



☀ Spectacular Costa Rica ☀ The Way It Should Be Seen!

November 1 - 7, 2024 7 Days - 6 Nights

Join us on a very special tour to incredible Costa Rica! The beauty is simply staggering and the relaxed pace is instantly seductive. You'll find a peaceful oasis here in this tropical paradise with fun and fascinating activities galore! Costa Rica's incredibly varied topography means that you can cruise through the cloud forest one day then encounter an active volcano the next. You'll go with us to coffee plantations and visit a sustainable farm. The country's colorful cast of living creatures, ranging from howler monkeys to toucans, are abundant everywhere and so easy to spot! You'll definitely find more than enough to do and see while touring around this remarkable country!

And we also know for sure that November is the ideal time of year for you to visit fabulous Costa Rica!

Itinerary

November 1, 2024 - Your Journey Begins!

You'll board your international flight today bound for **Costa Rica!** On arrival you'll be assisted with your transfer to your San José hotel, then enjoy your **Welcome to Costa Rica Dinner** at the hotel this evening!
 Overnight: San José - DoubleTree by Hilton (D)

November 2, 2024 - Coffee Plantation and Archeological Site

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel prior to checking out and departing to explore the **Doka Coffee Plantation**, a major coffee producer sitting at an altitude of 4,500 feet. The volcanic soil, crisp clean mountain air and abundant sunshine combine to create the perfect conditions to produce the **finest Arabica coffee**. You'll enjoy your included lunch here before heading out to **Sarapiquí**, an exciting new location for ecotourism, on the foothills of the central mountain range at the edge of the **Braulio Carrillo National Park**. **Costa Rican native wildlife** is abundant along this biological corridor, with many exotic species of birds, mammals, amphibians and reptiles. Your **Sarapiquí** hotel was built on an **old orange plantation**, and when construction began they found an indigenous cemetery. So they created an **archeological site** as part of the hotel's gardens, to preserve, honor and study this burial site that you'll tour. You'll enjoy your dinner tonight at your hotel.
 Overnight: Sarapiquí - Rainforest Lodge (B/L/D)

November 3, 2024 - Sarapiquí River Cruise and Chocolate Tour

After your hotel breakfast, you'll depart for a leisurely **pontoon boat cruise on the Sarapiquí River**, exploring the river's vibrant ecosystem

that runs through a variety of environments - tropical wet forests, mountains, pastures, and more. Be on the lookout for wildlife in the water and on land, as you may be able to see **monkeys, iguanas, sloths, crocodiles, alligators, otters, and a variety of bird species**. Your guides will help you spot animals, explaining the ecological significance of the area, and you'll enjoy lunch afterward at a local restaurant. Then you'll be treated to a tasty tour where you'll get to know the wonders of **one of mankind's favorite foods: chocolate!** This plant is native to Central America, and was important to both the **Mayan and Aztec cultures**. You'll start by crossing the suspension bridge to a former cacao-growing plot. As you walk, the natural and cultural history of the cacao tree will be explained. On arrival at the plot, the artisanal process by which cacao fruit is transformed into chocolate will be shown (harvest, fermentation, drying, etc.), as the story of pre- and post-colonial chocolate is told. While at the site, you may **taste different kinds of chocolate**, prepared on the spot in a traditional method. You'll return back to your hotel this evening and enjoy your dinner at the hotel.

Overnight: Sarapiquí - Rainforest Lodge

(B/L/D)

November 4, 2024 - Don Juan Farm and Thermal Hot Springs

After breakfast at the hotel, you'll travel to the **Arenal volcano region** and visit the **Don Juan Educational Farm**, with your lunch included. Run by a former school teacher, this farm is a community project to promote sustainable farming practices. On only five acres of land, cattle graze and over 30 different crops are raised. You can have an interactive experience planting and collecting crops, and **learn about sugar cane**

milling, plus participate in cooking and preparing organically produced treats! This afternoon, you'll check in to your hotel before leaving to discover the **Eco Termales Hot Springs**. This series of pools fed with volcanic hot water offers a restful sanctuary of nature and beauty. The four pools vary in temperature from 91 to 105 degrees, and you'll find them refreshing and soothing! After enjoying the springs, you'll return to have dinner and spend the evening at the hotel.

