

Craig
travel

EXPERIENCE **COSTA RICA**

BOOK BY SEP 30
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NATURAL WONDERS
FEB 1-15, 2026 | 15 DAYS | 30 MEALS
JOURNEY LEADERS: DETLEF & BARB DRANSCH

Costa Rica stands as one of the world's leading nations in environmental conservation. With over 25% of its landmass protected as national parks and reserves, we will have ample opportunity to experience the natural beauty of this diverse country—from tropical rainforests to windswept beaches, from tranquil lagoons to mountain-top cloud forests surrounding volcanoes. In each area, we will see flora and fauna that are either unique to this region or nearly extinct elsewhere.

Carefully designed to provide an overview of Costa Rica's diverse ecosystems, this program ensures comfortable accommodations and ample time to experience the country's biodiversity. A balance of guided sightseeing and leisure time allows us to explore at a relaxed pace. During your free time, you may choose to unwind in the peaceful surroundings of our resorts or join an optional excursion.

This tour has limited availability—if this is your year to visit Costa Rica, we encourage you to enroll early.



Tour Highlights

- Visit Tortuguero National Park and marvel at its unique flora and fauna
- Discover the flavours of Costa Rica with a special cooking class in Sarapiquí
- Enjoy the relaxing pools of Ecotermales Hot Springs
- Visit a local school in Arenal (subject to confirmation)
- Explore Arenal Volcano National Park
- Walk through the Monteverde Cloud Forest with fascinating views of the forest, a birders paradise
- Cruise through the waterways of Palo Verde NP
- Relax by the beach at Tamarindo

Journey Leaders

Detlef and Barb Dransch are thrilled to be the journey leaders for this upcoming trip to Costa Rica. They enjoy visiting new places, experiencing local culture, and meeting new people. Together, their travels have taken them to South America, Costa Rica, Iceland, Australia, New Zealand, and Europe. Detlef has organized private motorcycle tours in the Alps, Norway, and North America. He is retired from a high-tech career in Ottawa, and Barb is retired from a career in finance in the non-profit sector. Both enjoy hiking and are active volunteers in their church community. Detlef also enjoys photography, playing squash, and alpine skiing. Barb has an open and curious mind and has recently delved into issues such as climate change and affordable housing. They look forward to their next adventure, sharing experiences with fellow travellers, and creating new memories.



Inclusive Features

- Return economy class airfare to San Jose and from Liberia, Costa Rica
- First class hotels and lodges, as indicated or similar
- 30 meals included as noted in the itinerary (B - 14 breakfasts, L - 6 lunches, D - 10 dinners)
- Services of your journey leader plus our professional guide in Costa Rica
- All transfers including portorage (where available)
- All gratuities, surcharges, taxes and fees for included services
- Airport transfers in Canada or equivalent value with purchase of group airfare

FEB 1, Sunday DEPART CANADA / ARRIVE SAN JOSE

Tour members from across Canada fly via Toronto to San Jose, Costa Rica's capital. On arrival, we will be transferred to our hotel, ideally located near the city centre and next to La Sabana Park. **Hilton La Sabana** (2 nights)

FEB 2, Monday SAN JOSE

Drive to the heights overlooking the still active Poás Volcano to experience this harsh but beautiful landscape as well as Lake Botos (weather permitting). On our way back we will spend a couple of hours exploring La Paz Waterfall Gardens. Following lunch, our journey takes us to Doka Coffee Estate, where an intriguing presentation awaits, unveiling the intricate process of coffee production. Gain insights into the cultivation of the plant and the meticulous art of bean roasting. This evening we gather for dinner at our hotel. BLD

FEB 3, Tuesday TORTUGUERO NATIONAL PARK

Departing the capital this morning, we travel by coach, passing volcanic mountains en route to the lush Caribbean coast, and by small boat along the inland waterways, sheltered by the dense vegetation of the rainforest, to Tortuguero National Park. There will be ample free time in the afternoon to visit a quaint little village or enjoy the unique flora and fauna (watch for herons, toucans, monkeys and more). Our rustic accommodation is set adjacent to the inland waterways.

