



Continuing Education
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

Costa Rica 2023

January 4-15, 2023

Led By: Don and Sue Kissinger

An Itinerary for Costa Rica 2023

January 4-15, 2023

Costa Rica is a small country filled with diverse ecosystems and a wide variety of flora and fauna. We will explore the tropical rain forests near Selva Verde and the Arenal volcano hike; the cloud forests of San Gerardo de Dota (to find the illusive Resplendent Quetzal), discover Cano Island Biological Reserve and snorkel its offshore reefs, explore the Pacific's sandy beaches, possibly spot some whales while boating, wander the Central Market in San Jose, and of course, enjoy the delicious local foods for which Costa Rica is known. Our University's long-standing relationship with Costa Rican Specialties allows for a higher quality adventure guided by bi-lingual guide and naturalist extraordinaire, Victor Acosta. Along with our tour leaders Sue and Don Kissinger, this all-inclusive adventure will give travelers a fulfilling taste of what Costa Rica is all about. Pura Vida!



Wednesday, January 4

- Arrive in San Jose. Your private and excellent naturalist guide will welcome you just outside the airport and take you to your hotel where he will give you an overview of the adventure you will experience on your trip.
- Dinner at the hotel included.
- Overnight at [Bougainvillea Hotel](#).



Thursday, January 5

- Breakfast included.
- Visit the city and San Jose Central Market.
- Lunch in San Jose.
- Continue visits in the city.
- Dinner included.
- Overnight at the Bougainvillea Hotel.

Friday, January 6

- Breakfast at Bougainvillea Hotel, depart San Jose.
- Visit to Poas Volcano National Park.
- After this visit we will continue to the [La Paz Waterfall Gardens Nature Park](#) for lunch and a tour of the waterfalls.
- Dinner included.
- Overnight at [Selva Verde Lodge](#).



Saturday, January 7

- Breakfast included.
- Visit to [Finca Ecorganica](#).
- Late afternoon hike at Selva Verde. Potential night hike as well.
- Dinner included.
- Overnight at Selva Verde.

Sunday, January 8

- Breakfast included.
- Travel to Arenal where you can take an adventure tour.
- You can choose any of the following (Included in your package):
 1. [Sky Wild Bikes Adventure](#).
 2. [Sky Walk Hanging Bridges](#).
 3. [Sky Trek \(zip lining\)](#).

***** Optional tours are subject to change.

- Lunch in La Fortuna.
- Relax at [Ecotermas](#) in Arenal with dinner included.
- Overnight at Selva Verde.



Monday, January 9

- Breakfast included.
- Early morning departure to San Gerardo de Dota (Cloud Forest), home of the famous Quetzal Bird.
- Stopping along the way to see sites of interest and have lunch.
- Dinner included.
- Overnight at [Suenos del Bosque](#).

Tuesday, January 10

- Breakfast included.
- Hike the trails at Suenos del Bosque, bird watching.
- Lunch included.
- Dinner included.
- Overnight at Suenos del Bosque.



Wednesday, January 11

- Breakfast included.
- Depart to the beach at Uvita/Dominical area.
- Lunch at hotel and afternoon visit to the beach.
- Dinner included.
- Overnight at [Vista Ballena Hotel](#).

Thursday, January 12

- Breakfast included.
- Cano Island Tour and Snorkling
 - Isla del Caño consists of approximately 200 hectares (500 acres) and lies 15 kilometers offshore.
 - Just a few meters from the white sand beach you will find creatures ranging from angelfish to the occasional small reef shark. This tour lasts all day and includes a picnic lunch and snorkeling equipment.
 - Dinner included.
- Overnight at Vista Ballena Hotel.

Friday, January 13

- Breakfast Included.
- Ocean Kayak Trip and Beach Day near Ballena.
- Lunch Included.
- Dinner Included.
- Overnight at Vista Ballena Hotel.



Saturday, January 14

- Breakfast included.
- Hiking at Baru and depart to San Jose.
- Visit [Hacienda Baru National Wildlife Refuge](#) to go hiking in the 330 hectares (815 acres) of tropical rainforest, mangrove, wetlands, river bank, and beach front. This wide variety of ecosystems means a high level of biodiversity, and that is why bird watchers have sighted over 365 species on the refuge.
- Drive to San Jose with stops, including lunch along the way.
- Farewell dinner at Bougainvillea Hotel.

Sunday, January 15

- Flight back home.

Meet Your Trip Leaders

Sue and Don Kissinger

Sue and Don have travelled extensively throughout the United States, Canada, Central America, South Africa and Europe. They met 39 years ago as UW-Stevens Point (UWSP) students on an international trip and just celebrated their 37th wedding anniversary. Sue recently retired from UWSP where she worked for 30 years as a career specialist and academic adviser. She has lead over 20 UWSP international trips, including four to Costa Rica! Don retired from a 29 year career as an urban forestry coordinator for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in northern and western Wisconsin. Don has co-led programs with Sue to Belize, Iceland, Poland, and Germany. Sue and Don recently relocated to a lake in northwestern Wisconsin and enjoy hiking, kayaking, fishing, and spoiling their grandchildren.

They look forward to sharing the sights, sounds, tastes, and culture of this tropical paradise.



Pricing

Registration Fee:

- **\$3,499 USD**
 - \$299 non-refundable deposit at time of registration.
 - Amount due by July 8, 2022: \$1,600 USD
 - Amount due by October 7, 2022: \$1,600 USD
- **Deposit and Payment:** A \$299 non-refundable deposit is required to confirm your booking. The deposit will be applied towards the cost of your trip.
- **Referral Bonus & Discounts:** Receive \$50 off your tour for each traveler you refer. If you refer 3 people then you get \$150 off your tour, etc. The referrals can be family, friends, co-workers, etc. UWSP students & alumni get a \$50 discount. The referral bonus and all other discounts will be applied to your final payment.

Since we make financial commitments in advance, no refunds will be issued for cancellations less than 90 days prior to the trip. Cancellations received more than 90 days before the trip will receive a full refund minus \$100 non-refundable deposit. However, you may send a substitute in your place. Please email us at uwspceweb@uwsp.edu to inform us of a cancellation or substitution.

Price Includes:

- Escorted tour by bilingual guide Victor Acosta throughout the trip in Costa Rica.
- All land transfers with expert driver.
- All lodging and taxes in cabins with private bathrooms (based on double occupancy).
- All meals.
- 2 UWSP trip leaders, Don and Sue Kissinger.
- All tours, including:
 - Tour to Poas Volcano.
 - La Paz Waterfall Gardens with lunch.
 - Tour of Cloud Forest at Savegre.
 - Baru Biological Reserve Tour.
 - Cano Island Tour and Snorkling.
 - Ocean Kayak Tour.
 - Sarapiquí Finca Ecorganica tour with lunch.
 - Guided Hike at Selva Verde.
 - Adventure tour in Arenal (choose among 3 options).
 - Visit to Hot Springs Ecotermales in Arenal with dinner.
 - Central Market visit in San Jose.
- The services 24/7 of our Tour Operator in Costa Rica, Viajes Colibri.