



## Costa Rica

### Gardens, Rainforest and Wildlife

A Tour Offered for Illinois Master Gardeners  
(and their families and friends)

February 4-13, 2011

Join us as we explore the rich diversity of Costa Rica. We will visit private reserves and private and public gardens, while surrounded by mountains or the picturesque Pacific coast.

Costa Rica is one of the most peaceful countries in the world. The tremendous natural diversity of plants and animals, as well as culture ... and the friendliness of the Costa Rican people will ensure that you will have an unforgettable experience as our guest on this magnificent tour.

Costa Rica is the land of gardens where you will see some your most cherished garden plants growing in the wild. The national flower of Costa Rica is an orchid. Costa Rica has the richest orchid flora in Central America, with more than 1,400 identified species.

We have custom designed this itinerary exclusively for this group. This trip is very inclusive of almost all daily activities as well as meals. Also included are all tips for maids, porters, and guides (both onsite guides and bilingual guide that will be with you throughout the trip). The lodging is very nice and unique, and the group size will be comfortable with 20 participants maximum. The smaller group size provides for a much nicer trip. We have included visits on this itinerary that are exclusively available to a very limited few.

For more information, email  
[mary@hiddentreasuresbotanicaltours.com](mailto:mary@hiddentreasuresbotanicaltours.com)  
[www.hiddentreasuresbotanicaltours.com](http://www.hiddentreasuresbotanicaltours.com)

*Hidden Treasures*  
BOTANICAL TOURS

## Daily itinerary at a glance ...

### Day 1

Upon arrival in Juan Santamaría International Airport in San Jose (SJO) you will be met and transferred to your hotel where you have the remainder of the day to relax and enjoy the magnificent gardens at the hotel and take photographs.

*Lodging:* Hotel Bougainvillea, [www.hb.co.cr](http://www.hb.co.cr)

### Day 2

After a leisurely breakfast, we will depart for the magnificent La Paz Waterfall Gardens ([www.waterfallgardens.com](http://www.waterfallgardens.com)). When you think of Costa Rica, you imagine lush tropical rain forests, flowing white rivers, spectacular waterfalls, birds, butterflies and flowers galore. La Paz Waterfall Gardens has all this and more, including one of the largest collections of bromeliads in the country. Closed shoes are a must for this location as trails can be slippery.

*Meals included:* Breakfast, lunch, dinner

*Lodging:* Hotel Bougainvillea

### Day 3

We depart today for the area of Sarapiquí, with a mid-afternoon arrival to the hotel. We will have a treat along the route with a Chocolate Tour at Tirimbina Rainforest Center (originally part of the Milwaukee Public Museum until it became publicly owned in 2006 by the Pura Vida Foundation of Milwaukee). Learn about growing and processing Cacao the way indigenous tribes would have, and have the opportunity to taste all demonstration materials.

*Meals included:* Breakfast, lunch, dinner

*Lodging:* La Quinta Lodge, [www.laquintasarapiqui.com](http://www.laquintasarapiqui.com) (this is not the chain hotels of the states with the same name – this lodge is unique)

### Day 4

Discover why Costa Rican pineapples are among the world's best with a visit to Corsicana pineapple farm (the famous Collins Street Bakery of Texas) where you will tour the plantation and the packing. After lunch, you will have the afternoon free for optional tours available at an additional cost. For optional tours you may choose whitewater rafting, horseback riding, or zipping over the rainforest canopy on the zipline Costa Rica has become famous for. Or you may just unwind and enjoy the nice pool and great birding at La Quinta Lodge.

*Meals included:* Breakfast, lunch, dinner.

*Lodging:* La Quinta Lodge

### Day 5

We depart today for our next destination, the San Ramon region of Costa Rica. En route we will visit The Else Kientzler Botanical Garden ([www.elsekientzlergarden.com](http://www.elsekientzlergarden.com)). This garden is a member of the organization Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) and is home to over 2,000 different plants from around the world. This 17-acre garden at the foot of the Poas Volcano in Costa Rica's Central Valley is part of Innovaplant of Costa Rica, an agricultural company that produces and export ornamental plants. We will then continue on to our lodging for the next two nights.

