

COSTA RICA

Situated between Nicaragua and Panama, Costa Rica has enjoyed a tranquil history, a neutral land that last saw a national army in 1949. Due to this stability tourism has flourished, contributing greatly to the country's economy. Costa Rica is thus well-equipped for the world traveller. A land which boasts stunning landscapes, excellent naturalist guides, and where infrastructure and hotels are of a high standard.

Photographs and information: [web veloso.com/costarica](http://web.veloso.com/costarica)



Costa Rica enjoys both Pacific and Caribbean coastlines with a central mountain range. There are active volcanoes, pre-montane cloud forests and flooded coastal rainforests. This variety of eco-systems is home to large numbers of birds in National Parks that are well managed with excellent eco-lodges and qualified guides.

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NATIONAL PARKS & RAINFOREST LODGES

Active volcanoes rise out of the dense tropical rainforest. Find yourself absorbed in this beautiful habitat and escape from civilisation. Wildlife abounds in a variety of unique eco-systems. Accompanied by expert local guides, you are led through prime national parks to take full advantage of this lush and beautiful land.

Days 1-2 Depart on Wednesday for San José, arriving the same day, and transfer to your hotel. The following morning we visit the impressive Poas Volcano to see its smoking caldera, followed by the La Paz gardens with its rescue sanctuary and charming waterfalls. Finish the day visiting a coffee plantation to see how the beans are grown. (B)

Days 3-4 Morning transfer to the Caribbean coast where we take a boat on the river journey to our lodge in the Tortuguero National Park staying for 2 nights. Accompanied by guides, we explore the area by boat in the backwaters and lagoons, observing the abundance of bird species in this glorious jungle setting, home to spider monkeys, macaws, three-toed sloths, caiman and

otters, among many others. From July to October turtles nest on the beach and it is possible to watch them laying their eggs. The setting at Tortuguero is tranquil so you can also unwind, take walks along the strip of wild beach and the area surrounding the lodge. (B,D)

Days 5-7 Departing from the lodge in the morning we head to Arenal in the northern tropical lowlands, dominated by the picture-perfect cone of Arenal Volcano. Next morning, walk on the hanging bridge trails through the rainforest canopy, and take optional excursions including a hike through the national park around the volcano to see lava flows. There is also the opportunity to visit the sloth sanctuary and relax at a volcanic thermal springs in the area. (B)



Tortuguero coastal rainforest, Days 3-4



Arenal volcano, Days 5-7

Days 8-10 Today we cross Lake Arenal by boat and take the winding track to the Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve, a cold and humid forest high in the mountains overlooking the Pacific. Next day take a fascinating excursion with an expert local guide, in the Monteverde cloud forest reserve. The variety of climates is home to a vast number of bird and mammal species, including noisy howler monkeys and the elusive Resplendent Quetzal. In the afternoon visit the Monteverde Butterfly Garden, a living laboratory of butterflies, snakes and frogs. (B)

Day 11 Morning departure transfer down the mountains and back to San José for your flight, arriving home Day 12. (B)

The Tanager Tour departs every week depending on the season - 12 days INCLUDING: 10 nights' accommodation and breakfast (B), all flights (1 overnight), all transfers as well as excursions, transport and meals described. Please see pages 190 - 193 for further details of what is included.

The Tanager Tour 10 night itinerary

San José - 2 nights

Tortuguero - 2 nights

Arenal - 3 nights

Monteverde - 3 nights

Optional Extension to Manuel Antonio

web veloso.com/tanager

Extension to Manuel Antonio National Park and Beach

Manuel Antonio is one of Costa Rica's best National Parks, set on the Pacific Ocean with an excellent beach. See page 176 for more information.

Day 11 Transfer from Monteverde to Manuel Antonio, and check into your chosen hotel for four nights at leisure to visit the Manuel Antonio National Park, enjoy the beach or relax at the hotel. Departure transfer to San José for your flight home, arriving Day 16. (B)

Sloth sanctuary, Day 6



PRIVATE INDIVIDUAL TOUR GUIDELINE PRICES FROM

	Tourist			First		
	1 Single Traveller	Travelling Together Double	Own Room	1 Single Traveller	Travelling Together Double	Own Room
TANAGER Tour						
31Dec-19July, 22Aug-13Dec	£2752	£2042	£2318	£5275	£3398	£4264
20July-21Aug, 14Dec-30Dec	£3251	£2541	£2871	£5774	£3896	£4763

GUIDELINE TOUR PRICES are all per person, subject to availability, as all services are booked when you pay your deposit. Please refer to our website veloso.com for current prices and any special offers available. To obtain a Guaranteed Price for your travel dates, please call 020 8762 0616, email travel@veloso.com, or contact our appointed travel agents. Prices for Special Events, New Year's Eve, Christmas, Easter on request.

FLIGHTS on BRITISH AIRWAYS departing from London and UK Airports, Internal Flights and Taxes, are included. UPGRADE to Business Cabin seat add: £1774 in High Season / £2191 in Low Season; Premium Economy Seat: £565

HOTELS used, descriptions and photographs on our website, veloso.com/colombus

TAILOR-MADE SERVICE: Please enquire for a personalised itinerary to fulfil your individual requirements. We can combine hotels, change route, excursions and we can offer triple rooms, suites and De Luxe Hotels.

