

Costa Rica Natural Paradise 2025

from \$1399pp double (plus air) Call for specific dates!

Dear Vacation Traveler, Welcome to a great vacation and an affordable tour. Your Costa Rica tour is all inclusive with all meals, all activities, all hotels, a great itinerary, all airport transfers, all transportation and excursions. A professional Tour Director accompanies you for the entire Costa Rica vacation. Our travel packages also offer purified water at meals and on the motor coach. Join the smart shoppers and experienced travelers who have chosen Group Travelmasters since 1998.

Happy Travels!



Begins and Ends: San Jose, Costa Rica

Itinerary

Day 1 • San José, Costa Rica

Welcome to the “rich coast”, friendly land of democracy and rare natural beauty. During your Costa Rica vacation, you'll see exotic birds, view volcanoes, soak in hot springs, hike in a jungle rainforest, enjoy a wildlife river cruise, and stay three nights at one of the most beautiful beaches in Costa Rica. Fly into Juan Santamaria International Airport (SJO) in San José, Costa Rica. Transfer on your own using the official airport taxi service. Enjoy a two-night stay at your San José hotel. Rooms are available for check-in after 4:00 p.m. Join Caravan for an 8:00 p.m. welcome briefing. Dinner is included only until 9:30 p.m.

Meals: Dinner



Day 2 • Coffee Farm, Wildlife Rescue Center, Sarchi

This morning, a brief sightseeing drive of San José. See the Plaza de La Cultura, Central Park, and the National Theater. Then, head through Costa Rica's coffee growing region to visit a small family coffee farm and sample locally grown coffee. Costa Rica's climate and rich volcanic soil help produce exceptional coffee. Next, visit a wildlife rescue center. Here, injured animals, including endangered species, are rehabilitated for release back into the wild. Visit a butterfly garden. Lunch. Then, continue through Costa Rica's Central Valley to stop at the artisan village of Sarchi, nestled on the slopes of the Central Mountain Range. Here you can shop for colorful, traditional Costa Rican handicrafts. Visit an oxcart factory, where oxcarts are hand-painted with elaborate designs. Considered the national symbol of Costa Rica, oxcarts were historically used for the transport of coffee beans. Return to Costa Rica's capital, San Jose. Enjoy dinner.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 3 • Sloth Park, Volcanic Hot Springs

Morning stop at the charming town of Zarcero. Visit Iglesia San Rafael, a Moorish styled church, and explore the sculpted topiary gardens. Next, head northwest to the San Carlos Valley passing by sugar cane and pineapple plantations. Visit Sloth Park. Here, you can see these slow moving, gentle mammals in their natural habitat. Lunch. Photo stop at the Arenal Volcano overlook.

Then, enjoy a relaxing soak in volcanic hot springs. Enjoy dinner.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day 4 • Hanging Bridges, Guanacaste, Nicoya Peninsula

Morning visit to the Hanging Bridges Park. With a naturalist guide, hike through a rainforest while crossing suspension bridges. Weather permitting, enjoy views of the majestic Arenal Volcano. Scenic drive around Lake Arenal. Then, journey through the cloud forest region of the Cordillera de Tilarán. Lunch. Visit a Hummingbird Garden. Next, enter Guanacaste province. Pass by dry tropical forests, cattle ranches, and vast watermelon plantations. Enjoy a demonstration of Guaitil pottery making. Then, enter Costa Rica's picturesque Nicoya Peninsula on the Pacific Coast. Enjoy a relaxing three-night stay at your beach resort. Dinner.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 5 • Scarlet Macaws, Wildlife Observation Hike

Morning visit to a scarlet macaw sanctuary. Learn about efforts to protect this colorful endangered species at a wildlife rescue center. Then, a wildlife observation hike. Look for exotic fauna including sloths, mapaches, howler monkeys, spider monkeys, iguanas, and colorful tropical birds. Costa Rica has one of the highest levels of biodiversity in the world. Lunch. Afternoon free to indulge in your resort's many activities and amenities. Enjoy dinner.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 6 • Playa Tambor

