



## ANDREWS GROUP TRAVEL COSTA RICA WHALE WATCHING AND VOLCANO ADVENTURE August 3 – August 9, 2014

- 2 nights at lomas del volcan hotel near arenal volcano, including daily breakfast, 2 queen beds and volcano views from each room
- Combo volcano hike & hot springs tour including round trip transportation and dinner
- Rio celeste tour
- Adventure connection from arenal to San Jose via río balsa white water rafting includes all transportation, luggage storage while touring, snacks and lunch. (dinner that night will be on your own in san jose)
- Domestic flights to and from san jose - drake bay - san jose
- 3 nights at aguila de OSA lodge, includes lodging and daily breakfast, lunch and dinner. They also have a fabulous little cocktail hour before dinner with music, appetizers and beverages. (alcohol is not included but available)
- Boating whale & dolphin tour that includes naturalist guide. Since the humpbacks' yearly southern migration to give birth takes place in this area of Costa Rica, they are frequently seen with their calves from august through October. *Perfect* timing!
- Hike to national park
- Snorkel tour
- VIP meet and greet at SJO airport and private transfers throughout your vacation

### **DAY 1 - AUGUST 3, 2014**

Fly into San Jose, Costa Rica

You will be walked through expedited customs and immigration and enjoy your private ground transfer as you explore the scenery of Costa Rica in a private air conditioned unit with your English speaking driver. Transfer time is approximately 3 hours. During the drive, we will stop for lunch near the town of San Ramon.



Check in to your hotel and this afternoon you have a volcano hike + hot springs tour. Your tour includes: transportation, naturalist guide, all entrance fees and dinner.

Duration: Tour Time (5 hours) + Transportation time (approx 1 hour)

### **Arenal Volcano Hike & Ecotermals Hot Springs (Aventuras Arenal)**

This is a great half day excursion for families, couples and friends who like moderate hikes, are interested in the local area and wish to bathe in thermal hot springs! You start your adventure when you are picked up from your hotel and driven 20 minutes to the Arenal Volcano National Park. The Arenal Volcano was once surrounded by lush dense rain forest until the huge eruption in 1968 where 3 craters burst open and covered the area in lava. Arenal has been erupting on a daily basis from 1968 until recently in 2010 when it entered a quiet phase. No-one is sure how long it will stay quiet, months or possibly years.

Hike for 2kms in the volcano national park enjoying a range of wildlife like monkeys, birds and various plant species and learning about the natural history of the area, before heading to the local Ecotermals thermal hot springs, famous for their therapeutic benefits since ancient times and well known for relieving stress and tension in both the

body and mind whilst detoxing the skin.

Eco Termales is the smallest of the Arenal Hot Springs accepting no more than 100 visitors at a time, perfect for couples, families and groups looking for an authentic experience in a tranquil rain forest setting. Owned by a local Costa Rican family there are 4 thermal hot spring pools varying in temperature between 91° F - 105° F.

Spend 2 hours bathing in the mineral enriched hot springs before enjoying an authentic, traditional Costa Rican meal at the Ecotermales restaurant. After your meal you will be driven back to your hotel.

*Please note: Hiking is intermediate level, there is gravel and loose rock*



### **Lomas del Volcan-Bungalow (Double)**

Lomas del Volcán Hotel is located along the foothills of Arenal Volcano in the province of Alajuela. The hotel's rustic mountain cabins are perfect for nature-lovers, couples and families with older children looking for value and relaxation.

The hotel has 47 cabin-style bungalows with rustic wooden furnishing and basic amenities. Each free-standing bungalow comes with, cable TV, A/C, safe deposit box, minibar, coffee maker and patio with views of the Arenal Volcano. Hairdryers are available by request at the lobby. Hotel amenities include complimentary Wi-Fi throughout the property and in-room massage treatments by appointment.

The Lomas Restaurant serves a delicious variety of Costa Rican and International dishes using quality local ingredients. El Volcan Bar also serves many local favorites, like their Tico-style "Moonshine Mojito" as well as the old-faithfuls, like Piñas Coladas made with fresh pineapple from the region.

Lomas del Volcán includes continental breakfast in their nightly rate. Other onsite amenities include a swimming pool, Jacuzzi, and 1.5 kms of nature trails.

Your Room: All rooms have 2 queens and two terraces, one with volcano views. The max occupancy is 4 people.

Nearby: Dining and nightlife, National Parks, Adventure Activities, Waterfalls, Hiking Trails.



