

Connecticut's Beardsley Zoo

January 15, 2016



58-25 Queens Blvd., Woodside, NY 11377

T: (718) 204-7077; (800) 627-1244

F: (718) 204-4726

E:reservations@classicescapes.com

CREDIT CARD PAYMENT AUTHORIZATION

Please Note: If you wish to charge your deposit to Visa, MasterCard, American Express or Discover, this authorization form MUST be completed and returned to us along with your reservation form before we can process your application.

I authorize (Classic Escapes Inc.) to charge my VISA/MASTERCARD/DISCOVER/AMEX listed below:

Name appearing on credit card _____

Card number _____ Expiration date _____

Card Verification Number* _____ Card Type _____

Billing address of credit card _____

Amount of transaction _____ Invoice # _____

Services rendered/Items purchased _____

Phone number _____

Signature _____ Date _____

***How To Locate Your Card Verification Number:**

(Visa, MasterCard, Discover: Locate the credit card number on the back of the card above the signature box. Enter the 3 digit number which follows the credit card number. **American Express:** Enter the 4 digit number found directly above and to the right of the credit card number.)

I understand that all rates quoted on this tour I'm making a payment on are based on tariffs and value of foreign currencies in relation to the U.S. dollar in effect as of March 11, 2015, and are subject to change Cancellations are only effective on receipt of written notification. The following per person fees are applicable on this tour:

- Up to 95 days prior to departure, \$250 per person handling fee.
- 94-75 days prior to departure, deposit is forfeited.
- 74-60 days prior to departure, less 50% of tour cost.
- Less than 60 days prior to departure, 100% of tour cost

These cancellation fees are also in addition to any imposed by airlines.

PLEASE NOTE: At times, our bank requires photocopy of credit card (both sides) and driver's license or document showing signature of cardholder, in order to process the charge. While it is not required at this time that you include these materials with your deposit, if our bank requests it, we will contact you for these copies.

RESERVATION FORM: (Please Print)**Connecticut's Beardsley Zoo Costa Rica****16SAZ0115/BEARDSLEY**

Enclosed is my deposit for \$ _____ (\$500 per person on main and \$250 for extension) to hold _____ place(s) on the Adventure to Costa Rica departing January 15, 2016. Cost is \$TBA per person, double occupancy, land only. Additional international air from New York is \$930 and from Hartford is \$1,290, including departure taxes & fuel surcharges. (As of March 11 2015 - subject to change).

Final payment due date is **October 12, 2015**.

Please make check payable to CLASSIC ESCAPES and mail to 58-25 Queens Blvd., Woodside, NY 11377

OR Charge deposit to: ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐ American Express ☐ Discover

Deposits can be made by credit card; however, all final payments are required to be made by check or money order only.

Please note that a copy of your passport will be required to complete your reservation, showing the page with your photograph. Passport must be valid for at least 6 months after the return of your trip.

1) NAME (As appears on passport): ☐ Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Ms. _____ Date of Birth (M/D/Y) ____/____/____

Passport No. _____ Green Card No. _____ Expiration Date _____ Nationality _____

2) NAME (As appears on passport): ☐ Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Ms. _____ Date of Birth (M/D/Y) ____/____/____

Passport No. _____ Green Card No. _____ Expiration Date _____ Nationality _____

NAME FOR NAME BADGE IF DIFFERENT FROM ABOVE: 1) _____ 2) _____

STREET ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONES: HOME: () _____ OFFICE: () _____ MOBILE: () _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____ FAX: () _____

- ☐ I certify that I have not recently been treated for, nor am I aware of any physical or other condition or liability that would create a hazard to myself or the other members of this tour.
- ☐ The two of us above are sharing a room and, where possible, would like a room with: ☐ ONE ☐ TWO Beds (Make one selection only)
- ☐ I am sharing with _____ (form sent separately)
- ☐ I need assistance in securing a roommate. I understand if Beardsley Zoo or the tour operator cannot locate one for me by final payment date, I agree to pay the additional single. I prefer to share with: ☐ Smoker ☐ Non-smoker
- ☐ I/We wish to participate in the optional extension(s) at an additional per person cost of:
☐ \$1,795 for Carara and Manuel Antonio National Parks post-extension
- ☐ I desire single accommodations, if available, and will pay the single supplement additional cost of:
☐ \$695 for the main trip ☐ \$695 for Carara & Manuel Antonio National Parks post-extension

- ☐ Please make my/our round trip air reservations on the group flights from ☐ New York or ☐ Hartford via American Airlines.
- ☐ Please make domestic round-trip air reservations for me from my home city: _____ to connect with the group flights and let me know the additional cost.

Please send me information on air upgrades for: ☐ Business/First Class (only one class - business/first - exists)

Airline Seating Preference ☐ Aisle ☐ Window Frequent Flier # _____

***We can request a seating preference on your behalf, however this is only a request and NOT guaranteed, as some seating assignments may be airport check-in only. Requests should be made in writing no later than 60 days prior to departure. Bulkhead and/or emergency row seats can only be requested at airport check-in on the day of departure. Also note that even if we do obtain your preferred seat, it is not guaranteed that the seat will be provided during check-in as there might be equipment changes that nullify our selection.*

- ☐ I/We will make own air arrangements and will provide you with an itinerary before trip departure.

