



May 12-20, 2025

Costa Rica Leatherback Turtle Trip

An Adventure of a Lifetime

Join this customized, small-group nature trip through Costa Rican ecosystems. Witness the nesting of the giant Leatherback Sea Turtles on the Caribbean coast of Costa Rica, one of the world's main nesting colonies of Leatherbacks. Walk through rainforests, explore active volcanoes, and search for sloths, toucans, monkeys and other tropical wildlife.



Itinerary

Day 1: Arrival to San Jose

First night at Bougainvillea Hotel. Welcome dinner at hotel restaurant.

Days 2: Caribblue Hotel

Morning departure to the south Caribbean coast of Costa Rica.

Days 3: Caribblue National Park

Visit to Cahuita National Park. Afternoon at leisure exploring the Puerto Viejo Town.

Day 4: Lirio Lodge

Departure to Lirio Lodge-Night outing in search of nesting Leatherback sea turtles.

Day 5: Pacuare Preserve

Morning boat tour of the Pacuare reserve. Afternoon rainforest hike

Day 6: Arenal Observatory Lodge

Departure to Arenal Observatory Lodge Visit a local Costa Rican house.

Days 7-Arenal Volcano

Exploration of the Arenal Observatory gardens and private rain forest preserve. Bird and primate watching.

Day 8: Arenal Volcano

Morning visit to a cocoa plantation and chocolate tour followed by an afternoon soak in local hot springs.

Day 9: Transfer to San Jose Airport

Hasta luego, Costa Rica!

Day 1: Monday, May 12

Arrival in San Jose



Upon arrival at San Jose International Airport (SJO), we will be transferred to the Bougainvillea Hotel.

Within 30 minutes from the airport and set among 10 acres of lush tropical gardens, this comfortable city hotel is a great place to start our tropical adventure in Costa Rica.

We will gather in the evening at the hotel restaurant to go over the itinerary and the next day's activities. Overnight at Bougainvillea Hotel www.hb.co.cr

Our morning drive will take us across the Continental Divide and through the vast rainforest of Braulio Carrillo National Park. Descending from the mountains, we will travel through the Caribbean lowlands to reach Cariblue Beach & Jungle Resort.

The Caribbean coast of Costa Rica is very different from the rest of the country. The people are descendants of Africa and the Caribbean and have a distinct culture, cuisine, and language. The vegetation of this region is lush and biodiversity is among the highest in Costa Rica.

www.cariblue.com

Day 2: Tuesday, May 13

Cariblue Hotel





Day 3: Wed, May 14

Cahuita National Park

There will be an early morning birding walk through the lodge's trails, followed by breakfast. After breakfast, we will depart for nearby Cahuita National Park.

This park protects 1,106 hectares of pristine coastal rainforest and 22,300 hectares of the marine environment including the most vibrant coral reefs in Costa Rica.

Our hike through the park will present great bird-watching opportunities and chances to see other wildlife such as sloths, monkeys, and the colorful Golden Eyelash Viper. We will spend the afternoon at leisure with the opportunity to explore the beach and enjoy the hotel amenities.



Day 4: Thursday, May 15

Lirio Lodge



Morning departure to the town of Limon, where we will board a boat that will take us to Lirio Lodge. This remote destination in the middle of the Costa Rican Caribbean coast can only be reached by boat. Lirio Lodge is in front of the Pacuare Reserve, the fourth most important nesting site for Leatherback Sea Turtles in the world. We will spend the next two nights at Lirio Lodge exploring the beach and surrounding rainforest.

Night outing in search of nesting turtles.

Overnight at Lirio Lodge
www.liriolodge.com

Day 5: Friday, May 16

Pacuare Reserve



After breakfast we will board a boat for an morning boat tour into the Pacuare Reserve.

The reserve is famous for its abundant wildlife and exuberant bird life. Our open-canopy boat will allow for great visibility of the surrounding rainforest.

Return for lunch at the lodge.

After lunch, we will hike the reserve trails.

Departure to the Arenal Observatory Lodge.

The Arenal Volcano is one of the most iconic volcanos in Costa Rica, with a constant expulsion of gas from its main crater. In addition to the spectacular volcano, the tropical birds, monkeys, sloths, and other animals living in this majestic landscape make this destination unforgettable.

On our way, we will stop at a local countryside house for a typical Costa Rican lunch.

Overnight at Arenal Observatory Lodge
www.arenalobservatorylodge.com

Day 6: Sat, May 17

Arenal Volcano



Day 7: Sunday, May 18

Arenal Volcano




Early morning birding on the lodge's trails, followed by breakfast. After breakfast, we depart for a walk through the waterfall trail. Within our hotel's protected area, this is a great location to see abundant wildlife as well as a spectacular waterfall.

Afternoon exploring the gardens and forest at the hotel. We will end the day with a night hike to the famous frog pond, where we are likely to see the amazing red-eye tree frog and several other species.

Day 8: Monday, May 19

Arenal Volcano



Early morning birding on the lodge's trails, followed by breakfast. After breakfast, we depart for a chocolate tour at a local cocoa plantation. Learn everything about the chocolate-making process, from cocoa seeds to chocolate bars. Both vanilla and chocolate are native to the rainforest of tropical America. Can you imagine a world without chocolate and vanilla?

Afternoon visit to Eco-Thermals hot springs. Soak to your heart's content at this small private hot springs resort owned by locals.

Departure



Early morning transfer from Arenal to the San Jose airport.

All adventures must come to an end. After eight days of exploring the magic of this tropical country, we return home with lifelong memories.

NOTE: Your departure flights must be booked for after 12 pm.

Hasta Luego, Costa Rica!

Meet your expedition leader

Carlos Chacon



Carlos Chacon, a native Costa Rican, moved to HHI 20 years ago. Carlos has been a naturalist for more than 30 years -- first in his native country leading nature tours in the rainforest and other tropical environments and later in his adopted Lowcountry.

Carlos directed the HHI Turtle Patrol for 7 years. He regularly organizes and leads groups of Lowcountry nature enthusiasts through the diverse ecosystems of Costa Rica. When Carlos is not leading a trip in Costa Rica, he resides in Bluffton, SC. Where he works as the Manager of Natural History for the Coastal Discovery Museum on Hilton Head Island.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ECO-ADVENTURES OF COSTA RICA

The trip is limited to a maximum of 12 participants

\$ 4,250: Price per person based on double occupancy-\$750 single supplement

Prices are per person and include:

Private transportation on microbus with A/C

Transportation by boat as described

Private naturalist guide services

Lodging and meals as described

Activities and entrance fees as described

Not Included:

Round trip airfare to Costa Rica

Personal expenses (medical expenses, souvenirs, etc.)

Travel Insurance

Medical insurance

Payment and Cancellation Policies:

Trips must be paid in full 4 months before departure.

Refunds will be issued according to the following deadlines:

- \$650 commitment deposit is non-refundable.
- For cancellations received 60 to 45 days before arrival, 50% of the total amount.
- For cancellations received 44 to 30 days before arrival, 25 % of the total amount.
- If the participant cancels 29 days to 1 day before arrival, no refunds are available.



Sign up by emailing Carlos Chacon at Eco1adventures@gmail.com and sending an initial commitment non refundable \$500 check made to EcoAdventures LLC and mailed to:

Carlos Chacon | 21 Park Circle. | Bluffton SC 29910