



CLASSIC



Photo by Savegre Hotel

# Costa Rica's Wild Wonders

Dates: 6-17 January 2021

Tour Leaders: Sue and Don Kissinger



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), discover the very biodiverse (as noted by National Geographic) Osa Peninsula, trek in Corcovado National Park, discover Cano Island Biological Reserve & snorkel its offshore reefs, swim along the Pacific's sandy beaches, possibly spotting some whales while boating Drake Bay, 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 Sue and Don, this adventure will give travelers a fulfilling taste of what Costa Rica is all about. ¡Pura vida!

## Tour Leaders



### Sue and Don Kissinger

Sue and Don Kissinger have travelled extensively throughout the United States, Canada, Central America, Africa, and Europe. They met 38 years ago as UW-Stevens Point students on an international trip and just celebrated their 36th wedding anniversary. Sue has worked at UWSP for more than 28 years and is currently a career specialist in the Academic and Career Advising Center. She has led 20 UWSP international trips, including 4 trips to Costa Rica! Don works as an urban forestry coordinator for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in northern and western Wisconsin. Don has co-led trips with Sue to Belize, Iceland, Poland and Germany. They look forward to sharing all the amazing diversity and wild wonders of Costa Rica.

## Itinerary

### Day 1 (Wednesday, 6 Jan 2021) - Arrive and Ease Into It!

**(Travel Day)** Arrive in San Jose (Juan Santamaria Airport - SJO). Along with Sue and Don, your local guide Lloyd Martinez will meet you at the airport for the hotel transfer. Enjoy a delicious welcome dinner at Bougainvillea and overview of the wonderful adventure you are about to experience.

*Overnight:* [Hotel Bougainvillea](#)

### Day 2 - Explore San Jose Central Market

Explore the historic city of San Jose taking in key cultural sites as well as San Jose Central Market. Peruse an intricate maze of small shops and stalls with most everything for sale, from fresh fruit to handmade souvenirs. In the late afternoon, hike the beautiful grounds of the hotel, birdwatch, and take a dip in the swimming pool.

*Overnight:* [Hotel Bougainvillea](#)



*Hotel Bougainvillea (photo by Hotel Bougainvillea)*



Savegre (photo by Savegre Hotel)

### Day 3 - Irazu Volcano & Savegre

Cooler weather awaits us as we depart for Savegre Hotel, Nature Reserve, and Spa located in the tropical cloud forest and home to the Resplendent Quetzal. In route we'll hike the trail at Irazu Volcano (weather permitting). One of the most famous volcanoes in the

world, Irazu (known as "El Coloso" by locals) last erupted in 1994, yet it's still active today. Upon arrival to Savegre, you'll be overwhelmed by the beauty and preservation of this 975 acre private nature reserve. The strong commitment Savegre has to sustainability in water, energy, waste, and preservation is impressive and it shows in everything they do. Spend the rest of your day relaxing or bird watching and/or trekking the trails.

Overnight: [Savegre Hotel, Nature Reserve, and Spa](#)

### Day 4 - Savegre

We'll spend the day hiking the grounds and trails of Savegre with Lloyd seeking native wildlife and 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: [Savegre Hotel, Nature Reserve, and Spa](#)

### Day 5 - Depart to the Drake Bay at the Osa Peninsula

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, with stops along the way. A boat ride across the bay will bring us to the beautiful and world-renowned Osa Peninsula and our home for the next three nights - Poor Man's Paradise. After settling in, enjoy free time to explore the rich biodiversity of this remote area.

Overnight: [Poor Man's Paradise](#)

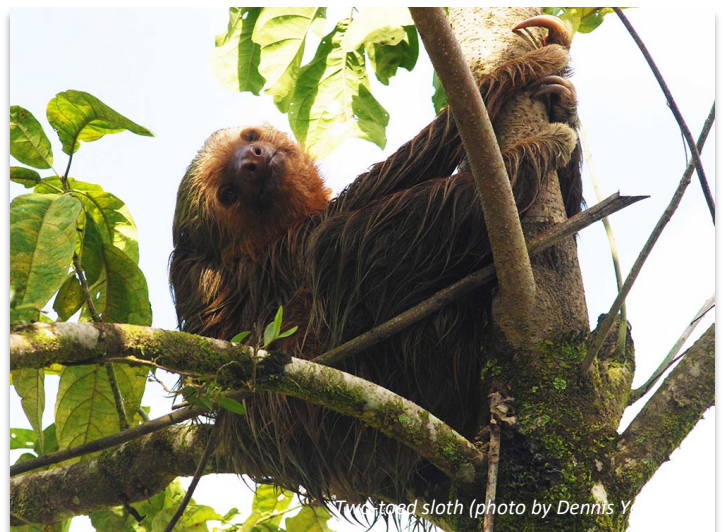


Pacific sunset (photo by John Munson)

### Day 6 - Corcovado National Park

Navigate aboard a boat to the east side of Osa. National Geographic has called Corcovado National Park "the most biologically intense place on Earth in terms of biodiversity." Encounter fauna like the 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 here, you may want to bring a bird ID book, however, Lloyd will identify most from memory.