All rates quoted are based on tariffs and value of foreign currencies in relation to the U.S. dollar in effect as of March 11, 2015, and are subject to change. Cancellation penalties are applicable as outlined on Conditions of Travel. **WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT YOU OBTAIN TRAVEL INSURANCE. RESERVATIONS ARE ACCEPTED SUBJECT TO TOUR CONDITIONS AND WILL BE CONFIRMED ONLY IF ACCOMPANIED BY COMPLETED FORM SIGNED BY THE TOUR PARTICIPANT(S).**

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

CLASSIC ESCAPES INC.
58-25 Queens Blvd.
Woodside, NY 11377

(We recommend that you keep a copy of your selections as noted above for your future reference)

HELP US GO GREEN

Download more graphics at www.psdgraphics.com

Dear Traveler,

In an effort to help protect our planet, Classic Escapes has begun the transition of becoming paperless. We need your help getting there!

Did you know?

Recycling one ton of paper saves 20 trees, 7,000 gallons of water, three cubic yards of landfill space, 60 pounds of air pollutants, and saves enough energy to power the average home for six months...

Please indicate in the chart below whether or not you prefer to receive paperless correspondence from us – all you need to do is put a check under the “green” symbol for yes or a check under the “NO” for no.

Simply fax to 718-204-4726 or email your responses to reservations@classicescapes.com!

You Will Receive The Following Items For Your Program:		NO
Welcome Letter		
Preliminary Materials – prelude packet and invoice		
Reminder Invoice with balance due		
Paid-in-Full Invoice		
Final Documents – species list, journal and final booklet		

Your Name: _____

Email Address: _____

Trip Tour Code: **16SAZ0115/BEARDSLEY**

Together we can make the world a better place!

Thank you for your support,

CLASSIC
Escapes

TERMS & CONDITIONS

RESPONSIBILITIES: Neither Classic Escapes (the Company) nor any person or agent acting for, through or on behalf of the Company shall be liable for any loss or damage whatsoever arising from any cause whatsoever and without restricting the generality of the foregoing shall particularly not be responsible for loss or damage arising from any errors or omissions contained in its brochure or other literature, loss or damage caused by delays, sickness, theft, injury or death. In addition the Company shall have the right at any time at its discretion to cancel any trip or the remainder thereof or make any alteration in route, accommodation, price or other details and, in the event of any trip being rendered impossible, illegal or inadvisable by weather, strike, war, government or interference or any other cause whatsoever, the extra expenses incurred as a result thereof shall be the responsibility of the passenger. The Company may at its discretion and without liability or cost to itself at any time cancel or terminate the guest's booking and in particular without limiting the generality of the foregoing it shall be entitled to do so in the event of the illness or the illegal or incompatible behavior of the guest, who shall in such circumstances not be entitled to any refund. The person making any booking will, by the making of such booking, warrant that he or she has authority to enter into a contract on behalf of the other person included in such a booking and in the event of the failure of any or all of the other persons so included to make payment, the person making the booking shall by his/her signature thereof assume personal liability for the total price of all bookings made by him/her.

PHOTOGRAPHY: The Company reserves the right without further notice to make use of any photograph or film taken on the tour by our photographers without payment or permission. We guarantee that no photographs of a compromising nature will be used.

CHANGES TO SCHEDULES: Although every effort is made to adhere to schedules it should be borne in mind that the Company reserves the right and in fact is obliged to occasionally change routes and hotels as dictated by changing conditions.

REFUNDS: While the Company uses its best endeavors to ensure that all anticipated accommodation is available as planned, there shall be no claim of any nature whatsoever against the Company for a refund either in the whole or part, if any accommodation or excursion is unavailable and a reasonable alternative is not found. If the guest is unable to use any service provided in the itinerary, then there are no refunds due.

AIRLINE CLAUSE: The airlines concerned are not to be held liable for any act, omission or event during the time the passengers are not on board their planes or conveyance. The passengers' tickets in use by the airline or by other carriers concerned when issued shall constitute the sole contract between the airlines and the purchaser of these tickets and/or passengers.

DELAYS: We cannot be held liable for any delays or additional costs incurred as a result of airlines not running to schedule. If one of our guides is unable to take a trip due to illness, etc. we reserve the right to substitute with another guide. This agreement is made subject to and shall be governed by and construed according to the laws of the country in which the trip takes place. Classic Escapes act merely as an agent for the operating companies. To the best of our knowledge the itinerary is correct at the time of printing. We cannot be held responsible for any inaccuracies or changes that may occur after printing.

CONSENT: The payment of the deposit OR any other partial payment for a reservation on a trip constitutes consent by all guests covered by that payment to all provisions of the conditions and general information contained in this brochure whether the guest has signed the booking form or not. The terms, under which you agree to take this trip, cannot be changed or amended except in writing signed by an authorized director of the Company.

INSURANCE: It is a condition of booking, that the sole responsibility lies with the guest to ensure that they carry the correct comprehensive travel and medical insurance to cover themselves, as well as any dependents/traveling companions for the duration of their trip. Classic Escapes, including their representatives, employees and agents will take no responsibility for any costs, losses incurred or suffered by the guest, or guest's dependents or traveling companions.

Please visit the website to obtain enrollment form - <http://www.travelguard.com/classicescapes/>. For any questions you may have on insurance, contact Travel Guard at 1-866-385-4839



DOCUMENTS

PASSPORT & VISAS: The onus is upon the guest to ensure that passports and visas are valid for the countries visited and for the applicable time period, as outlined by the U.S. Department of State (travel.state.gov) or by the passport holder's country. Classic Escapes, their staff and their agents cannot be held liable for any visas, etc. not held by the guests, nor for the cost of obtaining visas.

