



Gardens & Wildlife **COSTA RICA!**

Escape winter to the sunny subtropical paradise of Costa Rica! Enjoy its warm weather and the warmth of its welcome to experience *Pura Vida!*—the pure life.

MCDUFFTOURS is pleased to present, *Gardens & Wildlife: COSTA RICA!* Our adventure begins in and around the capital, San José. From there we visit volcanos, dramatic waterfalls, and exotic private gardens. Traveling north, at the foot of a towering volcano, we walk across incredible hanging bridges in misty cloud forests, all the while marveling at the wildlife—both plant and animal. Sailing on Lake Arenal, we head south to see more orchids and wild nature at its best. Then on the last leg of our journey, we spend three nights in an oceanfront resort looking out on the Pacific Ocean. Opportunities await to sail on a catamaran, ride zip lines through the jungle, go horseback riding in the rainforest, or just relax and enjoy the beach!

All this happens in beautiful Costa Rica, a small country in Central America with a big heart and a big dose of biodiversity. Boasting more than 9000 species of flowering plants, 800 species of ferns, and over 850 species of birds, it is a country with one-quarter of its land in nature reserves.

Cost: \$4980.00 per person

(Double occupancy, including airfare from Miami to San José, Costa Rica)

Dates: February 10-20, 2023

Deadline to Register: November 9, 2022

Come along with us for this spectacular garden and wildlife adventure!

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

La Paz Waterfalls ♦ Several Private Gardens
La Catalina Botanical Garden ♦ Lankester Botanical Garden
Doka Coffee Plantation ♦ Rainforest Chocolate Tour
Mistico Arenal Hanging Bridges ♦ Arenal Hot Water Springs
Monteverde Cloud Reserve ♦ Monteverde Orchid Garden
3 nights at Pacific Coast Resort ♦ Manuel Antonio National Park
3 extraordinary volcanos

TOUR AT A GLANCE

The tour begins at Miami International Airport with an evening arrival in San José. We stay in a nearby hotel set in the middle of a botanic garden. Visiting volcanos, gardens, and village markets, we move to the other side of San José to the Xandari Resort and Spa, a beautiful hilltop resort with amazing views across the city. Next, we head north to the foot of the Arenal Volcano where we stay in a 5-star resort with incredible views of the volcano. Sailing across Lake Arenal we make our way south to experience the cloud forest in Monteverde and see scores of hummingbirds and beautiful orchids. Now we are on the Pacific Coast to see more gardens and natural areas. Returning to San José, we catch our return flight to Miami.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Flight from Miami to San José, Costa Rica
- All entrance fees and all breakfasts, several lunches and dinners
- Transportation in a deluxe air-conditioned coach
- Perfectly-located first-class 4 and 5-star hotels

NOT INCLUDED

- Flights to and from your local airport to Miami
- Trip Insurance
- Tips to driver, tour guides, hotel staff
- Meals not in the itinerary, and any other items not listed in the itinerary



ITINERARY

This itinerary is subject to change.
Included meals: (B) Breakfast (L) Lunch (D) Dinner

Gardens & Wildlife COSTA RICA!

February 10-20, 2023



Lankester Botanical Garden

Day One - Friday, February 10

We fly out of Miami International Airport in the evening and arrive in San José where our guide, Minor Alfaro awaits to take us to our hotel. Minor is from Costa Rica and has a wealth of knowledge about his home and enjoys sharing it. He will be with us for the entire tour. **Lodging: Hotel Bougainvillea San José**

Day Two - Saturday, February 11

We begin our Costa Rican adventure this morning at **Lankester Botanical Garden**, which features a world-class collection of nearly a thousand varieties of orchids, all conveniently displayed at eye level. Later on, we visit **Irazú Volcano**, located within the Irazú Volcano National Park. It is the highest active volcano in Costa Rica. This evening we have a get-acquainted dinner together at our hotel restaurant. **Lodging: Hotel Bougainvillea San José (B)(D)**

