

Ecotour of Costa Rica
June 6 – June 13, 2006
Itinerary

Visiting: San Jose, Poas Volcano, La Paz Waterfall Gardens, Sarapiquí, Arenal Volcano, Monteverde, Jaco Beach, and Tarcoles River

B = Breakfast; L=Lunch; D=Dinner

DAY 1: Tuesday, June 6 (D)

Depart TriRail Station at Mangonia Park. Transfer by bus to Miami Int'l Airport. Arrive San Jose, Costa Rica. Tour representative meets us and transports us to Hotel Bougainvillea. Sightsee city by bus.

DAY 2: Wednesday, June 7 (BLD)

Breakfast at hotel. Depart to Braulio Carrillo Nat'l Park; Poas Volcano; hike to crater. Visit local museum, video presentation. Transfer to LaPaz Waterfall Gardens. Nature walk to the waterfalls; visit Butterfly Garden (largest in the world!), Hummingbird Gallery; Orchid Gardens. After lunch and shopping at gift store, transfer to Sarapiquí River; jungle cruise to observe biodiversity of area. Transfer to Selva Verde Hotel and have dinner.

DAY 3: June 8 (BLD)

After breakfast at hotel, arrive at Tirimbina Biological Station where many scientists from all over the world come to study and conduct research in the rain forest. Students will learn about tropical ecology, biodiversity, and conservation, then take a nature walk through the rain forest. Lunch at hotel. Transfer to Sarapiquí River, white water rafting. Dinner at hotel.

DAY 4: June 9 (BLD)

Breakfast at hotel, then transfer to Arenal volcano and largest lake in Costa Rica. Check-in to hotel (Las Cabanistas Hotel or Volcano Lodge) and have lunch. Dip in Tabacon Hot Springs heated naturally from the volcano. Dinner at the hot springs. After dark, witness red incandescent lava from volcano.

DAY 5: June 10 (BLD)

Breakfast at hotel and transfer to scenic boat ride along Arenal Lake, followed by a horseback riding experience across the rain forest and rivers to Monteverde Cloud Forest. Check into Hotel Belmar and have lunch. Afternoon adventure: Sky Trek Tour. Scenic tour and shopping in town of Santa Elena's art galleries, butterfly garden, and cheese factory.

DAY 6: June 11 (BLD)

Breakfast at hotel, pack, and travel to Pacific coast beaches of Jaco. Overnight at Hotel Best Western. Free time at the beach. Lunch and dinner at the Best Western.

DAY 7: June 12 (BLD)

After breakfast, guided Crocodile Safari Tour through the mangrove forest in the Tarcoles River. Lunch and dinner at the Best Western. Time to visit the town of Jaco and shop.

DAY 8: June 13 (B)

Breakfast, check out, and transfer to San Jose. Lunch en route. Depart San Jose. Arrive Miami Int'l Airport in the P.M.