

**TOUR CODE**            **CR-06**  
**TOUR TITLE:**        **Enchanting Rainforest**

**DAY 1        COUNTRY OF ORIGIN - ARRIVE SAN JOSÉ – PUERTO VIEJO DE SARAPIQUÍ**  
**(3 NIGHTS)**

We will be met at the International Airport Juan Santamaría (code SJO) by our tour manager/guide, where we will board our own private coach and transfer to our hotel in Puerto Viejo de Sarapiquí.

Lodging:        Sarapiquí's Rainforest Lodge or similar

**DAY 2        LA SELVA BIOLOGICAL STATION – LATIN DANCE CLASS**

This morning we will visit **La Selva Biological Station**, one of the most important sites for Tropical Ecosystem Research in the world. It is comprised of 3,988 acres of old growth and disturbed tropical wet forest and a pioneer site in education, research, conservation and ecotourism in Costa Rica since 1963. In fact it was one of the first private protected areas in the country and part of a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. Species diversity is spectacular, including more than 1,850 species of vascular plant flora, 350 species of trees, more than half of the 886 species of birds in Costa Rica, five of the six species of felines in the country, more than 70 species of bats, approximately 500 species of ants and thousands of reptiles, amphibians and other insects. During our nature walk we will learn about the amazing natural history (flora and fauna) of the tropical forest.

After dinner we will enjoy **Latin Dance class**. Ever wanted to learn Latin dancing? Then this is the class for you! You will learn 3 styles: Merengue, Salsa, and Cumbia. Local dancers will first demonstrate and then lead the group step by step. You will also practice with a partner and everyone will take turns dancing showing off their new dance moves. This activity is great fun, perfect for group's kick off or tour ending, but also for families and friends.

Lodging:        Sarapiquí's Rainforest Lodge or similar

**DAY 3        PINEAPPLE PLANTATION – CHOCOLATE TOUR - BAT TOUR**

This morning we will enjoy the **Pineapple Plantation Tour**. The main object of the farm is the cultivation of pineapple in harmony with nature. More than 60 % of our pineapple farm is in its natural state, in tropical forests and jungle with abundant flora y fauna. The farm produces certified organic golden pineapple on a large scale. We have more than 25 hectares of reforested land, with two rivers crossing the property. Combining this with the history and morphology of pineapple; direct contact with an operating pineapple farm; visit to the packing plant; a trip through the plantation in the comfort of a unique trailer and lots of freshly cut pineapple and pineapple juice make this a tour you will remember.

In the afternoon we will take the **Chocolate Tour** which includes a guided hike across a suspension bridge to an old cacao plantation, as well as through a forested section where you will observe how the product originally developed there. During the walk, you will be exposed to the natural and cultural history of the cacao tree and, upon reaching the plantation, the guide will reveal the secrets of transforming cacao fruit into chocolate. You'll see the chocolate-making process first-hand and even have the opportunity to treat your taste buds to organic rainforest chocolate! This tour is not designed as a visit to a chocolate factory. The idea is to show the natural process that was used since the beginning of the domestication of this plant that includes harvesting, fermentation, drying, and milling of the seeds, to develop the final product we consume nowadays.

This evening we will embark on a guided **Bat Tour**. Bats represent 50% (110 species) of Costa Rica's mammals, and this tour will dispel many myths you may have heard about these special mammals and will provide a wonderful education on the world of bats. We begin our adventure by watching a multi-media presentation on their history, classification system, diversity, adaptations, reproduction methods, and threats. Next, a trained guide will lead us on a safe tour during which we will have an opportunity to touch, feed, and then release safely captured bats. We will also take a short, guided walk to see the mist nets used to gently catch the bats. They are kept in captivity for fewer than 2 hours and the professional methods used ensure the well being of the animals.

Lodging:        Sarapiquí's Rainforest Lodge or similar

**DAY 4 PUERTO VIEJO DE SARAPIQUÍ – ARENAL VOLCANO NATIONAL PARK – ECOTERMALES FORTUNA HOT SPRINGS – LA FORTUNA (2 NIGHTS)**

This morning we will transfer to the La Fortuna area. We will visit the **Arenal Volcano National Park** and if we are lucky, from a viewing spot we will witness Arenal Volcano hiss and spray lava.

Late this afternoon (from 17:00h to 21:00h) we will enjoy the **Eco-Termales La Fortuna Hot Springs** and have the opportunity to submerge ourselves in the natural medicinal waters. The springs include several pools with varying water temperatures in a natural setting.

Lodging: Hotel Tilajari or similar

**DAY 5 LA FORTUNA WATERFALL – ARENAL HANGING BRIDGES**

We will hike to the impressive **Río Fortuna Waterfall** in a lush jungle setting. After viewing the falls from the top, we will take another hike (*weather permitting*) down a steep path to the pool formed by the waterfall. We can swim in the pool, the calm pool just around the bend, or join the locals at the popular swimming hole under the bridge.

In the afternoon we will enjoy the **Arenal Hanging Bridges** tour. This is a new tourist attraction of La Fortuna of San Carlos located only 4 km western of Tabacón in a reserve of 250 hectares of primary forest. The visit to the Hanging Bridges of the Arenal consists of a crossing on 15 bridges with a length between 5 and 100 meters that cross the tropical humid forest and a circuit of 3 Km of paths built in adoquín to avoid slidings. You will experience an impressive view of the rivers that are born in the reserve. This is a very entertained way to appreciate the biological wealth that is found in the reserve. The bridges built in aluminum, steel galvanized and concrete, assure the maximum security to our visitors. They were designed by expert engineers with a factor of security 5, complying thus the most exacting margins of security of the world. Through appreciating the biodiversity of flora and fauna with the imposing view of the Volcano from the hanging bridges inserted in the forest, you will enjoy the perfect combination of an unforgettable experience.

