



Christmas in Costa Rica Group Itinerary

December 19 – 27, 2022

Safe
travels



SECTION I – INTRODUCTION



Group Name	Christmas in Costa Rica
# of participants	1 -20 pax
Dates	December 19 - 27, 2022
Company	Best of Costa Rica
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Phone	00 +506 2290-1302
Highlights	San Jose, Arenal Volcano, & Manuel Antonio or Punta Leona

8N-9D CHRISTMAS IN COSTA RICA

(Departure starting with 2 people)

Highlights:

- ✓ Navigate pristine canals where wildlife abounds
- ✓ Visit the impressive Arenal Volcano
- ✓ Walk through old lava fields
- ✓ Breathtaking beaches



Hotel Category: Tourist



Transportation: Private

ROUTE



SECTION II – ITINERARY SUMMARY

Day	Destination	Hotel	Activities	Meals
01	San Jose	Crowne Plaza	Meet & greet at the San Jose International Airport & transfer to your hotel.	Dinner at the Crowne Plaza Corobici Hotel.
02	Tortuguero	Laguna Lodge	Morning departure to Tortuguero & arrival at the lodge. Afternoon boat tour in the Tortuguero Canals.	Breakfast at the hotel; lunch & dinner at the lodge.
03	Tortuguero	Laguna Lodge	Morning walk on the hotel trails. Visit the picturesque Tortuguero Village & return to the lodge.	Breakfast, lunch & dinner at the lodge.
04	Arenal Volcano	Arenal Paraiso	Boat transfer from Tortuguero to the pier, and ground transfer to the Arenal Volcano.	Breakfast at the lodge, lunch en route, & dinner at a local restaurant.
05	Arenal Volcano	Arenal Paraiso	Hiking to the La Fortuna Waterfall & the Arenal 1968 Trail.	Breakfast at the hotel, lunch & dinner at a local restaurant.
06	Manuel Antonio or Punta Leona	Si Como No or Punta Leona	Transfer to Punta Leona or Manuel Antonio.	Breakfast at the hotel, lunch en route, & dinner at the hotel.
07	Manuel Antonio or Punta Leona	Si Como No or Punta Leona	Manuel Antonio option: Hiking in the Manuel Antonio National Park / Punta Leona option: Free day at the beach.	Breakfast & dinner at the hotel.
08	Manuel Antonio or Punta Leona	Si Como No or Punta Leona	Day free to enjoy the beach.	Breakfast & dinner at the hotel.
09	Departure	N/A	Regular transfer to Juan Santamaria International Airport.	Breakfast at the hotel.

SECTION III – ITINERARY DETAILS

DAY 1. SAN JOSE, COSTA RICA (20 MIN. APPROX., 16 KM)

Meet and greet at the Juan Santamaria International Airport and transfer to your hotel in San Jose.

The capital city of San Jose, considered one of the most cosmopolitan cities in Latin America, is in the middle of the Central Valley in the center of the country. The city features popular tourist attractions, such as historical buildings, museums, theaters, artisan markets, beautiful parks, shopping centers, and a varied gastronomic scene.



Welcome dinner at the Crowne Plaza Corobici Hotel.

Accommodation in San Jose is at the Crowne Plaza Corobici Hotel in a standard room.

DAY 2. SAN JOSE – TORTUGUERO – BOAT TOUR ON THE TORTUGUERO CANALS (6 HOURS APPROX., 116 KM)

Breakfast at the hotel.

Today you will cross the majestic Braulio Carrillo National Park traveling to the town of Guapiles (restrooms will be available). After a quick stop, you will continue driving to the pier, where you will board your boat to Tortuguero. The boat ride along the rivers and canals takes about an hour and a half to arrive at your lodge.



After lunch, you will take a boat tour through the canals of the Tortuguero National Park, famous for being the habitat of seven species



of turtles, many kinds of crustaceans, and numerous freshwater fish species.

Dinner is at the lodge restaurant.

Accommodation is at Laguna Lodge in a standard room.

DAY 3. TORTUGUERO – VISIT TORTUGUERO VILLAGE

Breakfast at the lodge.

In the morning, you will visit the picturesque village of Tortuguero. The small community is surrounded by tropical jungle, with the Tortuguero River and canals on one side and the Caribbean beach on the other, where thousands of sea turtles come to nest every year. A curious fact about the town is that there are no cars. So, people travel by bike or on foot; to carry cargo or collect garbage, they use quads. You have the afternoon free to enjoy the lodge facilities.