TORTUGUERO NATIONAL PARK

web veloso.com/tortuguero



Tortuguero excursions by boat

Tortuguero 4 Days • 3 nights

Day 1 Early departure from San Jose, travelling over the mountains to descend through the stunningly exuberant **Braulio Carillo National Park**. Stop en route for a typical Costa Rican breakfast and to stretch your legs. Board a comfortable boat to navigate the canals, spotting wildlife as you go, until you arrive at your chosen lodge in time for lunch. In the afternoon, visit to the turtle centre, the local town or the beach area, or relax in the gardens. (B,L,D)

Day 2 Early morning guided tour through the canals of **Tortuguero National Park**, exploring in small, open boats for an excellent view of the forest and the wildlife. Tortuguero is a network of navigable lakes, rivers and canals (both natural and man-made) that are a great place for observing local flora and fauna. The excursion starts early because this is when the wildlife is most

active, searching for food. It is not unusual to see troops of Howler monkeys in the trees, or River Otters hunting in the water. After lunch, visit the town of Tortuguero, originally inhabited by native tribes and escaped slaves. (B,L,D)

Day 3 Day at leisure for relaxation or optional excursions such as forest walks, kayaking, or boat tours. (B,L,D)

Day 4 Travel by boat back to the river port, continue to your next destination, stopping for lunch. (B,L)

Pachira Tourist

The Pachira Lodge is located 5 minutes from the entrance of the National Park, on the shore of the river opposite **Tortuguero** town. Its 88 rooms are simple, rustic and comfortable, all with private facilities, hot water and ceiling fan but without air-conditioning. There is a swimming pool and a restaurant serving Costa Rican food buffet-style.

Evergreen Tourist

The Evergreen Lodge is located within the forest on the edge of the national park, surrounded by towering trees. Its 55 rooms are in single storey blocks close to the main building, and there are also cabins set within the forest connected by raised walkways. Meals are served buffet-style, and there is a bar which looks out over the river.

Tortuguero is located on Costa Rica's northeast Caribbean coast, crisscrossed by canals, and the only means of transport is by boat or light aircraft. Thousands of Green Sea Turtles arrive at the beach every year from July to October to lay their eggs, one of the most popular times to visit. The Park was originally intended to protect the turtles, but it is now home to various species of monkeys, sloths and river otters, along with more than 300 species of birds.



Aerial view of Tortuguero canal and coastline

Tortuga Lodge First

Tortuga Lodge and Gardens is a rustic yet elegant lodge located inside the **National Park**. Nestled in the rainforest on the shore of the Tortuguero River, the lodge sits opposite the airstrip for easy access by light aircraft, and 10 minutes away from Tortuguero town. The 27 guest rooms are wood panelled without air-conditioning, but all with large windows for views over the river - those on the ground floor have a small terrace, while on the first floor they have a balcony - all spacious with comfortable furnishings, hammocks and private facilities. The restaurant serves traditional Costa Rican food in a casual setting, and the surrounding gardens are laid out in the style of a plantation, attracting a variety of wildlife.

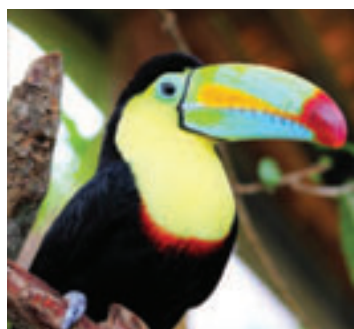


ARENAL VOLCANO

Arenal Volcano is surrounded by lowland tropical rainforest and a picturesque lake. Activities include walking in the forest to spot wildlife, hiking around the base of the volcano to see the lava flows. Walking the hanging bridges brings you closer to the forest canopy to spot monkeys, parrots and sloths, while the sky tram and zip-line will give you a bird's-eye view of the surrounding landscape.

Arenal Springs Resort *First*

Arenal Springs Resort is the ideal combination of modern comfort and exuberant tropical surroundings. The rooms are all in semi-detached bungalows spread over a wide area directly facing the volcano. Each room is comfortably furnished and decorated in tropical colours, and has air conditioning as well as an outside patio with seating. The hotel has its own hot springs, which feed into a number of hot tubs and pools. There is also a spa, yoga studio, and two restaurants. The gardens surrounding the rooms have been planted with flowers and fruit trees to attract birds, and many can be seen around the grounds.



Volcano Inn *Tourist*

Arenal Volcano Inn is a simple lodge with bungalows set on a hilltop surrounded by pleasant gardens with a direct view of the volcano. There are 14 rooms and 1 suite, with air conditioning, private patio with seating. There is a restaurant, 2 pools and a heated outdoor jacuzzi. The lodge is located close to the town of La Fortuna.



View of Arenal volcano from the hotel

Tabacon Resort *First Class Superior*

Tabacon Resort is located in the foothills of Arenal Volcano surrounded by lush tropical rainforest. Tabacon has a unique thermal river fed by 5 hot springs, which flows through the property and is suitable for bathing. The river and gardens are open to daytrippers but guests of the hotel enter for free. The hotel itself consists of several large blocks linked by walkways through the surrounding forest. The rooms are spacious, smart and modern with colourful contemporary Costa Rican designs, air conditioning and rain shower, and all have views of the forest. There are 2 restaurants, and a spa with an extensive list of treatments.



PRICES FROM 4 days • 3 nights

TORTUGUERO NATIONAL PARK

Tortuga Lodge	£853
Pachira	£436
Evergreen	£433

ARENAL VOLCANO

Arenal Spring Resort	£560
Tabacon Resort	£686
Volcano Inn	£365

MONTEVERDE CLOUD FOREST

Senda	£750
Belmar	£667
Cloud Forest Lodge	£410

Prices are per person including transport to/from San José (with internal flights for Tortuga Lodge), accommodation, excursions as described, meals specified in the itinerary, tax, service charge.

MONTEVERDE CLOUD FOREST

Monteverde Cloud Forest is a private nature reserve, high in the mountains of the continental divide. Its cool humid climate means that it is wet for most of the year, but it is home to a great variety of wildlife, particularly birds. It is one of the few places to see the Resplendent Quetzal. There are also hanging bridges, a butterfly house and a zip-line for the most adventurous.



Canopy walkway at Monteverde

Cloud Forest Lodge *Tourist*

The Monteverde Cloud Forest Lodge is made up of 20 rooms in 10 cosy cabins, set in gardens and surrounded by a 70 acre private reserve. The rooms are simple and comfortable with wood panelling, and all have a private patio, perfect for admiring the surrounding forest. The main building has a bar and restaurant, and the grounds have 4km of private trails ideal for independent walking and bird watching.

