

Costa Rica Adventure

Day 1:

Saturday, April 20, 2024 **Depart US Airport for San Jose, Costa Rica - Tour Begins**

Pura vida. In English, it translates to “the simple life.” But *pura vida* is so much more: it’s an attitude; a celebration of life in the moment. It’s time to experience what *pura vida* means to you. You’re on your way to explore a place that’s unlike anywhere else in the world, where *pura vida* is an unofficial motto and a way of life. Welcome to the emerald of Central America: Costa Rica. (***Doubletree Cariari Hotel, San Jose***)

Day 2:

Sunday, April 21, 2024 **San Jose - Tortuguero National Park**

Seemingly endless mountain horizons. Complex evergreen forests. These are the wonders of Tortuguero National Park. Travel by boat to your hotel before heading further down the rivers and canals to the world’s first sea turtle research station. Later, have time to explore Tortuguero town with your Tour Manager. Get away from it all and relax at your lodge set in the middle of the jungle, your home for the next two nights. From the morning calls of the monkeys to the gentle chatter of the birds, listen to the active sounds of the rainforest around you. (***B, L, D***) (***Evergreen Lodge***)

Day 3:

Monday, April 22, 2024 **Tortuguero National Park**

Begin the day on an excursion to search for the elusive green macaw and other unique winged creatures that flock to Tortuguero. Embark on a nature cruise, getting a glimpse into the life of jaguars, manatees, ocelots, and more. The rest of the afternoon is yours to enjoy your Tortuguero resort. Tonight, a local will teach you all about his village and its previous history as a coconut plantation. Watch as he demonstrates how they use coconuts before trying your hand at making a local favorite: coconut candy. (***B, L, D***) (***Evergreen Lodge***)

Day 4:

Tuesday, April 23, 2024 **Tortuguero National Park - Sarapiquí - San Carlos**

Take a boat back to the mainland and make your way towards Sarapiquí and Tirimbina Rainforest Center. Spend time at a cacao plantation and see the process of converting the seed from bean to bar, tasting for yourself why cacao is called “the food of the gods.” Later, arrive at your secluded nature resort, nestled on the edge of the San Carlos River. Stroll the butterfly and botanical gardens lined with fruit trees, including lemon, soursop, guava, mango and tangerine. (***B, L, D***) (***Tilajari Hotel & Resort***)

Day 5:

Wednesday, April 24, 2024 **San Carlos**

Explore the beauty of your surroundings on a Peñas Blancas River Safari. Paddle and float down the river on a peaceful adventure, taking in the sights and sounds of the rainforest as your naturalist guide describes the intricacies of the wildlife around you. Visit the *finca* of a local family and try specialty snacks such as banana bread, gourmet Costa Rican coffee and more. End your day with a guided walk through a private, primary forest reserve for a look at the various flora and fauna. (***B, D***) (***Tilajari Hotel & Resort***)

Day 6:

Thursday, April 25, 2024 **San Carlos - Hanging Bridges - Arenal**

Today, suspended over the rainforest floor, relish a bird's-eye view of the jungle on a guided tour of Arenal’s famous hanging bridges. High above the jungle canopies, marvel at a cloud forest taking shape

around you. Settle into your resort where you'll be surrounded by striking views of Arenal's famous volcano for the next 3 nights. *(B, D) (Mountain Paradise Hotel)*

Day 7:

Friday, April 26, 2024 Arenal

Today, **it's your choice!** Since Costa Rica is the birthplace of zip lining, glide over the canopies on a mind-blowing rip through the jungle **-OR-** make your way across lava fields for an up-close-and-personal look at the volcano on a moderate hike along the trails formed by lava during the 1968 eruption. ***(Both optional & at additional costs)*** This afternoon, envelop yourself in Costa Rican culture at Finca Don Juan. Explore this family-owned farm, getting a peek into the daily lives of the locals. During a tour of the gardens, learn how the plants are organically grown through the concept of sustainability. The farm considers itself a "classroom without borders." Taste the exotic fruit harvest and experience the traditional way to process sugar cane. Enjoy a sip of cane liquor before engaging in a culinary demonstration and a farm-to-table lunch. *(B, L, D) (Mountain Paradise Hotel)*

Day 8:

Saturday, April 27, 2024 Arenal

In the shadow of Arenal Volcano, the day is yours to enjoy at leisure. Perhaps, if you're feeling adventurous, you'll opt for an exhilarating white water rafting experience. *(At extra cost)* Or simply hang back at the resort, choose a spa service, explore the grounds, and soak in one of Arenal's famous hot springs. *(B) (Mountain Paradise Hotel)*

Day 9:

Sunday, April 28, 2024 Arenal Volcano - Coffee Plantation - Playa Herradura

This morning, wake up and smell the coffee at a local farm that produces some of Costa Rica's well-known beans. Take a tour with local plantation workers and have a chance to discuss what life is like for these coffee farmers. In the afternoon, head to Playa Herradura and settle into your resort for the next 2 nights. As the day draws to a close, watch the sun set over the Pacific alongside birds in every color of the rainbow. *(B, D) (Los Suenos Marriott Costa Rica)*

Day 10:

Monday, April 29, 2024 Playa Herradura - Manuel Antonio National Park - Playa Herradura

Welcome to Manuel Antonio National Park, home to verdant rainforests and white sand beaches. In this natural wonderland, traverse the trails where the wild things are, or go for a swim in the turquoise waters as wildlife rummages in the canopies. *(B) (Los Suenos Marriott Costa Rica)*

Day 11:

Tuesday, April 30, 2024 Playa Herradura - Tárcoles - San Jose

See wild crocodiles among the mangroves of Tárcoles' Rio Grande. On this exhilarating jungle crocodile safari, you'll boat beneath the towering jungle, looking along the river banks for a glimpse of these incredible creatures. Then say goodbye to the coast and hello to San Jose. Toast to the *pura vida* of Costa Rica tonight over a farewell dinner. *(B, L, D) (Doubletree Cariari Hotel)*

Day 12:

Wednesday, May 1, 2024 San Jose - Tour Ends

Bid Costa Rica farewell as your tour comes to an end today and you board the plane home. *(B)*