

# ITINERARY DESCRIPTION 9 days / 8 nights

Costa Rica's Pacific journey begins with a scenic drive to the mangrove forests of Guacalillo, where you can see one of the largest crocodile colonies in the world. Then relax on a boat ride and observe the Macao scarlet macaw parrot.

From the mangroves you drive directly to Manuel Antonio National Park, which is well known for its beautiful beaches, hiking trails and wonderful climate.

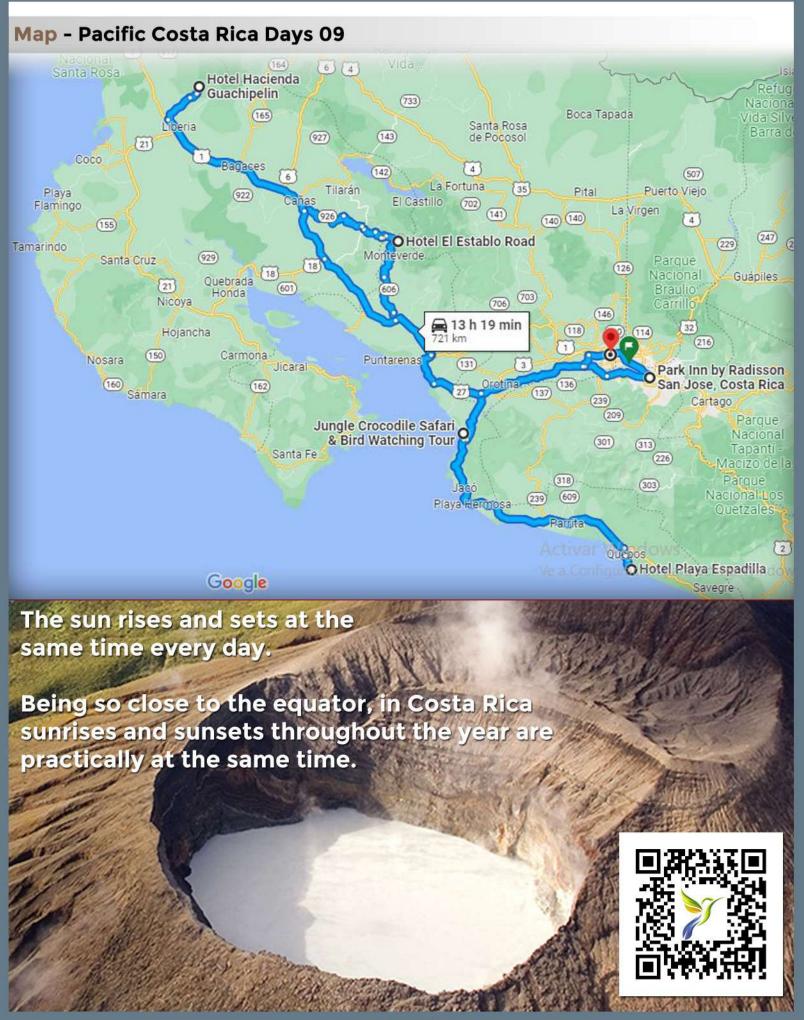
Your journey then continues to the cloud-covered mountains of Monteverde. Here you can enjoy the fresh mountain air, recharge your batteries. You will also feel the closeness to nature when you walk across bridges in the moss-covered treetops.

Then you cross some mountain ranges and coastal plains and head north to Rincon de la Vieja, an active volcano hidden behind truly enchanting forests. There you can take a horseback ride through the fumaroles and hot springs while enjoying fantastic views of the Pacific Ocean.

All ground transfers are private in air-conditioned minibus.



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Day 01 - Arrival in San José

Today you will arrive at Juan Santamaria International Airport, located 20 km from the city of San Jose. After customs, immigration and baggage claim, one of our representatives will meet you outside the arrivals terminal building and transfer you to your hotel, where you will proceed to check-in.

You will spend 1 night in San Jose at the Park Inn San Jose Hotel (or equivalent) with breakfast in a standard room. Travel time approx. 30 minutes.



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#### DAY 2 - SAN JOSE TO QUEPOS - MANUEL ANTONIO

The trip begins with a drive to the Central Pacific to the Guacalillo mangroves. Upon arrival, you will be spoiled with tropical fruits and typical Costa Rican drinks. On the boat ride together with the other guests you will wander through the extensive mangrove forest, where you can observe many animals such as caimans, raccoons, iguanas and the colorful scarlet macaw. Then you will enjoy a typical lunch in our unique open restaurant. Then, the trip continues past Jacó to Quepos. In the afternoon you will have free time to do something on your own and observe the plants, birds, butterflies and monkeys.

- Entrance fees/activities included: Jungle River & Crocodile Adventure Tour.
- Meals included: Lunch.
- Overnight: Hotel Playa Espadilla- Standard room (or equivalent) - Manuel Antonio, 2 nights.



