

WILDLIFE WALKING TOUR

Costa Rica

Arenal & the Osa Peninsula

CLASSIC JOURNEYS
THE WORLD'S FINEST WALKING TOURS



“

*Classic Journeys
provides unbeatable
access to experiences
around the globe.”*

|

TRAVEL + LEISURE

Wild Nature Meets Tropical Luxury

You expect paradise to be beautiful. But who knew it was so much fun? Costa Rica blends adventure and nature like nowhere else. A quarter of the country is a protected paradise for everything from anteaters to orchids. The best part is how easy and exciting it is. You don't just look at the cloud forest canopy, you stroll through it on suspended bridges or glide through on a zipline. You can spot whales, explore the Osa Peninsula – named by National Geographic as "the most biologically intense place on Earth", or participate in a baby sea turtle release. You'll explore with expert naturalists, meet the native ticos, and learn about local life, including visiting a village school.

Your trip features nights at the foot of Arenal Volcano and on the pristine Osa Peninsula, and all activities are included. Because Costa Rica is temperate and close to the U.S., you can join us in almost any season—and it's a great spur-of-the-moment getaway.

The Classic Journeys Difference

Travel + Leisure has awarded Classic Journeys the #1 World's Best Tour Operator multiple times and says, "Classic Journeys provides unbeatable access to experiences around the globe." Here's what that access means for you.

→ **Immersive Wildlife Encounters Experience**

Costa Rica's incredible biodiversity up close through expertly guided walks, boat excursions, and snorkeling adventures. Our small group size (average of 10, maximum 18) and exceptional 1:5 guest-to-guide ratio on average (and not more than 1:8) ensure intimate, undisturbed wildlife encounters. Observe sloths in their natural habitat, spot vibrant Scarlet Macaws, and swim alongside sea turtles and dolphins in the Golfo Dulce.

→ **Expert Local Guides**

Our naturalist guides are true Costa Rican ambassadors – botanists, biologists, and conservation experts with deep connections to the land. Their profound knowledge of ecosystems, flora, and fauna goes beyond facts, offering insights into evolutionary processes and highlighting crucial conservation efforts. They'll help you spot elusive wildlife and share fascinating stories about Costa Rica's natural and cultural heritage.

→ **Exclusive Access to Natural Wonders**

Classic Journeys' carefully crafted itinerary takes you to some of Costa Rica's most biodiverse and pristine areas, including the Osa Peninsula – dubbed "the most biologically intense place on Earth" by National Geographic. Explore hidden trails, secluded coves, and pristine beaches away from the crowds, witnessing undisturbed wildlife in their natural habitats.

→ **Boutique Accommodations in Prime Locations** Stay in carefully selected boutique hotels that serve as ideal base camps for exploration. Our accommodations, including one at the foot of Arenal Volcano, offer full amenities and comfort while providing unparalleled access to natural wonders. Enjoy 24/7 opportunities to immerse yourself in Costa Rica's flora and fauna, from early morning bird watching to evening walks under the stars.

→ **Cultural Immersion and Local Connections**

Our Costa Rica adventure brings you closer to the country's warm and welcoming people. Visit a local village school, interact with students and teachers, and learn about daily tico life. Explore a family-run agroecological farm, discovering the rich history of medicinal plants and the fascinating process of chocolate-making from bean to bar.

→ **Diverse and Flexible Activities** Tailor your adventure to your preferences with a range of activities. Choose between exhilarating zipline rides or serene walks along hanging bridges in the cloud forest canopy. Opt for guided nature walks or relax by the pool. Our itinerary balances active exploration with moments of relaxation, allowing you to fully appreciate Costa Rica's natural beauty.

→ **Top-Quality Equipment for Enhanced Experiences** We provide high-quality snorkeling gear for your marine adventures in the Golfo Dulce, ensuring comfortable and immersive encounters with diverse marine life. Our equipment is carefully maintained and fitted to each guest, maximizing your time in the water and enhancing your wildlife viewing experiences.

→ **Regenerative Travel Supporting Local Communities**

Classic Journeys' commitment to regenerative travel means your visit directly benefits local communities. We partner with family-run farms, local schools, and small businesses, ensuring that tourism supports livelihoods while protecting the environment. This approach not only sustains local economies but also provides you with authentic, meaningful experiences.

→ **Conservation-Focused Experiences**

Participate in impactful conservation efforts, such as the release of baby sea turtles (seasonal). Learn about crucial initiatives to protect endangered species and their habitats from our expert guides. Our carefully planned itineraries adhere to "Leave No Trace" principles, minimizing our environmental impact while maximizing your understanding of Costa Rica's delicate ecosystems.

→ **Seamless Multi-Destination Exploration**

Our Costa Rica tour expertly combines diverse ecosystems, from the volcanic landscapes of Arenal to the lush rainforests of the Osa Peninsula. Enjoy seamless transitions between destinations with internal flights, transforming travel time into scenic adventures. Our guides provide insights into changing landscapes and ecosystems, ensuring every moment of your journey is enriching and memorable.

