

Costa Rica – Manuel Antonio to Punta Islita



Trip Summary

Pura Vida – “pure life” - this isn’t just a saying in Costa Rica, it’s a way of life! Not surprisingly, Costa Rica has been named one of the happiest countries in the world, mostly because its inhabitants don’t stress and have a very relaxed, simple way of looking at life. This Costa Rica adventure whisks you off from the city to Pacific Coast beachside bliss. Explore one of our world’s most beautiful national parks alongside monkeys, sloths and iguanas. Raft the pristine waters of the Savegre River, hopping out for a peaceful swim between rapids. Take in paradise from your beach chair, cocktail in hand, under the shade of a palm tree at Punta Islita. This beach-centric adventure will have you sighing *Pura Vida* as you truly discover the meaning of “Life is Good.”

Itinerary

Day 1: San José

Arrive at the San José International Airport and transfer approximately 20 minutes to your hotel for the evening • Once you arrive, there will be a brief orientation before you are free to settle in and relax • Enjoy a farm-to-table dinner on your own tonight at Xandari’s Terrace Restaurant •
Overnight Xandari Resort (No meals)

Day 2: San José / Quepos / Fincas Naturales Wildlife Refuge

This morning, head out to explore Xandari’s beautiful grounds with your guide • Xandari is truly a hidden gem just outside the city and the property features a forest reserve with five waterfalls and miles of trails for birdwatching, landscaped gardens, an orchid house and a farm • After a pleasant morning at your hotel, begin your transfer to the beach town of Quepos (approx.3 hours plus stops) • Along the way, we’ll eat a typical Costa Rican lunch at a local home • Check-in to your accommodation, Si Como No and relax poolside for the afternoon • At nightfall, we embark on a two-hour jungle hike at Fincas Naturales Wildlife Refuge where we will explore a nocturnal tropical wet forest • Keep an eye out for more than 30 nocturnal species including kinkajou, armadillo or even...snakes! • Tonight, enjoy dinner at a local restaurant • *Overnight Si Como No Resort (B, L, D)*

Day 3: Quepos / Savegre River

Today, we enjoy an exciting rafting trip down the Savegre River, one of the most pristine rivers in the country featuring class II and III rapids perfect for adventure seekers • This full day adventure includes a four-wheel drive journey on backroads to a very remote area where you will enter the Rio Savegre’s meandering waters • Along the journey, we stop at great swimming holes and cascading waterfalls • Keep an eye along the riverbanks for commonly seen birds such as osprey, egrets, parrots, toucans and much more • Lunch will be eaten along the river and dinner tonight is at a local restaurant • *Overnight Si Como No (B, L, D)*

Day 4: Quepos / Manuel Antonio National Park

After breakfast, we shuttle a short distance to one of our favorite national parks: Manuel Antonio • In 2011 *Forbes Magazine* compiled a list of the twelve most beautiful national parks from among nearly 7000 parks around the world • Manuel Antonio was included in the list of twelve top parks for its gorgeous cream colored beach, lush forest growing to the beach edge, abundant wildlife, warm pacific waters, easy forest trails and scenic ocean overlooks • Walking the park trails you will likely encounter a variety of wildlife including squirrel monkeys, capuchin monkeys, sloths, black iguanas and agoutis • We’ll enjoy lunch at a nearby restaurant and spend some quality time at the beach this



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afternoon • At sunset, we'll head to Ronny's Place to enjoy their famous white wine-and-vodka sangria and aperitifs, looking at incredible views as the sun sinks over the ocean horizon • Tonight's dinner will be back at the hotel • *Overnight Si Como No (B, L, D)*

Day 5: Quepos / Punta Islita

Wake your body up today with an optional yoga class or take advantage of more time beachside • Enjoy lunch in town before a short transfer to the Quepos Airport • Wave goodbye to Manuel Antonio as your private charter flight takes you to Punta Islita (approx. 50 minute flight) • Upon arrival at Punta Islita airstrip, transfer to your accommodation for the next three nights, Hotel Punta Islita • This unique and authentic hotel's incredible natural setting and 300 acre property provide endless opportunities for everything from soft-paced adventure to intense adrenaline activities • Spend the next several days exploring the property and its host of activities, relaxing at the one-of-a-kind infinity pool or heading down to the coast to catch some beach time • Tonight, we meet up at dusk to discover the creatures that hang out in the area sans sunshine • Dinner at the hotel's restaurant • *Overnight Hotel Punta Islita (B, L, D)*

Day 6: Punta Islita

This morning, we head to Corazalito Beach to look for hatchling turtles climbing their way out of their sandy nests • This is the beginning of an epic journey for these babies and watching their struggle to the sea is an experience that can't be replicated • Next up: zip lining through the forest canopy while crisscrossing a deep canyon promising spectacular views and a generous rush of adrenaline • Enjoy lunch beachside before taking part in a fun cocktail mixing lesson with an expert bartender • This afternoon enjoy some free time by kicking back at the infinity pool or catching some rays at the secluded beach • Tonight, we meet up for a special dinner at a local home, complete with marimba music! • *Overnight Hotel Punta Islita (B, L, D)*

