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DISTINCTIVE
AMERICAS



FAMILY COSTA RICA

from £14,980 for family

Itinerary Outline





DAY	LOCATION	ACTIVITIES	HOTEL	MEALS
01	SAN JOSÉ	Fly to San José, transfer to hotel	VILLA SAN IGNACIO	-
02	PACUARE	Road transfer to put-in; raft to your lodge	AVE SOL	BLD
03		Hiking trails & waterfalls at the lodge	RIVER SANCTUARY	BLD
04	ARENAL	Raft out of lodge; road transfer to Arenal	EL SILENCIO	BL
05		Sky Tram & Trek	DEL CAMPO	B
06		Sloth tour		B
07	RINCON DE	Road transfer to your hotel	HACIENDA	B
08	LA VIEJA	Full day adventure pass	GUACHIPELÍN	B
09	TAMARINDO	Road transfer to your hotel		B
10		Free days to enjoy the surrounding beaches and activities in the area	CALA LUNA	B
11			BOUTIQUE HOTEL	B
12				B
13	FLIGHT	Road transfer to San José 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 Villa San Ignacio

1 x Two Bedroom Suite on a Bed & Breakfast for 1-night

Hotel Villa San Ignacio has been renovated to recall its original rustic charm. The vintage décor is polished but simple, and the custom furniture designed from antiques provides cozy comfort for guests while evoking the simple grace of the country. Clean, natural light makes it feel like you're visiting a cheery hacienda. Pandora Restaurant, specializing in homemade dishes with fresh, local ingredients, is available for breakfast, lunch and dinner. With seven acres of verdant grounds, the property has an outdoor pool, pool table, gaming and reading areas, fire pit, BBQ area, and nature trails.

Designed for family holidays, the Two Bedroom Suite sleeps up to six guests in three queen beds. The bedrooms share a large bathroom and balcony, and mini-fridge. All guest rooms include free Wi-Fi, private bathroom with hot water, air-conditioning, ceiling fan and safe.





Day 02 SAN JOSÉ – SAN MARTIN – PACUARE

Shared transfer early in the morning traveling east towards the Caribbean and crossing the amazing Braulio Carrillo National Park. Arrive at Caribbean Dish Restaurant for a traditional Costa Rica breakfast and with time to change into clothing for rafting. Then depart for the rafting put-in on the Pacuare River in San Martin.

Rafting subject to water levels:

If water levels are too high you will be transferred to the lodge by 4x4 vehicle and a 45-minute hike. Please note: the raft in includes Class II-III rapids / the raft-out includes Class III-IV rapids.

Luggage limit:

As all luggage is transported to the lodge in waterproof dry barrels, there is a luggage limit of 12kg per person. Excess luggage should be packed into a separate bag on the morning of your pick-up. This will be stored at the lodge's Operations Centre for the duration of your stay. You will collect the luggage after your raft-out on Day 3.



Professional guides will pack your luggage into dry bags, prepare all the rafting equipment and give you a complete safety and paddling briefing. On the first day, class III rapids will introduce you to the charm of the Pacuare gorge as you raft deep in the heart of primary rainforest. While your guides prepare a hearty picnic lunch on the riverbank, you will enjoy a walk through the jungle to an enchanting waterfall and pool to swim. Then you will arrive at the Tropical River Lodge where you can spend the afternoon relaxing, hiking or soaking in the waterfall and pools.

Ave Sol River Sanctuary

1 x Double & 1 x Twin Standard Rooms on a Full Board basis for 2-nights

Ave Sol River Sanctuary is a remote river lodge where you can disconnect from the noise of modern life and get back in touch with nature. If you are seeking simplicity in nature, you will find Ave Sol an ideal place of retreat. The rustic cabin accommodations contain comfortable beds, solid roofs and walls with panoramic windows. Ave Sol uses timber sustainably harvested from its own reserve, from fallen trees or trees that had to be cut to ensure safety. The property is located in the Caribbean foothills of Costa Rica near the town of Bajo Tigre in Siquirres, Limon. It borders the Nairi-Awari Cabécar Indigenous Reserve and other protected areas that cover much of the Talamanca Mountain Range. Its 120 acres connects with the country's largest area of continuous rainforest. The owners protect this reserve as a refuge for a great number of species of flora and fauna native to these rich ecosystems. Facilities include the Hammock ranch and bar, dining area, pathways, trails and gardens from the river and around the reserve.





