



CLASSIC



Photo by Mark Patton

Costa Rica's Wild Wonders

Dates: January 5-15, 2019
Tour Leader(s): Lindsay Bernhagen



Adventure Tours
University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point

Overview

Costa Rica continues to be one of our favorite regions to explore. It's full of 'wild wonders' and this tour touches upon some of the country's essential highlights. We'll traverse Irazu Volcano, hike the trails of Savegre Nature Reserve (to seek out the Resplendent Quetzal bird), discover the very biodiverse (as noted by National Geographic) Osa Peninsula, trek in Corcovado National Park, visit Cano Island Biological Reserve & snorkel its offshore reefs, swim along the Pacific's sandy beaches, possibly spot some whales while boating Drake Bay or paddling outrigger canoes, experience a fun crocodile safari & birdwatching adventure near the Tarcoles River, pickup takeaways from the Central Market in San Jose, and of course, enjoy the delicious local foods Costa Rica is known for. Our University's long-standing relationship with Costa Rican Specialties and in-country tour operator Viajes Colibri allow for a higher quality adventure guided by Lloyd Martinez. Lloyd's our bilingual guide who gets great reviews with our travelers and knows hundreds of bird species, has a great sense of logistics, shares know-how and humor, and seems to know everyone in Costa Rica. Along with our Tour Leaders Lindsay & Peter, this adventure will give travelers a fulfilling taste of what Costa Rica is all about.

Itinerary

5 January 2019 (Sat.) - Arriving in Tropical Paradise

(Travel Day) Arrive in San Jose (Juan Santamaria Airport - SJO). Your local guide Lloyd Martinez will meet you just outside the airport to welcome the group and transfer you to your hotel. Enjoy a delicious welcome dinner and overview of the adventure you are about to experience. Overnight at [Hotel Bougainvillea](#)



view from Bougainvillea (pic provided by Bougainvillea)

Day 2 - Irazu Volcano & Savegre

Depart for Savegre lodge located in the tropical cloud forest and home to the Resplendent Quetzal bird. In route we'll hike the trail at Irazu Volcano. One of the most famous volcanoes in the world, Irazu last erupted in 1994, yet it's still active today. The word "Irazú" is actually derivative of an Indigenous word which means "thunder and earthquake mountain" and is also known as "El Coloso" by locals. Upon arrival to Savegre, you'll be overwhelmed by the beauty and preservation of this tropical forest land. The strong commitment Savegre has to sustainability in water, energy, waste, and preservation is very impressive and it shows in everything they do. Spend the rest of your day relaxing or bird watching and/or trekking the trails. Overnight at [Savegre Hotel Nature Reserve & Spa](#)

Day 3 - Savegre



hiking Savegre (pic provided by Savegre)

Tour the grounds and trails of Savegre with Lloyd searching for many species of birds, including the Resplendent Quetzal. Spend more time trekking the trails, discovering more species of birds you've never seen before, or relaxing near Las Bromelias Restaurant or Los Robles Bar & Lounge. Any area you roam at Savegre is bound to be welcoming and lush with an array of flora and fauna. Overnight at [Savegre Hotel Nature Reserve & Spa](#)



*Resplendent Quetzal
(pic provided by Savegre)*

Day 4 - Depart for Puntarenas & Osa

After a satisfying breakfast, hop back on the bus to make your way towards Drake Bay & the Osa Peninsula. This bus ride will take the group southwest to the Pacific Ocean into the Puntarenas Province, passing the Piedras Blancas National Park & Golfo Dulce Forest Reserve. Arriving at Hidden Paradise Lodge in the Drake Bay Planes, your immersion in Osa's beauty and biodiversity has begun. *Overnight at [Poor Man's Paradise](#)*

Day 5 - Corcovado National Park

Corcovado National Park was established in 1975 and National Geographic has since called it "the most biologically intense place on Earth in terms of biodiversity". Some of the fauna you may encounter include two-toed or three-toed sloth, silky anteater, Baird's tapir, collared peccary, scarlet macaws, spectacled owls, and abundant white-nosed coati. All four Costa Rican species of monkeys live here as well. With over 400 species of birds in this Park, you may want to bring a bird ID book, however, Lloyd will help identify most of them from memory if you can spot them through the dense primary forest. Lloyd will show you strange and wonderful trees

such as the "Leche de Vaca" and the "Walking Tree" (which moves several inches each year). *Overnight at [Poor Man's Paradise](#)*



two-toed sloth (pic by Dennis Yockers)

Day 6 - Cano Island Tour

Isla del Caño consists of about 200 hectares (500 acres) & lies 15 kilometers (9 mi) offshore. It was declared a Biological Reserve in 1976, just before the last private owner was going to develop an airstrip and casino. Pre-Columbian people made this a religious site and pottery dating from 200-800 A.D. has been found, as have several perfect stone spheres. More recently, it is rumored that Sir Francis Drake left some of his gold treasure here. The waters at Isla del Caño are also filled with treasure - wonderful diving and snorkeling seascape. Just a few meters from the white sand beach you will find creatures ranging from angelfish to the occasional small reef shark. To and from Cano you may encounter several whale species, bottlenose dolphin, & sea birds. *Overnight at [Pirate Cove Hotel](#)*



