



PhotoFly Travel Club

Costa Rica All-Inclusive Safari

April 21st – April 29th 2023



8 nights / 9 days

April 21, Friday - Day 1: WELCOME TO COSTA RICA (NO MEALS)

Upon our arrival at the San Jose International Airport (SJO) and after clearing customs and immigration, exit the airport terminal to your right where we will meet our guide and be brought to the hotel.

Join our guide for an orientation briefing where we will have the opportunity to get an overview of the following day's activities and ask questions to prepare for the exciting adventures ahead.

Hotel: Hotel Bougainvillea (1 night)

Date In: April 21st

Date Out: April 22nd

Please note we'll be flying into **San Jose (SJO) on **April 21st** and departing from **Liberia International Airport (LIR)** on **April 29th**. The arrival and departure time windows needed to make the included group transfers will be sent out 3-4 months prior to the trip.*

**All persons traveling to Costa Rica must have a passport valid for 6 months past the date of entry into the country.*

April 22, Saturday - Day 2: COFFEE & WATERFALL GARDENS!

Pick up at our hotel outside San Jose and drive to the **tropical rainforest in Sarapiquí**. On the way we'll visit:

Doka Estate Coffee Plantation

Stop en-route for an interesting visit to this boutique coffee plantation & roastery. The grounds are not only beautiful with amazing coffee, but we'll also learn about the **production, harvesting, the processing plant, and the roasting of the "bean"**. Fascinating stuff whether you like the world's most consumed beverage or not...



La Pierella Butterfly & Ecological Garden

Located in the Sarapiquí lowlands, this family-run garden was established 20 years ago as a project to breed butterflies for export. Over time, it has been transformed into an area of 5 hectares, changing from a simple butterfly nursery to a true ecological garden that now hosts a great diversity of environments and wildlife to explore. Join our naturalist guide to **experience Pierella's great birding trails with beautiful**

wildlife and amazing photo opportunities everywhere we look. Afterwards we'll get to try their organic cocoa and enjoy a delicious traditional lunch nearby.

Arrive Sarapiquí late afternoon: Ara Ambigua is more than a lodge and more than a rainforest reserve. It is our gateway into a magical world of touring almendro trees, mantled howler monkeys, and keel billed toucans. **We'll immerse ourselves in tropical nature as we hike through deep green forest** and reflect quietly in a comfortable hammock upon return. Surrounded by rain forest, Ara Ambigua Lodge offers explorers world class accommodations, facilities, and amenities. Ara Ambigua offers comfortable rooms and excellent meeting facilities for a wide range of groups. Rooms have private bathrooms with double sinks and solar-heated hot water. Amenities include dining, full bar, and a refreshing pool as well as meeting, lecture, and classroom space.



Meals included:

Breakfast: Served at Bougainvillea
Lunch: Served at local restaurant
Dinner: Served at Ara Ambigua Lodge

Hotel: Ara Ambigua Lodge (1 night)
Date In: April 22nd
Date Out: April 23rd

April 23, Sunday - Day 3: RAINFOREST HIKE EN ROUTE TO ARENAL

This morning we step out of our rainforest bungalows to visit the surrounding La Tirimbina Rainforest Reserve. **A 2.5 hour walk (easy) with our expert naturalist guide along the reserve's trails will make for fascinating discoveries** and plenty of unique photographs.

Monkeys, toucans, colorful birds, poison dart frogs, and the famous blue morpho butterflies are just some of the wonderful forest residents we may encounter. Learn about the area's history and the conservation objectives of the reserve while taking advantage of this unique opportunity to search for, find, and interpret the secrets of the rainforest.



VIDA CAMPESINA



Arenal Vida Campesina lets us experience life in the Costa Rican countryside with a farming family that grow typical crops and are practicing new sustainable agricultural techniques. The experience begins with a **demonstration of sugarcane juice production using a manually-operated sugar mill.** Then continue into the cultivated sections of the farm where visitors will see and learn about common Costa Rican crops such as coffee, bananas, plantains, sugar cane, etc. Also on the farm are various animals, whose organic waste is converted to biogas and an organic foliar fertilizer. At the end of the tour, we will enjoy a traditional lunch with freshly harvested vegetables. Lunch includes a hands-on demonstration on tortilla making.