Entire day is at leisure. The Nicoya Peninsula is a pristine, secluded gem. It is one of only five Blue Zones in the world where residents have extraordinarily long, healthy lifespans. Lunch. Enjoy romantic strolls on Playa Tambor, a gently sloping beach nearly four miles long. The beach is a nesting site for endangered sea turtles. Stunning sunsets complete your day. Enjoy dinner.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day 7 • Gulf of Nicoya, Tarcoles Cruise

Today, ferry across the Gulf of Nicoya back to the mainland. Playful dolphins frequently swim alongside. In the rare event that the ferry is not operating or unfeasible, Caravan will return by land around the Gulf of Nicoya. Lunch. Next, cruise on the Tarcoles River and float through a mangrove forest. Adjacent to Carara National Park, this area is rich in wildlife. Look for whistling ducks, cormorants, anhingas, snowy egrets, blue heron, northern jacanas, and the amazing nests of the Montezuma oropendola. Watch for black turtles, water walking lizards, and giant crocodiles. Return to San José. Farewell dinner.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 8 • San José

Your tour ends this morning at your hotel in San José. Breakfast is included only after 6:30 a.m. Caravan includes departure transfers on the day the tour ends from your hotel to the Juan Santamaria International Airport (SJO) in San José, Costa Rica, arriving at 5:00 a.m., 7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m., and 11:30 a.m. If you wish to go at a different time or extend your stay in Costa Rica, you will need to transfer on your own at your own expense. Thanks for vacationing with Caravan. ¡Muchas Gracias!

Meals: Breakfast



Day 8 • San José

Your tour ends this morning at your hotel. Breakfast begins at 6:30 a.m. Provided transfers to the Juan Santamaria International Airport (SJO) in San José, Costa Rica arriving at 5:00 a.m, 7:00 a.m, 9:00 a.m., and 11:30 a.m. Thanks for vacationing with Caravan. ¡Muchas Gracias!

Meals: Breakfast

2025 Prices & Availability

Jan

2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

Feb

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28

Mar

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

Apr

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 11 18 25

May

2 9 16 23

Jun

13 14 20 21 27 28

Jul

4 5 11 12 18 19 25 26

Aug

1 2 8 15 22

Nov

6 7 8 9 13 14 15 16 21 22

Dec

5 6 7 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31



2023 Price Per Person, \$U.S.

Room Type	Super Value
Double	\$1399
Triple	1379
Single	1799

***Call for Latest Availability
and to Reserve Space***

Group TravelMasters tours sell out fast! Please call 1-888-293-3330 before confirming other travel arrangements to verify availability of your preferred departure date. You can reserve space free for up to 3 days, then a \$300 deposit per person is due. Full payment is due 60 days prior to departure.

\$199 Travel Protection Plan fGroup TravelMasters offers peace of mind if you cancel for any reason whatsoever prior to the departure of the tour. The travel protection plan also includes air, baggage, evacuation and medical coverage.

In Latin America, Caravan transfers you between the airport and hotel on the starting and ending dates of your tour.

Airfare is not included Call for Pricing.

All Meals Included

B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner

General Info

Pay by



check.



2025 Hotels

Accommodations in the hotels and lodges are rooms with two beds and private bath or shower. A limited number of single rooms are available. Triple rooms are usually two beds.



Days 1, 2 • San José

Barcelo San José

The Barcelo San Jose Hotel is located 1 mile from downtown San José, amidst beautifully landscaped gardens in a quiet residential area. This five star hotel features two indoor restaurants, two bars, a casino, a large swimming pool and pool bar and restaurant, spa with Jacuzzi, steam bath, sauna, tennis and squash courts, massage therapists, hairdresser, and gift shops. Your hotel is fully air-conditioned. Free internet access.



Day 3 • Fortuna

Magic Mountain

Magic Mountain Hotel and Spa is located on the northern end of Fortuna. All rooms have either a balcony or a terrace with a view of Arenal Volcano. Magic Mountain has a restaurant, sports bar, swimming pool with pool bar and two jacuzzis. The deluxe spa specializes in a variety of treatments including volcanic mud wraps, massages, facials, pedicures and manicures. Free internet access.