*Meals included:* Breakfast, lunch, dinner

*Lodging:* Villa Blanca Cloud Forest Hotel, <http://villablanca-costarica.com/>

### Day 6

In the morning we will travel a short distance to Nectandra Cloudforest Gardens ([www.nectandra.org](http://www.nectandra.org)), the centerpiece of 104 hectares of primary and secondary forest. You will notice the distinct change in vegetation as you are now within the cloudforest where moisture is abundant on a daily basis. The forest will be much more lush as in previous locations. Most of the plants featured in the horticulturally developed area are from the preserve and its immediate surroundings. After lunch, you will have free time to explore the trails and gardens at Villa Blanca, as well as the remarkably beautiful chapel.

*Meals included:* Breakfast, lunch

*Lodging:* Villa Blanca Cloud Forest Hotel

### **Day 7**

Today we depart for the Central Pacific coast. En route, we will visit Orquimex, one of the most important exporters of orchids in the country. We will then continue on to Monterrey del Mar, our home for the next two nights on the Pacific coast. We will arrive in time to view the remarkable sunset and beautiful beach. Enjoy a relaxing dinner on your own at your leisure this evening.

*Meals included:* Breakfast, lunch

*Lodging:* Monterey del Mar, [www.montereydelmar.com](http://www.montereydelmar.com)

### **Day 8**

This morning will start with an optional visit to Carara National Park. Carara is home to monkeys, as well as the scarlet macaw. After lunch, you will return to the hotel, for a free afternoon to relax and enjoy the hotel. **Lunch and dinner are on your own today so you can enjoy the day at your leisure.** We will organize a group meal for those that would like to gather for a dinner together (price not included).

*Meals included:* Breakfast

*Lodging:* Monterey del Mar

### **Day 9**

We will have breakfast before departing the lodge, and then depart back to San Jose with lunch en route. We will visit La Garita Orchid Garden en route back to San Jose. This evening we will have a wonderful farewell dinner at the breathtaking private home and gardens of Ms. Ileana Teran, founder and current President of SACRO (Saving Costa Rica's Orchids; [www.sacro.or.cr](http://www.sacro.or.cr)), an organization dedicated to maintaining natural habitats where orchids grow wild. Ms. Teran has one of the largest private collections of orchids in Central America. Her garden is one of the most enchanting private gardens in Costa Rica.

*Meals included:* Breakfast, lunch, dinner

*Lodging:* Hotel Bougainvillea

### **Day 10 (Tuesday, January 27<sup>th</sup>)**

All good things must come to an end – Pura Vida!!!! Safe travels home.

Transfer to the Juan Santamaría Airport in Alajulea (SJO)

*Meals included:* Breakfast



## TRIP COST AND CONDITIONS

This trip has been organized by Hidden Treasures Botanical Tours, L.L.C. and they reserve the right to make necessary changes to the itinerary due to unforeseen circumstances. Hidden Treasures Botanical Tours will provide details on necessary supplies and logistics for this trip when the departure date gets closer. You will receive confirmation of registration by mail within 30 days of receipt of registration and initial deposit of \$1,000 per person. Final payment is due 90 days prior to trip departure and all invoices will be sent in advance of this date.

Package price per person \$3,540  
**(Airfare from Chicago Ohare INCLUDED)**

Package price per person \$2,940  
**(Airfare from Chicago Ohare NOT INCLUDED)**

Single room occupancy supplement \$690

**\*\*We would be happy to quote airfare from another departure airport. Internet fares from Chicago Ohare are often significantly cheaper than group fares – so we encourage you to shop for airfare via the internet .**

### TOUR PRICE INCLUDES:

- \* meet and greet upon arrival at airport, and transfer to hotel
- \* private transportation with driver and air-conditioning
- \* private guide and his expenses
- \* meals as listed on daily itinerary
- \* entrance fees pertinent to itinerary
- \* all lodging as specified above
- \* cooler with ice, bottled water, soft drinks and snacks on the bus at all times
- \* local taxes on lodging and meals
- \* tips for local guides, maids, porters, waiters, etc.

