

2016 GARDEN TOUR IN COSTA RICA
Costa Rica Tours, LTD.
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Revised 6/13/15

| 2016 TOUR ITINERARY | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|----------|----------|----------|--|-----------------------------------|--|
| Day | B | L | D | Activities | Hotel | |
| | 6 | 4 | 6 | | | |
| DAY 1 | | | X | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Arrival in San José, Costa Rica Juan Santamaría International Airport - Private Guided transfer airport / Santa Ana - Lunch on your own & enjoy art collection & pool + 6:00pm Welcome Cocktail & <u>Orientation Meeting</u> - Dinner & Overnight at Studio Hotel | Studio Boutique Hotel | |
| DAY 2 | X | X | X | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Breakfast at at Studio Boutique Hotel + <u>San José City Tour</u> - Lunch at Nuestra Tierra Restaurant - 2:30pm Visit <u>Hacienda La Laguna</u> home garden - Dinner & overnight at Studio Boutique Hotel | Studio Boutique Hotel | |
| DAY 3 | X | X | X | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Breakfast at Studio Boutique Hotel - Private guided transfer to Turrialba +Tour <u>Lankester Gardens</u> + Lunch & tour at <u>Hacienda Tayutic</u> -Dinner & overnight at Studio Boutique Hotel | Studio Boutique Hotel | |
| DAY 4 | X | X | X | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Breakfast a Studio Boutique Hotel - Private group transfer to Arenal + <u>El Silencio de los Angeles Cloud Forest Reserve</u> guided walk - Lunch at Villa Blanca (formerly country estate of a CR President) - Overnight at Volcano Lodge | Volcano Lodge | |
| DAY 5 | X | | X | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Breakfast at Volcano Lodge - AM <u>Arenal Hanging Bridges</u> guided walk - Lunch on own at hotel - Visit <u>Tabacón Hot Spring & Spa</u> (dinner included) (optional spa treatments available) - Overnight at Volcano Lodge | Volcano Lodge | |
| DAY 6 | X | X | X | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Breakfast at Volcano Lodge + Early AM <u>Bird Watching</u> with your guide - 8:00am <i>Optional</i> <u>Arenal Eco glide Canopy Tour</u> (zipline) or <u>Spa</u> - 11:00am Private guided transfer Arenal / San José - Visit church <u>Topiary</u> in Zarcero - Lunch at Eloy Alfaro Restaurant & crafts shop + Bougainvillea Hotel <u>garden</u> --Dinner & overnight at Hotel Bougainvillea | Bougainville Hotel | |
| DAY 7 | X | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Breakfast at Bougainvillea Hotel - Private transfer Hotel / Juan Santamaria International Airport, San José | Pay \$29 Departure Tax at airport | |

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| Page 2 | ACTIVITY DESCRIPTIONS | |
| <i>INCLUDED ACTIVITIES IN SAN JOSE</i> | | |
| San Jose City Tour | <p><u>Jade Museum:</u> They have a very good collection of pre-Columbian works. It includes jade from all over the Americas, as well as ceramics, stone, gold and bone relics. It provides a fascinating look at the life of the early cultures in this area of the world. Their exhibit is the largest American jade collection in the world (over 6,000 works of pre-Columbian art and jewelry).</p> <p><u>National Museum:</u> Though not extremely large in size, it is a carefully thought out display taking visitors on a sort of time machine starting with Pre-Columbian indigenous culture to colonial life, the advent of the industrial revolution, mentioning historical facts along the way, right up until modern times. It is located in the Old Fort where you can still see bullet holes from the 1948 revolution.</p> | |
| <i>INCLUDED ACTIVITIES IN CARTAGO & TURRIALBA</i> | | |
| Lankester Gardens |  | <p>Lankester Botanical Garden is internationally recognized for its noteworthy collections of epiphytes. LBG was established in 1973 as a center for the exhibition, conservation and research of tropical epiphytic plants, with a special interest in orchids.</p> <p>On 11 hectares, the field collections, collections in greenhouses and secondary forests host over 3,000 species of plants. The plant collections come from botanical expeditions, donations, and exchanges with botanical institutions throughout the world. www.jardinbotanicolankester.org</p> |
| Tayutic Hacienda |  | <p>Tour the beautiful hacienda, owned by the Ortuño Family for centuries. You will see how sugarcane, coffee and macadamia nuts are processed using traditional and present-day methods. The tour will help you to understand the historical importance of these crops for Costa Rica. On the farm you can see a little church from the beginning of the 20th Century and their beautiful gardens while enjoying some of the most spectacular scenery in the country.</p> |

