A FAMILY HOLIDAY IN

Costa Rica

December 26, 2022 to January 3, 2023
We invite you and your family to join us on a natural history adventure just after the Christmas holidays in beautiful Costa Rica. A democracy for over 100 years, Costa Rica is a friendly and peaceful destination that will appeal to all ages. With over 25 percent of its land set aside for reserves, this small nation is famous for its biodiversity, with 850 species of birds, hundreds of waterfalls, pristine beaches, tropical rainforest, and cloud forests along with an astonishing array of wildlife. Working with our favorite Latin American tour operator, we have designed this trip to include expert naturalist guides, three distinctive hotel properties, and a number of options that will appeal to a broad range of ages and interests.

Our tour begins in San José, Costa Rica’s capital, with a visit to a coffee plantation, where we’ll learn about the cultivation, harvest, production, and roasting of coffee. We’ll also visit the immense crater of Poás Volcano, one of the few active volcanoes in the continent, and La Paz Waterfall Gardens, whose natural wonders include five majestic waterfalls, hummingbird, and butterfly gardens. Our journey continues to the town of La Fortuna home to the majestic Arenal Volcano, where we’ll enjoy options for horseback riding, bathing in hot springs, walks over suspended hanging bridges, and zip-lining through the forest. On our way to the scenic Pacific coast, we’ll pause at the Tarcoles River and board a safari touring boat to search for crocodiles and a brilliant variety of aquatic birds. Our hotel on Costa Rica’s central Pacific coast is adjacent to a wildlife reserve featuring whiteface monkeys, spider monkeys, sloths, coatis, and armadillos. From here we’ll explore two famous national parks: Carara and Manuel Antonio National Park. During our excursions here, we’ll look for the endangered scarlet macaw, navigate on boats through the mangrove canals of Damas Island and swim in the warm Pacific Ocean waters. Later, we’ll board a catamaran to snorkel and search for dolphins, migrating humpback whales, sea turtles, and manta rays.

Each day will feature unforgettable wonders with expert guidance. We’ve taken care of all of the planning and logistics. We want you to be able to relax and enjoy your time with your family and the stunning natural beauty and remarkable wildlife of Costa Rica.

Cordially,

Rob Fure, Director
The W&L Traveller
**Itinerary**

**Monday, December 26**

U.S. • San José
Depart the U.S. to San José, the capital of Costa Rica. Transfer to hotel. **CARIARI HOTEL**

**Tuesday, December 27**

Poás Volcano National Park • Coffee Farm • La Paz Waterfall Gardens • Arenal
After breakfast, our first stop is at a coffee farm located on the fertile slopes of Poás Volcano. Costa Rica’s unique climate provides perfect growing conditions for gourmet coffee beans. We’ll learn about the production, harvesting, roasting, and packaging of the “Golden Bean”. We’ll continue to Poás Volcano, one of the few active volcanoes on the continent. Drive to the top where, on a clear day, you will be able to see active fumaroles and the blue-green lake at the bottom of the immense crater, one of the largest in the world. Next we’ll explore La Paz Waterfall Gardens, a private reserve with many waterfalls, hiking trails, and hummingbird and butterfly gardens. The many platforms in the park afford great photo opportunities. On arrival in Arenal, we’ll transfer to La Fortuna de San Carlos, home of the impressive Arenal Volcano. **HOTEL ARENAL MANOA B,L,D**

**Wednesday, December 28**

Arenal Horseback Riding • La Fortuna Waterfall
We’ll visit La Fortuna Waterfall by a combination of hiking and relaxed horseback. Here we can admire the density of the forest of the Mistico Arenal Park and access the pastures located on the highest hills for the best views of the volcano and the beautiful lake below. As you enjoy your horseback ride, look for wildlife and the stunning characteristics of the region. La Fortuna Waterfall offers some of the most gorgeous scenery in all of Costa Rica and a great refreshing swim. There will be alternative options for those passengers who don’t want to travel by horseback. **HOTEL ARENAL MANOA B,L,D**

