



Adventure Getaway in Costa Rica
February 1 - 7, 2012
(optional Pacific Ocean Extension February 8 - 12)

Price \$1,950 per person
(double occupancy)

Tour Overview

Join us as we explore the amazing Costa Rica. 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. This tour will take you through from the capitol city of San Jose in the Central Valley, to the beautiful, forested highlands of Costa Rica, and to the famous Arenal Volcano which is one of the most active in the world. If you continue the journey for the Pacific Coast extension ... will take you to the tropical lush coast of the the Nicoya Peninsula region of Guanacaste.

We have custom designed this itinerary exclusively for this group. This trip is very inclusive of almost all daily activities and transportation, 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 16 participants maximum.

To reserve your spot, send the registration form (last page) and a \$500 deposit* per person to
Hidden Treasures Botanical Tours
www.hiddentreasuresbotanicaltours.com
mary@hiddentreasuresbotanicaltours.com
573-881-6316

*Deposit refundable minus a \$250 processing fee if cancellation 90 days before tour departure

Tour Itinerary

Wednesday, February 1, 2012 – Arrival into San Jose

Upon meet and greet at the airport, you will be transported to your hotel where the remainder of the day is free to relax and enjoy the warmer weather of the tropics. Dinner will be on your own this evening as flights arrive at different times throughout the day and evening.

Lodging: Hotel le Bergerac, <http://www.bergerachotel.com/>

Thursday, February 2, 2012

We depart San Jose after breakfast and travel toward Braulio Carrillo National Park for our first hike of the tour. Braulio Carrillo maintains one of the highest levels of biodiversity in Costa Rica with almost 90% of the land still in primary rainforest. The park is relatively unmaintained and untraveled providing a perfect location for enjoying the wildlife and birds which frequent this area. From here, we continue into the Sarapiquis region of Costa Rica and our lodging for the next three nights. Hacienda Pozo Azul, a 2000 acre working ranch, has become the adventure destination of choice in Costa Rica, where you will enjoy a great variety of eco adventures in a nature rich environment with first class equipment and trained guides to provide you a safe and unforgettable experience.

Lodging: Hacienda Pozo Azul, www.pozoazul.com

Meals provided: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Friday, February 3, 2012

After breakfast get ready to be wet!!! Enjoy the beauty of the rivers in this location while white water rafting. Bring sturdy shoes that can get wet, such as teva, keen, or chaco sandals. Flip flops are not sturdy enough. After lunch, you will have the afternoon free to relax or enjoy one of the optional excursions the hotel offers (optional excursions are at your own expense). Pozo Azul offers horseback riding, mountain biking, river canyon rappelling, or hiking.

Lodging: Hacienda Pozo Azul, www.pozoazul.com

Meals provided: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Saturday, February 4, 2012

This morning we will enjoy one of the favourite experiences in this area – a visit to the private Tirimbina Biological Preserve, www.tirimbina.org. We will head out on a rainforest hike to an organic cacao plantation where we will have the opportunity to make and eat chocolate in the manner the indigenous people would have made chocolate. The afternoon is free to relax or consider another optional tour.

Lodging: Hacienda Pozo Azul, www.pozoazul.com

Meals provided: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Sunday, February 5, 2012

We depart after breakfast for the Arenal Volcano area near La Fortuna. In geological terms, the Arenal Volcano is very young, only about 4,000 years old. It is closely monitored and is considered one of most active volcanoes in the world. Our lodge for two nights will be Arenal Observatory Lodge, originally built in 1987 as a Smithsonian Institute scientific research station. Unlike other La Fortuna hotels, this volcano lodge is the only Arenal Volcano observatory situated within Arenal National Park, protected from danger of lava flows by the deep gorge of the Agua Caliente River. Upon arrival today, we will have the opportunity for the ultimate adrenaline rush – the zipline zooming over the forest canopy attached to a cable. An experience not to pass up!! There are hanging bridges and trails in this area for those not as comfortable with the zipline. We will end this perfect day in a sanctuary of pleasure, nature, and relaxation at the Eco Termales Hot Springs. Eco Termales serves the best Pina Colada in Costa Rica!!!!

Lodging: Arenal Observatory Lodge, www.arenalobservatorylodge.com

Meals provided: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Monday, February 6, 2012

The morning activity will be a canyoning experience, rappelling down waterfalls in the jungle. The afternoon will be free to relax, or choose from optional activities in the area. Arenal Observatory Lodge has a very nice pool which includes a Jacuzzi. There is also excellent birding in this area, as well as many well maintained trails for hiking. Several trails lead to waterfalls.