Finally, we'll arrive at our new accommodations. Unlike any other hotel in the area, **this lodge is situated within the Arenal National Park.** The Arenal Observatory Lodge was originally a family farm and later a Smithsonian Institute scientific research station. Just about every room has picturesque views of Arenal Volcano whose steep conical slopes rise majestically out of vast surrounding rainforests. The National Park surrounding the lodge teems with wildlife. The lodge practices reforestation and contributes to community projects.

Hotel Amenities: 48 rooms, restaurant, pool and jacuzzi, Wi-Fi, spectacular birding, volcano/lake view, hanging bridges, etc.

Meals included:

Breakfast: Served at Selva Verde Lodge
Lunch : Served at Vida Campesina Organic Farm
Dinner: Served at Arenal Observatory Lodge

Hotel: Arenal Observatory Lodge (3 nights)

Date In: April 23rd

Date Out: April 26th

April 24, Monday - Day 4: ARENAL OBSERVATORY HIKE (included)



ACTIVITIES:

Arenal Forest Reserve Exploration

Enjoy a guided walk lead by our private naturalist guide on trails within the property of the Arenal Observatory Lodge. The Lodge lies in the heart of one of Costa Rica's largest natural areas. **Howler monkeys call from the forest and the rich volcanic soil supports primary and secondary rainforest teeming with butterflies, mammals, reptiles and 400 species of birds.** Seven miles of manicured, well-marked walking, bike, and horseback riding trail system traverses the property and provides safe, easy access to breathtaking

natural beauty. The trails are never crowded. There is a hanging bridge, waterfall, Cerro Chato crater lake and hardened lava flow to explore. Our guide will help interpret the lush landscape and stop along the way to discuss the volcano, flora, and fauna. *(2 hour hike, easy)*

Fortuna Waterfall

Located just 3 miles away from the town of La Fortuna, near Arenal Volcano, this beautiful 200 foot-tall waterfall receives its cool clear waters from the pristine forested mountains of Arenal National Park.



In addition to encountering, photographing, and swimming in this majestic waterfall, we'll be helping the local community. The fees collected are used for important community projects such as supporting area schools, buying books, and helping cover some of the expenses for the town orphanage. Additionally funds are used for recycling projects, maintenance of the community water supply, improvement of the local roads, and sidewalks and construction of an educational center.

Lava Flow Hike

In the afternoon take a hike on the Lava 68 Trail with our guide. The trail begins off the main road near the park entrance and crosses an open area rapidly reverting back to forest in front of the west flank of Arenal Volcano. It leads to a blocky lava flow that crushed its way through the area in 1968. Travelling at a rate of about 50 feet per day the flow left an impressive pile of lava rock that rises about



60 feet high and now offers a **panoramic view of the surrounding forests, mountains, Lake Arenal and the Arenal Volcano itself.** (2.5 hour hike, easy-moderate)

Meals included:

Breakfast: Served at Arenal Observatory Lodge

Lunch : Served at local restaurant

Dinner: Served at Arenal Observatory Lodge

Hotel: Arenal Observatory Lodge

April 25, Tuesday - Day 5: CAÑO NEGRO WET LANDS BOAT TOUR

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Here we can find a great variety of resident and migratory birds plus three different species of monkeys, iguanas, sloths, turtles and caymans. This **floating safari** begins as we glide through the tropical rain forest and pastures until arriving at the marsh where the true biodiversity can be found. An experienced bilingual guide will lead the tour pointing out unique animal and plant species along the way.



Meals included:

Breakfast: Served at Arenal Observatory Lodge

Lunch : Served at local restaurant

Dinner: Served at Arenal Observatory Lodge

Hotel: Arenal Observatory Lodge

April 26, Wednesday - Day 6: TO THE HIGHLANDS - LLANOS DE CORTEZ WATERFALL & HOT SPRINGS

After our optional early morning bird watching, we depart from Arenal to the Hacienda Guachipelin. En route we'll stop at Llanos de Cortez, considered **one of Costa Rica's most beautiful waterfalls.** The falls are wide and wispy, with thin streams of water tumbling along the mossy rocks. Rocky cliffs are visible through the transparent cascade. To add to the grandeur, thick forest surrounds the falls with many birds and sometimes even monkeys bellowing from the trees.