Day 03 PACUARE

Day at leisure. Tours and activities can be booked locally. You can choose to be active and go hiking or horse-riding or relax at the property and enjoy a real connection with nature in this wild and remote location.

Tours available:

Include hiking to the Cabecar reserve, horse-riding and visiting a butterfly garden.



The neighbouring Cabecar community are the largest ethnic group in Costa Rica, with strong traditions and culture, and welcome you to visit their community. Hiking through the protected Indigenous reserve will allow you to develop a deeper appreciation and understanding of the rich biodiversity of this region. Visitors will experience Cabecar culture, preserved over thousands of years and learn about some of their modern challenges. Guided walks are available up to the local village where guests can see the neatly constructed traditional huts, visit the local school where the children are always as curious as their visitors, learn about forest lore and techniques and let a few arrows fly with a traditionally made bow.



Guests can become biologists for a day and learn about the life of the jaguar, one of the most charismatic and emblematic species in the world. Cameras responsive to body heat and movement have been positioned at various locations on the property in order to collect information about wildlife populations, particularly the jaguar and its prey. Another blessing on our reserve is a very old and rare Cola de pavo tree (*Hymenolobium mesoamericanum*), found along a beautiful trail through primary rainforest. Venture into the wild and choose from easy through to challenging mountain trails, finding wildlife and their tracks, endemic plant species, rock pools, creeks and waterfalls.



Day 04 PACUARE – SIQUIRRES – ARENAL

After breakfast, pack up and load the rafts in preparation for paddling down the Pacuare gorge past waterfalls, serene pools and pounding rapids. An adrenaline-packed afternoon running rapids like Upper and Lower Huacas, Cimarron, Dos Montanas and many more, a thrilling mixture of Class III and Class IV rapids.



A hot lunch will be waiting at the Operations Centre. Showers, changing rooms, cold and hot drinks, snacks, bar, and souvenirs are also available there.

Shared road transfer to Arenal and your hotel (2.5 hrs).

Hotel El Silencio del Campo

1 x Family Villa on a Bed & Breakfast basis for 3-nights

This rustic property on the edge of La Fortuna offers 15 villas equipped air-conditioning, cable TV, coffee maker, refrigerator and terrace. The hotel has spacious green areas with gardens, a restaurant, two swimming pools, a parking area and a good view of the Arenal Volcano.

The Family Villa has a maximum capacity for five people and is equipped with a room with two Queen Beds and one Single, ideal for you to rest comfortably with your family in the same room.





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!

Tour details:

Duration: 2.5 hours approx. Includes guide, transfers and equipment.

Recommended to bring comfortable and light clothes, a jacket or raincoat, hiking or tennis shoes (preferably something comfortable and enclosed), sunscreen, and insect repellent (preferably biodegradable).



Day 06

ARENAL



Shared half day sloth tour

The Arenal area is well known for the diversity of its fauna, however, one of the most popular species is the sloth. During this activity, you will have the opportunity to admire two or three finger sloths, this being the most popular species in the region, and you will be able to know its natural history and other important data that you might not even imagine. Your guide will look for the best places to observe them in their natural habitat, leading you through beautiful open areas in La Fortuna and, at the same time, you can see some more species such as the multi-coloured toucan, the poison dart frog, iguanas, and monkeys, among others.

Tour details:

Departs at 06:00 or 14:00. Duration: 2 hours approx.

Includes transportation, certified guide, breakfast or snacks, and drinks.



Day 07 ARENAL – RINCON DE LA VIEJA

Private transfer to Rincon de la Vieja and your hotel (3 hrs).

Hacienda Guachipelin

1 x Family Superior Room on a Bed & Breakfast basis for 2-nights

Hacienda Guachipelin is located at the foot of the Rincon de la Vieja Volcano, near the Curubandé town in Guanacaste. Natural hot springs, forests, jungle waterfalls and volcanic mud pots are just some of the many attractions that guests can enjoy during their stay at the Hacienda. It is a rural and simple hotel, but at the same time cozy and warm. It is ideal for nature lovers and adventure as it offers different activities like horseback riding, canopy tour, tubing in Rio Negro, canyoning in La Victoria Waterfall, bird watching and hiking in the National Park.

