

Sept 8-17, 2027

The Wild Caribbean of Costa Rica

An Adventure of a Lifetime

September is one of the best times to visit the Caribbean side of Costa Rica, where we often enjoy excellent weather, active wildlife, and ideal conditions for photography and nature observation. Combining comfortable accommodations, spectacular scenery, and expert naturalist guides, this tour offers an incredible opportunity to experience the rich biodiversity and natural beauty that make Costa Rica one of the world's premier wildlife destinations.



Day 1: Arrival to San Jose

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

Day 2: Manatus Lodge

Tortuguero, night outing to see nesting sea turtles.

Day 3: Tortuguero National Park

Exploration of Tortuguero National Park by boat through rivers and man made canals.

Day 4 : Selva Verde Lodge

Transfer to Selva Verde Lodge-Visit to Pierella butterfly garden.

Day 5: Sarapiquí Valley

Visit to La Selva Biological Research Station.

Day 6: Selva Verde Lodge

Hike at Refugio Lapa Verde-Great Green Macaw conservation project.

Day 7: Arenal Observatory Lodge

Visit to La Fortuna Town hike at Mariolas Nature Preserve.

Day 8: Arenal Volcano

Exploration of the Arenal Observatory gardens and private rainforest preserve.

Day 9: Arenal Volcano

Canopy walk at SkyWalk hanging bridges, afternoon visit to natural hot-springs

Day 10: Transfer to San Jose Airport



Pura Vida Costa Rica!



Day 1: Wednesday, Sept 8

Arrival in San Jose

A shuttle will be waiting for you upon arrival to the San Jose airport. Our shuttle driver will take you to the Bougainvillea Hotel, 30 minutes from the airport.

Set among 10 acres of lush botanical gardens, the Bougainvillea Hotel 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: Thursday, Sept 9

Manatus Lodge



Morning departure to Tortuguero via a scenic drive through Braulio Carrillo National Park, protecting over 100,000 acres of primary rainforest. We then continue through the Caribbean countryside to the Pavona dock, where we board a boat for the final leg of our journey to Tortuguero.

After dinner, we head out on a guided night walk to observe nesting Green Sea Turtles. Tortuguero is the most important nesting site for Caribbean Green Sea Turtles, hosting up to 600 nesting per night.

www.manatuscostarica.com



Day 3: Friday, Sept 10

Tortuguero National Park

Today, we will explore the Tortuguero National Park by boat, traveling through a combination of rivers and man-made canals. We are likely to see Howler Monkeys, Spider Monkeys, White-faced Capuchin Monkeys, Three-Toed Sloths, Two-Toed Sloths, Green Iguanas, Jesus Christ Lizards and many more of the iconic wild life of Costa Rica.



Day 4: Saturday, Sept 11

Selva Verde Lodge



After breakfast, we'll depart for Selva Verde Lodge. On the way, we will visit Pierella Ecological Garden, a butterfly breeding facility. Here, tropical butterflies are bred for export to exhibits around the world. The gardens and regenerating rainforest are exemplary conservation efforts.

We'll arrive at Selva Verde Lodge in the afternoon for dinner and an overnight stay.

Hotel: www.selvaverde.com

Day 5: Sunday, Sept 12

La Selva Biological Station



We'll begin the day with early morning birdwatching in the lodge's gardens, followed by a visit to La Selva Biological Station, a world-famous tropical research station in Costa Rica, run by the Organization for Tropical Studies (OTS). La Selva sits in the Caribbean lowlands, near Puerto Viejo de Sarapiquí, and protects 1,600 hectares of lowland rainforest.

Dinner and overnight at Selva Verde Lodge.

Day visit to Refugio Lapa Verde. A unique opportunity to experience one of the most important conservation areas for the endangered Great Green Macaw. This private wildlife refuge is part of the San Juan-La Selva Biological Corridor and protects large areas of tropical rainforest, wetlands, and regenerating forest that are essential for the macaw's survival, especially because of its dependence on the almendro trees for nesting and food. The refuge also plays an active role in reforestation, environmental education, and research, making it both a beautiful birding destination and a meaningful example of large-scale conservation in action.

Dinner and overnight at Selva Verde Lodge.

Day 6: Monday, Sept 13

Selva Verde Rainforest



Day 7: Tuesday, Sept 14

Arenal Observatory Lodge



After breakfast, we'll depart to Arenal Volcano and the Arenal Observatory Lodge. On the way, we'll stop at Mariolas Trail, a grass roots conservation initiative by a local family. A great place for naturalists, birders, and nature photographers.

Afternoon arrival to Arenal Observatory Lodge, home to more than 500 bird species, including toucans, manakins, woodpeckers, owls, and more.

Hotel: www.arenalobservatorylodge.com

All day exploring the Arenal Observatory Lodge. 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. We will start our day with bird watching at our lodge's bird feeders, using tropical fruit to draw many species. Up to 40 species of birds could visit the Arenal Lodge feeders in a single morning. We can expect to see various tanagers, Keel-billed Toucans, Collared Aracari, Montezuma Oropendulas, and many more.

Day 8: Wednesday, Sept 15

Arenal Rainforest



Day 9: Thursday, Sept 16

Hanging Bridges & Hot-springs



Morning hike on the SkyWalk rainforest canopy bridges. This morning we will walk through the rainforest canopy, giving us the opportunity to see the forest the way most animals experience it. Sixty percent of rainforest wildlife lives in the canopy. Lunch at a local restaurant.

After lunch, we will visit the Eco-Thermals Hot Springs and soak to our heart's content in the natural springs, surrounded by the 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: Friday, Sept 17

Transfer to SJO Airport



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

\$5,450: 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