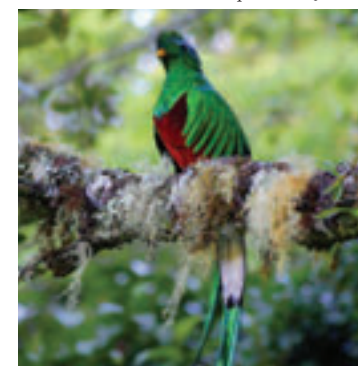
Belmar *First*

Belmar is an alpine inspired boutique hotel made of wood. All 22 rooms and suites are decorated in a light, cosy style with wooden floors. The rooms all have private facilities, all modern amenities, private balconies with seats and hammock, and large windows to enjoy the spectacular views of the surrounding hills and forest. Its wood panelling interiors give it a cosy feel, which is matched by the staff's attentive service. The hotel is committed to wellness, with a juice bar and yoga studio, and is certified for its sustainable practices. Try the experiences such as Savia, immersion in the forest during the day and at night.

Senda *First*

Senda lodge is an upmarket modern hotel with casual and contemporary style. Each of the 24 rooms is spacious with a seating area, coffee maker and wifi, and has a terrace with seating overlooking the lush gardens. The restaurant serves dishes made with local, sustainably sourced ingredients.

Resplendent Quetzal



NATURAL DISCOVERY : THE NATURAL

The Columbus Tour

14 night itinerary

San José/Alajuela - 2 nights

Bajos del Toro - 3 nights

Arenal - 3 nights

Osa Peninsula/Corcovado - 3 nights

Manuel Antonio - 3 nights

web veloso.com/colombus

Costa Rica has a variety of specialist lodges located in regions seldom visited. This tour provides an in-depth itinerary, combining high quality, isolated lodges with pristine rainforest, national parks and coastline, resulting in a unique experience of Costa Rica's natural landscape. Expert naturalist guides lead excursions through diverse ecosystems and habitats, giving great opportunities for wildlife and bird watching.

Days 1-2 Depart on the daytime flight to San José. On arrival, transfer to a comfortable hotel in the hills above the city, *Alta Hotel (First)* or *Finca Rosa Blanca (Deluxe)* staying for 2 nights. Half day excursion to the nearby active Poas Volcano to see its smoking crater, with a chance to hike in the forest. Afternoon at leisure to relax by the pool at your hotel. (B)

Days 3-5 Transfer to the remote Cloud Forest region of Bajos del Toro, a haven for birds and exotic plants, and an area with few lodges and not often visited by tourists. Stay 3 nights at your chosen ecolodge. *Bosque de Paz (First)* has 12 comfortable rooms and a specialist orchid research centre. *El Silencio Lodge (Deluxe, p.174)* has luxurious individual cabins with individual hot tubs. Each lodge has expert naturalist guides, and a large property with extensive trails to hike through the forest and spot wildlife and birds. Spend 2 days enjoying the peace of the surrounding

nature, exploring the cloud forest and spotting a huge array of bird life. Guided excursions at extra cost payable locally. (B)

Days 6-8 Transfer to Arenal, famous

Manuel Antonio National Park on the Pacific



for its cone-shaped volcano, national park and surrounding lowland rainforest. Stay for 3 nights at your choice of hotel, *Arenal Springs (First, p.169)* or *Arenal Nayara (Deluxe, p.175)* both well located, with views of the volcano and set in lush tropical gardens. **Day 7** hike in the national park with your private guide, around the base of the volcano to see the solidified lava flows. Optional excursions to walk through the tree canopy on

hanging bridges, spot elusive sloths, explore the forest at night with a naturalist guide, and boat trips to see wildlife in the Caño Negro wetlands. There is also zip-lining and white-water rafting for the more adventurous. (B)

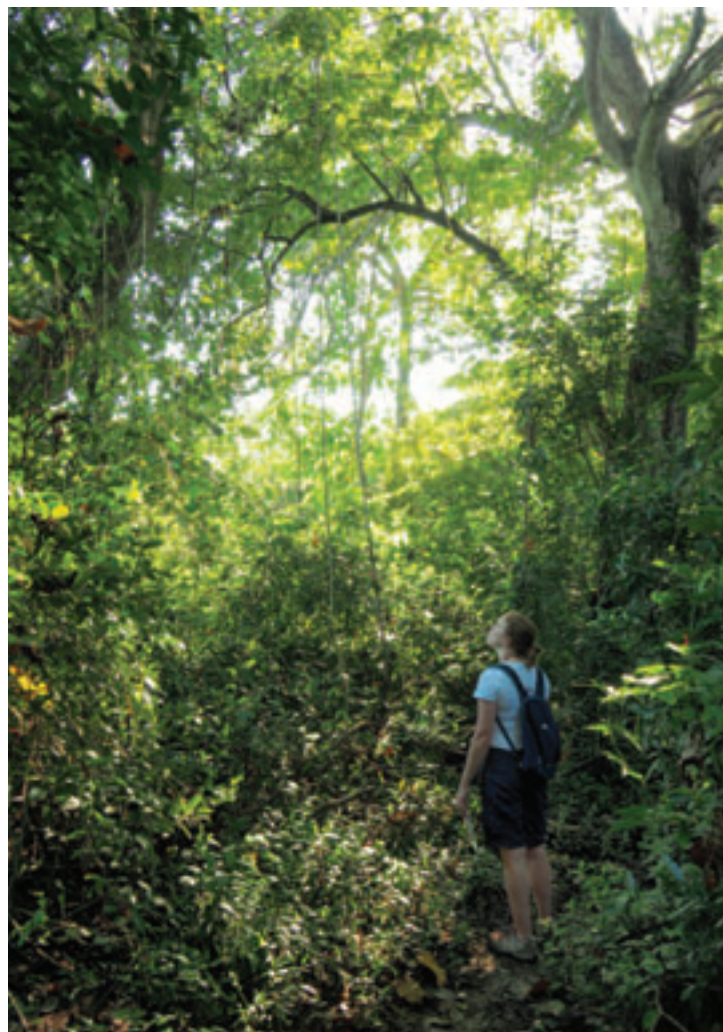
Days 9-11 Transfer to San Jose domestic airport for your flight, on small propeller aircraft, to the Osa Peninsula, one of the last truly wild National Parks.



