

Costa Rica

Nature Paradise between
the Oceans

Amadeus Travel Agency

**Nature experience
Encounter
Adventure**

**Flexibility
Professionalism
Sustainable travel**

- Guided Group Tours
- Individual journeys
- Theme Travel
- Incentives
- Travel Bookings
- Travel components
- Day trips
- Rental cars
- Transfers
- Domestic Flights
- Hotels
- Private Villas



Amadeus Travel Agency

You're Incoming Agent in Costa Rica

Tel.: +506 2269-3423
Fax: +506 2269-9506
P.O. Box 2515-4050
Costa Rica

Email: amadeuscr@ice.co.cr
info@amadeus.co.cr
Web: www.amadeus.co.cr

Index

La Paz Waterfalls.....	6
Poás Volcano	8
San José	10
Irazú Volcano.....	12
The Caribbean	14
Tortuguero.....	16
Bananas & Cocoa.....	18
Bribri.....	20
Pineapples	22
Arenal Volcano.....	24
Los Maleku.....	26
Tenorio Volcano	28
Rincón de la Vieja.....	30
Pacific.....	32
Family.....	34
Skywall.....	36
Family Bello	38
Monteverde	40
Cerro de la Muerte	42
Birdwatching	44
The Esquinas.....	46
Corcovado.....	48
Costa Rica	50
Amadeus	52



Costa Rican Info:

Capital: San José
 Official language(s): Spanish
 Demonym Costa Rican: Tico
 Independence Declared from Spain September 15, 1821.
 Area Total: 51,100 km²
 Population: 4,608,426
 Currency : Costa Rican colón (CRC)



Welcome to the Amadeus Travel Agency – your professional tour operator in Costa Rica. Since the opening of our agency in 1994 we have placed great value on individual advice to provide a great travel experience. Nature watching, relaxing, adventure and encounters are all vital elements of our wide ranging travel program. Sustainable tourism, respect for peoples and their lifestyles are a key aspect of our work. Thus we financially support worthy social and ecological projects with a portion our revenues.

With the seal of National Sustainability, CST (Certificación para la Sostenibilidad Turística) tourism companies in Costa Rica can be certified. Amadeus is currently in the certification process. The many years experience of our travel agency provide you with competence and reliability. Our team can advise and support in English, French, German and Spanish

and we also have a 24-hour emergency hotline service. From our wide range of offers we would be pleased to arrange your desired program. We look forward to be able to welcome you soon in Costa Rica. Costa Rica is a small country with great diversity, combining tropical colors, nature, hospitality and that Latin American way of life. As one of the richest flora and fauna Countries in the world it has about 30% of the countries land area in the form of protected national parks. A stable political situation, high living standards, security, a good infrastructure and no army have earned the country the title „Switzerland of Central America“. A country to discover, to wonder, to feel good, to enjoy - We will show you „the real Costa Rica“ with its people and fantastic natural wonders.

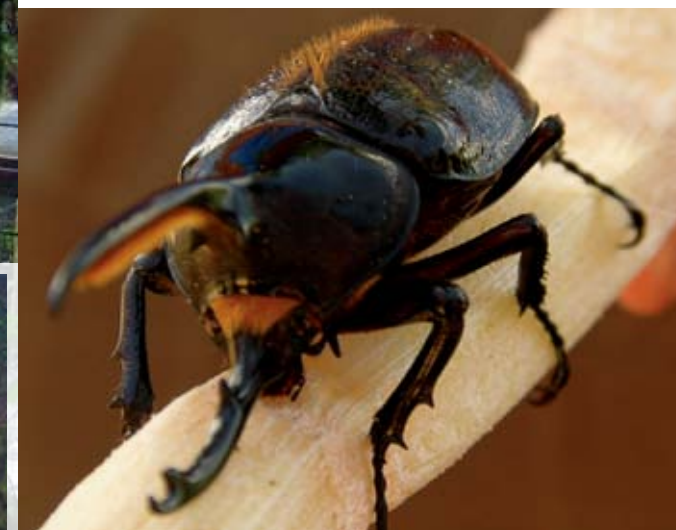
We hope you enjoy browsing this catalog!
 The team at Amadeus Travel Agency

Welcome

La Paz Waterfall Gardens

The perfect first day introductory tour following your arrival in San Jose: About 1 hour's drive from the Poas National Park, lies the park and La Paz Waterfall Gardens. In one of the largest butterfly gardens in Central America there are approximately 25 different species of butterflies to be seen together with Toucans various parrots and other tropical bird species can be watched in the bird house.

