Abercrombie & Kent



COSTA RICA ENCOUNTER

Wild, wondrous, green and serene, Costa Rica is a haven for nature lovers and fast becoming one of the most popular eco-adventure destinations in Central America.

Tailor-Made Journeys, Suggested Itineraries

Latin America, Costa Rica

10 days from AU$15,395 pp

Private

Journey Overview

Wild, wondrous, green and serene, Costa Rica is a haven for nature lovers and fast becoming one of the most popular eco-adventure destinations in Central America. Venture into pockets of wilderness reached only by air and boat, and appreciate the country’s extraordinary biodiversity. Experience the easy-going pace of life here and witness first-hand the incredible rewards of Costa Rica’s visionary approach to tourism.

Journey Highlights

- Immerse yourself in the wild world of Tortuguero on the Caribbean coast
- Hike through wildlife-rich forests in Arenal Volcano National Park
- Discover Costa Rica’s crown jewel, the magical Osa Peninsula
- Get up close to rare species at two luxury eco-lodges
- Sip coffee in cosmopolitan San José, full of culture and history



Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive San José

Touchdown in San José, the nation's small leafy capital ringed by jagged mountains and volcanoes on all sides. Meet your local A&K representative and transfer to your peaceful accommodation, named after the "golden bean". Ease into local time and get your first taste of Costa Rica. Stroll out on your own and immerse yourself in the Costa Rican culture in this wonderfully walkable and friendly city. Alternatively spend time in the courtyard sipping speciality cocktails before retiring for a restful night's sleep.

Hotel Grano de Oro

Day 2: San José

Spend the morning with rescued wildlife at the Toucan Rescue Ranch. Meet orphaned baby sloths, woodpeckers and parrots, before a tour of the wildlife reserve and rehabilitation centre. Afterwards return to the city and accompanied with your private guide head to the fascinating pre-Columbian Gold Museum and seek out treasures and then discover why the National Theatre was built in the late 19th century by the ruling coffee barons.

Hotel Grano de Oro | Meals: B

Day 3: San José – Tortuguero National Park

Private transfer to the local airport for the flight northeast to Tortuguero on the Caribbean coast, and on arrival, proceed for a five-minute shared boat ride to your jungle retreat. From rainforest and swamps to mangrove forest and lagoons, Tortuguero National Park boasts vast biological diversity – the headline act being protected beaches where sea turtles' nest and lay their eggs. Drop your bags and join your local naturalist for a private expedition into the park's backwater lagoons and creeks. Look out for egrets, tiger herons, keel-billed toucans and the ever-mischievous white-faced capuchins catching the last sunlight. Return to the lodge in time for bocas (Costa Rican hors d'oeuvres) to the music of chirping tree frogs in the dimming twilight.

Tortuga Lodge & Gardens | Meals: BLD

Day 4: Tortuguero National Park

Take off on another private expedition in the park, one of the last large areas of tropical rainforest in Central America. Start with a guided river excursion through creeks alive with wildlife in search of breakfast. Watch troops of howler monkeys searching for figs and look out for river otters and caimans waiting for their next meal to swim by. Return to the lodge for lunch and an afternoon relaxing. Later this evening, feast on local cuisine in your own private garden setting on the banks of the river surrounded by tropical rainforest.

Tortuga Lodge & Gardens | Meals: BLD

Day 5: Tortuguero National Park – Arenal Volcano

Return to the airstrip by shared boat across the canal and board your flight to La Fortuna in the Arenal Volcano National Park, home to the infamous Arenal Volcano, among the world's ten most active volcanoes. Surrounding the volcano is 500,000 acres of rainforest, rivers, lakes and lava fields just begging to be explored.

Arrive at your remote eco-lodge, set against a panoramic backdrop of the Arenal Volcano and enveloped by acres of pristine rainforest and lush tropical gardens where you may be greeted by sloths lazing in Cecropia trees.

Later, discover the Danaus Private Reserve rich in both flora and fauna. Keep your eyes open for prolific birdlife including tanagers, honeycreepers, toucans, manakins and many more. Your visit ends with the chance to be part of the reserve's conservation legacy by planting your own tree. This evening you may like to join a hands-on cooking demonstration and discover more about Costa Rican cuisine.

Nayara Resort Spa & Gardens | Meals: B

Day 6: Arenal Volcano

Venture closer to Arenal Volcano and wander high above the forest canopy on hanging bridges. Covering three kilometres, the network of bridges is located high above the forest floor. Led by your naturalist guide, you will observe a significant diversity of plants, spy birds and wildlife unseen from the ground and glimpse views of the nearby volcano. Continue on with a forest hike down to the impressive Arenal Waterfall and a chance for a refreshing dip in the cool waters. After a traditional Costa Rican lunch return to your hotel where you can slip into the naturally heated waters of the private thermal pools surrounded by lush foliage and the sounds of the jungle.

Nayara Resort Spa & Gardens | Meals: BLD

Day 7: Arenal Volcano – San José – Puerto Jiménez – Osa Peninsula

Start early with a boxed breakfast for your journey back to San José airport. Fly to Puerto Jiménez and proceed onwards accompanied by your hotel representative to the remote Osa Peninsula on the country's Pacific coast. See why National Geographic declared Osa Peninsula "the most biologically intense place on Earth" from your base at an award-winning and exclusive eco-lodge set in a private nature reserve. Slow down to soak up the sights, smells and sounds of the forest and ocean.

