

## COSTA RICA DELUXE ITINERARY. Including Manuel Antonio & Corcovado

1 night San Jose ~ 3 nights Tortuguero ~ 2 nights Arenal ~ 2 nights Monteverde  
~ 6 nights Manuel Antonio ~ 3 nights Corcovado ~ 1 night San Jose

### Day 1 SAN JOSE

On arrival into **San Jose** International Airport you will be met by our ground agents and transferred to the **Alta Hotel** for your first night in Costa Rica BB.

- **The Alta Hotel** is a luxurious, unique hotel with architecture that combines the colonial style and current trends. It is just 15 minutes away from the airport and downtown San Jose. It is a very comfortable hotel and has a gym and swimming pool.

### Day 2 TORTUGUERO

Early morning pick-up to join a small group travelling by road through the coffee & banana plantations and then transferring to river boat to arrive in **Tortuguero** to stay at the **Mawamba Lodge** for 3 nights. You are escorted by a guide and a driver, stopping en route at some amazing viewpoints and places of interest. This is a great introduction to Costa Rica and you will learn a lot from your guide.

- **Mawamba Lodge** is a great lodge with a lovely swimming pool and bar. Full board and regular tours are included. Tours include is an early morning bird watching tour, trek to the Butterfly farm and Tortuguero Hill, the night-time nesting turtle tour along the beach (extra \$10 charge).

**Note:** As the return flight has a 20Lb luggage limit you will leave the majority of your luggage @ your hotel in San Jose. Our ground agents will then collect your luggage and have it with them when they meet you off your flight from Tortuguero.

### Day 5 ARENAL VOLCANO

After breakfast you will be transferred by riverboat to the local airfield to take a short **domestic flight back to San Jose**. On arrival you will be met by our ground agents (they will have the luggage you previously left in San Jose). You will then either be taken to collect a **4X4 to continue on a self-drive option, or have private transfers**. The 4X4 option has the CDW included in the price but the excess in Costa Rica is \$1000.00. To cover this you can take out an optional insurance cover @ \$20 per day, paid locally. It is perfectly safe to drive in Costa Rica, although it can be tiring due to the bad road conditions, having the 4X4 gives you the opportunity to explore the country. With the private transfers you will be driven between hotels by a driver who is fluent in English and will give you all sorts of information on Costa Rica and its people, stopping en route at places of interest. He will then leave you to your own devices whilst at the hotels.. Although we also try to give you the same driver for all your transfers we cannot guarantee this.

Self-drive or have a private transfer to the Arenal Volcano area for 2 nights @ either the **Lost Iguana Hotel** or the **Arenal Kioro Hotel** BB. Both hotels are wonderful but the Kioro only opened December 2005 & is in the most perfect location to see & even hear the volcano.

**Arenal Volcano** is the most spectacular sight in all of Costa Rica. It erupts at least once every hour, it is mesmerising at any time of day, but it is especially magical at night, when a river of red-hot magma flows down its northern slopes. The Tabacon Hot Springs Resort is a very special place, there are 10 pools of thermomineral waters heated naturally by the volcano, with temperatures ranging from 23°C to 40°C. The pools are reputed to cure any number of maladies. Most people spend at least half a day and evening here, relaxing in the pools whilst drinking a cocktail watching the lava flowing from the volcano, having massage treatments or dining in the excellent restaurant. In & around this area there are lots of activities; horse riding, mountain biking, Arenal Lake- which offers lots of activities, including fishing and water sports- canopy tours, suspension bridges & close by is the Cano Negro Wildlife Refuge.

- The **Lost Iguana Resort** @ Arenal offers 24 luxury rooms & a villa within a 100 acre rain forest property with direct volcano views. All rooms are spacious, beautifully designed with large private balconies. The property has its own trails, a double swimming pool with swim-up bar & excellent restaurant. The Luxury Suite is the ideal romantic room with its own Jacuzzi on the deck with fantastic views of the jungle & volcano.
- **Arenal Kioro Hotel** is located in the most perfect location to view & actually be able to hear the volcano. This is one of the newest hotels, with all rooms being suites, which offer excellent facilities with each room having direct views of the volcano & each room has its own private Jacuzzi bath, also with volcano views. The hotel has a wonderful restaurant, spa, its own nature trails & pool. They do also offer transfers to their own hot springs.

#### Day 7 MONTEVERDE CLOUD FOREST

Self-drive or have a private transfer to the **Monteverde Cloud Forest** area for 2 nights @ the **El Establo** in a junior suite BB. **Monteverde** is a lush plateau that is 4,592 feet above the Guanacaste plains. The Cloud Forest Reserve is extraordinary – a lush mountain habitat formed by a combination of high humidity and low cloud cover from trade winds. The area receives between 3 and 5 metres of rain each year, water that provokes incredibly lush plant growth: ferns and moss, orchids and magnolia and huge zapote trees. Animal life is also abundant; more than 1200 species of reptiles and amphibians, 400 types of bird and 100 different mammals are found here. You can walk unguided on the Cloud Forest Trail, join a group guided tour or arrange for a private tour if you wish, all the hotels have a tour desk and can make reservations for you. Downtown Monteverde is a bustling little village.