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| <p>Page 3</p> | <p>INCLUDED ACTIVITIES FROM SAN JOSE TO ARENAL</p> |
| <p>El Silencio de los Angeles Cloud Forest</p> |  <p>El Silencio de Los Angeles Walk - Conveniently located within Villa Blanca's 75 acre hotel property (formerly the farm of an ex-President), this very user-friendly 3 kilometer trail network was carefully engineered and designed by their own professional nature guides. It has no steps or obstacles to compete with the enjoyment of observing the countless variety of tropical flora and fauna along this guided nature interpretive walk. With only 2.5% of the planet's cloud forest remaining, the unique energy of this cloud shrouded forest habitat continues to marvel both scientists and tourists alike.</p> |
| | <p>INCLUDED ACTIVITIES IN ARENAL See www.arenal.net for general area information, including a good description of a volcano</p> |
| <p>Arenal Hanging Bridges</p> | <p>Walk along sturdy bridges up among the trees in this unique rainforest environment. Your private naturalist guide will introduce you to the extremely rich biodiversity and help you spot wildlife with his powerful telescope and binoculars.</p>  <p>You are likely to see many types of birds, orchids and exotic plants and perhaps even a sloth or monkey! From two bridges you can have a good view of Arenal Volcano and perhaps the lava coming down.</p> |
| <p>Tabacon Hot Springs & Spa</p> |  <p>A virtual "Garden of Eden" awaits you at Tabacon Hot Springs & Spa located at the foot of the Arenal Volcano. From the heart of the volcano spring fountains of thermo-mineral water which form the Tabacon River, running at a soothing 39C (102F), forming natural pools which cascade into the thermal lagoons, guaranteeing an unforgettable sensation. Relax in the sun deck areas or walk the trails and enjoy the multiple pools surrounded by exotic tropical gardens. While you enjoy a delicious buffet dinner you may catch the sight of the smoldering lava flow coming down the slopes of Arenal Volcano.</p> |

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| <p>Page 4</p> | <p>OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES IN ARENAL</p> |
| <p>Arenal Ecolide Canopy / Zipline Tour</p> | <div data-bbox="470 336 901 884" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>Experience this uniquely Costa Rican invention of sailing across the canopy of the rainforest on cables connecting multiple platforms. This is a sport, <u>not</u> a nature activity! This exciting tour lasts about 2 hours and takes you on 13 cables.</p> <p>First, our specialized guides will give you the needed equipment for your safety, and will explain what to do during the tour. Then, he will take you to the first canopy platform in an off-road car and after that, you won't stop flying!</p> <p><u>Tarzan Swing</u></p> <p>At the end of cable number 8, a unique, exciting and full of adrenaline adventure will wait for you: our Tarzan Swing! This is the favorite activity of our visitors and it consists in jumping to the space and swinging between trees. This experience is perfect for forgetting your daily stress and living sensations that you never felt before.</p> <p>A Costa Rican Innovation</p> <p>The canopy/zipline was developed in the 1970's and 80's. Scientists had built platforms in the tropical rain forest to observe nature at different heights. Then, someone had the idea of using zip lines to move between these platforms, and today it has become one of the most popular adventures in the country, and has been replicated throughout the world.</p> <p>ADDITIONAL COST: \$58 adults (minimum 2 persons required)</p> |
| <p>Spa Treatments</p> | <div data-bbox="462 1541 726 1713" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>At <u>Mayim Spa</u> (Arenal Paraiso Hotel), the prices are reasonable and we have heard very good comments from our passengers about their spa treatments. There is price information and a video on the hotel's website: www.arenalparaiso.com.</p> |

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| <p>Page 5</p> | <p><i>INCLUDED ACTIVITIES ON WAY FROM ARENAL TO * IN SAN JOSE</i></p> | |
| <p>Zarcero Topiary</p> | <p>The topiary of the church of Zarcero was begun over 40 years ago and the skillful gardener worked there until his retirement last year. However, you may still see him at the topiary giving his same tender loving care to his shrubs. You will see the intertwining archway leading to the church, a monkey riding a motorcycle, a pig, and other enjoyable creations.</p> |  |
| <p>Sarchi</p> |  | <p>You will stop in Sarchi, the “crafts capital” of Costa Rica.. The village is well-known for its artisans who reproduce all sizes of the painted oxcart, the national symbol of CR. The large-size carts can be used as a bar, and are a dramatic focus in the entrance foyer of houses. Both the ox carts and leather rocking chairs can be packed flat to take on the plane with you! There are also items of leather, ceramics, wood, and jewelry with pre-Columbian indigenous designs. From the mid-nineteenth century, oxcarts were used to transport coffee beans from Costa Rica’s central valley over the mountains to Puntarenas on the Pacific coast, a journey requiring ten to fifteen days. The oxcarts used spoke-less wheels, a hybrid between the disc used by the Aztec and the spoke wheel introduced by the Spanish, to cut through the mud without becoming bogged down. Today’s painted oxcart is a colorful representation of the original rough-hewn, rectangular, cane-framed vehicles covered by rawhide tarps.</p> |
| <p>Bougainvillea Hotel Garden</p> | <p>You will end your tour at Bougainvillea Hotel where you will have time to enjoy the beautiful hotel garden Set amidst the coffee farms of Santo Domingo de Heredia, the hotel has extensive areas dominated by tall trees and brightened by plentiful flowers. The gardens are considered to be the best of all hotel gardens in Costa Rica.</p> |  |

HOTEL DESCRIPTIONS

Studio Boutique Hotel in Santa Ana

The inspiration for this five-star hotel's name comes from the concept of an "art studio", a unique environment where people share ideas. In this spirit, guests feel free to wander about with a glass of wine and enjoy the private collection of more than 100 paintings and sculptures by such famous Costa Rican artists as Rafael Fernández, Isidro Con Wong, Marcia Salas, Edgar Zuniga, Guillermo Porras, and Manuel Vargas.



