



Costa Rica 2019 –

Tropical Horticulture and Nature

A tour for MASTER GARDENERS or anyone interested in nature

JANUARY 16-25, 2019

LAND ONLY PACKAGE PRICE: \$3,335 per person

Airfare is not included in package price; cost will vary depending on the departure airport and can be arranged independently or by the tour operator.

For more information contact Kari Harper at
(573) 303-2872 or email kari@hiddentreasurestours.com

\$1,000 deposit per person holds your reservation. Final payment due by
October 15, 2018



Costa Rica, 'rich coast' in Spanish, has a wealth of natural diversity and wildlife — over 10,000 plant species and more than 850 species of birds, including many endemics found nowhere else on earth. This 10-day study program will expose you to some of this stunning array of exotic tropical plants and animals, the ecology of the rainforest and other ecological habitats, and tropical horticultural production.

Join Susan Mahr, Wisconsin MG Program Coordinator, on a special trip as we leave the typical tourist route to visit some of the most exclusive areas of this stunningly beautiful country to discover the vast array of endemic plants in the rainforest, learn about tropical horticulture and crops, see abundant wildlife — monkeys, butterflies, birds, frogs and more — in their natural habitat, and much more.

The Itinerary

Wednesday, January 16

Travel to Costa Rica. Upon arrival at Juan Santamaría International Airport you will be met by your guide and transportation. For those who arrive early enough (many flights don't arrive until evening), enjoy the extensive gardens behind the hotel or arrange your own optional excursion in the city.

Meals included: Welcome dinner

Lodging: Hotel Bougainvillea (www.hb.co.cr/)

Thursday, January 17

This morning we visit Sibú Chocolate, Costa Rica's premier artisan chocolate company, for a lively presentation about chocolate and its role in Costa Rica's pre-Columbian past and economic development that includes tasting fresh cacao fruit, roasted beans, and classic European-style bonbons made on the premises. We then head to La Paz Waterfall Gardens where you will enjoy beautiful orchid and hummingbird gardens and hike to magnificent waterfalls. Three kilometers of serpentine paved trails wind through both cloud and rainforest, allowing visitors to experience and photograph the forest. It also has the world's largest enclosed Butterfly Observatory covering 18,000 ft² with many species of colorful Costa Rican butterflies, as well as many native plants and animals in other enclosures.

Meals included: Breakfast, lunch, dinner

Lodging: Hotel Bougainvillea

Friday, January 18

Today we head west, driving through Braulio Carrillo National Park before stopping at Rainforest Adventures near Jacó for lunch and an aerial tram trip through the rainforest canopy. A guide in each slow-moving gondola will point out interesting plants and any animals we see as we go from the floor to the treetops. We then drive to our lodge on the Pacific Ocean near Parque Nacional Marino Ballena. Enjoy the magnificent ocean view, spectacular sunsets and abundant wildlife — toucans, parrots, iguanas, monkeys and more — as you relax on the pool decks or walk through the manicured tropical gardens or explore nearby trails in the rainforest.

Meals included: Breakfast, lunch, dinner

Lodging: Cristal Ballena Boutique Hotel & Spa (www.cristal-ballena.com)



RELAX



LEARN





EXPLORE



REJUVENATE



EXPERIENCE



Saturday, January 19

The entire day is free to relax and enjoy the pools, visit the beach, or wander the trails on the property. Or take an optional tour to visit Caño Island for snorkeling, see remote Corcovado National Park, go ziplining or horseback riding, or choose from many other activities, or indulge in a spa treatment.

