

# Costa Rica Wildlife Walk



11 nights from

**\$3,438** per person



## At a glance...

- Land of contrasts: dramatic volcanoes, emerald lagoons, world-famous Monteverde Cloud Forest, lots of rare flora
- Superb wildlife: tree frogs, iguanas, spider monkeys and over 850 species of birds
- Perfect place to relax: tiers of waterfalls, thermal springs, sandy beaches, sweeping ocean views
- Mountain lodge hotels, all with private swimming pools

## What's included...

- 11 nights - hotel-to-hotel
  - All continental breakfasts, 10 lunches and 10 evening meals
  -   guided walking led by experienced local guide (map provided)
  - Air-conditioned vehicle
  - All entrance fees and boat trips
- See pp6-7 & 50-51 for details of what the  symbol means and how our holidays work*
- 94% sustainability rating
  - 100% customer satisfaction rating

This exciting holiday explores Costa Rica's most dramatic contrasts: cloud forests, volcanoes, lakes, waterfalls and the Pacific coast. You'll be amazed at the amount of wildlife you'll encounter. From quetzals and tree frogs to agoutis and iguanas, each day is memorably different.

Our local guides have an expert knowledge of Costa Rica's flora and fauna and are passionate walkers. With them, our tour is even more remarkable as we learn about Costa Rica's unique natural inheritance. Walking on forest paths and some country tracks, you'll spot wildlife along the way with agoutis and coatis scrambling across the path in Monteverde and monkeys swinging through the trees at Rincón de la Vieja. Awe-inspiring panoramas abound with balcony views to the distant Pacific Ocean and sweeping vistas over Lake Arenal and to the magnificent Arenal Volcano.

The hotels you stay in are typically mountain lodge style with separate small buildings or bungalows.

All have beautiful tropical gardens and swimming pools. Highlights include Arenal Observatory Lodge, where you enjoy stunning views of the volcano, and Bosque del Mar on Playa Hermosa. Lunches are a mix of picnics and local restaurants, while dinners are taken in the hotels. One evening is spent at Eco Termales in Arenal where dinner is enjoyed after relaxing in the hot springs!

*"A beautiful country with varied scenery and an amazing variety of wildlife."*

*Dr P Garwood*



Call us on **1-800-567-6286** for a tailor-made quote

## Your itinerary

### Day 1 Arrive in Costa Rica

Arrive at your hotel in Santo Domingo, just outside San José.

### Day 2 Monte de Barva 12km/7.5mi/3.5hr

Today we head to Monte de Barva, a private property in the mountains where we explore forests with views over the Central Valley. Our walk ends with a typical Costa Rican lunch cooked on a wooden stove. We return to the hotel via the town of Barva, one of the oldest settlements in Costa Rica, famous for its colonial architecture and its dedication to retaining its culture. There's time to explore the hotel gardens and have a swim before dinner.

### Day 3 Monteverde Cloud Forest 12km/7.5mi/3hr

It's on to Monteverde, where we follow a forest trail through soaring ridge oak decked with bright orange clusia, in search of the resplendent quetzal, then onwards through the emerald forest canopy to the Continental Divide where the Caribbean and Pacific meet. Our next 2 nights are spent here.

### Day 4 Canitas & Cebadilla 15km/9.5mi/3.5hr

Walking through lush pastures with balcony views over curving Nicoya Peninsula, we soon reach the hamlet of Canitas. A gradual climb through forest then brings us to the pretty mountain village of Cebadilla. Before dinner, we take a fascinating evening stroll through the cloud forest spotting tree frogs and hummingbirds.

### Day 5 To Arenal Volcano 17km/11mi/5hr

We wind through farmsteads bright with blue-flowered St Lucia trees overlooking the western shore of Lake Arenal. We'll pass cattle ranches, stud farms and dairies before continuing along the shore, spotting scarlet tanagers flitting through the reeds. We then take a boat to the western side of the lake for superb views over Arenal Volcano.

### Day 6 Caño Negro Boat Tour

Today's tour takes us first by road then by boat through the Caño Negro Wildlife Refuge close to the Nicaraguan border. It's a birdwatcher's paradise and is also home to a number of endangered mammals and reptile species - look out for caimans, turtles and tapirs.