WORLD IN-DEPTH



View of Arenal volcano park and Arenal Nayara Resort



Walks in the forest and birdwatching

On arrival a guide from your chosen lodge will collect you in a 4x4 to traverse a bumpy track to reach the lodge, where you stay for three nights overlooking the Golfo Dulce. **El Remanso (First, p.172)** is a rustic but stylish lodge set on the hillside overlooking the coast, with extensive walking trails and naturalist guides for wildlife watching excursions. **Lapa Rios (Deluxe, p.172)** is a luxury lodge set on the hilltop with tropical bungalows, with superb views, and surrounded by pristine rainforest. Spend two full days walking on the trails, surrounded by exotic birds, monkeys, sloths, and the sounds of nature. (B,L,D)

Days 12-14 Transfer north along the Pacific Coast to **Manuel Antonio**, where the rainforest meets the ocean. The nearby national park is teeming with wildlife, and worth exploring with a local naturalist guide or independently. It is common to see the exotic birds and monkeys even in the grounds of the hotels. Stay for three nights at a comfortable hotel within walking distances from the beach, **Hotel Parador (First p.176)** is perched on a rocky outcrop with modern rooms and good facilities. **Arenas del Mar (Deluxe p.176)** has luxurious rooms and direct access to a secluded beach. Spend a day relaxing by

the beach, spotting wildlife in the national park. Optional boat trips to see dolphins in the bay. (B)

Day 15 Transfer to San Jose airport to depart on the overnight flight back to London, arriving **Day 16**.

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PRIVATE INDIVIDUAL TOUR GUIDELINE PRICES FROM

	First			Deluxe		
	1 Single Traveller	Travelling Together Double	Own Room	1 Single Traveller	Travelling Together Double	Own Room
COLOMBUS Tour						
31Dec-19July, 22Aug-13Dec	£5596	£3617	£4763	£9891	£6135	£8764
20July-21Aug, 14Dec-30Dec	£6095	£4116	£5262	£10390	£6634	£9263

GUIDELINE TOUR PRICES are all per person, subject to availability, as all services are booked when you pay your deposit. Please refer to our website veloso.com for current prices and any special offers available. To obtain a Guaranteed Price for your travel dates, please call 020 8762 0616, email travel@veloso.com, or contact our appointed travel agents. Prices for Special Events, New Year's Eve, Christmas, Easter on request.

FLIGHTS on BRITISH AIRWAYS departing from London and UK Airports, Internal Flights and Taxes, are included. UPGRADE to Business Cabin seat add: £1774 in High Season / £2191 in Low Season; Premium Economy Seat : £565

HOTELS used, descriptions and photographs on our website, veloso.com/columbus

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THE OSA PENINSULA & CORCOVADO

web veloso.com/corcovado

Lapa Rios *Deluxe*

Lapa Rios Lodge is a combination of luxury lodge and eco-conservation project spread over 1000 acres of tropical rainforest on the Osa Peninsula overlooking the Golfo Dulce. The main lodge and bungalows line three ridges, connected by walking paths through the dense forest. Please note that there are many steps up and down to the main building and restaurant, but this gives ample opportunity to spot wildlife at all times of day. 14 of the 16 thatched bungalows have an ocean view and all are surrounded by the rainforest, each bungalow featuring huge windows, ceiling fan but not air-conditioning, a private deck and patio garden. The buildings are of native materials, existing in harmony with the surrounding forest and environment. The main building houses the reception, bar and restaurant, and there is also a swimming pool, access to the beach, and many trails through the forest leading to rivers with natural pools and waterfalls. There are daily excursions inside and outside the property with expert naturalist guides, to take advantage of the pristine natural setting and see the abundant wildlife.



Bedroom with magnificent view at Lapa Rios



El Remanso *First*

El Remanso is nestled on the hillside surrounded by jungle overlooking the Golfo Dulce on the south coast of the Osa Peninsula. The lodge has a private reserve of 185 acres with its own network of hanging bridges, several waterfalls and hiking trails, which guests can explore on their own or on a guided excursion. 20 minutes walk downhill through the forest is a secluded beach (not suitable for swimming). With just a handful of guestrooms in the main house and several private cabins and villas, El Remanso is a secluded refuge teeming with wildlife. Rooms are comfortable and simply but tastefully decorated with rustic wooden furniture and natural colours. To prevent birds flying into glass windows there are simple curtains and wooden shutters. There is no air conditioning but rooms have ceiling fans. The restaurant and bar are open sided giving great views of the surrounding treetops - it is not uncommon to see birds perching in the trees while you are eating. Accommodation is on full board basis. Excursions on the property are reasonably priced and arranged directly at the lodge.

Casa Corcovado *Jungle Lodge*

Corcovado National Park is the last remaining Pacific lowland rainforest area of sustainable size in Central America. With 13 different separate ecosystems, nearly 1000 species of trees and 100 species of birds, Corcovado has been called one of the most biologically intense places on earth with populations of Tapir, Jaguar, Egret, Heron, Hawks, Tinamou, Caracara, Great Curassow and Scarlet Macaws among others.

Casa Corcovado jungle lodge is set in a remote 170 acre private reserve only accessible by boat and bordering the Corcovado National Park, one of the last truly wild areas of Costa Rica.

The accommodation consists of 14 individual thatched bungalow suites, tastefully decorated in harmony with the natural environment and set in the tropical gardens. All have private bathroom, ceiling fan (not air conditioning), lounge area and hammock. Due to its remote location, arrival and departure is by boat and involves a wet landing, so an adventurous spirit and a certain level of physical fitness are required.

The lodge has its own team of naturalist guides, and each stay includes guided boat trip through the mangroves to get to the lodge, guided nature hike into the National Park, and snorkelling around the nearby Caño Island to see tropical fish and manta rays. The lodge also has its own beach, the ideal place to watch the sunset with a refreshing drink at the end of the day.