From the hummingbird garden you walk past the Serpentarium (snakes), further on to the orchid collection and the old farm house and then to the Ranarium (frogs). Paved trails and secure steel structures allow you to get a close up look at the cascading waters of the La Paz waterfalls.



Poás Volcano



The Poas Volcano National Park is one of the most popular parks in the country. The main crater of the active volcano is 2704 meters high and has a diameter of 1.32 kilometers and is easily reached by broad paths.

At the bottom of the crater is a 300 m deep turquoise lake, with sulfur fumes rising from its shores. The road to the nearby Laguna Botos leads through a dense forest of shrubs, bright red and pink colored flowers also attract hummingbirds at this altitude.

A botanical feature is the so-called „umbrella of the poor“, with its huge leaves which only thrives in this cool, damp and foggy climate. On the fertile slopes of the Poas various ornamental plants, coffee, strawberries and other fruits are cultivated which you can sample and buy from the local roadside vendors.



San José

San Jose, the capital of the country lies in the Central Highlands, and together with the cities of Alajuela, Heredia and Cartago create a metropolitan area in which around two thirds of the population of Costa Rica live.

The typical urban landscape includes many buildings dating back to 19hundreds like the Green Post Office or the National Theatre and the roadside ticket sellers. The „Mercado Central“ (Central Market) is an essential part of every major Latin American city as in San Jose and is well worth a visit. You can purchase food, clothing, shoes, tools, souvenir items, and items for daily use. The National Gold Museum has many exhibits from pre-Columbian times, also on display are reconstructed scenes from early Indian life using life-size figures.



Irazú Volcano

The Irazú is the highest, with 3432 meters, active volcano in Costa Rica. From its summit you can, on a clear day, see both the Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean Sea. Breathtakingly impressive is the view of the main crater with its steep slopes of lava and ash.

The water level of the bright green lake in the crater depends on rainfall and seismic activity. Vegetable fields and livestock pastures dominate the landscape at the foot of the volcano.



The Caribbean Coast

In the villages of Cahuita and Puerto Viejo on the southern Caribbean coast, you will, through the relaxed joy of the people immediately immerse yourself into the Caribbean way of life. In the many typical restaurants Creole dishes and exotic cocktails are served. Both Cahuita National Park and Gandoca-Manzanillo invite you to swim and take long walks along the palm-fringed beaches.

The coral reef of Cahuita is habitat to many marine species; with a snorkeling trip you can explore this underwater world. The yearlong waves on the beaches of Puerto Viejo pull surfers from around the world.

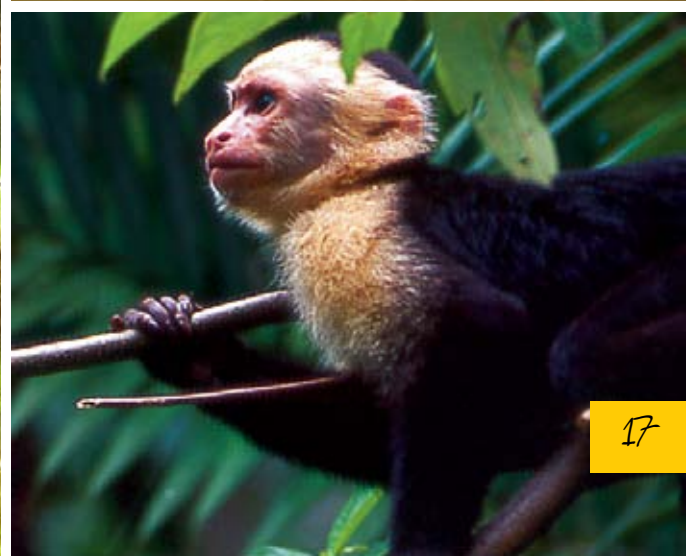
Both villages are starting points for trips to the village of Yorkin and the Bribri Indians.