PRE-DEPARTURE INFORMATION: Upon receipt of your registration and deposit, we will send a pre-departure packet to you. This packet contains all the information you need to prepare for your tour, including the complete itinerary, packing checklist, required documents, etc.

FINAL DOCUMENTS: Final documents and tickets will be sent to you approximately two weeks prior to departure, provided all monies have been paid in full.

TRANSPORTATION

OPTIONAL AIR TRANSPORTATION: Roundtrip, economy-class flights via **AMERICAN AIRLINES** and/or other IATAN carriers are between NEW YORK OR HARTFORD, and the destination city noted in the itinerary. Rates are based on special promotional fares; cancellation fees apply once tickets are issued. Departures from other cities in the USA are possible at additional cost; inquire at the time of reservation. Please note that these promotional fares are subject to 10 passengers traveling together on the same airline routing and itinerary. If this minimum is not met, the special group rates are not applicable and it might become necessary to issue instant purchase tickets earlier than when final payment is due in order to take advantage of airfares that are similar to the group rates. Should this occur, you will be contacted with the details.

AIRLINE SEATING: For **AMERICAN AIRLINES**, we request seats together for the group. All planes are non-smoking. We can request a seating preference on your behalf, however requested seats cannot be guaranteed. Requests should be made in writing no later than 60 days prior to departure. Bulkhead and/or emergency row seats can only be requested at airport check-in on the day of departure. Boarding passes will only be issued at the airport on the day of departure. You may inquire about seat changes during check in, based on availability and is at the sole discretion of airport staff.

FREQUENT FLYER MILEAGE: As mentioned, we work primarily with **AMERICAN AIRLINE**. For a list of the airline's partners, visit <http://www.aa.com/i18n/AAAdvantage/earnMiles/travel/airlines/main.jsp>. Obtain frequent flyer mileage on any of these carriers. Present your frequent flyer card for all flight check-ins and keep the boarding passes until you receive a statement with the mileage credit.

TRANSFERS: Roundtrip airport transfers are included in the tour for guests arriving on group flights. If travelers make their own air arrangements, they will be subject to extra transfer fees.

TRIP DETAILS

ACCOMMODATIONS: You will marvel at the wonderful accommodations provided throughout your tour. All rooms have private bathroom facilities and air conditioning and/or fans. All rates are based on double occupancy. Most rooms are twin-bedded, but king-size beds are occasionally available and should be requested in advance. Accommodations listed in this itinerary are correct at time of writing, but on rare occasions may be substituted for a different property of comparable quality.

MEALS: All meals as specified in the itinerary. Please notify us if you have special dietary needs or requests, and we will do our best to accommodate.

INOCULATIONS: When it comes to vaccination and disease prevention, we suggest that travelers first review information provided by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (www.cdc.gov/travel) and then review those details with their personal physicians.

WATER: It is always advisable to drink bottled and/or filtered water when traveling overseas. Safe drinking water will be provided to travelers free of charge in the vehicles and during meals.

BAGGAGE: On average, international flights from the USA allow two pieces of checked luggage, each not exceeding 50 pounds; however we always recommend that you check your airline's policy just before departure, as luggage limitations are always subject to change. Despite this weight allowance, we always suggest guests travel light. Also soft-sided duffel bags are ideal for this tour, as they stow best in vehicles and airplanes with limited space.

CONDITIONS OF TRAVEL:

REGISTRATION

HOW TO BOOK: Fill out and sign the enclosed reservation form and send it, along with the relevant deposit as shown below, to: Classic escapes Inc. 58-25 Queens Blvd., Woodside NY, 11377. Upon receipt of your signed reservation form and deposit, we will, subject to availability, reserve your spot on the tour. You may consider your booking confirmed when you receive a confirmation notice and invoice from us.

PAYMENTS

DEPOSIT: A deposit of \$500 per person for the main trip and \$250 for the extension must be submitted at the time of booking. Deposits may be paid by check or charged to American Express, MasterCard, Visa or Discover.

FINAL PAYMENT: Final payment is due 95 days before departure – October 12, 2016, you will receive a final invoice. Final payment is payable by check or money order ONLY.

RATES: Rates are based on the minimum number of guests outlined in this document, plus airfare costs, currency exchange rates and other factors and are subject to change. Though it is rare for Classic Escapes to make a price adjustment after promotion of an itinerary, we do reserve the right to assess a surcharge if the minimum is not met, or if increases are forced upon us by airlines or other partners or because of changes in currency exchange rates.

NOT INCLUDED: Cost of passport and visa fees, and service charges for obtaining visa fees; excess baggage charges levied by airlines; laundry and other items of a personal nature; optional travel insurance policy; cost for anything not specifically included in listing above.

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: The quoted rate is valid for the first two single rooms booked and on a first-come, first-served basis. If more than two single rooms are needed, an additional supplement will apply. Single accommodations are not guaranteed, but will be provided at additional cost if available (see reservation form for cost.) The single room supplement pays for privacy, not better accommodations. For passengers who are traveling alone and wish to share a room with another tour member, we will do our best to provide a roommate. However, if this is not possible, you will be required to pay the single room supplement prior to your departure from the USA.

GRATUITIES AND TAXES: Gratuities for baggage handling, service charges and taxes imposed by hotels, and entrance fees to all points of interest as outlined in the itinerary are included. U.S. and foreign airport taxes are included in air costs. Tips to drivers and naturalist are NOT included.