GOLFITO & GOLFO DULCE

Playa Cativo *Deluxe*

Located on the shores of the Golfo Dulce and bordering on Peñas Blancas National Park, Playa Cativo is a luxuriously secluded eco-lodge surrounded by forest and only reachable by boat. Set in tropical gardens with coconut palms and many trees for birds to perch, the lodge combines rustic wooden construction with the elegance of fine furnishings, à la carte meals and personalised service. Lead-in rooms are in the main house over the lounge and restaurant, while others are in bungalows, some with private plunge pool. There are specialist wildlife and birdwatching guides who lead hikes into the park, boat trips to spot dolphins in the bay, and there are also independent walking trails on the property.



WHITE WATER RAFTING

River Rafting - Full Day

Costa Rica has some of the top rivers in the world for white water rafting among incredible scenery and lush forests. The Pacuare River can be reached from San José, while the Sarapiquí and Balsa Rivers are daytrips from Arenal. Each have different classes of rapids depending on recent rainfall. Some parts of the river can be quite tranquil, but when approaching the rapids the boat will speed up and everyone on the raft will need to paddle to ensure you pass through - a real adrenaline rush! Rafting always includes a full safety briefing and safety equipment (life jacket and helmet) under the supervision of a qualified rafting guide and separate safety kayaker. It goes without saying that you will get very wet - bring another set of dry clothes to change into later. Please note that good physical fitness is needed, including upper-body strength and the ability to swim. Age restrictions also apply.

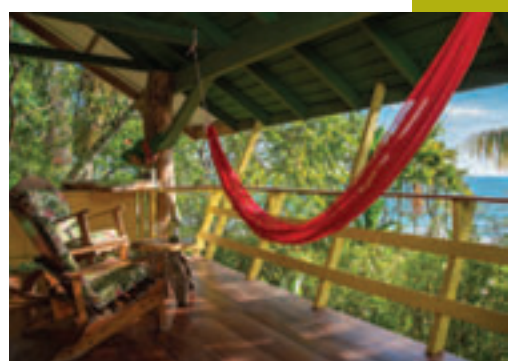


web veloso.com/hideaway



Tiskita *Tourist*

Located on the southern side of the Golfo Dulce, Tiskita Lodge is best reached by boat from Puerto Jiménez, looking out for whales and dolphins en route. Set in 800 acres of private reserve, the rustic casitas offer the simple comforts ideal for exploring the rainforest. There are 23 miles of trails to explore independently or with a naturalist guide, and they also run a macaw conservation project. The lodge has its own organic orchard and cacao farm, and the restaurant produces delicious meals to fuel your adventure.



Pacuare Lodge *Deluxe Lodge*

Nestled in the Caribbean region of Costa Rica, on the shore of the Pacuare River surrounded by lush tropical foliage is the Pacuare Lodge. A place for those who appreciate adventure, isolation and luxury, the lodge is reached by river, and is also excellent for exploring the forest. The journey begins in San José for the journey to the Pacuare River, where guests board the rafts for the exciting river rafting trip to the lodge on Class II-III rapids. Luggage is taken another way and limited to 25lbs, excess can be left at the Pacuare field office. Arrive at the lodge in time for lunch. The lodge employs a resident naturalist guide who leads tours into the forest to spot birds, wildlife and understand the complex ecosystem. There is also a zip-line for those who enjoy the adrenaline rush of flying through the trees! The suites and villas are extremely spacious with private terraces and hammocks, all with wonderful views of the river or jungle.

PRICES FROM 4 days • 3 nights

OSA PENINSULA & CORCOVADO

Lapa Rios	£2060
El Remanso	£923
Casa Corcovado	£1341

GOLFITO & GOLFO DULCE

Playa Cativo	£1073
Tiskita	£648

WHITE WATER RAFTING

Pacuare Lodge	£1676
River Rafting - Full Day	£120

Prices are per person include accommodation, all meals (only breakfast at Punta Islita) tax, service, and return transport from San José, by internal flights in light aircraft where necessary.



REMOTE HIDEAWAY LODGES web veloso.com/hideaway

El Silencio Lodge Deluxe

El Silencio Lodge & Spa is a luxury eco lodge set in Costa Rica's **Central Volcanic Range**. Its 500 acres of private cloud forest reserve are flanked by the Juan Castro Blanco National Park and the Poas Volcano. Silencio, Spanish for silence, is befitting of a destination where you can escape the noise of the city to the peaceful sounds of nature. The lodge has trails through the forest leading to hidden waterfalls, a nature-immersed spa, yoga, hiking, meditation, and healthy organic cuisine. There are 16 suites, each with a private viewing deck, an enticing outdoor whirlpool tub, gas fireplace, and spectacular vistas.



Trogon Lodge Tourist

Trogon Lodge is located in **San Gerardo de Dota**, a secluded area of Cloud Forest 2 hours from San Jose known as a habitat of the Resplendent Quetzal. The lodge is made up of 23 rustic wooden cabins set in charming gardens, with flowers, fruit trees and ponds. All cabins have heating, hot water and small terrace. There are bird feeders throughout the gardens, and it is common to see hummingbirds. The lodge has a simple restaurant and private trails for independent hikes. Guides at the lodge specialise in birdwatching, and can help guests to spot some of the 170 species identified in the area, as well as to locally known Quetzal nesting sites.



Lagarta Lodge First Boutique

Lagarta Lodge is a modern boutique hotel perched on a hill overlooking forest, beaches and the mouth of two rivers on the Pacific Coast of Guanacaste. The lodge protects a 90 acre nature reserve, where guests can take guided tours or explore on their own. The main building houses the reception, restaurant and bar, with infinity pool and terrace outside, all with spectacular views. The rooms are set in several blocks a short walk away, but all have A/C and are decorated in neutral tones with a focus on natural designs. There are many activities available, including night tours to see Olive Ridley turtles nesting at nearby Ostional beach.



