

## Costa Rica

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Please note that your final itinerary may vary slightly from this one as we continuously research and develop each trip, customizing your experience to match your interests and tastes. Inclement weather—though we'd like to think there won't be any—may also necessitate minor alterations. ©2015 Butterfield & Robinson Inc.

## Your Journey

Costa Rica is deservedly known as the Jewel of Central America and has been rightly lauded as one of the top destinations for family vacations. In this magical place, you encounter abundant tropical flora and fauna, and enjoy the beautiful landscape of tropical jungle, cloud-forest, volcanoes, lakes, waterfalls and Pacific and Caribbean beaches. Safe, accessible, diverse and a nature-lovers playground, the country cannot fail to charm you and your family.

## Day 1

### Journey to Costa Rica

#### Flight Information

TBC.

Arrive in San Jose this morning.

Welcome to Costa Rica! On arrival in San Jose you will be welcomed by your Butterfield & Robinson representative guide and driven (20 minutes approx.) to a local coffee plantation inn to freshen up, enjoy a lunch and privately guided walk around the beautiful grounds with a tasting of the local brew at Finca Rosa Blanca. Coffee is one of Costa Rica's most important exports and a visit to the small, exclusive plantation at Finca Rosa Blanca will provide you with a little insight about the country and the art of the coffee barista.

This afternoon, transfer 20 minutes approx. to the local airport in San Jose for a private charter flight leaving at 4.45pm to El Tanque airstrip in La Fortuna de San Carlos arriving at 5.15pm.

In El Tanque, you will be welcomed and transferred on the short drive to your hotel set in the foothills of the Arenal Volcano. The flawless silhouette of the volcano which has been quiet this year is renowned for its past rumblings and explosions of lava (currently dormant) and ash - and if you are fortunate, this is a sight not to be missed by any visitor as it rises 5,356 feet (1,633 meters) above sea level. Enjoy a casual dinner (included) this evening at your hotel.

**Rooms:** Deluxe Casita Room.

**Meals:** Lunch & Dinner.



#### **HOTEL** | *Nayara, Arenal Region*

(3 nights)

Nayara is a peaceful retreat to escape and unwind in barefoot bungalows immersed in tropical rainforest gardens that line the foothills of Arenal Volcano. Each spacious casita benefits from a private garden with outdoor shower, Jacuzzi and terrace to gaze out over the National Park. Facilities include a full-service Spa, Altamira Restaurant, Sushi Bar Nostalgia Wine Bar, outdoor pool and wi-fi.

## Day 2

### Hanging Bridges & Canopy Tour

Pickup time this morning: 8.15am. Today we recommend a gentle familiarization with the region with a visit to the nearby hanging bridges. Rise early to hike and experience the 2 miles of interpretive loop trails, crossing fifteen bridges, ranging from 16 to 330 feet long and suspended on the primary rainforest with the assistance of your personal guide. Arenal Hanging Bridges is an eco-project of trails and bridges where the main target is the observation and protection of nature in a private natural reserve of almost 250 hectares. Note the visit to the hanging bridges is recommended either early in the morning or late in the afternoon when the wildlife activity is increased and chances of viewings are significantly higher.



Later this morning, enjoy an exhilarating zip-lining canopy tour (booked for 11.30am). Experience the forest of this region from a completely different perspective, gliding from steel cables that take you where the majority of the birds and many animals spend most of their time: the treetops. Rappel your way to the bottom along the fast moving 3km canopy tour zip-lines which consist of numerous cables and 14 platforms. Starting from a tower 13 meters high, glide your way down 10 cables ranging from 80 meters to 750 meters in length, with an average height of 38 meters and don't miss out on the experience of the Tarzan Swing!



A picnic lunch is included today. The bulk of the afternoon will be at your leisure and this evening we include dinner at Restaurante Don Rufinos, a popular local restaurant in the town of La Fortuna (transfers are included to/from the restaurant which is around 25 minute drive away).

**Rooms:** Deluxe Casita Room.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Picnic Lunch & Dinner.

## Day 3

### River Rafting & Canyoneering

Pickup time: 7.00am. Set off early this morning on a private rappelling (canyoneering) and river rafting safari on the beautiful Rio Balsa. You'll get to rappel, down-climb amazing waterfalls and river trace along a pristine, rainforest canyon and then go rafting on the beautiful class 2-3 rapids of the Rio Balsa. This is the perfect blend of whitewater and wildlife, rolling rapids and vibrant jungle. At the end of the excursion, lunch will be served.

With class 2-3 rapids you'll be able to enjoy the stunning scenery and varied fauna under the expert supervision of your guides with a little exhilaration to spice things up. Look out for tropical birds such as Toucan and Kingfishers as well as monkeys and brightly coloured frogs.



