
GEEO ITINERARY

Costa Rica 6/30/2025

Day 1: San José Arrive in San José at any time. Meet your group for a welcome meeting around 6:00 or 7:00 p.m.

Arrive in San José at any time. Make sure book flights for **Juan Santamaria Airport (SJO) in San José, Costa Rica**, and *not San Jose International Airport (SJC) in California*. Due to the potential for flight delays or cancellations, we recommend that you plan to arrive in Costa Rica at least a day in advance. We can book extra hotel nights for you in San José before and/or after the trip. **Hotel Check-in and Welcome Meeting** Please note that check-in at the hotel is usually around 2:00-3:00 p.m. There are no planned activities until an intro meeting around 6:00 or 7:00 p.m., usually in the hotel lobby. Check for a sign or ask at the reception desk about the exact time and location of the group meeting. Please make every effort to arrive in time for this meeting. If you are delayed and will arrive late, please inform us. Your tour leader will then leave you a message at the front desk informing you of where and when to meet up tomorrow. After the meeting, you might choose to get dinner at a nearby restaurant with your traveling companions and your tour leader to further get to know one another. Amid the hustle and bustle of this busy capital, San José has beautiful parks, museums, and an ornate National Theatre. Start your exploration of the city in the central plaza, a great place to people-watch. A mime, juggler, marimba band, magician, or storyteller may be performing for whatever is collected when the hat is passed. Artisan booths are common, creating a regular arts and crafts fair atmosphere. **Joining Instructions** If you pay in advance for an arrival transfer, a G Adventures representative will be at the airport to meet you. From the customs checkpoint, it is a short 30-second walk to the airport exit doors. Outside the airport doors, you will find people waiting for arriving passengers; this area is really congested and chaotic, and the G Adventures representative will be waiting there holding a sign with the G Adventures logo. In the event you cannot locate your driver, continue walking to the Malinche Restaurant; please wait outside of the restaurant and contact the local G Adventures office at the emergency contact numbers listed below. If you are unable to make contact for whatever reason, please make your way to the hotel via taxi and report the issue to us. **Accommodation:** Hotel Urban Green (or similar) * *For the actual hotel your specific departure will be using, please check your voucher.*

Day 2: San José/Quepos Travel to Quepos and enjoy a couple days of relaxing and exploring Manuel Antonio National Park.

This morning we travel south to Quepos. The small town of Quepos is on the Pacific Coast, and this region of Costa Rica is a great place to relax and enjoy the sun and nearby sea. A short distance away, Manuel Antonio National Park offers beautiful white-sand beaches and warm turquoise water, ideal for swimming, fishing, kayaking, boogie boarding, sailing, or surfing. **Approximate travel time:** 3 hrs by private vehicle **Accommodation:** Villa Romantica Quepos (or similar)

Day 3: Quepos Enjoy a day in the Manuel Antonio region to explore and relax. Opt go kayaking through mangroves, take a surfing lesson, or cruise along the coast on a dolphin-spotting sunset sailing excursion.

Enjoy a day in Manuel Antonio National Park discovering the lush tropical forests and white-sand beaches of Costa Rica's smallest national park. The park offers four beaches, separated by jagged rock outcrops and tidal pools, where you can swim, snorkel, surf, and sunbathe. Head to the shade of the nearby hiking trails to search for sloths, monkeys, armadillos, and iguanas. Climb to the lookout to capture views of the pristine Pacific Ocean and the area's off-shore islands. Opt to go kayaking through mangroves, take a surf lesson, or cruise along the coast on a dolphin-spotting sunset sailing excursion. **Accommodation:** Villa Romantica Quepos (or similar)

Day 4: Quepos/Monte Verde Travel from Quepos to Monte Verde and into the cool mountain air of the area. In the evening opt to take a guided night walk to learn

about nocturnal life in the cloud forest firsthand.

