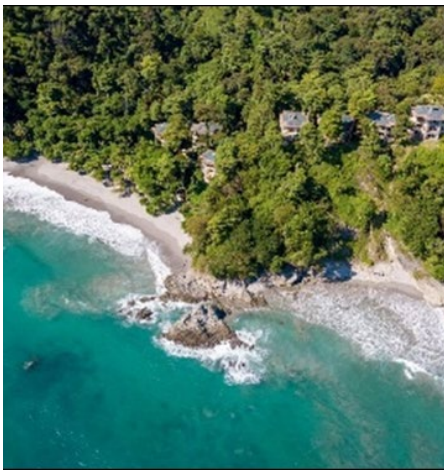
COSTA RICA / 12 DAYS, 11 NIGHTS

A journey through nature

Rainforest waterways. Volcano trails. Cloud forests. A Pacific coast finale.







Travel through some of Costa Rica’s most remarkable landscapes, from the jungle canals of Tortuguero to the volcanic scenery of Arenal and the misty forests of Monteverde. Along the way, discover extraordinary wildlife, meet local guides and stay in characterful places surrounded by nature, before slowing down beside the Pacific Ocean.

YOUR JOURNEY AT A GLANCE

Day 1	San José	Hotel Grano de Oro · 1 night
Days 2–3	Tortuguero	Mawamba Lodge · 2 nights
Days 4–6	Arenal	Chachagua Rainforest Eco Lodge · 3 nights
Days 7–8	Monteverde	Monteverde Lodge & Gardens · 2 nights
Days 9–11	Manuel Antonio	Arenas del Mar · 3 nights
Day 12	Departure	Road transfer to San José

A little inspiration for your own journey. Every itinerary is personally designed around your interests, pace and choice of places to stay.

DAY 1 / DAYS 2–3

Into the rainforest

San José · Tortuguero

A gentle beginning in San José

Settle into Hotel Grano de Oro for a restful first night. This boutique hotel combines historic character with tropical courtyards and welcoming interiors, providing a comfortable introduction to Costa Rica before the journey into the rainforest begins.

SUGGESTED STAY / 1 NIGHT

Hotel Grano de Oro · Standard Double · Breakfast







The waterways of Tortuguero

Travel by road and boat through tropical landscapes to a world of rainforest canals, lagoons and wildlife. With no road into Tortuguero village, the boat journey is part of the adventure. Explore with local guides, looking out for monkeys, sloths, caimans and tropical birds along the waterways.

SUGGESTED STAY / 2 NIGHTS

Mawamba Lodge · Superior Room · Superior package

Between the Caribbean Sea and Tortuguero’s canals, Mawamba Lodge is immersed in tropical gardens. The suggested Superior Room has a king-size bed, canal views and a private terrace with a hammock.

Experiences include a guided national park boat tour, a visit to Tortuguero town and a nature walk. The suggested package includes shared minibus and boat transfers, three breakfasts, three lunches and two dinners. Private transfers can be explored when planning your journey.

DAYS 4–6 / ARENAL

Your rainforest hideaway

Volcano scenery, wildlife and time to unwind







Stay among the treetops

Continue to Arenal, where rainforest, waterfalls and volcanic landscapes create a wonderful setting for both adventure and relaxation. Chachagua Rainforest Eco Lodge sits within a private rainforest reserve, with space to slow down between guided experiences.

SUGGESTED STAY / 3 NIGHTS

Chachagua Rainforest Eco Lodge · Jungle Tree House · Breakfast

The Jungle Tree House is an adults-only retreat set high in the forest canopy, with panoramic jungle views, a spacious terrace, private outdoor Jacuzzi and outdoor rain shower. Watch for monkeys and tropical birds amongst the trees and enjoy the privacy of this distinctive place to stay.

Make time for the rainforest

Spend quiet moments on your terrace, enjoy the lodge and choose how much adventure to weave into your stay. The lodge also offers additional experiences that can be arranged to suit your interests.

The stays shown are suggestions. We can choose a different room or property to suit the people travelling and the kind of journey you have in mind.