CANCELLATIONS, DEVIATIONS & CHANGES

TRAVEL INSURANCE: We recommend travel insurance. Travel insurance can provide financial reimbursement should the unexpected occur.

CANCELLATION POLICY: Cancellations are only effective on receipt of written notification. The following per person fees are applicable on this tour:

- Up to 95 days prior to departure, \$250 handling fee.
- 94-75 days prior to departure, deposit is forfeited.
- 74-60 days prior to departure, less 50% of tour cost.
- Less than 60 days prior to departure, 100% of tour cost.

These cancellation fees are also in addition to any fees imposed by airlines.

CHANGE FEES: Once you reserve your tour, changes are possible subject to availability of air or land space at the time of request. Should there be any change fees imposed by airlines or ground operators, or additional costs incurred due to availability of any space, this cost will be invoiced to you.

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS: We would be happy to make additional travel plans for you, including specially arranged pre- or post-tour extensions different than those that may be offered in conjunction with this tour. A service charge of \$150 per person (over and above the cost of the services required) will be assessed.

YOUR JOURNEY AT A GLANCE

INCLUDING: SAN JOSE, AERIAL TRAM, TORTUGUERO NATIONAL PARK, ARENAL VOLCANO, MONTEVERDE CLOUD FOREST

SPONSORING ORGANIZATION: CONNECTICUT'S BEARDSLEY ZOO

ESCORTED BY: AN ESCORT FROM CONNECTICUT'S BEARDSLEY ZOO

DATES: JANUARY 15-23, 2016

<u>COSTS:</u> PER PERSON, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY	MAIN TOUR BASED ON 15 TRAVELERS	POST EXTENSION TO CARARA & MANUEL ANTONIO NATIONAL PARKS BASED ON 10 TRAVELERS
LAND ONLY	\$2,995 PER PERSON	\$1,795 PER PERSON
INTERNATIONAL AIR, ECONOMY, INCLUDING DEPARTURE TAXES FROM NEW YORK'S LGA OR JFK: FROM HARTFORD:	\$930 PER PERSON \$1,290 PER PERSON	N/A
SINGLE ROOM SUPPLEMENT*	\$695 PER PERSON, ADDITIONAL	\$695 PER PERSON

*SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: RATE IS VALID FOR FIRST TWO SINGLE ROOMS BOOKED. IF MORE THAN TWO SINGLE ROOMS, ADDITIONAL SUPPLEMENT WILL APPLY. SINGLES ARE ASSIGNED ON A FIRST COME/FIRST SERVE BASIS.

**ALL INTERNATIONAL AIRFARES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND BASED ON MINIMUM NUMBER OF TRAVELERS. TAXES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE UNTIL TICKETED.

DEPARTURE CITY: NEW YORK OR HARTFORD
(DEPARTURES FROM OTHER CITIES ARE POSSIBLE AT EXTRA COST)



INCLUSIONS

- All ground transfers in air-conditioned motorcoach.
- Superior accommodations throughout as indicated or similar.
- Naturalist guide will accompany the group with a minimum of 10 travelers.
- Zoo host will accompany the group with minimum 12 travelers on the main program and 10 on the extension.
- All meals as specified above.
- All park entry fees on main program and extension.
- All applicable hotel and lodge taxes and gratuities for baggage handling.
- Complimentary baggage tags and passport wallet.

EXCLUSIONS

- Roundtrip air transportation from New York or Hartford to San Jose, including fuel surcharges and airline taxes. (Quoted separately.)
- Costa Rica departure tax \$31 (currently).
- Passport. No visa is required in Costa Rica.
- Gratuities to driver, naturalist-guide and other conveyance attendants.
- Excess baggage charges levied by airlines.
- Meals and beverages, other than specified.
- Laundry and other items of a personal nature.
- Personal and baggage insurance.
- Cost for anything not specifically mentioned in the listing above.

Please Note That The Itinerary Sequence Is Correct At The Time Of Writing,
But Is Subject To Change.



BRING-A-BOOK FOUNDATION

Your tour may include a visit to a local school. We encourage you to bring colorful books and magazines, particularly if you can get them in Spanish, as well as school supplies such as pens, paper, crayons, soccer balls, etc., which you can present to the children during your visit. You'll find that children in the schools are eager to meet with visitors, practice their English, learn about your culture and proudly share their own. You are often welcomed with a local song or dance. After seeing schools first hand, meeting the dedicated teachers, often working under difficult conditions, and children hungry for knowledge, many travelers have wanted to help the schools they visited or continue to support a child's learning opportunities after they return to their homes. Bring-A-Book is an innovative effort adopted by Classic Escapes to expand education opportunities for school children. The Bring-A-Book Foundation is a registered Charitable Trust that was created as a way to facilitate travelers' wishes to help the schools and is used to get books into the hands of children as quickly and economically as possible. Information will be given to you with your final documents, but if you wish to help further, feel free to call Classic Escapes at 800-627-1244 for details.



CLASSIC ESCAPES CONSERVATION FUND

In keeping with our mission to provide exciting, educational, and fun-filled experiences that nurture and directly support the diverse wildlife and cultures we visit around the world, Classic Escapes has established the Classic Escapes Conservation Fund to ensure that a percentage of all profits go to support conservation and wildlife researchers performing their critical work in the field. Project support has included wild dog, elephant, rhino and cheetah conservation in Botswana, Kenya, Tanzania and Namibia, penguins in Punta San Juan Peru, tiger preservation in India, and sponsoring school children in Kenya, among many other projects around the world. By traveling with Classic Escapes, you are supporting travel as a tool for building the mutual respect, awareness and understanding that are vital to preserving this planet for future generations.

THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT COSTA RICA

Participants

- Participants must be able to climb in and out of buses and boats unassisted. You should also be able to tolerate nature walks at an easy pace on uneven terrain, sometimes uphill, for three or four hours at a time in heat and humidity.
- You should be in good physical health to enjoy this destination to its fullest.

In general, this trip requires:

- Flexibility and good humor – unexpected changes and/or glitches will occur.
- A spirit of adventure and curiosity.
- Interest in and willingness to appreciate a destination with a modest infrastructure and a range in availability of modern comforts. That being said, some locations are nestled in absolute luxury where pampering is the norm.

Air Schedules

Choosing the best possible air arrangements for our travelers is always a challenge. We work with many airlines that offer the best level of service, routings and value for our programs. While there may indeed be more direct routings available with another airline, the cost of these flights may not be within the budget that allows us to give you the best value possible. If you prefer to purchase your own international air, please feel free to choose the “land only” rate for this program. **The start and end city for this program is San Jose, Costa Rica.**

Upon registration, you must provide your full legal name as it appears on your passport. In the event an airline ticket is issued with incorrect information you have provided, you will be responsible for charges associated with reissuing the ticket.





Situated right in the heart of Costa Rica's most electrifying Pacific coastal region and close to the small sport fishing town of Quepos, hidden away in its own private world of lush jungle and gardens and only minutes away from the world-renowned Manuel Antonio National Park, El Parador offers a private and serene ambiance in a tropical paradise. All rooms have balconies and offer spectacular views of the Pacific Ocean, the rainforest and the gardens surrounding the hotel. Tastefully decorated, your room includes room service, cable TV, air-conditioning, minibar, coffee maker, telephone, safety deposit box, ceiling fans, and hair dryers
Overnights at the EL PARADOR HOTEL. (B Daily)

DAYS 12/13 ~ TUESDAY/WEDNESDAY ~ JANUARY 26/27

SARCHI/SAN JOSE

Return to San Jose, but first stop at Sarchi for some of Costa Rica's best shopping of local handicrafts. Upon arrival in San Jose, check into the BOUGAINVILLEA HOTEL where the remainder of your day is at leisure. Tonight, enjoy a farewell dinner at your hotel. The next day, transfer to the airport for your return flights home. (B,L,D; B)





Overnight at VILLA CALETAS. (B Daily) www.hotelvillacaletas.com

DAYS 10/11~ SUNDAY/MONDAY ~ JANUARY 24/25
MANUEL ANTONIO NATIONAL PARK



squirrels. Take your pick of any one of several short trails that meander through the park, passing scenic overlooks and white-sand beaches (the second beach is one of Costa Rica's safest swimming beaches, and is also a good place for snorkeling). The most popular trail is the small loop that takes you around Punta Cathedral and pays off with a wonderful view of the Pacific. El Perezoso takes you to Playa Blanca. El Puerto Escondido and El Mirador trails take you through the dense humid tropical forests to Playa Puerto Escondido. With its' stunning, picture-postcard backdrop, and miles of white sandy beaches it's easy to see why Manuel Antonio National Park is Costa Rica's most popular. Return to your hotel, where the remainder of your day is at leisure.

The Hotel design is influenced by the charm of French-colonial architecture and Victorian homes still found in San José. Your every comfort has been considered while you are surrounded by the authentic and nostalgic atmosphere of the hotel. Villa Caletas combines the truly unique concept of both mountain and seaside resort. Its location and design offer seaside breezes along with the fresh mountain air. Its exceptional hilltop location, more than 1,150 feet above the Pacific Ocean, combined with turn-of-the century style and gardens, gives Villa Caletas a unique position among the resorts, hotels, and restaurants of Costa Rica – a jewel above the crashing sea. The hotel's most remarkable asset is its Greek amphitheater; set into the mountainside you have spectacular panoramic views of the Nicoya Peninsula, gulf islands, the crescent beaches of Jacó, Herradura and Punta Leona as well as the mountains.

You will visit another Costa Rican national treasure today – Manuel Antonio National Park, just south of Quepos on the Pacific Coast, 132 kms from San José. The Park's two white sandy beaches, Espadilla Sur and Manuel Antonio, stand out as its main attractions. Just off shore are twelve islands, most of them without vegetation, but excellent seabird sanctuaries nonetheless. Punta Cathedral was an island at one time, an accumulation of the sediments joined to the land with a sandy belt named Tombo, a prized nesting site for the Brown booby. You may see dolphins here, and once in a while a pod of migratory whales. There are more than 100 mammal species and 180 species of birds, including the rare White Ibis. Squirrel monkeys (another endangered species) play in the trees above the trails in the Park. In addition, you may see two-toed sloths, raccoons, white-nosed coatis, howler and white-faced monkeys and



OPTIONAL POST-EXTENSION TO CENTRAL PACIFIC

DAYS 8/9 ~ FRIDAY/SATURDAY ~ JANUARY 22/23

CARARA BIOLOGICAL RESERVE / TARCOLES RIVER

Bid farewell to the rest of the group returning to San Jose and to the USA, and drive through the scenic countryside to yet another exciting destination. Continue to Villa Lapas which is located in the transition zone between the dry and moist forest of the Pacific lowlands. En route, you will stop at the Tarcoles River which is legendary for bearing one of the most important crocodile populations in Costa Rica. Some of these animals reach more than 12 feet long. In addition to the crocodiles, you can also watch the great diversity of birds of this area, including Roseate Spoonbills, Wood Storks, Pelicans, Frigatebirds, Scarlet Macaws and countless others.



