

THE TRAVEL CLUB

Costa Rica: Rainforests, Volcanoes & Wildlife

9 DAYS: Saturday, February 2-Sunday, February 10, 2019

9 DAYS: Saturday, March 2-Sunday, March 10, 2019

pp/do \$3,089 single \$3,569

Costa Rica is a real-life paradise. From misty cloud forests and lush jungles to volcanic landscapes and sun-kissed beaches, there's so much to love about this Central American hot spot. Begin your adventure in Tortuguero, the Land of Turtles, then take a dip in the natural hot springs at the foot of the mighty Arenal Volcano and explore the majestic cloud forest region before ending your tour in San José.

Your tour package includes

- 8 nights in handpicked hotels, 8 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 6 dinners, select meals with beer or wine
- 8 guided sightseeing tours, Expert Tour Director & local guides, Private deluxe motor coach

Included highlights

- Sea Turtle Conservancy, Tortuguero National Park, Arenal Volcano National Park,
- the Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve, Heliconia Ranch, coffee plantation,

Tour pace

On this guided tour, you'll walk for about 2.5 hours daily across moderately uneven terrain, including paved roads, unpaved trails, and muddy paths, with some hills.



San José

Day 1: Arrival in San José

Included meals: Light dinner

Fly to Costa Rica and settle in to your hotel in San José.

Tortuguero

Day 2: Sightseeing tour of Tortuguero

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Drive through the Costa Rican countryside. Then, boat through jungle-lined canals to beachside Tortuguero, the Land of Turtles, for a guided tour of the tropical area. • Pass through Braulio Carrillo National Park, home of many dormant volcanoes and placid crater lakes • Take a scenic drive through local banana plantations • Learn about endangered turtles at the Sea Turtle Conservancy (*Please note: Sea turtle nesting season is from June–September. Turtles may not be on the beaches for the remainder of the year.*) Later, get to know your group at a welcome dinner.

Day 3: Rainforest & canal expedition

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Learn about Tortuguero National Park's diverse habitats, including mangrove forests, swamps, and beaches. • Walk and boat through the park, seeking out monkeys, tapirs, caimans, and more • View the freshwater creeks and lagoons, home to endangered turtles and over 50 species of fish

Arenal Region

Day 4: Arenal via Guapiles

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Transfer to the highlands for your first glimpse of Arenal Volcano National Park's lush landscape, shaped by the majestic volcano and massive lake of the same name. Stop in Guapiles, then enjoy a free afternoon in the Arenal Region or add an excursion.

Optional Excursion Arenal Hot Springs & Dinner +\$79/pp

The afternoon is yours to explore an array of heated pools, kept warm by geothermal activity surrounding the Arenal Volcano. Then, enjoy dinner, along with views of the volcano, at a restaurant in the charming town of La Fortuna before traveling back to your hotel. Save \$10 when you book this excursion up to 3 days before your tour departs (On-tour price: \$89)

Day 5: Hiking tour of Arenal

Included meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Hike through Arenal Volcano National Park on a guided tour. • View the mile-high volcano, a near-perfect conical shape that emerges from the Sierra de Tilarán mountain range • Gaze at the placid Lake Arenal, watching for northern jacana, woodpeckers, and kingfishers by its shores • Stop to enjoy a tasting of raw sugarcane Spend a free afternoon in the Arenal Region or add an excursion.

Optional Excursion

Ziplining Tour

+\$59/pp

Today's ziplining excursion adds a bit of adrenaline to your Costa Rican vacation. The longest ziplines on this course cover nearly half a mile, and the tallest are almost 600 feet off the ground; in short, you've never traveled like this before! You'll fly above the treetops and come home with a renewed sense of adventure. Save \$10 when you book this excursion up to 3 days before your tour departs (On-tour price: \$69)

Monteverde

Day 6: Monteverde via Heliconia Ranch

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Get another look at the spectacular Lake Arenal as you travel to Monteverde by boat and bus. There, learn about Costa Rica's diverse ecology and vibrant culture. • Help with reforestation efforts by planting a Sky Walk native tree at Heliconia Ranch • Have lunch at a local farm and enjoy coffee and dairy products cultivated on-site • Watch traditional Costa Rican dances performed by children from the community

Day 7: Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve

Included meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Take a guided tour of what may be the world's most stunning cloud forest reserve. Then, enjoy a free afternoon in Monteverde or add an excursion.

Optional Excursion

Sky Walk

+\$45/pp

The canopy layer of the Costa Rican rainforest teems with life, but until recently, it was difficult for travelers to enter this world. On today's excursion, a guided tour brings you to a series of suspended bridges high above the floor of the Monteverde cloud forest. Save \$10 when you book this excursion up to 3 days before your tour departs (On-tour price: \$55)

San José

Day 8: Coffee plantation visit & San José sightseeing tour

Included meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Travel to San José today, making several stops along the way. • Tour the Espiritu Santo Coffee Plantation to learn about coffee harvests during a hands-on demonstration and enjoy a tasting • Visit the town of Sarchí to view the *carretas*, or beautifully painted oxcarts Then, get to know San José on a guided sightseeing tour. • Stop at the Plaza de la Cultura, site of many performances and celebrations, and admire the National Theater of Costa Rica • Pass Bellavista Fortress, home of the National Museum • Marvel at the steel exterior of the century-old Edificio Metálico Celebrate your trip with your fellow travelers at tonight's farewell dinner.

Day 9: Departure

Included meals: Breakfast (excluding early morning departures)

Transfer to the airport for your flight home.