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AMERICAS

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LATIN AMERICA!

# CLASSIC COSTA RICA

from £4,575 pp

## Itinerary Outline



DAY	LOCATION	ACTIVITIES	HOTEL	MEALS
01	SAN JOSÉ	Fly to San José, transfer to hotel	ALTA LAS PALOMAS	-
02	TORTUGUERO	Road & boat transfer to your lodge	EVERGREEN LODGE	BLD
03		Activities from lodge		BLD
04	ARENAL	Boat & road to Arenal and your hotel	ARENAL MANOA	BL
05		Sky Tram & Trek		B
06		Rafting excursion on Río Balsa		B
07	MANUEL ANTONIO	Road transfer to your hotel	PARADOR RESORT & SPA	B
08		Tour of National Park		B
09		Ocean kayaking & snorkelling tour		BL
10	OSA PENINSULA	Road & boat transfer to lodge	DRAKE BAY WILDERNESS RESORT	BLD
11		Activities from your lodge		BLD
12		Activities from your lodge		BLD
13	FLIGHT	Light aircraft to San José Intl overnight flight to the UK	OVERNIGHT FLIGHT	B
14	UK	Arrive in the UK		







**Day 01**

GATWICK - SAN JOSÉ

Depart UK.

	Flight No	BA2237	
	Airline	British Airways	
	Class	Economy	
	Seat Nos	TBA at check-in	
	Duration	11 hrs 45 mins	
	Departure	Gatwick (S)	11:05
	Arrival	San José Intl (M)	16:50

Private transfer to your hotel (25 mins).

Hotel Alta Las Palomas



**1 x Deluxe Garden View Room on a Bed & Breakfast for 1-night**

Set in the hills of Alto Las Palomas in the west part of San José, this lovely upscale hotel is just 10km from downtown San José. Offering unique character and first-class service, it has earned itself a spot inside the prestigious group of the best Small Luxury Hotels of the World. The property has a collection of 23 rooms & suites which are beautifully styled and feature private balcony or terrace with views over the lush tropical gardens. At the La Luz restaurant and bar you will be able to enjoy Mediterranean and Costa Rican specialties. Other facilities include an outdoor pool with whirlpool, a small gym with sauna & a library area.







**Day 02** SAN JOSÉ – TORTUGUERO



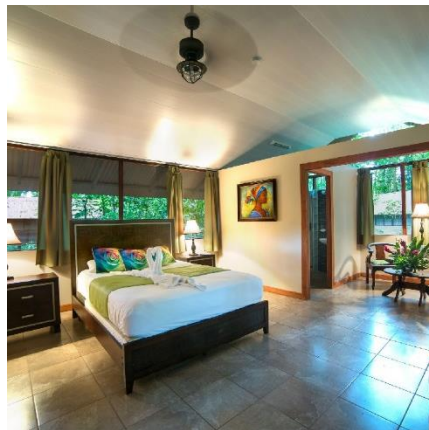
**Shared transfer by road and boat to your Tortuguero Lodge**

You will take a shared transfer through the spectacular Braulio Carrillo National Park, along the way admire the biodiversity and keep an eye out for wildlife. Stop for breakfast en-route where you will be treated to a typical Costa Rican breakfast. On arrival at Caño Blanco / La Pavona Pier you will take a boat through the canals until you reach your lodge.

**Boat Transfer - Luggage Restrictions:**

There is an official luggage limit of 12kg per person on the boat transfers. But as luggage is not weighed and the limit is not actually enforced, luggage up to 23kg is acceptable.

**Evergreen Lodge**



**1 x Standard Room with Full Board & Shared Activities for 2-nights**

Enjoying a fantastic location, only five minutes from the entrance to Tortuguero National Park this lovely rustic lodge is removed from the resort style atmosphere some similar properties portray. Its 55 spacious rooms are all nicely decorated, if a little basic, and provide everything you will need for a very comfortable stay. The lodge boasts a nice restaurant, a bar in front of the lagoon and a delightful turtle shaped pool. Other facilities include free WiFi in the reception area, tropical garden, hammocks to enjoy the jungle views and a Spa.

Upon arrival at the lodge you can enjoy a refreshing cocktail before having time to settle in. Lunch will then be served ahead of an afternoon excursion.

