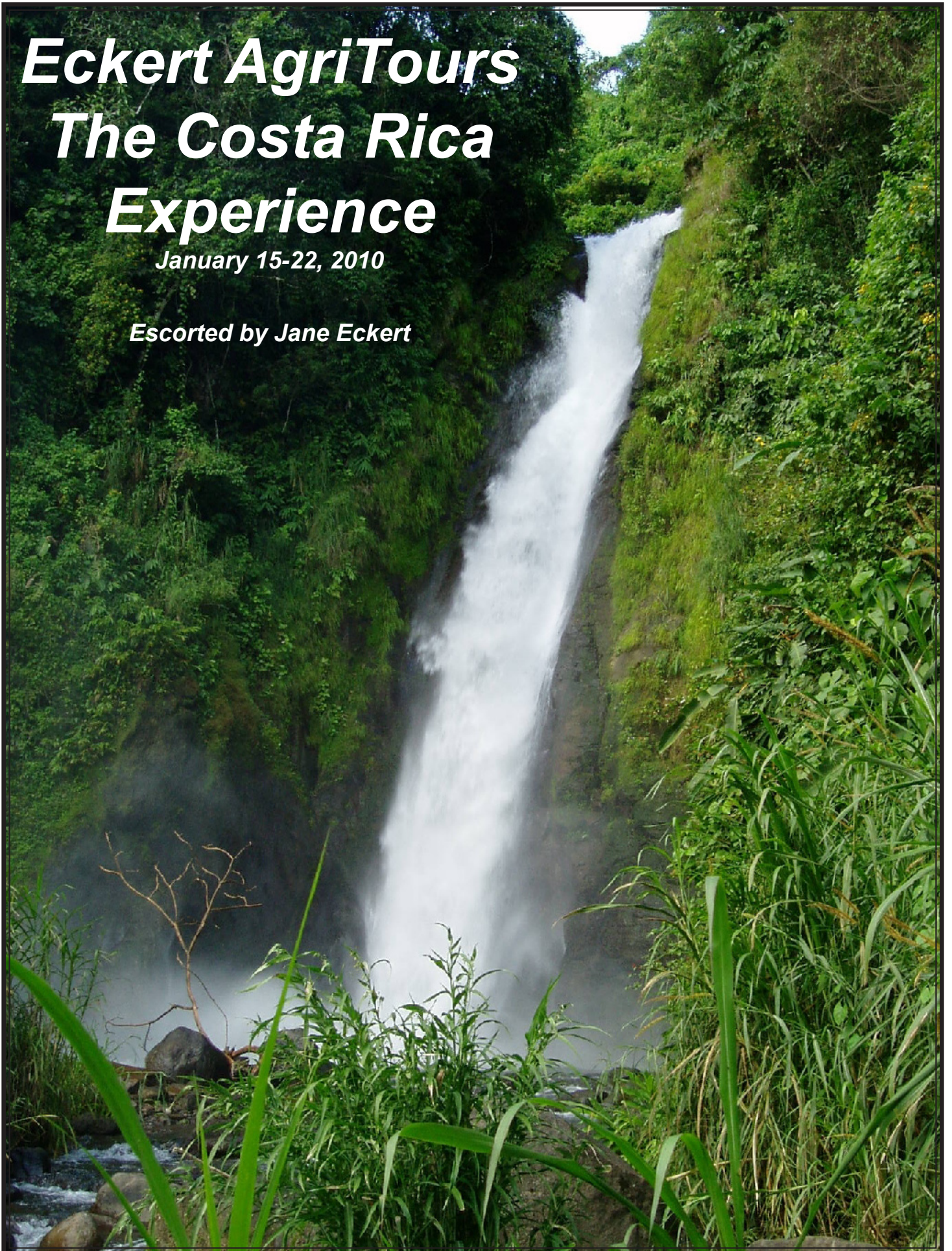


Eckert AgriTours The Costa Rica Experience

January 15-22, 2010

Escorted by Jane Eckert



Day by Day Itinerary

Day 1, Friday Jan 15

Today we travel to San Jose, Costa Rica where we are met at the airport and transferred to the **Bougainvillea Hotel** for an overnight stay. Set among 10 acres of lush gardens, the unique and comfortable Hotel Bougainvillea is a place where guests can truly experience the world famous beauty of Costa Rica.

