



# Costa Rica

## RAINFOREST, VOLCANOES AND BEACH COMBO

9 Days/ 8 Nights Departs Daily

This itinerary combines two of Costa Rica's most famous natural resources, Tortuguero National Park and Arenal Volcano, with a visit to the popular Guanacaste beach area on the Pacific side of the country.

**Day 1:** After you collect your luggage and clear customs, you will be met outside the terminal by our local representative, who will be holding a sign with your name on it. Our representative will collect your vouchers and present you with an itinerary with scheduled times of pick-up. You will be transferred by van to your selected hotel in San Jose.



**Day 2:** Early departure (between 6-7am) by motorcoach from San Jose, passing through misty Braulio Carillo National Park. Depending upon visibility you may be able to see Barva and Cacho Negro Volcanoes, within the park. This wet forested area is filled with ferns, orchids, and bromeliads. From Braulio Carillo you will be dropping down into the tropical lowlands of the Caribbean side of the country. The scenery changes drastically as the road winds through banana plantations, and you notice a different style of local architecture. After a stop at



one of the local Tico restaurants for breakfast, continue to the Tortuguero Canal where you will board a boat for a 2-½ hour fascinating trip through the meandering waterway to your selected lodge. The Canal, which runs parallel to the ocean, is the water highway from the city of Limon to the northern coastal region. As you motor up the canal it is possible to see monkeys, tree sloths, and a variety of birds in the dense jungle. You will arrive at your lodge in time for lunch. In the afternoon, visit the Park Museum and hike the nearby nature trails. Tortuguero National Park is an important breeding ground for the green sea turtles. Their nesting season is from July to early October. End the afternoon with a visit to the small village of Tortuguero. Return to your lodge for dinner. (B/L/D)

**Day 3:** After breakfast, depending upon which lodge you are staying in, you will enjoy a morning hike (not Tortuguero Hill) with a naturalist guide (from the Mawamba and Manatus Lodges) or you will go on a boat ride to view wildlife (from the Pachira or Evergreen Lodges). After lunch, there will be an opportunity

for further exploration of the Tortuguero channels by boat. Before dinner, enjoy a dip in the pool. (B/L/D)



**Day 4:** After breakfast, (between 8:30 – 9am) board the boat for the return trip through the Canal. At the dock you will board a motorcoach that will take you to the town of Guapiles. After lunch at the Hotel Suerre, continue by van to Arenal. The scenic drive from Guapiles to Arenal takes approximately 3 hours. You will arrive at your selected Arenal hotel in the late afternoon (between 4:30 – 5pm), just in time to see Costa Rica's most famous active volcano before sunset. On a clear night, Arenal Volcano provides entertainment in the form of rumblings, lava flow and shooting sparks. (B/L)

**Day 5:** Day at leisure. You can arrange one of our optional tours - rafting, kayaking, a canopy tour, Cano Negro Wildlife Refuge, or a hiking tour. Overnight. (B)



**Day 6:** After breakfast, (between 8:30 -9am) transfer by van approximately 4 ½ hours to the beaches of Guanacaste Province. From Arenal you will travel from the highlands to the lowlands of the North Pacific, the driest region of the country. Here you will see cattle ranches. Continue to the coast to your selected Guanacaste beach resort. (B)



**7 and 8:** Day at leisure to relax by the one of pool or walk along the beach, or arrange one of our optional tours. Overnight. (B)

**Day 9:** Transfer to the Liberia Airport for your return flight. (Or board your return flight to San Jose to connect to an international flight, or to spend the night.) (B)