At the base of the falls is a nice pool that is good for swimming or wading and there is a sandy area to hang out and relax. Continue to Liberia City, known as the "White City" by locals, to stop for lunch. From Liberia, we'll ascend the mountains to the Rincon de la Vieja National Park where our boutique adventure lodge, Hacienda Guachipelin, awaits our arrival.

In the afternoon we'll enjoy the hot springs and mud pods surrounding this magical place.

Adventure beckons at Hotel Hacienda Guachipelin, positioned at the foot of the Rincón de la Vieja Volcano in Guanacaste. The ideal place to stay in this region for active adventures. Swing like Tarzan on the cables and rappel ropes of the Canyon Canopy Tour or bounce down the rapids of Rio Negro on a Tubing Adventure (*optional*). Visit natural volcanic thermal springs and spectacular waterfall pools!

Hotel Amenities: Restaurant and bar, pool, natural hot springs, spa

Meals included:

Breakfast: Served at Hacienda Guachipelin

Lunch : Served at Hacienda Guachipelin

Dinner: Served at Hacienda Guachipelin

Hotel: Hacienda Guachipelin (2 nights)

Date In: April 26th

Date Out: April 28th

April 27, Thursday - Day 7: RINCON DE LA VIEJA NATIONAL PARK & THERMAL SPRINGS

Today we'll explore the Rincon de la Vieja National Park, famous for its abundant volcanic activity. Las Pailas Trail not only has volcanic activity but lots of wildlife and an impressive tropical forest. The trail is 2 miles long and takes about 2.5 hours to walk through at a slow pace in order to see and photograph the flora and fauna. **We'll experience steam vents, boiling mud pools,** an unmistakable smell, and very diverse vegetation. (*Hike: very easy*)

This afternoon we'll make our way to the local hot springs, arguably the most beautiful in the country! Check the picture out above, words can't describe it nearly as good.



HOSESBACK RIDE TO AN INCREDIBLE WATERFALL

Later this afternoon when the light turns gold and the sun begins to rest, we'll take a guided horseback ride to one of the most fairytale-like falls we have ever seen. No better way to end this exciting day of adventure before a hearty dinner.

Meals included:

Breakfast: Served at Hacienda Guachipelin

Lunch: Served at Hacienda Guachipelin

Dinner: Served at Hacienda Guachipelin

April 28, Friday - Day 8: CANYON CANOPY ZIP LINE & ONTO THE BEACH - PLAYA HERMOSA

Optional early morning bird watching before breakfast is recommended. One last incredible adventure before we move on from this special place, **the one-of-a-kind Canyon Canopy Adventure.**

This experience has so much more than just zip lines. We get to fly high above the treetops and back and forth between narrow canyon walls over the White River (Rio Blanco) on seven zip lines. We cross three hanging bridges and sway like monkeys on two Tarzan swings. There is a controlled 20-meter (65-foot) rappel (*optional*) and two routes on a natural rock climbing wall to come back up those same 20 meters (*optional*). Overall, we'll cross to 21 platforms through this epic canyon forest.

This afternoon, our final destination will take us to an afternoon of beauty and relaxation on one of Costa Rica's most beautiful Pacific coast beaches - Playa Hermosa.

This pristine, world renowned beach features cream sand and is bathed by clear waters and some great waves (*if the conditions are right*). Many optional water sports can be enjoyed including fishing, swimming, surfing, and more.

Meals included

Breakfast: Served at Hacienda Guachipelin

Lunch: Served at Bosque del Mar Hotel Restaurant

Dinner: Served at Bosque del Mar Hotel Restaurant

Hotel: Bosque Del Mar Hotel (Jr. Suites) (1 night)

Date In: April 28th

Date Out: April 29th



Set on the beautiful beach of Playa Hermosa, Hotel Bosque del Mar faces the sunny northwest coast of Costa Rica. **The hotel is a perfect mix of gardens, ancestral trees, clear ocean, and a beautiful soft sand beach.** It is framed by a personalized service filling the spirit with tranquility and a free sense of peace. The surf concert will relax your body and soul while monkeys and iguanas play among the numerous trees. The Playa Hermosa Bosque del Mar hotel is the perfect place to experience the wonders of a dream beach holiday in the sunny Guanacaste region.



Hotel Amenities: Gourmet restaurant, pool, AC, Wi-Fi, etc.

April 29, Saturday – Day 9: DEPARTURE TRANSFER TO LIBERIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

After breakfast we'll get picked up at the hotel for a transfer from Playa Hermosa to Liberia's International Airport (LIR) for our flights home. Bid farewell to this magical country after a trip of a lifetime!

