



Welcome to Rott's Manor

Costa Rica 2015 Trip Report

We took a tour with Caravan Tours, the following was our itinerary:

Day 1 – San José, Costa Rica

Welcome to the “rich coast,” friendly land of democracy and rare natural beauty. With naturalist guides, see exotic birds and wildlife, hike in jungle rainforests, view volcanoes, soak in hot springs and cruise through biological reserves. Caravan provides transfers from the Juan Santamaria International Airport (SJO) in San José, Costa Rica to your hotel for a two night stay. Rooms are available for check in after 4:00 p.m. Join Caravan for an 8:00 p.m. welcome briefing. Dinner is served until 9:30 p.m. at your hotel. **D**

Day 2 – Poás Volcano, Cloud Forest, Coffee Plantation, Butterflies

Morning visit to Costa Rica's most popular park, Poás Volcano. Weather permitting, you can see inside the active crater from an overlook. Next, hike the Escalonia Cloud Forest Trail, home to epiphytes, orchids, ferns and tropical hummingbirds. Cloud forests are like rainforests, but with less rain and more humidity. Then, drive through Costa Rica's famous coffee growing region. Lunch. Enjoy a guided tour at a coffee plantation. Sample fresh Costa Rican coffee. Next, visit a butterfly garden. Look for blue morpho butterflies. Dinner. **BLD**

Day 3 – Wildlife Rescue Center, Sarchi, Fortuna

This morning drive by San Jose's Plaza de la Cultura, Central Park and the National Theatre. Next, visit Zoo Ave, a wildlife rescue center. Here, injured birds and animals are rehabilitated for release back into the wild. Lunch. Then, visit Sarchi and watch artisans making traditional Costa Rican oxcarts. Continue to the San Carlos Valley. Arrive at Fortuna for a two night stay. Dinner. **BLD**

Day 4 – Rio Frio Cruise, Hot Springs

Head north this morning, passing through sugar cane, teak, pineapple, and orange plantations. Then, cruise on the Rio Frio which runs through the world famous Caño Negro wildlife refuge, home to many migratory birds found nowhere else in Costa Rica. Look for black turtles, whistling ducks, roseate spoonbills, cormorants, aningas, blue heron, and northern jacanas. Watch for caimans, howler monkeys, spider monkeys, green iguanas, and water-walking lizards. Lunch. Return to Fortuna. This afternoon enjoy a relaxing soak in the volcanic hot springs. Dinner. **BLD**

Day 5 – Hanging Bridges, Leatherback Turtle Park

Morning visit to the Hanging Bridges. With a naturalist guide, hike the suspension bridges. Weather permitting, enjoy views of majestic Arenal Volcano. Next, enjoy a scenic drive around Lake Arenal. Lunch at a historic hacienda in the Guanacaste province. Then, to Costa Rica's beautiful Pacific Coast. Visit Leatherback Turtles National Park and learn about Costa Rica's efforts to protect this endangered giant. The leatherback is the largest marine reptile in the world, weighing over 1,500 pounds. Continue to the J.W. Marriott Guanacaste Resort and Spa for a relaxing two night stay. Dinner. **BLD**

Day 6 – Guanacaste Beach Resort

Free time today to enjoy your magnificent world class beach resort. Visit the elegant spa or swim in your hotel's infinity pool, the largest in Central America. Lunch. Time to beachcomb while strolling your resort's pristine beach. Dinner. **BLD**

Day 7 – Bird Watching Cruise, Manuel Antonio

This morning drive through the cattle ranches of Guanacaste. Stop at the Monteverde Cooperative. Sample delicious cheeses. Lunch. Next, cruise on the Tarcoles River, adjacent to the Carara Biological Reserve. Float through a mangrove forest. Look for white and snowy egrets and the amazing nests of the montezuma oropendola. This tropical bird and wildlife sanctuary is a nesting site for the scarlet macaw. Continue to your hotel, located directly at the entrance to Manuel Antonio National Park. Listen to joyful jungle sounds. Dinner. **BLD**

Day 8 – Manuel Antonio, Aerial Tram

This morning visit the world famous Manuel Antonio National Park, a natural habitat for the white face monkey, the rare squirrel monkey and the three-toed sloth. Hike through the rainforest and along the spectacular beach coves, ranking among the most beautiful in the world. Look for toucans and parrots. Lunch. Then, a thrilling adventure. Glide through and above a dry tropical transitional forest. Enjoy views of waterfalls and the Pacific Ocean. Return to San José. Farewell dinner.. **BLD**

Day 9 – San José

Your tour ends after breakfast this morning at your hotel. Breakfast begins at 6:30 a.m. Caravan provides transfers to the Juan Santamaria International Airport (SJO) in San José, Costa Rica . Thanks for vacationing with Caravan. *¡Hasta la vista!* **B**