

Costa Rica Natural Wonders

December 4 – 15, 2024 12 Days

\$4,999 pp/Double \$5,799 pp/Single \$4,849 pp/Triple

\$1,000 Deposit, Airfare Included, Passport Required

All breakfasts, 8 lunches & 8 dinners included

Join John & Gina Kitchen from Falcon Tours on an incredible, in-depth Costa Rican Adventure. John & Gina have traveled extensively in Costa Rica and are excited to host this special trip. Gina is of Costa Rican descent, speaks fluent Spanish, and loves spending time in Costa Rica. Take comfort in this fully supported tour with experienced Falcon Tours guides as well as an additional, full-time, local Costa Rican Guide.



Discover the remarkable beauty and diversity of Costa Rica. The whole country is an explosion of life! Six active volcanos, 26 National Parks, world-renowned rain forests and cloud forests, unmatched biological diversity – all in the size of West Virginia – WOW! Welcome to Costa Rica! From volcanos, rain forests, jungles, misty cloud forests, and 800 miles of coastline, we will explore this landscape by motorcoach, by boat and up close on foot. With 3 guided jungle boat tours, 2 guided hanging bridges jungle walks, tours of a coffee plantation & a pineapple farm, a catamaran ocean tour, a guided cloud forest walk and an evening at the hot springs by the Arenal Volcano, our senses will be on overload. Come see why Costa Rica is such a popular tourist destination.



DAY 1 - We depart this morning and arrive in **San Jose, Costa Rica**. Upon arrival, we will be met by our local Costa Rican Tour Guide, who will assist with our transfer and check-in at our San Jose hotel, the **Doubletree Cariari**. We will be staying in San Jose for 2 nights and our local guide will be with us for the entire trip.



DAY 2 - This morning, we begin our journey through coffee and sugar plantations on the way to **Poas Volcano National Park**. The **Poas Volcano** is the largest active crater in the world. Get up-close views of a cloud forest stunted and twisted by volcanic emissions and the rigors of the cold, windy habitat. If you're lucky, you may even witness one of its sporadic geyser-like eruptions! Next, we continue to a nearby local town for a **traditional Costa Rican lunch (included)**. After lunch, we travel to downtown San Jose for a **city tour** and brief walking tour of the main square of San Jose, **Plaza de la Cultura**. We then return to the Doubletree Cariari Hotel for a **Welcome Dinner (included)** to kick-off our coming adventures and to get to know our fellow travelers better.

DAY 3 – Today we journey east to the Caribbean shore and **Tortuguero National Park**, the **ultimate rainforest** experience and one of the most exotic places in the world. On the way, we will drive through and learn about **Banana Plantations** before boarding a boat that will take us to **Tortuguero**. This remote village is only accessible by boat or plane. Enjoy the **boat ride** which will take you through the **Tortuguero Canals** sheltered in the jungle of the rainforest. These waterways crisscross a national park dedicated to the protection of endangered turtles. The trained eyes of your guide and boatman will help you spot freshwater turtles, caimans, herons, toucans, egrets, and monkeys. This afternoon, we'll visit the **village of Tortuguero**, a unique Caribbean village with no roads, no sidewalks, and no cars. Explore and enjoy the beautiful surroundings of the **Evergreen Lodge** until we meet for an informative presentation on the area. Lunch and dinner **(included)** will be in the jungle-like surroundings of the lodge. We will be staying in Tortuguero for 2 nights.



DAY 4 – Don't be surprised if you're awoken by howler monkeys, we are surrounded by wildlife here. This morning, a local Naturalist accompanies you on a leisurely **boat ride** tour along remote, unspoiled sections of the park's water lagoons and canals, explaining the bountiful flora and fauna and helping to spot the local wildlife in the trees. This afternoon after lunch **(included)**, we'll have a 2nd boat tour and a visit to the **Green Turtle Research Station** to learn about the current efforts to protect the turtles. This area is the western hemisphere's most important nesting site for the endangered **Green Turtle**. Enjoy another dinner **(included)** at the lodge tonight and take in the beauty of this exotic location for one last night.



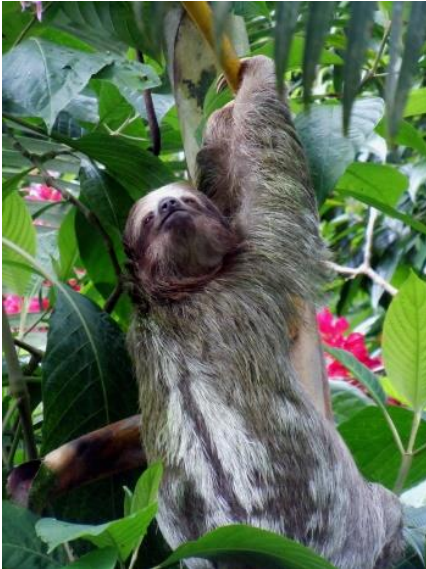
DAY 5 – A final morning **boat ride** through the canals begins our journey to the **San Carlos** area today. After lunch (**included**), we'll tour a **Pineapple Farm** to learn about the history, cultivation, and industry of pineapples. We'll also have a chance to taste some of the freshest pineapple you'll ever have. Later today we'll arrive at the **Arenal Volcano** and the town of La Fortuna, our home for the next 2 nights. We'll be staying at the **Arenal Springs Resort & Spa**. Enjoy lush grounds and spectacular views of Arenal Volcano right from our hotel. **Dinner is included** tonight at the resort.