## **DAY 2 - AUGUST 4, 2014**

### **Rio Celeste Tour (Aventuras Arenal)**

Your tour includes: Transportation, park entrance, guide, lunch, fruit and drinks

Duration: Tour Time (6 hours) + Transportation time (approx 4 hours in total)

The Rio Celeste hike is a great full day excursion for anyone looking for a moderate hike for 3.5 hours in a beautiful, unique part of Costa Rica, where you can experience primary and secondary rain forest, an array of wildlife and see the stunning Rio Celeste Waterfall!

Your day starts when you are picked up from your hotel and driven 2 hours to the Tenorio Volcano National Park where you will begin the 7 kilometer hike through the tropical rain forest. Hike for 1.5 hours along the national park trails searching for monkeys, sloths and tropical birds until you arrive at 'Los Teñideros'. This is where the two rivers come together to form the celestial, turquoise blue water color that gives the waterfall its name 'Celeste.' The sky blue color of the river Celeste is the result of the constant flow of minerals supplied by the nearby active Tenorio Volcano.

Continue hiking for another 1.5 hours to reach the main entrance where you will enjoy a traditional Costa Rican meal at a restaurant called Don Pedro. After lunch, head back to your hotel in Arenal after a wonderful day of hiking in the Tenorio primary forest!

*This hike is recommended for people in good physical condition and is classed as intermediate.*

### **DAY 3 - AUGUST 5, 2014**

#### **Adventure Connection Rafting Class 2-3 Rio Balsa (Desafio)-Arenal Volcano + Rafting Class 2-3 Rio Balsa + San José**

Your tour includes: Shared transportation, guides, towel, snack and lunch

Duration: Tour Time (3.5 hours) + Transportation time (approximately 3.5 hours in total)

This is the best way to travel between San Jose and Arenal enjoying a fun white water rafting trip on Rio Balsa along the way! Costa Rica is well known for its incredible white water rivers that take you through stunning forests and are home to an abundance of wildlife!

The Rio Balsa is perfect for beginners at a class level of II-III, but still challenging enough to make it an exciting excursion! Start your day when you are picked up from your hotel in San Jose or Arenal. From Arenal drive for 50 minutes to arrive at the river and from San Jose drive for 2.5 hours. When you arrive at Rio Balsa, the professional guides will give you a safety talk and paddling instructions before you set off paddling along the scenic river where you can see lots of wildlife like monkeys, sloths and tropical birds such as Ospreys, Oropendolas and Toucans. Spend 2 hours enjoying Rio Balsas 30 fun and easy-rolling rapids with names like 'Congo Loco' & 'Rock around the Croc' and the more challenging "Las Dragas". After completing all the rapids you will have time to swim in the river pools in an isolated rainforest river canyon setting! Then a quick walk to the river house to enjoy a delicious, home-cooked Costa Rican meal before setting off to check in at your next hotel either in San Jose or Arenal! Your luggage stays in the vehicles and the driver stays with your items while you are doing your tour. Desafio has private entrances and exits for their rafting tour locations, so your luggage stays safe.

*Moderate physical condition required. Fit enough to paddle for 2.5 hours*

Hotel: Hampton Inn & Suites by Hilton-Standard Room Double

Nearby: Dining and nightlife, Fiesta Casino (walking distance), Adventure Activities, Coffee Plantations, Shopping

### **DAY 4 - AUGUST 6, 2014**

Free Shared-Ride Airport Shuttle



Your Flight: dep 8:00a arr 8:50a (Except Tuesday- Thursday)

Take a short flight to your destination flying over Costa Rica's most beautiful scenery. 27 LB luggage weight limit per passenger, taxes and gas fees included. All flights operate with Cessna Grand Caravan 208B Aircraft - Approved by the United States Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Please note that all passengers must be at the airstrip 45 minutes prior to the flight departure time.

#### **3 Nights Corcovado Jungle Experience Package (Aguila de Osa Inn)- Double Room Nightly**

On the outskirts of Corcovado National Park

in Costa Rica's Osa Peninsula, the Aguila de Osa Inn is a captivating little eco-lodge perfect for families and couples looking for a relaxing jungle retreat with limitless access to the surrounding rainforest, ocean and wildlife.

Aguila de Osa's property spans an impressive 28 acres of protected rainforest. The hotel's 11 Guestrooms and 2 Suites are terraced up the lush cliffside overlooking the picturesque bay. The guestrooms maintain the lodge's rustic style with natural wood furnishings and basic amenities like ceiling fans, safe deposit box, minibar, and temperate showers. Rocking chairs and hammocks line the patios with the most stunning ocean and jungle views. Rooms at Aguila de Osa DO NOT HAVE A/C, TV or Wi-Fi. If connectivity is essential during your stay, complimentary Wi-Fi is available in the main Rancho and restaurant area.

Dining at the Rio Selva Restaurant is a fascinating experience where guests will enjoy a full meal plan of breakfast, lunch, appetizers and beverages, all the hotel guests gather to share about the day's exciting encounters.