Guests can enjoy the benefits of Rio Negro hot springs, applying hot mud and swimming in natural pools. Also offer various treatments like massage therapy or relaxing. The shuttle is complimentary to and from the hotel. Other facilities and services include spacious restaurant, bar, swimming pool, free wireless internet access in public areas, laundry service and parking.

The Family Superior Rooms, ideal for families or close groups of friends wishing to share accommodations, are located near the main reception area, the swimming pool, the restaurant, and the activity centre. Enjoy views of the tropical vegetation and diverse birdlife from your covered porch or hall. These rooms come with one single bed, a double, and a king bed. Each room has a security box, air conditioning, ceiling fan, mini-refrigerator, cable TV, coffee maker, and phone, plus an environmentally friendly solar-powered water heater.





Day 08

RINCON DE LA VIEJA



One day adventure pass at Hacienda Guachipelin

Experience one of the best and most complete canopy in the area, which includes rappelling zip lines, a climbing wall, the famous 'Tarzan swing' and suspension bridges, all in a majestic canyon. After lunch, the adventure continues with a 45-minute horseback ride through the dry tropical forest and a short walk to La Victoria Waterfall, from where you start the descent through the rapids of the Río Negro, in your own circular raft, adrenaline guaranteed! End the adventure by relaxing in the thermal pools from the volcano. Enjoy a healthy therapeutic bath, surrounded by the exuberant nature. This tour offers spectacular views of the Rincon de la Vieja Volcano and also on the Pacific Ocean.

Tour details:

One day adventure pass includes canopy, tubing, horseback ride, hot springs & lunch. Recommended to bring waterproof sandals or shoes, sunscreen, repellent, camera, binoculars, swimsuit, towel and change of clothes.





Day 09 RINCON DE LA VIEJA – TAMARINDO

Private transfer to Tamarindo and your hotel (2.5 hrs).

Cala Luna Boutique Hotel & Villas

1 x Two-Bedroom Villa with Private Pool on a Bed & Breakfast basis for 4-nights

Cala Luna Boutique Hotel & Villas is located in Langosta Beach Guanacaste. The property enjoys all of the nearby conveniences of the beach town. The hotel has an eco-chic architecture with a stress-free and informal environment and an attentive and excellent service. Cala Luna features hotel rooms and family villas. There are Deluxe rooms with a patio terrace, air conditioning, fans, satellite TV, telephone, complimentary WiFi, coffee/tea maker, mini bar, in-room safe and a fully equipped bathroom with hairdryer and bathrobes.

All Villas have a private pool, a private parking space, green areas, air-conditioning, in-room safe, direct line telephone, satellite TV, a mini bar and fully equipped kitchen. The hotel also features a gourmet restaurant and chill-out lounge which offer local and international dishes made out of locally and organically grown products and serving only fresh fish from artisan fishing. In addition, Cala Moresca Restaurant offers an exclusive sustainable, organic and biodynamic wine list. La Caletta Lounge is a superb place to enjoy the sunset while sipping on an exotic fresh fruit cocktail. Guests can also treat themselves to a revitalizing treatment in Shanka Spa or just relax in the shade of the poolside gazebos, on a comfortable lounge chairs. Other services include a 24-hour front desk and full concierge services, complimentary Internet access, laundry service and free parking lot.





Day 10 - 12 TAMARINDO

Days at leisure. Optional tours and activities can be arranged locally.





Tamarindo is one of the preferred beach towns in Costa Rica and for good reason: its excellent surf breaks, the varied offer of international cuisine, unforgettable adventure tours and variety of shops, cafes, bars and restaurants.



Day 13 TAMARINDO – SAN JOSÉ – OVERNIGHT FLIGHT

Private transfer to San José and the international airport (4.5 hours).
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)	
	Arrival	Gatwick (S)	
			18:40
			10:55 (+1 day)



Day 14 GATWICK

Arrive in the UK.

HOLIDAY COST

from £14,980 in total for family of 4

Suggested Itinerary

- This total holiday cost is based on two adults, one 14 year old & one 12 year old travelling together.
- 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

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)
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