



TRAVEL TIP
 16 Days of
 Vacation in the
 Caribbean

COSTA RICA ROUND TRIP

Discover the diversity of this Central American paradise

ITINERARY

16 DAYS

Costa Rica is one of the most beautiful countries of Central America and one of the safest of Latin America. The country scene is characterized by lush vegetation, heavenly-looking plants and wildlife; impressive mountain ranges peaked with majestic volcanoes as well as the deep blue Pacific and the turquoise Caribbean. The inhabitants of Costa Rica, also called «Ticos» are very polite and hospitable, which makes the trip even more attractive.

1. Day: Arrival

You start your trip in Zurich and fly with Iberia Airlines at 07:50 am. You should be at least 90 minutes before departure at the check-in counter. Please make sure that the check-in is also for onward flight and that the baggage is appropriately registered to San José.

You arrive at 10:20 in Madrid. Please go to the gate in time for your onward flight with Iberia at 11:40. You do not need to worry about luggage. It will be forwarded automatically.

You arrive in San José at 14:55 pm. After the immigration formalities you accept your luggage and go to the arrivals hall. There you will find the guide of our local agency «Swiss Tropical Tourism».

Subsequently, you will be transferred to the hotel in San José. The guide will give you the most important information and inform you about the departure time the next day. You spend your first night in San José.

2. Day: Poás National Park

After breakfast begins the trip towards the Poás National Park. The heart of the trip is the 2708 m high Poás volcano. From Poás one can enjoy a fantastic view of the surrounding landscape. At the foot of the volcano there are many coffee plantations; during the sightseeing tour to one plantation you will be introduced to the secrets of coffee. Then drive back to your hotel in San José to stay overnight.

3. Day: San José – Tortuguero National Park

Today you will leave the Central Valley towards the Caribbean area. The journey to today's destination Tortuguero goes through the National Park Braulio Carrillo. Here you can enjoy a traditional breakfast. Then continue passing by banana plantations over to the harbor, where you will take a boat. What you will experience is a trip through the stunning nature of the Tortuguero National Park, to your lodge. This lodge is perfect to do discovery tours in one of the most impressive National Parks of Central America.

4. Day: Tortuguero National Park

Today you will spend your time at Tortuguero National Park. You will be delighted by the diversity of the fauna and the lush vegetation. On guided boat trips through the intricate net of channels you will be able to see animals like toucans, howler monkeys, various water birds, or if you are lucky enough, red-eyed frogs. In between you will have enough time to rest at the lodge and relax.

Price on request

BOOKINGS

- All year round as group travel
- Individual travel with a rental car
- Travel in small groups

HIGHLIGHT

You will visit in Puerto Viejo de Sarapiquí the pineapple plantation of pineapple king Johann Dähler and his family. Here you will learn all about the fabulous and touching story of this young farmer who had built an empire in Ivory Coast (Africa) over 30 years ago, then lost everything and today leads another successful company in Costa Rica.

Today the Dähler family distributes quality fruits worldwide. Experience at first hand the daily life on the plantation, where everything is tackled with a lot of manual work and passion, and get an interesting insight behind the operation scenes.





BOOKABLE FOR
Group Tours
Small Groups
Individual

5. Day: Tortuguero – Puerto Viejo de Sarapiquí

Hoy Today we leave the beautiful Caribbean coast in direction to Puerto Viejo de Sarapiquí. This rural town is located in the heart of agricultural fields. Here you can visit the pineapple plantation from the Swiss pineapple king Johann Dähler. From there you will take part in a fascinating tour and learn all about the impressive history of this globetrotter who emigrated at the age of 20 to Africa and today is the successful owner of these pineapple plantations. Overnight at your hotel in Puerto Viejo de Sarapiquí.

6. Day: Puerto Viejo – Tirimbina – La Fortuna

After breakfast, explore the rainforest and its secrets. During an exciting tour you will learn about the production of the beloved chocolate and dive into the history of the indigenous people of Central America. Then continue on to La Fortuna. This city lies directly at the foot of the still active Arenal volcano. You stay in a hotel that has hot thermal springs. From there you can enjoy the view of the volcano.