Lodging: Hotel Tilajari or similar

**DAY 6 LA FORTUNA - COROBICÍ RIVER TOUR - LAS PUMAS CAT ZOO – RINCÓN DE LA VIEJA (2 NIGHTS)**

This morning we depart Arenal and travel to the province of Guanacaste. En route we will stop experience close-up more of Costa Rica's spectacular wildlife as we take a **Corobici River Float**. We will head down the river on a rubber raft, wearing life jackets, and enjoy spectacular and exotic sights of flora and fauna. We are very likely to spot numerous bird species, turtles, iguanas, monkeys and small crocodiles.

In the afternoon we make a brief visit to nearby **Las Pumas Cat Zoo**, where Costa Rica's six different cat species (cougars, jaguars, jaguarondis, margays, ocelots and "tiger" cats) prowl safely behind chain linked fences. The zoo takes in orphaned, injured and confiscated cats.

We continue to the Hotel Hacienda Guachipelín (located in the Rincón de la Vieja Volcano National park area), a truly eco-touristic hotel for adventure travelers and nature lovers. The hotel is surrounded by lush gardens with native trees, exotic flowers and many bird species, and it features wonderful views of both the Rincón de la Vieja Volcano and the Pacific Ocean. Natural hot springs, rivers, natural pools, virgin forests, jungle waterfalls, thermal waters, tropical forests with birds, mammals, reptiles, insects and volcanic mud pots are just some of the many natural attractions we will enjoy during our stay at the Hacienda.

Lodging: Hotel Hacienda Lodge Guachipelín or similar

## DAY 7 TUBING ADVENTURE AND HORSEBACK RIDE AT HACIENDA GUACHIPELIN

This morning we will enjoy an amazing day of adventure on the grounds of Hacienda Guachipelin. Our day begins as we embark on the **Rio Negro Tubing Adventure**, where we take a 45-minute **Horseback Ride** through the dry forest and then a short walk to the base of La Victoria Waterfall. After a safety briefing, we will each get our own personal round raft and begin our tour (1 hour 30 minutes) down the white water rapids in the Rio Negro. At the conclusion we will take the horses back to the hotel.

Lodging: Hotel Hacienda Lodge Guachipelín or similar

## DAY 8 DEPARTURE FROM LIBERIA TO COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

Our rewarding tour will come to an end as our tour manager/guide accompanies us to the International Airport Daniel Oduber (code LIR) airport for the return flight home.

### PRICE BREAKDOWN Valid until October 31<sup>st</sup> 2011 Rates are in US\$ per person

People	Triple	Double	Single
14-16	US\$ 925	US\$ 995	US\$ 1290
10-13	US\$ 1010	US\$ 1085	US\$ 1375

We have quoted following hotels or similar:

	Hotel	Location	Type of room	Web page
1	<b>Sarapiquí's Rainforest Lodge</b>	<b>Puerto Viejo de Sarapiquí</b>	<b>deluxe</b>	<a href="http://www.sarapiquis.org">www.sarapiquis.org</a>
2	Sarapiquí's Rainforest Lodge	Puerto Viejo de Sarapiquí	deluxe	
3	Sarapiquí's Rainforest Lodge	Puerto Viejo de Sarapiquí	deluxe	
4	Tilajari	Muelle de La Fortuna	standard	<a href="http://www.tilajari.com">www.tilajari.com</a>
5	Tilajari	Muelle de La Fortuna	standard	
6	Hacienda Lodge Guachipelín	Rincón de la Vieja	standard	<a href="http://www.guachipelin.com">www.guachipelin.com</a>
7	Hacienda Lodge Guachipelín	Rincón de la Vieja	standard	
8	<b>departure day</b>			

The rates include following services:

- ✚ 7 nights lodging including tax
- ✚ Luggage handling at the SJO and at the LIR airport (on arrival and departure day) and at the hotels
- ✚ 7 breakfasts including eggs at your choice, yogurt and cereals
- ✚ 7 dinners (on day 4 will be at Eco-Termas La Fortuna hot springs)
- ✚ PRIVATE English speaking local guide throughout the itinerary
- ✚ PRIVATE transportation (20 or 22 seater) with air conditioning throughout the itinerary
- ✚ Entrance fees to the following tourist attractions:
  - La Selva Biological Station
  - Latin Dance class
  - Pineapple Plantation Tour
  - Chocolate Tour
  - Bat Tour
  - Arenal Volcano National Park
  - Eco-Termas La Fortuna Hot Springs
  - Río Fortuna Waterfall
  - Arenal Hanging Bridges
  - Corobici River Float
  - Las Pumas Cat Zoo
  - Rio Negro Tubing Adventure
  - Horseback Ride
- ✚ One envelope per room containing following information kit:
  - ✓ Welcome letter
  - ✓ Detailed day-by-day itinerary
  - ✓ Brochures of the hotels, local operators and ICT (Costa Rican Tourism Board)
  - ✓ Stecmatours contacts phone numbers
  - ✓ Emergency phone numbers
  - ✓ Costa Rica map
  - ✓ Sheet for the evaluation of the booked services

Thanks!

STECMATOURS

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