### TOUR PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- \* airport departure tax (USD\$26.00 per person)
- \* tips for the guide and driver (\$5 per day per each)
- \* optional tours
- \* personal expenses
- \* alcoholic beverages
- \* any service or activity not specified above

## PASSPORT

**\*A passport is now mandatory to enter any foreign country and to return to the United States.** Passport must be valid

for six months beyond return date. Allow several months to obtain a passport or a renewal.

## REFUND SCHEDULE

Final payment is due 90 days prior to trip departure. A full refund will be given up to 90 days prior to the departure date, minus a \$250 administrative fee. Once final payment is made, there are no refunds within 90 days of trip departure as airfare is booked at that time, and hotel non-refundable deposits have been paid. If we can re-sell the slot, we can offer a full refund minus the original deposit and airfare charges.

We highly recommend trip insurance, which include cancellation and trip delay coverage, as well as baggage and medical coverage. Most trip insurance policies waive pre-existing conditions if you sign up for trip insurance within 15 days of sending in this registration form and paying your initial trip deposit.

Please see our attached Terms and Conditions document for specific refund schedule.

## EXPECTATIONS OF PARTICIPANTS

This tour will include onsite visits to private gardens, wildlife and rainforest preserves, national parks, local farms and botanical gardens. Please keep in mind that the very nature of an eco-tour will put us in out-of-the-way places. This means walking trails might be rough, uneven or steep, and there is always a chance of encountering exotic insects and snakes.

You are traveling into a developing (Third World) country. Conditions are not the same as in the States. We stay in resorts that are eco-lodge style. Our accommodations will be wonderfully pleasant, but often rooms will **not** have air conditioning. Please leave our country with the attitude that you are going into Costa Rica to experience another culture, another climate, and to see how people in another country live. The food is incredible, the culture is captivating and the scenery is beyond belief.

We will dine in several restaurants during the tour. Although Costa Ricans are very accommodating, there are limits to meeting special dietary needs. Special foods and/or special preparation may not be available at each or any stop.

You will thoroughly enjoy this trip, and find all locations we visit absolutely delightful. Please always remember to be a gracious guest, and remember you are in a different country.

# Registration Form

Costa Rica: Gardens, Rainforests and Wildlife  
A Tour Offered for Illinois Master Gardeners (and families and friends)  
Departure February 4-13, 2011

## Passenger Information

Please record information exactly as it appears on your passport. Passport information may be sent later if you have yet to obtain a passport.

Name as on passport \_\_\_\_\_ Name as on passport \_\_\_\_\_

Passport # \_\_\_\_\_ Passport # \_\_\_\_\_

Passport Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Passport Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (home and or cell) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Name and Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## Please mark your preferred travel arrangements

\_\_\_\_ I will make my own airline reservation/arrangements

\_\_\_\_ I would like to be included in the trip package that includes airfare from Chicago Ohare

\_\_\_\_ I would like Hidden Treasures Botanical Tours to arrange airline reservations from the following airport

\_\_\_\_\_

**Single Occupancy (\$690 additional)** \_\_\_\_\_ **Double Occupancy** \_\_\_\_\_ \*\*

\*\* (cannot be guaranteed, and if none available, you will be responsible for single occupancy price)

## Payment Information (deposit \$1,000 per person)

If paying by check: make payable to Hidden Treasures Botanical Tours, L.L.C.

amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_ check no. \_\_\_\_\_

If paying by credit card (we can accept only VISA or Mastercard)\*\*

\*\* (if paying by credit card, we will assess a 3% processing fee)

Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Amount to be charged \_\_\_\_\_ Three digit security code from back of the card \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail this form and your deposit to:**  
Hidden Treasures Botanical Tours, L.L.C.  
P.O. Box 39  
Rocheport, MO 65279  
Email: [info@hiddentreasuresbotanicaltours.com](mailto:info@hiddentreasuresbotanicaltours.com)  
[www.hiddentreasuresbotanicaltours.com](http://www.hiddentreasuresbotanicaltours.com)