



 **fly & drive**

COSTA RICA DISCOVERY TOUR

15 days / 14 nights

Travel around Costa Rica and discover a range of fantastic destinations by driving at your own pace, enjoying the freedom and ease of doing so. Covering distances between active volcanoes and taking pleasure in the inspiring views of our forests. Every quiet and solitary beach, every garden, every single road surrounded by exuberant vegetation will make you realize that you don't have to rush anywhere. Paddle quietly in a kayak in Boca Tapada or go on a birdwatching tour in the quest for the mystical quetzal or the colourful scarlet macaw. Enjoy the rainforest and the positive effect of nature on body and soul.

DAY 1 ARRIVAL IN COSTA RICA – SAN JOSE

After your arrival at the international airport of San José, Costa Rica, you will be welcomed by our English-speaking airport guide at the exit of the airport. He/she will hand you over your travel documents, afterwards seat-in transfer to your city hotel. Overnight at Hotel Colonial ***(*)

DAY 2 SAN JOSE Walk at the Rhythm of the capital - Pick up Rental Car – BOCA TAPADA (Total Driving: about 4 hs)

Breakfast at the hotel. The Ticos affectionately call their capital San José Chepe, and we would like to show you its most beautiful side on a two-hour walk. Our guide picks you up at the reception of your city hotel and brings you back here. In the city's Central Market, you will observe Costa Ricans doing their daily shopping for tropical fruits, vegetables and herbs, and, why not, chatting with your neighbour over a delicious cup of coffee. As you walk along the busy Avenida 2 to the Plaza de la Cultura and the National Theatre, you will learn a lot about Costa Rica's history and the origin and development of the local coffee culture. Why is Costa Rica a pioneer in the region in terms of peace and ecology? You will get the answers to these questions at the latest at the Plaza de la Democracia. Our city tour will give you a lively insight into the daily life of the Josefinos and an overview of the most emblematic buildings of the capital. Let Chepe surprise you! The rental car will be handed over to you at the hotel. You need a credit card (Visa, Mastercard or American Express) and your valid national driving license. There are two routes to get Boca Tapada, one is driving to the town of Grecia, on the way you can visit their local church which is indeed lovely. This burgundy-painted house of prayer was built in 1890 entirely out of metal to protect it from the tropical climate - really admirable. Then you can keep on with your trip through the towns of Naranjo and Zarcero until you reach Ciudad Quesada. From there, continue to Aguas Zarcas, Pital, and Boca Tapada. Another route is via route 32, drive through the Braulio Carrillo National Park into the Caribbean lowland. Once you get to the bus station Empresarios Guapileños, turn left to take road 4 crossing the bridge over the river Sucio; drive for approximately 33 km, until the village of Puerto Viejo de Sarapiquí. Then turn the left and go straight for about 33 km on the new highway called Chilamate - Vuelta - Kooper, then turn right towards route 250 and continue to Pital de San Carlos, here just go straight on to Boca Tapada. Overnight at the Laguna del Lagarto Lodge** (B)

DAY 3 BOCA TAPADA

Breakfast at the hotel. Take pleasure in a fantastic hike inside an emerald forest - 300 ha of protected area, where you will be able to explore the magnificent flora and fauna. There is also a lake that reaches 900 metres deep into the jungle. You can use the kayaks to paddle silently through the rainforest - one of the best ways to see animals. Likewise, a variety of tours at reasonable prices is offered. Overnight at the Laguna del Lagarto Lodge** (B)

PRICE PER PERSON EN DOUBLE OCCUPANCY

Base 2 Pax EUR 1.800.-
Base 3 Pax EUR 1.632.-
Base 4 Pax EUR 1.606.-

SURPLUS April EUR 130.-

SURPLUS SINGLE ROOM EUR 928.-

DISCOUNT TRIPLE ROOM EUR -170.-

2023

DEPARTURES ON REQUEST MARCH THROUGH NOVEMBER

Upon request, you can choose any other day of the week to start the program. Please send us an E-mail or call us to check your dates for availability. Thus, the order of the excursions /tours can vary depending on it. And if you have a group, we will be very happy to send you a special offer with bus or rental cars.

