

Tropical Costa Rica

with optional 3-Night Jungle Adventure Post Tour Extension

Departing
September 8, 2012



Highlights....

San Jose • Coffee Plantation • Guanacaste
 Monteverde Cloud Forest • Hanging Bridges
 Arenal Volcano • Lake Arenal Cruise
 Cooking Demonstration • Cano Negro Refuge
 Zarcero • National Theatre

9 Days • 14 Meals: 8 Breakfasts • 6 Dinners

Approximate Per Person Rates: Double \$2,529; Single \$2,929; Triple \$2,499
 RSVP by April 8, 2012. Deposit of \$250 per person is due upon reservation.

Final payment due on July 10, 2012.

Includes: Land, Air from El Paso & Hotel Transfers.

Your itinerary at a glance

Day	1	Hotel Doubletree Cariari by Hilton, San Jose
Day	2, 3	Tamarindo Diria Beach Resort, Tamarindo Beach, Guanacaste
Day	4, 5	El Establo Hotel, Monteverde Cloud Forest
Day	6, 7	Arenal Springs Resort, Arenal or Montana de Fuego Lodge, Arenal
Day	8	Hotel Doubletree Cariari by Hilton, San Jose

On some dates alternate hotels may be used.

Collette Experiences

★ Learn about Costa Rica's unique vegetation on a guided nature walk through the cloud forest

★ Spot indigenous wildlife on a Cano Negro river boat cruise

Enjoy the tropical landscapes and breathtaking scenery surrounding Arenal Volcano

Day 1: Arrive San Jose, Costa Rica

Lush forests and stunning waterfalls...exotic wildlife and endless coastlines...Costa Rica is truly a slice of paradise. Your tour begins in the colorful capital city of San Jose. Upon arrival, relax and soak up the sights of your new surroundings.

Day 2: San Jose - Doka Coffee Estate - Tamarindo Beach (Guanacaste)

Travel through the verdant countryside of the Central Valley to the fertile region world-renowned for coffee. **A tour of the Doka Coffee Estate highlights the history and cultivation of coffee and its importance to the Costa Rican economy.** This afternoon, arrive in the Guanacaste region, known for its breathtaking beauty and fine sandy beaches. Here, rest and relaxation go hand-in-hand with mesmerizing ocean views and lush tropical greenery. Settle in for a relaxing two night stay. *Today breakfast and dinner will be included.*

Day 3: Tamarindo Beach

Fun in the sun is in store for you as you enjoy this tropical paradise. Explore the nearby town and beaches, take an optional cruise or simply relax by the pool or beach and take advantage of the amenities offered at your lovely resort. *Today breakfast will be included.*

Day 4: Tamarindo Beach - Monteverde

You won't believe your eyes as you travel into the Monteverde Cloud Forest, where trees grow to heights of 100 feet! In this spectacular ecosystem, you will encounter many incredible species of flora and fauna. Upon arrival in Monteverde, a nature walk allows you to discover the natural beauty of the cloud forest first hand. This forest is the home of the world's largest population of the endangered quetzal, celebrated for its gorgeous jewel-toned plumage. Keep your eyes peeled and you may be lucky enough to spot this elusive bird! *Today breakfast and dinner will be included.*

Day 5: Monteverde

Begin your day at Selvatura Park, a cloud forest reserve in the heart of Monteverde. Venture into a different world, exploring one of the world's largest butterfly gardens with more than 30 species of tropical butterflies. Next, in a nearby gallery containing more than 100 beautiful hummingbirds, you will be dazzled by the 14 different species. **Enjoy a guided, leisurely-paced "Hanging Bridges" walking tour and learn about the cloud forest's unique ecosystem, its mammals, birds, plants and flora.** This evening, enjoy an

informative lecture on the migratory birds that flock to Costa Rica every year. *Today breakfast and dinner will be included.*

Day 6: Monteverde - Lake Arenal Cruise - Arenal

Begin the day with a visit to a tree nursery and learn about Monteverde's reforestation efforts of indigenous trees. Travel through the beautiful mountainous landscapes of Monteverde to Tierras Morenas. **Visit a local school* sponsored by the Collette Foundation**, meet the children and learn about the educational system and lifestyle of this small farming community.** Continue on to Arenal, where breathtaking views of the volcano await you during a delightful cruise on Lake Arenal, the largest and most important lake in Costa Rica. Later, check in for a two night stay at a typical lodge overlooking the majestic Arenal Volcano which has been generating lava for the past 30 years. Before dinner, enjoy a cooking demonstration and learn how native, exotic vegetables and plants contribute to the unique flavors of Costa Rican cuisine. *Today breakfast and dinner will be included.*

