



COSTA RICA

9-DAY WILDLIFE EXPEDITION

DAY 1 - SAN JOSÉ

Following your arrival in the San José Airport you are met and transferred to your accommodations at the Hotel Grano de Oro.

DAY 2 - SAN JOSÉ / TORTUGUERO

In the morning you depart with your English speaking driver/guide and ride through Braulio Carrillo National Park, stopping for a typical Costa Rican breakfast on the way to the village of Caño Blanco. Here you board a boat and travel along the inner coastal waterway to your accommodations for the next two nights at Laguna Lodge near Tortuguero National Park. After lunch you walk through the village of Tortuguero to visit the turtle museum, and back to the lodge along the beach. After dinner you have the option of taking a guided night hike along the beach to observe nesting sea turtles. (Seasons: March-April and July – October, cost approx. US \$30 p.p.). B/L/D

DAY 3 - TORTUGUERO

You have the entire day to explore Tortuguero National Park, the largest nesting area in the Caribbean for the endangered green sea turtle. Although their feeding grounds may be as far away as Florida and Venezuela the turtles return to these sandy beaches to mate and deposit their eggs. From boats you explore the waterways of this fascinating wildlife sanctuary. Three species of monkeys, three-toed sloths, herons, egrets, parrots, toucans and all six species of New World kingfishers may be seen here. The raphia palm, which has the largest leaves of any plant, grows here at the water's edge. B/L/D

DAY 4 - TORTUGUERO / ARENAL VOLCANO, TABACÓN HOT SPRINGS

After breakfast you take the boat back along the inner coastal waterway to Caño Blanco. Following a stop at a typical Costa Rican restaurant for a delicious home-cooked lunch, you drive to your accommodations at Volcano Lodge, located at the base of Arenal Volcano. In the evening you ride to nearby Tabacon Hot Springs. Here, at the base of Arenal Volcano, a hot to warm water mineral spring flows through exotic tropical gardens, forming cascades and pools - the perfect setting for an unforgettable experience. B/L/D

DAY 5 – ARENAL VOLCANO / MONTEVERDE CLOUD FOREST REGION

After breakfast you depart with your guide on a leisurely 2 hour nature hike over the lava fields at the foot of Arenal Volcano. You then ride around Lake Arenal to Cañas where a boat for your scenic raft trip on the Rio Corobicí is waiting. The river is quite gentle, the guide does all the paddling, so, all you have to do is sit back, relax and enjoy the tropical forest and its wildlife. In the afternoon you drive south on the Pan Americana Highway toward Sta. Elena in the Monteverde Cloud Forest region. The last 35 km of this journey takes you into the mountains, over a winding gravel road. Your accommodations for the next two nights are at the Hotel Fonda Vela B/L/D

DAY 6 - MONTEVERDE CLOUD FOREST REGION

The rich diversity of plants and animals that occur in the Monteverde Cloud Forest Preserve justifies its reputation as one of the best known wildlife preserves in the world. Early this morning you join your naturalist guide for a walk along the well-maintained trails of this beautiful sanctuary. Monteverde is one of the best places to find the Resplendent Quetzal, an astonishingly beautiful bird found only in the high altitude forests of Central America. The preserve is also home to many other animals including howler monkeys, kinkajou, two-toed sloth, prehensile-tailed porcupine, three-wattled bellbird, black guan, and emerald toucanet. In the afternoon, you take a "walk in the clouds" on the Sta Elena elevated walkway - a complex of suspended bridges, platforms and trails which winds through the cloud forest and provides an opportunity to appreciate this complex ecosystem from the somber forest floor right up to the sunlit canopy. B/L/D

DAY 7 - MONTEVERDE CLOUD FOREST / MANUEL ANTONIO NATIONAL PARK & BEACHES

After breakfast you depart Monteverde and drive south along the Pacific coastline. Following a stop at the Rios Tarcoles Bridge, where the endangered American Crocodile can often be seen basking on the banks of the river, you have the option of visiting and perhaps taking one of the short hikes available at Carara National Park, one of the main nesting areas for the Scarlet Macaw (entrance fee \$10 per person). In the afternoon, you arrive at Manuel Antonio National Park and check into your room at the Costa Verde Lodge. B/L/D

DAY 8 - MANUEL ANTONIO NATIONAL PARK

In the morning you join your naturalist guide for a hike along the trails of Manuel Antonio National Park (approximately 2 hours). In addition to its scenic beauty, this park is famous for its large population of white-faced capuchin monkeys, squirrel monkeys, three-toed sloth, numerous birds and other wildlife. The afternoon is unstructured so that you may enjoy the fantastic beaches of Manuel Antonio. B/L/D

DAY 9 - MANUEL ANTONIO NATIONAL PARK / SAN JOSE

In the morning you drive back to the San Jose international airport and board your flight to the United States. B

B = Breakfast; L = Lunch; D = Dinner

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9-Day Costa Rica all inclusive 2010 costs - private safaris only

(All costs subject to availability at the time of booking)

High season: November 15, 2009 – April 30, 2010 and July 1 – August 31

2 passengers, US\$ 2,780 pp in twin
3 passengers, US\$ 2,420 pp in twin or \$2,350 per person in triple
4 – 6 passengers, US\$ 2,320 pp in twin
7 - 10 passengers, US\$ 2070 pp in twin
Single room supplement adds \$450 to the program cost

Green season: May 1 – November 30

2 passengers, US\$ 2,650 pp in twin
3 passengers, US\$ 2,325 pp in twin or \$2,300 per person in triple
4 – 6 passengers, US\$2,275 pp in twin
7 - 10 passengers, US\$2,000 pp in twin
Single room supplement adds \$400 to the program cost

Costs include: the services of World Discovery Safaris, all transportation, accommodations and meals in Costa Rica as per this itinerary, top-quality, English speaking naturalist / guide service, hotel taxes as imposed by government agencies, entrance fees to parks and sites visited, and portorage while in Costa Rica.

Costs exclude: passport and visas fees, international air to and from Costa Rica, excess baggage charges, traveler's insurance and items of a personal nature, such as souvenirs, excursions and services that are not included in the itinerary, tips to the boat drivers, hotel staff and naturalist guides, drinks that are not included with meals, laundry, faxes, e-mails, and telephone calls.

Individual departures and customized itineraries are available upon request. Please contact us for more details and costs at wds2830@bellsouth.net or call World Discovery Safaris at 205-972-8733

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