Meals included: Breakfast, lunch, dinner

Lodging: Cristal Ballena Boutique Hotel & Spa

Sunday, January 20

Today we visit Casa Orquídeas, developed in the 1970's by Ron and Trudy Macallister. Accessible only by a 15 minute boat ride from Golfito, this private botanical garden, surrounded on three sides by primary rainforest and the beautiful Golfo Dulce on the remaining side, includes tropical fruit trees, bromeliads, cycads, palms, ornamental plants, and more than 100 varieties of orchids, which attract over 100 bird species to the grounds. We then drive to the area of San Vito to Estación Biológica Las Cruces, one of three research stations maintained by the OTS (Organization for Tropical Studies), a nonprofit consortium of nearly sixty universities, colleges, and research institutions from around the world. Las Cruces is part of the La Amistad Biosphere Reserve and is a key site in the study of restoration ecology and biological corridors. We will be staying on site in cabins to fully appreciate this spectacular natural location.

Meals included: Breakfast, lunch, dinner

Lodging: Las Cruces Biological Station (tropicalstudies.org)

Monday, January 21

Today we enjoy a tour of Wilson's Botanical Garden, 20 acres of cultivated gardens on the Las Cruces Station created in 1962 by Mr. Robert Wilson that have become a facility used for research, teaching, and to help preserve numerous threatened plant species. It contains one of the most important collections of tropical and subtropical plants in Central America, with over 2,000 native species, and the second largest collection of palms in the world. There are also unusual plant families and rare and endangered plants from Costa Rica and elsewhere, especially ferns, aroids, bromeliads, gingers, heliconias, and marantas. More than 1,000 genera in 212 plant families can be seen along trails that wind around palm-covered hillsides, through agave and lily beds, under rain forest canopy, through banana and heliconia groves, or to strategic overlooks on the rolling grounds. We will tour the gardens, hike in the rainforest, watch the birds visiting the fruit feeders, and take our meals in the cafeteria along with the staff.

Meals included: Breakfast, lunch, dinner

Lodging: Las Cruces Biological Station

Tuesday, January 22

This morning we drive into the mountains of Cerro de la Muerte — the foliage changes from the lush greens of a tropical jungle to forest characterized by massive oaks, tree ferns, poor man's umbrella (*Gunnera* spp.), and scandent bamboo (*Chusquea* sp.). Because we will be staying at an elevation of over 7,000 feet

in the Talamanca mountains, it may be cool at night. Be prepared to enjoy the lovely gardens and amazing diversity of hummingbirds coming in to the feeders.

Meals included: Breakfast, lunch, dinner
Lodging: Trogon Lodge (www.trogonlodge.com/)

Wednesday, January 23

This morning we visit a coffee plantation and *beneficio* (processing plant) to learn about this important export crop. In the afternoon just relax or watch birds at the Lodge or nearby, keeping an eye out for the elusive resplendent quetzal!

Meals included: Breakfast
Lodging: Trogon Lodge

Thursday, January 24

This morning we leave the high mountains behind and drive back to the central valley. Our first stop is at the University of Costa Rica's Lankester Botanical Garden where you will enjoy over 3,000 species of beautiful orchids and other epiphytic plants in greenhouses and secondary forests. After lunch at a local restaurant, we will visit La Laguna, Ileana Terán's private house and enchanting garden filled with orchids and tropical plants. Ms. Terán is founder of SACRO (Save Costa Rica's Orchids), an organization dedicated to maintaining natural habitats where orchids grow wild. We enjoy a garden tour and presentation on SACRO, and then have our farewell dinner with our hostess.

Meals included: Breakfast, lunch, dinner
Lodging: Hotel Bougainvillea

Friday, January 25

After breakfast, transfer to Juan Santamaría International Airport for the flight home, or begin an optional extension.

Meals included: Breakfast

OPTIONAL EXTENSIONS — these can be arranged to be guided or independent, for as many days as you wish; prices will vary. Possible destinations include Tortuguero in the lowland flooded forest for exploring the Caribbean rainforest by boat; the beach communities of the northwest; or the isolated Osa Peninsula for scuba diving, kayaking, and exploring remote, pristine Corcovado National Park. Please contact Kari Laudano or Susan to discuss the possibilities. Other extensions can be arranged.



