

Costa Rica 2020

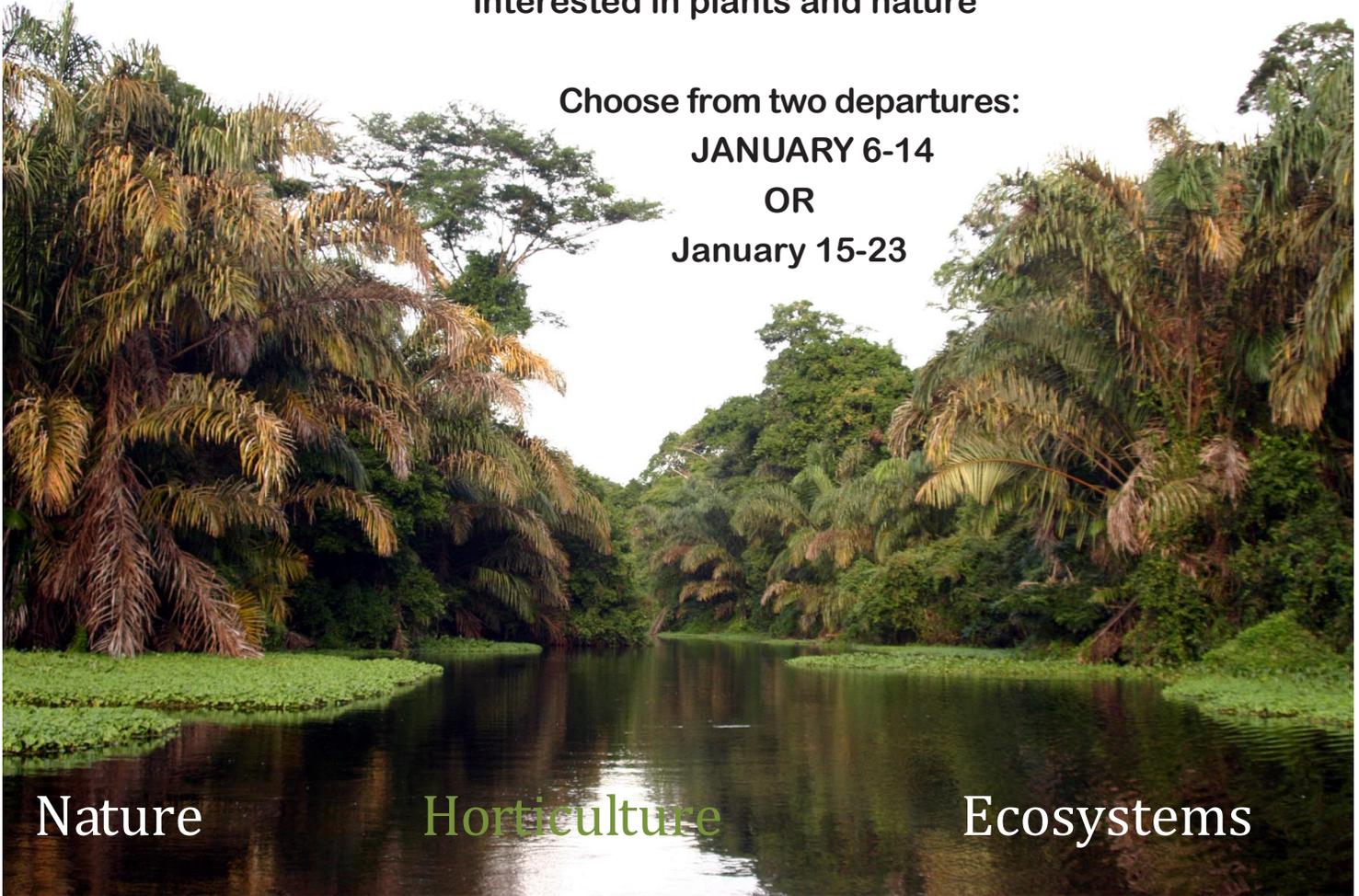
A TOUR FOR ANYONE
interested in plants and nature

Choose from two departures:

JANUARY 6-14

OR

January 15-23



Nature

Horticulture

Ecosystems

LAND ONLY PACKAGE PRICE: \$3495 per person double occupancy

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

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

**\$1,000 deposit due upon tour being confirmed viable.
Final payment due by October 25, 2019.**

Tour of Costa Rica 2020

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 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 on Hidden Treasures Tours' 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, be immersed 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.

Your host for the trip:

Susan Mahr

Former Wisconsin MG Program Coordinator

semahr@wisc.edu

The Itinerary



relax



learn



Day 1 (Monday, January 6 OR Wednesday, January 15)

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 where you may be lucky enough to spot the blue-crowned motmots that visit the fruit feeders or arrange your own optional excursion. Our welcome dinner will be in the hotel's restaurant that evening.

Meals included: dinner

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

Day 2 (Tuesday, January 7 OR Thursday, January 16)

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 an indigenous hot chocolate recipe from the 1500s before savoring dark chocolate squares and classic European-style bonbons made on the premises. Then we head to 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. In the late afternoon, we will visit 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 have dinner with our hostess.