**Thursday, December 29**

Arenal Sky Tram • Sky Trek & Sky Walk
Today, we’ll enjoy the forest with a combination of a relaxing ride on the Sky Tram gondolas, an exciting zip-line experience on the Sky Trek, and a walk on the Sky Walk. The gondolas of the Sky Tram soar smoothly, offering impressive views of the rainforest, the Arenal Volcano, and Arenal Lake. Then, get fitted with the appropriate safety equipment for an exhilarating canopy tour of the Sky Trek zip line that waves through the forest. The Sky Walk permits us to see the complex canopy ecosystem up close via a combination of bridges and platforms with views of beautiful waterfalls. **HOTEL ARENAL MANOA B,L,D**

**Friday, December 30**

Punta Leona & Tárcoles River
Depart for the scenic Central Pacific Coast of the country where Punta Leona Hotel is located. En route, we’ll board a safari touring boat to search the Tárcoles River for crocodiles, iguanas, and a variety of water birds, including roseate spoonbills, herons, and storks. This tour is specially designed for the whole family which also includes navigating through an estuary with four different species of mangrove home to many birds and other wildlife. The Carara National Park, home to approximately 48% of Costa Rica’s avian species is close to our hotel and is also home to the largest population of the endangered scarlet macaw. Many of the birds and monkeys from the reserve visit the forested grounds of our hotel, which makes for a memorable visit. **HOTEL PUNTA LEONA B,L,D**
Saturday, December 31

Manual Antonio National Park

Today explore Manuel Antonio National Park. The park, located near Quepos on the Pacific Coast, is considered one of the most beautiful and scenic parks in the entire park system. It combines white sand beaches backed by lush tropical forests. Look for white-faced monkeys, as well as the endangered squirrel monkeys, howler monkeys, two-toed sloths, agoutis, and iguanas. You may also spot coatis, armadillos, and parrots. Above all, it is the spectacular jagged coastline, sheltered tide pools, abundant marine life, and beaches that have given this park its popular reputation. Tonight, enjoy a festive New Year’s celebration.

HOTEL PUNTA LEONA B, L, D

Sunday, January 1

Catamaran Island Adventure

Today we’ll board a catamaran and cruise into the open sea in search of spotted dolphins, migrating humpback whales, sea turtles, and manta rays as we make our way down the coastline of Manuel Antonio National Park. See mysterious islands, jagged cliffs, and unique rock formations nesting grounds and home of numerous species of marine birds, including magnificent frigates, pelicans, yellow-footed boobies, and white ibises. After touring the coastline, we will anchor in a protected cove for a snorkeling adventure in the warm Pacific waters. Lunch will be onboard the catamaran.

HOTEL PUNTA LEONA B, L, D

Monday, January 2

Manuel Antonio & Damas Island Boat Tour

This morning we depart on a boat tour through mangrove canals under a verdant canopy to Damas Island in the area of Manuel Antonio. The calm waters of the canals allow for wildlife exploration. Traveling with our naturalist guides, we’ll look for caimans, sloths, white-face monkeys, and many birds such as herons, kingfishers, ospreys, and frigate birds. The remainder of the day is to relax or enjoy the Punta Leona white sand beach in front of our hotel. Tonight we’ll gather for a festive farewell dinner.

HOTEL PUNTA LEONA B, L, D

Tuesday, January 3

Punta Leona • U.S.

This morning transfer to the Juan Santamaría International Airport in San José for your return flight home.

WHAT TO EXPECT: This exclusive expedition is for the families and friends of W&L. It is specially designed for families (parents and grandparents) with children between the ages of 7 and 17 who are interested in nature and would enjoy exploring and learning about the vegetation and wildlife of some of Costa Rica’s finest national parks and reserves. Naturalist-led walks and creative activities provide an enriching introduction to Costa Rica’s natural history and cultural heritage. It helps to be enthusiastic about outdoor adventure, intellectually curious, and comfortable traveling as part of a group. Typically, the weather is hot and humid in the lowlands (the mid-80s); and spring-like in the highlands. While at the national parks and reserves, there is a daily program of nature exploration, guided rainforest walks, and educational discussions. Travel is by motorcoach, raft, boat, catamaran, and horseback (alternative transportation by van is available for those not wishing to ride horseback) with daily walks of up to two miles in length, sometimes over uneven terrain, at a leisurely pace suitable for nature study and field observation. This trip is active to moderately active.
Pricing, Per person double occupancy

