



# Costa Rica Gardens, Rainforest and Wildlife

A Tour Offered for Illinois Master Gardeners  
(and their families and friends)  
**February 13-21, 2012**



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)  
or call, 573-881-6316



*Hidden Treasures*  
BOTANICAL TOURS

## Daily itinerary at a glance ...

### Day 1 (Feb.13)

Arrival in Juan Santamaría International Airport (SJO). Transfer to the hotel where the afternoon will be at your leisure to enjoy the gardens at the hotel or relax by the pool. If nighttime arrival, we will arrange transport to the hotel.

Meals included: Welcome dinner and orientation

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

### Day 2 (Feb.14)

This morning we will drive to Costa Flores, for a walk in their garden trails and lunch. In the afternoon, continue to the region of Sarapiquí.

Meals included: Breakfast, lunch, dinner

Lodging: La Quinta de Sarapiquí Lodge, [www.hotellaquintasarapiqui.com](http://www.hotellaquintasarapiqui.com)

### Day 3 (Feb.15)

We will start the morning with a visit to Corsicana pineapple plantation and plant, where we will learn about the process of farming pineapple, from the harvesting (great excuse to taste the sweetest and most delicious pineapples) to the packing and export. In the afternoon, we will visit La Tirimbina reserve, where we will hike through the rainforest and visit an organic cacao plantation, with the chance to make (and eat) our very own chocolate.

Meals included: Breakfast, lunch, dinner

Lodging: La Quinta de Sarapiquí Lodge

### Day 4 (Feb.16)

Today we drive to the area of San Ramón, stopping en route at the magnificent La Paz Waterfall Gardens. We will have mid afternoon arrival to the hotel with some time to relax before dinner.

Meals included: Breakfast, lunch, dinner

Lodging: Villa Blanca, [www.villablanca-costarica.com](http://www.villablanca-costarica.com)

### Day 5 (Feb.17)

First this morning will be a visit to Else Kientzler Botanical Garden, in the village of Sarchí. In the afternoon, Mrs. Ligia Cooper will open her private home for us. There will be time to visit her garden and share a cup of tea with our hostess. Late afternoon return to the hotel.

Meals included: Breakfast, lunch, dinner

Lodging: Villa Blanca

### Day 6 (Feb.18)

Today we drive to the Central Pacific coast. En route we will visit Villa Vanilla, where we will take the Rainforest Spices Plantation tour. The owner, Henry Karczynski, will take us through a very sensorial journey, where we will smell, touch and taste many different species of spices, like vanilla, cinnamon, cocoa, black pepper and a variety of essential oil and medicinal plants. Afternoon arrival to the hotel.

Meals included: Breakfast, lunch, dinner

Lodging: Sí Como No Hotel, [www.sicomono.com](http://www.sicomono.com)

### Day 7 (Feb.19)

In the morning, we will visit to Manuel Antonio National Park. The rest of the day is free to relax at the hotel or enjoy the beach.

Meals included: Breakfast, lunch.

Lodging: Hotel Si Como No

### Day 8 (Feb.20)

In the morning, we will drive back to San José, stopping en route at the Orchid Garden, for a leisurely stroll in their trails and a delicious lunch. In the afternoon, Mrs. Ileana Terán will open the doors of her private home, Hacienda La Laguna for us. She will share her garden, cocktails and dinner with us.

Meals included: Breakfast, lunch, dinner

Lodging: Hotel Bougainvillea

### Day 9 (Feb.21)

Transfer to the airport for the flight back home.

Meals included: Breakfast

**BUEN VIAJE!!!**

(Please remember that you need to pay a \$26 departure tax for the airport tax at the bank inside the airport, before checking in for you flight)

## About your Costa Rican guide ... Gustavo Orozco

Gustavo Orozco Sovalbarro was born in the agricultural community of San Ramón, northwest of San José. He has more than 15 years experience leading programs developed for special-interest groups, including museums, zoological societies, and birders. His breadth of knowledge and his charming disposition have made him a favorite guide for general natural history programs, as well. Gustavo discovered guiding when he was a university student, after receiving his early education in his local community and participating in a high-school international exchange program in Kansas. Because his family owns a bakery, Gustavo studied business administration for a year at the University of Kansas and nearly four years at the University of Costa Rica. But it wasn't long before his lifelong love of nature and people led him to guiding. After completing the Costa Rican Tourist Board's challenging guide certification program, he immersed himself in biology, natural history, geography, and interpretive guiding courses. Gustavo continues to invest time and energy in his chosen career, and broadens his horizons with travel to other countries—most recently Peru. He enjoys horseback riding and birding throughout the country, as well as on his farm in his beloved San Ramón.



## 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 <b>(Airfare NOT INCLUDED)</b>	\$2,690
Single room occupancy supplement	\$700
Extra surcharge for deluxe rooms in Si Como No	\$45

\*\*We would be happy to quote airfare from your preferred departure airport. Internet fares from Chicago Ohare are often significantly cheaper – 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
- \* all meals and activities daily as listed on 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 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. 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 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 13-21, 2012

## 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 Hidden Treasures Botanical Tours to arrange airline reservations from the following airport, and to bill me accordingly. Airport you desire to depart from \_\_\_\_\_

**Single Occupancy (\$3,390 additional)** \_\_\_\_\_ **Double Occupancy (\$2,690)** \_\_\_\_\_ \*\*

\*\* (cannot be guaranteed, and if none available, you will be responsible for single occupancy price; double occupancy can choose either two twin beds, or one double/queen bed)

## 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: [mary@hiddentreasuresbotanicaltours.com](mailto:mary@hiddentreasuresbotanicaltours.com)

[www.hiddentreasuresbotanicaltours.com](http://www.hiddentreasuresbotanicaltours.com)