



# Year-end Holidays in Costa Rica

December 25, 2022 – January 06, 2023



## SECTION I – INTRODUCTION



<b>Group name</b>	Year-end Holidays in Costa Rica
<b># of participants</b>	1 -20 pax
<b>Dates</b>	December 25, 2022 – January 06, 2023
<b>Company</b>	Best of Costa Rica
<b>Email</b>	info@bestcostaricadm.com
<b>Phone</b>	00 +506 2290-1302
<b>Highlights</b>	San Jose, Puerto Viejo de Limon, Sarapiquí, Arenal Volcano, & Manuel Antonio or Tamarindo

## 12N-13D YEAR-END HOLIDAYS IN COSTA RICA

**(Departure starting with 2 people)**

(IN SAN JOSE / 3N SOUTHERN CARIBBEAN / 2N TORTUGUERO / 1N SARAPIQUI / 2N ARENAL / 3N MANUEL ANTONIO or TAMARINDO)

### Highlights:

- ✓ Costa Rica's "little Amazon" rainforest
- ✓ Afro-Caribbean culture
- ✓ Spectacular views of Arenal Volcano
- ✓ Picturesque beaches
- ✓ Wildlife in its natural habitat



Hotel Category: Tourist

Transportation: Private

## SECTION II – ITINERARY SUMMARY

Day	Destination	Hotel	Activities	Meals
1	San Jose	Hilton Garden Inn La Sabana	Meet & greet at the San Jose International Airport & transfer to your hotel.	Dinner at the Hilton Garden Inn La Sabana.
2	Puerto Viejo de Limon	Caribblue	Transfer to Puerto Viejo de Limon.  Afternoon free.	Breakfast at the hotel, lunch en route, & dinner at the Caribblue Hotel restaurant.
3	Puerto Viejo de Limon	Caribblue	Hike in the Cahuita National Park, followed by a Caribbean lunch.  Afternoon free.	Breakfast at the hotel, lunch at a Caribbean restaurant, & dinner at a local restaurant.
4	Puerto Viejo de Limon	Caribblue	Explore Costa Rica's Caribbean beaches.	Breakfast at the hotel, lunch & dinner at a local restaurant.
5	Tortuguero	Pachira Lodge	Morning departure to Tortuguero & arrival at the lodge. Visit the picturesque Tortuguero Village.	Breakfast en route, lunch & dinner at the lodge.
6	Tortuguero	Pachira Lodge	Morning walk on the hotel trails. Afternoon boat tour in the Tortuguero Canals.	Breakfast, lunch & dinner at the lodge.
7	Sarapiquí	Sarapiquis Rainforest Lodge	Boat transfer from Tortuguero to the pier, and ground transfer to Sarapiquí.	Breakfast at the lodge, lunch en route, & dinner at the hotel.

Day	Destination	Hotel	Activities	Meals
8	<b>Arenal Volcano</b>	Magic Mountain	Day hike and transfer to the Arenal Volcano.	Breakfast at the lodge, lunch en route, & dinner at a local restaurant.
9	<b>Arenal Volcano</b>	Magic Mountain	Hiking to the La Fortuna Waterfall & the Arenal 1968 Trail.	Breakfast at the hotel, lunch & dinner at a local restaurant.
10	<b>Manuel Antonio or Tamarindo</b>	Shana Resort or Wyndham Tamarindo	Transfer to Manuel Antonio or Tamarindo.	Breakfast at the hotel, lunch en route, & dinner at the hotel.
11	<b>Manuel Antonio or Tamarindo</b>	Shana Resort or Wyndham Tamarindo	<b>Manuel Antonio option:</b> Hiking in the Manuel Antonio National Park / <b>Tamarindo option:</b> Free day at the beach.	Breakfast & dinner at the hotel.
12	<b>Manuel Antonio or Tamarindo</b>	Shana Resort or Wyndham Tamarindo	Day free to enjoy the beach.	Breakfast & dinner at the hotel.
13	<b>Departure</b>	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., 16.9 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 Hilton Garden Inn La Sabana.*

Accommodation in San Jose is at the Hilton Garden Inn La Sabana in a standard room.

### DAY 2. SAN JOSE – PUERTO VIEJO DE LIMON (5 HOURS APPROX., 232 KM)

Breakfast at the hotel.

This morning you will depart to the southern Caribbean town of Puerto Viejo de Limon.

