

## **THE MAGIC OF COSTA RICA** **13 days ESCORTED TOUR**

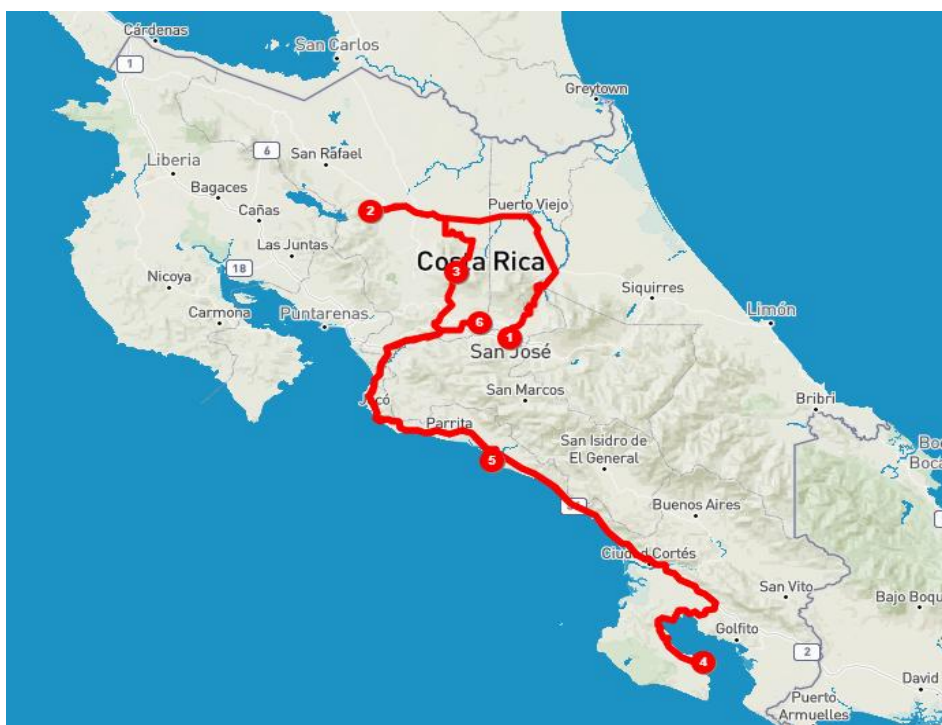
*Photo by Coral Blanche Hummer, Flickr*

**Costa Rica**, in Central America, boasts 12 **unique** ecological zones and has one of the greatest biodiversities in the world. The contrast of habitats has attracted more than 500,000 different species, making it the dream destination for spotting wildlife such as macaws, sea turtles and adorable sloths.

*A truly beautiful country, filled with rainforests, beaches, river valleys, and biodiverse wildlife.*

*Costa Rica is home to 27 national parks and five percent of the world's biodiversity. Apart from jungles, there are also cloud forests, swamps, coral reefs, dry forests, and rainforests, currently six active and over 60 dormant or extinct volcanoes, and more than 1,280 km of pristine, beautiful shorelines on both the Pacific and Caribbean sides of the country.*

*Costa Ricans live life to the fullest, their favourite motto being "pura vida," which means "pure life."*



## Day 1: ARRIVE SAN JOSE

Welcome to San Jose, Costa Rica!

On arrival at the SJO international airport, you will be met and transferred to our hotel in downtown San Jose.

The capital city of San Jose, considered to be one of the most cosmopolitan cities in Latin America, is located in the middle of the Central Valley in the center of the country. The city features popular tourist attractions, such as historical buildings, museums, theaters, artisan markets, beautiful parks, shopping centers, and a varied gastronomic scene.

Overnight in San Jose.



## Day 2: SAN JOSE

*Breakfast, Dinner*

Day at leisure to recover from long flights and explore the city on your own. Welcome dinner this evening to meet your tour leaders and fellow travellers.

## Day 3: SAN JOSE – ARENAL VOLCANO (3hrs, 135km)

*Breakfast*

We depart towards the northern plains until we reach La Fortuna, home to the mighty Arenal Volcano. On route, we will pass through various agricultural plantations and cattle ranches, and enjoy authentic rural Costa Rica.

Check in to Tabacón Grand Spa Thermal Resort featuring hot springs and swimming pools heated directly from the volcanic veins of the Arenal Volcano.

Later today we will hike the 1968 Trail, named after the Arenal Volcano eruption of 1968 which was one of the most important and crucial events in Costa Rica's history. The eruption destroyed 3 towns and killed several people, but it also changed the topography of the area. The forest on the west side of the volcano was gone as lava took over.

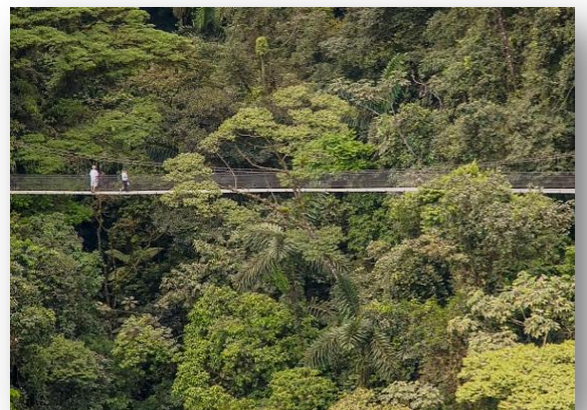
Overnight at the resort.



