

Costa Rica – Tortuguero to Cahuita National Park



Trip Summary

Cradled between two continents and two seas, Costa Rica is a land filled with more species of wildlife and flora than any other place on the planet. This wild and primeval land awaits with an abundance of adventure and activity, ranging from kayaking and canyoning to basking in the luxury of an eco-lodge with a drink in hand. There is no shortage of things to see and do in a country that is 1/4 designated national parks and wildlife ranges.

Itinerary

Day 1: San José

Arrive at the José International Airport and transfer to your hotel for the evening • Once you arrive, you are free to explore San José and enjoy a delectable local meal on your own • *Overnight at Hotel Bougainvillea (No meals)*

Day 2: Tortuguero

After breakfast and a brief trip orientation with your guide, we'll make our way to Tortuguero • After a private transfer through the Costa Rican countryside to San José to La Pavona Dock (3h) we will continue by boat to Tortuguero and our accommodations for the next two nights • After lunch at the lodge, kayak the canals of Tortuguero National Park to a soundtrack of exotic birdsong, watching for manatees, caimans, crocodiles, and turtles • Return to the lodge where a buffet dinner will be waiting in the lodge's restaurant • *Overnight at Evergreen Lodge (B, L, D)*

Day 3: Tortuguero

Opt to start the day bright and early with a birding walk • If you're more inclined to sleep in, meet your traveling companions for breakfast at the lodge • Today is all about Tortuguero National Park, beginning with a private boat tour • Visit the Sea Turtle Conservancy Center, home to the largest green turtle rookery in the western hemisphere • Break for lunch at Miss Junnie's restaurant and take in the authentic Caribbean atmosphere and entrées while watching a variety of birds in the adjacent gardens • Wander the streets of the village, taking in the brightly painted buildings and grab a cup of freshly made juice while checking out the shops • The rest of the day will be taken up by a boat tour through the canals of Tortuguero National park before returning to our lodgings for another delectable dinner • *Overnight at Evergreen Lodge (B, L, D)*

Day 4: Rios Tropicales

Enjoy a quick breakfast at the Lodge before beginning our boat and then road transfer to Rios Tropicales • Our afternoon will be spent paddling the exhilarating class III-IV rapids of the Pacuare River, ranked one of the Top 10 Rivers to Raft in the World by *National Geographic* • Check into the Rios Tropicales Lodge, our accommodation for the next two nights, and meet for dinner in the restaurant • *Overnight at Rios Tropicales Lodge (B, L, D)*

Day 5: Rio Tropicales

Today boasts another beautiful morning of bird watching while sipping a cup of coffee • The pace quickly picks up from there, as our day is filled with sailing through the treetops on an adrenaline-inducing canyoning and zip line adventure • We'll break for lunch at the Rios Tropicales Lodge before beginning our afternoon hike to a nearby waterfall • After our adventure filled day, return to Rio Tropicales for a relaxing dinner • *Overnight at Rio Tropicales Lodge (B, L, D)*



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Day 6: Puerto Viejo

Today takes us on another invigorating white water rafting excursion, the best way to experience Costa Rica • Wind down from an exciting morning on our transfer to the Caribbean coast • Check in to our accommodations for the evening and then enjoy dinner at a local restaurant • *Overnight at Caribblue Beach & Jungle Resort (B, L, D)*

Day 7: Puerto Viejo / Cahuita National Park

Explore Cahuita National Park and all it has to offer • Marvel at the colorful corals, sea fans, and countless species of tropical reef fish on a snorkeling tour and hike through Cahuita National Park • After lunch in town, kick back and relax at the resort before enjoying a local cooking class and dinner tonight • *Overnight at Caribblue Beach & Jungle Resort (B, L, D)*

Day 8: Puerto Viejo

Today is all about enjoying the town of Puerto Viejo and squeezing in one last day of relaxation in paradise • A morning bike ride brings us to a scenic beach and afterwards we'll enjoy lunch in town • This afternoon, spend time relaxing at the resort pool or take advantage of the walkable beach access from the hotel • Tonight, we get together for a farewell dinner and toast to wonderful trip: *Pura Vida!* • *Overnight at Caribblue Beach & Jungle Resort (B, L, D)*

Day 9: San José

Depart Puerto Viejo and drive to Limon (1 hour) for your forty-minute charter flight back to San José • You will be dropped off at the San José Airport at least 3 hours prior to your international flight • *No overnight (B)*

** Talk to your Adventure Consultant if you are interested in adding an extra night(s) at Xandari Resort & Spa near the San José International Airport for the ultimate way to end your vacation.*

