PRIVATE TOUR: Spend 10 exciting days exploring Costa Rica, coast to coast. Explore the waterways of Tortuguero and gaze at the Arenal volcano, discover the natural wonders of Monteverde on a scenic hike and relax on Manuel Antonio’s beautiful beaches. A great way to see everything this colourful country has to offer!

HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

Trip Highlights

• San Jose - Discover Costa Rica’s cosmopolitan capital
• Arenal Volcano National Park - Take a scenic hike through the park and gaze in wonder at the mighty Arenal Volcano
• Lake Arenal - Travel across this picturesque highland lake
• Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve - Take in the natural wonders of Monteverde on a guided walk. Shrouded in a canopy of cloud, the park is home to a wonderful array of flora and fauna
• Manuel Antonio National Park on the Pacific coast - Enjoy free time to bask on beautiful beaches and explore the lush rainforest, which is teeming with wildlife
• Tortuguero National Park - Explore the waterways of this beautiful national park, which is home to a Green Sea Turtle nesting ground

What’s Included

• 9 nights STANDARD hotels. SUPERIOR or DELUXE hotel upgrade options are available upon request. Accommodation rating – See Trip Notes for details
• Breakfast daily, 3 lunches and 2 dinners
• An airport arrival and departure transfer
• Entrance into Monteverde Reserve and Manuel Antonio Park
• Shuttle transfers from Arenal - Monteverde and Monteverde - Manuel Antonio (shared with other travellers)
• All other transfers in a private vehicle
• Guided tour of Tortuguero Canals and the Caribbean Conservation Centre
• Guided naturalist walk/hike in Arenal Volcano National Park and Monteverde Cloud Forest
• Entrance fees for all included excursions and activities

What’s Not Included

• International flights and visas
• Departure taxes or border taxes
• Tipping - an entirely personal gesture

ITINERARY

Day 1: San Jose

Upon arrival into San Jose airport you will be met and transferred to your hotel. The rest of the day is at leisure to start exploring San Jose or just to relax in the hotel. If you'd like a guided tour of the capital, this can be arranged upon request.  Overnight - San Jose

Days 2-3: Tortuguero

San Jose - Tortuguero. After breakfast at the hotel you travel to Tortuguero on Costa Rica’s beautiful Caribbean coast, stopping for lunch en route at a local restaurant in Guapiles. From La Pavona dock you will be transferred by boat through the Tortuguero canals to visit Tortuguero village and the Caribbean Conservation Centre. Your hotel is located in the north eastern corner of Tortuguero, and is accessible only by air and water. It is the ideal location from which to explore this unique and magical area, surrounded by towering trees and exuberant vegetation.
Early the next morning take a guided tour of Tortuguero National Park, travelling along the canals which are an extensive system of natural and man-made waterways used both for simple transportation and jungle exploration. Tortuguero is the Caribbean version of the Amazon, with incredible wildlife that includes monkeys, iguanas, and colourful tropical birds. After the tour head back to the hotel for breakfast. The rest of the day is free to enjoy the peace and harmony of the place. Kayaks are available free of charge at the hotel if you wish to continue exploring the waterways. **Overnight - Tortuguero (B:2, L:2, D:2)**

### Days 4-5 : Arenal Volcano National Park

Leaving the jungle, travel on to Arenal in Costa Rica’s fertile northern lowlands. Until 2010, it was Costa Rica’s most active volcano. Much to the enjoyment of its visitors, Arenal spewed enormous amounts of lava, gas and ash on a regular basis. That eruptive cycle – which began with the infamous eruption of 1968 – ended recently. In October 2010, Arenal entered into an indeterminate resting phase. For the time being, visitors will be unable to watch the much-loved explosions, although that could change within a matter of months or years. Travellers to Arenal will still enjoy its bountiful sights, sounds and activities—there are mountains to be hiked, lakes to be fished and rivers to be floated. As one of the country’s most scenic and accessible areas, it is a requisite stop on any tour of Costa Rica.

The following day enjoy a trek through Arenal Volcano National Park. The afternoon is free for optional activities such as horse riding, canyoning or a boat tour of Cano Negro wildlife reserve. **Overnight - La Fortuna (B:2, L:1)**

### Days 6-7 : Monteverde

After breakfast on day 6 travel on to Monteverde, crossing Lake Arenal to get to the Monteverde border where another vehicle is waiting for you to take you to your hotel.

The following day discover the natural wonders of Monteverde on a guided naturalist walk. The Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve cannot fail to impress with its beauty and incredible biodiversity. Wind-sculpted elfin woodlands give way to rainforests where tall trees, festooned with orchids, bromeliads, ferns and vines, rise high into the sky. **Overnight - Monteverde (B:2)**

### Days 8-9 : Manuel Antonio

Take a shuttle transfer to Manuel Antonio where you’ll enjoy two days at leisure to relax on the beautiful beaches or enjoy a range of activities within the park including a forest canopy tour and ocean kayaking. **Overnight - Manuel Antonio Village (B:2)**

### Day 10 : San Jose

Today a private transfer takes you to San Jose airport for your flight home. End of arrangements.(B)