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#### DAY 3 - MANUEL ANTONIO NATIONAL PARK AND BEACHES

You will visit Manuel Antonio National Park. Although Manuel Antonio is one of the smaller parks in Costa Rica, it is one of the most popular destinations for both tourists and locals. The park protects 1,624 hectares of tropical rainforest and beautiful neighboring beaches. On the trails inside the park you will be able to observe birds and other animals. Chances are you will encounter a squirrel monkey here and there, which is critically endangered. This elusive species of monkey is found in only two places in the world, one in Manuel Antonio and the other a little further south of Costa Rica territory in Corcovado National Park. After the jungle hike, you still have free time to really enjoy the beautiful beaches inside the park!

- Entrance fees/activities included: Entrance fee to Manuel Antonio National Park.
- Meals included today: Breakfast and dinner.
- Overnight: Hotel Playa Espadilla Standard room (or equivalent) - Manuel Antonio, 2 nights.

### **DAY 4 - QUEPOS - MONTEVERDE**

After breakfast, the trip continues north, through Jacó. In the small town of Sardinal you turn off the Panamerican Highway and after about 35 kilometers of somewhat hilly road you reach the enchanting cloud forest area of Monteverde. The village of Santa Elena is located at 4593 feet above sea level. There you can relax in the fresh mountain air. In the evening you have the option to participate in a night tour with a local guide. Snakes, tarantulas, the client will be able to enjoy the wildlife. The climate in the Monteverde area is generally warm to cool.

- Entrance fees/activities included: None.
- Meals included today: Breakfast.
- Overnight: Cloud Forest Lodge Standard room (or equivalent) - Monteverde, 2 nights.



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#### **DAY 5 - MONTEVERDE**

Early in the morning, take a walk through a nature reserve, whose evergreen mountain forest, shrouded in mist, is magical. The trees are covered with moss, ferns and orchids and represent the natural habitat of more than 250 species of birds, many of which you are sure to spot. If you are very lucky, you may even see a quetzal, a shy and colorful bird considered sacred by the Mayans and other indigenous peoples. After that, another attraction is on the schedule: you will walk through the treetops of the cloud forest over suspension bridges and get to know the jungle from a completely different perspective. Your experienced tour guide will tell you all about the interesting ecosystems that make life possible and worth living here. All bridges are easy to walk.

- Entrance fees/activities included: Entrance to the nature reserve, tour of the hanging bridge.
- Meals included today: Breakfast.
- Overnight: Cloud Forest Lodge Standard room (or equivalent) - Monteverde, 2 nights.



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## DAY 6 - MONTEVERDE - RINCON DE LA VIEJA - HACIENDA GUACHIPELIN

After breakfast, you have the morning free, then we will head to the northern part of the country Guanacaste. The trip passes through the city of Liberia to the area of the active volcano Rincon de la Vieja. The last kilometers are again a bit steep.

- Meals included today: Breakfast.
- Includes use of Rio Negro Hot Springs and Mud Baths.
- Overnight: Hacienda Guachipelin Lodge Standard room (or equivalent) - Rincon de la Vieja, 2 nights.



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#### DAY 7- RINCON DE LA VIEJA - HACIENDA GUACHIPELIN

The slopes of this huge volcano are hidden behind beautiful dry forests that are part of the Rincon de la Vieja National Park. On Thursdays you hike in the Las Pailas sector, on Mondays in the Santa Maria sector. In both sectors you have the opportunity to meet different animals and birds; and the activity of the volcano will also be shown to you during the hike. The afternoon is then completely free for you to enjoy as you like. There is also the opportunity to take a horseback ride through the vast fields of the volcanic slopes while enjoying the fantastic view of the Nicoya Peninsula or you can opt for another tour offered at the hotel (not included).

- Entrance fees/activities included: Entrance fee to Rincon de la Vieja National Park, hike to the Pailas sector, Transportation included.
- Meals included today: Breakfast.
- Overnight: Hacienda Guachipelin Lodge- Standard room (or equivalent) - Rincon de la Vieja, 2 nights.



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#### **DAY 8 - RINCON DE LA VIEJA - SAN JOSE**

The round trip ends with the return trip to San Jose, in your hotel reservation. It is advisable to book the international departure for the following day.

- Entrance fees/activities included: None.
- Meals included today: Breakfast.
- Approximate departure time from Rincon de la Vieja: 10.30am. Overnight: Hotel Park Inn San Jose- Standard room (or equivalent) 1 night.



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#### **DAY 09 - DEPARTURE FROM COSTA RICA**

Breakfast included at the hotel if your the flight departure allows it. According to international airport requirements all passengers must be at the airport at least 3 hours prior to flight departure time for security and check-in procedures.

Driving time is approximately 25 minutes.





Gallery  $\downarrow$ 











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