The Caribbean area features a rich Afro-descendant and indigenous cultural mix, creating a unique societal blend in Costa Rica. Dinner is at the Caribblue Hotel restaurant.



Accommodation is at Caribblue Hotel in a deluxe room.

### DAY 3. PUERTO VIEJO DE LIMON – HIKE IN THE CAHUITA NATIONAL PARK & CARIBBEAN LUNCH

Breakfast at the hotel.

Cahuita is an important historical community in Costa Rica's Caribbean region. Afro-Caribbean families built their first homes here and dedicated themselves to coconut production, subsistence farming, and fishing. Their ancestral lands were declared a national park to conserve the valuable tropical forest.



The Cahuita National Park abounds with incredible biodiversity. You will hike the picturesque coastal trail with stunning views. When you enter the forest, our guide will tell you about the wildlife that lives here, including frogs, monkeys, sloths, birds, insects, and snakes that hopefully, you will be able to appreciate close-up.

After enjoying the park, we will take you to taste the best of Caribbean cuisine.

You have the rest of the afternoon free. Dinner is at a local restaurant.

Accommodation is at Cariblue Hotel in a deluxe room.

### DAY 4. PUERTO VIEJO DE LIMON – EXPLORE COSTA RICA'S CARIBBEAN BEACHES

Breakfast at the hotel.

Today you will explore Costa Rica's beautiful Caribbean beaches with your guide. Highlights include coral reefs, multicolored sand (from black to yellow and gray), and lush coastal vegetation and forests.

You have the afternoon free. Lunch and dinner are at a local restaurant.

Accommodation is at Cariblue Hotel in a deluxe room.

## DAY 5. PUERTO VIEJO DE LIMON – TORTUGUERO (6 HOURS APPROX., 116 KM) – VISIT TORTUGUERO VILLAGE

Breakfast en route to Tortuguero.

We'll depart early in the morning to the town of Guapiles, where you will enjoy a delicious traditional breakfast. Afterward, you will drive past banana plantations on the way 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 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.

Dinner is at the lodge restaurant.

Accommodation is at Pachira Lodge in a standard room.

## DAY 6. TORTUGUERO – BOAT TOUR ON THE TORTUGUERO CANALS

Breakfast at the lodge.



In the morning, you'll go on a guided walk on the lodge's private trails. 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. We also recommend the optional turtle nesting night tour.

Dinner is at the lodge restaurant.

Accommodation is at Pachira Lodge in a standard room.

## DAY 7. TORTUGUERO – SARAPIQUI (3 HOURS APPROX., 116 KM)

Breakfast at the lodge.

Today, you will depart by boat back to the main dock and then travel by ground transportation to Sarapiquí. This beautiful, green, lowland Caribbean area is home to several nature reserves and national parks, including the Braulio Carrillo National Park and the Sarapiquí Protected Area. It is an ideal place for bird watching and is one of the country's primary agricultural sectors with substantial banana, pineapple, and palm heart plantations. It is also known for its "turnos" – outdoor festivals that include fairs, rodeos, and livestock and cattle shows.



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Lunch will be en route, and dinner is at your hotel.

Accommodation is at Sarapiquí Rainforest Lodge in a standard room.

## DAY 8. SARAPIQUI – ARENAL VOLCANO (1.5 HOURS APPROX., 68.7 KM)

Breakfast at the hotel.

In the morning, experience firsthand the wonder of exploring a tropical jungle on a personalized, leisurely walk through the 500-acre private reserve of Selva Verde with our expert naturalist guide. You'll learn more than just the names of rainforest plants and animals, discovering their secret lives and fascinating natural histories. Keep an eye out for monkeys, mot-mots, toucans, and poison dart frogs, and remember to bring your camera!

Afterward, 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.

Lunch will be en route, and dinner is at a local restaurant.

Accommodation is at Magic Mountain Hotel in a superior room.

## DAY 9. 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 Magic Mountain Hotel in a superior room.

## DAY 10. ARENAL VOLCANO – MANUEL ANTONIO (4.5 HOURS APPROX., 227 KM) OR TAMARINDO (4 HOURS APPROX., 206 KM)

Breakfast at the hotel.

Your next destination is the warm Central Pacific or Northern Pacific Coast. After breakfast, it will be time to say goodbye to the guide and driver who

accompanied you during your tour. The beach portion of your trip is on your own.

