

Sept 29-Oct 8, 2025

Costa Rica Nature Tour

An Adventure of a Lifetime

This customized, small-group nature tour will lead you through Costa Rica's diverse ecosystems. We are excited to offer SEA TURTLES on this trip! We'll explore two active volcanoes -- Irazu and Arenal -- and hike through the rainforest in Rio Macho Forest Preserve. By boat, we'll wind through canals at Tortuguero National Park and witness Green Sea Turtles nesting. We will see monkeys, sloths, toucans, and other iconic tropical wildlife. This is a great trip to learn about the wildlife, culture, and tropical nature of Costa Rica, "the most friendly country in the world." Create lifetime experiences with fellow Oldfield residents while traveling with Oldfield naturalist Leanna McMillan and Carlos Chacon, a Costa Rican naturalist who has made the Lowcountry his home.



Itinerary

Day 1: Arrival to San Jose

Arrive at Bougainvillea Hotel. Visit our hotel's stunning botanical garden.

Day 2: Quelitales Hotel

Departure to Quelitales Hotel. Visit the Irazu Volcano on our way.

Day 3: Rio Macho National Park

Morning hike through Rio Macho National Park. Afternoon at hotel's gardens.

Day 4: Manatus Lodge

Tortuguero National Park. Night outing to see nesting sea turtles.

Day 5: Tortuguero National Park

Tortuguero National Park. Exploration of the rainforest by boat.

Day 6: Tortuguero National Park

Morning outing in search of green sea turtle hatchlings. Day tour of local village.

Day 7: Arenal Observatory Lodge

Departure to Arenal Volcano, with a visit to a local butterfly garden.

Day 8: Arenal Volcano

Exploration of the Arenal Observatory gardens and private rainforest preserve.

Day 9: Arenal Volcano

Visit a local cocoa plantation for a chocolate tour, followed by an afternoon soak in local hot springs.

Day 10: Transfer to San Jose Airport





Day 1: Mon, Sept 29

Arrival in San Jose

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

Set among 10 acres of lush award-winning botanical gardens, this comfortable haven, just 30 minutes from the airport, is an ideal location to start our adventure in Costa Rica.

We will gather in the evening at the hotel's restaurant to go over the itinerary and the next day's activities.

www.hb.co.cr



Day 2: Tues, Sept 30

Quelitales Hotel



After breakfast, our bus will take us on a 3-hour drive through the countryside, to the amazing Quelitales Hotel. On our way, we will visit Irazu Volcano National Park. Irazu is one of the eight active volcanos in Costa Rica and one of the few where it's possible to access the edge of the crater. Lunch en route at a local restaurant. Afternoon arrival at Quelitales Hotel.

Check out the hotel here:
<https://www.hotelquelitales.com/>



Day 3: Wed, Oct 1

Rio Macho National Park

Optional early morning bird watching at Quelitales Hotel bird feeders. After breakfast, we will depart to the nearby Rio Macho Forest Preserve. Created in 1964, Rio Macho is the first protected forest preserve in Costa Rica. This is a great location to search for Keel-billed Toucans, Coati mundis, Spider Monkeys, and other rainforest wildlife.



Day 4: Thur, Oct 2

Manatus Lodge



Morning departure to Tortuguero via a scenic drive across Braulio Carrillo National Park, which protects 100,000 acres of pristine forest. After Braulio Carrillo, we continue through the Caribbean countryside until we reach the Pavona dock, where we board a boat and continue our journey to Tortuguero.

After dinner, we will have a night outing to see nesting Green Sea Turtles. Local guides will lead us in a 2-hour exploration of the sea turtle nesting process. Tortuguero is the most important nesting beach for Caribbean Green Sea Turtles. The 18-mile beach can host up to 2,500 nesting females on a peak night.

Hotel: www.manatuscostarica.com

Day 5: Friday, Oct 3

Tortuguero National Park



After breakfast, we will take a boat tour through the canals of Tortuguero National Park. Our open canopy boats will allow for maximum visibility of the surrounding rainforest. We'll hike in the Tortuguero National Park and then return for lunch at the lodge.

Afternoon wildlife walk in Tortuguero National Park to see all kinds of amazing wildlife.