**Shared excursion to Tortuguero Town and the Green Turtle Information Centre**

Tortuguero is a unique, beautiful village with a rich culture. Because there are no cars, you will walk worry free. Sandy trails and raised cement walkways wander through the town. You'll see a lot of typical Caribbean architecture and artwork, as well as get a glimpse into the lives of the local people. The Green Turtle Information Centre is located at the far north end of the village. Here you can learn about the nesting cycle of the turtles and about the other wildlife that calls this National Park their home.





**Day 03** TORTUGUERO



**Shared morning walking tour**

This morning you will explore Tortuguero on foot, a region rich in flora and fauna. Walking through the hotel trails observe big trees like the almond mountain tree (macaws love the fruits), cativos, chilamates (giant trees) and plants like heliconias, rubiasas, peperasia and many more. Bird watching is fantastic here too with an abundance of toucans, woodpeckers and golden orioles. Endearing sloths, white faced capuchins and the raucous howling monkeys are also found here.

**Shared afternoon canal excursion**

This afternoon you will get to explore the park's freshwater creeks and lagoons, which will be navigated in small open boats, giving you the chance to observe spectacled caimans and river turtles. The surrounding dense rainforest is also rich with wildlife, from monkeys to many bird species.

Turtle nesting season is between July and September. Tours to see this natural spectacle can be arranged locally. Tortuguero National Park is home to some of the world's finest nesting sites for endangered green turtles. Nocturnal guided tour allows you the chance to see the females, who weigh around 300 lbs, haul themselves up the beach (the same one where they were born), dig a nest and lay their eggs before returning to the sea. Later in the season watch the hatchings make the long trek to the sea.





**Day 04** TORTUGUERO – LA PAVONA – GUAPILES - ARENAL

Shared boat transfer to Caño Blanco / La Pavona pier; disembark to meet a road transfer to Guapiles where lunch will be served at El Ceibo Restaurant.

Private transfer to Arenal and your hotel (3 hrs).

**Arenal Manoa**



**1 x Standard Room on a Bed & Breakfast basis for 3-nights**

Located 7km west of La Fortuna this hotel is surrounded by La Palma River, making the area an ideal refuge for a great diversity of birds, mammals and lizards, besides a large variety of plants. Amidst tropical gardens, the 80 rooms have been appointed such that each one offers a panoramic view of the volcano. The hot spring pool and ponds are fed by natural mineral water, which have therapeutic properties. In addition, the hotel has its own spa, restaurant, sushi bar and pizzeria.







**Day 05**

**ARENAL**



### **Shared half day Sky Tram & Sky Walk excursion**

Take an aerial tram through the rain forest to appreciate the Arenal Volcano and the Arenal Lake from a different perspective. The tram takes about 20 minutes to reach the observation platform at the highest point of the Arenal Reserve with opportunities to make intermediate stops. It is a guided tour and includes a 25-minute walk in the rain forest. To descend from the platform, it can be done either on the aerial tram or on the Sky Trek canopy tour. To enjoy the canopy, you will be securely attached to a zip line and slide down cables stretched across platforms over the top of the forest canopy. From this vantage point you will get breath taking and exhilarating views of the canopy as it rushes beneath your feet. Whilst the tour will certainly get your adrenaline pumping, you will be strapped into a secure safety harness so you will be completely safe throughout the tour. It is possible to do it attached to a guide for added assistance and you can leave the tour at any of the platforms if you find it a little too exhilarating!







**Day 06**

**ARENAL**



### **Shared full day Rio Balsa rafting tour (Class II-III Rapids)**

Rafting the Rio Balsa is perfect for families or first-time rafters. Located just 45 minutes from Fortuna, this route is gentle yet has enough challenges to ensure the excursion is exciting and an adventure. Before you begin guides will give you a thorough safety talk and equipment to ensure you are safe on the river. Enjoy the stunning scenery as you pass and keep an eye-out during your excursion for the wildlife around you such as monkeys, sloths and tropical birds including toucans. A local lunch is included.