Day 7: Arenal - Cano Negro - Arenal

Of all Costa Rica's nature preserves, the remote 20,000 acres of Cano Negro are home to the largest viewable selection of indigenous wildlife. **Embark on a Cano Negro guided river boat trip in a panga (covered canoe), making frequent stops to watch and photograph the wildlife around you which may include crocodiles, river otters, sloths, river turtles, exotic birds and rare butterflies, all known to live in the area.** The Arenal Volcano area is also known as the land of spas and hot springs. Later in the day you will have an opportunity to attain a state of complete relaxation with an optional visit to one of the finest spas in the region. *Today breakfast and dinner will be included.*

Day 8: Arenal - Zarcero - Grecia - National Theatre - San Jose

Travel to the charming town of Zarcero to visit its well-known whimsical topiary garden. Continue to the small, picturesque town of Grecia to see the unusual metal church constructed of brick-red metal panes, walk the beautifully landscaped central park, or shop at the traditional local market. Later, visit San Jose's colorful Plaza de Cultura and the National Theatre, a magnificent building of post-Baroque splendor. This evening, enjoy a wonderful farewell dinner. *Today breakfast and dinner will be included.*

Day 9: San Jose - Tour Ends

Today you depart for home with fabulous memories of your adventure in Costa Rica. *Today breakfast will be included.*

Experience Monteverde Cloud Forest

There are only four places in the world with an ecosystem so unique that it produces a cloud forest. The Monteverde Cloud Forest in Costa Rica is one. Situated high on a mountain, the cloud forest is created when the arid air from the forest below the mountain combines with the moist, hot air of the rainforest. The result is a blanket of misty, wispy clouds that linger low in the forest, making it feel as if it were raining. This rare environment breeds a diverse world of exotic flora and fauna. One of the cloud forest's most famous residents is the endangered resplendent quetzal. A remarkably colorful bird, this creature sports a golden beak that protrudes from a green-hooded head. The breast is a vibrant scarlet and the tail feathers are gray, black and white. A highly-elusive bird, quetzal sightings are rare but absolutely unforgettable.

Please Note: Air rate and schedule are applicable for groups of 10 or more traveling on the same flights and dates. Taxes/fees to be paid in local currency or USD upon exiting the country are approximately \$32 USD per person. To complete your vacation, we include roundtrip airport-to-hotel transfers when purchasing Collette airfare with your tour. If you have arranged for your own air, we are pleased to provide you the option of purchasing these transfers. Please note that all transfers will leave at pre-scheduled times.

*Please note that Collette Foundation sites may not be available for visits due to school holidays or programming challenges. Children in Costa Rica normally have their summer school vacation from mid-December through the end of February. We want you to enjoy your tour with us; therefore, it is important that you know this tour is an adventure! You will view spectacular scenery while experiencing the culture and heritage of the region. We have selected small, comfortable hotels for their locations and they may be considered rustic. This tour includes moderate physical activity. The itinerary blends some longer days with shorter days and more leisure time. Walking tours, as well as walking slightly longer distances, up stairs or on uneven walking surfaces should be expected.

Extend Your Vacation With...

Optional 4 Days 3-Night Jungle Adventure Post Tour Extension

Rate: \$449.00 USD per person, double, land only

8 Meals: 3 Breakfasts, 3 Lunches, 2 Dinners

Day 9: San Jose - Tortuguero National Park

Enjoy an exciting soft-adventure jungle extension to Tortuguero, the Amazon of Costa Rica. Explore the region's wildlife by boat, viewing macaws, sloths, monkeys, falcons and other native species. Tonight, enjoy a memorable two night stay at your eco-lodge surrounded by the beauty of a tropical forest and amazing wildlife. Learn more about your surroundings with a visit to the world's first Green Turtle Research Station and discover how to protect the turtle's nesting habitat and eggs. *Today lunch and dinner will be included.*