Early morning beach walk to search for green sea turtle hatchlings.

After breakfast, we visit Tortuguero Village and The Sea Turtle Conservancy, the headquarters of sea turtle research in the area.

Afternoon boat outing to explore the Caño Palma canal, which is surrounded by rain forest.

Day 6: Sat, Oct 4

Tortuguero National Park



Day 7: Sun, Oct 5

Arenal Observatory Lodge



After breakfast, we board a boat back to La Pavona, where our driver will be waiting for us. We then make our way to Arenal Observatory Lodge, with a stop for lunch at Pierella Butterfly Gardens.

In addition to the spectacular volcano, tropical birds, monkeys, sloths, and other animals living in this majestic landscape make this an unforgettable destination.

Night hike to the local frog pond in search of red-eyed tree frogs and other creatures.

Hotel:

www.arenalobservatorylodge.com

Day 8: Mon, Oct 6

Arenal Volcano



Optional early morning bird watching at our lodge's bird feeders, using tropical fruit to draw many species. After breakfast, we will explore the nearby Arenal Hanging Bridges.

The Arenal Observatory Lodge is a worldwide destination for nature lovers and bird watchers, with great chances to see howler monkeys, white-faced capuchin monkeys, spider monkeys, toucans, and other Central American wildlife.

Day 9: Tues, Oct 7

Arenal Volcano



Early morning nature walk on the lodge's trails, followed by breakfast.

Then we will depart to a local cocoa plantation to learn about this important plant and the chocolate-making process.

Lunch at a local restaurant with the opportunity to taste some of the world's finest chocolate.

After lunch, we will visit the Eco-Thermals Hot Springs, and soak to our heart's content in the natural springs surrounded by scenery and sounds of the rainforest.



All adventures must come to an end. After nine days of exploring the magic of Costa Rica, we return home with lifelong memories. Early morning departure for the San Jose (SJO) airport.

Important Note: Your departure flights should be scheduled after 12 pm. We drop you at the airport with plenty of time to catch any flight that departs after noon.

Hasta Luego, Costa Rica!

Day 10: Wed, Oct 9

Transfer to SJO Airport



Meet Your Tour Leaders

Leanna McMillan



Leanna McMillan, staff naturalist at Oldfield, is happy to be going on her third trip to Costa Rica. Leanna was born and raised in South Carolina and graduated from Coastal Carolina University with a B.S. in Biology. She started her career with the South Carolina State Park Service as a Park Ranger and then worked for the Georgia Department of Natural Resources as an Education Specialist. Leanna has been the Staff Naturalist and Outfitters Center Assistant Director at Oldfield for over three years and enjoys teaching about the local environment and nature at Oldfield. Leanna lives in Port Royal with her husband, Chris, who will also join this trip.

Carlos Chacon



Carlos Chacon, a native Costa Rican, moved to Hilton Head Island, SC about 20 years ago. He has been a naturalist for more than 25 years -- first in his home country leading nature tours in the rainforest and other tropical environments and later specializing in the South Carolina coast and barrier islands. Carlos works part-time as the Natural History Manager for the Coastal Discovery Museum on Hilton Head Island. He regularly organizes and leads groups of U.S. nature enthusiasts through the diverse ecosystems of Costa Rica.

Questions?

Contact Carlos Chacon at
Eco1adventures@gmail.com
843-290-0804

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ECO-ADVENTURES OF COSTA RICA

The trip is limited to a maximum of 12 participants

\$4,800: Price per person based on double occupancy

\$750 single supplement for a private room

Prices are per person and include:

Transportation on private bus with air conditioning.

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)

Travel Insurance

Medical Insurance

Payment and Cancellation Policy

Trips must be paid in full 4 months before departure.

Refunds will be issued according to the following deadlines:

- 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.
- For cancellations received 29 days before arrival, no refunds are available.



Secure your space on this trip by emailing Carlos Chacon at Eco1adventures@gmail.com and sending an initial non-refundable commitment check of \$700 made to Eco-Adventures LLC.

Mail your commitment check to:

Carlos Chacon | 21 Park Circle. | Bluffton SC 29910