(meals aloft)

Day 2, Saturday Jan 16

Highlights of the Day: San Jose, San Rafael de Oreamuno Farmer's Market, Adapex Miniveggies Packing, Villa Florencia Hotel

After breakfast we enjoy a panoramic tour of San Jose, built on the profits of the coffee-export business. The surrounding area consists of volcanic mountains and a patchwork quilt of farm fields, most of which are planted with the "grano de oro" (golden bean). We get a taste of San Jose's history and culture as we drive by sites such as the Plaza of Democracy, National Museum in the old Bella vista Fort, and the National Theater. We will make a brief stop at **San Rafael de Oreamuno** and experience the local farmers market. We travel on to Turrialba, a charming little town in the lush and beautiful central valley in the Cartago province, and then in Cipreses de Oreamuno we visit **Adapex**, a mini-veg-gies company, where the workers teach about the production and packing process. Then transfer to the **Villa Florencia**, carefully designed to make you feel at home and settled in the middle of sugarcane plantations and beautiful vegetation, for a two-night stay. (B,L,D)

Day 3, Sunday Jan 17

Highlights of the Day: CATIE –a research center for agro ecology, Guayabo butterfly farm Golden Bean Coffee Night Tour, Typical Dinner, Villa Florencia Hotel

Today we make an interesting visit to CATIE, a research center for agro ecology with a mission of promoting sustainable agriculture practices. Here we learn about cacao, coffee and many tropical fruits in the botanical gardens. After lunch we drive to Guayabo area only 25 minutes away where we will have the opportunity to visit Guayabo butterfly farm, which has 15 species of butterfly including unique species such as glittering blue morphos. Take advantage of some free time this afternoon to enjoy a leisurely walk and enjoy the lush surroundings near our hotel. In the evening we enjoy the Golden Bean Coffee Night Tour where we learn about the processing of coffee and participate in an interactive coffee sipping session. Upon completion of the visit to the coffee mill, we travel to the Turrialba Lodge to enjoy an unforgettable dinner with a beautiful view of the lights of the town of Turrialba. Return to the **Villa Florencia** for overnight. (B,L,D)



Day 4, Monday Jan 18

Highlights of the Day: Poás Volcano National Park, Strawberries Plantation, Selva Verde Lodge

After an early breakfast at the hotel we drive to Poás Volcano National Park which features two impressive craters: one active and one that holds a lovely crater lake. After this breathtaking visit we will visit **Strawberries Plantation**, a small farm located near the volcano, where we learn about the production. After lunch we head to Puerto Viejo in Sarapiquí for a one-night stay at the **Selva Verde Eco Lodge**, a haven for nature enthusiasts, bird & wildlife watchers, and adventure seekers. Following check-in, take some time to explore the property trails surrounding the lodge. (B,L,D)

Day 5, Tuesday Jan 19

Highlights of the Day: Banana Tour, Manuel Antonio, Casitas Eclipse Hotel

After breakfast we enjoy the Banana Tour at EARTH University, located in Guácimo, Limón, Costa Rica. This is a private, international, non-profit university dedicated to education in the agricultural sciences and natural resources in order to contribute to sustainable development in the tropics by seeking a balance between agricultural production and environmental preservation. The banana farms are managed under the ideals of sustainable production and utilization of human resources. In addition to the banana plantations, one can experience the complete process: fruit harvesting, transportation, processing and packaging. EARTH bananas are sent to markets in the United States and across Europe. We also visit the Banana Paper Plant, where we see the transformation of the banana flower stalk (pinzote) and recycled paper into chemical-free banana paper. The plant was founded in 1992 as a sustainable solution to the waste disposal problem. The banana paper produced is then made into various crafts, including notebooks, brochures, sheet paper, and planners. (*Please note: tour operates according to the fruit harvesting, if they will not harvest any banana on Tuesday we will move the tour to Monday.*) From here we proceed to Manuel Antonio, located on the Pacific Coast, where expansive white sand beaches are backed by an evergreen forest that grows right up to the high tide line. Although Manuel Antonio National Park is Costa Rica's smallest national park, the diversity of wildlife is unequalled with 109 species of mammals and 184 species of birds. Ponce de León, the Spanish explorer, whose futile search for the Fountain of Youth became his signature expedition, is rarely recognized for one of his greatest discoveries - Quepos and Manuel Antonio - which he put on the charts in 1519. So abundant are the riches of Costa Rica's Central Pacific coast, that he might have found his fabled fountain had he gone ashore and explored the region! We continue to the Casitas Eclipse Hotel for a 3-night stay. This exuberant Mediterranean-style hotel, located at the highest peak of Manuel Antonio, is surrounded by exotic gardens which enable guests to enjoy within its premises the occasional visits of monkeys, iguanas, sloths, exotic birds, colored frogs and other wildlife. (B,L,D)