Day Three - Sunday, February 12

This morning we visit two beautiful private gardens near San José. We start at **Ms Ileana Terán's garden**, situated in eastern San José. The garden is in the middle of the Hacienda La Laguna, one of the oldest coffee plantations in Costa Rica. Not far away is **Maria Elena Chinchilla's private garden** which is also the home of her landscaping business. After our visit, we have lunch together at the Riverside Gastropub. You have some free time this afternoon at our hotel where we have dinner. **Lodging: Xandari Resort and Spa Hotel (B)(L)(D)**



Ileana Terán's private garden

Day Four - Monday, February 13

Our day begins at the **Doka Coffee Estate** to learn about the process of production and about the Vargas family, pioneers of coffee since 1940. After our visit, we go to **La Paz Waterfall Gardens** for a tour and lunch. Later, we explore the **Botànico La Catalina Garden**, a family-owned botanical garden whose aim is to preserve the native plants of Costa Rica. **Lodging: Xandari Resort and Spa Hotel (B)(L)**



Botànico La Catalina Garden

Day Five - Tuesday, February 14

Today we head to Villaverde to the **private garden of Esther Rodriguez**, past president of the Costa Rica Federation of Garden Clubs. Afterward, we visit **Else Kientzler Botanical Garden** in Sarchi Norte at the foot of the Poás Volcano. This private garden is home to over 2,000 different plants from around the world. On our way to our hotel in La Fortuna, we stop in the afternoon at the **Parroquia San Rafael Arcángel** in Alfaro Ruiz, a beautiful topiary garden in front of the church. Dinner is included at our hotel. **Lodging: Hotel Arenal Kioro Suites & Spa (B)(D)**



Topiary in front of Parroquia San Rafael Arcángel

Day Six - Wednesday, February 15

This morning we will enjoy a stroll along the world-famous **hanging bridges at Místico Park** where there will be an opportunity to get up close to the many exotic birds and lush vegetation of the primary rainforest. Completely safe, these suspended

bridges span across deep gorges that are hundreds of feet down. We later continue to La Fortuna of San Carlos where we will enjoy a sweetest rainforest experience, discovering the ancient secrets of chocolate in the **Rainforest Chocolate Tour**. During this hands-on experience, we learn the interesting aspects of cocoa and chocolate, from its origin and history to the different stages of production along with an opportunity to sample the organic chocolate. **Lodging: Hotel Arenal Kioro Suites & Spa (B)(D)**