#### **Recommended Age Limits:**

10 – 65 years







**Day 07** ARENAL – MANUEL ANTONIO

Private transfer to your next hotel (4.5 hrs)

Parador Resort & Spa



**1 x Standard Room on a Bed & Breakfast basis for 3-nights**

Located high above the Central Pacific coastline, this hotel is built on 12 acres of rainforest in beautiful Manuel Antonio, just minutes from some of Costa Rica's finest beaches. Surrounded by beautiful gardens and astonishing scenery, all 130 rooms have balconies or terraces, with ocean or rainforest views. Facilities at the hotel include two infinity swimming pools with a swim up bar, an adult pool with cascading waterfall, tennis court, fitness centre, mini-golf, computer centre, and seven restaurant-dining options.



Manuel Antonio offers the extraordinary scenery and some of the most exotic and beautiful flora and fauna in the hemisphere. The Parador hotel offers a wide range of tours and activities to help you enjoy it all! From sedate nature walks to adrenaline-pumping adventures, their certified professional bilingual guides will ensure you have an unforgettable experience. You can also explore the nature trails around the 12 acre premises that take you through the lush gardens and mysterious jungle, where you are almost guaranteed to see some of the abundant wildlife, such as white-faced and titi-monkeys, sloths, iguanas and many bird species. The small beach is great for swimming from.

**Manuel Antonio National Park:**

The national park is closed on Tuesdays.





**Day 08**

MANUEL ANTONIO



### **Shared half day tour to Manuel Antonio National Park**

This National Park is one of the most popular in the country thanks to its wide variety of flora and fauna. During this tour, you will be accompanied by a knowledgeable nature guide and take a 2 mile trail that is flat and picturesque and loops through the park. Throughout the hike, the guide will stop and explain what is being observed. Halfway through the hike, a 20-minute stop will be made at one of the stunning beaches for everyone to rest on the beach or play among the waves if they choose so. Throughout the hike they will be able to observe sloths, birds and reptiles, as well as admire orchids, butterflies and tropical trees. The guides are equipped with Pentax and Swarovski telescopes that you can use to observe wildlife and take pictures with a different perspective.



**Day 09**

MANUEL ANTONIO



### **Shared half day ocean kayaking and snorkelling including lunch**

A challenging open ocean paddle along one of the most beautiful coastlines in Costa Rica. Visit nearby islands where seabirds such as boobies and frigates are nesting. The adventure begins in Nahomi Cove, in the town of Quepos, and winds along the Manuel Antonio coastline to reach Biezan Bay, a nice and isolated beach. During this stop, you can snorkel to observe parrotfish, starfish, angelfish and even sea turtles. On returning to the pier, you'll head back to base camp to enjoy a little conversation over a delicious homemade meal.





**Day 10**

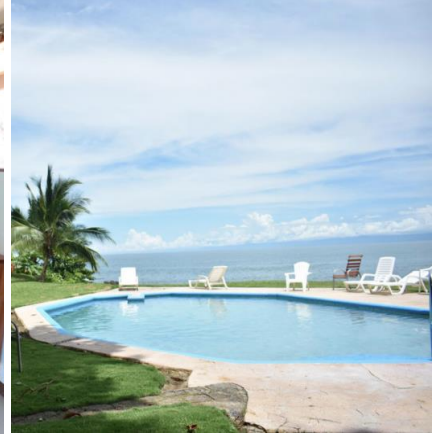
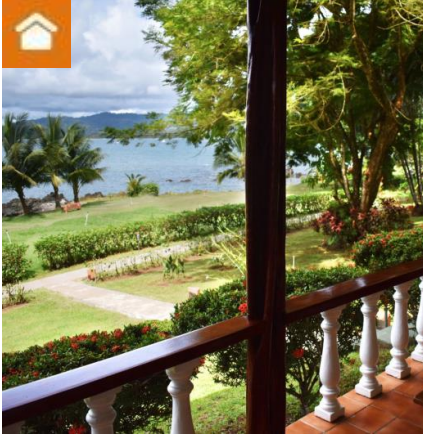
MANUEL ANTONIO – SIERPE – DRAKE BAY

Private transfer to Sierpe (2hrs).

Shared road transfer to the dock (5 mins).

Shared boat transfer to lodge (1hr).