Day 6, Wednesday Jan 20

Highlights of the Day: Villa Vanilla Spice Plantation, Arenal Springs Resort

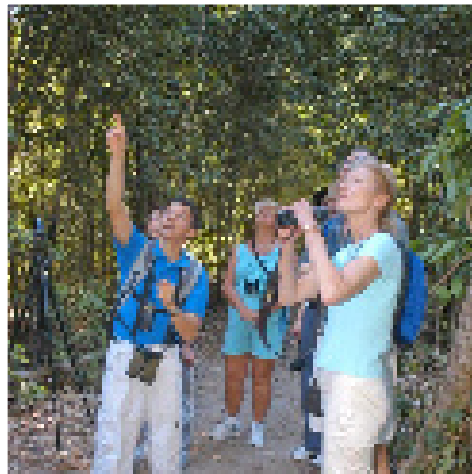
This morning we visit Villa Vanilla Spice Plantation where we enjoy a leisurely tour that appeals to all the senses with multiple stops for tasting and smelling along the way. We learn about the origins, history and properties of the spices. Then we walk through the plantation on the "Epiphyte Trail," a winding garden path where we experience the sights, tastes, aromas and flavors of tropical spices, essential oil plants, tropical flowering plants and rock gardens. We continue to Punta Mira Viewpoint, where we experience "Villa Vanilla Tastings" of an assortment of gourmet spice treats and drinks prepared by the in-house pastry chef. The tour ends at the Spice Shoppe, where we will be able to get vanilla beans and extract, Treu Ceylon cinnamon, cocoa nibs, peppers and other spices. After the tour we enjoy lunch en route back to the hotel with the afternoon at leisure. This evening we gather for a special group dinner. (B,L,D)

Day 7, Thursday Jan 21

Highlights of the Day: Your choice!

Today you may choose to participate in one of the following day excursions:

- **Manuel Antonio National Park:** This park is the most popular in Costa Rica with beautiful white sand beaches surrounded by emerald waters and jungle. Our naturalist guide will explain the history and geography of the area as well as help you get the most of your visit pointing out sloths, monkeys, birds and all kind of animals. *What to bring: swimsuit, towel, sun lotion, walking shoes, camera, and shorts.*
- **Damas Island Boat Tour (operates according to the tide):** Sit back and relax on this informative tour as our guide explains the mangrove ecosystem and point out wildlife such as sloth, crocodiles, boas, white faced monkeys and egrets. The tour will stop at Damas Island to enjoy a "Tico" style lunch or dinner. *What to bring: sun lotion, camera, and repellent.*
- **Canopy Tour:** This trip offers the excitement of exploring the tropical canopy through a series of suspension platform, which are situated high above the forest floor. These platforms are connected by steel cables that have been specially designed for people to slide across, allowing you to discover the flora and fauna of the tropical forest first-hand. You will have a chance to see a variety of animals, including howler and white-faced monkeys, sloths and toucans. *What to bring: hat, insect repellent, sunscreen, and binoculars.*
- **Coastal Adventure Dolphin Watch Tour:** Cruise the spectacular coastline from Quepos to the Manuel Antonio National Park in search of dolphins, sea turtles and unique bird life including boobies and frigate birds which nest on islands believed to ancient Indian burial sites. The tour guide will explain the history of the Quepos indigenous community and the geology of the area highlighting dramatic features such as blowholes beneath towering cliffs and formations of the National Park. The tour includes a visit to the secluded beach at Biesanz Bay for swimming and tropical snacks. *What to bring: swimsuit, towel, sun lotion, camera, and shorts.*
- **Catamaran Adventure:** This is a more challenging open ocean paddle along one of Costa Rica's most beautiful coastlines from Quepos to Manuel Antonio National Park. Paddle by islands that are nesting sites for unique coastal bird life including boobies and frigate birds. Visit the secluded Biesanz Bay and surf kayak at Espadilla beach. **Requirements: Some experience and good physical condition.** *What to bring: swimsuit, towel, sun lotion, camera, and shorts.*
- **Horseback Riding Tour:** This half-day horseback riding tour gives you a good opportunity to see the local countryside and jungle. Do not forget your bathing suit to take a swim in a beautiful waterfall on the way. For birdwatchers we recommend going in the afternoon for a better chance to see the toucans and some other exotic birds. *What to bring: long pants, hat, and a change of clothes, swimsuit, insect repellent, sunscreen, and binoculars.* (B,L,D)



Day 8, Friday Jan 22

Transfer to the San Jose airport for our mid-day flight back home. (B)

The sequence of touring may be altered to adjust to special closings of sites, final air schedules, services available at venues, etc.