DAYS 4–6 / ARENAL EXPERIENCES

A little adventure

Volcano trails, thermal pools, coffee and the forest canopy

Walk beneath Arenal Volcano

Explore El Silencio Reserve with a bilingual guide, following trails and ancient lava flows at the base of Arenal Volcano. Learn about its history, look out for wildlife and take in views across the volcanic landscape.

Allow around 3 hours. Suggested arrangements include transport, guiding, entrance fees and light snacks.

Unwind at Eco Termales

Relax in natural thermal pools surrounded by tropical rainforest. Limited visitor numbers help create a peaceful setting in which to unwind after exploring.

Suggested arrangements include transport, thermal spring entry and dinner.

Coffee, chocolate and local stories

Visit Don Juan for an introduction to two of Costa Rica’s best-known crops. Follow coffee from seed to cup, discover how cacao becomes chocolate and enjoy tastings along the way.

Allow around 2½ hours. The experience includes a bilingual guide, entrance fees, tastings and refreshments.

Above the canopy

Continue to Sky Adventures for an aerial tram and zipline experience. Glide above the forest in an open-air gondola before taking on a zipline circuit across the treetops, with views of rainforest and mountain scenery.

Allow around 3–3½ hours. Guiding, entrance fees and safety equipment form part of the suggested experience.

A day that flows: combine Don Juan in the morning with Sky Adventures in the afternoon. Your driver stays with you, with a stop for lunch between experiences and no need to return to the lodge.

DAYS 7–8 / MONTEVERDE

Into the cloud forest

Cool mountain air, ancient trees and remarkable birdlife







Across the lake, into the highlands

Leave Arenal for the mist-covered mountains of Monteverde. A private crossing of Lake Arenal brings lovely views across the water before the journey continues into the highlands, where mosses, orchids and ancient trees create an entirely different landscape.

SUGGESTED STAY / 2 NIGHTS

Monteverde Lodge & Gardens · Motmot Balcony Room · Breakfast

Set amongst gardens and native forest vegetation, the lodge offers a peaceful base for exploring. Your suggested room has a king-size bed and a private balcony overlooking lush greenery, with opportunities to watch birdlife and listen to the forest at dawn and dusk.

Explore with a naturalist

Take a guided walk through Monteverde Cloud Forest Biological Reserve, discovering the plants and animals that thrive in this unusual environment. Look for butterflies, orchids and bromeliads, and keep an eye out for the resplendent quetzal.

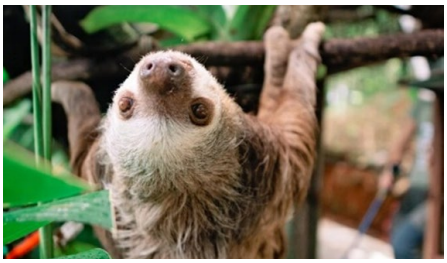
Allow around 4 hours. The suggested shared excursion includes transport, entrance fees and a bilingual naturalist guide. Leave the rest of your time free to enjoy the lodge and its surroundings.

DAYS 9–12 / MANUEL ANTONIO

Where forest meets sea

A few days on the Pacific coast to round off your journey





Arrive on the Pacific coast, where rainforest meets golden beaches and wildlife lives close to the shore. This is time to slow the pace, enjoy the setting and make the most of a few days beside the ocean.

SUGGESTED STAY / 3 NIGHTS

Arenas del Mar Beachfront & Rainforest Resort
Ocean Breeze Superior · Breakfast

Stay between beach and rainforest, close to Manuel Antonio National Park. Your suggested room offers ocean and rainforest views and a private balcony with outdoor seating. Look out for monkeys, sloths and tropical birds around the property.

Kayak the coast, snorkel and explore

Head to Quepos for an ocean kayaking adventure, paddling past small offshore islands and watching for seabirds. Pause at Biesanz Bay for a snack, time on the beach and snorkelling when conditions allow, before returning for a freshly prepared meal.

Allow around 4 hours, including approximately 2½ hours of paddling. Suggested arrangements include return transport, kayaking and snorkelling equipment, refreshments and a meal.

The journey home

On Day 12, leave Manuel Antonio by road for San José.

MAKE THIS JOURNEY YOURS
This is a sample itinerary to inspire your travels. We can adapt the route, duration, accommodation and experiences around you. Contact Suzie on 01444 712808 or 07721 074406 to start planning.