- **El Establo hotel** is situated in the heart of Monteverde about 7 kms from the Santa Elena Rain Forest and 4 kms from the Monteverde Cloud Forest. This is a lovely family hotel, owned by Don Arnolando and Dona Ruth. The hotel rooms are beautifully designed and some will have a view of the ocean and Nicoya on a clear day. They all have TV and air conditioning. This is the only hotel in the area that has a swimming pool, also to have their own water treatment plant & have a spa. The Honeymoon suites have fabulous views & a Jacuzzi bath, junior suites have a balcony with wonderful views & the suites are larger with an extra bed (s) in the mezzanine area.

#### Day 9 MANUEL ANTONIO

Self-drive or have a private transfer down the Pacific Coast to the **Manuel Antonio** area for 6 nights @ the **El Parador Hotel** BB. Reputed to have some of the best beaches in Costa Rica, **Manuel Antonio** has an ideal combination of beach and wildlife. The National park is one of the countries smallest, but is also one of its liveliest. The animals and wildlife are easily viewed here. There are lots of activities that

you can enjoy in this area .. deep sea fishing, snorkelling, white water rafting, take a canopy tour, visit the national park and just relax on a beach or by your hotels pool.

- The **El Parador Hotel** is hidden in a small private world, surrounded by beautiful gardens and plenty of space. All rooms have a fabulous view of the Pacific Ocean and the jungle, which is very close. El Parador Hotel brings luxury to the jungle. It is built in a Spanish style with antique Spanish furniture. Facilities include a gym, infinity swimming pool, tennis courts, mini golf course and shuttle service to the National Park and beach. They have various room types within the hotel grounds.
  - ◇ **Deluxe Superior** rooms. Are the newest rooms @ the hotel and are lovely & spacious, generally they only have a garden view although some have a glimpse of the ocean.
  - ◇ **Premium** rooms. Are located in a separate building, along with the Premium Plus rooms, and have a “cliff lift” up to them. Rooms are spacious and have a balcony with either a jungle or ocean view.
  - ◇ **Premium Plus** rooms. There are only 2 of these rooms as they are the corner rooms which have a double wrap around balcony. You will have a full ocean view as well as the jungle view.

### Day 15 CORCOVADO - OSA PENINSULA

Today you will have a local transfer to nearby Quepos airport to take a **flight to Palmur Sur, a land transfer to Sierpe and finally a boat transfer to Casa Corcovado Jungle Lodge for 3 nights** FB & tours included.

Note: if you have taken the self-drive 4X4 option the vehicle will be collected from the El Parador hotel the previous evening.

- **Casa Corcovado Jungle Lodge** is located in a 170 acre private reserve bordering Corcovado National Park. It is the closest lodge to this National Park which is considered, biologically, the most intense place on Earth by the National Geographic Society. The Lodge was carefully designed in a unique style by an American naturalist with over 20 years of experience. It offers lodging in full coexistence with nature and the environment. Full board and tours included. The 4 day / 3 nights package includes.
  - 3 nights lodging in a Deluxe Bungalow
  - Tour to Corcovado National Park
  - Tour to Caño Island
  - Birdwatching Tour (optional)
  - Hiking on the Casa Corcovado Trails
  - All meals, park fees and taxes.

**Parque Nacional Corcovado** was established in 1970 and is one of the last truly wild places in Costa Rica. It is difficult to get to but it will captivate you with its isolation, beauty and abundance of wildlife. The park includes over 133,380 acres of land and 4,940 acres of marine habitat.

**Note:** As the flights have a 25Lb luggage limit you will leave the majority of your luggage @ your hotel in Manuel Antonio. Our ground agents will then collect your luggage and have it with them when they meet you off your flight into San Jose.

**Day 18** **SAN JOSE**

Sea boat, ground transfer and flight back to San Jose for your final night in Costa Rica @ the **Xandari Plantation & Spa Hotel**.

- **Xandari Plantation & Spa Hotel** is a small exclusive hotel set in a tropical paradise with panoramic views of the central valley. The hotel has 16 villas scattered among coffee plantations and exotic gardens. Each room has its own terrace; rooms are large and carefully decorated to give them originality. The hotel also has 2 swimming pools, Jacuzzi & wonderful spa area with each hut having a Jacuzzi with spectacular views of the valley. The spa also has a special yoga room and weights, which can be taken to guest's rooms.

**Day 19**

Private transfer to the airport to check-in for your return flights back to the UK

**Prices from £1700.00 PER PERSON**

Including all domestic flights

Excluding international flights