NC State Alumni Association presents

COSTA RICA’S NATURAL HERITAGE

January 30-February 10, 2016

12 days from $3,381 total price from Miami
($3,095 air & land inclusive plus $286 airline taxes and departure fees)

This tour is provided by Odysseys Unlimited, six-time honoree Travel & Leisure’s World’s Best Tour Operators award.

An Exclusive Small Group Tour for Alumni and Friends of North Carolina State University
COSTA RICA’S NATURAL HERITAGE

12 days from $3,381 total price from Miami
($3,095 air & land inclusive plus $286 airline taxes and departure fees)

In this small Central American democracy kissed by nature, our small group discovers a nation’s wealth in four distinct regions, from cloud forest to rain forest; Central Valley to Pacific Coast. As Costa Rica presents its staggering display of bio-diversity – pristine landscapes, unique microclimates, exotic flora and fauna – we enjoy a relaxed yet comprehensive exploration that celebrates Costa Rica’s wide-ranging natural resources.

Day 1: Depart for San Jose, Costa Rica

We arrive in the Costa Rican capital and transfer to our hotel located in the San Jose de Belen area outside the city. This afternoon and evening are at leisure.

Day 2: San Jose

After meeting our Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director and fellow travelers at this morning’s breakfast briefing, we embark on an excursion through the Central Valley to Poas Volcano National Park. Here we view the world’s largest crater, a steaming, bubbling caldron; and also take a guided walk along park trails. We continue on to the Doka Coffee Estate, located on the fertile slopes of Poas Volcano, where we learn about coffee-making and Costa Rica’s coffee industry, one of its largest exports. After lunch at the Doka Estate, we return to our hotel late afternoon. Tonight we enjoy a welcome dinner together.

Day 3: San Jose/Arenal

We leave this morning for the Arenal region, passing picturesque villages along the way. We stop in Carrizal at the family-owned Botanical Orchid Garden, with tropical trails, exhibits, nurseries, and gardens all dedicated to the wondrous orchid plant. After time to explore here, we travel on to Arenal and our hotel, which offers magnificent views of Arenal Volcano and where we dine tonight.

Day 4: Arenal Region

This morning we visit a local elementary school to enjoy a cultural exchange with the children and learn about Costa Rica’s vaunted educational system – the country boasts a literacy rate of more than 95%. After lunch together we continue on to Ecocentro Danaus, a biological reserve focused on conservation, environmental education, and sustainability. A series of trails winds through the secondary forest, where we see diverse flora, including orchids, bromelia, and heliconia, along with some of the reserve’s 150 species of birds, sloths, and bats, among other fauna. Highlights include a butterfly farm with 30 different species and a natural water spring that attracts waterfowl, alligators, and iguanas.

Your Small Group Tour Highlights

- Poas Volcano excursion … Doka Coffee Estate … Carrizal’s Botanical Orchid Garden … Visit with children at elementary school … Ecocentro Danaus Biological Reserve … Night viewing of Arenal Volcano … Monteverde Cloud Forest, including Hanging Bridges Sky Walk, Biological Reserve, and Hummingbird Gallery … Temquispe River float safari … Three-night stay in Guanacaste at resort overlooking the Pacific

Day Itinerary | Hotel | Rating
---|---|---
1 | Depart U.S. for San Jose | Doubletree by Hilton Cariari | Sup. First Class
2 | San Jose | Doubletree by Hilton Cariari | Sup. First Class
3-4 | Arenal Region | Arenal Manoa | First Class
5-7 | Monteverde Cloud Forest | El Establo Mountain Hotel | First Class
8-10 | Guanacaste | Esplendor Hotel Tamarindo | Sup. First Class
11 | San Jose | Doubletree by Hilton Cariari | Sup. First Class
12 | Depart San Jose for U.S. | |  

Ratings are based on the Hotel & Travel Index, the travel industry standard reference.

Cover photo: Take in Arenal, one of the world’s most active volcanoes, from a safe distance.
Day 5: Arenal Region/Monteverde Cloud Forest  We travel today to the “green cathedral” of Monteverde. En route we stop to visit a non-profit handicrafts cooperative, dedicated to enhancing the economic and social well-being of local women artists. Then we continue on to our hotel, arriving in time for lunch on our own and an afternoon at leisure. We dine tonight at a local restaurant in Monteverde.  

Day 6: Monteverde  This morning we embark on a guided walk through Monteverde’s biological reserve, learning about the amazing bio-diversity in this relatively small area. Next we tour the Hummingbird Gallery, where feeders attract several different species of the delicate hummingbird. After lunch together we visit the Monteverde Bat Jungle to learn about Costa Rica’s diverse – and important – bat population. Late this afternoon we return to our hotel for time at leisure and dinner on our own.