7. Day: La Fortuna

This day is at leisure. Relax in the hot springs or take part in an optional trip. The nearby Arenal National Park is located right at the same volcano. Here you can perform beautiful walks that partially go on top of cooled lava fields.

8. Day: La Fortuna – Rincón de la Vieja

On the trip to Rincon de la Vieja, you will make a stop at Pequeña Helvecia, the little Switzerland of Costa Rica. The Swiss Franz Ulrich will tell you about his life and his change from being a Swiss farmer to become a tourist attraction owner. From the panorama restaurant you can enjoy (weather permitting) an impressive view

of all seven provinces of Costa Rica. Then continue on to Rincon de la Vieja. The Buena Vista Lodge offers, as the name suggests, a fantastic view from the Pacific coast. A special highlight is the evening atmosphere that will be long remembered.

9. Day: Rincón de la Vieja

Hoy Today you will have the day off. The hotel organizes beautiful horseback riding trips through the surrounding nature (not included in the tour price). Experience first-hand how it feels to be «Sabanero» (Costa Rican cowboys).

10. Day: Rincón de la Vieja – Flamingo Beach

After breakfast drive to Playa Flamingo. Here begin your beach holidays.

Days from 11 to 13: Flamingo Beach

Spend some relaxing days on the beach and enjoy the amenities of your hotel.

14. Day: Flamingo Beach – San José

Today you will leave Flamingo beach towards San José. Here you will spend your last night.

15. Day: Return Journey

Today you fly at 16:55 with Iberia via Madrid back to Zurich. As with the outbound flight you do not need to worry about your luggage in Madrid. It will be forwarded automatically.

16. Day: Arrival in Switzerland

You land in Madrid at 11:05 and fly onward with Iberia at 11:45. At 18.00, you arrive in Zurich.

INCLUDED IN PRICE

- Flight with Iberia
- Round trip with a touring couch
- 14 nights in mid-range hotels and lodges
- 14 breakfasts, 11 lunches, 9 dinners
- Entrance fees to national parks
- Comfortable and air-conditioned touring coach
- German speaking guide

NON INCLUDED

- Combined insurance CHF 50.- / person, or CHF 105.- / family
- Special meals or drinks other than those referred
- Tips
- Personal expenses
- Other services not mentioned



SWISS TROPICAL TOURISM



+41 71 688 60 66
 +506 88 86 03 63
 +506 27 64 52 80
www.meincostarica.com
facebook.com/SwissTropicalTourism

Entry requirements

Swiss citizens need a passport to travel to Costa Rica, which must be valid for at least 6 months after the date of the return trip. Other nationalities please check with the Embassy of Costa Rica in Bern, Tel. 031 372 78 87.

Flight Details

(See also www.iberia.com and www.flughafen-zuerich.ch)

Flight reservation by Iberia.

Route duration

Zurich – Madrid
Madrid – San José 15 Hours – 5 minutes

San José – Madrid*
Madrid – Zurich 17 Hours – 5 minutes

* Next day arrival

Baggage policy

For your flight with Iberia you are allowed to have one piece of luggage per person with a maximum weight of 23 kg per person. In addition you may take one hand luggage per person on the plane, weighing up to 10 kg and not exceeding the measures of 56 cm x 45 cm x 25 cm. Please note the limitations for the content in your hand luggage, such as for liquids. Information can be obtained from the website of the airline or the airport. Make sure that cash, valuables, important drugs and ID cards are in your hand luggage.

Check-in

Your check-in at Zurich airport must be done at least 90 minutes before departure at check-in 2 area, row 7. A previous evening check-in is not possible. Please be sure that you are checked in for the onward flight from Madrid to San José and that the baggage is registered accordingly.

Electronic Ticket

You are traveling with an «electronic ticket», so you only have to present your passport upon check-in.