We'll make sure that you are back at the lodge in time to enjoy the spa and some relaxation time. Entrance tickets are also included this evening (6-10pm) to the famous hot-springs of Tabacon which you may visit at your leisure (transfers also included to/from Tabacon). Dinner tonight is at your leisure.

**Rooms:** Deluxe Casita Room.

**Meals:** Breakfast & Lunch.

## Day 4

### Horse-back Riding to Rio Fortuna Waterfall & Journey to Punta Islita

Pickup time: 9.00am. This morning set out on a private horseback riding excursion to La Fortuna Waterfall. La Catarata (waterfall) Río Fortuna is located near Arenal Volcano National Park in an area with ample annual rainfalls and temperatures between 65 and 95F., producing an abundant vegetation and diversity. This beautiful waterfall has its sources in La Fortuna river and several of its affluent rivers. Begin riding in the town of La Fortuna and continue across the countryside, through cattle farms and cultivated land, for about 5.5km. Next, it is a short hike downhill to La Fortuna Waterfall, a 200-ft spectacular cascading rainforest water sight. Bring a swimsuit and you will be able to enjoy one of the most refreshing experiences in Arenal area - a swim in the fresh and cool, emerald pool beneath the falls. This tour lasts around four hours and a box lunch is included.



This afternoon, you will be transferred to the airstrip in Arenal for a 45 minute private charter flight to Islita, located in the remote region of the Nicoya Peninsula (flight departs El Tanque at 2.30pm, arrives in Islita at 3.15pm). On arrival you will be welcomed by a hotel representative and transferred (10 minutes) to Punta Islita for a five night stay.

**Rooms:** Villa with Private Pool.

**Meals:** Breakfast & Box Lunch.



#### **HOTEL | Punta Islita, Nicoya Peninsula, Guanacaste**

(5 nights)

Overlooking the Pacific from a forested ridge, this exquisite, secluded hotel is luxury incarnate. Hidden around the hillside are villas, casitas, suites, and spacious rooms, each with a private porch and a hammock. Beds have rough-hewn wooden bedposts, and bathrooms are tiled, with deep tubs. Casitas have their own private plunge pools or outdoor whirlpools and private gardens, one of the main attractions for the many honeymooners. A massive thatched dome covers the restaurant and opens onto an infinity-edge pool with a sea view and a swim-up bar. If you overdo with activities here -- which include golfing, zip-line canopy tours (shorter and lower to the ground than most canopy tours), and mountain biking -- stop by the spa for a massage treatments using local herbs.

## Day 5-8,

### Nicoya Peninsula & Beach

Spend the beach days enjoying the remote coastal setting at Islita. Visit Casa Spa for an energy-balancing massage or just relax in a hammock.

The following activities are included during your stay – all are located within the vicinity of Punta Islita:

#### **Day 5 - Surfing & Evening Nature Hike**

Private surfing lessons (about 2 hours). Heed the call of the waves and learn why Costa Rica is a top surfing destination! Experienced instructors will assist you and teach you the basics in nearby, non-crowded beaches that are perfect for all levels, including first-timers.

Evening Nature Hike. Head out on a privately guided hike through the coastal jungle trails and watch and listen for the nocturnal fauna as it emerges from within. A night walk provides a completely different experience to walking the trails during the day and you will find your senses take on a new approach to observation.

**Meals:** Breakfast.

#### **Day 6 - Surfing**

Enjoy a second private surfing lessons (about 2 hours) and put to practice yesterday's guidance as you head to the waves of Costa Rica's Northern Pacific Coast. This afternoon is at your leisure.

**Meals:** Breakfast.

#### **Day 7 – Sport Fishing, Islita Art Project & Monkey Quest Hike**

Sport fishing. Board a specially equipped yacht which has been kitted out to enjoy a day on the ocean and carries up to six people utilizing four fishing lines simultaneously. The fishing spot is varied and can be up to 1-1.5 hours away before pulling the lines and beginning to fish. There will be opportunities to catch blue marlin, white striped marlin, Dorado, yellow or black tuna, mackerel and wahoo. You may bring your catch to be cooked at the hotel but as this is sport fishing it is not permitted to bring any kind of marlin or sailfish. Today's fishing trip includes water, sodas, beers and a box lunch.

*Fishing Boat information: 33" Dawson, 2 Commin motors of 270 hp turbo diesel, 8 rods(Penn International and Shimmano), Lures and Rapalas, Bait hooks, Compass, GPS, radio communication.*

Alternatively, spend the morning learning about Islita's community art project and this afternoon head out on a Monkey Quest hike:

The Islita Art Museum and the community art associations vividly reflect the region's intense character and passion for color and form. This activity pairs you with local groups to create a signature piece and unique memento of your visit. Embroidered collages, hand-made pottery, rustic sand candles, handmade paper and jewelry are some of the projects that will delight your inner artist. There may also be the possibility to try your hand at pottery.

