


COSTA RICA - COSTA RICA ROMANTIC ESCAPE



TRIP CODE
CRTSCRHP
DURATION
9 Days
LOCATIONS
Costa Rica


INTRODUCTION

A beautiful honeymoon package that introduces you to some of the wonders of Costa Rica while spoiling you with luxury hotels and resorts at the end of each day. Marvel at the impressive Irazu and Poas volcanoes, meander through a coffee plantation, stroll the streets of the artisan town of Sarchi and take in the beautiful scenery of the Orosi Valley. Blend nature and adventure as you take an exhilarating raft along the Balsa River and a guided walk along the Mistico Hanging Bridges at Arenal. End your honeymoon with a few days relaxing in a tropical paradise at a beachside resort on the Pacific Ocean, the perfect end to the perfect holiday.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Arrival in San Jose

On arrival into Juan Santamaria International airport you will be met and taken by private transfer to your hotel in San José. The remainder of the day is free for you to relax.




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DAY 2: Poas Volcano, Doka coffee, Sarchí & Grecia

Breakfast is included at the hotel. Leaving San Jose, we take the Pan-American Highway towards the city of Alajuela. On the way we see the Agriculture Monument, the Monument to Juan Santamaria and the famous Mango Park. As we continue towards Poás Volcano, there is a change in temperature and vegetation, the coffee plantations, ferns, flower and strawberry farms creating a colourful landscape. Poas is one of the most spectacular volcanoes in Costa Rica, its enormous crater measuring one kilometre in diameter and 314 metres deep. The crystal blue sulphur pools and the steam rising from the various volcanic vents are an incredible sight. We hike to the beautiful Botos Lagoon. Lunch is included at the Doka Estate Coffee Plantation, a third-generation coffee plantation, where we have the opportunity to learn how coffee is picked, milled, ground and roasted. Our third stop is at the beautiful town of Grecia, in Alajuela Province. Mostly farmers by profession, the people here are relaxed and laid back. Being an important agricultural hub of the country, sugar cane is grown and harvested in Grecia in huge amounts, as is organic coffee and also pineapples. This town is an important tourist destination mainly due to its unique metal church, which is a deep dark red colour. The Cathedral de la Mercedes is a gothic style church made from metal pieces that were imported from Belgium in the 1890's. This church is as beautiful from the inside as it is impressive from the outside. We also visit the central market area to catch a glimpse of the local lifestyle. Our last stop for the day is Sarchi, known as the Cradle of Costa Rican Artisans due to its fine workshops. Here we have time to enjoy the artistic work of local craftsmen as they create the famous typical oxcarts and maybe buy a special souvenir to take home.




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DAY 3: Irazu Volcano, Lankester Gardens & Orosi Valley

Breakfast is included at the hotel. The province of Cartago offers three attractions that are included in this day tour - the majestic and imposing Irazu Volcano, the beautiful orchids of the Lankester Gardens and the panoramic beauty of the Orosi Valley. Irazu Volcano is the highest active volcano in Costa Rica, just an hour and a half from San Jose. A scenic road leads right up to the summit crater. It is a stratovolcano with its summit at an elevation of 3,432 metres (11,260 ft.). On a clear day, it is possible to see both the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. The route to Irazu takes us through some of the most important agricultural areas in this province, due to the richness of the soil produced by the volcanic ash. The Orosi Valley is one of Costa Rica's most beautiful destinations. This deep valley is surrounded by dramatic mountains, lush green forest and coffee farms. We also stop at the Lankester Botanical Gardens. Established in 1973, the Gardens are a centre for the exhibition, conservation and research of tropical epiphytic plants, with a special interest in orchids. The field, greenhouse and garden collections together host over 3,000 species of plants. Lunch is included today.



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DAY 4: Rafting in Balsa River, Class 2 & 3 - Arenal

After breakfast at the hotel, we transfer to the Balsa River for an exciting day of adventure. Only 30 minutes from La Fortuna, Río Balsa Class 2-3 half-day river rafting blends nature with adventure - it is perfect for first-timers and families! After a safety talk and paddling instructions, challenge yourself as you paddle through exhilarating rolling rapids and then play in tranquil river pools, in an isolated rainforest river canyon. Look out for wildlife along the way including monkeys, sloths and tropical birds such as toucans. At the end of the rafting, you will be transferred to your hotel in La Fortuna. Please Note: The Rafting Company reserves the right to cancel any trip due to unsafe conditions and will only run a tour according to established company policies. The company might change to a more suitable tour for reasons beyond their control such as climate, river levels, etc., with an equal or similar difficulty rating and adventure so clients do not miss out on a fun day in Costa Rica!