Also explore the Carara Biological Reserve, a living laboratory for scientists and nature enthusiasts alike and among the areas of the greatest biodiversity in the country. Despite its relatively small size, Carara houses several ecosystems, such as marshland, a lagoon, and gallery, secondary and primary forests. The lush green vegetation of the reserve contrasts vividly with the dry, barren hills that surround it from which crystal-clear rivers flow. One of these is the Cara River, which gave the park its name. During the rainy season, the Tarcoles floods its banks, creating a large lagoon that quickly fills with water hyacinth and other floating plants. Crocodiles and caimans are easily spotted along with plenty of wading birds – Roseate Spoonbills, Anhingas, Jacanas, Pied-billed Grebes, and Bare-throated Tiger-Heron. In the forest refuge, visitors can appreciate the beauty of a rare mix of varied tropical vegetation. Coatimundis, peccaries, white-face capuchin, howler and spider monkeys, and the rare-two toed sloth can all be found here along with a great variety of plant life including fabulous heliconias. Carara is one of the few nesting areas

remaining for the Scarlet Macaw. Throughout the day, the macaws can always be heard and often seen in flight, particularly around dusk. There are two paths in the reserve, one starts at the main entrance and takes a short circular route; the other begins a mile or so away and passes the lagoon. As you hike along the trails in Carara, the birdsong and sounds of the jungle give it an air of adventure.

Your home for the next two nights, the Villa Caletas is overlooking a beautiful coastline, and the breathtaking views bring the country to life. From each side of the mountain, rainforests spread to the sandy, quiet beaches below. The dark, emerald green of this wild, native vegetation contrasts with the blues of the Pacific Ocean. Views of lush tropical rainforests complement some of the most breathtaking sunsets you will witness. At the bottom of the mountain, Villa Caletas offers its own private beach, but at the top, it offers an incredible pool. Mainly renowned for the flocks of colorful, Scarlet Macaws, the region is preferred among nature enthusiasts, and is the host of several biological reserves and wildlife refuges. And if you're interested in shopping and night life, the thriving, tourist town of Jacó lays a short drive to the south.



Spangled-cheeked Tanager, Orange-bellied Trogon, Emerald Toucanet (you usually hear them more than see them), and numerous other specialties. Among the 100 species of mammals are the Baird's tapir, jaguar and ocelot (all rarely seen), howler monkey, kinkajou, and prehensile-tailed porcupine.



For the adventurous at heart there is an optional (*extra cost*) exhilarating excursion available at the Sky Trek, a system of trails, suspension bridges, and zip lines that offers visitors the opportunity to observe and appreciate tropical vegetation from different vantage points. The system is integrated with a gorgeous Cloud Forest trail, 1 ½ miles long. Enjoy a different perspective of the Monteverde Cloud Forest that not many people have a chance to see—as most of the wildlife found in the Cloud Forest is living or feeding in the tree tops. Along with the 11 cables zipping through the canopy forest, two suspended bridges 160 feet off the ground, and some of the most beautiful trails in the Cloud Forest, take advantage of the Sky Trek's observation tower that is 70 feet off the ground, where on clear days you can see the Arenal Volcano. This view reveals lush green gardens of mosses, ferns, flowers, and epiphytes growing on every tree.

Hotel & Spa Poco a Poco is the result of years of hard work and foresighted decisions; a nonstop process of improvement in quality and services. During your stay, enjoy the beautiful, heated, covered swimming pool and Jacuzzi; wet bar, workout room, beautifully kept gardens and common outdoor areas. The hotel's Spa is one of the highlights, with very affordable prices and a more natural style in treatments and products. Kid's play house and pool section provide great entertainment for families traveling to Monteverde. Otocuma restaurant has the best fusion of native and foreign cuisine: it is one of the best options in Monteverde.

Overnights at the HOTEL & SPA POCO A POCO. (B Daily)

<http://www.hotelpocoapoco.com/>



DAY 8 ~ FRIDAY ~ JANUARY 22

SARCHI/SAN JOSE

This morning after breakfast, drive back to San Jose. En route, stop at Sarchi, for some of Costa Rica's best shopping of local handicrafts. Upon arrival in San Jose, you will check in at the Bougainvillea where the remainder of the day is at leisure. Tonight, enjoy a farewell dinner at your hotel.

Overnight at HOTEL BOUGAINVILLEA. (B,L,D)

DAY 9 ~ SATURDAY ~ JANUARY 23

SAN JOSE/NEW YORK OR HARTFORD

Time to return to the USA, as you will be transferred this morning to the airport for your return flight home. Sadly it is now time to say "adios" to hospitable Costa Rica. (B)



beauty. At the Arenal Observatory Lodge, you can enjoy the sound and fury of Arenal Volcano's constant eruptions from the comfort of your room, or from one of the many perfect volcano viewing sites around the lodge. Accommodation is in thirty spacious rooms. The Smithsonian rooms, where you will be staying, are housed in a modern building located about 120 yards from the main lodge, reached via a 134-foot suspension bridge through a small patch of rain forest. These rooms contain huge walls of glass that provide premier views of the volcano from the comfort of your bed, or from the two sitting chairs strategically placed for your enjoyment. The rooms have varnished wood floors, private bathrooms, and one queen- and one full-sized bed. The Smithsonian also features a viewing deck, a conference room and its own volcano museum, with an active seismograph constantly monitoring the volcanic and seismic activity just outside your door.