DAY 6 – Today, enjoy a morning at leisure and take advantage of the resort's expansive pools and lush grounds. Or, consider an optional guided walk around the hotel grounds, a waterfall hike or pamper yourself at the spa. Later today, enjoy a walking tour of the town of **La Fortuna de San Carlos**, offering great views of the Arenal Volcano. After lunch (**included**), we'll have a guided tour of the **Mystico Hanging Bridges**, a treetop rainforest experience with 16 bridges. Finally, we'll drive to **Eco Termales Hot Springs**, a natural paradise. Enjoy dinner and a relaxing dip in the all-natural and curative hot springs (**included**). This is a great time to reflect on the stunning beauty of this country as we reach the halfway point of the tour.



DAY 7 – After breakfast this morning, we drive around **Lake Arenal** on our way to **Monteverde** where we will enjoy 2 days in one of the top Cloud Forests' in the world. We will be staying at **El Establo Mountain Hotel**, a highly rated Monteverde hotel offering tremendous views. This afternoon we'll take a guided tour of the **Skywalk Hanging Bridges** where we'll again experience a thrilling walk along suspension bridges through the canopy of the misty **Monteverde Cloud Forest**. Lunch and dinner are on your own today, so feel free to explore the quaint town of **Santa Elena**. We're living in the clouds now.

DAY 8 – This morning we visit **Santa Elena Cloud Forest Reserve** for a walking tour. The reserve is located on the **Continental Divide** of Costa Rica, comprises an area of 765 acres, and is home to forest animals such as the resplendent quetzal, jaguars, ocelots, monkeys, and numerous species of birds. With almost 100% humidity throughout the year, the cloud forest experiences almost 12 feet of rain per year. Later, we visit the family-owned **Trapiche Farm** where we will enjoy a **homemade lunch (included)**. While here, we'll see the entire coffee making process. We'll also see and learn about the production of sugar cane and the traditional ways of cultivating bananas. Look forward to some fun tasting today. The remainder of the afternoon is at your leisure. For the adventurous types, try an optional zip line canopy tour for an unforgettable ride through the trees. Enjoy one last dinner in the clouds tonight (**included**) as we say goodbye to one of the world's top Cloud Forest Reserves.



DAY 9 – Today, we come down from the clouds en route to the Pacific coast and the famous beaches of Guanacaste. Enjoy panoramic views of the Gulf of Nicoya on the way and notice the change to a tropical dry forest. After lunch today, we board a private, **luxury catamaran** for an amazing **sunset sailing tour**. Along with great coastline views, we'll be looking for whales, dolphins and manta rays. We'll also enjoy a buffet of snacks prepared by the crew along with an open bar including fresh, tropical fruit drinks. Try a kayak, paddle board or some snorkel gear for some memorable time in the Pacific Ocean. After disembarking, we make the short drive to **Tamarindo** and our beachfront location on **Tamarindo Beach**. Enjoy the stunning views and beautiful beaches from our oceanfront resort, the **Tamarindo Diria Beach Resort**. We'll be here for 2 amazing nights.



DAY 10 – We kick off today with a visit to **Palo Verde National Park**, one of the best places to view native wildlife. This park is simultaneously a spectacular wetlands and one of the best examples of a tropical dry forest. We'll enjoy a **guided boat tour** on the Rio Tempisque followed by a delicious, homemade, traditional lunch (**included**). After lunch we'll return to Tamarindo where we'll have a little afternoon time to enjoy our beachfront location or explore the shops and town of Tamarindo. We'll have dinner at the hotel tonight (**included**) and an opportunity for one more spectacular sunset.



DAY 11 – Today we make our way back to San Jose. On the way we'll visit the beautiful town of **Sarchi**, known as the center of Costa Rican handcrafts and where you will see the artists in their workshops making the famous **oxcarts**. Passing through rolling hills full of coffee and sugar cane, we stop next at **Grecia Village**, where we'll see the famous metal church that was imported from Belgium to Puerto Limon in 1897. It's neo-Gothic architecture is quite a site. Later, we finish our drive back to the **Doubletree Cariari Hotel** for our last evening in Costa Rica. Tonight, our local Tour Guide hosts a **farewell dinner (included)**, toasting an unforgettable discovery of Costa Rica.



DAY 12 - After breakfast this morning, we return home with great memories of new adventures, remarkable scenery, amazing pictures and new friends.

