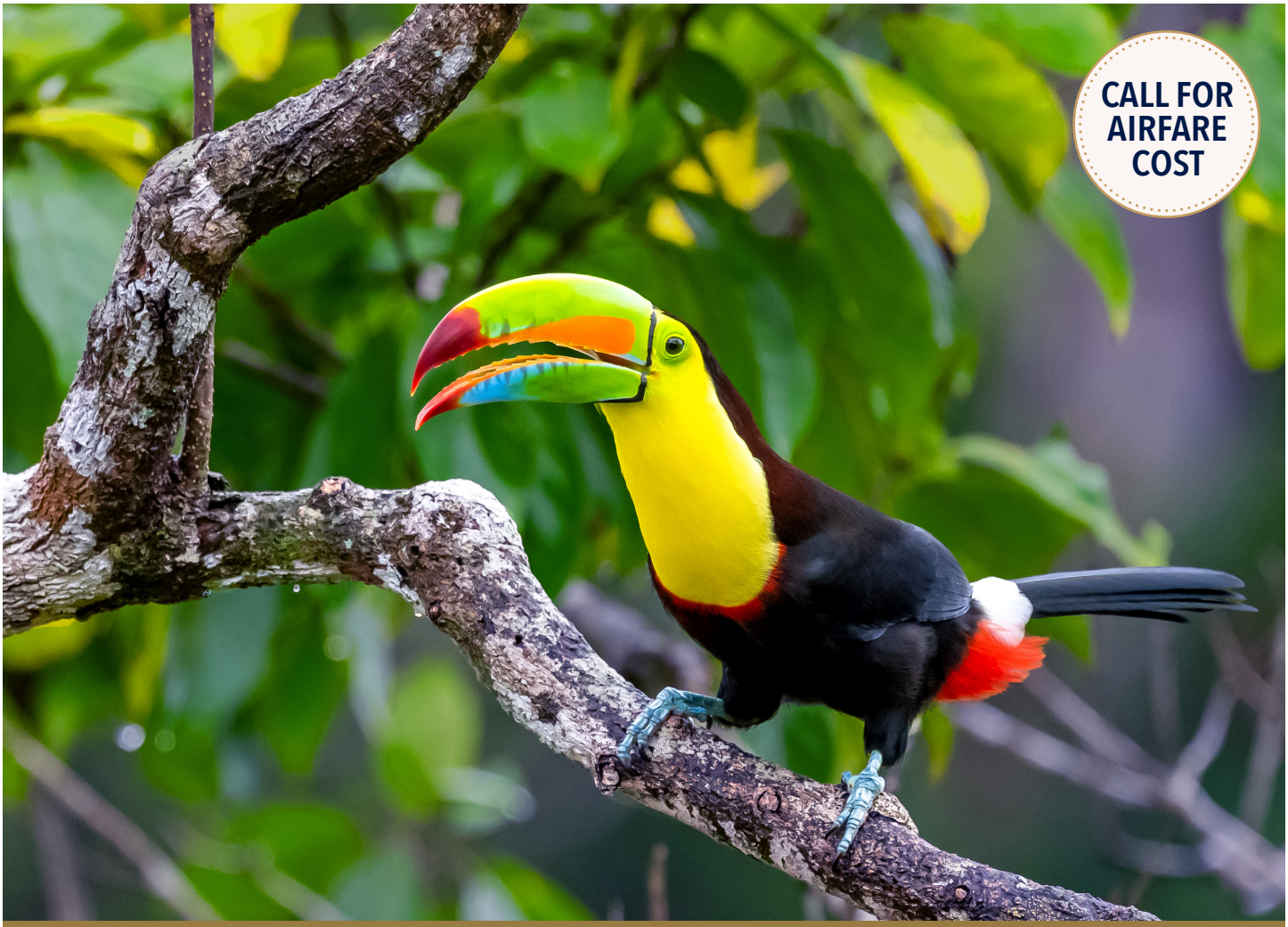


CALL FOR AIRFARE COST

8 DAYS • 15 MEALS • SAN JOSÉ > SAN JOSÉ

COSTA RICA

Departure Date: January 14, 2028

Rainforests, volcanoes, rivers, beaches, national parks, lush scenery, amazing wildlife and of course plenty of hospitality from the local "Ticos" all await on this fantastic journey. Visit coffee and cacao plantations and sample these local specialties; cruise down a river and be immersed in the sights and sounds of native monkeys, birds and other wildlife; walk amidst tropical foliage…experience it all as you discover the beauty, magic and "Pura Vida" of Costa Rica.