Adult Rate ................................................. $5,790
Youth Rate (Ages 12-17) ............................... $4,990
Child Rate (Ages 7-11) ................................. $3,990

Third person in a room .............................. $100 DISCOUNT
(Applies only to the third person sharing the room)

Pricing, Per person double occupancy

Child Rate  (Ages 7-11) .................................... $3,990
Youth Rate (Ages 12-17) ................................. $4,990
Adult Rate ......................................................... $5,790
Special Child Rate ............................................ $3,590
(Special Child Rate: Ages 7-11 sharing with two adults. No other discounts apply)

Single Supplement ......................................... $750

NOTE: Due to the high demand for Holiday flights to Costa Rica, all families are encouraged to make their airline reservations prior to July, 2022. Please check with us before purchasing your international airline tickets. International tickets should be issued arriving and returning from San José, Costa Rica (SJO).

Terms & Conditions

PROGRAM COST INCLUDES: All accommodations as specified in the itinerary • All meals starting on day two except for one dinner • All activities per itinerary • All land and water transportation • Professional English speaking naturalist guides and tour director throughout • Transportation by private motor coach, • Airport transfers for group flights • Gratuities to local guides and drivers • Service charges and taxes • Entrance fees • Baggage handling • Pre-departure information • Leadership • Coordination and administration.

PROGRAM COST DOES NOT INCLUDE: U.S. domestic and international airfare (quoted separately) • International departure tax • Meals not specified in the itinerary • Personal items such as laundry, email, fax, or telephone calls • Bottled water • Liquor • Dishes or beverages not included with meals • Room service • Passport fees • Excess baggage charges • Private transfers • Covid-19 testing • Quarantine expenses • Medical expenses • Travel insurance • Optional extensions or deviations from the scheduled tour • Tip to the tour director is not included and is at passengers’ discretion.

RESERVATIONS, DEPOSITS, AND FINAL PAYMENT: To reserve a space on this tour, please either register online, lifelong.wlu.edu/costarica23, or mail your reservation form and check made out to “Royal Adventures” to: Office of Lifelong Learning, Washington & Lee University, 204 W. Washington Street, Lexington, VA 24450. Initial deposits may be charged to a credit card, however, a 3% credit card processing fee will be added. Reservations are acknowledged in order of receipt. Final payment is due September 26, 2022, and must be paid by check only. Royal Adventures handles all invoicing. CST #2009579-40

CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS: Cancellations received on or before June 1, 2022; full refund. After that date, refunds, less a cancellation fee of $400 per person, are made if we are notified in writing on or before September 26, 2022. No refunds are made after September 26, 2022. Notification of cancellation must be received in writing by Royal Adventures. There are no refunds for unused meals, accommodations, or other trip features.

TRAVEL INSURANCE: We strongly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance as the cancellation penalty in this brochure will apply. An application for travel insurance will be sent upon confirmation.

QUESTIONS: Please call or email Rob Fure, Director, or Ruth Candler, Assistant Director, Office of Lifelong Learning (540) 458-8723 or email lifelong@wlu.edu, or Royal Adventures info@royaladventures.com or (925) 820-6260 or 1-800-453-4754.