Lapa Rios Eco Lodge | Meals: BLD

Days 8-9: Osa Peninsula

You have two full days to explore the Osa Peninsula, your way. Choose from a menu of included shared excursions and activities. Rise early to see colourful birds at their most active. Discover traditional medicinal plants and seeds hidden in the forest on the local medicine tour. Trek amongst towering trees and swim in tumbling waterfalls. Drink in breathtaking forest views on the rainforest ridge walk. Take the opportunity to contribute to the Lapa Rios reforestation programme by planting a tree and learn more about your pioneering ecolodge on their rewarding Pigs, Twigs and Garbage tour. Then, experience a whole other world in the rainforest by night.

Lapa Rios Hotel | Meals: BLD

Day 10: Osa Peninsula – Puerto Jiménez – Depart San José

Accompanied by your local hotel representative return to Puerto Jiménez airport for the short flight back to San José, where your journey ends. Connect with your onward international flight.

Meals: B

Map


La Fortuna (Arenal)
Tortuguero
COSTA RICA
San Jose
Puerto Jiménez
Osa Peninsula
PACIFIC OCEAN
ARRIVE/DEPART
AIR
ROAD

Accommodation

Hotel Grano de Oro, San Jose



Grano do Oro is a charming hotel in a good location just off the Paseo Colon, one of San Jose's main streets. Often described as a 'sprawling' 20th century Victorian Mansion, it will surprise you with a feeling of small country house with personal service and elegant traditional touches of period photographs, wrought-iron beds and highly polished woods. The lobby boasts a dramatic mahogany staircase, while courtyards gurgle with bubbling fountains and hallways beam with beautiful fresh tropical flowers. Room styles vary from simple tones with a dash of tropical colour to ornate and bold and some offer private courtyard gardens. There is an excellent restaurant serving French cuisine and traditional 'Tico' (Costa Rican) breakfasts.

Why we like it

- A traditional, boutique-style hotel offering old world charm in a well located, quiet area of San Jose
- Excellent restaurant combining French cuisine with the tropical delights of Costa Rica
- Varying styles and sizes of rooms

Tortuga Lodge & Gardens



An intimate river lodge, Tortuga Lodge & Gardens sits on a canal by Costa Rica’s northeastern seashore and is surrounded by twenty hectares of private jungle trails. A relaxing pool surrounded by hammocks, and a delicious Caribbean restaurant provide after adventure comfort and relaxation while rooms are spacious, bright and adorned with vintage photographs, tiled floors and hardwood finishes. Shared balconies with hammocks and Adirondack chairs face the river.

Nayara Resort Spa & Gardens



Located on the outskirts of Arenal Volcano National Park, Nayara Resort Spa and Gardens combines the great outdoors with well-executed opulence, all within view of Costa Rica’s famed Arenal Volcano. Evidence of local craftsmanship extends from the coconut-oil toiletries to the dark carved-wood furniture in all the freestanding casitas, which also feature a small private garden and outdoor shower. Almost all the resort’s produce is organic and locally sourced. Sharing facilities with its sister property means an increase of dining options as well as three swimming pools including one with a swim up bar.

Lapa Rios Eco Lodge



Set in a private nature reserve spread over 1,000 acres of Central America's last remaining lowland tropical rainforest in Costa Rica, Lapa Rios Ecolodge overlooks the pristine point where the Golfo Dulce meets the wild Pacific Ocean.

The surrounding virgin rainfrest is a nature-lover's paradise - home to rare and unusual species of flora and fauna, it is the only place in the country to spot squirrel, spider, white face capuchin and howler monkeys.

Lapa Rios was designed to stand in harmony with the surrounding forest and beach environment. The main lodge and cabins line three ridges and are connected by paths and steps. The main lodge and the Brisa Azul restaurant soar 15 meters above the sea and, like the 16 private cabins, are built of locally harvested materials and have intricately woven palm-thatched roofs. All the cabins are open plan, to ensure stunning ocean and jungle views, and are furnished with comfortable, locally made bamboo furniture. Huge private decks aid relaxation amidst pristine nature.

Please note that to reach your bungalow there are a set of steps the minimum number of steps is approximately 200 from the lowest bungalow to the dining area.

Why we like it

- All 16 cabins have private terraces
- Lapa Rios is on the undeveloped Osa Peninsula, in the south west of Costa Rica - within its own 1,000-acre reserve of primary forest and overlooking the meeting point of the

Golfo Dulce fjord and the Pacific
- The Brisa Azul restaurant specialises in freshly-cooked international cuisine infused with a hint of the tropics and offers breathtaking vistas
- Zen Shiatsu, Ayurvedic, Core Integration and Reiki massages are available, as are Hatha Yoga and Chi Kung classes
- The lodge has an outdoor pool surrounded by lush jungle

Abercrombie & Kent

Call Us Now on 1300 851 924 within Australia

Melbourne Office:

T: +61 (0)3 9536 1800
F: +61 (0) 3 9536 1805
E: contact@abercrombiekent.com.au

Address

Level 26 (North Tower)
80 Collins St
Melbourne, VIC, 3000

International:

New Zealand Call: 0800 441 638
Asia Call: 800 4747 7700