## Day 4: ARENAL VOLCANO

*Breakfast*

Morning guided walk at the Arenal Hanging Bridges takes place in a 600-acre (243-hectares) reserve, filled with lush vegetation and a variety of fauna. The trail is 3 km (2 miles) long, crosses 10 fixed bridges and 6 hanging bridges with lengths between 5 to 100 meters (16 and 328 feet) and up to 55 m (180 feet) high, allowing the exploration of the different levels of the forest (undergrowth, sub-canopy and canopy) and offering the opportunity to observe a greater number of species. The design of the trail has a maximum slope of 7 degrees, there are no steps, there are protection rails, the surface material is non-slip concrete, so you can walk without difficulty and feel safe even at heights.



Afternoon at leisure to enjoy the hotel hot springs.

Overnight at the resort.

**Day 5: ARENAL VOLCANO – BAJOS DEL TORO** (2.5 hrs, 95 km)

*Breakfast*

Mid morning departure for Bajos del Toro. Surrounded by cloud forest with rivers flowing from mountain tops and waterfalls hidden in woods, it is a dream place to observe birds, including hummingbirds, bellbirds, quetzal, and many more.

For the next two nights, we will stay at the El Silencio Lodge & Spa, a secluded and tranquil luxury hotel tucked away among the picturesque valleys and waterfalls of UNESCO-listed Bajos del Toro.

Overnight in Bajos del Toro.

**Day 6: BAJOS DEL TORO**

*Breakfast*

Day at leisure today. The melodious songs of birds and gurgling streams will be the first sounds you will hear this morning. After breakfast, you can wander the trails of the property to discover the wonders of these ancient forests inhabited by large numbers of migratory birds and interesting plantations of medicinal trees.

Discover one of Costa Rica's hidden gems, tucked in a valley between extinct volcanoes, where you will experience the richness of life in the forests and trails of Bajos del Toro. The typically humid and rainy weather makes for a relaxing atmosphere of soft fog and cloudy skies, providing a deep connection with nature.

Afternoon free to do any optional activity such as tree planting ceremony or organic vegetables. Undoubtedly, this is a place where you will easily forget about the rest of the world.

Overnight in Bajos del Toro.

**Day 7: BAJOS DEL TORO – GOLFO DULCE**

*Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

Transfer to domestic flight terminal in San Jose.

The Osa Peninsula prevails as the most biologically intense place on the planet, according to National Geographic. The 45-minute domestic flight from San José to Golfito or Puerto Jiménez, provides spectacular views of Costa Rica's diverse landscape, including the mountains, farms, rivers, Pacific Ocean, Drake Bay, The Osa Peninsula, and finally Golfo Dulce. On arrival at the airstrip, we will be escorted on a picturesque 30-minute boat ride to the lodge, taking in the magnificent coastline with tropical vegetation – with occasional sightings of schools of dolphins, turtles, and/or humpback whales.

Overnight in Golfo Dulce.

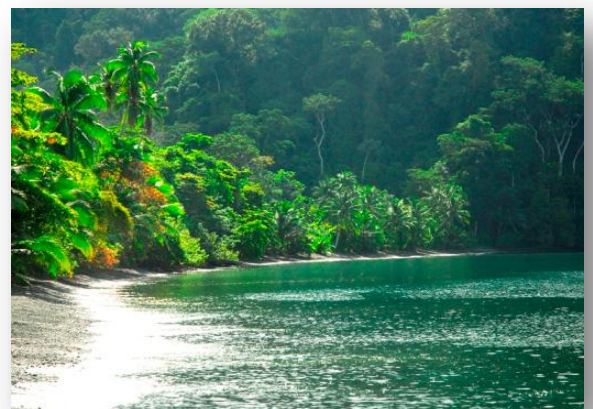
**Day 8: GOLFO DULCE**

*Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

Days at leisure in this paradise.

Surrounded by lush jungles and tropical gardens, overlooking the emerald waters of the Sweet Gulf, virgin beaches fringed by palms is a special destination for nature lovers and those who want to enjoy a moment of peace.

Enjoy the facilities of the hotel, or walk out to watch monkeys and many species of birds, including toucans and scarlet macaws.



Use of snorkeling equipment and kayaking is included and available in the property, as well as the use of internal trails of the hotel. All these activities are carried out on your own.

Overnight in Golfo Dulce.

### **Day 9: GOLFO DULCE**

*Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

Day at leisure in this paradise.

Overnight in Golfo Dulce.

### **Day 10: GOLFO DULCE – MANUEL ANTONIO**

*Breakfast*

To day we will go back through Golfo Dulce on the boat to the small port of Puerto Jimenez, where private transportation will take us to Manuel Antonio on the Costa Rican Central Pacific. Along the way, we will enjoy wonderful views of the Pacific beaches, passing near the Marino Ballena National Park, stopping to observe whales and dolphins splashing in the sea, if conditions allow. Our destination today is Manuel Antonio, a paradise where lovely white sand beaches mix with jungle and rain forest full of wildlife.



Overnight in Manuel Antonio.

### **Day 11: MANUEL ANTONIO**

*Breakfast*

Today we will visit the Manuel Antonio National Park. In addition to several hiking trails, there are beautiful beaches, picturesque viewpoints, and a high probability of seeing animals, especially the four species of monkeys in Costa Rica, as well as sloths, coatys, and raccoons.



Overnight in Manuel Antonio.

### **Day 12: MANUEL ANTONIO**

*Breakfast, Dinner*

Free day to explore the area and enjoy the hotel facilities. Farewell dinner this evening.

Overnight in Manuel Antonio.

### **Day 13: MANUEL ANTONIO**

*Breakfast*

Today we depart to the Juan Santamaria International Airport for connection with flights home, armed with unforgettable memories of a true paradise.