### Day 7 Exploring Arenal and La Fortuna Waterfall 8km/5mi/5hr

Today we visit the Arenal butterfly and frog gardens and stop off at an indigenous Cabécar village. It's then on to the famous La Fortuna Waterfall before continuing on to relax in the hot springs at Eco Termales!

### Day 8 Rincón de la Vieja National Park 6km/4mi/3hr

We move onwards to Rincón de la Vieja, beginning our walk through rainwood and Spanish cedar, maybe spotting turkey vultures flitting above us. We reach Las Chorreras and Victoria Falls, a 35m-high torrent thundering through a verdant gorge. There's time for a paddle before going on to our hotel for dinner. We spend two nights here.

### Day 9 Blue Lagoon & Thermal Springs 10km/6.5mi/3hr

Look out for toucans and white-fronted amazons, as we descend to La Cangreja Waterfall. Its blue lagoon is so inviting we have to take a dip before our picnic. Then we walk through woodland, where violet guaria morada (Costa Rica's national flower) grows, to Las Pailas, an eerie landscape of bubbling mud and geysers.

### Day 10 Santa Rosa National Park 4km/2.5mi/2hr

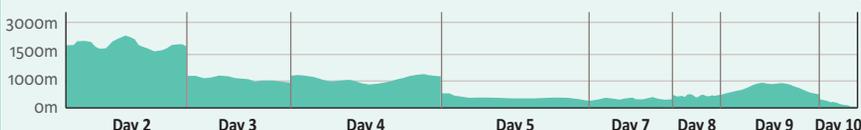
Today we walk through Central America's largest protected dry forest. We may spot coatis, tapirs and iguanas as we descend to continue along the Indio Desnudo Trail - there are superb photo opportunities here! Then it's on to Playa Hermosa where our final two nights are spent overlooking the Pacific Ocean.

### Day 11 Free day

Bosque del Mar is on Playa Hermosa, a Blue Flag beach, and is the perfect end to our tour. There's the option to stay here for extra nights.

### Day 12 Leave Costa Rica

## Day by Day Walking Guide



This varied walking holiday is mainly on jungle trails and country tracks. Rainforest trails can be slippery and steep in sections, so walking boots are essential. In order that you see as much of this varied country as possible some days do include long transfers. These are broken up with refreshment and photo stops.

## Your accommodation



**Hotel Bougainvillea**  
★★★

Santo Domingo (Days 1+2)



**Ficus Lodge+**  
★★★

Monteverde (Days 3+4)



**Arenal Observatory Lodge**  
★★★

Arenal (Days 5-7)



**Hacienda Guachipelín**  
★★★

Rincón de la Vieja (Days 8+9)



**Bosque del Mar**  
★★★

Playa Hermosa (Days 10+11)

## Treat yourself...

+Accommodation in Monteverde varies by departure date. Inquire for details.

To extend your stay we recommend extra nights in Santo Domingo or Playa Hermosa.

Room upgrades are available from \$11 per person per night, based on 2 sharing.

For hotel descriptions visit:  
[www.breakaway-adventures.com](http://www.breakaway-adventures.com)

## Dates and prices (US\$)

Departs selected dates	Tour Only
<b>2017 Departures</b>	
Jan 15, Mar 5	\$3,438
Feb 5, Mar 26	\$3,467
Apr 23, Nov 26	\$3,824
<b>2018 Departures</b>	
Jan 14, Mar 4	\$4,044
Feb 4, Mar 25	\$4,075

**Singles:** Add \$99 per night, except Jan-Mar 2017 when \$70 per night.

**Children:** This holiday is unsuitable for children under 12.

**Group size:** Groups of typically 6-16 people on each tour.

Tour only prices include a 25 minute transfer from San Jose airport at 22:29 and 30 minute transfer to Liberia airport for a 07:50 flight time. **Alternative transfers (for non-standard times) can be arranged. Prices on request.**

**W11RC**

For further details visit: [www.breakaway-adventures.com](http://www.breakaway-adventures.com)