

February 18-25, 2026

Costa Rica Nature Trip



An Adventure of a Lifetime

This customized small-group nature tour will immerse you in the country's diverse ecosystems. Explore the lush rainforest, get up close to the majestic Arenal Volcano, unwind in natural hot springs, and take a boat ride through the pristine wetlands of the Caño Negro Wildlife Refuge. Hike through the cloud forest, home to the rare Resplendent Quetzal during its nesting season. Join us on this unforgettable adventure through Costa Rica's stunning landscapes, where we'll search for extraordinary plants, sloths, toucans, monkeys, and a variety of other tropical wildlife.



Itinerary

Day 1-Arrive in San Jose

Arrival to Costa Rica. First night at Bougainvillea Hotel.

Day 2-Hacienda Caño Negro

Depart to Caño Negro, crossing the Braulio Carrillo National Park

Day 3-Caño Negro Wildlife Refuge

Boat exploration of the Caño Negro wildlife refuge.

Days 4- Arenal Volcano

Depart to Arenal Volcano. Night hike at the Observatory Lodge Rain Forest.

Day 5: Arenal Observatory Lodge

Full-day exploration of the Arenal Observatory Lodge Rain Forest.

Day 6: Arenal Volcano

Cocoa plantation chocolate tour. Afternoon visit to natural hot springs.

Day 7-Hotel Villa Blanca

Hike through the hanging bridges at the Cloud Forest canopy.

Day 8- Cloud Forest

All day exploring the Cloud Forest in search of Resplendent Quetzals

Day 9: Transfer to SJO Airport

Pura Vida Costa Rica.



Day 1: Tuesday, Feb 17

Arrival in San Jose



Upon arrival at San José International Airport (SJO), we will be transferred to the Bougainvillea Hotel. Set amidst 10 acres of lush, award-winning botanical gardens, this comfortable haven, located just 30 minutes from the airport, is the perfect place to begin our adventure.

In the evening, we will gather at the hotel's restaurant to review the itinerary and discuss the following day's activities.

www.hb.co.cr

Day 2: Wed, Feb 18

Hacienda Caño Negro

Our morning drive will take us across the Continental Divide and through the vast rainforest of Braulio Carrillo National Park, which spans 100,000 acres of protected forest. As we descend from the mountains, we'll travel through the Caribbean lowlands of Costa Rica to a boat landing in the town of Los Chiles, near the Nicaraguan border. From here, we'll embark on a 30-minute boat ride to Hacienda Caño Negro, located at the edge of the Caño Negro Wildlife Refuge, where we will spend the next two days.

Overnight at Tocu Tent Camp.

<https://www.tocutentcamp.com/>



Day 3: Thursday, Feb 19

Caño Negro Wildlife Refuge



Morning boat tour through the wetlands of the wildlife refuge and along the Caño Negro River.

This sanctuary is renowned for its abundant wildlife and vibrant birdlife. Open-canopy boats will provide maximum visibility of the surrounding rainforest, offering rare and exceptional photographic opportunities.

After lunch at the lodge, we'll head out for a late afternoon boat excursion into the wildlife refuge.

Day 4: Friday, Feb 20

Arenal Observatory Lodge

After breakfast, we will depart for the Arenal Volcano and the Arenal Observatory Lodge, nestled amidst lush gardens at the base of one of Costa Rica's most iconic active volcanoes.

In addition to the breathtaking volcano, the surrounding landscape is teeming with tropical birds, monkeys, sloths, and other wildlife, making this an unforgettable destination.

After dinner, we'll embark on a night hike to the local frog pond in search of red-eye tree frogs and other fascinating creatures.

www.arenalobservatorylodge.com



Day 5: Saturday, Feb 21

Arenal Volcano



Early bird watching will allow us to enjoy our morning coffee near the lodge's bird feeders, which attract a variety of species with tropical fruit. After breakfast, we'll explore the trails and visit a waterfall within the hotel's private reserve.