Tortuguero

The Tortuguero National Park on the northern Caribbean coast can only be reached by boat or by plane. The climate is tropical-humid, even during the dry season you have to expect rain. The parks beaches are among the most important breeding areas for seven turtle species including the endangered green sea turtle.

The numerous channels of the National Park are best explored by boat in the early morning. Here you can discover the many species of birds, crocodiles, caimans, sloths, and three of the four monkey species found in Costa Rica. The tranquil fishing village of Tortuguero and a visit to the turtle museum, then taste the delicious cool „pipa“ (green coconut).



Bananas

When the big cargo ships with containers full of bananas leave the port of Limon, the harvested fruits are still green and already have many different processes behind them. The largest share of bananas exported to Europe come from monocultures, which are kept intact with the high use of insecticides and fertilizers. In most plantations you can watch the washing and packing. Organic bananas are cultivated quite differently: in a mixed crop system the banana trees are much hardier and require little care. Bribri organic bananas from the Talamanca region amongst others are available in European supermarkets under the fair trade label.

Cocoa

The cocoa plant and all its elements were seen by the indigenous peoples of Central America as a gift from the gods. From today's indigenous peoples we know from tradition that cocoa mixed with hot water as a drink had a ritual significance and so valuable that the seeds were used as a currency. In producing the bitter raw cocoa the seeds must be separated from the tasty flesh. After drying and roasting the centuries old tradition using a grinding stone the seeds are freed from the shell and finally by the wind separated. The prepared seeds are then ground by hand. The recovered cocoa fat can be wrapped in banana leaves in portions for later use, or better still, mixed with sweet condensed milk and organic bananas to be tasted immediately!



Bribri

The Yorkin village lies in the southern Caribbean canton of Talamanca and the indigenous Bribri people. In 1985 the women of Yorkin started a project to diversify from their main livelihoods of agricultural and thus secure an income in the future.

The native community now produces, in addition to the traditional fruits and vegetables for their own consumption organic cocoa and organic bananas for sale. The preservation of their language and culture is an essential part of the Women's Initiative, which has decided to also open the door to tourism.

A small clinic, a new school and the first baccalaureate graduates this year have been made possible with this additional revenue. By Canoe on the boarder river to the village, here the visitor gets given an insight into the culture of the Bribri people.

A swim in the river Yorkin and the tasting of self-made rain forest chocolate enrich this adventure.



Pineapples

It takes 11 months for the inflorescence blossom and certainly the most popular Bromeliads to ripen. The exotic pineapple is so delicious yet its cultivation is often very problematic.

Fertilizers and herbicides are used incessantly in the often square kilometer large areas of monoculture. For several years pineapple cultivation has been booming in Costa Rica and this brings the aforementioned problems.

A small proportion of farms have in the meantime moved to the cultivation of organic pineapples. During a tour of one of these companies you can watch the harvesting and processing and learn interesting details about this tropical fruit, and of course taste.



Established in 1993 the small family business „Don Tuto“ produces fine hand-rolled cigars with tobacco from Costa Rica. On their own fields tobacco plants are grown, harvested, dried and fermented correctly.

The fermentation of the tobacco, through its various fermentation processes, which combined with the maturity of the leaves achieve those typical aromas. The well-balanced mix of leaves produces the different flavors of the cigar also the length and diameter have great influences on the cigars taste.

With Amadeus the traveler visits the manufacturer and helps support a local small business. The owner, Don Jose will happily explain the individual steps from leaf to finished enjoyable cigar. Finally you can roll your own “Puro”.





Arenal Volcano



The Arenal Volcano National Park surrounds the area around the same volcanic layer in the northern lowlands. Since its eruption in 1968 the approximately 1720 meter high volcano remains to varying degrees, and in recent years there have been eruptions of lava flows and ash clouds. Climatically the area is influenced by the humid air masses from the Caribbean.

Nearby horseback riding, excursions to the inactive Cerro Chato and the cooled lava fields of the Arenal Volcano National Park, and also to the waterfall of La Fortuna. To relax you can visit one of the many thermal baths. The nearby Lake Arenal is one of the best windsurfing areas in the world.



Los Maleku

The indigenous tribe of the Maleku lives in a 3,000-hectar reserve in the area around Guatuso close to the Arenal volcano. In three villages, the so called Palenque is home to approximately 450 descendants of the former Indigenous people. In Palenque Tonjibe 56 families seek to maintain their traditions and to preserve the tribe's own language, customs and crafts. They earn their income primarily from the sale of hand-painted wood carvings and other art objects.