What's Included

- Breakfasts, 3 lunches & 3 dinners
- Full-time experienced guide(s) who are with you throughout the trip and handle behind-the-scenes logistics
- Admissions to scheduled events as noted in the detailed daily itinerary
- Gratuities for hotels, meals, and baggage
- All land transportation during the trip

Above & Beyond Benefits

→ PRIVILEGED ACCESS EVENTS

One-of-a-kind access to remarkable people, places and activities arranged just for you.

→ INVISIBLE CHECK-IN

When your group arrives, we whisk you and your bags to your room immediately. No waiting – no tipping.

Arrival & Departure

→ ARRIVAL DETAILS

START LOCATION: **Lobby of Costa Rica Marriott Hacienda**
START CITY: **San Jose**
START TIME: **9:00 AM**

→ DEPARTURE DETAILS

END LOCATION: **San Jose Airport**
END CITY: **San Jose**
END TIME: **12:00 PM**

Terrain

The footpaths, through rainforest and cloud forest, as well as on and around Arenal Volcano, offer a selection of level, rolling and hilly terrain; with some elevation gain and loss.

DAY 1 »

San José / Arenal

Your Costa Rican adventure begins in San José with a sensory awakening. Sip an exquisite cup of coffee and allow the rich aroma to hint at the volcanic soil that nourishes these world-renowned beans. Your first walk of the trip takes you through lush coffee plantations, where you'll meander between rows of coffee shrubs, their glossy leaves rustling in the gentle breeze. The walk follows gentle slopes that offer panoramic views of the Central Valley and leads to a visit with the coffee maker who shows you every step from the raw coffee "cherries" right through drying, roasting and, of course, tasting their brew. It's a great chance to learn about this distinctive (and delicious) agricultural tradition.

After, head into the tropical forest with your naturalist guide for a colorful nature walk. Marvel as five waterfalls leapfrog down a scenic tropical canyon. And make your way up the path with viewing platforms so close to the action you can feel the spray on your skin and see rainbows dancing in the mist. At a nearby butterfly observatory, a loop trail takes you through a kaleidoscope of fluttering wings. The air hums with the buzz of hummingbirds, their iridescent feathers flashing as they dart from flower to flower. Hold out your hand and feel the gentle tickle of a butterfly's delicate feet or the whisper-soft breeze from a hummingbird's wings.

Later in the day, arrive at your boutique hotel at the foot of Arenal Volcano. A near-perfect cone, the volcano has been dormant for many years now. Enjoy the scenic setting and one of the happiest side effects of volcanic activity: the hot springs that bubble to the surface all over this region. As evening falls, dine on local delicacies under a canopy of stars as the volcano looms in the background as a silent sentinel.

MEALS: L, D

OVERNIGHT: ARENAL

DAY 2 »

Arenal Volcano

Wake to the chorus of tropical birds. You have two exhilarating options to explore the forest canopy this morning. For the most immersive experience, join your naturalist guide on a walk along hanging bridges. These suspended walkways offer an intimate look at life in the canopy. Feel the bridges sway gently as you move, and pause to observe orchids clinging to branches, bromeliads forming miniature ecosystems, and even sloths slowly making their way through the foliage. For the adrenaline seekers, strap into a zipline and soar through the treetops, feeling the rush of wind and catching glimpses of the colorful birds and curious monkeys.

In the afternoon, your feet are back on terra firma as you explore the lower slopes of Arenal Volcano. This hike takes you across otherworldly lava fields, where you'll feel the crunch of cooled lava beneath your boots. The contrasts are striking - barren lava flows give way to lush vegetation, showcasing nature's resilience. Your guide will help you spot pioneer species taking root in the volcanic soil, telling a story of rebirth and renewal.

MEALS: B, L, D

OVERNIGHT: ARENAL

DAY 3 »

Arenal / Osa Peninsula

Start your day with a heartwarming visit to a local village school. A short, easy walk through the community offers glimpses into daily tico life. At the school, you'll be greeted by the excited chatter of children and their teachers. They'll welcome you to join in a traditional game or to help with an English lesson. This immersive experience is at the heart of regenerative travel at Classic

Journeys as we help sustain the cultures and ways of life of the people we visit on tour.

As you fly from La Fortuna to Puerto Jimenez, you'll witness a dramatic change in landscape. The conical shape of Arenal Volcano gives way to lush, unbroken expanses of rainforest. The Osa Peninsula appears as a verdant jewel set against the blue Pacific Ocean. National Geographic called it "the most biologically intense place on Earth", and you'll start to see that firsthand on a walk this afternoon. The terrain is relatively flat with some gentle inclines, featuring well-maintained trails through lowland tropical rainforest. You'll immediately notice the increase in humidity and the rich, earthy scent of leaves on the forest floor. Listen for the raucous calls of Fiery-billed Aracari Toucans and the howls of howler monkeys. You might spot sloths in the trees or catch glimpses of white-faced capuchin monkeys swinging through the canopy.