PRICES FROM 4 days • 3 nights

REMOTE HIDEAWAY LODGES

El Silencio Lodge	£808
Trogon Lodge	£427
Lagarta Lodge	£735
Villa Blanca Cloud Forest	£446

LUXURY IN COSTA RICA

Origins	£1911
Kura & Aguas Claras	On Request
Kasiya	£1479
Arenal Nayara	£710

Prices are per person include accommodation, all meals (only breakfast at Punta Islita) tax, service, and return transport from San José, by internal flights in light aircraft where necessary.

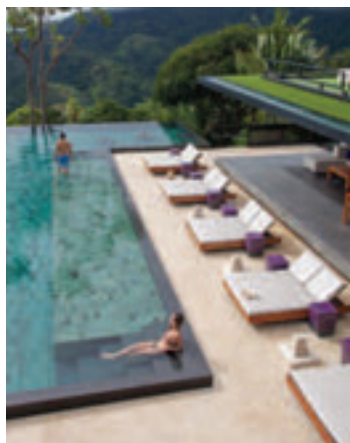
Villa Blanca Cloud Forest Deluxe

Villa Blanca sits on top of a hill in a 75 acre property surrounded by the **Los Angeles Cloud Forest**. There are no other hotels nearby, which gives guests a exclusive experience of the surrounding nature. The main building is in the style of a traditional Costa Rican farmhouse, and the restaurant has large windows to enjoy the views. The 34 rustic style bungalows are spread along the hillside, and are characterful and cosy with wood burning stoves. The hotel has a biological station actively involved in nature research, and there is a network of trails which guests can explore on their own. Naturalist guides offer a range of excursions both on and off the property.



LUXURY IN COSTA RICA

All of our suggested luxury lodges in Costa Rica are as much about the natural surroundings and wildlife as they are about the high standard of hospitality. Guests are invited to spot wildlife with a naturalist guide or sit peacefully to take in the view before enjoying delicious fine-dining and relaxing in the opulent comfort of their private bungalows or villas.



Infinity pool with a stunning view at Kura



Aguas Claras style & lush vegetation

Kura Design & Aguas Claras *Deluxe*

Kura Design is located on a hill outside Uvita on the southern Pacific coast, it is stylish and cosmopolitan with a minimalist, yet, cosy casual feel. It has an infinity pool and restaurant veranda with a great view out to sea, over the trees, serving fresh, exotic, organic ingredients. The bedrooms have black tiles floors and wooden ceiling. Aguas Claras is located on the Caribbean coast, in front of a white sandy beach lined with trees and with crystal clear sea. The Caribbean style mansion has 12 bungalows and suites with white floors, ceiling and walls, with a few bright colours, cosy decoration and lush vegetation all around. It has a pool, restaurant, bar and outdoor yoga .



Veranda with a view at Kasiya

Kasiya *Deluxe*

Kasiya Papagayo is a private eco-retreat set in 123 acres, perched on the hillside overlooking the ocean and blending seamlessly with its natural surroundings of the Pacific dry forest. There are 5 spacious and modern tented suites, all with private terrace and large windows to enhance your sense of place. Combined with the construction and decoration with natural materials, guests will feel as though they are within the forest, not separated from it. So few suites give the hotel an air of intimacy and exclusivity, and always a guarantee of attentive and personalised service. The retreat is fully off-grid, meaning that they generate all their own power with solar panels, and all the water is harvested from rain. Located on an isolated peninsula, the hotel's golden-sand beach is effectively private. Accommodation includes all meals and a number of on-property activities, but drinks are extra.

Origins *Deluxe*

Set on a hillside overlooking the Northern lowlands stretching all the way to lake Nicaragua, Origins is an exclusive eco lodge dedicated to hospitality, tranquility and the experience of nature. The main building houses the restaurant, bar and lounge, as well as an infinity pool, and everything is designed with natural materials and European sophistication. There are six luxurious bungalows with handmade canopy bed, a private terrace with wood-fired hot tub, and indoor/outdoor bathroom. The 'El Salto' restaurant offers the highest standard of cuisine, a fusion of French and Costa Rican elements. There is a wide range of activities for guests to take both on and off the property. Sedate options include walking through the gardens with chef to design the day's menu, or with the botanist to identify plants and flowers. For the more active and adventurous there are hikes in the nearby Tenorio Volcano National park to see the intense blue Rio Celeste waterfall, or kayaking along the Rio Frio. Accommodation includes all meals, drinks and activities - off property activities are extra.



Bedroom at Origins



Terrace and private pool at Arenal Nayara Springs

Arenal Nayara *Deluxe*

Arenal Nayara is composed of three connected properties, all surrounded by tropical rainforest and within view of Arenal Volcano. Toucans, hummingbirds and macaws are all in residence, and sloths can often be seen in the Cecropia trees, which are their main diet. The resort is interconnected by walkways and footbridges and has a variety of restaurants, pools, cafés and a spa. Nayara Resort & Gardens is family friendly, with 50 spacious casitas, with private terrace, outdoor showers and marble bathroom, all surrounded by lush gardens. Nayara Springs, adults-only, has 35 even more luxurious villas each with private terrace, garden and plunge pool. Nayara Tented Camp has 21 luxury tents with private plunge pool that can easily accommodate a family of 4.

MANUEL ANTONIO

Manuel Antonio offers a perfect mix of relaxation and adventure; here the Pacific coastline is bordered by an expanse of lush rainforest, teeming with birds and wildlife, The Manuel Antonio National Park. There are well marked trails for independent hiking, secluded coves and beaches, and a hill with a cliff looking out to sea. The area has several restaurants, and a small town for you to visit.