Dinner is at the lodge restaurant. Accommodation is at Laguna Lodge in a standard room.

DAY 4. TORTUGUERO – ARENAL VOLCANO (6 HOURS APPROX., 180 KM)

Breakfast at the lodge.

You will depart by boat back to the main dock and then travel by ground transportation to Guapiles, where you will have lunch. Then you will continue to the Northern Plains region to the impressive Arenal Volcano.



Majestic in its grand stature, the volcano is one of the country's natural wonders. Along the way to the town of La Fortuna, you will see various agricultural and ornamental plant plantations and cattle farms.

Dinner is at a local restaurant.

Accommodation is at Arenal Paraiso Hotel in a superior room.

DAY 5. ARENAL VOLCANO – HIKE THE ARENAL 1968 TRAIL & VISIT THE LA FORTUNA WATERFALL

Breakfast at the hotel.

In the morning, you will go on a guided hike to the La Fortuna Waterfall, walking down to the base of the waterfall and its crystal clear pool. There is a viewpoint at the trailhead where you can appreciate the waterfall's beauty cascading among the trees. Along the way, you may see different birds, mammals, and reptiles, since the trail runs through a section of the Arenal Volcano National Park. Lunch is at a local restaurant.



In the afternoon, you will hike the Arenal 1968 Trail, so named because this is where the volcano's historically strongest and most destructive eruptions happened. You'll see how the forest vegetation and terrain have been affected by volcanic activity, including ancient lava flows.

Dinner is at a local restaurant.

Accommodation is at Arenal Paraiso Hotel in a superior room.

DAY 6. ARENAL VOLCANO – MANUEL ANTONIO (4.5 HOURS APPROX., 227 KM) OR PUNTA LEONA (3.5 HOURS APPROX., 161 KM)

Breakfast at the hotel.

Your next destination is the warm Central Pacific Coast. On the way, you will stop for lunch at a local restaurant. When you get to your hotel, you will say goodbye to the guide and driver who accompanied you so far during your tour. The beach portion of your trip will be on your own.

Manuel Antonio option: The beach's enchantment and the forest's splendor come together in one place, resulting in a natural paradise. This is why Manuel Antonio National Park receives the largest number of national and international tourists.



In addition to beaches, the park features a rainforest where endangered species of flora and fauna coexist. There is also a mangrove swamp, marine environments, islands, and a 14-hectare lagoon. In a short distance, you can walk along several trails that will take you through primary forest and offer breathtaking ocean views. At all times, you can enjoy the abundant wildlife found here.

Dinner is at the Si Como No Hotel restaurant.

Accommodation is at Si Como No Hotel in a superior room.

Punta Leona option: Punta Leona is one of the most vital reserves in Costa Rica's Central Pacific region from a geographical and conservation point of view. Punta Leona is home to the only remaining rainforests found in the transitional life zone between the southwestern rainforests and the dry jungles of the northwest.



Dinner is at the Punta Leona Hotel restaurant.

Accommodation is at Punta Leona Hotel in a Selvamar room.

DAY 7. MANUEL ANTONIO OPTION: HIKE IN THE MANUEL ANTONIO NATIONAL PARK / PUNTA LEONA OPTION: FREE DAY AT THE BEACH

Manuel Antonio option:

Breakfast at the hotel.

Today, you will visit the Manuel Antonio National Park, exploring the lush tropical forest preserved for over 40 years. There are several hiking trails with lookout points, and at various places, they branch off and lead to four separate beaches: Espadilla Sur, Manuel Antonio, Escondida, and Playita. Your pace on this adventure is determined by your group's skills and interests and the abundance of wildlife you want to see.



Dinner is at the Si Como No Hotel restaurant.

Accommodation is at Si Como No Hotel in a superior room.

Punta Leona option:

Today is a free day to enjoy the sun, the beach, and the facilities and amenities of Hotel Punta Leona.

Dinner is at the Punta Leona Hotel restaurant.

Accommodation is at Punta Leona Hotel in a Selvamar room.

DAY 8. MANUEL ANTONIO OR PUNTA LEONA

Breakfast at the hotel. You have the day free to enjoy the sun, the beach, and the facilities and amenities of the Si Como No Hotel or Punta Leona Hotel.

