



Viva: Costa Rica Escape Group Tour

Day 1: 04 Oct 2017 (Wednesday) - Arrival in San Jose

San Jose, the capital and largest city of Costa Rica, sits in the Central Valley region overlooked by volcanoes to the north and the Talamanca Mountains to the south. It is the cultural capital of Costa Rica, offering many museums including the Pre-Columbian Gold Museum that displays hundreds of gold artefacts. In the historic neighbourhoods of San Jose, Spanish colonial mansions have been converted into galleries, boutique hotels and restaurants.



On arrival at San Jose Airport, you will be met and transferred to your hotel in San Jose.

This evening join together for a pre-tour welcome meeting

Overnight at Colonial Hotel including breakfast.

Day 2: 05 Oct 2017 (Thursday) - San Jose to Tortuguero

Today we drive from San Jose to Tortuguero. On the way we will enjoy breakfast at local restaurant. Shortly after breakfast, we will continue our journey to the dock for the shared boat transfer to the hotel.

Guide visit to Tortuguero Village during the afternoon.

TORTUGUERO VILLAGE

The Tortuguero Village is a calmed place, where there are no cars or wide streets and nature is literally bursting into town.

On one side of the village, rivers and waterways beckon you to paddle deep into the jungle and experience nature unperturbed.

On the other side of the village an unexplored Caribbean beach

Overnight in a Standard FB Room at Mawamba Lodge - Standard 3 Nights including breakfast.

Day 3: 06 Oct 2017 (Friday) - Mawamba Park & Tortuguero Canals

This guided visit includes the butterfly farm, the frog farm and garden, the iguana farm, the biodigester combined with a nice walk along the lodge's private trails.

Located on the North Caribbean coast of Costa Rica, is the third-most visited National Park in the country,

Day 3 continued...

despite the fact that it can be reached only by domestic plane or boat.

The park has an incredible biological variety, with different habitats, including rainforest, swamps, beaches and lagoons. Tortuguero is very humid, and receives up to 250 inches (6,400 mm) of rain a year.

Its beaches are key nesting ground for endangered sea Green Turtles (between July to September). The rivers within the park are home to sensitive populations of manatees, as well as caimans, and crocodiles. The forests are home to jaguars, three-toed sloths, three species of monkeys, Basilisk lizards and poisonous frogs also inhabit the area, along with 375 species of birds. There are more than 400 species of trees and approximately 2,200 species of other plants

Overnight in a Standard FB Room at Mawamba Lodge - Standard 3 Nights including breakfast.

Day 4: 07 Oct 2017 (Saturday) - Tortuguero to Arenal

At the appropriate time we will depart on our shared boat transfer from Tortuguero to the dock. Upon arrival we will stop for lunch at a local restaurant.

After lunch our travel continues to Arenal area.

Arenal Volcano is one of Costa Rica's most notable natural features, with its picture perfect conical shape rising to 1,657m. It lies within the Arenal Volcano National Park in the northern lowlands region of the country. Since a major eruption in 1968, this volcano has been one of the most active in Costa Rica with mild, nearly continuous activity from its conical crater. Lava flows and clouds of smoke or ash can often be seen from the El Mirador viewpoint and there are hot springs in the area where you can relax in the mineral-rich pools of the natural geothermal river.



Overnight in a Standard Room at Hotel Las Colinas including breakfast (Standard Category Accommodation).

Overnight in a Standard FB Room at Mawamba Lodge - Standard 3 Nights including breakfast.

Day 5: 08 Oct 2017 (Sunday) - Arenal Volcano National Park + Titoku Hot Springs

Guide visit to Arenal Volcano National Park and Titoku Hot Springs.

Arenal Volcano National Park:

Before the active period of 1968, a lavish canopy of vegetation covered the Arenal Volcano.

People that climbed Arenal's summit related that inside the crater there were big trees and at night, they slept in places where there was some heat due to small steam outlets.

Right now the green area is located at the east side of the Mountain, and other little green parts can be seen on the north and the south of the volcano.

Enjoy the most extraordinary view of the Arenal Volcano on a gentle Hike along the base of this marvelous "Mountain of Fire".

The Hike begins in one the trails close to the volcano, this trail will take us through the forest over recent lava flows and the area destroyed in 1968 now in the process of regeneration.

We are going to be on this trail for about 2 ½ hours.

Titoku Hot Springs:

Titokú, meaning water from the gods, in Maleku (costarrican native language).

It's located at only 7 minutes from Kioro Hotel. They offer 8 different hot springs pools, with hydro-massage.

Every pool comes with different temperature and size (6-20 people) Titoku has the total capacity for 80 persons.

Titoku's other service: reception, waiting room, snack bar, meeting room, bathrooms, dressing rooms and lockers.

Overnight in a Standard Room at Hotel Las Colinas including breakfast (Standard Category Accommodation).