**Drake Bay Wilderness Resort**



**1 x Standard Room on a Full Board basis with 2 x Guided Activities for 3-nights**

Located on the Osa Peninsula, Drake Bay Wilderness Resort is situated on a bluff overlooking Drake Bay, considered to be one of the most beautiful bays in Costa Rica. The resort is ideally placed, close to the Corovado National Park, making it an ideal base from which to explore the rich biodiversity found in the park. The Resort style hotel offers over 20 tropical cabins, each one comes complete with porches from which you can enjoy the stunning views over the bay, mountains and rainforest that is teeming with life. The hotel features an ocean view pool filled with warm ocean water, a pool side restaurant serving both national and international dishes and its own open air bar. Located at the end of the property is a natural tidal pool, offering you somewhere quiet to soak and relax while taking in the stunning nature that surrounds you.

Enjoy the rest of the day at leisure, relaxing on the beach, kayaking on the river, or exploring one of the self-guided hiking trails.







**Days 11 - 12** DRAKE BAY

Shared guided activities.

During your stay, you have two guided activities included. Choose from Mangrove & Bird Island tour, horse-riding, visit to Corcovado National Park, or boat trip and snorkeling at Caño Island.



Drake Bay is considered one of the most beautiful bays in Costa Rica, it is surrounded by a rainforest teeming with diverse flora and fauna. One of the main attractions to this area is its incredible biodiversity and located a short distance from the bay you will find the world famous Corcovado National Park, home to 2.5% of the world's total animal species. There are also over twenty species of whales and dolphins to be found in the area with even more who migrate to Drake Bay to breed. For those wishing to catch a glimpse of the animals, you can book a whale and dolphin watching trip locally (additional costs will be incurred). If you would prefer to stay on dry ground whilst admiring the areas natural beauty there is also a popular night time tour of the amazing local bug life. Drake Bay features a plethora of more adventurous activities including snorkeling, hiking, horse riding and swimming.







**Day 13**

DRAKE BAY – SAN JOSÉ – OVERNIGHT FLIGHT

Shared transfer to the airstrip (25 mins).

	Flight No	TBA	
	Airline	Sansa	
	Class	Light Aircraft	
	Seat Nos	TBA at check-in	
	Duration	50 mins	
	Departure	Drake Bay	TBA
	Arrival	San José Domestic	TBA

Light Aircraft Luggage Restrictions:



Checked Luggage: 18kg per person; Hand Luggage: 4.5kg per person

Any carry-on luggage exceeding the maximum weight and/or size will be considered and charged as excess luggage.



Collect your luggage. Private transfer to the international terminal (5 mins).

Check in for your international flight.

	Flight No	BA2236	
	Airline	British Airways	
	Class	Economy	
	Seat Nos	TBA at check-in	
	Duration	10 hrs 15 mins	
	Departure	San José Intl (M)	18:40
	Arrival	Gatwick (S)	10:55 (+1 day)



**Day 14**

GATWICK

Arrive in the UK.



# HOLIDAY COST

## from £4,575 per person

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### **Suggested Itinerary**

- This is an estimated holiday cost based on low season rates and air fares.
- The price may vary depending on exact dates.
- This is a suggested itinerary which we can tailor to your exact requirements.
- The British Airways direct flight operates between Nov-March, three times a week on: Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday. This 13-night itinerary coincides with a Thursday or Saturday departure.

### **Includes**

- Flights as listed and all pre-payable airport departure taxes.
- Hotel accommodation, transfers, excursions and meals as listed.

### **Excludes**

- Local departure taxes where applicable.
- Tips and gratuities.

### **Booking Conditions**

- A deposit of around 20% is usually required to secure a booking.
- The final balance is due 10 weeks prior to departure.
- Please review our full booking conditions at: [www.distinctiveamericas.com](http://www.distinctiveamericas.com)

### **Notes**

- All flights, accommodation and services are subject to availability at the time of booking.
- Airfares, taxes, schedules and routings are subject to change until ticket issue.
- All tour and transfer duration times are approximate.

### **Financial & Consumer Protection**

- When you book with Distinctive you are safe in the knowledge that we are fully bonded with the Civil Aviation Authority and hold an Air Tour Operators Licence (ATOL 9027). [www.caa.co.uk/ATOL 9027](http://www.caa.co.uk/ATOL%209027)
- We are a member of AITO (Association of Independent Tour Operators) which represents the UK's 140 top specialist tour operators and prides itself on providing the highest level of customer satisfaction by concentrating on: Choice, Quality and Service. [www.aito.co.uk](http://www.aito.co.uk)