Trip Summary
Welcome to Costa Rica – a land of unspoiled scenic beauty and protected ecological habitat, and one of the world’s most family-friendly destinations. Explore by foot two of Costa Rica’s most intriguing national Parks searching for crawling bugs, sleepy sloths, twisting vines, and blooming buds. Horseback ride through forests and pastures to reach postcard-perfect views of iconic Arenal Volcano. Peek into the dense vegetation of Arenal National Park to catch a glimpse of screeching toucans, endangered poison dart frogs, and curious spider monkeys. Relax in the volcanically heated waters of Tabacón Hot Springs at your hotel. Surf in the warm waters of the Pacific Ocean and search for camouflaged wildlife on a boat tour through the mangroves of the Sierpe River. Come explore beautiful Costa Rica!

Itinerary
Day 1: San José
Arrive at the San José International Airport and transfer to your hotel for the evening • Once you arrive, you are free to explore the expansive private forest reserve at the resort, take a dip in the sunset pool, and enjoy a delectable local meal on your own • Overnight at Xandari Resort (No meals)

Day 2: La Paz Waterfall Gardens / Vida Campesina
Meet with your guide for a trip orientation over breakfast • Begin the four-hour shuttle to the Arenal region, stopping along the way first at a coffee plantation and then for a hike through lush tropical rainforest and lunch at La Paz Waterfall Gardens • Finish up the day learning about traditional Costa Rican farming at Arenal Vida Campesina Organic Farm followed by an authentic meal • Overnight at Tabacón Resort (B, L, D)

Day 3: Arenal National Park
Optional birding walk in the early AM for anyone interested • Enjoy breakfast at the hotel and take off on a brief transfer to our horseback ride • Mount a horse and ride off into the picturesque hills of Arenal Volcano, riding through cattle fields and beautiful primary forest along the way • Take in views of the Arenal Volcano, dense forests, and the vast Arenal Lake and afterwards, enjoy lunch at a local restaurant • Gear up for an afternoon of canyoning and get your adrenaline pumping • After a day full of adventure, return to the resort for dinner • Overnight at Tabacón Resort (B, L, D)

Day 4: Danaus Reserve / Uvita
This morning takes us to the Danaus Nature Reserve on a guided nature hike • Savor the sweet smell of orchids and ferns, keeping an eye out for resident sloths, iguanas, basilisks, bats, frogs, and butterflies • Check in for a short charter flight to Quepos near Costa Rica’s Pacific shore • Transfer one hour by road to Uvita, stopping for lunch en route • Check into our accommodation for the next three nights and enjoy dinner at the hotel tonight • Overnight at Cristal Ballena (B, L, D)

Day 5: Uvita / Marino Ballena National Park
Meet your instructors on the beach for private surfing lessons on the Marino Ballena shore • Break for lunch at a local restaurant • Shuttle back to the hotel and enjoy the afternoon at your leisure: hang out by the swimming pool, walk along the hotel’s rainforest hiking path or take a shuttle to the beach • Overnight at Cristal Ballena (B, L, D)

** Sea kayaking, stand-up paddle boarding and snorkeling available in the afternoon at an extra cost.

The toughest part is going home.
Day 6: Uvita / Marino Ballena National Park
After breakfast, we head out on the Sierpe River for a boat tour exploring the beautiful maze of canals, river mouths and estuaries that flood the largest untouched expanse of mangroves in all of Costa Rica • Eat lunch in Palma Sur followed by a visit to Stone Spheres Park (can you figure out the mystery of how they were created and why?) • After a pleasant walk on the beach we enjoy a final dinner back at the hotel • Overnight at Cristal Ballena (B, L, D)

Day 7: Departure San José
Have breakfast at the hotel and transfer one hour to the Quepos Airport • Sit back and relax on a charter flight to San José • From here, you can board your international flight to make your post-trip connections home • No overnight (B)

**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 and Costa Rica Sun Tours.

Activities
Hiking – Easy to moderately strenuous hikes ranging from 1.5 to 3 miles (1 - 3 hours) through national parks and nature reserves.