Tour Price (per person in double/twin room): \$2,489

Price based on two persons per room. Supplement for single room is \$525; triple rooms available upon request. All farm touring, day 7 excursion, airport transfers, and portage of one bag per person are included. Pre-tour stay in San Jose available for \$85 per person, per night in a double room; or \$150 per person, per night in a single room.



TERMS AND CONDITIONS

AIR ARRANGEMENTS: Airfare is not included in the tour price and will be booked from hometowns by Dehoney Travel for clients as they book the tour unless they prefer to make their own flight arrangements to/from San Jose. The sample fares listed below are based on a discounted booking class and cannot be guaranteed until an air reservation is made. **Air tickets are non-refundable once purchased.** Sample fares for departure from New York \$357, Detroit \$372, Baltimore \$461, Los Angeles \$585, Kansas City \$602, Savannah \$702, Halifax \$764.

NOT INCLUDED: Airfare; San Jose departure tax (\$26 paid locally upon departure); gratuities for tour escort (\$30) & driver (\$15); **Travel Protection Program**; optional activities (other than one included activity on Jan 21); **passport fees**; meals not listed as included; items of a personal nature; pre/post-tour nights in San Jose; private airport transfers if arriving/departing separately from the group; and any item not specifically listed as included.

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS: All United States and Canada citizens must carry a valid passport as proof of citizenship.

PAYMENT: Payment can be made by cash, check or credit card (Discover, MasterCard or Visa). **A deposit of \$500 per person** is required at the time of booking. **Final payment is due by November 2, 2009.**

DEVIATION ITINERARY: Any adjustment in standardized air or land itinerary will carry a \$75 fee (for each change) in addition to any additional expense required. This fee is applicable for research projected and/or accepted. **To ensure efficient handling of these requests, Dehoney Travel, Inc. will require that a tour deposit be received before a deviation request can be processed.**

CANCELLATION: In event of cancellation, there will be a fee of \$100 for Dehoney Travel, Inc. to cover administrative costs. In addition, without protection as outlined on the following page, cancellation fees will be charged. Cancellation penalties per person are as follows: up to 120 days prior to tour, \$100 (plus 100% of airfare if already purchased); 119-61 days prior to tour, \$500 (plus 100% of airfare if already purchased); 60-46 days prior to tour, 75% of total tour cost (plus 100% of airfare if already purchased); 45 days prior to tour-day of departure/no show, entire tour cost is non-refundable. **All cancellation notifications must be made in writing to Dehoney Travel, Inc. Please allow 4 weeks for cancellation refund processing.**

After ticketing of air fare, a cancellation penalty of 100% of the air fare is in effect. On or after the date of departure there can be no refund for any service not used.

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TRAVEL PROTECTION PLAN: As many U.S. health carriers do not provide benefits while overseas and cancellation penalties can be substantial for many tours, Dehoney Travel, Inc. offers a Travel Protection Plan, TripCare, through Access America. **The Option to Waive Pre-existing Conditions Exclusion requires purchase of Travel Protection within 14 days of deposit. You may decline the Travel Protection Plan, but a signed disclaimer is required and all charges for cancellation or medical treatment/transport are your responsibility.**

RESPONSIBILITY: Dehoney Travel, Inc. (DT), agrees to arrange for the tour described in this brochure, which brochure represents the entire agreement between the passenger and his agent, the Tour Host and DT. Except for the willful negligence of its direct employees, DT assumes no liability or responsibility for any injuries, inconveniences, illness or irregularity or incidental damages occasioned by circumstances beyond the control of DT or any person or reason whatsoever, including, but not limited to, events such as strikes, revolts, wars, travel warnings, terrorist activities, natural disasters, closures of airports or hotels, or omission of any common or private carrier or the default, negligence, or omission of and by any third party providing services or facilities related to or included in this tour or any part thereof, or in arranging for the same, or the acts or omissions of the Tour Host.

No person, other than an authorized representative of Dehoney Travel, Inc. by a document in writing, is authorized to vary, add, or waive any term or condition in this brochure, including any term or condition set forth in the preceding provisions.

Subject to Governmental IATAN, ARC and airlines regulation requirements in effect at the date of and during the tour. Tour price based on minimum of 20 passengers as of December 2, 2008 and subject to any increases that may be imposed prior to departure or changes of itinerary necessitated by circumstances beyond the control of Dehoney Travel, Inc.



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