BEARS travel PROGRAM



Experience Costa Rica's colorful wildlife

DAY 1 USA / San José, Costa Rica
Depart the USA for San José, Costa Rica. Upon arrival you will be met by a representative of Mayflower Cruises & Tours who will assist with your transfer to the hotel. Flights should arrive by 4:00pm. Relax before the included dinner as your busy schedule eases into Costa Rica's mystical tropical lifestyle. Meal: D

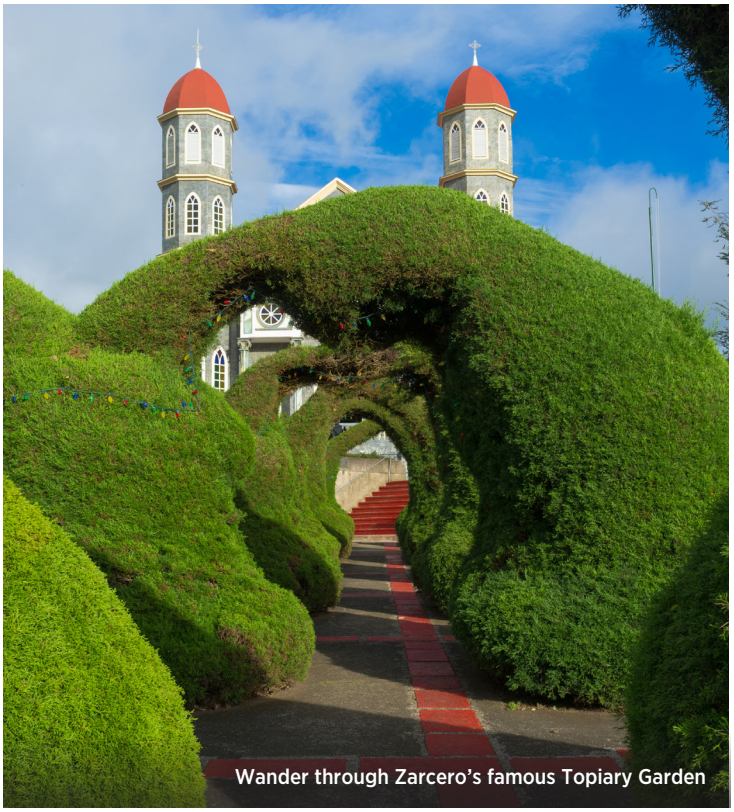
DAY 2 San José – Arenal area
En route from San José to the Arenal area, visit the Doka Coffee Estate where members of the Vargas Ruiz family have been involved with coffee production for more than 70 years. Tour the plantation, learning how this famous product of Costa Rica is produced from the harvesting of the beans to the roasting and packaging processes. And of course there is a sampling of the final product! Continuing towards Arenal, with an included lunch along the way, a sweet treat awaits. Coffee beans aren't the only ones Costa Rica is famous for. Discover the ancient secrets of chocolate, considered a 'gift of the Gods', as cacao beans were used for ceremonial drinks and even currency. During this hands-on experience at a cacao plantation, learn the whole process of creating sumptuous chocolate from the fruit of the cacao tree. The day ends with arrival at the hotel, providing awe-inspiring views of Arenal Volcano from every room. Dinner is included at the hotel this evening. Meals: B, L, D



See Sloths in their natural habitat

DAY 3 Arenal area
After a morning at leisure, depart for an afternoon 'animal adventure'. The Arenal area is known for the diversity of fauna with the Sloth being one the most popular species. A short drive brings you to an open area in La Fortuna where your guide leads you on a walk through a natural habitat of the adorable Sloths, along with the opportunity to spot multi-colored Toucans, the poison dart frog, monkeys and other native wildlife. Later this afternoon, depart the hotel for a visit to a local farm for an educational and culinary experience. Stroll around the farm with a guide as you see a variety of flora and fauna and learn about the products being organically grown. Pick tubers and other vegetables, along with fruits, to be used in the evening meal. Learn about sugar cane, the milling process, and have a taste of its derivatives. Learn how to make tortillas and enjoy a typical local dinner on site. This experience will give you a true immersion into local life. Meals: B, D

DAY 4 Caño Negro Wildlife Refuge
While in the Arenal area, enjoy a full day excursion to Caño Negro National Wildlife Refuge, a remote "everglades" type wetlands, teeming with different species of flora, fauna and birdlife. Enjoy a boat ride on the Rio Frio, where you'll have an opportunity to see a plethora of wildlife: snake-birds, heron, comorants, howler, spider and white-faced monkeys, three-toed sloth, basilik lizards (also known as Jesus Christ lizards), turtles and much more. This unique experience showcases the natural beauty of Costa Rica. A typical lunch is provided during the excursion. This evening, dinner is included at the hotel. Meals: B, L, D



Wander through Zarcero's famous Topiary Garden



DAY 5 Arenal area – Manuel Antonio

After breakfast, travel to the Manuel Antonio area, famous for its national park. En route, a stop is made in the town of Zarcero for a visit to its most famous landmark: the Topiary Garden. Stroll through the park and marvel at the perfectly manicured cypress sculptures of animals, tunnels, and whimsical designs. Visit the 19th-century San Rafael Church, overlooking the topiary garden and showcasing an ornate interior with pastel-colored murals. Free time for lunch on your own before continuing to Manuel Antonio. Upon arrival, check-in to the hotel and relax a bit before the included dinner. Meals: B, D

