

#### **DAY ONE - Costa Rica Arrival**

Welcome to nature's wonderland. With over a quarter of its territory enjoying protection in the ever-growing network of national parks and reserves, Costa Rica is proud to share its unique natural heritage with you. Interact's foreign representative will meet you in the airport lobby. Transfer to your hotel or host family.

MIDDLE CLASS HOST FAMILIES live in the communities of Guadalupe, Escazu, or La Guacima. Host families are monitored and continually evaluated by the respective homestay directors. Families provide all meals - except those included as part of the touring. Everyone speaks Spanish in the home. Students normally share with one other group member of the same general language ability.

# DAY TWO - Cafecito/Shopping

Experience the original Café Britt coffee tour at their farm located in Barva de Heredia. You'll be immersed in a colorful journey through their working plantation and roastery. Learn how experts *taste* or "cup" coffee to identify and grade the characteristics that qualify a gourmet coffee. Then, browse their factory store and gift shop. Later, visit a popular craft center. Enjoy shopping for traditional hand-painted oxcarts and souvenirs.

### DAY THREE - InterACTions

Participate in our humanitarian and cultural *interActions*. Visit a regional school, orphanage or day care center. Please bring basic school supplies and wear old clothes. Interact donates roundtrip transportation, staffing, and project materials. Next, visit a countryside finca for your cooking demonstration. Later, you'll also have fun learning to salsa!

# **DAY FOUR – Overnight Monteverde Cloud Forest**

Enjoy your scenic drive to the world renowned reserve of Monteverde. Visit the Santa Elena Cloud Forest Reserve. It is home to more than 400 species of birds, 2,500 species of plants, and 100 species of mammals. Optional zip-lining is available.

# **DAY FIVE - Overnight Arenal/Hot Springs**

A delightful drive leads you to Arenal, Costa Rica's most active volcano. Visit a recreational area, such as Baldi, with hot sulfur springs. Enjoy a relaxing swim or take a stroll through the botanical gardens.

#### **DAY SIX - Arrival Tamarindo Beach**

Today, travel into the tropical dry forest of Guanacaste Province. Its forests are home to troops of howler monkeys and flocks of parrots. Continue to the coast and the white-sand beaches of Tamarindo.

#### **DAY SEVEN - Tamarindo Beach**

Tamarindo is known as a "Natural Wonderland". The beach is a long, wide swath of sand that curves gently from one rocky headland to another. This area is also known for its sea turtle nesting sites, oystercatchers, and brown pelicans. Optional activities such as snorkeling or kayaking can be made after arrival and paid directly to the hotel/travel agency.

# **DAY EIGHT - Return to United States**

Depart from the nearby Liberia International Airport.

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**ALL MEALS ARE INCLUDED**