Day 7: Punta Islita

Opt to rise early for a birdwatching experience with your guide • After breakfast, you can choose between a yoga class aimed to relax, energize, and cultivate your blissful inner balance, or a peaceful horseback ride along the beach • Midday, we make our way to a large Ficus tree nearby where we'll enjoy an outdoor picnic lunch and a chance to climb to the tree's lofty lookout • Spend your last free afternoon in Costa Rica taking advantage of the resort's amenities, activities or experiences – what you do is up to you! You might also just want to relax oceanside • Tonight, we meet up as a group to enjoy one last farewell dinner at La Argentina Steak House • *Overnight Hotel Punta Islita (B, L, D)*

Day 8: Punta Islita / Liberia

A private shuttle will take you from the hotel to Liberia International Airport for your flight home (approx. 2.5 hours) • *End of Services (B)*

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

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Activities

Hiking: Guided 1 to 3 mile hikes through rainforest and along the beach, during the day and at night.

Whitewater Rafting: Class I to III rapids on Savegre River, no experience necessary. A professional guide will provide instruction. Swimming opportunities available.

Zip Lining: Gear and instruction provided by professional zip line guides. No experience necessary.

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 stunning Manuel Antonio National Park with a knowledgeable guide; it combines a beach of crystal-clear waters with coral reefs, bordered by exuberant tropical vegetation and rainforest. Paddle one of the most pristine rivers in Costa Rica, surrounded by lush vegetation and meandering waters. Take a night hike at Fincas Naturales Wildlife Refuge, home to some 220 animal species, including hummingbirds, poison dart frogs, crocodiles, toucans, two-toed sloths, silky anteaters, and the endangered Central American squirrel monkey. Did you know that a sloth has a unique sort of fur that is a breeding ground for algae? (The algae helps 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? Come discover “The Crossroads of the Americas!”

Austin Adventures 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.

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.



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Distinctive Accommodation

Night 1: Xandari Resort

Xandari Resort & Spa is nestled on a 40 acre coffee plantation overlooking the Central Valley of Costa Rica. The gardens have become botanical, delightful and educational. Guests at Xandari can see many varieties of the indigenous plants of Costa Rica in the gardens and along the trails, along with the wildlife that accompanies them. Plants are labeled on the botanic trails so guests can note the botanical and common names as they experience their tropical beauty on strolls and hikes. All 24 villas, each uniquely designed and set within lush foliage, have spectacular views. Xandari's terrace restaurant features a variety of healthy choices, including Costa Rican specialties with a farm-to-table menu featuring fruits, vegetables and dairy items grown on site.

Nights 2 – 4: Si Como No Resort

Located along Costa Rica's Central Pacific coast, Si Como No is a uniquely special Manuel Antonio Resort Spa and Wildlife Refuge that sits atop one of the most idyllic hillsides in Manuel Antonio. The resort's lush jungle terraces and brilliantly vivid gardens overlook the sparkling ocean just above world-renown Manuel Antonio National Park. Si Como No strikes the perfect balance of design and comfort, connecting you with the surrounding tropical forest of Manuel Antonio and the essence of the spirit of Costa Rica. Its 58 rooms are contoured into the jungle hillside across the property's ten acres.

Nights 5 – 7: Hotel Punta Islita

Hotel Punta Islita gazes upon a secluded beach cove along Guanacaste's open-ocean coastline. The tiered layout looks over Islita Beach and the namesake islet that separates from the mainland during high tide. Hotel Punta Islita features an infinity-edge freshwater pool for adults, two restaurants, a unique Spa, an executive golf course, tennis courts, and an ocean-side family beach club with a freshwater pool and lounging gardens. The rooms' architectural elements create an engaging tropical fusion design narrative that blends indigenous and Spanish-colonial characteristics. An open-layout and tiered topography emphasize open-spaces that prompt guests to embrace nature and beach surroundings.

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Arrival & Departures

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 Xandari Resort. Your trip ends with a drop-off at the Liberia airport three hours prior to your flight departure.

Trip Price

From \$4,698

Single Supplement: \$1,380

Trip Length

8 days / 7 nights

2019 Dates

November 9 – 16

Host City

Begin: San José, Costa Rica (SJO)

End: Liberia, Costa Rica (LIR)

Reservations & Availability

1-800-575-1540

Discover the meaning of "Pura Vida" on this Pacific Coast beach-centric adventure



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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.
- All meals as listed in 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.
- Domestic flight from Quepos to Punta Islita.
- Austin Adventures T-shirt, water bottle, luggage tags and luggage service.
- 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 ours. 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. Brief us on the size of your group, what activities you want and just how you like to relax and unwind. Our staff of experts will help create a tailor-made vacation that's just right for you and your group.

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.

Minimum Age

Family Adventures are suitable for children seven years old and up. 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

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.