**Manuel Antonio option:** Enchanting beaches and splendorous forests 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 Shana Resort restaurant.

Accommodation is at Shana Resort in a standard room.

**Tamarindo option:** This stunning beach in the Guanacaste province cradles Tamarindo Bay, known for its warm, clear water and conserving one of the most beautiful and diverse marine ecosystems in the area.



There are plenty of aquatic activities to enjoy, such as diving and snorkeling, but Tamarindo is most famous for surfing. The area is also popular for yoga, Pilates, and many other activities.

Dinner is at the Wyndham Tamarindo Hotel restaurant.

Accommodation is at Wyndham Tamarindo Hotel in a standard room.

## DAY 11. MANUEL ANTONIO OPTION: HIKE IN THE MANUEL ANTONIO NATIONAL PARK / TAMARINDO 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 Shana Resort restaurant.

Accommodation is at Shana Resort in a standard room.

### Tamarindo option:

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

Dinner is at the Wyndham Tamarindo Hotel restaurant.

Accommodation is at Wyndham Tamarindo Hotel in a standard room.

## DAY 12. MANUEL ANTONIO OR TAMARINDO

Breakfast at the hotel. You have the day free to enjoy the sun, the beach, and the facilities and amenities of the Shana Resort or Wyndham Tamarindo Hotel.

Dinner is at either the Shana Resort restaurant or the Wyndham Tamarindo Hotel restaurant.

Accommodation is at Shana Resort in a standard room, or Wyndham Tamarindo Hotel in a standard room.

**DAY 13. MANUEL ANTONIO – SAN JOSE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (3 HOURS APPROX., 156 KM) / TAMARINDO – SAN JOSE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (5 HOURS APPROX., 248 KM)**

Breakfast at the hotel.

Regular transfer from your hotel in Manuel Antonio or Tamarindo 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 – Hilton Garden Inn La Sabana.
- ✓ 01 night accommodation at Hilton Garden Inn La Sabana in a standard room with breakfast included.
- ✓ Welcome dinner at the Hilton Garden Inn La Sabana restaurant.
- ✓ Private transfer with a bilingual guide (Spanish/English): San Jose – Puerto Viejo de Limon.
- ✓ 03 nights' accommodation at Caribblue Hotel in a standard room with breakfast included.
- ✓ Lunch at a local restaurant.
- ✓ Dinner at the Caribblue Hotel restaurant.
- ✓ Private excursion with a bilingual guide (Spanish/English): Hiking in the Cahuita National Park.
- ✓ Entrance fee to the Cahuita National Park.
- ✓ Traditional Caribbean lunch at a local restaurant.
- ✓ Dinner at a local restaurant.
- ✓ Private excursion with a bilingual guide (Spanish/English): Exploring the Caribbean beaches.
- ✓ Lunch at a local restaurant.
- ✓ Dinner at a local restaurant.
- ✓ Private transfer with a bilingual guide (Spanish/English): Puerto Viejo de Limon – 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 Pachira 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 – Sarapiquí.

- ✓ 01 night accommodation at Sarapiquis Rainforest Lodge in a standard room with breakfast included.
- ✓ Dinner at the Sarapiquis Rainforest Lodge restaurant.
- ✓ Private excursion with a bilingual guide (Spanish/English): Hiking in the Selva Verde Reserve.
- ✓ Private transfer with a bilingual guide (Spanish/English): Sarapiqui – Arenal Volcano.
- ✓ Lunch at a local restaurant.
- ✓ 02 nights' accommodation at Magic Mountain 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.
- ✓ Regular transfer: Arenal Volcano – Manuel Antonio or Tamarindo.
- ✓ 03 nights' accommodation at Shana Resort in a standard room with breakfast included, or at Wyndham Tamarindo Hotel in a standard room with breakfast included.
- ✓ Dinner at the Shana Resort restaurant or Wyndham Tamarindo Hotel restaurant.
- ✓ For the Manuel Antonio option: Regular excursion to the Manuel Antonio National Park.
- ✓ For the Tamarindo option: Free day at the beach.
- ✓ Dinner at the Shana Resort restaurant or Wyndham Tamarindo Hotel restaurant.
- ✓ Free day at the beach.
- ✓ Dinner at the Shana Resort restaurant or Wyndham Tamarindo Hotel restaurant.
- ✓ Regular transfer: Manuel Antonio or Tamarindo – 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