Snorkeling Cano Island (pic by John Munson)

Day 7 - Pacific Coast & Cerro Lodge

Spend much of the day traveling north along the Pacific coast. Lloyd will share stops of interest and highlights along the way. After arriving at Cerro Lodge, settle in and relax or venture off for more birdwatching. Walk to Tarcoles Crocodile Bridge to see some massive reptiles. *Overnight at [Hotel Cerro Lodge](#)*



outrigger canoeing (pic by Dennis Yockers)

Day 8 - Outrigger Canoes

Outriggers (Hawaiian style canoes) are great equalizers of abilities – the steersperson controls direction and with paddling teamwork, everyone gets to the most beautiful beaches about at the same time. You'll glide past spectacular cliffs filled with frigate birds and pelicans and Lloyd will point out interesting landmarks. Snorkeling from the beach, monkey and bird watching, or beachcombing will all be possible options on this fun excursion. Overnight at [Hotel Cerro Lodge](#)

Day 9 - Crocodile Safari, Birdwatching, & San Jose Central Market

Sometimes spanning more than 13 feet in length, crocodiles have been on the planet for more than two hundred million years and you'll get to experience these living dinosaurs up close. You'll also see iguanas and basilisks in their natural environment. Accompanied by a Captain and a bilingual guide from Jungle Crocodile Safari, both experts will navigate the Tarcoles River while giving you the opportunity to photograph and film the wildlife at close range. Afternoon visit to Central Market in San Jose. Overnight at [Hotel Bougainvillea](#)



crocodile (pic by Dennis Yockers)



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Magia Blanca (pic provided by La Paz)

Day 10 - La Paz Waterfall Gardens & San Jose

Explore La Paz (Peace) Waterfall Gardens capturing amazing colors from butterflies, birds, and flowers. Visit the aviary, butterfly observatory, hummingbird garden, serpentarium, jungle cats exhibit, frog exhibit, tica house, and trout lake. With 2 miles of hiking trails within cloud and rainforest and a series of 5 waterfalls, this place will revive your spirit. The group will then shop the Central Market in San Jose. Enjoy a wonderful farewell dinner with Lloyd and your new companions. Overnight at [Hotel Bougainvillea](#)

15 January 2019 (Tues.) - Flight Home

(Travel Day) After the final Costa Rican breakfast, the group will transfer to the airport in San Jose (SJO) and you'll be saying goodbye to Lloyd, your new friends, and an incredible experience of a lifetime.



Peleides blue morpho butterfly (pic by Dennis Yockers)

Cost & Details

COST: \$2,684 (total USD)

MY OWN ROOM: \$350 (extra USD)

INCLUDED: The cost includes all accommodations (2-4 star rustic, clean, en suite bathrooms) based on double occupancy, all group land transfers with expert driver, 1 bilingual guide (Lloyd Martinez), 1-2 Tour Leaders (depending on group size), all meals and taxes in country, and park entrance fees. Also included are the Irazu Volcano Tour, Savegre Cloud Forest Tour, Corcovado National Park Tour, Cano Island Tour, Outrigger Canoe Tour, Jungle Crocodile Tour, La Paz Waterfall Gardens, & the 24/7 services of Viajes Colibri (in-country tour operator) as needed. The package also includes the traveler handbook and traveler orientation.

NOT INCLUDED: Roundtrip airfare, extra activities, extra purchases (such as souvenirs, alcoholic beverages, snacks, and lodging sundries), local drivers' and guides' tips, laundry services, and travel insurance.

PLEASE NOTE: The cost comprises land only rate, per person, with double occupancy accommodations. Depending on weather and other variables, some activities/accommodations/schedules/meals may change prior to or during the tour. Eligible age for this tour is 8 years and older. This tour will accommodate a variety of fitness levels, however it is preferred travelers be in fair physical/mental shape.

TOUR LEADERS: **Lindsay Bernhagen** - Lindsay has traveled extensively throughout the U.S. and Scandinavia, and her husband, Peter, has traveled in Europe and Southeast Asia. She and Peter are regular weekend adventurers, routinely content to throw some gear in the car and hit the road. Admittedly, this was easier when they lived in Columbus, Ohio, a city that is very proud to remind visitors that they are within 600 mi - or a day's drive - of 60% of the US population. They are also water junkies, spending their summer and winter weekends finding ways to travel around Lake DuBay where Lindsay grew up, whether that be on waterskis, snowshoes, kayaks, or snowmobiles. At UWSP, Lindsay directs the Center for Inclusive Teaching and Learning.

GROUP SIZE: 12-18

CONTACT: Trevor Roark (Program Mgr.), 715-340-8186, adventure.tours@uwsp.edu

BOOKING: Register online with a check or via credit card OR print registration, complete, & mail along with \$300 (pp) nonrefundable deposit.

WEBSITE: www.uwspadventuretours.com

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