Horseback Riding – Relaxed 2.5 hour ride overlooking Arenal Volcano and Lake.

Canyoning – Tour includes a short rappel, hanging bridge, zip line and mellow hike. Guides provide detailed instructions on how to use equipment. No experience necessary.

Surfing – No experience necessary, kid-friendly. Guides will provide detailed instructions.

Boat Tour - Sit back and relax as you and your guide search for wildlife among the mangroves of the Sierpe River.

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. Did you know that a sloth has a unique sort of fur that is a breeding ground for algae? (The algae help it blend in with its environment!) Could you have guessed that an armadillo is a good swimmer and can hold its breath for up to six minutes? Were you aware that when a number of howler monkeys let loose their lungs in concert, often at dawn or dusk, the din can be heard up to three miles away? Discover Marino Ballena National Park which is named after the Humpback Whales that migrate there each year from December to April to mate before returning to the frigid waters to the north. Come explore “The Crossroads of the Americas”

Our 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.

The toughest part is going home. SM
Costa Rica Family –
Arenal to Uvita

Distinctive Accommodations

Night 1: Xandari Resort
Xandari Resort & Spa offers the quintessential Costa Rica experience. The property’s forest reserve, with five waterfalls and miles of trails for bird-watching, provides the nature guests expect from a visit to Costa Rica. Twenty-four spacious villas are nestled on a 40-acre plantation facing spectacular views of Costa Rica’s majestic Central Valley day and night. Each is a unique design, with tropical colors and contemporary design. Three pools, each with a unique view of coffee plantations, are a perfect way to start or end your day.

Nights 2 & 3: Tabacón Resort
Tabacón Grand Spa offers the unique combination of the energy of the Arenal Volcano, the heat of the Tabacón Hot Springs and the purity and mystic of the surrounding rainforest blend into what many have described as “paradise” or “the eight-wonder of the world”. Tabacón offers a selection of luxurious rooms and suites, all beautifully appointed with rich handicrafts and furnishings made by Costa Rican artisans.

Nights 4 – 6: Cristal Ballena Boutique Hotel & Spa
Hotel Cristal Ballena Hotel offers you everything you need for your dream beach, adventure and nature vacation in Costa Rica. This beautiful four-star Mediterranean-style hotel rests on a rainforest-covered hill overlooking the famed Ballena Marine National Park, a crucial site for the world’s Pacific Humpback Whales to reproduce and give birth. On the expansive 12-hectare (29.6 acres) grounds near the City of Uvita, you will find luxury suites, the reception building, a souvenir shop, immense ocean-view swimming pool, open-air gourmet restaurant and bar, soothing Spa, and rainforest hiking paths.

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.

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.

The toughest part is going home.
Arrival & Departures
On Day 1, arrive to San José International Airport where you will be picked up and transferred to Xandari Resort. On Day 7, you will transfer one hour from your hotel to Quepos 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 $4,298
Children: From $3,868

Trip Length
7 days/ 6 nights

2019 Dates
March 9 – 15
April 19 – 25
July 13 – 19
December 21 – 27**

**Holiday terms & conditions apply

Host City
San José, Costa Rica
Airport Code: SJO

Over ¼ of Costa Rica is designated national park or wildlife refuge

The toughest part is going home. SM
Costa Rica Family – Arenal to Uvita

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 holiday and custom departures 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.
• Breakasts, 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 flights on Day 4 & Day 7.
• 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.

The toughest part is going home.℠
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

Child Age and Pricing on Family Adventures
Family Adventures are suitable for children seven years old and up (five years and older for our Costa Rica and Yellowstone Family Adventures). Children who share a room with one or more adults receive reduced rates. 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

** Holiday deposit and cancellation terms differ from the above. Please speak with your adventure travel consultant for details.

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.

The toughest part is going home.™