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DAY 5: Natural History Walk in Mistico Hanging Bridges

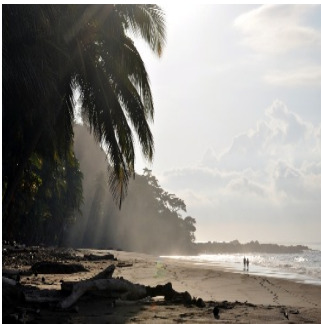
After breakfast at the hotel, take a guided natural history walk at Mistico Hanging Bridges. Located within the corridor followed by birds migrating between North and South America, the trails and bridges of this project bring the visitor close to the birds, flowers and the lush vegetation of the primary rainforest. On this 250-hectare primary-forest property, paths and bridges have been built to maintain the utmost harmony between man-made structures and nature. The property has impressive views towards Arenal Volcano and to the lake that feeds the largest hydroelectric plant in Costa Rica. This walk is a fun and educational option that enables you to learn more about the forest and the local environment and enjoy close contact with nature. While walking along the trails, the fascinating world of the tropical forest opens up. Along the three kilometres of trails, visitors are immersed in the diverse fauna and flora of the rainforest surrounded by colourful birds and tropical plant species. More than 50 species of birds can be counted at this site, one of the most productive bird watching walks of the region.



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DAY 6: Quizaes or Mansita Beach - Day 6 to 8

After breakfast at the hotel there is a private transfer to Tango Mar Beach Resort at Quizaes Beach or JW Marriott at Mansita Beach. Daily breakfast is included at the hotel and the days are free for you to relax and enjoy the beach or take an optional tour.



DAY 9: Transfer to San Jose

After breakfast at the hotel, there is a transfer to the local airstrip for the flight back to Juan Santamaria International Airport.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Deluxe
Inclusions	Private arrival and departure transfers with English speaking assistance Daily breakfast Other meals according to day by day description Private or shared transfers as specified in the itinerary Local flight back to San Jose (Luggage is limited to a maximum of 40 pounds per person for local flights) 3 nights in selected hotel in San Jose 2 nights in selected hotel in Arenal 3 nights in selected hotel in the Beach Poas Volcano, Doka Cofee Platation, Sarchí and Grecia One Day Tour, lunch included Irazu Volcano, Landester Gardens and Orosi Valley One Day Tour, lunch included Rafting in Balsa River, class II & III, lunch included Natural History Guided Walk in Mistico Hanging Bridges Lodging taxes Exclusions Visa fees (if applicable) Airport tax (if applicable) Personal expenses Optional activities not mentioned in itinerary Gratuities for staff/guides
Difficulty Rating	2 (light adventure)
Single Surcharge	Available upon request
Notes	Contact us for more details
Price Dependent upon	Season and availability

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SUSTAINABILITY

Chimu Adventures undertakes a number of sustainability measures within its operations including:

- 1) Only using local guides and office staff to both maximise local employment opportunities and minimise carbon footprints. Local guides also ensure you benefit from the intimate knowledge, passion and culture of the country you’re visiting.
- 2) Where possible, using locally owned and operated boutique hotels to maximise the return to the local community.
- 3) Chimu’s “Pass it on” programme has provided funding to hundreds of local community projects in Latin America. Our aim is to empower local communities, helping them to

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develop their own infrastructure for the future. Since 2006, we have been working with Kiva (a well-known Non-Governmental Organisation), providing hundreds of loans to local businesses all over South America.

4) In our pre tour information we provide a range of tips and advice on how to minimise your impact on both local environments and communities.

5) Chimu Adventures’ offices also take a number of sustainability measures including carbon offsets for company vehicles and most staff travel. Chimu Adventure’s internal processes are also structures to create a paperless office and to reduce waste. There are also internal programmes to help staff minimise their carbon footprint such as our staff bike purchase assistance plan which encourages office staff to commute to work via bicycle. Currently almost half of our office based staff commute to work via bicycle.

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