



Eckert AgriTours The Costa Rica Experience

January 15-22, 2010

Escorted by Jane Eckert

*Plus
Farm Chat Rooms.
You pick the topics!*

Day by Day Itinerary

Day 1, Friday Jan 15

Today we travel independently to San Jose, Costa Rica. We are met at the airport and transferred to the **San Gildar Hotel** for an overnight stay. Located in fashionable Escazu there is a diversity of entertainment, trendy bars, and coffee corners nearby. (D)

Day 2, Saturday Jan 16

Highlights of the Day: Turrialba Farmers' Market, Mirlitons Miniveggies Fields and Packing, Villa Florencia Hotel

After breakfast we travel to Turrialba, a charming little town in the lush and beautiful central valley in the Cartago province. En route we stop at the local farmers market before our visit to the Mirlitons fields and packing area in the Ujarrás town. After lunch we head to the Cipreses town for a visit to the Miniveggies fields to learn about the production and packing process. We 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)

Day 3, Sunday Jan 17

Highlights of the Day: CATIE—a research center for agroecology, Golden Bean Coffee Night Tour, Typical Dinner, Villa Florencia Hotel

Today we make an interesting visit to CATIE, a research center for agroecology with a mission of promoting sustainable agriculture practices. Here we learn about cacao, coffee and many tropical fruits in the botanical gardens. Take advantage of some free time this afternoon to enjoy a leisurely walk and enjoy the lush surroundings. 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 Turrialtico 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: Strawberries Plantation, Poás Volcano National Park, La Paz Waterfalls Gardens, Selva Verde Lodge

After breakfast at the Villa Florencia Hotel we drive to the Strawberries Plantation and Packing in San Pedro de Poás,



where we learn about the production and packing process. We continue to the Poás Volcano National Park which features two impressive craters: one active and one that holds a lovely crater lake. After the National Park visit we travel to La Paz Waterfall Gardens, a natural park where we walk through spectacular trails to amazing White Magic Waterfall. Inside the park we will also visit the largest butterfly observatory in the country that shows a collection of tropical jewels and the impressive hummingbird gallery, serpentarium, bird house & frogs exhibit. After this breathtaking visit 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)

Day 5, Tuesday Jan 19

Highlights of the Day: Banana Tour, Ecotermales Hot Springs, Arenal Springs Resort

After breakfast at the Selva Verde Lodge, we enjoy some leisure time to enjoy the rainforest and perhaps do some additional hiking on the trails around the lodge. In the afternoon we enjoy the Banana Tour at Zurquí Farm. The Standard Fruit Company de Costa Rica S.A. (which exports under the Dole label) is recognized worldwide for its leadership in producing environmentally and socially sound production systems and is a pioneer in its employment of integrated pest management techniques, extensive worker environmental and safety training, and operation of a broad range of programs and facilities for farm workers and their families. After this educational experience, we continue to the mountain retreat **Arenal Springs Resort** for a 3-night stay. The resort offers the perfect combination of relaxation, comfort and exquisite tropical scenery, as well as an incredible view of the Arenal Volcano from any vantage point on the premises. This evening we visit the Ecotermales Hot Springs, which is the crown jewel of a family owned and operated farm, a sanctuary of nature and beauty. Here we have the unique opportunity to enjoy four hot springs pools with cascading waterfalls and temperatures of 91 to 105 degrees, and then we savor a homemade meal at the farm's main rancho. (*Recommendations: swimsuit and comfortable clothes.*) (B,D)

Day 6, Wednesday Jan 20

Highlights of the Day: Don Juan Educational Farm, Arenal Springs Resort

We begin the day with a morning visit to the Don Juan Educational Farm, which is directed by Don Juan, a former school



teacher for 20 years who says “I was a teacher first and then a farmer, now I am farmer first and then a teacher.” He has 8,000 square meters of land with cattle, as well as 30 different species of roots, fruits, and medicinal plants, each one planted on geometric figures in order to provide an educational experience for national and international students. The farm also has a biodigester as part of its organic and sustainability practices. Following our visit we have lunch and then have the afternoon free to take advantage of a variety of activities. This evening we enjoy 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:

- **Boat tour on the Caño Negro Wildlife Refuge.** The Caño Negro Wildlife Refuge is a biological humid area considered to be one of the richest in biological diversity in Costa Rica. Here you find a great variety of resident and migratory birds plus three different species of monkeys, iguanas, sloths, turtles and caimans. This tour includes lunch while touring.
- **Sky Tram & Sky Trek.** Along with our guide, we will have the opportunity to enjoy a trip on a gondola from where we will experience at first hand the rainforest canopy while enjoying spectacular views of the Arenal Volcano and Lake. Arrive at an observation platform from where we will start the Sky Trek zip line adventure. This tour offers 4.5 miles of cables ranging from 99 to 660 feet in length and 66 to 660 feet above the ground. We enjoy our lunch back at the hotel.
- **Arenal Hanging Bridges Tour.** This visit consists of traversing 15 bridges from 5 to 100 meters (15 to 300 feet) long that cross the rain forest and a 3 km (4.8 miles) circuit of interpretive trails built with paving blocks to prevent slipping. The impressive vistas of the river canyons originating in the reserve provide a very entertaining way to appreciate the biological riches found in the reserve and is appropriate for people of all ages and physical conditions. We enjoy our lunch back at the hotel.
- **Sarapiquí River Rafting Class III.** We depart the hotel this morning for our journey to the Sarapiquí River. After a safety talk given by the head guide, we start our white water adventure down 7.5 miles of the river. Throughout this vibrant journey, we enjoy swimming and refreshing in several peaceful ponds in addition to the thrill of defying rapids. At the end of the rafting trip we enjoy lunch before heading back to La Fortuna.
- **Horseback Riding Tour to Arenal Volcano.** We drive to a local horse stable in order to depart on a horseback-riding expedition through pasture land and forest, while observing the northwestern flank of the Arenal Volcano. We ride next to natural lakes, cross rivers and climb rolling hills before arriving to an observation lookout point to observe the volcano and its lava flows. We enjoy our lunch back at the hotel. (B,L)



Day 8, Friday Jan 22

Today we transfer to the airport for our 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 or 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, portorage of one bag per person, and gratuities to guides and drivers are included.

We are pleased to offer an Early Bird Discount of \$100 off your final tour price for your \$500 deposit received no later than April 1, 2009.



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 St. Louis, \$565; Indianapolis, \$425; Pittsburgh, \$420.

NOT INCLUDED: Airfare; 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; 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); 119-51 days prior to tour, \$500 (plus 100% of airfare if already purchased); 50-13 days prior to tour, 75% of total tour cost (plus 100% of airfare if already purchased); 12 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.

TRAVEL PROTECTION PLAN: As many U.S. health carriers do not provide benefits while overseas and cancellation penalties can

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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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