

Jan 4-13, 2027

Costa Rica Nature Tour

An Adventure of a Lifetime

Discover the natural and cultural wonders of Costa Rica on this immersive journey through the country's most spectacular landscapes. Explore lush gardens and pristine tropical rainforests, as well as the majestic cloud forest of the Talamanca Mountains, the nesting site for the exuberant Resplendent Quetzal. Join us in the search for calving Humpback Whales in the South Pacific coast of Costa Rica. Explore the mangrove forest on the Sierpe River safari river cruise, encountering monkeys, sloths, macaws, and a plethora of exotic birds along the way. Immerse yourself in Costa Rica's rich history with visits to archaeological sites, a traditional coffee plantation, and an iconic town featuring its historic church, a testament to the country's colonial heritage. This carefully curated trip combines wildlife, nature, and culture, offering unique experiences in some of the country's most memorable locations.



Itinerary

Day 1: Arrival to San Jose

An airport shuttle awaits to bring you to the Bougainvillea Hotel, nestled among lush botanical gardens.

Day 2: Crystal Ballena Hotel

Departure by charter plane to the South Pacific coast of Costa Rica

Day 3: Whale Watching

Boat outing in search of humpback whales and other marine mammals in Ballena National Park

Day 4: Sierpe River

Sierpe River Safari Boat-Exploration of the Rainforest and Mangrove Forest.

Day 5: Talamanca Mountains

Departure to Savegre Lodge and the Talamanca Mountains. Afternoon at leisure to enjoy hotel spa and scenery

Day 6: Savegre Lodge

Hike through an ancient oak forest and cloud forest in search of the resplendent quetzal in full breeding plumage.

Day 7: Quelitales Hotel

Coffee tour- Afternoon at Quelitales. Dinner will be prepared by our host and expert chef, Jose.

Day 8: Rio Macho Forest Preserve

Explore the Rio Macho Forest. A birding hot spot. Lunch at the iconic Orosi Town

Day 9: Transfer to San Jose Airport





Day 1: Mon, January 4

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 restaurant to go over the itinerary and the next day's activities.

www.hb.co.cr



Day 2: Tues, January 5

Crystal Ballena Hotel



After arriving from San José on a charter flight to Palmar Sur, we'll visit Finca 6, an archaeological site and museum. This UNESCO World Heritage Site preserves the mysterious pre-Columbian stone spheres, perfectly carved by the ancient Diquís culture between 500 and 1500 CE. Our walk explores forest trails and open areas where several spheres remain in their original alignment, offering insight into their ceremonial and social roles. The interpretation center features excellent exhibits on its history and craftsmanship. This visit offers a fascinating glimpse into Costa Rica's pre-Hispanic heritage and the artistry of its early inhabitants. Afternoon arrival at Crystal Ballena.

www.cristal-ballena.com

Whale Watching



Morning outing in search of humpback whales at Ballena National Park, one of the world's most vital refuges for these endangered giants. Humpbacks from both hemispheres migrate to these warm waters to mate, give birth, and raise their young. Known as the "acrobats of the sea," they swim slowly near the surface, offering a rare chance to witness their beauty. The park's pristine waters also host bottlenose and spotted dolphins, along with diverse seabirds.

Afternoon hike through the hotel's private forest preserve, featuring over 30 acres of lush jungle trails and tropical gardens. Dinner at the hotel's restaurant, enjoying the sea breeze and a stunning sunset.

After breakfast, we will take a 30-minute drive to the Sierpe River, where we will board a boat to explore the river's diverse ecosystems. Along the way, we'll have excellent chances to see howler monkeys, white-faced capuchin monkeys, squirrel monkeys, sloths, toucans, and many other species of tropical wildlife.

After our morning exploration, we'll enjoy lunch at a local restaurant, then return to the hotel in the afternoon to relax and watch the sunset.

Day 4: Thurs, January 7

Sierpe River



Day 5: Fri, January 8

Savegre Lodge

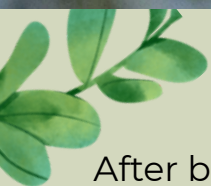


After breakfast, we will depart on a 3.5-hour drive up into the Talamanca Mountains, the tallest mountain range in Costa Rica.

Our destination, Savegre Lodge, is a family-owned property with its own protected cloud forest reserve, located along the banks of the Savegre River. This marvelous location, surrounded by lush cloud forests and fruit orchards, offers scenic trails that lead to cascading waterfalls.

