

## Costa Rican Adventure Tours in Paradise

In one word, how would you describe paradise? Warm? Relaxing? Tropical? In two words, paradise is Costa Rica.

With emerald blue rivers, white sand beaches, spectacular volcanoes and a kaleidoscope of flora and fauna, Costa Rica is truly heaven on earth. It is the jewel of Central America, and a haven for experiencing the best of everything the tropics have to offer. The never ending Costa Rican coastline boasts an abundance of pristine beaches, great waves for surfing, and a climate made for relaxation at its best.

Costa Rica is a haven for ecotourists wishing to experience the natural habitats of exotic creatures. While exploring the Costa Rican jungle, you'll encounter monkeys, poison dart frogs, countless lizards and the most curious insects and butterflies. Wetlands are home to crocodiles, and endangered sea turtles can be found nesting on both coasts.

No visit to Costa Rica is complete without stopping at Parque Nacional Santa Rosa, one of the country's biggest parks. This area is Costa Rica's oldest national park, and serves as protection for the largest remaining stand of tropical dry forest in Central America. It also guards some of the most significant nesting sites of a number of species of sea turtles, including rare ones.

If you're planning a Costa Rican adventure tour, there are some other sites that you should be sure to visit on your journey:

### Monteverde

This reserve may be small in size, but it's big on adventure. A well-known destination for locals and international visitors, Monteverde is located in northwestern Costa Rica. The closest settlement to the cloud-forest reserve of Monteverde is a small community called Santa Elena. The road leading from Santa Elena to Monteverde is lined with tourist-pleasing art galleries, a cheese factory, butterfly gardens and a serpentarium.

### Peninsula de Nicoya

No Costa Rican adventure tour is complete without a visit to this area on the northwestern Pacific coast. Although the lack of paved roads makes the area a little difficult to navigate, it's definitely worth the effort when you first spy the country's most remote and breathtaking beaches. There are also a few rarely visited wildlife reserves and parks, including Parque Nacional Marino las Baulas Guanacaste, home to Playa Grande, a significant nesting site for the leatherback turtle. The peninsula's most accessible beach, called Playa del Coco, features small villages with some nightlife.

### San Jose

While the Costa Rican wildlife is exciting, don't underestimate the adventures you'll encounter while experiencing the cosmopolitan side of Costa Rica. Many Costa Rican adventure tours will include a stop in the bustling city of San Jose. This is the center of the Costa Rican universe; complete with high-rise buildings, low rise jeans, shopping malls, fast food restaurants and busy streets. As you explore the streets of San Jose, you'll find museums, theatres, vibrant nightlife, casual eateries serving traditional fare, and world-class restaurants featuring gourmet delights.

Whether you prefer exploring the tropical jungles, surfing the crystal clear waters or cruising the San Jose nightlife, a Costa Rican adventure tour can satisfy your need for excitement. However you spend your time in Costa Rica, you'll agree that it's pure paradise.