Day 6: 09 Oct 2017 (Monday) - Arenal to Monteverde

Transfer from Arenal to Monteverde

Monteverde is a Quaker settlement in the mountainous northwest of Costa Rica. Nearby, the stunningly beautiful Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve houses 2.5% of the world's biodiversity and is home to thousands of species of plants and animals including jaguars and ocelots as well as over 400 species of birds, including the colourful resplendent quetzal. There are many trails that lead through the ferns and orchids and hanging bridges that allow you to experience the forest canopy.



Overnight in a Standard Room at Monteverde Country Lodge including breakfast (Budget Category Accommodation).

Day 7: 10 Oct 2017 (Tuesday) - Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve + Frog Pond

Hiking at Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve & Visit to Frog Pond

Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve:

The Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve, is one of the most famous conservation areas in Central America. It is a tropical rain forest but because of its altitude (1400 meters or 4.600 feet), it's called a Cloud Forest. A cloud forest is a highland forest characterized by nearly 100% humidity throughout the year. Here in Monteverde, warm north-easterly trade winds, filled with moisture, blow in from the Atlantic. As the winds sweep up to the Continental Divide, they cool and condense to form clouds, bathing the forest in a constant soft mist.

The cloud forest receives an incredible four meters of rain every year- over twelve feet! It is home to rare and unusual wildlife, such as jaguars and pumas, and over 450 species of birds including the world's largest population of quetzal birds.

Frog Pond:

At our Herpetarium you can admire over 20 species of frogs and other amphibians.

Walk with our guide and learn about species that are unique to the tropics of Costa Rica.

Come see extraordinary frog, such as colorful Poison Arrow Frog, the very large Marine Toad and the famous Red Eyed Tree Frog.

Frogs and toads are undergoing massive worldwide declines.

We are committed the conservation of amphibians and we dedicate part of the proceeds from each ticket purchased to research and conservation efforts. We hope to inspire others to do the same.

Overnight in a Standard Room at Monteverde Country Lodge including breakfast (Budget Category Accommodation).

Day 8: 11 Oct 2017 (Wednesday) - Sky Adventures Zip Line + Don Juan Coffee Tour

During the morning Sky Tram & Trek and Don Juan Coffee Tour

Sky Adventures:

The Sky Tram will lead the visitors up to the Continental Divide and to one of the highest mountains of Monteverde. It is a guided tour that gives everyone the opportunity to observe the cloud forest biodiversity, the Arenal, Tenorio, Miravalles and Orosi volcanoes, the Nicoya Gulf and the Guanacaste plains if the weather allows it. It is a high technology cableway that includes a ride of 800 meters (one way) with altitudes between 1400 and 1600 meters above sea level.

Sky Tram technical information:

- * Austrian manufacture: Doppelmayr
- * Length: 1250 meters
- * Six gondolas, six persons per gondola
- * Maximum height: 46 meters over the treetops.
- * Duration of tour: approx. 20 minutes one way

Sky Trek is a system of zip lines ranging from mountain to mountain measuring 2.5 miles of linear cable.

This tour gives the visitors the opportunity to fly through a cable and have a unique experience of adventure and adrenaline at speeds up to 40 miles per hour and heights over 524 feet. In addition there are five observation towers over the cloud forest treetops that provide a panoramic view.

The tour starts with the Sky Tram that will lead everyone up to the Continental Divide.

Don Juan Coffee Tour:

At Don Juan Coffee Tour, experience the age-old coffee tradition through a unique tour of our coffee farms. Our specialized guides will point out the most important aspects of coffee, its harvest and processing. They'll take you through the history of this crop from its beginnings in the Arab African countries and Ethiopia, and highlight the importance the "golden bean" in the social, cultural and economic development of Costa Rica.

At our traditional house, you'll enjoy a friendly atmosphere and the delicious, seductive aroma of one of the best coffees in the world. Along with your exquisite cup of coffee, you can try one of our typical snacks. Finally, you can purchase a wide variety of fresh roasted and packaged coffee.

Don Juan Coffee Tour is Culture and Tradition.

Overnight in a Standard Room at Monteverde Country Lodge including breakfast (Budget Category Accommodation).

Day 9: 12 Oct 2017 (Thursday) - Monteverde to San Jose with farewell Dinner

Transfer from Monteverde to back to San Jose

Tonight we enjoy change and sharing stories of our wonderful time together during our farewell dinner at a local restaurant.

Overnight at Colonial Hotel including breakfast.

Day 10: 13 Oct 2017 (Friday) – Group Tour Ends. Depart Costa Rica

Departure Transfer: - Private transfer from your hotel in San José to the International Airport for your outward flight. Note that check in at airline counter must be done three hours prior to flight departure.

EXTEND YOUR STAY:

Why not start your journey in Mexico & travel through Guatemala to Costa Rica. Or start in Guatemala. Other additional pre and post group tour arrangements available. Please ask your Travel Advisor for more details.

Included: Accommodation, daily breakfast, other meals where stated, tours with professional English speaking guide on a shared service basis unless otherwise stated, airport transfers where stated, most entrance fees and local taxes (some exclusions apply).

Excluded: Any meals not mentioned in the above itinerary. Travel Insurance and tips. Any flights or services not mentioned in this itinerary.