***Trip itineraries are subject to change without notice due to road, trail, weather and other factors outside of our control, for the safety and enjoyment of our guests, as deemed necessary and appropriate by Austin Adventures.*

Our Partner – Costa Rica Sun Tours

Austin Adventures is proudly offering this trip in conjunction with Costa Rica Sun Tours. Sun Tours is an active travel company focusing on eco-tourism, natural history, wildlife observation and the vibrant culture of the Costa Rican people. Their goal is to create a unique travel experience that transcends conventional sightseeing and tourist travel. Sun Tours aims to provide an in-depth perspective of Costa Rica that shares a world and lifestyle which is totally different and which will serve to enrich the visitor's personal experience. Costa Rica Sun Tours was founded to help the sophisticated traveler explore Costa Rica – its flora and fauna, its people and culture and its wild and beautiful places.

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Activities

Hiking: Easy to moderately strenuous hikes ranging from 1 to 5 miles (1 to 4 hours) on birding excursions, village/city tours, national park treks and more.

River rafting: Class III and IV rapids on the Pacuare River. You will raft into the Rios Tropicales Lodge on Day 4 (1.5 hour trip) and raft out on Day 6 (3 hour trip).

Kayaking: Calm waters through Tortuguero canals, no experience necessary.

Canyoning: Rappelling down waterfalls. No experience necessary, guides inspect all equipment and provide detailed instruction.

Zip Line: No experience necessary, gear and instruction provided.

Snorkeling: No experience necessary, gear and instruction provided.

Biking: Easygoing ride with cruiser bikes on the roads near Puerto Viejo.

Discovery: Costa Rica, a tiny country that forms the land bridge between North and South America, is almost too good to believe. Although slightly smaller than West Virginia, it boasts a world famous National Park system, unmatched flora (including over 3,000 species of wild orchids), world-class rivers, active volcanoes and more species of mammals and birds than the continental United States and Canada combined! Explore the gardens of Hotel Bougainvillea in search of over 50 species of bromeliads, Costa Rican native trees, and numerous species of orchids, herb and cacti gardens; and radiant humming birds typical of the Central Valley of Costa Rica. Did you know that the area protected by Tortuguero National Park was an archipelago of volcanic islands until alluvial sediments from the interior mountains, filled in the spaces and formed a network of marshy islands? Raft the Pacuare River spanning some of the country's most diverse terrain, passing through densely vegetated primary rainforest, lowland tropical rainforest and towering waterfalls. Come discover "The Crossroads of the Americas!"

Sun Tours guides are experienced facilitators and regional experts. They will take the time to explain the details of each activity, answer any questions and demonstrate the use of all equipment. Each activity has been carefully planned to include options for all levels. Most importantly, your guides will help you select the distance that's right for you.



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Distinctive Accommodations

Night 1: Hotel Bougainvillea

Located 10 minutes from downtown San José, this suburban hotel, surrounded by 10 acres of tropical gardens, gives you a feeling of the Costa Rican lifestyle and hospitality.

Nights 2 & 3: Evergreen Lodge

Evergreen is located in the northeastern corner of Tortuguero, five minutes by boat from the main entrance to Tortuguero National Park, and accessible only by air and water. Evergreen Lodge is the ideal location from which to explore this unique and magical area, surrounded by towering trees and exuberant vegetation and are adorned with tropical designs.

Nights 4 & 5: Rio Tropicales Lodge

At our ecolodge, you can relax, explore and enjoy all that Costa Rica offers on our 2,000-acre private reserve at the mouth of the Pacuare Gorge. We have more than 40 miles of hiking trails and numerous waterfalls, streams and pools. Our open-air dining pavilion and lounge let you watch the local wildlife and listen to the sounds only found in a tropical paradise.

Nights 6 – 8: Caribblue Beach & Jungle Resort

The Caribblue Beach & Jungle Resort faces the clear waters of the Caribbean Sea in the southern part of Costa Rica and reaches out over five acres of earth inside of a pristine forest. The resort's modern rooms are inspired by the surrounding nature; technological comforts harmonize with local wood and stone furniture reflecting on the wonders of the land.

Meals

The hallmark of an Austin Adventures vacation is our exceptional dining. All meals: breakfasts, lunches, snacks, dinners, refreshments and receptions are included as indicated by itinerary. (B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner). Alcoholic beverages and related gratuities are not included in the trip price.