Day 7: Monteverde  Early today we visit the hanging bridges Sky Walk, where we have the opportunity to experience this natural preserve from the canopy level, high above the rain forest floor. Our naturalist guide will point out some of the 100 species of mammals, 400 species of birds (including 30 kinds of hummingbirds), and 2,500 species of plants (including 420 kinds of orchids) that thrive in this unique setting. This afternoon is at leisure; the hotel facilities include a water-purified heated pool.

Day 8: Monteverde/Guanacaste  We depart by coach this morning for Guanacaste, Costa Rica’s stunning northwest Pacific coastal region lined with beaches and home to several national parks. Before departing Monteverde, we visit the delightful Butterfly Garden, whose variety of species includes the stunning Blue Morpho; the unique Calico butterfly which produces sound;
and the virtually transparent Glasswing. We stop for lunch along the way, reaching our resort hotel overlooking the Pacific mid-afternoon. **B,L,D**

**Day 9: Guanacaste**  A float safari on the Tempisque River highlights this morning’s excursion to the Palo Verde region, which is both an extraordinary wetland and also one of the world’s last tropical dry forests. In this unique ecosystem, we should see abundant bird- and wildlife, including monkeys, iguanas, sloths, and crocodiles. After lunch together we return to our hotel mid-afternoon, with the remainder of the day at leisure along one of Costa Rica’s most beautiful Pacific Coast settings. **B,L**

**Day 10: Guanacaste**  Today is at leisure to enjoy the beautiful beach club and other amenities of our hotel, including an outdoor pool. Optional activities include snorkeling, kayaking, sailing, and diving. We dine tonight at our hotel. **B,D**

**Day 11: Guanacaste/San Jose**  Today we leave Guanacaste, traveling back to San Jose. We reach our hotel in Belen early this afternoon then have time to relax and refresh before tonight’s farewell dinner at the hotel. **B,D**

**Day 12: Depart for U.S.** We transfer to the airport this morning for flights to the U.S. **B**

---

**Tour Price Includes**

- Round-trip air transportation from listed cities
- 11 nights’ accommodations in Superior First Class and First Class hotels
- 25 meals: 11 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 8 dinners
- Extensive sightseeing as described, including all entrance fees
- Services of an expert Costa Rica naturalist as your Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director
- Private motorcoach transportation throughout your trip
- Luggage handling for one bag per person
- Gratuities for dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers

---

“**My country … is a country of peace.**”  – **Oscar Arias Sanchez**

---

Macaws count among Costa Rica’s vibrant birdlife.  

Enjoy treetop rain forest views from Monteverde’s Sky Walk.
Dear Alumni and Friends,

Join us on a comprehensive small group tour of amazing Costa Rica. Your tour will visit rain forests, volcanoes, national parks, and other exquisite, memorable settings.

The tour begins in the Costa Rican capital of San Jose. Enjoy a guided walk along national park trails to view the world's largest crater at Poas Volcano, followed by a visit to the Doka Coffee Estate. Travel northward to the Arenal Region and your lodge, for spectacular views of the Arenal Volcano. Visit with children at a local elementary school and explore a biological reserve focused on conservation, environmental diversity, and sustainability. As you enter the Cloud Forest region of Monteverde, a sky-walk tour offers a unique perspective from high above the rain forest floor. Your adventure concludes with a three-night stay at a Pacific coast resort and a float safari on the Tempisque River.

This tour is offered exclusively to North Carolina State University alumni and friends. Space is limited to just 18 travelers in total and will fill quickly. Call today to reserve your place!

Sincerely,

Kathy Hart
Associate Executive Director
Wolf Treks Coordinator

---

THE NC STATE UNIVERSITY RESERVATION FORM: COSTA RICA’S NATURAL HERITAGE

Enclosed is my/our deposit for $______($500 per person) for ____ person(s) on Costa Rica’s Natural Heritage departing January 30, 2016. I/we understand the final payment is due at least 95 days prior to departure. Payment may be made by American Express, Discover, MasterCard, or VISA or by personal check. Please make check payable to Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. and send (with completed registration form) to: NC State Alumni Association, Box 7503, NC State University, Raleigh, NC 27695-7503. Or call toll-free at 1-800-627-2586 or 1-919-515-0508. Please ask for Kathy Hart. You may also fax your reservation form to Kathy Hart at 1-919-513-7804.

Full Passport Name ______________________________________________ Date of Birth___________ Gender __________

Full Passport Name ______________________________________________ Date of Birth___________ Gender __________

Address ___________________________________________________________________________________________

City ____________________________________________________________ State ________ ZIP ___________________

Home Ph. (______) __________________________________________________________________________ Bus. Ph. (______) ____________________________

E-mail _________________________________________________ Badge Name(s) _____________________________

Please book my/our air from ________________________

I will share a room with _____________________________               I request a single room (limited availability)

Post-Tour “Tortuguero National Park” Extension: Please sign me/us up ❑

Please Note: The undersigned has read the schedule of activities for Costa Rica’s Natural Heritage, January 30-February 10, 2016, and agrees that their signature below represents their acceptance of the General Terms and Conditions:

Signature ________________________________________________________________ Date_____________________

Method of Payment ❑ Check ❑ American Express ❑ Discover ❑ MasterCard ❑ VISA

Account # __________________________________ Security Code _________ Exp. Date _______________

Name of Cardholder ____________________________________________________________________________

Signature _____________________________________________________________

Final invoicing will be sent by the tour operator, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. The balance of the program price must be paid to Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. Final payment is due by October 27, 2015, and is payable by check or credit card.
Please read this information carefully, as payment of a $500 deposit per person represents your acceptance of the following Terms and Conditions.