Lunch is at your leisure (not included) and this afternoon, set out on a Monkey Quest hike in search of the raucous howler monkey which is among the largest monkey species in the Americas. Its whooping growl can be heard over considerable distances, securing its status as the loudest land animal. The hike will last around 3 hours and cover around 3 miles (depending on pace and level of interest).

**Meals:** Breakfast & Lunch.

### **Day 8 – Mangrove Kayaking & BBQ Dinner**

Enjoy this morning a private Mangrove Kayaking excursion (around 3 hours). Islita's mangrove offers an exciting network of pristine coastline vegetation dotted with brilliant bird species and other wildlife. Paddle through pristine swathes of beautiful tropical jungle down the gentle Ora River, as your guide points out exotic plant and animal species.

A special BBQ dinner will be included tonight at the Beach Barrancho as you bid farewell to the gorgeous Pacific coast. This includes meats, grilled seafood, soft drinks and house wines.

**Meals:** Breakfast & Dinner.

## **Day 9**

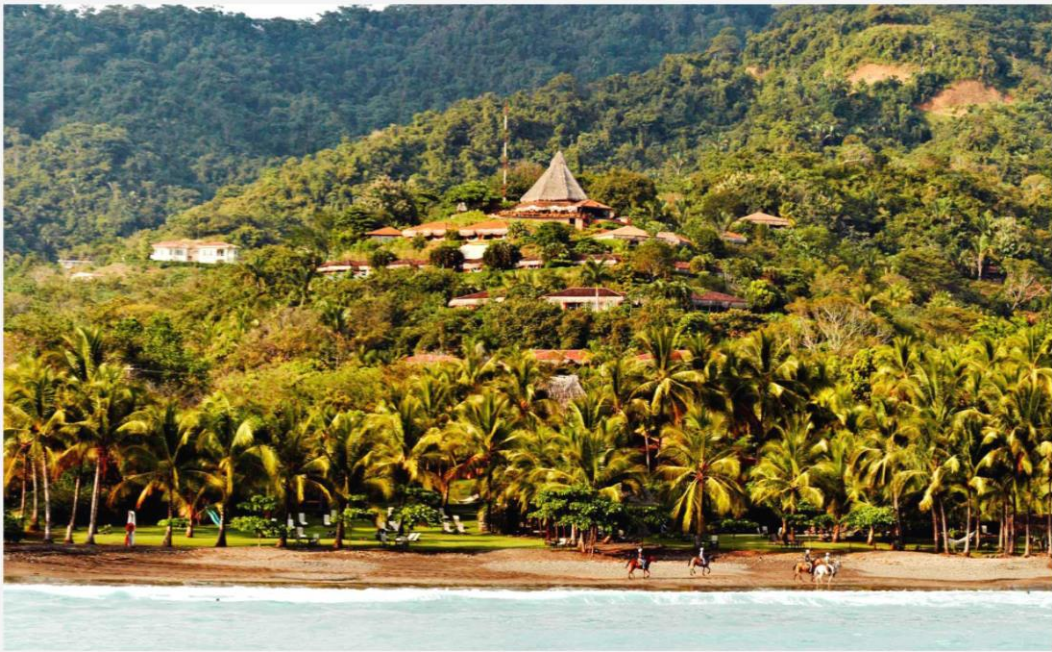
### **Farewell to Costa Rica**

Today you will be picked up from Punta Islita and transferred around 2.5 hours to the airport in Liberia in time for your departure flight home. Departure time from Punta Islita will be confirmed locally.

**Meals: Breakfast.**

### **Flight Information**

TBC.





## The Details

Start: San Jose, Costa Rica  
Finish: Liberia, Costa Rica

## LEVEL OF ACTIVITY

This trip is rated Easy to Moderate.

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- All hotel accommodation as described
- Meals as indicated
- Accompanying English speaking Costa Rican host-guide in Arenal
- Local English speaking Costa Rican specialist guides
- Local Costa Rican drivers
- Special events and private tours as indicated
- Specialist equipment for all excursions when required
- Arrival and departure airport transportation in a private air-conditioned vehicle
- Transportation with an English speaking guide is included for all excursions and also for any restaurants where meals are included.
- Private charter flight from San Jose to Arenal
- Private charter flight from Arenal to Islita
- B&R Amenity - \$150 USD wine credit at Nayara
- B&R Amenity - \$250 USD spa credit at Islita
- Entrances to parks and attractions in the itinerary
- Departure taxes from Costa Rica

### WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- International flights
- Beverages unless noted as included
- Meals unless noted as B/L/D
- Cancellation insurance
- Items of a personal nature
- Tips & Gratuities

## Next Steps

READY TO BOOK? Call or email us with any remaining questions and to arrange final payment (1-800-387-1147). Once you are booked, you will receive a confirmation package by email containing detailed information to help you prepare for your trip.