



## Costa Rica Cultural Experience

Style: Signature | Dates: November 11- 21, 2018 & April 11-21, 2019 | Duration: 11 Days/ 10 Nights | Start San Jose – End San Jose

This tour is a great opportunity to experience the true meaning of “pura vida”. Your days here will be filled with exciting cultural experiences, performances, adventures, excursions, and plenty of time to do your own explorations!

Take in the beauty of this amazing country with historical sites, country hikes, the flavours of local cuisine, breathtaking views, stunning beaches nestled against the rainforest, and so much more!

For more adventurous travellers, there's even an option to go on an adrenaline-filled, white-water rafting trip where you'll be captivated by the surroundings of canyons, waterfalls, and rainforest.

This is one outstanding and memorable tour that you do not want to miss out on!



### Day 1

Arrive in San Jose and enjoy a fabulous welcome dinner of contemporary Costa Rican Cuisine served in a nature reserve on a family farm in San Jose.

### Day 2

Explore the city with a tour of the national theatre, the National Museum, and walking tour of the historic Barrio Amon neighborhood, home to Victorian coffee plantation homes, art galleries and cafes.

### Day 3

Spend the day on a nature hike around the area and through a vineyard. Later - a walking tour of the City of Witches (Escazu). Lunch with local delicacies at a typical cantina. In the afternoon visit a potter's shop in Santa Ana.

### Day 4

Drive to Dota, tour the coffee plantation of a cooperative coffee farm, and see where some of the world's best coffee is made! Stay at a wilderness lodge in a magical cloud forest. Rest, relax, wander and explore on your own.

### Day 5

Take a day for yourself. Spend time hiking, bird watching, or exploring with Mother Nature.

### Day 6

Drive through the small coffee farms along Cierro de la Muerte (Peak of Death), offering incredible views of the mountains and valleys. This area is famous for hand carved bateas (wooden bowls/ plates) - you can learn

about this craft from a local craftsman. Finish up at beautiful Manuel Antonio beach, one of the world's most stunning beaches, nestled against the rainforest, just in time for a sunset cocktail and monkey watching!

### Day 7

Tour a real mountain village. Enjoy a refreshing swim beneath mesmerizing waterfalls. Spot fascinating regional wildlife, including a myriad of birds, insects and reptiles, and try your luck at organic Tilapia fishing. Visit an authentic sugar mill powered by two massive oxen, and have the option to take a guided horseback ride. Complete your journey back in time with a typical Campesino style lunch overlooking the panoramic vista of Manuel Antonio National Park. Afterwards, get ready for an adrenaline rush with a zipline tour (optional)! Relax back at the hotel and pool before dinner.

### Day 8

For the adventuresome beginner and experienced rafter the class III rapids will have you filled with adrenaline as you paddle hard over the waves. Along the way you will be astounded by the awesome canyons, waterfalls, and primary rainforest of Costa Rica.

#### Rainforest Spice Farm Tour (OPTIONAL)

Embark on a Spice Plantation Tour where we explain our spices' origins, their ancient history and traditional uses, as well as touch, smell and taste aromatic spices, medicinal and essential oil plants in the field. The "Flavors of the World" tasting menu features the world's three favorite flavors – vanilla, chocolate and Ceylon cinnamon - among other spices, seasonal tropical fruits and an assortment of gourmet spice treats all grown on the plantation and prepared by our staff pastry chef at the Rainforest Viewpoint.

### Day 9

Explore the rainforest, home to three species of monkeys, sloths, birds and lush fauna then relax on some of the most pristine, quiet beaches in the world. Learn about the history of the Quepoa Indians and Costa Rica's past in regard to this stunningly beautiful Manuel Antonio area. Relax, unwind, drink a fresh pipa and enjoy.

### Day 10

Travel to San Jose through the 'back roads', along the mountains and small villages. We'll visit an indigenous reserve, meet the weaving artisans of a women's cooperative keeping the traditions of their people alive and discover the healing properties of herbs and plants from a First-Nations healer. Celebrate your trip with a Goodbye Dinner and a presentation of typical dances and music.

### Day 11

We will transfer you to the airport where, sadly, we will have to say our goodbyes! Thank you for travelling with Cobblestone Freeway!

\*Unforeseen events and new discoveries may result in changes to this itinerary, but only for the better! None of the activities listed are guaranteed at this point. You will receive a more detailed itinerary closer to departure dates.



### OPTIONAL ADD-ONS:

Personalize your trip with our custom add-ins, like extra days, attendance of shows & performances etc.

### MORE QUESTIONS

If you have any question or requests regarding your trip – big, small or downright quirky – please call or e-mail us. We are happy to help!

### INCLUSIONS:

- All land transportation in comfortable air-conditioned vehicles
- 2 meals a day, plus snacks
- 3 or 4 star hotels & character rich accommodations
- Entrance fees & admissions for included sightseeing & cultural events
- Full time Cobblestone tour host & translator
- Experienced city tour guides
- Interaction with local artists, craftsmen & performers
- Special events exclusively for Cobblestone Freeway Travellers

### NOT INCLUDED:

- Extra days before/after the tour
- Events and Services not included in the itinerary or marked Optional
- Some meals & Alcoholic beverages
- Airport transfers if you're NOT travelling with a group
- Travel Insurance
- Telephone services
- Laundry services
- Personal expenses