Days 4, 5, 6 • Nicoya Peninsula

Barcelo Tambor Beach Resort

The Barcelo Beach Resort is located on Costa Rica's Pacific Coast in the secluded Nicoya Peninsula. It is situated alongside picturesque Playa Tambor, a gently sloping beach nearly four miles long overlooking breathtaking Ballena (Whale) Bay. The beach is perfect for leisurely, romantic strolls. The resort grounds are set amidst lush tropical gardens with a variety of walking paths. Iguanas freely wander the grounds and troops of spider and howler monkeys swing from the trees. Here, at Barcelo Tambor, you'll sleep to the magical sounds of the jungle. A golf course is adjacent to the property. On-site amenities at the resort include outdoor pools, tennis courts, beach volleyball, mini golf, and a fitness center. A full-service deluxe spa and hair salon are available for a fee. The fully equipped guest rooms are air conditioned and all feature either a terrace or a balcony. Free WiFi.



Day 7 • San José

Quality Hotel Real San Jose

The Quality Hotel Real San Jose is conveniently located in the entertainment center of the Santa Ana District in San Jose and just a few steps away from a variety of restaurants, bars and shopping centers. Valle del Sol Golf Course, one of the finest golf courses in Costa Rica, is only three minutes away. A well-equipped exercise room will inspire your workout, offering a view of the swimming pool and garden. All guest rooms have been thoughtfully decorated and feature a variety of amenities, including free high-streaming-speed Internet.

Airport Transfers

arrival Transfers

Transfer on your own from the Juan Santamaria International Airport (SJO) to your hotel, the Barcelo San Jose (Residencial, Diagonal 23A, Robledal La Uruca) in San Jose. Once you have exited customs and collected your baggage at the airport, proceed to the official taxi service known as “Taxis Unidos Aeropuerto,” The taxi kiosk is located on your left at the exit door of the airport. Here you can request your taxi. The driving time from the airport to the hotel is approximately 30-60 minutes, depending on traffic. The cost will range from \$30-\$40 US Dollars plus tip. Payment can be made by US Dollars, Costa Rica Colones or via credit card. Currency exchange and ATMs are available in the airport. When you arrive at your hotel, please identify yourself as a tour member to the front desk personnel.

departure Transfers

This tour includes departure transfers from your hotel in San José to the Juan Santamaria International Airport (SJO) in San José, Costa Rica on the day the tour ends, scheduled to arrive at the airport at 5:00 a.m, 7:00 a.m, 9:00 a.m., and 11:30 a.m. These transfers are only available on the day the tour ends. If you wish to extend your stay in Costa Rica, you will need to transfer on your own, at your own expense. Please ask the hotel bellman to arrange a taxi. Expect to pay \$25.00 U.S. Dollars per taxi, plus tip. The driving time from the hotel to the airport is approximately 30-60 minutes, depending on traffic.

Airfare is not included or sold by Caravan.

Passports & Visas

To enter Costa Rica, you will need a U.S. passport valid for 6 additional months after the date of your arrival into Costa Rica. A 3 month tourist visa is automatically issued to U.S. citizens after clearing Costa Rica customs. Non U.S. citizens, please check passport and visa requirements.

Note: It is recommended that children under 18 years old traveling internationally without both parents or legal guardians, carry a notarized letter of authorization signed by the missing parent(s) or guardian(s). A notarized birth certificate showing only one parent, a parent’s death certificate, or a court order of child custody may also be permissible. Failure to have proper documentation could result in denial of boarding by the airline, due to international child protection laws. [See Travel Tips for more details.](#)

Weather & Clothing

Temperature °F (high/low) Rainfall (inches)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
San José												
temp	78/64	79/64	80/64	81/65	79/65	78/64	78/65	78/64	77/63	77/63	77/64	77/64
rainfall	1.1	0.8	0.7	1.9	4.8	5.6	4.7	5.2	6.2	6.5	4.4	2.2
Nicoya Peninsula												
temp	92/79	93/80	94/80	93/80	90/79	89/79	90/79	90/78	89/77	88/77	89/78	90/79
rainfall	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.9	4.1	4.8	3.4	4.6	6.8	6.6	2.9	0.7

