



# Reconnecting with Nature:

Volcano, Hot Springs, Rainforest, Rivers, Waterfalls, Islands, Beaches, Culture!!

## *Day 1*

### **Welcome to Costa Rica!**

An ACTUAR driver will meet your flight and take you to a charming B&B in San José.

### **Services included**

Transfer to Hotel Don Carlos  
Double room at Hotel Don Carlos including breakfast

## *Day 2*

### **To the volcano and hot springs!**

Your bilingual naturalist guide/driver will pick you up in the morning. Set out for active Arenal Volcano. The volcano usually explodes several times a day, sending up a cloud of smoke. The trip to La Fortuna, the town to the east of the volcano, is very picturesque, with views of dairy farms and local agriculture. Stop for a breather in Zarcero, known for the topiary gardens in front of its church. When you arrive at Arenal Oasis Lodge, the owners will greet you and orient you to their nature trails, frog ponds and wildlife exhibits. Go for a relaxing soak at the hot springs that night.

### **Services included**

Breakfast at Hotel Don Carlos  
Bilingual naturalist guide/driver and expenses  
Double room at Arenal Oasis including breakfast  
Entrances to Ecotermales at 5 p.m. including dinner



### *Day 3*

#### **Enjoy Arenal**

Today is free to explore the area with your guide, or to enjoy optional activities like a visit to Arenal Volcano National Park, hiking at Arenal Hanging Bridges, white water rafting or a canopy zipline tour (tours not included).

#### **Services included**

Bilingual naturalist guide/driver and expenses  
Double room at Arenal Oasis including breakfast

### *Day 4*

#### **Climb into the rainforest of the Karen Mogensen Reserve**

Your guide will take you about 3.5 hours away to one of the Nicoya Peninsula's hidden jewels, the Karen Mogensen Reserve: 2224 acres of tropical forest with the 75-foot Bridal Veil Falls, natural swimming holes, and wonderful trails through primary rainforest.

Cerro Escondido Lodge is in a hidden valley in the middle of the Reserve. Here you can disconnect from everything and find yourself again amidst the sounds of the forest. Don Arnulfo will be your guide to reconnecting with the essence of life in nature. You can only get to Cerro Escondido by hiking an hour and a half uphill through the forest.

#### **Services included**

Bilingual naturalist guide/driver and expenses  
Double room at Cerro Escondido Lodge  
Lunch at the Rancho de los Hermanos Rojas  
Dinner at Cerro Escondido  
Local guide

### *Day 5*

#### **Swim in the waterfall pools!**

Climb up to the mirador to watch the sunrise over the Gulf of Nicoya, if you like. After a delicious country-style breakfast, go hiking in the forest or have a picnic lunch at the waterfall pools.

#### **Services included**

Bilingual naturalist guide/driver and expenses  
Double room at Cerro Escondido Lodge  
Picnic lunch at the waterfall  
Dinner at Cerro Escondido  
Local guide

### *Day 6*

#### **Learn about island culture at Isla de Chira!**

Your adventure continues in the Gulf of Nicoya, where a local guide will take you by boat past impressive mangrove swamps to the Isla de Chira. You'll also visit Isla Paloma, a sanctuary for aquatic birds. Isla de Chira is a great place to go biking. You can pedal to Playa Romántica to watch the sunset. Stay overnight at La Amistad Inn and listen to the fisherwomen tell their stories.

#### **Services included**

Breakfast at Cerro Escondido  
One-day, one night tour to Isla de Chira including all meals, lodging and boat transportation

### *Day 7*

#### **Discover Playa Sámará!**

After a hearty breakfast, take the boat back to the mainland. Your guide will take you to the friendly Hotel Fénix in Playa Sámará on the Nicoya Peninsula. The owners of the hotel keep themselves informed about turtle nesting activity in this area, and will let you know if the season and moon phase are right to observe nesting turtles that night (turtle tour not included). Your guide will take you to a grocery store to stock up on food—your room at Hotel Fénix is equipped with a kitchen. That afternoon, say goodbye to your guide.

#### **Services included**

Breakfast at Isla de Chira  
Bilingual naturalist guide/driver and expenses  
Cabin with kitchen at Hotel Fénix

### *Day 8*

#### **Relax at the beach!**

Enjoy the reef-protected beach at Playa Sámará. No riptides here! Take a surfing lesson, go kayaking, or just relax in a hammock.

#### **Services included**

Cabin with kitchen at Hotel Fénix

### *Day 9*

#### **Back to reality...**

Take the Interbus back to San José. Stay at the art-filled Hotel Don Carlos. Fill your gift list at their extensive souvenir shop. Have dinner at one of the city's fine international restaurants (not included).

#### **Services included**

Interbus to San José  
Double room at Hotel Don Carlos including breakfast

### *Day 10*

#### **Come back soon!**

An ACTUAR driver will pick you up at your hotel in time to get you to the airport 2.5 hours before your return flight. Fly home with happy memories of Costa Rica!

#### **Services included:**

Breakfast  
Transfer to airport

NOTE: There is an exit tax of \$26 per person, payable at the airport before you check in. It can be paid in dollars, colones, a combination of the two, or with a debit card. It can also be paid with a credit card, but will be charged as a cash advance.

**To sign up for this tour, contact**

**Key to Costa Rica** CONSERVACATIONS

[beatrice@keytocostarica.com](mailto:beatrice@keytocostarica.com)

*All of our ecotours can be customized to meet your interests, budget, and time frame.  
See next page for prices.*



## *Reconnecting with Nature* Prices and Family Discounts

Minimum 2 adults	Price per person
In double occupancy	<b>\$2010</b>
In triple occupancy	<b>\$1537</b>
In single room	<b>\$2395</b>
With one child 4 to 10	<b>\$1505</b>
With two children 4 to 10	<b>\$1250</b>

### *Discounts for more than four*

Let us know if there are more than four people in your party. The price per person will go down.

**Prices valid through November 30, 2012, EXCEPT for travel during Christmas and Easter weeks. Contact us for repricing during those weeks.**  
[\*\*beatrice@keytocostarica.com\*\*](mailto:beatrice@keytocostarica.com)

### *Your private guide/driver: an incredible value*

**Kids love them:** Kids love our bilingual naturalist guide/drivers because of their friendly, fun-loving attitude, and parents love them because of their kindness and their ability to teach about all things Costa Rica!

**Peace of mind:** Your family will have a guide all to yourselves for as many days as you want during your tour, so you can avoid the hassles that come with traveling with large groups of strangers. Your guide knows the ins and outs of each destination, so you'll have the peace of mind of knowing that your family is safe and well-cared for.

**Hassle-free transportation:** Getting around can be tricky in Costa Rica, but it becomes fun and hassle-free with your private guide/driver. You can stop where you want, whenever you want, giving you more freedom to respond to needs and for off-the-beaten-path exploration.

**Flexibility:** If you and your spouse want to walk along the beach and the kids are not interested, your guide can take them back to the hotel and keep them safe and entertained.

**Personal connection:** Best of all, your guide is your personal connection not only to nature, but to the culture of the fascinating destination you are visiting. Our professional guides make our trips unforgettable!

To sign up, contact [\*\*beatrice@keytocostarica.com\*\*](mailto:beatrice@keytocostarica.com)