The Arenal Observatory Lodge is a renowned destination for nature lovers and bird watchers, offering excellent opportunities to see howler monkeys, white-faced capuchin monkeys, spider monkeys, toucans, and other Central American wildlife.

Day 6: Sunday, Feb 22

Arenal Observatory Lodge

Early morning nature walk along the lodge's trails, followed by breakfast. Lunch at a local restaurant, then a visit to a nearby cocoa plantation to learn about this important plant and the chocolate-making process. In the afternoon, we will visit the natural hot springs at Arenal Volcano.



Day 7: Monday, Feb 23

Villa Blanca Hotel



After breakfast, we will depart toward the San Ramón Mountains in the north-central part of Costa Rica, where we will spend two days exploring the tropical cloud forest. This region is home to the famous Resplendent Quetzal. En route, we'll stop at a private wildlife reserve owned by a local family, where we'll explore the cloud forest canopy via hanging bridges.

Lunch will be at a local restaurant. In the afternoon, we'll arrive at Hotel Villa Blanca.

Dinner and overnight stay at Villa Blanca.

<https://hotelvbcostarica.com/>

Day 8: Tuesday, Feb 24

Villa Blanca Hotel



Morning hike through a private cloud forest preserve near our lodge. This enchanting cloud forest is the nesting site of the famous Resplendent Quetzal, the Slaty Flowerpiercer, Flame-throated Warbler, and other rare and magnificent species. A local naturalist will guide us to an active Quetzal nesting cavity.

Lunch at a local restaurant.

In the afternoon, we'll hike through Villa Blanca's private Cloud Forest Preserve.

Dinner at the lodge's restaurant.

Departure to SJO 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. After breakfast, we will depart from Villa Blanca Hotel for the San José airport, a 90-minute journey. This will allow ample time for you to catch any flight departing at noon or later.

NOTE: Your departure flights must be booked for after 12:00 PM.

¡Hasta luego, Costa Rica!



Meet Our Tour Leaders

Carlos Chacon



Carlos' passion for nature grew out of his childhood experiences in the rainforests of Costa Rica. While earning his B.S. in Tropical Biology at the University of Costa Rica, he gained first-hand knowledge about local wildlife by working as a zookeeper at the Costa Rica National Zoo. After graduation, Carlos worked as a naturalist for Lindblad Expeditions, National Geographic, Nature Conservancy, Mountain Sobek Travel, and several other companies in Costa Rica, the Galapagos Islands, Panama, and Alaska. In 2005 Carlos started his own eco-tour company working with longtime friend Ricardo Gomez (driver and birder extraordinaire) and Dr. Chris Marsh. Carlos specializes in small group trips where participants experience both the rich biodiversity and the local culture of Costa Rica. Over two decades ago, Carlos met his wife Carol Weir while she was working in Costa Rica. They live in Bluffton, South Carolina and have two adult sons.

Chris Marsh



Chris's interest in birds goes back to his very early days. He grew up in Raleigh, NC, and joined the Raleigh Bird Club when he was 14. Chris completed his Ph.D. in zoology from Oregon State University in 1982 and became an assistant professor of biology at Brevard College that same year.

From 1984 to 1998 he served as a professor at Coastal Carolina University, where he taught biology, animal behavior, ornithology, and marine ecology. He conducted shorebird surveys with the South Carolina Dept. of Natural Resources and worked as an environmental consultant from 1986-1994. In 1998 he left academia to become the first full-time Director of the Spring Island Trust and also became the Director of the Lowcountry Institute when it was founded that same year. Now retired, Chris continues to contribute to conservation in the Lowcountry as director emeritus.

Chris now resides in Winston-Salem, NC but continues to stay involved with conservation initiatives in the Lowcountry. He has been co-leading Costa Rica trips with Carlos since 2005.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ECO-ADVENTURES OF COSTA RICA

The trip is limited to a maximum of 12 participants
\$5150: 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