



Tortuguero National Park

Costa Rica Eco Adventure

Departs: **March 16, 2013**
Duration: 8 Days
Twin Share: \$1,440
Single Room Supplement: \$470

INSIDER EXPERIENCES

• **Be My Guest** Join a Tico family for lunch and a special dance performance in Arenal. • **Hidden Treasure** Enjoy at least one surprise Hidden Treasure experience, unique to your itinerary, courtesy of your expert Travel Director. • **Local Specialty** Learn about banana production outside Tortuguero, visit a heart of palm plantation in Horquetas and sample cheese produced by the Quaker community in Monteverde.

SIGHTSEEING HIGHLIGHTS

• **Tortuguero National Park** Ride to Tortuguero National Park by river boat; visit Tortuguero Village and the Green Turtle Research Station; cruise the canals in search of wildlife. • **Sarapiquí** Explore this beautiful valley surrounded by rainforest; discover pre-Columbian heritage at Alma Ata Archaeological Park. • **Arenal** See the active Arenal Volcano; visit Tabacon Hot Springs for a relaxing soak. • **Monteverde Cloud Forest** Enjoy a two-night stay in the park; join a park naturalist for a guided walk; visit the Sky Walk to experience the chain of suspension bridges high above the Cloud Forest.

TRAVEL HIGHLIGHTS

- Airport transfers are provided as indicated in the itinerary
- First Class hotel accommodation, which includes twin-bedded rooms with private facilities
- All hotel service charges and tips, baggage handling fees and local taxes included
- Travel by luxury air-conditioned coach with reclining seats and a restroom onboard
- Services of one of Trafalgar's top professional Travel Directors
- A stylish wallet, travel documents, keepsake booklet and map

DINING

- Welcome Reception with your Tour Director in San Jose
- 7 full breakfasts
- 3 lunches
- 3 buffet dinners
- Be My Guest Lunch with wine in Arenal
- 2 Highlight Dinners with wine in Arenal and Monteverde Cloud Forest
- Farewell Dinner with wine in Monteverde Cloud Forest





DAY 1 ARRIVE SAN JOSE ✈️ 🍷

Welcome to San Jose! Your journey begins with a warm greeting at the airport from a local host and a complimentary transfer to your hotel. At 6 p.m., gather at the hotel with your Travel Director and traveling companions for a Welcome Reception.

Meal: Welcome Reception

Hotel: InterContinental Real Hotel and Club Tower Costa Rica

DAY 2 SAN JOSE – TORTUGUERO NATIONAL PARK (2 NIGHTS) 🌿

After breakfast, head toward the small town of San Isidro de Heredia, where you will be welcomed for a Be My Guest Lunch by master chocolatiers, for a taste of gourmet chocolate and an organic lunch. Learn about the history of chocolate and how it is produced at this small chocolate workshop. After lunch, continue to Caño Blanco for a river journey through the protected wetlands. Later, stroll the streets of Tortuguero Village and explore the fascinating Green Turtle Research Station. Taste the fresh juice of a coconut, a Local Specialty, after you find the most delicious “pipa” (a variety of coconut) to have cut open and sample.

Meals: Full Breakfast, Be My Guest Lunch and Dinner

Hotel: Laguna Lodge Tortuguero

DAY 3 TORTUGUERO NATIONAL PARK SIGHTSEEING & FREE TIME

Cruise the canals and streams of the park today as howler monkeys watch from the treetops, toucans and egrets fly through the air and crocodiles ply the cool waters. If you're here between July and September, take an optional excursion to see the sea turtles laying eggs on the beach.

Meals: Full Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

DAY 4 TORTUGUERO – SARAPIQUI 🌿

Bid adios to the park as you travel along the river before boarding your coach for a visit to the small village of Horquetas. On the way, visit a banana plantation to learn about the Local Specialty of banana production and snack on a just-ripe banana. After lunch at a local restaurant, continue to the small village of Horquetas, where you'll visit a local Tico family palm plantation to learn about and taste the delicate heart of palm, a Local Specialty. Travel on to tiny Sarapiquí and step off the beaten path in this rarely-visited area surrounded by dense rainforests full of wildlife. This afternoon, immerse yourself in the natural beauty of the area around your lodge—perhaps you'll spot the endangered great green macaw.

Meals: Full Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Hotel: Sarapiquis Rainforest Lodge



DAY 5 SARAPIQUI – ARENAL 🌿

Rise and shine for a small hike through the Alma ATA Archaeological Park. Transfer to La Fortuna de San Carlos, home of the colossal Arenal Volcano. Relax and enjoy some free time at the hotel. This evening, soak in the thermal pools and waterfalls at idyllic Tabacon Hot Springs. Enjoy a Highlight Dinner beside the hot springs in the shadow of the volcano.

Meals: Full Breakfast and Highlight Dinner

Hotel: Hotel Arenal Manoa

DAY 6 ARENAL – MONTEVERDE CLOUD FOREST (2 NIGHTS) 🌿

Straddling Costa Rica's Continental Divide, the Monteverde Cloud Forest is home to luxuriant vegetation, abundant wildlife, coffee plantations and spectacular views. You'll spend two nights in this most famous of Costa Rican reserves. Upon arrival, ascend to the treetops for a bird's-eye view of the forest on the unforgettable Sky Walk, a chain of six suspension bridges at canopy level. Begin exploring from the grounds of your mountain lodge before enjoying dinner at a local restaurant and meet a native Quaker man, and Local Expert, who will share historical photos and stories of the old town of Monteverde.

Meals: Full Breakfast and Dinner

Hotel: El Establo Mountain Hotel



DAY 7 MONTEVERDE CLOUD FOREST SIGHTSEEING & FREE TIME 🌿

Join your Local Guide for an excursion through the Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve, home to innumerable species of animals, birds, insects and plants. Also today, learn about Monteverde's Quaker community's role in dairy production when you visit a local cheese factory and sample one of the country's finest Local Specialty cheeses. Share your experiences with your fellow traveler at a festive Farewell Dinner.

Meals: Full Breakfast and Farewell Dinner

DAY 8 MONTEVERDE – DEPART LIBERIA ✈️

Transfer to Liberia Airport for your flight home. Please do not schedule any flights before 12:30 p.m.

Meal: Full Breakfast