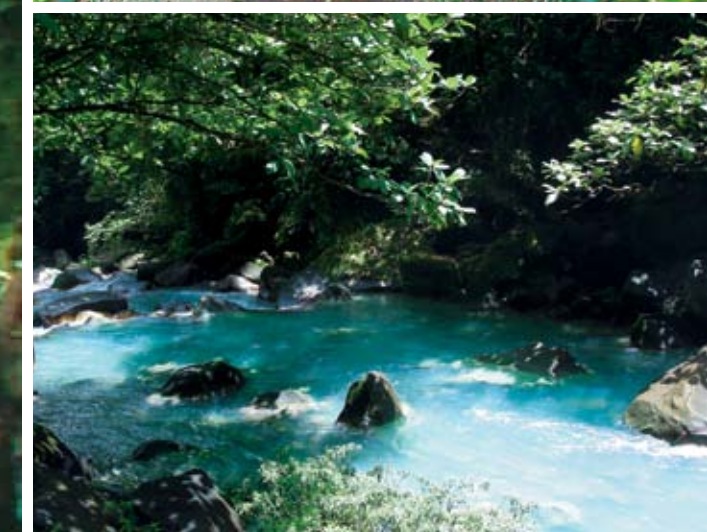
As with Dona Rosa and Don Leonidas some families have made the step towards tourism and use the additional revenue to provide their children a good education. An encounter with these open and friendly people provides an interesting exchange between the two cultures that enriches both, a nice experience.



Tenorio Volcano and Rio Celeste

The Tenorio National Park protects the area around the active volcano Tenorio and its valuable primary rain forest at altitudes between 700 and 1900 meters. An absolutely fascinating natural phenomenon awaits visitors to the park, the light blue colored river Rio Celeste, which ends in a spectacular waterfall.

To get to the origin of the „Rio Celeste“, you will have a challenging hike through dense forest and sulfur fumaroles. At the meeting of the two rivers, both of volcanic origin, a chemical reaction occurs producing copper sulphate causing the river to turn blue. Further upstream, you can take a bath in natural hot pools of the river.



Rincón de la Vieja Volcano

The volcanic area around the volcano Rincón de la Vieja stratovolcano in northwestern Costa Rica has a total of nine craters.

Impressive are the sulphurous hot springs, steaming fumaroles and bubbling mud pools.

The forest has four main climatic zones, which provide a great variety of wildlife. Since colonial time's cattle have been breed here, with visitors having the opportunity to observe the „Sabanero“ (Costa Rican cowboy) going about his the daily work on horseback.



Pacific

Whether Tamarindo, Samara, Malpais, Manuel Antonio and Uvita, the beaches on the Pacific coast of Costa Rica are certainly among the finest in Central America. The waves on the northern beaches of Tamarindo and Malpais are especially popular among surfers; one can also observe in the Manuel Antonio National Park the animals basking in the sun.

Particularly impressive is the legendary rock formation in front of the small village of Uvita which at low tide exposes a sandbar and thus resembles a whale's tail in its full form. From here there are boat tours for whale and dolphin watching in the Ballena Marine National Park. With the wonderful nightly sunset you can forget all your worries.



Family Holidays



Costa Rica is a distinctly family-friendly travel destination. It combines in a small area a variety of different destinations, that well planned can be reached without lengthy journeys. In the „Switzerland of Central America“ there is a well-developed network of medical care.

Security in this peaceful country with no army is generally trouble free. The friendly Costa Ricans have a special heart for children – the young travelers are welcome everywhere.

Running over the hanging bridges, Whizzing through the canopy of trees, trout fishing, horseback riding, boating, look for poison dart frogs in the rain forest, watching turtles, whales and dolphins – endless possibilities - and after all that adventure how does a vacation on one of the quiet beaches sound.



Skywalk

Under „Skywalk“, we mean walking across suspension bridges to explore the diverse life in the treetops. This gives you the opportunity to observe animals and plants that you would not normally see from the forest floor.