DAY 6 Manuel Antonio National Park

Today's included tour visits nearby Manuel Antonio National Park, the smallest of the parks in Costa Rica but one of the most popular. There is a magic to this park that is hard to explain. Perhaps it's the park's forest, mangroves, lagoons and beach vegetation that supports 109 species of mammals and 184 species of birds (with migrants bringing the bird species to some 270) that make it so amazing. Among the inhabitants that can be easily seen are sloths, iguanas, agoutis, armadillos, raccoons, coatimundis and the adorable squirrel monkey. After the excursion, return to the hotel where the remainder of the day is at leisure to enjoy the beautiful grounds and amenities. Meal: B

DAY 7 Manuel Antonio

The final day is free of planned activities. Relax at the hotel, or join the morning optional excursion for a Catamaran Adventure. Journey to Quepos by coach where you'll embark the catamaran for a cruise on the sapphire-hued water. The guide points out notable wildlife and vegetation as you enjoy a tasty BBQ lunch while passing scenic islands, cliffs and rock formations. Drop anchor at Biesanz Bay for snorkeling or resting onboard. Parrotfish, starfish, angelfish and sometimes even dolphin are found in these waters. Return to the pier in Quepos and by coach to the hotel. Time to rest before tonight's farewell dinner. Meals: B, D

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- 15 Meals: 7 breakfasts, 2 lunches and 6 dinners
- Airport transfers on tour dates when air is provided by Mayflower Cruises & Tours
- Overnight in San José, Costa Rica
- Visit Doka Coffee Estate for a guided tour and tasting
- Learn how chocolate is made during a hands-on visit to a cacao plantation
- Spend three nights in the Arenal area overlooking Arenal Volcano
- Experience a walk through the forest, sighting Sloths in their natural habitat
- Enjoy cultural immersion during a rural dining experience on a local farm
- Included excursion to Caño Negro National Wildlife Refuge with a local guide and lunch
- Marvel at the uniqueness of the Topiary Garden in Zacero
- Spend three nights in Manuel Antonio
- Visit Manuel Antonio National Park with our Costa Rican expert

DAY 8 Manuel Antonio / San José / USA

After breakfast, your tropical get-away comes to an end as you return to the San José airport for your flight home. **Flights should depart after 1:00 pm.** Fond memories of the beauty of Costa Rica and the warm hospitality of its people are sure to be treasured for a lifetime! Meal: B

Itinerary subject to change.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

Day 1 – DoubleTree Cariari, San José, Costa Rica
Days 2 through 4 – Arenal Manoa Hotel, Arenal area, Costa Rica
Days 5 through 7 – Parador Hotel, Manuel Antonio, Costa Rica

COSTA RICA


Manuel Antonio National Park

Costa Rica		Tour Code 576CR
2028 Departure Date	**Per Person Twin**	**Single Room add**
January 14	$3,299	+ $2,999

Pricing includes Escorted Land Package, Taxes, Fees and Transfers.

Passport required on this program

TOUR ACTIVITY LEVEL

1	2	3	4	5

EASY ENERGETIC

OPTIONAL EXCURSION
Catamaran Adventure: $130 per person

Travelers Protection Plan (TPP) – $429 per person
This nonrefundable fee waives all cancellation fees when we are notified of cancellation one day before the tour departs. If you must leave the tour early due to personal illness, illness or death of a member of your immediate family, TPP guarantees full refund for any unused services after the departure of the tour. Other benefits include medical expenses for illness and injury, emergency transportation, 24 hour hot line, and lost or stolen baggage assistance. Return air transportation is included ONLY if your air tickets were provided by Mayflower Cruises & Tours. If you purchase the optional Travelers Protection Plan (TPP), you will be refunded all payments, including deposit amount, less the TPP premium amount.

Cancellation Charges Without Traveler's Protection Plan (TPP)
- 91 days or more: Deposit Amount
- 90 to 45 days prior: 20% of tour cost
- 44 to 15 day prior: 30% of tour cost
- 14 to 1 day prior: 50% of tour cost
- Day 1 of departure or early departure from tour: 100% of tour cost
- No refund on unused portions of the tour

Exclusions: Mayflower Cruises & Tours reserves the right to alter its refund and cancellation policy when a substantial amount of cancellation or postponement of travel is attributable to: conditions resulting from an act of God, natural or man-made disaster, fire, government action, civil disorder, war, hostilities between nations, or unavailability of transportation through no fault of Mayflower Cruises & Tours.

FOR RESERVATIONS OR INFORMATION CONTACT:

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MERCER UNIVERSITY
ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

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