.** in the lobby of the [Radisson Hotel](#)

GETTING HOME

You are free to leave anytime on the last day. You will need to be at the airport two hours before departure.

AIRFARE

If you would like assistance with airfare, we recommend contacting our AirDesk Partner, [Exito Travel](#). Start by submitting this [form](#). Just fill in your dates and destinations, including any additional notes about preferred carriers, class of service, possible stopovers, etc., and an agent will typically respond via email within a few hours. If you prefer to call, the number is 800-655-4053; be sure to tell them you are traveling with Adventures in Good Company.

Please note: Most of the international airlines are in-network for Exito, so they do not charge extra for their services (and often have access to discounted rates). When necessary, processing fees out-of-network carriers are minimal at around \$35-\$50 per ticket.

ACCOMMODATIONS

We are staying at a variety of accommodations, from a well-situated and rather conventional hotel in San Jose to more personal lodging in other places. Every place we stay is clean and comfortable, with double-occupancy rooms and ensuite bathrooms. Two single rooms are available for an additional cost.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

We recommend that you purchase a travel protection plan to help protect you and your travel investment against the unexpected. For your convenience, we offer travel protection through Travelex Insurance Services. For more information on the available plans or to enroll, visit [Travelex Insurance](#), or call 1-800-228-9792 and reference location number 06-0331.

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CANCELLATION POLICY

Cancellation charges reflect the many expenses Adventures in Good Company cannot recover if you cancel, even if you must do so due to illness, injury, or personal emergencies. These fees are not meant to be punitive. The charges made reflect the expenses Adventures in Good Company has incurred in administering your reservation and planning for your participation. We recognize that the majority of those who cancel their reservations do so out of necessity. Please note that we do not make any refunds for any unused portion of your trip, not arriving, arriving late, or leaving the trip early.

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