One can thus see epiphytic bromeliads and orchids growing and canopy living animals all in their natural environment. With „Canopy“ you experience the forest canopy from a bird's eye view. After instruction by an experienced guide and well secured with a helmet, harness and gloves you glide almost weightlessly through the forest from one platform to another.



Canopy

With „Canopy“ you experience the forest canopy from a bird's eye view. After instruction by an experienced guide and well secured with a helmet, harness and gloves you glide almost weightlessly through the forest from one platform to another.

The observation of plants and animals is not in the foreground, rather the speed and the feeling of flying. Pure adrenaline!



Family Bello

The history of the family Bello begins in the twenties of last century in Spain as the 19-year-old Juan Bello decided to emigrate from Europe to try his luck in the gold mines of Costa Rica's. Finally he settled in Monte Verde and started the cultivation of coffee.

Today, the family produces on around 5 hectares of land at 700-800 meters above sea level the best *Coffea arabica* beans. A small portion of the estate is devoted to the cultivation of organic coffee that is sent to the local cooperative, together with the harvest from other villas which is then exported to Europe as fair-trade certified organic coffee from Costa Rica.

An integral part of our trips is a visit to the estate of the family Bello. On the porch of the old farmhouse grandfather Don Adolfo, one of 10 children of Juan, happily tells tails of the past and the present.



Monte Verde



Listen to the songs of the many bird species in the cloud forest around Monteverde. A small Quaker community from the United States settled here in the 1950s and founded some 20 years later, the private nature reserve in Monteverde.

Due to its geographical location along the Continental Divide and the rugged terrain of the reserve it is influenced by a variety of different climatic conditions and this is shown in the diversity of the fauna: Towering giant trees covered with bromeliads, ferns and mosses are in stark contrast to gnarled wind-shaped trees. A Biological Reserve, with its well-paved hiking trails extends from an altitude of 900-1600 meters and can be accessed by its two entrances Monte Verde and Sta. Elena.

Cerro de la Muerte & Quetzal

The „Cerro de la Muerte“ at nearly 3500 meters the highest pass in Costa Rica and also the highest point of the legendary Pan-American Highway that reaches from Alaska to Tierra del Fuego.

The inclement weather here created the formation of a special plant world: the Paramo, and on the many trails you can walk through the flora and fauna. Gnarled old oak cloud forests in sheltered valleys, like the Río Savegre are the home of the Quetzal the Mayan “bird of the Gods”. This quiet well camouflaged bird is difficult to spot in the dense crown of the trees.





Birdwatching

Although Costa Rica occupies only about 0.05% of the planet earth, the land is home to approximately 900 different bird species, nearly 10% of the world's existing bird species and is therefore a paradise for bird watchers! The two largest families of birds of Costa Rica are the flycatchers with 384 species and 330 species of hummingbirds. Other bird species found are herons, toucans, parrots and trogons, which include the legendary quetzal. Our specially trained birding guides will guide you to the best birding locations in the country.