Web Check-in

We recommend to web check-in online 23 hours before flight on www.iberia.com. You will need your travel passport and e-ticket number, you will refer to the accompanying letter. When doing web check-in you can select your seat and print your boarding pass. On the departing day go to the baggage drop-off counter, at check-in 2 area, row 7.

Assistance

In San José, you will be received by the tour guide in the arrivals hall at the airport. They will accompany you during your trip in Costa Rica.

Documents (Voucher)

For the services (hotel reservations, flights and transfers) in Costa Rica, you do not need a voucher. Our agency has made all the reservations for you.

Optional Flights

During the tour, you have the option to book optional flights with the travel agent. You can pay on the spot (in USD or in CRC).

Meals

All meals mentioned in the itinerary (14 breakfasts, 10 lunches and 10 dinners) are included in the price. Per meal is also a non-alcoholic drink included.

Time difference

In Costa Rica there is no daylight saving time. Therefore: CET minus 7 hours in winter or minus 8 hours in summer.

Average Exchange rate

Official currency is the Costa Rican Colon (CRC)

CHF 1.– = approx. 550 CRC

(Information as of April 2015)

Cash

In the larger cities, it is possible to withdraw cash with the debit card at ATMs. However, this is usually associated with a high fee. Payment by credit card is mostly possible only in the cities and in the larger hotels. Cash plays a more important role than in Europe. Therefore having national currency or US dollars with you is highly recommended.

Tips

Tips are an integral part of the income from people performing touristic professions. Therefore it is appropriate to acknowledge quality and service. As standard values apply for tour guides about USD 2 per person / day, or \$ 1.– for bus drivers. It is also fine to give a tip to luggage carriers and housekeepers. In restaurants, the tip corresponds from 5% to 10% of the total amount. Normally the tip is already included in the bill. Of course, leaving a tip depends on quality and service received and is freely defined by you.

Health

There is a risk of dengue fever and a good protection against mosquitoes is recommended. In addition, there is a small malaria risk in the eastern part of the country. Inform on time about infections and vaccinations as well as other prophylaxis measures with your doctor. Further information may be obtained from the Swiss Tropical Institute at tel. 061 284 81 11.

Climate

The climate in Costa Rica is dominated by tropical to subtropical temperatures and is strongly dependent on the altitude. The country can also be traversed unhesitatingly throughout the year. Dry season prevails from December to April, rainy season from May to November. Temperatures range in May between 24–33 degrees.

Clothing for the trip

Costa Rica is a conservative country. We ask for respect on this matter. Revealing clothes such as skimpy tops and shorts will not be welcome.

Adapter

It is recommended to carry an adapter for the sockets. The voltage is 120 volts AC. The corresponding adapter can be found at a specialized store.

Language

The considered official language of Costa Rica is Spanish. Nevertheless, many Costa Ricans speak English.

Photography

The lighting conditions in Costa Rica are very changeable. Therefore, come equipped for shady conditions as well as for bright sunlight. The Costa Ricans are very open and giving. When asked to be part of a picture, they usually give permission to take it. Nevertheless, respect a rejection. Never take pictures an animal using a flash! Especially turtles are very sensitive and lose orientation due to the bright flash.

Hints

The minimum number of participants is 16 people. If this number of participants is not reached, the trip will be carried out in small groups, for which we must surcharge. We will inform you at the latest 6 weeks before departure.

Change of itinerary reserved.

Hotels in Costa Rica**Hotel Barcelo Palma Real**

Americas, San José
+506 22 90 50 60

Grupo Mawamba Lodge

Tortuguero, Limón
+506 22 93 81 81

Hotel El Bambu

Puerto Viejo de Sarapiquí
+506 27 66 60 05

Hotel Royal Corin

La Fortuna,
+506 24 79 22 01

Buena Vista Lodge

Rincón de la Vieja, Liberia
+506 22 38 47 78

Hotel Flamingo Beach Resort

Playa Flamingo
+506 26 54 44 44

or

Hotel Barcelo Langosta

Playa Langosta,
+506 26 53 03 63