We leave the coast and ascend to the Monteverde cloud forest region. Spend a couple of days exploring the town and a cloud forest reserve, truly a bird lover's paradise. This unique community has several cooperatives worth visiting. In the evening, opt to join a naturalist guide for a 1.5-2 hour tour in the cloud forest after dark. Learn more about the habits of the area's nocturnal wildlife including mammals, birds, insects, reptiles, and amphibians, and keep your eyes and ears open on this slow-paced walk. You never know what you might see - it depends on the day and your luck! **Approximate travel time:** 6 hrs by private vehicle **Accommodation:** Hotel Holistico Monteverde (or similar)

Day 5: Monteverde Enjoy a free day in this lush cloud forest region. Opt to fly above the trees on a canopy zipline tour or tour a coffee plantation.

There's plenty to see and do in Monteverde, and we wanted to make sure that you had some time to take it all in. Feel free to relax or try optional activities like ziplining, visiting the hanging bridges, and horseback riding. See our optional activities section further below for more information. Your tour leader has more ideas if you need them. Just ask! Get your adrenaline pumping and pre-book the Costa Rica Adrenaline Bundle (\$149) with us in advance. Get a true bird's-eye view of the rainforest canopy as you soar through the trees on a Tarzan swing, a giant rappel, and a 137-meter-high (450-foot) zipline. Please note that passengers must weigh between 45-100 kg (100-220 lbs) to participate in these activities. **Accommodation:** Hotel Holistico Monteverde (or similar)

Day 6: Monteverde/La Fortuna Travel from Monteverde to La Fortuna. Enjoy free time for optional activities such as whitewater rafting, waterfall rappelling, or relaxing in local hot springs.

Today we depart Monteverde to travel by van and boat to La Fortuna, near the foot of the spectacular Arenal Volcano. La Fortuna is an excellent base for adventure, from hiking the area's nature trails, swimming in chilly La Fortuna waterfall, or canyoning (rappelling) to catch a bird's eye view of the forest greenery. Once we arrive, there's time to relax in the hot springs that are heated by the volcano's lava. **Approximate travel time:** 3.5-4 hrs by van, 1 hr by boat **Accommodation:** Hotel Las Colinas (or similar)

Day 7: La Fortuna Free day in La Fortuna. Experience the outdoor adventures, amazing wildlife and natural wonders in this area. There are enough activities here to keep you busy all day long.

There's plenty to see and do in La Fortuna, and we wanted to make sure that you had some time to take it all in so we have two full free days here. Optional activities include full-day whitewater rafting on the Toro or Arenal Rivers, mountain biking, caving, horseback riding, or a tour of the Caño Negro Wildlife Refuge. Like much of Costa Rica, the area is a birders' paradise, with over 600 species as permanent residents. Finally, after a long day of exploring, you can choose to take a relaxing soak at Baldi Hot Springs. **Accommodation:** Hotel Las Colinas (or similar)

Day 8: La Fortuna Enjoy another free day in La Fortuna. Optional activities abound.

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Day 9: La Fortuna/Sarapiquí Rainforest Enjoy an included visit to a G Adventures-supported coffee cooperative with a local lunch before heading to a jungle oasis in the Sarapiquí Rainforest.

This morning we drive further east to the Sarapiquí Rainforest. Along the way we'll visit the Mi Cafecito coffee cooperative in San Miguel de Sarapiquí. See shade-grown coffee plants and learn about everything from harvesting to husking, drying, and roasting the beans, before enjoying the best part – a fresh cup! Enjoy a typical lunch of plantains, beans, and freshly caught tilapia fish. Feel good about all this eating and drinking knowing that you are supporting a G Adventures for Good project that helps 200 farmers and their families. Next, head to a jungle lodge where we will spend the next two nights immersed in the rainforest. The Sarapiquí Valley is home to hundreds of species of animals, birds, and butterflies, and our jungle lodge put us in the heart of it all. With a variety of included activities offered by the lodge, spend time hiking, swimming in the river, learning to make empanadas, or just lounging in a hammock surrounded by the stunning Costa Rican countryside. **Approximate travel time:** 4 hrs by private vehicle **Accommodation:** Pozo Azul (or similar) **Meals included:** Lunch | Dinner

Day 10: Sarapiquí Rainforest Enjoy a day in the beautiful Sarapiquí Valley. Optional activities (all included in our overnight package, weather-dependent) include swimming in the river, night walks, an empanada-making lesson or relax and listen to the sounds of the surrounding rainforest.

