

## **COSTA RICA FAMILY ITINERARY IDEA:**

Costa Rica is a wonderful destination for families. It is very safe & with so much diversity in a small country it is easy to avoid long journeys between areas. The below idea is based on flights booked with Iberia Airlines or departing on a late afternoon flight via a US city, therefore being able to avoid having the final night in San Jose.

### **14 night itinerary**

**Δ 2 nights San Jose** –Alta Hotel BB

**Δ 2 nights Tortuguero** – Mawamba Lodge FB

**Δ 3 nights Tambor** – the Tango Mar Resort BB

**Δ 2 nights Arenal Volcano** –the Arenal Springs Resort BB

**Δ 4 nights Pacific Coast** – the Tulemar Bungalows BB

### **Day 1**

On arrival into **San Jose** International Airport you will be met by our ground agents and have a private transfer to **Alta Hotel** for 2 nights BB.

- The **Alta Hotel** is a luxurious, unique hotel with architecture that combines the colonial style and current trends. It is just 15 minutes away from the airport and downtown San Jose. It is a very comfortable hotel and has a gym, swimming pool & superb views of the central valley.

### **Day 2**

Private guided tour to Poas Volcano & La Paz Waterfall Gardens, with lunch included. At **La Paz Waterfall Gardens** has an excellent educational centre where you will learn about butterflies, Orchids, frogs, snakes and hummingbirds. Five magnificent waterfalls with nine observation platforms gives you a close up view of the falls and the spectacular La Paz River. Waterfall Gardens is proud to have the largest Butterfly Observatory in the world. The enclosed structure allows butterflies to soar freely while guests walk amid the natural habitat. An on site laboratory is a breeding ground for the eleven fluttering species.

In the Hummingbird garden, you will be fascinated by the birds antics as they play and fight with each other at amazing speeds. After exploring Waterfall Gardens , you will enjoy a delicious buffet style lunch at the terrace dining room.

Enjoy the contrasts of urban and rural areas, as we drive to the **Poas Volcano** National Park and continue up the mountains toward San Pedro de Poas. Poas Volcano National Park is considered the largest geyser in the world, due to its explosive, geyser-like eruptions, which it frequently displays at irregular intervals.

### Day 3

Early morning pick-up to join a small group travelling by road through the coffee & banana plantations and then transferring to river boat to arrive in **Tortuguero** to stay at the **Mawamba Lodge** for 2 nights. You are escorted by a guide and a driver, stopping en route at some amazing viewpoints and places of interest. This is a great introduction to Costa Rica and you will learn a lot from your guide.

- **Mawamba Lodge** is a great lodge with a lovely swimming pool and bar. Full board and regular tours are included. Tours include is an early morning bird watching tour, trek to the Butterfly farm and Tortuguero Hill, the night-time nesting turtle tour along the beach (extra approx \$30 charge). Entrance to the National park is payable locally.

**Note:** As the return flight has a **30Lb** luggage limit you will leave the majority of your luggage @ your hotel in San Jose. Our ground agents will then collect your luggage and have it with them when they meet you off your flight from Tortuguero.

### Day 5

After breakfast you will be transferred by riverboat to the local airfield to take a short **domestic flight back to San Jose**. On arrival you will be met by our ground agents (they will have the luggage you previously left in San Jose). You will then **have private transfers** via ferry to Paquera to stay in the **Tambor** area for 3 nights @ the **Tango Mar Resort**

- The **Tango Mar Resort** is situated in Tambor along the Nicoya Peninsula directly on a beach generally regarded as the most beautiful beach in Central America. The hotel is a 60 hectares exclusive private beachfront reserve; it offers a 9 hole golf course, 2 swimming pools, tennis courts, restaurant and lots of activities including scuba diving, snorkelling and horse riding. Curu Reserve is only 20 minutes away & a boat trip to Tortuga Island is really nice. During high season the new restaurant has typical dances on a Friday night. The Mono Congo Villa is a spacious two bedroom, two bathroom villa & named after the many Mono Congo monkeys that inhabit the area surrounding this beach front villa. The air-conditioned villa comes with a fully equipped kitchen and a huge porch that doubles as living and dining room. There is absolutely nothing that obstructs the view between you and the ocean except for a pair of hammocks where you will find the ultimate in relaxation and the only disturbance comes from the sound of waves and jungle animals. Daily maid service provided

### Day 8

**Arenal Volcano** is the most spectacular sight in all of Costa Rica. It erupts at least once every hour, it is mesmerising at any time of day, but it is especially magical at night,

when a river of red-hot magma flows down its northern slopes. There are several hot springs resorts where you can enjoy the pools of thermomineral waters, heated naturally by the volcano, with temperatures ranging from 23°C to 40°C. The pools are reputed to cure any number of maladies. Most people spend at least half a day and evening @ a springs, relaxing in the pools whilst drinking a cocktail watching the lava flowing from the volcano, having massage treatments or dining in the resorts restaurant. In & around this area there are lots of activities; horse riding, mountain biking, Arenal Lake- which offers lots of activities, including fishing and water sports- canopy tours, suspension bridges & close by is the Cano Negro Wildlife Refuge.

- **The Arenal Springs & Resort Hotel** has a spectacular view of the Arenal Volcano, natural hot and cold springs, four unique dining experiences, and an impressive full service Spa. The resort perches one thousand feet above the Arenal Valley on a mountain ridge just six kilometers north of the active volcano but safely outside the government declared danger zone. It is a large property & also offers a casino for guests.

## Day 11

Private transfer down the Pacific Coast & the Manuel Antonio area for 4 nights at the **Tulemar Bungalows BB**.

- **Tulemar Bungalows** is one of the most comfortable, fashionable places near Manuel Antonio National Park. The individual bungalows are scattered on a 33 acre private reserve that ends in an idyllic private beach. This beach, within a secluded cove has been awarded the blue flag and snorkelling equipment and kayaks are available to guests free of charge. There is a bar, snack bar, changing facilities and toilets at the beach along with a main restaurant and swimming pool on the property. The bungalows have a separate bedroom containing 2 double beds along with 2 sofa beds in the lounge. There is a fully equipped kitchen and TV & video. Videos can be rented from reception for a nominal charge. The hotel will also collect whatever grocery shopping you may require. Each bungalow has a panoramic view of the forest canopy and coast. Breakfast is served in the bar area, where monkeys, sloths, toucans, scarlet tanagers and green parakeets are normally seen.

## Day 12

Morning group Guided tour to Manuel Antonio National Park

## Day 15

Private transfer to the airport to check-in for your return flights back to the UK.