INCLUDED SERVICES

- ✓ 14 nights in San Jose, Boca Tapada, La Fortuna, Monteverde, Manuel Antonio, San Gerardo de Dota, Turrialba, and Limón
- ✓ 14 breakfasts, 1 lunch.
- ✓ Transfer In on seat-in basis
- ✓ Rental car with basic insurance as follows:
 - **1 -2 pax:** Compact 2WD (Volkswagen T-Cross 2WD AT or similar)
 - **3 pax:** Mid Size 4WD (Suzuki Vitara or similar)
 - **4 pax:** Standard 4WD (Suzuki Grand Vitara or similar)
- ✓ San José: Walk at the Rhythm of our capital
- ✓ Turrialba: Experience the taste of a coffee village
- ✓ Puerto Viejo de Limón: Cook Caribbean Style
- ✓ 24 h. support via Whatsapp

NOT INCLUDED

- ❖ International flight
- ❖ Departure tax in Costa Rica USD 29
- ❖ Further services for the rental car (insurances except for basic insurance, GPS, Drive Relaxed Package, fuel, highway tolls etc.)
- ❖ Parking fees at the hotels and visits
- ❖ Additional tours
- ❖ Personal expenses
- ❖ Tip for drivers, guides and porters
- ❖ Meals not mentioned in the program





DAY 4 BOCA TAPADA – ARENAL VOLCANO (Total Driving: 80 km, about 2,5 km)

Breakfast at the hotel. The next part of your discovery tour leads you through large fruit plantations via Pital, Aguas Zarcas and Muelle to La Fortuna, located at the foot of the active Arenal Volcano. In the afternoon, we recommend a hike in one of the protected areas, where the trails lead up to former lava fields, or one of the other diverse activities that you can book with one of the local tour operators in the town of La Fortuna. In the evening, you can enjoy the wonderfully warm water in one of the local thermal springs. Accommodation at the San Bosco Inn**. (B)

DAY 5 ARENAL VOLCANO – MONTEVERDE (Total Driving: 125 km, about 3,5 km)

After breakfast, the journey continues, you will drive around the beautiful Lake Arenal to the village of Tilarán and from here into the mountains to the cloud forest paradise of Monteverde. Especially in the rainy season, the last kilometres might be a bit bumpy. Accommodation at the Arco Iris Lodge**(*) . (B)

DAY 6 MONTEVERDE

Breakfast at the hotel. Today, you'll have plenty of time to take pleasure in the many interesting excursions and tours that Monteverde has to offer. We especially recommend a visit to the reserves of Monteverde and/or Santa Elena. You can also enjoy the Selvatura Hanging Bridges, a system of suspension bridges in the canopy of the cloud forest. Santa Elena, a small village close to Monteverde Reserve, also offers a butterfly farm, a snake museum, a hummingbird gallery, a cheese factory and much more. Accommodation at the Arco Iris Lodge**(*) . (B)

DAY 7 MONTEVERDE – QUEPOS – MANUEL ANTONIO (Total Driving: 180 km, 3,5 hours)

Breakfast at the hotel. Today you leave the beautiful cloud forest and drive around 35 km down to the Panamerican Highway. From there, you turn south and continue via Puntarenas and Orotina to Jacó. Here, you can stop for a visit to the Carara National Park, 5 km behind the long bridge over Tarcoles River (entry fee approx. USD 12 per person). This park is a living example of a mixed forest, a biome which is at the same time mildly temperate and humid. This weather mixture is perfect for orchids, which you will be able to admire in their natural habitat. Nevertheless, the park's main attraction is the large red scarlet macaw. Continue along the coast to Quepos/Manuel Antonio, passing the village of Jacó. Accommodation at the Arco Iris Lodge**(*) . (B)

DAY 8 MANUEL ANTONIO NATIONAL PARK

Breakfast at the hotel. The Manuel Antonio National Park is a highlight of the trip! It is closed every Tuesday and the entrance ticket must be booked in advance via the website www.sinac.go.cr, or you can also make the booking via ARA Tours. Although Manuel Antonio is one of the smallest parks in Costa Rica, it is also one of the most famous destinations for both tourists and locals. The park protects a 1'624 hectare rainforest area and some of its beautiful adjoining beaches. On the trails inside the park, you can observe birds and other animals. You might even bump into one of the shy squirrel monkeys here and there. Accommodation at the Hotel Villa Bosque***. (B)

DAY 9 QUEPOS/MANUEL ANTONIO – DOMINICAL – CERRO DE LA MUERTE – SAN GERARDO DE DOTA (Total Driving: 140 km, about 3 hours)

Breakfast at the hotel. Your discovery tour continues southwards to Dominical, where you will find beautiful wild beaches. Shortly before reaching Dominical, you can visit the private reserve of Hacienda Barú. Then you continue to San Isidro del General, where you'll meet the Panamerican Highway again. Soon you start to ascend the Talamanca mountain range and cross the highest mountain pass in Costa Rica, known as Cerro de la Muerte, 3'400 masl. A few kilometres later, turn left to San Gerardo de Dota, a small village at 2'200 masl. This is the best place in Costa Rica to observe the quetzal, a shy and colourful bird which was once worshipped by the Mayans and other aboriginal populations. Enjoy a walk through the jungle and observe birds until late in the afternoon. Accommodation at the Sueños del Bosque**(*) . (B)