Hanging bridge in Místico Park



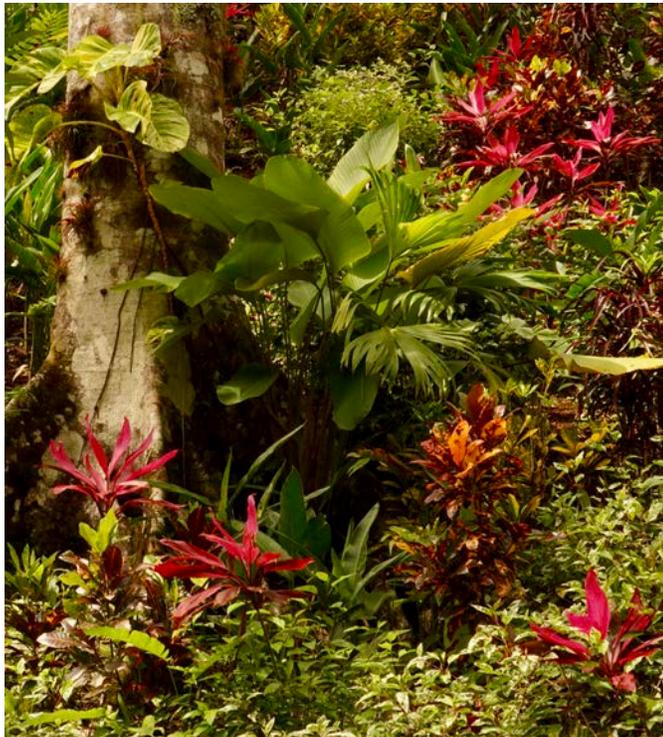
Arenal Volcano in La Futura, Costa Rica

Day Seven - Thursday, February 16

As we leave our hotel, we drive to **Lake Arenal**, Costa Rica's largest body of fresh water. Here we board a boat that takes us to the other side of the lake where we disembark and travel south through open countryside and villages. Monteverde is our destination along with the **Monteverde Orchid Garden**. After our visit, we continue to our hotel in Monteverde where we have dinner at a local restaurant. **Lodging: Hotel & Spa Poco a Poco (B)(D)**



Tropical Mott Mott



Pura Vida Garden

Day Eight - Friday, February 17

This morning we tour the **Monteverde Cloud Reserve**, whose variable climate and large altitudinal gradient supports a complex and extensive ecosystem: over 100 species of mammals, 400 species of birds, tens of thousands of insect species, and over 2,500 varieties of plants. Animal species include the jaguar, ocelot and Baird's tapir, and birds such as the three-wattled bellbird, bare-necked umbrella bird, and the elusive resplendent quetzal. Later, we continue to our hotel where we stay for our last three nights. **Lodging: Club del Mar Oceanfront (B)(D)**

Day Nine - Saturday, February 18

Our day begins with a visit to **Pura Vida Gardens and Waterfalls**, a 50-acre botanical garden that is designed to bring together the natural beauty of

Costa Rica's spectacular flora, fauna, and waterfalls with stunning views of the Pacific. Manicured walkways meander along a river while providing a distant view of **Bijagual Waterfall**, the tallest in Costa Rica. We return to our hotel with time to relax for the afternoon. **Lodging: Club del Mar Oceanfront (B)(D)**



Maria Elena Chinchilla's private garden

Day Ten - Sunday, February 19

Today is yours to plan and enjoy on your own! At our resort oceanfront hotel, there are many options available from sailing on a catamaran, riding an ATV in the jungle, learning to surf in the Pacific, riding horseback, or simply relaxing on the beach. You just need to be back in time for our farewell dinner at the hotel restaurant. **Lodging: Club del Mar Oceanfront (B)(D)**

Day Eleven - Monday, February 20

7:00 am departure. We leave beautiful Costa Rica on a morning flight out of San José. (B)

OUR HOTELS

To find out more about our hotels, you can click on the hotel names above to visit their websites.



mcdufftours
SHARING GREAT GARDENS

4810 SUSANNAH DRIVE = BLACKSBURG, VA 24060 = 540 818 0154 = WWW.MCDUFFTOURS.COM

Gardens & Wildlife COSTA RICA! *February 10-20, 2023*

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

COST:

\$4980.00 Total cost per person (double/twin occupancy, airfare included from Miami to San José, CR)
\$1000.00 Single room supplemental fee

While we attempt to find roommates for single participants, if a roommate is not available, the participant is subject to pay the single supplement fee.

Method of Payment: by check only, payable to: MCDUFFTOURS LLC

TOUR CONDITIONS:

MCDUFFTOURS LLC acts only as agents for the passengers with respect to transportation, hotels and restaurants, and exercise every care possible. MCDUFFTOURS LLC assumes no responsibility to any person or entity for liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, breakdown, disruption of advertised schedules, delay or irregularity in connection with the service of any ship, ferry, airplane, train, automobile, motorcoach, carriage, or any other conveyance used in carrying out these tours, or for the acts or defaults of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. We cannot accept responsibility for losses or additional expense due to delay, refusal of visa, or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, violent acts, quarantine, acts of God, or any other causes beyond our control. All such losses will have to be borne by the passenger, as our tour rates provide for arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to make such alterations to the itinerary or accommodations as may be deemed necessary for carrying out the tour. The right is reserved to cancel any tour prior to departure, in which case the entire payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part. The right is reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour. No refund will be made for the unused portion of any tour. Baggage is at the owner's risk entirely. The acceptance of any service provided as part of tour or any ticket or voucher shall be deemed to be acceptance of, and consent by the tour member to these conditions. Services are subject to the laws of the country where services are provided. For a more detailed Terms and Conditions statement, please click [HERE](#).