Overnight: Arenal - Paraiso Resort

(B/L/D)

November 5, 2024 - Arenal Sky Adventure + Optional Zip Lining

This morning after breakfast, you'll head out to **Sky Adventure** for a **scenic tram tour and optional zip line experience**. The tram gondolas rise smoothly through the rain forest, offering endless views on their mountainous ascent. Your guide will point out characteristics of the flora and fauna and other intriguing facets of the Arenal rainforest area. You'll then reach a **wide observation platform** on the highest point of the reserve, where you can enjoy the **breathtaking views of the Arenal Volcano and Lake**, and the surrounding forests. You'll then take the tram back down the mountain, or you may prefer to get back to the base riding down thrilling ziplines! There are 7 cables going up to 656 ft. in height and 2460 ft. in length, and you'll be astounded by the impressive heights, speeds up to 43.5 mph, and **spectacular views** that'll leave you in awe of the surrounding mountains! After enjoying a leisurely lunch at a local restaurant, you'll return to your resort surrounded by tropical gardens and **outstanding views of Arenal Volcano**. Relax and enjoy your free late afternoon here, perhaps taking

advantage of the resort's spa services, or their soothing hot springs pools available to guests, or maybe even a bit of horseback riding on the property. Your dinner tonight will be at a local restaurant.

Overnight: Arenal - Paraiso Resort

(B/L/D)

November 6, 2024 - Sarchí Artisan Center to San José

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel prior to checking out and departing Arenal to travel back to the **San José** area. En route, you'll enjoy an intriguing tour of the renowned **Sarchí Artisan Center**. The town of Sarchi is a **major crafts center** in Costa Rica, where the arts and crafts are boldly hand painted. At your **painting class with a local artist**, you can even try your own hand here at painting an **oxcart wheel, the national symbol of Costa Rica!** Since oxcarts have long been a vital means to transport coffee beans to the central Pacific port, the artisans of Sarchi have paid tribute to their importance in perfecting this unique art of creating **vividly colored wheels**. You'll enjoy lunch in this charming village, then have an opportunity to explore the dozens of shops. Later this afternoon, you'll depart for your hotel with time to freshen up before enjoying your included **Farewell Dinner!**

Overnight: San José - DoubleTree by Hilton

(B/L/D)

November 7, 2024 - A Fond Farewell

Enjoy your hotel breakfast this morning before checking out as you transfer to the airport for your international flight home. **You'll surely look back on your days in Spectacular Costa Rica as an amazing adventure to be long remembered!**

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**Please note all itineraries are subject to change.

Spectacular Costa Rica!

\$4,498.00

per person / double occupancy

Single supplement is an additional \$998.00



Trip cancellation/interruption Travel Protection is available and recommended.

Check with your club representative for details.

Inclusions

- Roundtrip airport transfers including gratuities
- Roundtrip international airfare to San Jose, Costa Rica (checked baggage fees are not included)
- 6 nights accommodations in 4 Star Hotels
- Services of a private Bilingual naturalist/guide
- Private land transportation in Costa Rica
- Bottled water daily
- Airport assistance in Costa Rica
- Airport departure taxes
- Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner Daily
- Admission to all parks, sites and sightseeing tours as described in the itinerary
- All government/airport taxes
- Portorage of 1 suitcase per person
- All taxes, government fees and service charges
- TRIPS ticket wallet and luggage tags

Passports are required for this trip!

Call today to reserve your space!!!

Reservations for **"Spectacular Costa Rica!"** are on a first come/first served basis.

An initial **\$650.00** deposit is required to hold space on this tour.

This deposit is fully refundable up to July 24, 2024. **Final payment is due in the TRIPS office on or before July 24, 2024.**

Therefore, please make sure that payment is submitted to your club director at least 10 days prior to this date.

100% non-refundable as of July 24, 2024.



Prosperity Bank Travel Club

Make checks payable to **Prosperity Bank**

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CST # 2057913-10

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