Dinner is at either the Si Como No Hotel restaurant or the Punta Leona Hotel restaurant.

Accommodation is at Si Como No Hotel in a superior room, or Punta Leona Hotel in a Selvamar room.

DAY 9. MANUEL ANTONIO – SAN JOSE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (3 HOURS APPROX., 156 KM) / PUNTA LEONA – SAN JOSE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (1.5 HOURS APPROX., 85.7 KM)

Breakfast at the hotel.

Regular transfer from your hotel to the Juan Santamaria International Airport for your return flight. It is important to remember that you must be at the airport 3 hours before your flight departs. Your transfer will be scheduled to leave the hotel at a suitable time to arrive on time at the airport.

Important note: Please verify the departure time of your international flight. Regular transfers apply for flights departing after 4:00 p.m. If your flight departs before that time, you will have to pay a supplement for a private transfer.

We wish you a happy return trip home and hope you visit us again!

SECTION IV – INCLUDED

- ✓ Private transfer with a bilingual guide (Spanish/English): San Jose International Airport – Crowne Plaza Corobici Hotel.
- ✓ 01 night accommodation at Crowne Plaza Corobici Hotel in a standard room with breakfast included.
- ✓ Welcome dinner at the Crowne Plaza Corobici Hotel Restaurant.
- ✓ Private transfer with a bilingual guide (Spanish/English): San Jose – Pavona Pier or Caño Blanco Pier.
- ✓ Regular boat transfer with a bilingual guide (Spanish/English): Pavona Pier or Caño Blanco Pier – Tortuguero.
- ✓ 02 nights' accommodation at Laguna Lodge in a standard room with full board.
- ✓ Regular excursion with a bilingual guide (Spanish/English): Visit Tortuguero Village.
- ✓ Bilingual guide (Spanish/English) for activities in Tortuguero.
- ✓ Regular excursion with a bilingual guide (Spanish/English): Boat ride through the Tortuguero Canals.
- ✓ Entrance fee to the Tortuguero National Park.
- ✓ Regular boat transfer with a bilingual guide (Spanish/English): Tortuguero – Pavona Pier or Caño Blanco Pier.
- ✓ Private transfer with a bilingual guide (Spanish/English): Pavona Pier or Caño Blanco Pier – Arenal Volcano.
- ✓ 02 nights' accommodation at Arenal Paraiso Hotel in a superior room with breakfast included.
- ✓ Dinner at a local restaurant.
- ✓ Private excursion with a bilingual guide (Spanish/English): Hike to the La Fortuna Waterfall & the Arenal 1968 Trail.
- ✓ Entrance fee to the La Fortuna Waterfall.
- ✓ Lunch at a local restaurant.
- ✓ Entrance fee to the Arenal 1968 Trail.
- ✓ Dinner at a local restaurant.
- ✓ Private transfer with a bilingual guide (Spanish/English): Arenal Volcano – Manuel Antonio or Punta Leona.
- ✓ Lunch at a local restaurant.
- ✓ 03 nights' accommodation at the Si Como No Hotel in a superior room with breakfast included, or at the Punta Leona Hotel in a Selvamar room with breakfast included.
- ✓ Dinner at the Si Como No Hotel restaurant or the Punta Leona Hotel restaurant.

- ✓ For the Manuel Antonio option: Regular excursion to the Manuel Antonio National Park.
- ✓ For the Punta Leona option: Free day at the beach.
- ✓ Dinner at the Si Como No Hotel restaurant or the Punta Leona Hotel restaurant.
- ✓ Free day at the beach.
- ✓ Dinner at the Si Como No Hotel restaurant or the Punta Leona Hotel restaurant.
- ✓ Regular transfer: Manuel Antonio or Punta Leona – San Jose International Airport.
- ✓ Local taxes in Costa Rica
- ✓ 24-hour customer assistance

SECTION V – EXCLUDED

- ✓ Activities and additional meals not listed in the itinerary
- ✓ International flights
- ✓ Tips for maids and porters
- ✓ Voluntary tips for local guides and drivers; we recommend the following amounts:
 - Tour guide \$5.00 per person
 - Driver \$3.00 per person
- ✓ \$29 departure tax (included by most airlines in tickets)
- ✓ Medical insurance