You can also relax at their outdoor pool, or fitness center, or walk a few blocks to the Old Town where there are many ceramic shops featuring local crafts.

Studio Hotel offers [82 deluxe rooms](#), including 5 [superior rooms](#), two [junior suites](#), and four to meet the needs of guests with disabilities. The hotel is environmentally-friendly, built with the highest quality materials and innovative systems that help preserve the planet. Solar panels are used to heat pool and bath water. LED lighting as well as energy saving bulbs conserve power. The hotel is 100% smoke free. It was the 2014 Winner of the Certificate of Excellence given by TripAdvisor. www.costaricastudiohotel.com

Volcano Lodge (Arenal) is surrounded by the natural beauty of the rainforest with its great variety of exotic plants, animal and birds of tremendous beauty. The hotel offers spacious and comfortable rooms with air conditioning and private bath. Each room has a private terrace with a view of Arenal Volcano. There is a large swimming pool with sun chairs, a Jacuzzi, laundry service, e-mail service, safety deposit box, room service, continental breakfast included, security 24h/day, and a restaurant where Costa Rican cuisine and international cuisine are served. www.volcanolodge.com



Hotel Bougainvillea (Santo Domingo de Heredia)

Here you'll easily forget that you're just 15 minutes from downtown San Jose or the international airport. Set amidst the coffee farms of Santo Domingo de Heredia, the hotel has extensive areas dominated by tall trees and brightened by plentiful flowers. The hotel is well-known for its beautiful gardens. Each of the 81 rooms is large with two double beds, a separate sitting area, and a balcony. The furniture is made of Costa Rican hardwoods, and all rooms have cable T.V. and direct dial telephones. It has the charm of a family-owned and operated hotel. www.hb.com

What passengers have said about our Garden Tour. . .

"I loved our trip. Everything was top notch and Costa Rica is truly inspirational. I also have to say that you managed to put together a great group and we had a load of fun together. Thanks for all your hard work." *Cathy J, Master Gardener/ NC*

"I thought the trip was terrific. A friend of mine said before I left that I would fall in love with the country. Was he ever right! I have never had so much fun learning new things and seeing new places. Being a lifelong plantsman and insect fancier, I couldn't get enough of either. It was the best tour I've gone on. I have traveled a lot, but this was the first in Latin America. It has spoiled me for other tours." *Phil P., Master Gardener/PA*

"The tour was fabulous! Although I wasn't an avid gardener before I left, the enthusiasm of my fellow travelers and the extensive knowledge of the naturalist guide made me one! I learned so much, and the experience made me truly appreciate the beauty of nature. I'd do it again in a heartbeat!" *Kathy C., business owner/NC*

"It has been such a pleasure to book a tour with a company like yours. The service is so personal and comes straight from the top. That is a very unusual experience these days and it is such a joy. I hope you are around for a long, long time. Thank you again." *Valerie M., Master Gardener/NC*

COST FOR LAND TOUR (7D/6N)

DOUBLE OCCUPANCY \$ 1995.00
SINGLE OCCUPANCY \$ 2375.00

WHAT IS INCLUDED?

ACCOMMODATION

- Total of three (3) nights at Studio Boutique Hotel in Deluxe Room
- Total of two (2) Nights at Volcano Lodge, Arenal Volcano Area. In Superior Room
- Total of one (1) night at Bougainvillea Hotel, Heredia in Mountain View Room

SERVICES **GUIDED TOURS**

Escorted by a full-time Costa Rican Bilingual Naturalist Guide

TRANSPORTATION **PRIVATE MOTOR COACH**

- Private Land Transportation for the whole tour

MEALS (16) AS SPECIFIED

- Breakfasts: 6
- Lunches: 4
- Dinners: 6

OTHERS

- Porter tips at Juan Santamaria International Airport
- Maids and bellboys at Studio Hotel

WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED?

- International Airfare to San Jose, Costa Rica
- Passport fees
- Additional charges for Easter Week
- Additional charges for airport transfers for passengers who do not arrive or depart at the same time.
- Optional Activities: Arenal Ecoglide Canopy Tour \$58; Spa priced per treatment
- Airport Departure Taxes (currently \$29)
- Tips for Costa Rican full-time guide and driver, local guides and hotel housekeeping, porters

OTHER

- U.S. citizens can enter Costa Rica with a valid passport that does not expire prior to 90 days from date of entry.
- If you are not a U.S. citizen, check with the Embassy of Costa Rica for requirements for citizens of your country.