Manuel Antonio Beach

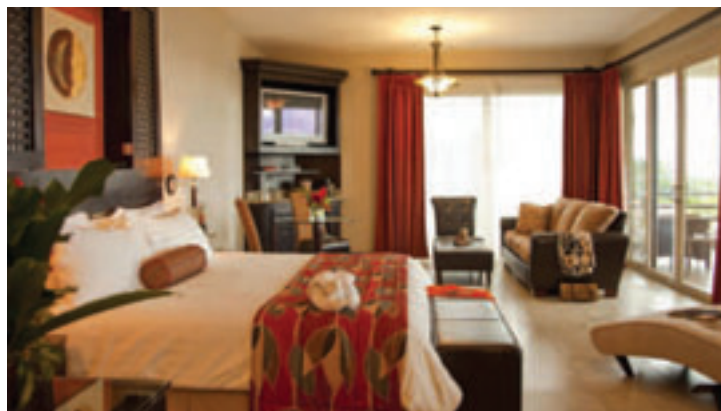
web veloso.com/manuelantonio

Arenas Del Mar *Deluxe*

Outside the town of Manuel Antonio, Arenas Del Mar is a luxury hotel situated in dense forest looking onto the Pacific. The 38 rooms are set in seven 3-storey buildings on a hill connected by a winding path leading down to a secluded beach, with golf carts to transport guests and luggage up and down the hill. Rooms are spacious, all with king size beds, air conditioning and private terraces. Higher room categories have ocean views. The resort has a restaurant, beach bar, a luxurious spa, and 2 swimming pools. Activities available include kayak and boat tours in the mangroves, rainforest hikes and horse riding.

Parador *First*

The Parador is located on a hill overlooking a tranquil bluff with magnificent views of ocean. The hotel has Mediterranean style architecture mixed with tropical touches to give the resort a unique atmosphere. There are walking trails through the forest and access to two small beaches. It also has three swimming pools, a restaurant serving seafood and Mediterranean cuisine, a pool bar and cafe, La Galeria serving light meals and buffet breakfast. The bedrooms are spacious and modern with air-conditioning



Bedroom at Parador Hotel

The Falls *Tourist*

The Falls is a small boutique hotel set in tropical gardens with waterfalls, frequented by monkeys and birds, all within walking distance of the town and the beach at Manuel Antonio. Each room has a king size bed and air conditioning. The hotel also has a restaurant, bar, swimming pool, and free WiFi in public areas.

PRICES FROM 4 days • 3 nights

TORTUGUERO NATIONAL PARK

Arenas Del Mar	£1098
Parador	£593
The Falls	£443

PLAYA ESTERILLOS

Alma del Pacifico	£625
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NICOYA, TAMARINDO, GUANACASTE BEACH

Andaz	£787
Nantipa	£814
Cala Luna	£773
Secrets Papagayo	£817
Flor Blanca	£1197
Casa Conde	£714

Prices are per person include accommodation, all meals (only breakfast at Punta Islita) tax, service, and return transport from San José, by internal flights in light aircraft where necessary.

Additional Hotels in Manuel Antonio:
Makanda by the Sea, Gaia, Tulemar, La Mansion Inn, La Mariposa, Playa Espadilla

Additional Hotels in Guanacaste Beach:
Four Seasons, Capitan Suizo, Occidental Gran Papagayo, Allegro Papagayo, Tamarindo Daria

PLAYA ESTERILLOS

Alma del Pacifico Beach & Spa *First*

Situated on an isolated beach on the Pacific Coast just 2 hours drive from San Jose, Alma del Pacifico is a small hotel with 20 colourful villas set among lush tropical gardens, connected by paved walkways and fronting onto a wide sandy beach. The spacious and comfortable rooms are full of vibrant colours and works of art, and each one has a large private terrace with outdoor seating. Most rooms are ocean facing, with terraces looking straight onto the grey sand beach, while others face into the gardens. There is a nice pool, Spa and restaurant



Room at Alma del Pacifico



NICOYA, TAMARINDO, GUANACASTE & PAPAGAYO BEACH

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Andaz *Deluxe*

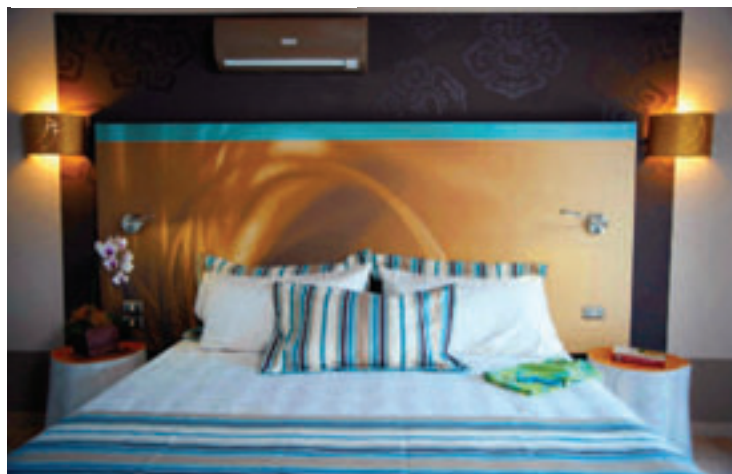
Nestled among the lush vegetation on the shore of the Papagayo Peninsula, Andaz captures the native spirit of Costa Rica with its distinctive "Pura Vida" (pure life) philosophy of laid back relaxation. Vibrant yet stylish, Andaz blends contemporary high-end design with touches of Latin character. The rooms have comfortable modern furnishings, some with views of the ocean or the surrounding forest. There are three restaurants, several swimming pools, and it is a short walk down to a small beach.



Andaz Hotel Bedroom

Nantipa *Deluxe*

Located at the southern tip of the Nicoya Peninsula, Nantipa is a luxury boutique hotel infused with the relaxed atmosphere of the surfer-town Santa Teresa. Rooms are all ample-sized bungalows, designed with a combination of modern elements, natural materials, private terrace, hammocks and plunge pool. Guests can eat in the hotel restaurant, or easily walk into town to enjoy the restaurants, cafés and bars there. The long golden-sand beach is ideal for relaxing, and possibly surfing at times.



Bedroom at Cala Luna



Pool & garden at Flor Blanca

Cala Luna

First

Situated in a quiet residential area surrounded by trees, just outside the town of Tamarindo, Calla Luna Hotel & Villas offers stylish boutique accommodation in a secluded setting.