Please note that this tour requires a considerable amount of walking and since most of the gardens, markets, and rainforests we visit are not wheelchair accessible, participants must be able to walk on uneven paths with steps. Participants must also be able to manage their own luggage.

Included in the Cost

The cost of this tour includes lodging, entrance fees, guides, ground transportation, all breakfasts, bottled water, and dinners and lunches outlined in the Itinerary. Also included is the cost of airfare from Miami International Airport to San José Airport in Costa Rica and return. While we attempt to find roommates for single participants, *if a roommate is not available, the participant is subject to pay the single supplement fee.*

Not included in the Cost

Costs of obtaining passports, visas, excess/overweight baggage charges, items of a purely personal nature such as drinks, laundry, telephone and optional tours are not included. All meals except those included in the tour are not included. Trip insurance is not included as well as tips to driver/guides and any foreign departure taxes. Transportation from home to Miami International Airport is not included.

I understand and accept these terms and conditions:

Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Cancellation and Refund Policy: The total deposit is refundable until November 9, 2022. If you must cancel between November 9, 2023 and January 4, 2023, \$100 of the \$1000 deposit will be retained. After January 4, the \$1000 deposit plus actual expenses incurred in airline and hotel arrangements will be retained and the remainder will be refunded.

MCDUFFTOURS LLC is a travel company founded by Nancy and Robert McDuffie, both former professors at Virginia Tech. Nancy is a soprano and was on faculty in the Department of Music, while Robert is a Landscape Architect and was faculty in the Department of Horticulture as well as Director of the Hahn Horticulture Garden. After establishing the first group VT Horticulture Study Abroad program 26 years ago, we now take garden lovers of all ages around the world.

More than 1600 travelers have joined us on tours in the U.S. and abroad. Our travels have taken us to England, Wales, Scotland, Ireland, Northern Ireland, Costa Rica, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Monaco, Belgium, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Sweden, Denmark, Norway, France, Ecuador, Israel, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, Australia, South Africa, and the Netherlands.

After the difficulties of travel because of Covid-19, MCDUFFTOURS in full swing again. In late 2021 and early 2022, we took groups to Chicago, Ecuador, Israel, France, England, and Wales. In October 2022, we will take two groups on culinary tours to Tuscany and Veneto in Italy. Besides Costa Rica in 2023, we are organizing garden tours to Mallorca, the Riviera, and Scotland. And there's more after that!



mcdufftours
SHARING GREAT GARDENS



mcdufftours
SHARING GREAT GARDENS

4810 SUSANNAH DRIVE = BLACKSBURG, VA 24060 = 540 818 0154 = WWW.MCDUFFTOURS.COM

Gardens & Wildlife COSTA RICA!

February 10-20, 2023

REGISTRATION FORM

Please print – each participant must complete this form

Full Legal Name (as on passport) _____

First name for NAME TAG _____ Phone # _____

Birthdate _____ Email _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Passport# _____ Place of issue _____

Date of issue _____ Date of expiration _____

Emergency contact _____ Phone # _____

Special food requirements or allergies _____

Name of preferred roommate _____

Total Tour Fee is \$4980.00 (double occupancy, per person)

_____ \$1000.00 Deposit due: November 9, 2022

_____ \$3980.00 Final payment of the balance due: January 4, 2023

_____ \$1000.00 Supplemental Fee for Single due: January 4, 2023

\$_____ Total payment enclosed

Questions? Ask Robert McDuffie - 540 818 0154 - mcdufftours@yahoo.com

Please mail your completed reservation form, a signed copy of the Terms and Conditions form, and a deposit check by November 9, 2022 to:

MCDUFFTOURS LLC
4810 Susannah Drive
Blacksburg, VA 24060

Office Use	Received	AMT: _____
		CHK#: _____
		DATE: _____