DAY 10 SAN GERARDO DE DOTA – CARTAGO – TURRIALBA Experience the taste of a coffee village (Total Driving: 110 km, about 2,5 hours -without Irazú Volcano)

Breakfast at the hotel. The early morning hours are the best time to take a walk through the



beautiful cloud forest, great for birdwatching. Later you will drive via Cartago to Turrialba. Close to Cartago, you may want to pay a visit to the Lankester Gardens to observe their beautiful orchid and bromeliad collections, or else climb up the Irazú Volcano (this entrance fee must also be booked in advance on the website www.sinac.go.cr or via ARA Tours). Once there and weather permitting, you will be able to see its jade green crater lake. Truly optimum weather conditions might even allow you to have a privileged view of both the Atlantic and the Pacific Oceans (not included in the distance and time calculation). You have the opportunity (today or the day after) to visit the largest coffee farm in the country, with its 924 hectares, panoramic views and friendly people. Situated close to Turrialba, the picturesque farm is surrounded by rivers, waterfalls, green woods and many different species of birds that have found their home here. Nestled in the coffee plantations of the region, the village started developing with the coffee farm, while the farm, later, continued evolving by the villagers. A perfect symbiosis that still bears fruit today. The tour starts directly at the coffee plantation and takes you through all processes of coffee production, from cultivation to coffee enjoyment from the cup. At the beginning of the tour, we visit the small and picturesque church of the village and then drive through coffee plantations to a beautiful Ceiba Tree, from where you can enjoy a fantastic view of the coffee plantations and the village. When you visit the coffee processing centre you will learn all about coffee production, the different types of coffee, drying and packaging of our precious gold grain. You will get to know flavours, different textures and coffee colours until you try different coffee varieties. Accommodation at the Guayabo Lodge*** (B)

DAY 11 TURRIALBA – LIMON – PUERTO VIEJO DE LIMON (Total Driving: 165 km, about 3,5 hs)

Breakfast at the hotel. Continue along the winding road towards Siquirres, from which you can already catch your first glimpse of the Atlantic Ocean in some places and in good weather conditions. After arriving in Siquirres, turn right and continue towards Limón and the Caribbean coast until you finally reach the beach town of Puerto Viejo de Limón, which will welcome you with plenty of Caribbean flair. Accommodation at the Cabinas Tropical**(*). (B)

DAY 12 PUERTO VIEJO DE LIMON Cook Caribbean Style

Breakfast at the hotel. A hundred metres across the street you will find Cocles beach. However, we also recommend driving south, where you will find quiet and solitary white sand beaches you will definitely love. Here you can also explore the Gandoca Manzanillo Reserve.

Today (or the day after) you meet an Afro-Caribbean family that has spent its life in this region and therefore knows it as the back of their hand. The meeting takes place at their home, where you cook together with the hostess. You will meet other family members, they will show you how to prepare a typical Caribbean dish, you will learn about family life, many stories that will give insight into the culture will be shared with you and old Caribbean grandmother's cooking recipes will be revealed. From the beginning, you will be involved in the preparation of the dish, completely relaxed, among friends and friendly conversations. The hostesses help you with the preparation and show you what is important. Gradually, you work through the recipe in order to fully enjoy the Caribbean cuisine later on. The chefs speak English and Spanish, which is why you do not need a local guide. In a relaxed get-together, you can enjoy the jointly prepared meal with the family. Definitely an unforgettable & authentic experience. Overnight at Cabinas (D) (L)

DAY 13 PUERTO VIEJO DE LIMON

Breakfast at the hotel. Another day at your leisure to enjoy the Caribbean coast. Accommodation at the Cabinas Tropical**(*). (B)

DAY 14 PUERTO VIEJO DE LIMON – SAN JOSE Car return (Total Driving: 220 km, about 4,5 hs)

Breakfast at the hotel. You can still enjoy the beaches in the morning. Return to San José via Limón, Siquirres, Guápiles, and the Braulio Carrillo National Park. If you leave Puerto Viejo de Limón early, you will have the chance to enjoy a ride on the Aerial Tram, located in the Braulio Carrillo National Park. Return your car before 5 pm. Overnight at the Hotel Colonial ***(*) (B)

DAY 15 SAN JOSE – JUAN SANTAMARIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Breakfast at the hotel. On your last day, depending on your departure time, you will enjoy the hotel facilities. Later, a shuttle bus will take you to Juan Santamaría International Airport, where your Costa Rican adventure will come to an end. End of our services. (B)