RESPONSIBILITY: Royal Adventures, its owners, and employees act only as agents for the various independent suppliers and contractors providing transportation, hotel accommodations, restaurant, and other services connected with this tour. Such travel and services are subject to the terms and conditions under which such accommodations, services, and transportation are offered or provided, and Washington and Lee University and Royal Adventures and their respective, employees, agents, representatives, and assigns, accept no liability, therefore. Washington and Lee University and Royal Adventures assume no liability for any injury, damage, loss, accident, delay, or other irregularity which may be caused by the defect of any aircraft or vehicle or the negligence or default of any company or person engaged in carrying out or performing any of the services involved. Additionally, responsibility is not accepted for losses, injury, damages, or expenses of any kind due to sickness, epidemics, pandemics, pathogens, weather, strikes, local laws, hostilities, wars, terrorist acts, acts of nature, quarantine, force majeure, animal or insect bites, or other such causes. All services and accommodations are subject to the laws of the country in which they are provided. If this tour is canceled due to a force majeure event or other forces beyond our control only the recoverable portion of unused services or accommodations, if any, will be refunded less any non-recoverable advance payments made to suppliers, bank charges, foreign exchange fees, or other incurred expenses less any non-recoverable advance payments made to suppliers, bank charges, foreign exchange fees or other incurred expenses. Recoverable costs, if any, may take the form of credits on a postponed tour. A force majeure event, in relation to this tour, shall mean any circumstances beyond our control, including, but without limitation, to acts of God, explosion, flood, forceful wind, fire or accident, war or threat of war declared or undeclared, acts of terrorism, sabotage, insurrection, riots, strikes, civil disturbance, sickness, epidemics, pandemics, quarantines, government intervention or other unforeseeable events. Limitations on travel arising from the COVID-19 pandemic or other virus or pathogen shall be considered a force majeure event. Washington and Lee University and Royal Adventures reserve the right to make changes in the published itinerary, to the study leaders or to postpone this tour whenever, in their sole judgment, conditions warrant, or if they deem it necessary for the comfort, convenience, or safety of the tour participants. They reserve the right to withdraw or postpone this tour without penalty. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour or to substitute another qualified leader or special guest. Baggage and personal effects are the sole responsibility of the owners at all times. The price of the program is given in good faith based on current tariffs and rates and is subject to change. Any tariff, exchange rate, airfare, or fuel increases will be passed onto participants. Neither Washington & Lee University nor Royal Adventures accept liability for any airline cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a non-refundable airline ticket or other expenses incurred by tour participants in preparing for the tour. The air ticket when issued shall constitute the sole contract between the passenger and the airline concerned. As part of the consideration and right to participate in this tour, each participant will be asked to sign a liability release. There are no refunds for unused meals, accommodations, or other trip features. I will not hold Royal Adventures or Washington and Lee University and/or its employees or agents responsible for any expense or loss caused by my/our failure to purchase trip cancellation insurance coverage or by my/our failure to purchase insurance or “Cancel for Any Reason” insurance coverage within the 14 days following the date of trip confirmation. As part of the consideration and right to participate in this tour, each participant will be asked to sign a liability release, assumption of risk, and hold harmless agreement. To participate in the program all passengers are required to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19.
For the ease of registering online, please visit lifelong.wlu.edu/costarica23. Once you have submitted your online reservation, Royal Adventures will call within two business days to confirm your reservation and collect your deposit. If you would prefer to mail your registration, please complete the form below and mail to W&L with your deposit check made payable to Royal Adventures.

Enclosed is my check for $_______ ($800 deposit per person) payable to “Royal Adventures” to hold ____ place(s) on the W&L Costa Rica program, December 26, 2022–January 3, 2023. Final Payment by check is due September 26, 2022.

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**PAYMENT OPTIONS**

- Check made out to “Royal Adventures” and sent to W&L.
- Please call me to collect credit card deposit (3% processing fee)

**ACCOMMODATIONS / HOTEL ROOM PREFERENCE**

- 1 Bed
- 2 Beds
- Single (supplemental fee of $750, limited availability)
- I will share accommodations with:

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I/We have carefully read the Terms and Conditions and Responsibility sections of this brochure and agree to their terms on behalf of myself and the members of my party named above.

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Please sign and return this form to W&L with a deposit check payable to “Royal Adventures” at this address.

THE W&L TRAVELLER
OFFICE OF LIFELONG LEARNING
WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY
204 WEST WASHINGTON ST. • LEXINGTON, VA 24450
Email: LIFELONG@WLU.EDU Fax: (540) 458-8478
Questions? CALL (540) 458-8478
SPOT MONKEYS, COLORFUL TROPICAL BIRDS, SLOTHS, CROCODILES AND OTHER WILDLIFE ON A RIVER SAFARI.

ENJOY BEAUTIFUL PACIFIC COAST BEACHES AND SNORKEL OFF A CATAMARAN

WALK ABOVE THE RAINFOREST CANOPY ON SUSPENDED WALKWAYS AND BRIDGES.

A FAMILY HOLIDAY IN
Costa Rica

December 26, 2022, to January 3, 2023

RIDE HORSEBACK AND ZIP LINE THROUGH THE FOREST.