PLEASE NOTE — this trip is suitable for all ages as long as you are in good health, get regular exercise, enjoy the wilderness, and have a good-humored approach to traveling in Latin America — where things might not go as predictably as they do at home. Our trip is not strenuous, and can be considered predominantly leisurely-to-moderate. In order to fully enjoy this trip, you'll need to be willing to accept the many surprises this marvelous environment has in store for us!



ENCOUNTER



DISCOVER



APPRECIATE



Details

This tour has been organized for Master Gardener Volunteers in Wisconsin and other Midwestern states, and other interested individuals, by Kari Harper of Hidden Treasures Tours, L.L.C. **Please note that changes to the itinerary may be necessary due to equipment, weather or other factors beyond our control. Participants must be able to do moderate physical exercise (2-4 hours of walking per day, 3-4 hour bus rides) and should be in good overall health!** We need a minimum number of 6 tour participants to hold this tour. **Please do not arrange airfare until you have been notified that the trip is fully viable!**

Tour price \$3,335 per person (double occupancy)
Single supplement add \$600



Cost includes:

- 9 nights accommodations
- All meals as indicated
- Tips for maids, porters, and waiters
- Private transportation with driver and air-conditioning
- All admission fees or entrance fees as shown on itinerary
- Private driver and botanist guide and their trip related expenses
- All taxes

**\$1,000 deposit holds
your reservation**

**Final payment due
October 15, 2018**

Please note:

- Maximum of 18 tour participants.
- A passport is mandatory to enter Costa Rica. Passport must be valid for six months beyond return date. Allow several months to obtain a passport if you need one or a renewal!
- Tour price does **NOT** include:
 - roundtrip airfare from U.S. to San Jose, Costa Rica
 - airport departure fee (USD\$29 per person, but it is now included in most airline tickets)
 - alcoholic beverages
 - optional excursions
 - **end of tour gratuity** for local guide (\$5-10/day) and bus driver (\$5/day)
 - items of a personal nature
 - full coverage travel insurance for health, baggage and cancellation
 - 3% fee for credit card payments
- Trip insurance is highly recommended. This can be booked individually or through Kari Harper at Hidden Treasures Tours.
- Deposit is refundable minus a \$250 processing fee for cancellations within 90 days of trip departure.
- For more information about the itinerary, or details of travel conditions, logistics, health and safety issues, etc., contact Kari Harper (info below) or Susan Mahr (semahr@wisc.edu; 608-265-4504).



Mail all tour forms and payments (make checks payable to "Hidden Treasures Tours") to:

Hidden Treasures Tours
6324 N Chatham Ave #333
Kansas City, MO 641513

(573) 303-2872
e-mail: kari@hiddentreasurestours.com

PLEASE NOTE: **All credit card payments will be assessed a 3% fee**

To reserve YOUR spot on this unique trip, send the registration form (next page) and a \$1,000 deposit per person to Hidden Treasures Tours (address above). Final payment due **November 1, 2018**.

Registration Form

MASTER GARDENER TOUR OF COSTA RICA January 16-25, 2019

Passenger Information

Please record information exactly as it appears on your passport. Passport information may be sent later if you have yet to obtain a passport.

Name as on passport _____ Name as on passport _____

Passport # _____ Passport # _____

Passport Exp. Date _____ Passport Exp. Date _____

Date of Birth _____ Date of Birth _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (home and / or cell) _____ Email _____

Emergency Contact Name and Phone _____

Please mark your preferred travel arrangements

- I will make my own airline reservation/arrangements
- I would like Hidden Treasures Tours to arrange airline reservations from this airport:
- Single Occupancy — add \$600
- Double Occupancy — (if not named above**) I would like to room with: _____
- ** (cannot be guaranteed, and if none available, you will be responsible for single supplement)

Payment Information (deposit \$1,000 per person)

If paying by check: make payable to Hidden Treasures Tours

amount \$ _____ check no. _____

If paying by credit card (all credit card payments incur a 3% fee):

Credit card type: VISA Mastercard American Express Discover Amount to be charged _____

Credit Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____

Three digit security code from back of the card _____ Signature _____

Direct Inquires and mail this form to:

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