Everywhere one feels the volcano's commanding presence. The gardens and landscaping are extravagant with color. Natural flowering plants and shrubs were carefully chosen to attract wildlife. Jewel-toned hummingbirds dart from heliconia to oleander and brilliant butterflies adorn the blooms. Other attractions include a waterfall, just a short hike away, which cascades into the cool forest depths. A well maintained path leads guests to this magical spot. The mysterious emerald lagoon at Cerro Chato Volcano fills the now extinct crater. A challenging hike from the lodge takes guests through primary forest to a waiting canoe for a dreamy paddle on the lake's mirror surface. Birders will be particularly gratified during their visit. The diverse habitats surrounding the lodge shelter nearly 370 species. Guests can see birds everywhere.

Overnights at the ARENAL OBSERVATORY LODGE. (B,L;B,D) www.arenalobservatorylodge.com



DAYS 6/7 ~ WEDNESDAY/THURSDAY ~ JANUARY 20/21 **MONTEVERDE CLOUD FOREST**

Continue to Monteverde, one of the most beautiful cloud forests in the world. This afternoon, prepare yourself for a very unique experience, the Selvatura Treetop Walk on hanging bridges. You will be surprised to find yourself – like the birds – admiring Mother Nature from the top of the trees. This is because from the beginning of your walk you will be ascending – step-by-step – until you find yourself as high up as the vegetation that will surround you (from 150 to 510 feet). Here, a series of eight bridges await you in order to safely walk without any worries. The almost 2-mile walk is an unforgettable experience with the excitement of looking to one side and seeing the tops of the trees and at the same time feeling the sensation of walking among the clouds.

Your day is spent exploring the Monteverde community and the private Cloud Forest Reserve with your naturalist-guide. Monteverde is a rich and complex cloud forest reserve which protects six different ecological communities, making it a paradise for nature enthusiasts and a renowned field site for biological research. Note that a "cloud forest" differs from a "rain forest". In particular, a cloud forest will generally receive less rain on an annual basis than will a rain forest. However, a cloud forest generally has more humidity and (because of its higher altitudes) more cloudiness than a rain forest. The reserve encompasses about 10,000 acres, with many interesting trails to wander through the thick tropical vegetation. You'll recognize many familiar house plants growing freely in the wild, including schefflera, bromeliads, and ferns, as well as some more exotic species. Although it's difficult to spot them, more than 320 species of birds are resident, including the seasonal Resplendent Quetzal, considered by many to be the most beautiful bird in the Americas, as well as the Three-wattled Bellbird, Black Guan, Umbrellabird,



The Evergreen Lodge is ideally situated within Tortuguero National Park, the perfect place from which to explore this unique and magical area. One of the canals runs right in front of the lodge and all around you the towering trees and vegetation that adorn the surroundings combine to create a truly beautiful setting. Evergreen offers lodging in 16 lovely bungalows all equipped with en-suite facilities. Because of their design you can virtually do all of your birding without having to leave the comfort of your bed. The bungalow is almost completely surrounded by windows enabling you to be one with the surrounding jungle and wildlife.

Overnights at the EVERGREEN JUNGLE LODGE. (B, L, D daily)

DAYS 4/5 ~ MONDAY/TUESDAY ~ JANUARY 18/19

ARENAL VOLCANO



Hot springs make this scene a must.

Your second day will include an exploration of the Arenal National Park in the morning. Your afternoon is at leisure to enjoy the fabulous facilities of your hotel. Tonight, visit the Tabacon Hot Springs for a swim in the thermal pools and dinner. You will be transported to a higher level of energy, which makes Tabacon a one-of-a-kind place. From the heart of the volcano spring fountains of thermo mineral water which form the Tabacon River, running at a soothing 102°F, forming cascades, waterfalls, and natural pools through exotic tropical gardens.



The resort features mineral water pools, indoor Jacuzzi, therapeutic massages and mud treatments (at an extra cost), restaurant with international and Costa Rican cuisine, tropical bars, souvenir shop, lockers, changing rooms, and showers. You may want to indulge yourself with a massage, a swim in the hot springs, or any other of the facilities offered before your included dinner here.



The Arenal Observatory Lodge is located just over one mile from the active crater of Arenal Volcano, and is separated from it by a deep river valley. The location was specifically chosen by scientists from the Smithsonian Institute who needed a close but safe vantage point from which to study the volcano. Rich volcanic soil supports primary and secondary rainforest while waterfalls and crystalline rivers offer sparkling jungle refreshment. A well-marked and manicured trail system traverses the property and provides easy access to the breathtaking natural