The hotel is composed of bungalows scattered among lush tropical gardens, each containing two rooms, some of which have interconnecting doors. Each room has a small garden and a fully equipped kitchen, ideal for families.

Secrets Papagayo

First, All-Inclusive, Adults-only

Located on hill sloping to a beautiful cove with a black volcanic sand beach, amidst lush tropical vegetation and stunning views to the mountains, the sea and gardens. The hotel offers an all inclusive, luxury experience with a strict dress code Casual/Elegance. There are 202 spacious suites, a snack-bar, four restaurants and five bars, a Spa and beauty salon, gym, laundry, entertainment day and night, 24/7 room service, free Wi-Fi throughout, business centre, and a variety of activities.

Flor Blanca

First Boutique

Flor Blanca Resort is nestled among palms and fragrant white-flowered trees on Santa Teresa beach, Nicoya Peninsula, one hour from Tambor airstrip. The secluded location inspires exclusivity and adventure, while its 10 oceanview villas, each with veranda and plungepool, make it a haven of eco-chic comfort. The hotel has an excellent restaurant, and there is a bar and a yoga studio. There are a range of activities, including surfing.

Beach at Flor Blanca

Casa Conde

Tourist, All-Inclusive

Beachfront all-inclusive boutique resort located on Panama Beach in Papagayo. The hotel is set within 22 acres of tropical dry forest, on a beach lined with trees, with dark sand and beautiful clear sea.. There are 48 bedrooms and suites with garden and sea views, private facilities, tiles floors and a clear, cosy decorations. The hotel also has a swimming pool, two bars and restaurant. All-Inclusive means all meals, drinks, snacks, mini-bar, taxes and gratuities. Excursions are extra..



COLONIAL HISTORY & RAINFOREST

The Granada Tour: Panama, Costa Rica, Nicaragua

18 night itinerary:

Panama City – 3 nights

San José – 2 nights

Tortuguero National Park – 2 nights

Arenal – 3 nights

Rincon de la Vieja – 2 nights

Ometepe Island – 2 nights

Granada – 3 nights

Leon – 1 night

web veloso.com/granada



Combining Central America highlights, visit the unique Panama Canal, historic colonial cities,

and lush National Parks for excellent wildlife watching.

Admire towering volcanoes, coffee plantations and stunning architecture in

the company of our expert local guides to understand the fascinating history of this region and the way of life of local people.

Days 1-3 Depart to Panama City, arriving in the evening and transfer to your hotel in the colonial quarter, staying for 3 nights. Tour to explore the historic streets, wonderful colonial architecture and monuments, before visiting the Miraflores locks of the famous Panama Canal. This interoceanic gateway is an incredible feat of engineering, and awe-inspiring to watch the ships pass through. Next day optional boat trip on the canal, or travel by rail to the picturesque Caribbean town of Colon. (B)

Days 4-5 Morning flight to San José, staying for 2 nights. Next day tour to the nearby active Poas Volcano, waterfall gardens, and a local coffee plantation. (B)

Day 6-7 Departing early we travel by road and boat to Tortuguero National Park, on the Caribbean coast, a vast tract of rainforest with canals and a unique habitat mixing fresh water and salt water. Spend 2 nights at a forest lodge, where birds and monkeys are often seen in the grounds. Daily boat excursions to spot wildlife are included. Optional extras such as kayaking and night walks are also available. (B,L,D)

Days 8-10 Depart by boat and then travel by road to reach Arenal, a mountain area of tropical rainforest with a massive conical volcano surrounded by National Park. Stay 3 nights with excursions to hike around the base of the volcano and see the lava flows from the 1968 eruption. Next day tour the wetlands area

of Caño Negro by boat. An new habitat with an abundance of birds and wildlife. (B)

Days 11-12 Transfer by road to Rincon de la Vieja, staying for 2 nights. Full day hike into the park, which protects montane forest and which is known for its variety of wildlife, picturesque waterfalls and boiling sulphurous fumaroles which signal the power and activity of the volcano. (B)

Days 13-14 Transfer across the border into Nicaragua, and take a boat across the eponymous lake to Ometepe Island, formed by two volcanoes rising out of the water. Stay for 2 nights at an eco-lodge with stunning views of the lake. Full day guided tour to explore the island, including local farms, pre-Columbian rock carvings and swimmable natural pools in the forest. (B)

Day 15-17 Transport by road to Granada, staying three nights in this colonial gem, founded in 1524. The city retains much historic character and is a hub of local life. Tour the town by horse drawn carriage to admire the architecture, the ornate churches and the fortress. Next day visit the nearby Mayasa Volcano, getting a view inside the crater and a local handicraft market. (B)

Days 18-19 Continue to Leon, stay one night. (B) Transfer to the airport for your return flight home, arriving Day 20



Granada, Days 15-17

The Granada Tour departs everyday, 20 days INCLUDING: 18 nights' accommodation and breakfast (B), all flights (1 overnight), transfers,

excursions, transport and meals (B,L,D) as shown on the itinerary. Please see pages 190-193 for further details of what is included.

PRIVATE INDIVIDUAL TOUR GUIDELINE PRICES FROM

	1 Single Traveller	First	
		Double	Travelling Together Own Room
GRANADA Tour	£6709	£4266	£5450
SURAMA Tour - page 39	£9868	£7542	£8166

GUIDELINE TOUR PRICES are all per person, subject to availability as all services are requested at the time you book. Please refer to our website veloso.com for current prices and any special offers available. To obtain an Itinerary with Full descriptions, Hotels and Guaranteed Price for your travel dates, please contact us, or contact our appointed travel agents. Prices for Special Events, New Year's Eve, Christmas, Easter on request.

FLIGHTS are included, departing from London and UK Regional Airports, all Internal Flights and Taxes UPGRADE to Business Cabin seat and Premium Economy Seat on request

HOTELS used, descriptions and photographs on our website, veloso.com/aurora

TAILOR-MADE SERVICE: Please enquire for a personalised itinerary to fulfil your individual requirements. We can combine hotels, change route, excursions and we can offer Triple Rooms, Suites and Deluxe Hotels.