Wake up and head into the Sarapiquí Rainforest on the search for some of the 400-plus birds that call this region home. Led by a local guide, keep your eyes peeled for rare species and learn tricks to spot birds that are hiding in plain sight. After a busy day taking part in whatever activities you choose, we'll get together in the evening for a cooking demonstration. Cover your hands in cornflour and learn to make tasty tortillas, tamales, or empanadas, staples of most Latin American cuisine. **Accommodation:** Pozo Azul (or similar) **Meals included:** Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

Day 11: Sarapiquí Rainforest/Tortuguero Head to Tortuguero. Opt to visit the nesting grounds of the green and leatherback turtles at night (seasonal).

We'll leave the jungle and head to Tortuguero by private van and then boat. This unique village has walking paths that extend into the national park, a fantastic place to see wildlife even when turtles aren't in season. **Approximate travel time:** 4-5 hrs by private vehicle, 1.5 hrs by boat **Accommodation:** Baula Lodge (or similar) **Meals included:** Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

Day 12: Tortuguero Enjoy free time to explore Tortuguero. Opt to kayak through the canals and view the wildlife, wake up early and head to the beach to watch turtle eggs hatch (seasonal), or just wander through the town.

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Day 13: Tortuguero/Puerto Viejo de Talamanca Head to Puerto Viejo de Talamanca. Opt to snorkel in the Caribbean, hike in Manzanillo National Wildlife Refuge, or hit the beach.

A morning boat ride and drive ends in Puerto Viejo de Talamanca, with spectacular scenery en route. This seaside town is perfect for relaxing or exploring the Manzanillo National Wildlife Refuge. Head to the beach with your tour leader. Then opt to go snorkel in the Caribbean, hike in Manzanillo National Wildlife Refuge, or hit the beach. **Approximate travel time:** 1.5 hrs by boat, 5-6 hrs by private vehicle **Accommodation:** Hotel Escape Caribeño (or similar) **Meals included:** Breakfast

Day 14: Puerto Viejo de Talamanca Head out and explore. Don't forget to try some fantastic Afro-Caribbean cuisine.

The picturesque village of Puerto Viejo de Talamanca's over 8 miles of incomparable white- and black-

sand beaches are surrounded by exotic tropical vegetation. Hop on a bike and ride to the beach with your tour leader. Enjoy a full day exploring this slice of paradise. In the evening, opt to watch the sunset, and don't forget to try some fantastic Afro-Caribbean cuisine. **Accommodation:** Hotel Escape Caribeño (or similar)

Day 15: Puerto Viejo de Talamanca/San José Enjoy free time in the morning before heading back to San Jose for the final night with the group.

Enjoy free time in the morning before heading back to San Jose for the final night with the group. **Approximate travel time:** 5 hrs by private vehicle **Accommodation:** Hotel Urban Green (or similar)

Day 16: San José Depart San José at any time.

There are no planned activities today, so you may depart San José at any time. If you wish to extend your stay in San José, consider booking post-tour accommodation with us. Please note that check-out time from the hotel is usually mid-morning, but luggage storage services are available at the reception desk. Want more adventure? Book two or more GEEO programs in the same school year and receive a discount! GEEO will give you 10% off of the lesser value program(s) (up to 3 programs per year). If you would like to extend your time abroad but don't see another GEEO program that interests you, let us know. We can work with you to find a trip from our tour operator's much larger catalog. Their tours are open to the general public and not designed specifically for educators, but we can still offer you and your travel companions a discounted educator price on any additional tours that you book.

**Itinerary Disclaimer: While it is our intention to adhere to the routes described on our website, there is a certain amount of flexibility built into the itinerary and on occasion it may be necessary, or desirable, to make alterations. The itinerary is brief, as we never know exactly where our journey will take us. Due to our style of travel and the regions we visit, travel can be unpredictable. The information on our website is a general guide to the tour and region, and any mention of specific destinations or wildlife is by no means a guarantee that they will be visited or encountered. Additionally, any travel times listed are approximations only and subject to vary due to local circumstances.*