Overnight: [Poor Man's Paradise](#)



Two-toed sloth (photo by Dennis Y)





Snorkeling Cano Island (photo by John Munson)

### Day 7 - Cano Island Tour

Isla del Caño consists of about 200 hectares (500 acres) & lies 15K (9 mi) off of the Osa Peninsula. Our boat ride to and from Caño may offer us a glimpse of whales, bottlenose dolphins, & sea birds. Caño 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. The waters at Caño are also filled with treasure - a wonderful snorkeling seascape.

Overnight: [Poor Man's Paradise](#)

### Day 8 - La Tirimbina

Board our boats one more time, depart the peninsula and drive along the coast to La Tirimbina. This beautiful ecotourist lodge is situated on the banks of the Sarapiquí River in the heart of the rainforest. Hike with Lloyd to discover critters of the night.

Overnight: [La Tirimbina](#)



Spider monkey (photo by Dennis Yockers)

### Day 9 - Finca Ecorganica

After breakfast at La Tirimbina, tour [Finca Ecorganica](#) - a 100% organic, ecological farm that grows traditional products of the rainforest, including many used in used in Costa Rican cuisine. Crops include cacao, coffee, black pepper, pineapple, heart of palm and banana. Hike at Tirimbina to explore some of the 800+ acres of protected rainforest on 9 km of trails, including 2 suspension bridges. Potential night hike at La Tirimbina.

Overnight: [La Tirimbina](#)



Zip-lining (photo by Mary Jo Patton)

### Day 10 - Arenal Volcano (Mountain Biking, Nature Walk or Zip Lining)

Travel to the Arenal Volcano area where you can choose your own adventure tour for the day. You can choose between: [mountain biking](#), taking a natural history walk through [Mistico Hanging Bridge](#) or [zip lining](#) through the Costa Rican forests. Lunch in La Fortuna. After an exhilarating day, we can relax in the natural hot springs at [Ecotermales](#) near the Arenal Volcano with a buffet dinner included.

Overnight: [La Tirimbina](#)

### Day 11 - Bird Watching and La Paz Waterfall Gardens

Sightsee La Tirimbina with a birdwatching hike and then take the afternoon to discover

the [La Paz \(Peace\) Waterfall Gardens](#) - capturing amazing colors from butterflies, birds, and flowers. In this 70-acre park visit the aviary, butterfly observatory, hummingbird garden, serpentarium, jungle cats exhibit, frog exhibit, and trout lake. With 2 miles of trails within cloud and rainforest and a series of waterfalls, this place will revive your spirit. After exploring La Paz, enjoy a wonderful farewell dinner with Lloyd and your new travel companions.

Overnight: [Hotel Bougainvillea](#)



Scarlet Macaw (photo by Mark Patton)



Lloyd Martinez w/ flower pedicel (photo by Dennis Yockers)



Morpho peleides or blue morpho (photo by Dennis Yockers)

## Day 12 (Sunday, 17 Jan 2021) - Leave a Tropical Paradise

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

## Cost and Details

**COST:** \$3,229 (total USD pp)      **MY OWN ROOM:** \$515 (additional USD pp)

**INCLUDED:** The cost includes all lodging (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, Arenal activity, Ecotermales, 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 meals not listed and lodging sundries), local driver and guide tips, laundry services and travel insurance.

**PLEASE NOTE:** With weather and other uncontrollable variables (including the prominence of COVID-19), some activities/lodgings/schedules/meals/transportation/etc. may change prior to or during the tour. If necessary, UWSP Adventure Tours, Viajes Colibri and/or your tour leaders may need to assist with extra precautions related to COVID-19 while on tour. Also, this tour will accommodate a variety of fitness levels; however, it is best to be in good physical/mental shape. Your safety and well-being on tour is our most important priority.

**TOUR LEADERS:** Sue and Don Kissinger

**GROUP SIZE:** 12-18      **CONTACT:** Trevor Roark (program manager), 715-340-8186, [adventure.tours@uwsp.edu](mailto:adventure.tours@uwsp.edu)

**BOOKING:** Book online (*book now* button below) with credit card OR print booking form, complete and include \$300 (pp) nonrefundable deposit.

**WEBSITE:** [www.uwspadventuretours.com](http://www.uwspadventuretours.com)

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