Please Note: This itinerary and/or hotels quoted within this itinerary may change due to local operating conditions or availability at the time of booking. Please see our terms and conditions for more details. Please note that all flights are non refundable and non changeable unless advised otherwise. Viva Expeditions accepts no responsibility for flight delays and subsequent delays on tours.

Please be aware that many of our products are operated in US Dollars and therefore subject to currency fluctuations. Viva Expeditions will do its utmost to avoid passing on any additional charges however if there is a significant change in exchange rates then we will be required to add a currency surcharge without warning. If you would like to remove this currency risk you do have the option of paying in full at the time of booking. Additionally if you have booked one of our cruise products - be aware that many operators also reserve the right to apply fuel surcharges dependant on the price of crude oil.

Final payment on bookings are generally due 95 days prior to departure. Please note that if you have an Antarctica booking operated by Quark Expeditions your final payment is due 125 days prior to departure.

Please note comprehensive pre tour departure information will be provided shortly after confirming your booking. This pack is an invaluable source with information on visas, tipping, what to pack and much more.

Hotel Information

Colonial Hotel

Colonial Hotel is located downtown San José, very close to many important governmental buildings, museums and parks as well as nice restaurants, stores and supermarkets.

It is an elegant restored neocolonial mansion that once belonged to the owners of a well-known furniture store.

The house has many elegant details such as hand carved mahogany beams and tropical redwood floors. All rooms have ceiling fans, telephone and cable TV; some of them also have air conditioning. Some additional services available are laundry service, money exchange, luggage storage and free wireless Internet access.

Mawamba Lodge - Standard 3 Nights

Mawamba Lodge is located in the exotic rain forest of Tortuguero. Mawamba Lodge, amidst this exotic spot, and whose front yard is the Tortuguero canals and its backyard the Caribbean Ocean, blends with the surrounding natural richness to welcome you in this tropical sanctuary that we call Tortuguero.

Facilities include: direct access to the beach and at walking distance to Tortuguero town, swimming pool & whirlpool, restaurant by the pool area, bar, Entertainment (foosball, pool, volleyball sand court and table games), cafeteria with free WI-FI connection access. Mawamba Park: private trails with 2 butterfly gardens, iguanas and frog garden (guided visit included in the 3 day / 2 night package). Unlimited free access to guests for self-guided walks, natural trails: El Manakin trail for day hikes and another private nature trail for night hikes. Optional tours: kayaks, night hikes, turtle tour in season (July-September) Katonga floating restaurant. Bio-digester (sewage waters are treated and converted in a natural source of gas to heat up the kitchen stoves), souvenir shop and conference room. The lodge has 54 standard rooms and 4 standard superior rooms. Standard rooms feature one double and one single bed or three single beds. All rooms have garden view, ceiling fan, complimentary safety box, daily clean up service and private bathroom. Hair dryer available for guest use in reception (limited numbers). Superior rooms are independent bungalows with ample room space with one king size bed, ceiling fan, view of the canals, complimentary safety box and larger bathroom with separate tub and shower and hair dryer.



Hotel Las Colinas

Standard Category Accommodation

Hotel Boutique Las Colinas is a place with a familiar atmosphere with more than 20 years of experience in the market.

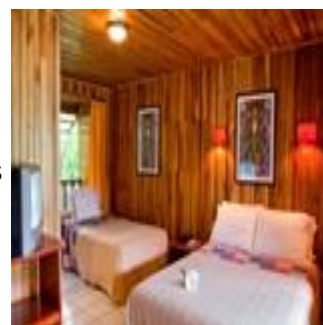
With excellent views towards the Majestic Arenal Volcano and located just half a block away the Central Park in La Fortuna Down Town.



Monteverde Country Lodge

Budget Category Accommodation

Remodeled during 2010, Monteverde Country Lodge conjugates accessible lodging prices with the traditional Monteverde's cozy-rustic style, providing our guests with comfortable facilities and a warm familiar environment. Located less than 10 minutes away from the Monteverde Cloud Forest Biological Preserve and in a walk-able distance from Santa Elena Downtown, Monteverde Country Lodge is the perfect option for those who are looking for cozy lodging, nice rest and easy access to all the activities Monteverde has to offer. Guest at Monteverde Country Lodge have access to cable TV, safety boxes, coffee maker and hot water showers in every room; as well as a gated parking lot, bar and restaurant. Free wireless Internet at all premises and free concierge service to book tours all around Monteverde. The lodge offers a complementary meeting room for groups staying with us; equipped with video in, microphone, surround sound system and a capacity for 50 people. Ideal for lectures, meetings and workshops. In addition, while staying at Monteverde Country Lodge, guests are able to use the indoor heated pool at our sister property Hotel Poco a Poco free of charge, the same for its exercise room, kids club and jacuzzi. They will also have access to preferential discounts at Otocuma Restaurant and seasonal promotions at Naroa Spa.



Pre-booking Advice

Please click on the below link which includes some detailed information on common destinations. Please read this information prior to approving your quote with your sales consultant as the items mentioned in this document can be difficult (and/or expensive) to change after your booking is confirmed.

[Itinerary Planning Advice](#)

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