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****OPTIONAL 1 Night Beach Extension (April 29th – 30th)**

*Our members have loved their stay at Bosque del Mar on past adventures and we highly recommend staying an additional night to enjoy this relaxing boutique hotel, unwind, lounge by the beach/pool, and enjoy some swimming, surfing, or other fun in the sand and surf.



**If you do not stay the extra night, please know that we will not arrive to the beach until the mid afternoon on our last full day so you will have little time to enjoy this area before heading home the next day.*

Includes: 1-night hotel & airport transfer

Price:

Double Occupancy/Sharing: 189.00 per person

Single Occupancy (own room): 345.00 per person

Please email joinus@photoflytravel.com for pricing & more details

Price & Inclusions Below



What's Included:

- All activities as specified in the above itinerary
- All accommodations
- All transportation within Costa Rica
- All meals [B=breakfast, L=lunch, D=dinner] as indicated
- Specified entrance fees to National Parks & Private Reserves
- Bilingual naturalist licensed guide services
- Ground support within Costa Rica 24/7
- All taxes

What's Not Included

- International flights
- Optional extensions
- Airport departure taxes
- Meals not specified in the itinerary
- Alcoholic beverages w/included meals
- Personal equipment
- Extras in hotels (laundry, phone calls, room service, etc.)
- Gratuities for hotel staff, restaurant staff, local guides, local drivers, and Tour Director
- Costs associated with changes in your itinerary for reasons beyond our control

Price: \$2,569.00

Single Supplement: \$695.00

Refundable Deposit: \$600.00

**For our solo travelers we will pair you up with someone of the same sex unless single occupancy is requested.*

Go to: <https://photoflytravel.org/tour/costa-rica-all-inclusive-group-tours> to sign up!

OR mail check to Local Planet Travel:

Local Planet Travel
105 Swallowtail Pl
Greenville, SC 29607

We also accept no fee payments via **Venmo & Zelle**. Should you wish to pay via either method see the instructions below:

Venmo: Send trip payments to @photofly (www.venmo.com/photofly)

Zelle: Send trip payments to steve.juba@localplanettravel.com

**If mailing a check, please reserve your spot via the above trip page and select "check payments" on the checkout page.*

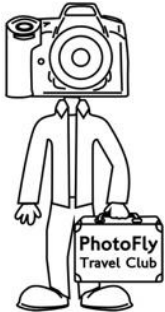
Cancellation Policy & Refunds

*There is a \$100.00 administrative fee for all cancellations. Cancellations made 95 days (January 16th, 2023) or more prior to trip departure date are fully refundable except for the \$100 fee. Cancellations less than 95 days (January 17th, 2023) prior to the trip departure date will receive no refund of the full amount due. No refunds on unused portions of the tour. Credit card fees and paypal processing fees cannot be refunded. After airline tickets are issued, airline cancellations are per the airline's policy and are usually non-refundable and changeable with a fee plus new ticket price. Travel insurance *strongly* encouraged (ask us about policy options). **Hotels subject to change based on availability*

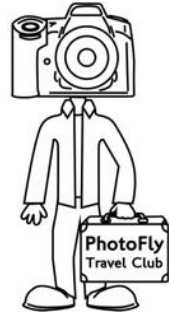
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****COVID Cancellation Policy**** – Local Planet Travel Services OR Guest may cancel this reservation if the USA or country(s) we are visiting mandates a country-wide closure due to COVID. If this happens, you would receive a full refund. If a guest chooses, the funds can remain on file and be applied for any future tour with PhotoFly Travel Club. **Please note bank merchant service fees when using a credit card are non-refundable.*

****MANDATORY VACCINE REQUIREMENT**** - The safety of all our guests is a top priority regardless of where our adventures take us. All travelers are required to have an approved COVID-19 vaccination to participate in this tour. Travelers that meet this mandatory requirement can join our adventures after 14 days have elapsed since their final dose. Proof of vaccination must be provided by emailing a copy of the participant's COVID-19 vaccination card to joinus@photoflytravel.com upon sign-up. **Guests who are not vaccinated for medical reasons are exempt from this mandatory vaccine policy with proof from a certified medical professional.*



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Members Site: <http://www.photoflytravel.org/>