Lodging: Arenal Observatory Lodge

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

Tuesday, February 7, 2012 – Departure for San Jose

Today we depart back to San Jose for either the extension to the Pacific Coast or to return home. Other optional post tour extensions can easily be arranged by request. You will return to San Jose via the same bus and driver. Upon arrival at the hotel, your afternoon and evening will be free to relax and enjoy your last days of warmth and wearing sandals. Lunch and dinner are on your own today. Lodging expense and transportation to airport is covered in the tour package.

Lodging: Hotel le Bergerac, San Jose

Meals provided: breakfast

Wednesday, February 8, 2012- End of Main Tour/Start of Post Tour Extension

Departure from San Jose International Airport. Pura Vida and safe travels!!!

Breakfast and airport transfer included.

Thank you for traveling with Hidden Treasures Botanical Tours!!!

Pacific Coast Extension ...

Wednesday, February 8, 2012 – Fly to Nosara, Guanacaste, Costa Rica

This morning you will transfer to the airport for the short flight to Nosara. Upon arrival, you will be transferred to your hotel, the Harmony Hotel. Nosara sits on the Pacific Ocean on the west coast of the Nicoya Peninsula (www.nosara.com). As stated best on the website ... nestled into the sleepy coastal town of Playa Guiones, far from the nearest paved road, where high standards of sustainable living meet the creature comforts of low key beach life at the Harmony Hotel. Nosara and the Harmony Hotel are one of my absolute favorite destinations to unwind, relax, enjoy the beach, and hear the howler monkeys (you must turn off the A/C and open the windows to hear the howler monkeys in the early morning hours). And Harmony Hotel is within minutes from the beach – fall asleep to the roar of the waves each night! Head to the beach for some late morning surfing, return for a relaxing drink poolside, then head back to the beach for sunset before an enjoyable dinner out. What a perfect day!! Coffee is served each morning starting at 5:30 a.m. for those early risers. Yoga is also offered complimentary each day at Harmony. The hotel also offers a wonderful very inclusive spa.

Playa Guiones offers some of the best surfing in Costa Rica, and is known world wide as a surfing destination. The long, sandy, uncrowded beach offers shoulder high to over the head surfing many days of the year. It is also a great classroom location for beginners and there are several excellent surf schools offering very reasonably priced lessons and board rentals. It offers great surf for beginners and intermediate surfers, and experienced surfers will have great waves in the morning and late afternoon and waves are steeper and faster at low tide.

Lodging: Harmony Hotel

Meals included: breakfast only

Other inclusions: Flight from San Jose to Nosara, transfer to San Jose airport, and pick up and transfer in Nosara to Harmony Hotel

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Free day to enjoy the beach, relax, take a surfing lesson, or explore the spa.

Meals included: breakfast only

Friday, February 10, 2012

Free day to enjoy the beach, relax, take a surfing lesson, or explore the spa.

Meals included: breakfast only

Saturday, February 11, 2012

Transfer to airstrip to return to San Jose fully refreshed and renewed from three days relaxing on the Pacific.

Meals included: breakfast only

Other inclusions: transfer to airstrip in Nosara, return flight to San Jose, transfer to hotel, overnight lodging

Lodging: Hotel le Bergerac

Saturday, February 11, 2012

Breakfast and transfer included to San Jose International Airport. Time to stow the flip flops. Pura Vida!!!

Additional comments ...

If going on this extension, please familiarize yourself with awareness of rip currents. Each year, tourists from the states die from rip currents in Costa Rica. Some good websites are:

<http://www.ripcurrents.noaa.gov/>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rip_current

This extension can be booked independently – anyone is welcome to join even if they were not on main tour. You will need to arrive in San Jose International Airport by Tuesday, February 7, 2012. You will join the group and fly to Nosara on Wednesday, February 8. We can easily make all these arrangements for you and quote a price accordingly. The extension to Nosara can also be booked for only two nights Harmony Hotel to reduce cost – please contact Hidden Treasures Botanical Tours for more information and pricing.

Your host for this tour, Stephen Shinn ...

Stephen, Fitness Director in Columbia, Missouri, will be your host for this tour and is very excited to meet and travel with you. Stephen is from mid-Missouri and graduated from Culver-Stockton College where he played soccer on a full athletic scholarship. Stephen is committed to making this trip a wonderful experience for those seeking a little more adventure in their travels. Please consider joining Stephen on this wonderful tour to one of the most captivating countries in the world. Costa Rica is rich in outdoor activities and encourages ecotourism.



EXPECTATIONS OF PARTICIPANTS

This tour will include onsite visits to wildlife and rainforest preserves, national parks, and local farms. 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 not all hotels 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.