Resume your drive through banana plantations to a jetty where you board your speedboat for your ride to Tortuguero, which consists of a vast alluvial floodplain. Tortuguero's tropical moist to wet forest is accessible only by small plane or boat, along the famous Tortuguero Canals. This system of rivers and man-made channels parallels the coast and cuts through beautiful primary forest. One of the wettest regions in the country, it is also one of the areas with the greatest biological diversity. There are 11 distinct habitats, ranging from littoral woodland and berm, to very moist high forest and swamp forest where the predominant species can grow up to 130 feet tall such as wild tamarind. The water hyacinths are so thick in places that boats cannot get through. The wildlife is rich and varied with unusually large populations of monkeys, anurans (60 species), birds (309 species) and fish. Some of the resident mammals are the elusive tapir which feeds mainly on plants

and seeds, jaguar (rarely seen), ocelot, kinkajou, collared and white-lipped peccary, Neotropical river otter, tayra, olingo, three-toed sloth, spider monkey and howler monkey. A fascinating mammal that lives in the swamps is the fishing bulldog bat which is one of the largest bats in the country. Three unusual anurans live in this wilderness – the smoky frog which abounds on the banks of streams, the glass frog which has such transparent skin that its internal organs can be seen and the poison dart frog which is dangerous to the touch. Resident avian species include the Green Macaw which prefers to move about in the upper canopy of the rain forests and mainly feeds on seeds of the wild almond tree, Great Curassow,

Keel-billed Toucan, Turkey Vulture, White-necked Jacobin, Violaceous Trogon, Great Tinamou which is a very terrestrial bird that feeds on seeds, berries and small insects caught in its flight path, Neotropical Cormorant, Anhinga, and Montezuma Oropendula. The channels and marshes are home to seven species of land turtles which can be seen sunning themselves on logs in the middle of the water or on islands of floating vegetation. Here, too, you can find the West Indian manatee – one of the most endangered Caribbean species – crocodiles, caimans, and green iguanas. There's also a great variety of crustaceans and about 30 species of freshwater fish, including the gar – considered to be a living fossil and amazing when spawning, eel, bull shark, Caribbean snook, tarpon, red snapper and mackerel.



Renowned naturalist Archie Carr and author of the 1956 book *The Windward Road* did much of his work on sea turtles at Tortuguero and was instrumental in establishing the Caribbean Conservation Corporation (CCC) – his "Casa Verde" research station is still here. In fact, Tortuguero gets its name from the Spanish word for turtle and is the most important nesting site in the entire western half of the Caribbean for the green turtle – which gathers in large numbers to nest between July and October. Other species of sea turtles that also nest on the wide beaches of the park and refuge are the leatherback and hawksbill. The green turtle population is believed to have come perilously close to extinction in the 1960s when nearly every female turtle arriving to nest in Tortuguero was taken for the export market for turtle soup. CCC was established in 1959 specifically to study and protect Caribbean green turtles. Working closely with the Costa Rican government, CCC helped establish Tortuguero National Park in 1970, a move that offered protection to the turtles and strictly limited the number of turtles that could be taken.



YOUR ITINERARY

DAY 1 ~ FRIDAY ~ JANUARY 15

NEW YORK OR HARTFORD/SAN JOSE

Your journey begins as you board your aircraft in New York or Hartford, en route to San Jose. Upon arrival, you will be escorted to your accommodation, the Bougainvillea, where your evening is at leisure. Set among ten acres of lush gardens, the unique and comfortable Hotel Bougainvillea, located at the outskirts of a pleasant residential area in San Jose, provides a quiet hideaway where guests can truly experience the world famous natural beauty of Costa Rica. The grounds of the hotel are spectacular – being surrounded by coffee plantations, citrus orchards and lush gardens provides an enticing setting for walking through the winding trails, tennis, or relaxing by the swimming pool. Each of the 83 rooms has twin double beds, tub or shower, and a separate seating area. The furniture is made of Costa Rican hardwoods and rooms have cable television. In addition, each room has a balcony offering marvelous views of the mountains on one side and the San José skyline on the other. Overnight at HOTEL BOUGAINVILLEA. (Meals Aloft) www.hb.co.cr/



DAYS 2/3 ~ SATURDAY/SUNDAY ~ JANUARY 16/17

BRAULIO CARRILLO NATIONAL PARK/ TORTUGUERO NATIONAL PARK

This morning, board your vehicle for a drive to the Rainforest Aerial Tram and begin your trip into the treetops to experience nature and view the forest from a bird's-eye perspective. The tram is situated in a 1,000-acre private reserve of virgin tropical forest that borders the Braulio Carrillo National Park. Your tour starts with a 15-minute video, followed by a 90-minute tram ride. You access the canopy as you glide along the 1.6 mile circuit in six-passenger gondolas. Your incredible views are enhanced by the quiet, allowing you to listen to the various sounds of the rainforest. The canopy is home to an enormous amount of flora and fauna and in their eagerness to search for light and space many plants have colonized the tree tops turning them into "small ecosystems" – these plants are known as epiphytes. Orchids, bromeliads, different types of moss, ferns, lianas and the bejucos are just some of the species which make up the canopy. The fauna is also very abundant, however it is much harder to observe. Ever present are many types of butterflies and some 350 species of birds have been reported here, such as the Solitary Eagle, Ornate Hawk-eagle, Rufous-vented Ground-cuckoo, Common Potoo, Lanceolated Monklet, Yellow-eared Toucanet, Bare-necked Umbrellabird, and Rufous-winged Tanager. Reptiles like snakes and lizards as well as amphibian species such as "tree frogs" can also be found, as well as mammals – three monkey species, two types of sloths, two kinds of anteater bears and a great number of bat species. From the Aerial Tram you can also appreciate all the different shades of green as well as the various sizes and shapes that the leaves have created as a strategy to capture sunlight.





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