Pachira Lodge (2 nights) BLD

FEB 4, Wednesday TORTUGUERO NATIONAL PARK

Our day is devoted to the natural beauty of this area, including a cruise through the remote unspoiled sections of the park's waterways. This afternoon we can relax by the pool or visit the Tortuguero Turtle Conservation Museum (entrance by donation). BLD

FEB 5, Thursday SARAPIQUI

Begin the day with a leisurely morning cruise along the inland waterway to Caño Blanco or La Pavona (depending on river flow), where we rejoin our tour coach. After lunch at El Ceibo restaurant, we continue to Sarapiquí and our resort, set in the eastern lowlands on the edge of the rainforest. In the afternoon, we visit a working pineapple plantation. Spend the rest of the day relaxing at this special eco-lodge, surrounded by lush gardens and the sights and sounds of the rainforest.

Sarapiquis Rainforest Lodge (2 nights) BLD

FEB 6, Friday SARAPIQUI

Today, we have a fun and engaging planned visit to a community centre located near Sarapiquí, where we will have the opportunity to meet and interact with the locals. We will also have a special cooking class to discover the local flavours of Costa Rica and to try all of our culinary creations. This evening we will enjoy a special barbecue dinner. BLD

FEB 7, Saturday LA FORTUNA / ARENAL

Start your day with some leisure time, or choose to join your guide for a birdwatching excursion at our resort. Afterwards, we will set off towards the Arenal Volcano region, making a stop en route at a local chocolate plantation. Here, you can enjoy a tour to learn about the process of cultivating and harvesting organic cocoa. At the end of the tour, we will prepare and sample the beverage that ancient Mexican civilizations referred to as "the drink of the Gods". Later in the afternoon, we will visit the beautiful gardens and hot springs at Ecotermas. Take in the stunning views of the Arenal Volcano as you relax in the hot pools and natural cascading stream, allowing the restorative waters to rejuvenate your mind and body. Finally, we will indulge in a delectable buffet dinner overlooking the gardens before returning to our hotel.

Arenal Manoa Hotel (2 nights) BD

FEB 8, Sunday SARAPIQUI / ARENAL VOLCANO

Enjoy a morning at leisure. In the afternoon we have included a walk into Arenal Volcano National Park, which will allow both strong and limited walkers a chance to explore the area. BD

FEB 9, Monday MONTEVERDE

Our journey today takes us to the mountainous region of central Costa Rica, where we will be staying at the eco-friendly El Establo Hotel. Nestled on a hillside near the Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve, this hotel spans over 150 acres of lush surroundings, providing serene and stunning views of the mountains and the Gulf of Nicoya from its well-appointed rooms. During your stay, you can explore the charming town of Santa Elena and immerse yourself in the local culture. Later, you will have the opportunity to visit the Bat Jungle exhibit, where you can discover the fascinating world of bats and learn about the many different species found in this area.

