



**South Suburban**  
PARKS AND RECREATION

# NATURAL WONDERS OF COSTA RICA

*Especially Created for the South Platte Park and Carson Nature Center*

February 24 – March 5, 2007

## Itinerary

### **Day 1 Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup> 2007 - Arrival to San Jose**

Upon arrival, private guided transfer from Juan Santamaria International Airport. Meet and greet and transfer to your hotel.

Hotel: Ramada Plaza Herradura

### **Day 2 Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup> 2007 - Poas - La Paz - Doka Tour**

Private guided tour to Doka Coffee Plantations, Poas Volcano and La Paz Waterfall Gardens. This is the true essence of Costa Rica in one day. After an introductory briefing, you are off to climb the mountains en route to the rolling hills of Doka Estate, a magnificent 350-acre coffee plantation, where you will be introduced to the world of Costa Rican coffee.

Award winning Doka Estate is the 2000 and 2001 Sintercafe and the 2003 Doka Estate Mill "Costa Rica Historical Architectural and Cultural Patrimony" awards recipient. The highlight of the day is Poás Volcano National Park. Appreciate the active crater of this 8,884 foot-high magnificent natural amphitheatre. No matter how much you have thought of being at the rim of a volcano, this is more than you ever expected.

Then, La Paz Waterfalls will introduce you to an unknown world. Walking the splendid gardens, you'll find The Butterfly Observatory and the Hummingbird Gallery. Never will you feel more a part of the splendour of the rainforest than when hiking the trails alongside the river and the astounding La Paz waterfalls. Lunch on tour and a Welcome dinner in San Jose.

Hotel: Ramada Plaza Herradura  
(B, L, D)

### **Day 3 Monday, February 26<sup>th</sup> 2007 - San Jose - Tortuguero**

Early departure from San Jose to Tortuguero. Breakfast on the way and stop at a banana plantation. After arrival to Caño Blanco you continue by boat to the small town of Tortuguero in the middle of the rainforest. This region is mostly made up of a wet swamp forest with a system of natural and man-made canals running through it. It receives the heaviest amount of rain in the country, providing a perfect haven for some of the most amazing flora and fauna in the world. Sloths, iguanas, crocodiles and hundreds of species of birds make their home here. Lunch on arrival and afternoon nature tours included.

Hotel: Turtle Beach Lodge  
(B, L, D)

### **Day 4 Tuesday, February 27<sup>th</sup> 2007 - Tortuguero National Park**

Today we explore the area of Tortuguero National Park by boat thru the canals and walking thru the small town of Tortuguero.

Hotel: Turtle Beach Lodge  
(B, L, D)

### **Day 5 Wednesday, February 28<sup>th</sup> 2007 - Tortuguero - Arenal**

Early morning departure to Siquirres by boat and bus. We stop for lunch and continue to the Arenal Volcano area. Group arrival early afternoon and night visit to Tabacon Hot Springs with dinner while trying to watch this active volcano by night. On clear nights gases and ash can be seen running on the side of the volcano.

Hotel: Arenal Paraiso  
(B, L, D)

### **Day 6 Thursday, March 1<sup>st</sup> 2007 - Arenal - Monteverde**

In the morning we explore the Arenal Hanging Bridges before continuing our journey to the area of Monteverde Biological Reserve.

Hotel: Heliconia  
(B)

### **Day 7 Friday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> 2007 - Monteverde**

Private guided tour in the morning to Monteverde Biological Reserve. This area was founded by North American Quakers in the early century. The reserve is dedicated to the conservation of its natural resources. It contains six ecologically-diverse habitats, making it possible for you to enjoy a rich sampler of species and landscapes. This is a wonderful place for nature lovers, bird watchers and adventurous people! After an early walk thru the reserve for birdwatching, you continue to Selvatura and the exciting Canopy tour in the cloud forest. Lunch included on premises. Return to hotel

Hotel: Heliconia  
(B, L)

### **Day 8 Saturday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2007 - Monteverde - Manuel Antonio**

Private guided transfer from Monteverde to Manuel Antonio National Park via Tarcoles River by boat excursion for bird and crocodile watching. Lunch stop included on the way in Jaco.

Hotel: California  
(B, L)

### **Day 9 Sunday, March 4<sup>th</sup> 2007 - Manuel Antonio**

Tour to Manuel Antonio National Park. Costa Rica's smallest national park, Manuel Antonio, offers an extraordinary diversity of wildlife, white sand beaches, and strikingly scenic sites.

Hotel: California  
(B)

### **Day 10 Monday, March 5<sup>th</sup> 2007 - Manuel Antonio - San Jose**

Private guided transfer in early morning from Manuel Antonio to Juan Santamaria International Airport for return flight to Denver. Duration 3-4 hours.

(B)

### **Optional Flight Schedule**

February 24, 2007	AA #1918	Denver / Dallas Ft. Worth	1:37 pm / 4:27 pm
February 24, 2007	AA #2167	Dallas Ft. Worth / San Jose	5:43 pm / 9:40 pm
March 5, 2007	AA #972	San Jose / Miami	2:53 pm / 6:42 pm
March 5, 2007	AA #942	Miami / Denver	8:16 pm / 10:41 pm