Day 10: Tortuguero National Park

An early morning bird watching excursion is offered so you may learn about the variety of local species and migratory birds that flock to this area. **Later, experience a spectacular boat cruise through the various canals and be sure to keep an eye out for wildlife including howler monkeys, sloths, toucans, aquatic birds, bats and caimans, as well as exotic flora.** Tortuguero National Park is a study in rainforest, freshwater, and marine biology. It protects over 350 species of birds and mammals including green macaws; 57 species of amphibians; 111 species of reptiles; and 60 mammal species, including 13 of Costa Rica's 16 endangered species including jaguars, tapirs, ocelots, cougars, river otters and manatees. *Today breakfast, lunch and dinner will be included.*

Day 11: Tortuguero National Park - San Jose

Return to San Jose today for your last night in Costa Rica before your return home. *Today breakfast and lunch will be included.*

Day 12: San Jose - Tour Ends

Today breakfast will be included.

A minimum of 2 passengers is required for this extension to operate. Extensions not purchased at time of deposit are subject to availability and applicable charges at time of request.

Due to luggage size and weight restrictions on the boats, please bring an overnight bag for the two night stay in Tortuguero National Park. Please make arrangements with the concierge's desk at the hotel in San Jose for luggage pick up and for storage until your return from Tortuguero.

The transportation to and from Tortuguero as well as your guide in Tortuguero are provided by the lodge where you will be staying in Tortuguero. These services and sightseeing as specified in your itinerary will be provided by the personnel of the lodge in Tortuguero. This price includes meals as outlined; roundtrip transportation to Tortuguero; 2 nights at the Evergreen, Aninga or Pachira lodge, 1 night at the Hotel Doubletree Cariari by Hilton in San Jose; and transfer to San Jose Airport on the last day.

IMPORTANT RESERVATION INFORMATION

IDENTIFICATION

Passports are required for this tour at your expense. Certain countries require a minimum of 6 months passport validity. You are strongly urged to contact the appropriate consulate for details. Visit www.travel.state.gov for the U.S. State Department for the latest details about passports and visa requirements.

IMPORTANT: We recommend that our clients traveling abroad take a photocopy of their passport and applicable visas. It should be packed separately from your actual passport and visa. We also recommend leaving a copy at home with your emergency contact.

***Airfare:** For your convenience, we offer airfare for purchase with all vacation packages. If you purchase an air inclusive program, your airfare will be quoted inclusive of all fuel, taxes and fees. Your rates are subject to change until paid in full. Seats are limited and may not be available on every flight or departure date.

Checked Baggage Charges: Some airlines may impose additional charges if you choose to check any baggage. Please contact your airline or refer to its website for detailed information regarding your airline's checked baggage policies.

Cancellation Charges for this tour: After your seat reduction date has passed, a non-refundable deposit will be retained. For Cancellation between 60-16 days prior to departure: cancellation fee of 30% of total price. For cancellation between 15-1 days prior to departure: cancellation fee of 50% of total price. For cancellation on the day of departure and after: 100% of total price. For Ocean Cruises: For cancellation between 90-61 days prior to departure: cancellation fee of 35% of total price. For cancellation between 60-31 days prior to departure: 60% of total price. 30 or fewer days prior to departure: 100% of total price. For River Cruises: including Europe, Russia, Egypt and China, 90-61 days prior to departure: cancellation fee of 50% of total price. For cancellation between 60-31 days prior to departure: cancellation fee of 85% of total price. For cancellation 30 or fewer days prior to departure: cancellation fee of 100% of total price. For Galapagos and Antarctica: A cancellation fee of 60% will apply for cancellation between 120-90 days prior to departure; A cancellation charge of 100% will apply for cancellation less than 90 days prior to departure. Cancellation protection is highly recommended and must be purchased at time of deposit. Air rates are subject to change until tour is paid in full. If waivers have not been purchased and a reservation is cancelled for any reason prior to departure - Air is 100% non-refundable once paid in full. Cancellation charges also apply to reservations made for "pre" and "post" night accommodations. Purchase of Waiver and Insurance guarantees a full refund of all payments (including deposit), except the Waiver and insurance fee itself, made to Collette Vacations for travel arrangements in case of cancellation of your travel plans for any reason prior to the day of departure. The Waiver and Insurance does not cover any single supplement charges which arise from an individual's Traveling companion electing to cancel for any reason prior to departure. Upon cancellation of transportation or travel services where you, the customer, are not at fault and have not canceled in violation of the terms and conditions above, you will be refunded 100%. Please see your sales agent for more information, or review our brochure for details.

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