**Not included in tour price:**
- Airfare when purchasing a Land Only package; costs of passports and visas; personal expenses such as beverages, laundry, room service, and meals not specified; gratuities to your Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director which are at your discretion (suggested gratuities: $10 - $15 per day per traveler); communication charges; optional sightseeing; travel protection insurance. Additional baggage fees may apply and are subject to change at any time. You should confirm directly with your airline prior to departure.

**Cancellations, refunds and changes:**
If you must cancel your trip, the effective date of cancellation will be upon our receipt of your written notification. Refunds for cancellations are subject to the following per person charges:
- Cancel 95 days or more before departure: $200 charge;
- Cancel 94-65 days before departure: 25% of tour price;
- Cancel 64-45 days before departure: 50% of tour price;
- Cancel 44-30 days before departure: 75% of tour price;
- Cancel 29-0 days before departure: No refund.

If a guest makes any changes to their reservation from 94 to 30 days prior to departure, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. will apply a $100 per person administrative fee, in addition to any fees or penalties imposed by third parties. Changes are subject to availability and cannot be guaranteed. If your reservation changes from double occupancy to single occupancy for any reason, you will be charged the single supplement. No changes are allowed within 30 days of departure.

Upon reservation you must provide your full legal name as it appears on your passport, your date of birth, and your gender. In the event an airline ticket is issued with incorrect information you have provided, you will be responsible for charges associated with the ticket’s reissue.

**Responsibility:**
The liability of the NC State Alumni Association, as sponsor, and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., as tour operator, is strictly limited. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. purchases transportation, hotel accommodations, restaurant and other services from independent suppliers not under our control. We serve only as agents for these suppliers in securing tour arrangements, and therefore will not accept responsibility for wrongful, negligent, or arbitrary acts or omissions of these independent contractors, their employees, agents, servants or representatives. The NC State Alumni Association and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. are not liable for injury, damage, loss, accident, or delay that may be caused by events not within our control, including without limitation, acts of terrorism, war, strikes, the defect of any vehicle, or the negligence or default of any third party. All coupons, receipts, and tickets issued are subject to the terms and conditions specified by the air carriers, cruise line, and other independent suppliers. We will make every effort to operate our tours as planned, but we reserve the right to make itinerary changes as necessary. If unforeseen circumstances require us to change a hotel, we will select alternative accommodations of the same or better quality.

**Health and Medical Issues:**
We request that you be in good health to participate in an Odysseys Unlimited tour. There is a reasonable amount of walking, and you must be able to get on and off motorcoaches on your own. We regret that we cannot offer individual assistance; in such cases you must be accompanied by a companion who will assist you. Please note that our itineraries cannot accommodate wheelchairs. We reserve the right to remove anyone whose physical or mental condition, in our opinion, compromises the operation of the tour or detracts from the enjoyment or safety of the other passengers. In that event, the NC State Alumni Association and Odysseys Unlimited assume no financial responsibility for any unused portion of the tour.

**Air Transportation – Important Information:**
Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. includes in its tour price round trip economy air from designated gateway cities as shown and contracts with those airlines they feel provide the level of service, routings, and value necessary for your entire trip. While another airline may offer a more direct connection, it may be at a price unavailable at the lower group rates. You will receive your preliminary air schedule approximately 2½ months prior to departure. Please note that seat assignments on your international flight are usually done at airport check-in. Odysseys Unlimited is unable to guarantee any seat assignments. Due to the nature of tour operator tickets, other restrictions apply, including but not limited to, frequent flyer mileage accrual, stopovers, alternate travel dates, upgrades, and airline taxes and departure fees. If you prefer to make your own travel arrangements, Land Only is available on most tours. Since international and domestic air schedules are subject to change at any time, we recommend that if you choose to make your own airline reservations, you do not purchase non-refundable tickets or those with high penalties for changes. If you choose to make your own air arrangements, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. shall not have any liability for any loss resulting from cancellation of this tour or changes in this tour.

---

North Carolina State University Alumni Association
Campus Box 7503
Raleigh, NC 27695-7503

JOIN US FOR AN EXCLUSIVE NC STATE TOUR TO COSTA RICA!

Guaranteed Small Group: Limited to 18 Guests

($3,095 air & land inclusive plus $286 airline taxes and departure fees)
12 days from $3,381 total price from Miami