Clothing Tips

This is a casual tour. Casual wear is suggested for sightseeing and daytime travelling. Dress code for evenings is casual. Suit jackets for men and dresses for women are never required on Caravan's Costa Rica tour. It is recommended to wear drip-dry clothing in the rainforest. Shirts with long sleeves and long pants are recommended for rain forest and cloud forest hikes. [See Travel Tips for more details.](#)

Travel Tips & FAQs

These are only the first 25 Travel Tips. [Read all 78 Travel Tips](#)

Language Spoken in Costa Rica

Spanish is the official language of Costa Rica. English is taught as a second language in Costa Rican schools. Your Caravan Tour Director, local guides and most hotel receptionists are bilingual, speaking both English and Spanish.

Time Zone

Costa Rica observes Central Standard Time all year round. Because Costa Rica does not observe Daylight Savings Time, in the winter it shares the same time as cities in the Central Time Zone such as Chicago, Houston and Winnipeg. In the summer, Costa Rica time is one hour earlier than Central Time Zone areas which observe Daylight Savings Time.

Costa Rica Immigration

After exiting your plane, you will first arrive at the immigration desk, and present your passport and a Costa Rica immigration form. (This form is provided to you by your airplane. On the form, you will write your name, passport number, nationality, occupation, and the motive for your visit - tourism or business.) After you are approved in the immigration computer, you take the escalator or elevator downstairs to the baggage claim area.

San Jose, Costa Rica Baggage Claim

When you arrive at the baggage claim area, you will find free luggage carts and clean restrooms. You can pick up a free map here at the Tourist Information booth.

Airport Porter Tips

If an airport porter assists you with your suitcases, please tip the airport porter \$2 per person or more in the United States, and \$1 per person or more in Costa Rica, depending on the amount of your luggage.

Caravan Does Not Arrange Airline Transportation

Airfare is not included or sold by Caravan Tours. Reserve your flight to San Jose, Costa Rica (airport code SJO), and not San Jose, California (airport code SJC). Try to schedule flights with as few connections as possible. If you have connecting flights, please allow enough time between flights so you can comfortably reach your connecting gates.

Costa Rica Customs

After you pick up your suitcase at baggage claim, you must stop at the customs table and put your suitcase on a conveyor belt through the scanning machine. This takes about ten seconds. Then the customs agent will signal you to exit the customs area.

Customs Duties for Items Purchased in Costa Rica

When returning to the U.S., U.S. customs allows each person an exemption of customs taxes on up to \$800.00 U.S. worth of Costa Rican goods that are in your possession and personally accompany you. Items to be sent later are not included in your \$800 duty-free exemption. If two

family members are traveling together, they may combine their customs exemption. For instance, a married couple will have a total \$1,600.00 customs exemption. A flat duty rate of 3% is applied to the first \$1,000 of goods per person beyond the \$800 per person exemption. The duty-free exemption applies ONLY IF you have not used any exemption allowance whatsoever in the past 30 days. For instance, if you have made another international trip within the past 30 days, and used even a small exemption of \$10, you would not get the \$800 exemption. For this reason, sometimes it is best not to use the exemption if (1) the value of your goods is very low, and (2) you are planning to use the exemption on another trip within 30 days. Duty on items you mail home to yourself is waived if the value is \$200 or less.

Customs Duties for Personal Items in Costa Rica

There is no customs duties charge for your personal items in Costa Rica.

Drivers License

You can drive with your normal driver's license in Costa Rica for 3 months after your entry into Costa Rica. There is no such thing as an international driver's license, although there is an international driving permit which you can buy for \$10 at an American Automobile Association office. These permits are valid for one year after date of issue, and are valid only when accompanied by a valid driver's license. It is not necessary to buy an international driving permit for a visit of under 3 months to Costa Rica.

Call for more details: 888-293-3330