

CLASSIC COSTA RICA



ATENAS & THE CENTRAL VALLEY (1 night)

Arrive in the central valley of Costa Rica, home to 80% of the country's population and surrounded by mountains. This area boasts fantastic vistas and a perfect climate. You will spend your first night in a comfortable country setting and have a chance to get acquainted with your guides.

SEA TURTLE PROJECT (3 nights)

The turtle projects are located on the Caribbean coast. On the way, visit a butterfly farm and an elementary school.

At the turtle project, the real work begins at night. Patrol the beach at night in search of nesting sea turtles and hatchlings. It's tough work, but worth the effort. You may also conduct population studies, tag turtles, transplant eggs to a protected area or release hatchlings into the ocean. Be aware that sea turtles are an endangered species and their nesting is not "scheduled". Therefore, there's no guarantee that you will see a turtle during your stay.



During the day, explore the local canals for wildlife, hike in the surrounding rain forest or engage in an impromptu game of volleyball or soccer. Have a chance to participate in volunteer activities such as building a hatchery or cleaning the beach of debris to make it easier for sea turtles to nest or return to the ocean.



CAHUITA (2 nights)

Located on the southern Caribbean coast, Cahuita is home to beautiful beaches, rain forest, and a rich cultural heritage with Afro-Caribbean and indigenous influences. Relax on a picture perfect white sand beach, swim in the warm Caribbean ocean, and spend a day at an indigenous Bri Bri school high in the Talamanca mountains.

PITAL FARM VISITS & REFORESTATION PROJECT (1 night)

The drive to Pital takes you from the Caribbean coast to the northern lowlands. On the way, stop for lunch and white water rafting on the Class II and III rapids of the Sarapiquí River. Several small communities around the town of Pital are involved in a project to improve the environment through reforestation and education. During your time here, participate in this reforestation effort and learn firsthand about rural Costa Rican life as you spend the night with a local family.

ARENAL VOLCANO (2 nights)

Stay in Fortuna at the base of the spectacular Arenal Volcano. Have the chance to hike on lava beds in the Volcano National Park, fly through the air on a canopy tour, and visit an organic farm full of surprises.



ATENAS & THE CENTRAL VALLEY (1 night)

End the trip right back where you started--in the Central Valley. This is the night to celebrate your accomplishments and reflect on your experiences.

CLASSIC COSTA RICA: Trip Outline

The price includes:

Naturalist guide(s)
 Private in-country transportation
 Accommodations (price is based on triple and quads)
 Meals as outlined
 Activities, Entrance fees, and related tips
 Purified water available on the bus
 Post-departure travel insurance

The price does NOT include:

Optional cancellation insurance coverage
 Expenses of a personal nature
 Tips for guide and driver
 (recommended \$10/day for guide and driver to split)

| AREA | DAY | SAMPLE LODGING & MEALS | MAJOR ACTIVITIES |
|------------------------|--------|---|--|
| Atenas | Day 1 | Francisco's Lodge Meals included: none | Arrive Costa Rica Transfer to lodge |
| Turtle Project | Day 2 | Station Dorms Meals included: BLD | Transfer to turtle project School visit enroute Butterfly farm visit enroute Night turtle patrols |
| Turtle Project | Day 3 | Station Dorms Meals included: BLD | Volunteer work Wildlife Viewing Boat Ride Night turtle patrols |
| Turtle Project | Day 4 | Station Dorms Meals included: BLD | Volunteer work Night turtle patrols |
| Cahuita | Day 5 | Goddess Garden Hotel Meals included: BLD | Transfer to Cahuita Beach time and picnic |
| Cahuita | Day 6 | Goddess Garden Hotel Meals included: BLD | Day trip to Bri Bri community |
| Pital | Day 7 | Homestays Meals included: BLD | Transfer to Pital Rafting or float trip enroute Activities with Families |
| Arenal | Day 8 | Don Juan's Cabins Meals included: BLD | Reforestation Transfer to Arenal Hot Springs |
| Arenal | Day 9 | Don Juan's Cabins Meals included: BLD | Volcano Nature Walk Don Juan's Organic Farm |
| Atenas | Day 10 | Francisco's Lodge Meals included: BLD | EcoGlide Ziplines Transfer to Atenas |
| Depart for home | Day 11 | Meals included: B | Travel home |

CLASSIC COSTA RICA: Trip Information

AVAILABLE DATES: This trip is available March through mid-July (Nesting season is March through the end of June; hatching season is mid May through the end of August)

GROUP SIZE:

Minimum group size is 10 participants (including group leaders)

Maximum group size is 24 participants (including group leaders)

We may be able to accommodate larger or smaller groups— please contact us for more information.

PROGRAM FEE:

The price includes:

- Bilingual Naturalist Guide
- Accommodations (based on triples and quads)
- Private in-country transportation
- Meals as stated in the itinerary
- Purified water available on the bus
- Activity & entrance fees, and associated tips
- Post departure travel insurance
- Exit Taxes

The price does NOT include:

- Tips to your EcoTeach guides and driver
- Cancellation insurance
- Expenses of a personal nature both prior to departure as well as during the trip

TRIP LEADER COSTS:

One trip leader travels free (including air) with 10 full paying participants.

Trip leader cost (including air) will be pro-rated if the total number of full paying participants is not a multiple of 10.

FAMILY MEMBER DISCOUNT:

For groups with 10+ full paying participants, a trip leader may bring along a family member at a discount of \$500 off the trip price. For groups with 20+ full paying participants, trip leaders may bring along two family members each at a discount of \$500 off the trip price.

Discounted family members do not count as full paying participants in calculating trip leader costs.

FLIGHTS:

EcoTeach will automatically arrange flights for your group. However, you are welcome to work with your own travel agent or directly with the airline group desk. Just let us know if you would like to make your own group travel arrangements.

For groups booking flights through EcoTeach a \$25 per ticket service fee will be assessed. Occasionally, EcoTeach will purchase several blocks of tickets for a group at different prices and charge the averaged amount to the participants. Also, please be aware that taxes and fees (fuel surcharges, security costs, etc.) imposed by the airlines and/or the US Government are subject to change until the tickets are purchased approximately two months prior to your departure date. Such changes are outside of EcoTeach's control.