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Arrival & Departure

Your trip begins with your arrival in San José at Costa Rica’s Juan Santamaría International Airport. After passing through Immigration, take the right hand side exit door and look for the Sun Tours representative who will direct you to customs. When you leave the building after clearing customs, look for a Sun Tours representative, who will be holding a sign that says “Costa Rica Sun Tours” with your name on it. Your guide will take you to the Hotel Bougainvillea. On Day 9, you will transfer one hour from your hotel to Limon Airport for a short charter flight to San José where you may choose to extend your stay in Costa Rica or fly out of the international airport in the afternoon.

Trip Price

From \$4,398

Trip Length

9 days/ 8 nights

2019 Dates

March 2 – 10

March 23 – 31

June 22 – 30

December 26, 2019 – January 3, 2020

Host City

San José, Costa Rica

Airport Code: SJO

Reservations & Availability

1-800-575-1540

Over 1/4 of Costa Rica is designated national park or wildlife refuge



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Trip Reservations

Reservations, Deposits and Balances Due

To make a reservation, contact Austin Adventures with your choice of trip and dates. A \$750 per person deposit is required to confirm your reservation. **Some Custom and International programs may require additional deposits.** Full payment is required at the time of booking if your trip departs within 90 days. Choose one of the following contact methods:

Toll free: 800-575-1540

Phone: 406-655-4591

Online: austinadventures.com

Email: reservations@austinadventures.com

Mail: Austin Adventures, P.O. Box 81025, Billings, MT 59108

* You may also book your Austin Adventure with your preferred travel professional.

** We accept most major credit cards and personal checks (U.S. funds made payable to Austin Adventures). Please do not send cash.

Included in the Trip Price

- Double occupancy rooms with private baths.
- Breakfasts, lunches and dinners as indicated by itinerary (B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner).
- Fully trained, first-aid certified professional guides and knowledgeable local partners.
- Any necessary equipment – all safe and well maintained.
- Vehicle support and land transportation during the trip.
- Local flight on Day 9.
- Austin Adventures T-shirt and luggage tags.
- Pre-departure and packing information.
- Incidental expenses such as taxes, dining and housekeeping gratuities, local partner and expert gratuities and national park entrance and permit fees.

Not Included in the Trip Price

- Gratuities to Austin Adventures guides.
- Alcoholic beverages and related gratuities.
- Meals as not indicated by detailed daily itinerary.
- Pre-and post-trip accommodations and associated expenses.
- Air and land transportation to/from host cities.
- All types of personal insurance.
- Personal expenses.

Pre-departure Information

After receiving your reservation and deposit, we'll send you a pre-trip planner with general information about the area you'll be visiting, a packing list, exercise guidelines, a guest information questionnaire and a liability release agreement for you to sign and return within 10 days.

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Private Custom Trips

Maybe your vacation schedule doesn't fit our list of trips and dates. Or perhaps you'd prefer a slightly different itinerary or level of luxury and activity. A Custom Adventure is the perfect answer. You pick the date and destination and brief us on the size of your group, what activities you want, your "must haves" and just how you like to relax and unwind. No detail is too small, no idea too outrageous. Our staff of experts will help create a tailor-made vacation that's just right for you and your group. In short, if you can dream it, we can make it happen.

Room Occupancy, Single Supplements, and Shared Room Assignments

All trip prices are based on double occupancy. Single rooms are available for an additional charge, referred to as a "single supplement." If you're traveling alone and wish to share a room, make the request at the time of booking. Austin Adventures will attempt to find a suitable roommate for you. If you book 90 days before the trip and we cannot find you a suitable roommate, we will take care of the single supplement. **some restrictions may apply*

Minimum Age

The minimum age on our non-family designated adult and teen adventures is sixteen years old.

Cancellations and Refunds

The following cancellation policies and cancellation fees are in effect:

***As with deposits on some international and custom programs, refund schedule may vary, speak with your Adventure Consultant for details.

Cancellation 91 days or more before trip departure – Full trip payment refunded less a \$300 per person administration fee

Cancellation 61-90 days before trip departure – Full trip payment less 25% per person is refunded

Cancellation 31-60 days before trip departure – 50% of the trip payment is refunded

Cancellation 0-30 days before trip departure – No refund is given

Our Guarantee

Exceeding your expectations is our number one priority. In the unlikely event that you are dissatisfied with something during your trip, immediately notify your guide(s). If he or she is unable to resolve the issue, call our main office and give us the details of the problem, and a chance to correct it. We will do our best to find a resolution. If we are unable to do so during your trip, we will work with you upon your return home to arrive at a fair and equitable solution, including up to a full refund.