Here, it's often possible to see the Resplendent Quetzal, the iconic bird revered by the ancient Mayan culture.

www.savegre.com



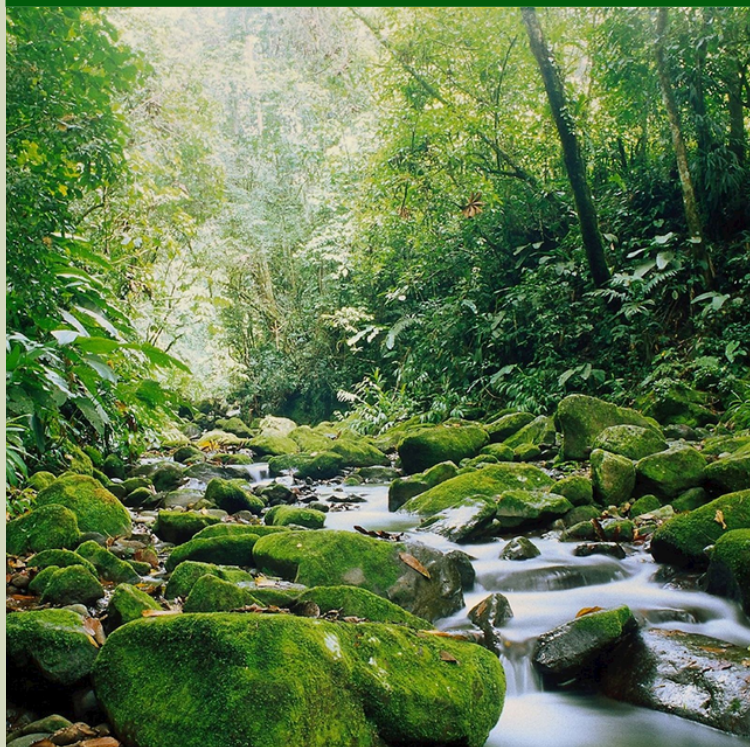
After breakfast, we will board the hotel's Land Rovers and head to an ancient oak forest at the top of the mountain range. From there, we'll take a leisurely hike back down to the lodge.

Along the way, we'll encounter high-altitude bird species, giant ferns, and other flora and fauna typical of this region, providing excellent opportunities for nature observation and photography.

Afternoon: The afternoon will be at leisure, with the option to explore the nearby town or stay at the lodge and enjoy its amenities, including a spa, bar, and hot tubs.

Day 6: Sat, January 9

Talamanca Mountains



Day 7: Sun, January 10

Waterfall Hike



After breakfast, we will visit a nearby feeding station where a local family has set up their backyard with hummingbird and fruit feeders that attract a plethora of amazing birds. We are likely to see several species of hummingbirds, as well as acorn woodpeckers, silver-throated tanagers, blue-gray tanagers, and many more. In the afternoon, we can take a hike to a local waterfall or simply relax and enjoy the lodge's spa for an evening of tranquility in this unique destination.

Morning departure to Quelitales Hotel. On our way, we'll stop at Café Cristina for a coffee plantation tour. You'll have the opportunity to learn about the production of Costa Rica's famous gourmet coffee—from plant to market—while enjoying a freshly brewed cup and hearing insights from local coffee experts.

Afternoon arrival at Quelitales Hotel, where José, our host, will welcome us to this cozy mountain retreat. José is not only the hotel owner but also a renowned chef, who will prepare delicious dinners for us during our stay at Quelitales.

www.hotelquelitales.com

Day 8: Mon, January 11

Quelitales Hotel



Day 9: Tues, January 12

Waterfall Hike



This morning, we'll enjoy a bird-watching outing at the Río Macho Forest Reserve, a lush protected area known for its remarkable biodiversity and pristine montane forest. The trails here provide excellent opportunities to spot species such as emerald toucanets, quetzals, trogons, and a variety of colorful tanagers and hummingbirds. After our morning exploration, we'll visit the charming town of Orosi, nestled in a beautiful valley surrounded by mountains and coffee plantations. Here, we'll stop at the historic Orosi Church, the oldest church in continuous use in Costa Rica, where we can appreciate its colonial architecture and tranquil atmosphere before returning to our lodge.



After breakfast, we will drive approximately 2.5 hours to the San José International Airport.

Note: Please book your departure flights after noon on Wednesday, January 13.

All adventures must come to an end. After nine unforgettable days exploring the magic of this tropical gem, we head home carrying lifelong memories of Costa Rica's beauty, wildlife, and warmth.

¡Pura Vida, Costa Rica!

Day 10: Wed, January 13

Departure



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

This trip is limited to a maximum of 12 participants.

\$5100: Price per person based on double occupancy

\$750: Single supplement for a private room

Prices are per person and include:

Private transportation on a microbus with A/C, a boat, and a charter plane as described

Private naturalist guide services

Lodging and meals as described

Activities and entrance fees as described

Not Included:

Personal expenses, (medical expenses, alcoholic drinks, souvenirs, etc.)

Round-trip airfare to Costa Rica

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:

- For cancellations received 60 to 45 days prior to arrival, 50% of the total amount.
- For cancellations received 44 to 30 days prior to arrival, 25 % of the total amount.
- If the participant cancels 29 days to 1 day prior to arrival, no refunds are available.



Secure your space on this trip by emailing Carlos Chacon at Eco1adventures@gmail.com and sending an initial commitment non-refundable check of \$500 made to Eco-Adventures LLC. Mail your committment check to:

Carlos Chacon | 21 Park Circle. | Bluffton SC 29910