MEALS: B, L

OVERNIGHT: OSA PENINSULA

DAY 4 »

Osa Peninsula / Golfo Dulce

A short walk through the rainforest leads to the dock where our boat captain joins your naturalist guide to lead you on an exciting wildlife-watching excursion in the Golfo Dulce. This pristine gulf is known as the only place in the world where the northern and southern humpback whales come seasonally to deliver their babies (with peak season July to December), as well as for its year-round residents that include three different species of dolphins, sea turtles, iguanas, and a variety of marine birds. The viewing is amazing from the boat, and even more immersive if you opt to use the snorkeling gear we provide you to join the marine life underwater.

Returning to land, a short drive leads to a family-run agroecological farm, owned by friends of ours. This immersive experience offers a perfect blend of nature, culture, and culinary exploration. Join your hosts on a stroll through lush organic orchards filled with tropical fruits, and to discover the rich history of medicinal plants on the Osa Peninsula. Then get a firsthand look (and tasting) at the fascinating process of chocolate-making from bean to bar. Back at your boutique resort, you have time to swim, relax, or explore more on your own in the late afternoon.

MEALS: B

OVERNIGHT: OSA PENINSULA

DAY 5 »

Osa Peninsula / Río Nuevo Nature Reserve

Today, embark on an exhilarating morning adventure on a guided nature walk into the Osa Peninsula's lush wilderness. The Río Nuevo Nature Reserve offers a kaleidoscope of colors, smells, sights, and sounds. You'll spot vibrant Scarlet Macaws that are iconic to the region, Red-throated Caracaras, and Orange-collared Manakins. Your footpaths wind through a pristine primary rainforest, where you'll find yourself surrounded by ancient trees and diverse plant species that have thrived without any human interference. This untouched ecosystem boasts remarkably old trees, where natural ecological processes have flourished for centuries, creating a vibrant and well-preserved environment teeming with life.

The animal viewing is fantastic too, including all four Costa Rican primate species - squirrel monkeys, spider monkeys, white-faced capuchins, and howler monkeys. Your walk culminates with a refreshing dip in the crystal-clear waters of the river, providing a perfect respite after your exploration. Adding a unique twist to our daily routine, we'll bring along a picnic breakfast to enjoy amid the natural beauty of the trail, allowing you to refuel while fully embracing the tranquil forest atmosphere.

This afternoon offers a unique choice: act like a sloth or join your guide in search of sloths! If you choose to act like one, relax poolside at your boutique resort; maybe even opting for a spa treatment or yoga class. If you prefer to go in search of sloths, join your guide on a walk to get face-to-face with Costa Rica's most beloved and elusive mammal. In a lush 30-acre sanctuary owned by a local family who are our friends, you'll find pristine forests that support sloths in their natural habitat. As you meander along well-maintained trails, your expert guide will share fascinating insights about these slow-moving, fuzzy creatures and their crucial

role in the ecosystem. Keep your eyes peeled for both two-toed and three-toed sloths as they languidly navigate the treetops or curl up for a nap.

MEALS: B, D

OVERNIGHT: OSA PENINSULA

DAY 6 »

Osa Peninsula / San Jose

On your final morning, sleep in or enjoy one of two memorable experiences, depending on the conditions. If the sand temperatures are optimal for turtle hatchings, you can opt to participate in a heartwarming and conservation-focused activity—helping with the release of baby sea turtle hatchlings. With guidance from our naturalists, learn about the efforts to protect these endangered creatures and play a part in their journey to the sea.

Even if the baby turtles are not hatching, morning is a time of rebirth for the vibrant bird species that inhabit the area. Join your guide for a walk in search of stunning birds such as Scarlet Macaws, known for their brilliant plumage, the elusive Resplendent Quetzal, and the striking White-throated Magpie-Jay. The soft morning light enhances visibility, allowing you to really appreciate the vivid colors of the birds, and it's a perfect time to observe them feeding and singing.

Later, transfer to the Puerto Jimenez airport for your flight back to San José, where your Costa Rican adventure comes to an end, leaving you with unforgettable memories of this tropical paradise.

MEALS: B

Tour Hotels



[Ti-fakara Boutique Hotel](#)

A charming retreat at the foot of Arenal Volcano, offering elegantly appointed rooms & stunning views. Unwind in the lush gardens or relax in natural hot springs. The hotel features farm-to-table dining, ensuring a memorable stay in nature's embrace.

NIGHTS: 2 nights



[Botánika Osa Peninsula](#)

Botanika Osa Peninsula is a luxurious escape in one of the world's most biodiverse regions. Enjoy upscale accommodations, gourmet farm-to-table cuisine, ocean views & access to immersive nature experiences while being surrounded by pristine rainforests.

NIGHTS: 3 nights