The Esquinas Rainforest Lodge



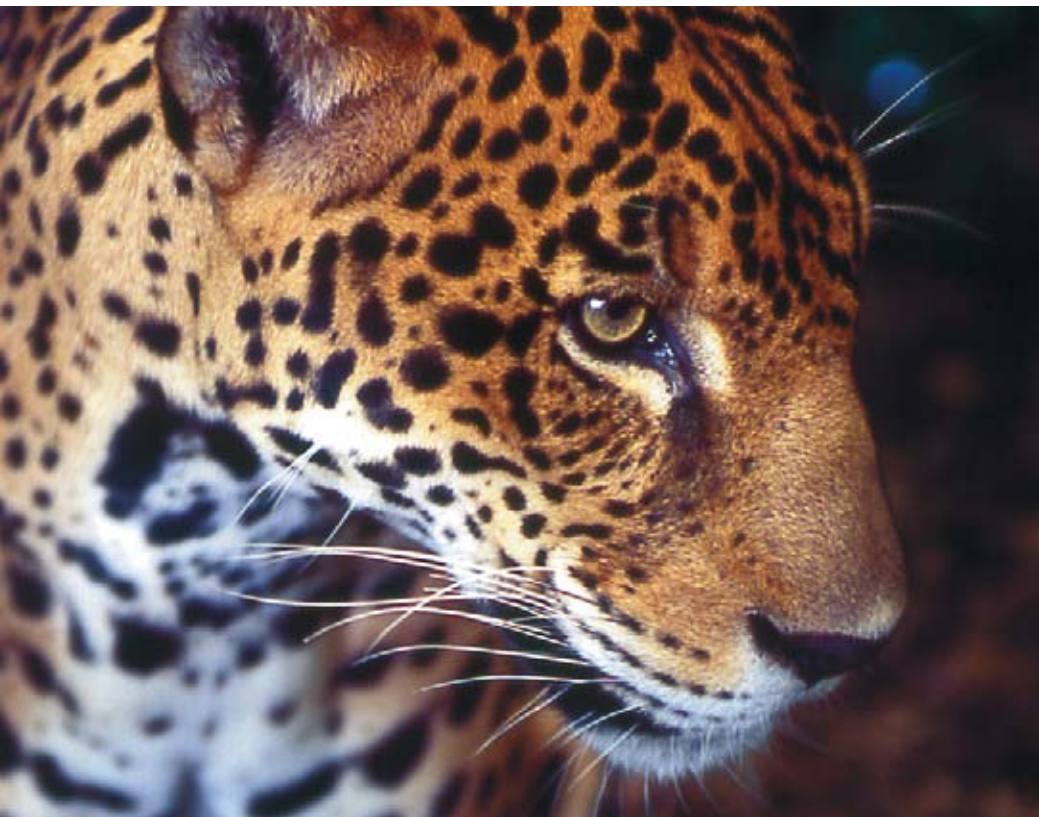
The Esquinas Rainforest Lodge on the edge of the Piedras Blancas National Park is surrounded by dense tropical lowland rain forest. It is part of a comprehensive environment sustainability project which the Austrian violinist and Professor Michael Schnitzler founded 1991 with the creation "Rainforest of the Austrians". The aim of the association is to purchase rainforest endangered by deforestation, thus becoming part of the park. With a hike over the 15km long network of trails you can experience the rainforest firsthand. Amadeus supports, with its network of tour operators, for almost 15 years, this exemplary project. The optional! Usually present house Cayman „Lorenzo“ who enjoys the natural surroundings and pond of the lodge!



Corcovado

The remote Corcovado National Park is located on the Osa Peninsula on the southern Pacific coast, one of the rainiest areas of Costa Rica. The exceptionally high biological diversity in the lowland rain forest is discovered over a system of well posted trails.

In addition to scarlet macaws in the forest canopy you can see poison dart frogs in the forest undergrowth, you can look for tracks of the Jaguar on the beach, watch the gymnastic monkeys in the branches and maybe with a little one of the rare tapir!





Allow yourself to experience the unexpected!

Costa Rica is known for its splendid natural beauty, but that is only part of the story. This jewel of Central America has a thriving culture that you won't find in guidebooks or maps – it can only be found through experience

Community-based rural tourism offers the opportunity to do just that – to experience, first hand, the way Costa Ricans live and how they are working to preserve their environment. Community-based rural tourism is run by community associations.

These communities own private ecological reserves or are near areas of ecological and cultural interest. All offer visitors a mix of cultural and environmental adventures in addition to the more usual tourist services such as accommodation, tours and

handicrafts. Their guests have the opportunity to discover the real Costa Rica – exploring well away from the tourist trail and getting to know the people involved in conservation at the grass roots level.





Amadeus Tours Programs

We are pleased to be able to assist you with your travel planning.

Since our opening in March 1994 our goal has been the realization of responsible and sustainable ecological tourism in Costa Rica. We actively support through donation from our company's income diverse sustainable tourism projects. As our Agency is located in Costa Rica and our highly trained team are fluent in English, Spanish and German you

can depend on a competent consultation in the planning of your trip.

We put a special value on the selection of our tour guides: expert knowledge (History of the country and its people, as well as its flora and fauna) and naturally their communication skills and respect for Costa Rica's way of life are the important selection criteria. This enables us to offer our customer an unforgettable trip into the nature paradise that is Costa Rica.

We would like to match your requirements, be it nature watching, adventure, relaxation or just an encounter with another culture with one of our many tour offers. We also offer study trips and an incentive program. As a special service for all our clients we provide a 24-hour Emergency Service.

welcome in Costa Rica.
Your Amadeus Team!