We will also encounter very different climatic zones. The highlands will be chilly and a sweater or fleece will be needed. A waterproof rain jacket or poncho is also a must have item, as the rainforest can have daily rain. San Jose can often have nighttime temperatures in the 50s, so pack accordingly. The Pacific Coast extension will provide daytime temperatures nearing 90, and nighttime temperatures in the low to mid 60s. You will enjoy having flip flops and/or sandals to relax during evening hours, but closed shoes are a must on trails. Also please bring shoes and clothes that can get wet for the rafting and rappelling excursions.

Tour Details

This tour has been organized by Hidden Treasures Botanical Tours, L.L.C. which reserves the right to make necessary changes to the itinerary due to unforeseen circumstances. As owner of Hidden Treasures Botanical Tours, I have been organizing and guiding multiple tours per year to Costa Rica for over 10 years. You will receive confirmation of registration by mail within 30 days of receipt of registration. You will also receive detailed information and travel tips to facilitate planning and packing for your trip. Final payment is due 60 days prior to tour departure and all invoices will be sent in advance of this date. Once final payment is made, all airfare, hotel payments, etc. are paid in full, and we cannot refund any money after this date. All payments, including deposit, are fully refundable minus a \$250 processing fee, if cancellation within 90 days of tour departure.

As owner of Hidden Treasures Botanical Tours, I pride myself on custom designed tours where I include venues offering something for each and every one of my travellers. My group sizes are always small – I prefer a maximum of 15 to 20 passengers. I offer a unique, quaint travel experience where the itineraries are fully inclusive of all daily activities. I rely on word of mouth to advertise my tours, thus repeat clients and satisfied customers are the mainstay of my business. I strive hard to honor the statement “you get what you pay for” in the most positive way possible!!! I will gladly provide references upon request.

Tour Price

Land only per person cost without optional extension*	\$1,950 based upon double occupancy \$2,350 based upon single occupancy**
Additional per person cost for Pacific Coast extension (this includes three nights Harmony Hotel in Nosara and two nights Bergerac Hotel in San Jose, all airfare, and all airport to hotel transfers)	\$1,290 double occupancy deluxe bungalow \$1,210 double occupancy standard cocos room \$1,915 single occupancy deluxe bungalow \$1,750 single occupancy standard cocos room

*International airfare not included, we would be happy to book this for you and invoice you

**We cannot guarantee a roommate, and if none available, single occupancy charge will apply

Tour price is based upon minimum of 8 participants. Please do not secure airline arrangements until we have met our minimum number to know the tour is viable.

Included in the price

- Personal meet and greet upon arrival at airport, and hotels transfers arrival and departure
- All lodging
- Meals where indicated on the itinerary
- Private bi-lingual naturalist guide
- Comfortable air conditioned private coach throughout with private driver throughout tour
- Daily activities as listed on the itinerary
- Cooler with water, juice and snacks on bus at all times
- Tips for maids, porters, waiters, etc.

NOT included in the price

- Airport departure or arrival fees
- ROUND TRIP INTERNATIONAL AIRFARE IS NOT INCLUDED (San Jose International Airport)
- Trip insurance
- Tours listed as optional in daily itinerary
- Tips for driver and guide (typically \$5 per day per person)

A passport is mandatory to enter Costa Rica and return to the United States. Passport must be valid for six months beyond the return date. Allow two months to obtain a passport or renewal.

Registration Form
Costa Rica Adventures

Passenger Information

Please record information exactly as it appears on your passport and attach a copy to this registration form. Passport photocopy 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 Hidden Treasures Botanical Tours to arrange airline reservations from _____

airport and bill me accordingly

Double Occupancy Main Tour (tour price \$1,950) _____

Single Occupancy Main Tour (tour price \$2,350)** _____

Pacific Coast Extension double occupancy deluxe bungalow (tour price \$1,290) _____

Pacific Coast Extension double occupancy standard cocos room (tour price \$1,210) _____

Pacific Coast Extension single occupancy deluxe bungalow (tour price \$1,915) _____

Pacific Coast Extension single occupancy standard cocos room (tour price \$1,750) _____

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

Payment Information (deposit \$500 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)

Credit Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____

Amount to be charged _____ Three-digit security code from back of the card _____

**Final payment by credit card will have an additional 3% surcharge

Mail this form and direct inquiries to:

Hidden Treasures Botanical Tours, L.L.C.

P.O. Box 39 Rocheport, MO 65279

573-881-6316

Email: mary@hiddentreasuresbotanicaltours.com