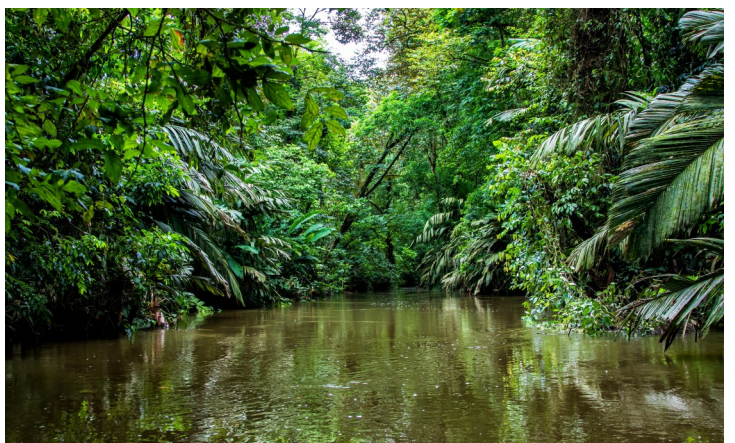
El Establo Mountain Hotel (2 nights) BD



Traditional costume and dance of Costa Rica. Photo credit: Robert Craig



The magnificent Arenal Volcano



Cruise the waters of Tortuguero and spot incredible wildlife



A curious capuchin monkey

FEB 10, Tuesday MONTEVERDE CLOUD FOREST

Our morning will be devoted to a walking exploration of the lush greenery of this world-renowned private reserve with our naturalist/guide. Founded by a group of Quakers and native Costa Ricans over 40 years ago and located 1,500 - 1,800 metres above sea level, the reserve is known for its indigenous flora and fauna, especially its birdlife with over 450 species (be sure to watch for the long tails of the quetzals, and to listen for the “bong” of the bellbirds). Local wildlife include howler monkeys, capuchins, white hawks, toucans, woodpeckers, snakes and iguanas. Enjoy the sky walk, followed by dinner at a local restaurant this evening. BD

FEB 11, Wednesday TAMARINDO

From the lush cloud forest, we descend through various layers of vegetation to the seaside village of Tamarindo, overlooking Las Baulas National Marine Park. Our final stay will be at one of Costa Rica’s most famous beaches, known for its golden sands, clear waters and amazing sunsets. **Tamarindo Diria Beach Resort** (4 nights) B

FEB 12, Thursday TAMARINDO

Today is yours to enjoy as you wish. Relax by the pool or in the tranquil hotel gardens, take a stroll on the golden sands of the mile-long beach, or join an optional excursion (additional fees may apply) such as zip lining, sailing, snorkelling, fishing, white-water rafting, or ATV riding. B

FEB 13, Friday TAMARINDO / PALO VERDE

Early this morning, we gather for a full-day exploration of Palo Verde National Park, known for its wetlands and wildlife. Cruise along the waterways of the Tempisque River to witness the variety of birds and wildlife that populate the park. At the historic Sabanero Hacienda learn about the sugar cane plantations and the lifestyle in the savannas, followed by a typical lunch including local fruits and delicious homemade snacks. BL

FEB 14, Saturday TAMARINDO

Explore the town of Tamarindo on your own, perhaps take a stroll through the town’s colourful streets and visit local artisan shops. In the evening we will enjoy a farewell dinner. BD

FEB 15, Sunday TAMARINDO / CANADA

All too soon, our unforgettable Costa Rican adventure comes to a close as we transfer to the airport for our journey back to Canada. B



Relaxing by the beach in Tamarindo

REV27MAR25

CT Rating 3.5/5 - Challenging: This tour is best suited for people who are physically fit and for those who enjoy walking, hiking and being active. The itinerary includes free time allowing members to select the level of activity best suited to them. Hotels will range from first class resorts to rustic atmospheric lodges – several hotels may require considerable walking reflecting the reality of mountainous Costa Rica.



**Book by September 30, 2025
and save \$200 per person**



Tour Cost in Canadian Dollars Per Person

Land Only* (Join / Leave at Hotel).....	\$7,645
Toronto.....	\$8,995
Montreal / Ottawa	\$9,145
Halifax / St. John’s	\$9,195
Winnipeg	\$9,195
Regina / Saskatoon	\$9,345
Calgary / Edmonton / Vancouver.....	\$9,295
Victoria.....	\$9,345
Single Supplement.....	\$2,845

*Land Only clients join at the San Jose hotel and leave at the Tamarindo hotel. Airfares from other gateways are available on request. Airfares and air carriers are subject to change and will be confirmed prior to final payment. Refer to inclusive features for details.

Tour price is based on sharing a twin-bedded room at hotels. Prices are based on a minimum 20 members and on rates, taxes and fees effective March 2025 and are subject to change due to factors beyond our control. Group to be escorted with a minimum of 20 group members.

Insurance is NOT INCLUDED but is highly recommended. Premiums are calculated based on the individual’s age, destination (country), trip length, and trip booking window – please contact our staff to receive a quote. Your coverage starts on the effective date of your confirmation of coverage. Please discuss your insurance coverage prior to booking. Check our website for the most current information. Refer to the enrollment form for terms and conditions.

Final payment is due October 21, 2025

Deposit is \$700 per person

To reserve your spot on this tour, you can either book online through our website or submit an enrollment form along with your deposit to:



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