Meals included: Breakfast, lunch, dinner

Lodging: Hotel Bougainvillea



explore



rejuvenate



experience



Day 3 (Wednesday, January 8 OR Friday, January 17)

Today we depart early, driving through Braulio Carrillo National Park (the 2nd largest National Park in Costa Rica with Irazu Volcano in the distance) to Caño Blanco, to board a boat to travel through the rainforest to Tortuguero. This area, threaded by canals and rivers but no road access, is completely surrounded by protected forest and the Caribbean Sea. We check into our charmingly rustic cabins in the midst of the jungle and have the remainder of the day at leisure.

Meals included: Breakfast, lunch, dinner

Lodging: Mawamba Lodge (<https://www.mawamba.com/>)

Day 4 (Thursday, January 9 OR Saturday, January 18)

We have a full day exploring Tortuguero National Park and its extensive network of freshwater creeks and lagoons with our guide. Rows of red mangroves or tall raffia palms stand sentinel along the edges of the quiet waterways, guarding the wealth of wildlife within — from iguanas and howler monkeys, to tiny frogs and numerous birds. The rich flora includes hanging heliconias, orchids, palms, aquatic species, and many other interesting plants.

Meals included: Breakfast, lunch, dinner

Lodging: Mawamba Lodge

Day 5 (Friday, January 10 OR Sunday, January 19)

A leisurely boat ride this morning returns us to Caño Blanco, where the bus will be waiting to drive us to the Sarapiquí region. The major agricultural crops here include bananas, coffee, heart of palm, and ornamental foliage plants; we will visit the flower exporter Costa Flores. Our lodge's cabins are set amidst a tropical garden of flowering trees, palms and heliconia, and features frog and butterfly gardens, as well as meandering trails into the rainforest in one of the richest areas of the country for birdwatching.

Meals included: Breakfast, lunch, dinner

Lodging: La Quinta Sarapiquí Lodge (www.laquintasarapiqui.com)

Day 6 (Saturday, January 11 OR Monday, January 20)

This morning we visit the La Selva Biological Station, walking some of the trails to learn about the plants and animals of the area. In the afternoon we take the Chocolate Tour at Tirimbina Rainforest Center to learn about growing and processing cacao, how cocoa powder is transformed into chocolate, and taste some of the demonstration materials!

Meals included: Breakfast, lunch, dinner

Lodging: La Quinta Sarapiquí Lodge

Day 7 (Sunday, January 12 OR Tuesday, January 21)

Today we drive to the Arenal area, about 3½ hours north of San José, and Arenal Volcano, the most active volcano in the country. Later in the day we'll soak in the natural hot waters of Ecotermale volcanic spring for a relaxing evening.

Meals included: Breakfast, lunch, dinner

Lodging: Hotel Arenal Springs (<http://hotelarenalspring.com/>)



encounter



discover



appreciate



Day 8 (Monday, January 13 OR Wednesday, January 22)

The trails and bridges at Arenal Hanging Bridges bring you as close as you could ever hope to get to the birds and the lush vegetation of the primary rainforest. Almost 2 miles of paths with 8 fixed and 6 hanging bridges wind through 600 acres of primary rainforest. Later we'll tour a local coffee plantation to learn about one of the country's most important crops.

Meals included: Breakfast, lunch, dinner

Lodging: Hotel Arenal Springs

Day 9 (Tuesday, January 14 OR Wednesday, January 23)

Today on our way back to San José we visit 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 on display in other enclosures. We return to the Hotel Bougainvillea for our farewell dinner.

Meals included: Breakfast, lunch, dinner

Lodging: Hotel Bougainvillea

Day 10 (Tuesday, January 15 OR Wednesday, January 24)

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 resorts on the Pacific coast for time in the sun and water; or the isolated Osa Peninsula for scuba diving, kayaking, and exploring remote, pristine Corcovado National Park, or just an extra day or two in the capitol city of San Jose for shopping and to see the museums. Please contact Kari to discuss the possibilities.

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. Elevation gains and losses on most walks will be minimal, but there are some steep walkways at some resorts in the mountains. 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!

Although this trip is focused on botanical aspects, **no prior knowledge about plants is necessary to enjoy this tour.** And all aspects of the natural world and culture are included where appropriate. Our Costa Rican guide and driver have extensive knowledge of the plants, ecology, culture and history of Costa Rica — they are also expert birders and speak excellent English.

Details

This tour has been organized for anyone interested in plants and nature 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 \$3,495 per person (double occupancy)
Single supplement add \$595

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

**Final payment due
October 25, 2019**

Please note:

- Maximum of 16 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
 - 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



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 64151

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

PLEASE NOTE: **All credit card payments will be assessed a 3.5% fee**

To reserve YOUR spot on this unique trip, send the registration form (next page) to Hidden Treasures Tours (address above). Final payment due **October 25, 2019**.

Registration Form

TOUR OF COSTA RICA 2020

January 6-14, 2020 OR January 15-23, 2020 (please circle one)

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 \$595
 - 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)

A minimum number of guests is required for tour to be viable. Please do not book flights until tour is confirmed. Deposit of \$1,000 per person due upon trip confirmation. A deposit invoice will be emailed to you.

Direct Inquires and mail this form to:

Hidden Treasures Tours
6324 N Chatham Ave #333
Kansas City, MO 64151
573-303-2872

Email: kari@hiddentreasurestours.com
www.hiddentreasurestours.com/

