

AWE INSPIRING DESTINATIONS & EXTRAORDINARY EXPERIENCES



# COSTA RICA

**8 OR 9 DAYS SELF DRIVE**

**SAN JOSE, ARENAL, MONTEVERDE, SAMARA BEACH, LIBERIA**



## ITINERARY

### DAY 1 - Arrival in Costa Rica, San Jose

Welcome to **Costa Rica**, a land where nature's wonders thrive in breathtaking harmony! Nestled in the heart of Central America, Costa Rica is a lush, tropical gem boasting pristine coastlines on both the **Caribbean** and **Pacific Oceans**. Known as a biodiversity hotspot, it dazzles with 12 ecological zones and over 500,000 species, offering unforgettable encounters with vibrant macaws, graceful sea turtles, and the iconic sloths.

Overnight in San Jose Area

### DAY 2 - Arenal La Fortuna waterfall, Arenal Hike, Hot Springs

Breakfast at the hotel.

From the bustling capital, your journey will lead you to the enchanting Arenal region, a nature lover's dream near the Nicaraguan border. Begin your journey with a visit to the iconic La Fortuna Waterfall, a breathtaking cascade that plunges into a massive swimming hole surrounded by majestic rocks—perfect for a refreshing dip or simply soaking in the serene beauty.

Next, embark on an exhilarating hike through lush rainforest trails leading to the base of Arenal Volcano. Towering at 1,633 meters (5,350 feet), this conical beauty boasts a crater 140 meters (460 feet) wide, a testament to its fiery origins as an active andesitic stratovolcano. Along the way, discover diverse plant life and wildlife, while marveling at stunning views of Arenal Lake.

As the day winds down, after checking to your hotel, unwind in the rejuvenating thermal waters of Baldi Hot Springs. You will enjoy dinner at the springs.

Dinner included.

Overnight in Arenal area



### DAY 3 - Arenal, LIL Forest Resort, Rafting, Mountain Bike

Breakfast at the hotel.

Enjoy a day in the Arenal region. Today you will visit Lands in love, Hotel & Forest Resort and Adventure Center, right in the middle of a cloud forest. The region possesses beautiful and varied scenery; this land stays green and humid all year round.

Once there enjoy the amazing unexplored world of tropical rafting wilderness in a deep canyon with waterfalls, exotic animals, tropical birds, and plenty of whitewater. You will get to see lots of wildlife like monkeys, sloths, and tropical birds such as ospreys, oropendolas, and toucans. This unique river trip is the best way to combine adventure and nature.

Pedal your bike on an off-road off-grid trail in an uncharted area as far as the eye can see through unknown villages, between hidden rivers water reservoirs, pastures, and wildlife.

Follow your guide as you will navigate through rural Costa Rica a 2 hours ride - paced to your ability, suitable for all the family and back to the resort with our fully-equipped van.

Overnight in Arenal area



### DAY 4 - Monteverde, Coffee & Chocolate Farm, Night Tour

Breakfast at the hotel. After breakfast depart for the enchanting Monteverde and Santa Elena region. As you ascend the hill toward this captivating destination, take in breathtaking views of the Gulf of Nicoya and the picturesque islands below. The name "Monteverde," meaning "Green Mountain," perfectly captures the essence of this forested sanctuary, a haven for wildlife and natural beauty.

Founded in 1951 by a group of North American Quakers, this 1,400-meter-high (4,594 ft) plateau community was initially established for dairy farming. However, the founders' environmental consciousness, combined with efforts from private organizations, led to the preservation of one of Costa Rica's richest ecological systems through the creation of a biological reserve.

Upon arrival, embark on a coffee tour, an immersive experience that unveils the fascinating journey of Costa Rican coffee. Learn about its pivotal role in the country's socio-economic development while witnessing the intricate processes of picking, de-pulping, drying, and roasting coffee beans.



Continue your exploration with a sugarcane tour, discovering the historical importance of sugarcane mills on local farms. Finally, dive into the world of chocolate with a chocolate tour that engages all your senses. Participate in the traditional chocolate-making process, taste the raw cacao fruit, and savor the transformation of cocoa beans into rich, velvety chocolate. Sample a variety of creations, including spiced chocolate, liquid chocolate, and the irresistible combination of coffee and chocolate.

As night falls, embark on an exhilarating cloud forest night tour. Wander the jungle trails under the starry sky, surrounded by the mystery of the nocturnal world. Spot fascinating creatures like sleeping birds, tarantulas, frogs, sloths, and kinkajous as they come alive in their natural habitat.

Overnight at the Arenal area





### DAY 5 - Monteverde, Hanging Bridges, Canopy

Breakfast at the hotel. Located halfway between the town of Santa Elena and the Santa Elena Preserve is a complex of suspension bridges within the trails for a more tranquil introduction of the flora and fauna of the forest.

Afterwards, get ready to make your heart pound as you take a zip line ride through the cloud forest canopy. Among the dozens of options, where you will whizz along 1.7 miles of cables slung between towering trees.

Overnight at the Monteverde area



### DAY 6 - Rio Celeste, Hiking

Breakfast at the hotel.

Today experience nature and at the same time discover one of Costa Rica's hidden mysteries. Get the opportunity to enjoy the beauty of the tropical rainforest and lush wildlife.

Hike the trail for approximately 4 hours, just over 7 kilometers. During the hike, visit places such as the lagoon of the Rio Celeste, a perfect place for taking excellent pictures. Hike by Los Teñideros, a place where two pristine brooks combine creating the heavenly turquoise color that gives the river its name. Finish with hike down to the splendid waterfall of the Rio Celeste.

Overnight at the Monteverde area





#### DAY 7 - Monteverde, Samara, ATV tour

Breakfast at the hotel

Today you will drive to Samara, located on the Nicoya Peninsula in the Guanacaste province of Costa Rica. A relaxed beach experience surrounded by the best of Costa Rica! Samara has been increasing in popularity with visitors looking for relaxation and a real beach holiday.

The Samara beach area also maintains its reputation as one of the best places in Costa Rica for snorkeling, scuba diving and sport fishing and for being one of the cleanest and safest beaches in all of Costa Rica.

Once there, check in at your ATV tour. After receiving operating and safety instructions, depart off on a tour of the area, crossing rivers and streams in the tropical forests and through homestead farms, coastal open areas, and local towns. On the tour you will travel on roads where access is only possible for ATVs.

Overnight at Samara Beach



#### DAY 8 - Samara Beach, at leisure

Breakfast at the hotel

Enjoy day at leisure to visit the beautiful beach around.

Overnight at Samara Beach

#### DAY 9 - Samara Beach, Liberia International Airport

Breakfast at the hotel.

Depart Samara Beach to Daniel Oduber Quirós International Airport (Liberia).