Guests can enjoy complimentary use of kayaks to explore the river and surrounding bay area. Activities like ziplining, sport fishing, and more can be arranged with hotel staff (at an additional cost).

**\*Rates include:**

- Corcovado National Park Hike
- Caño Island snorkeling
- Daily meals and non-alcoholic beverages
- Roundtrip water/land transportation to Palma Sur or Drake Bay airstrip



Nearby: National Parks, Adventure Activities, Wildlife, Sport Fishing

Room Categories: (Maximum Occupancy is 2 for rooms with 1 King and 4 for rooms with 2 Queens)

Deluxe: 2 Queens. Ocean and Rainforest Views.

Junior Suite: 1 King. Ocean and Rainforest Views.

Master Suite: 2 Queens. Ocean and Rainforest Views.

**Whale & Dolphin Tour (Aguila de Osa)**



Get your camera ready! This is a fantastic tour for all ages. Participants can see humpback, pilot and false killer whales, or spotted, bottlenose and spinner dolphins.

Aguila de Osa Inn has several different boats available for whale and dolphin watching tours, all of which are spacious and comfortable. As always with this type of tour, the presence and exact location of these sea creatures can't be predicted or guaranteed, however sightings are frequent. Pods of humpback and pilot whales, as well as schools of spinner, bottlenose and spotted dolphins frequent the area at various times throughout the year.

Your tour will head towards Caño Island but may change direction if sightings occur elsewhere. Whales and dolphins can be seen surprisingly close to the hotel, though due to protective laws, snorkeling with them is not permitted. While whales and dolphins are most commonly seen independently of each other, it is not uncommon to see pods of whales accompanied by large schools of dolphins.

Surfacing at regular intervals to breathe, you may see them exhaling with deep, resonating sounds and enormous expulsions of vapor. As they breach the water's surface their large bodies briefly rise out of the water, exposing their heads, dorsal fin and tails. Since the humpbacks' yearly southern migration to give birth takes place in this area of Costa Rica, they are frequently seen with their calves from August through October. Schools of dolphin are most frequently seen in open water, frolicking effortlessly along the surface. They will often ride the waves just in front of the boat, giving passengers an exciting close-up view.

## **DAY 5 - AUGUST 7, 2014**

Hike the Corcovado National Park

Situated just 20-30 minutes by boat from Aguila de Osa Inn, Corcovado National Park is world renowned as one of Costa Rica's crown jewels of rich diversity and spectacular scenery.



**San Pedrillo Ranger Station:** San Pedrillo is Corcovado National Park's northernmost ranger station, and this excursion provides an unparalleled opportunity to explore the dense jungle of primary and secondary rainforests adjacent to the ranger station. Your guide will point out many of the diverse species dwelling around the trails during an hour and a half hike. You may see white-faced and howler monkeys, white-lipped peccaries, scarlet macaws, coati, and more. The trails are clearly marked and easy to navigate, ascending and descending through the verdant rainforest. After the first hike and a break for lunch, you will have the opportunity to hike to a beautiful waterfall, the perfect chance to take some photos and swim under the smaller falls nearby.

Your afternoon is free time (for an additional cost the following optional activities available – horseback riding, sport fishing, scuba diving – Kayaks available at no extra cost)

## **DAY 6 - AUGUST 8, 2014**

### **Cano Island Snorkeling Tour**

Only 12 nautical miles from Aguila de Osa Inn, Caño Island is a paradise for snorkelers, scuba divers, swimmers, and sunbathers alike! The Island can be seen just minutes after leaving the protected cove of the hotel, and the boat ride takes about 45 minutes. During the months of the Northern and Southern migrations (December to April and July to November) you may be lucky enough to spot humpback whales or dolphins frolicking in the ocean on your way to the Island!

Your afternoon is free time (for an additional cost the following optional activities available – horseback riding, sport fishing, scuba diving – Kayaks available at no extra cost)

Day 7: August 9, 2014

## **DAY 7 - AUGUST 9, 2014**

This morning Aguila de Osa will take you back to the airstrip for your flights to San Jose.

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### **Cost: Double Occupancy**

(Single rooms are not offered. If you need a roommate I will help you)

- \$2,480\* including all of the above and trip insurance. E the cost of International air (currently \$665.00-August 2014 flights are not available for booking at this time).

*\*Due to travel insurance being age dependent. If you are over 60 please add \$50 to the trip cost.*

All inbound flights must arrive in San Jose on August 3rd by 11:50am to make our afternoon tour.

Once the flights become available I will make reservations for the group and that cost will be added to the trip cost. If using miles or points for your flight, please let me know that you will be making your own flight reservations.

Due to the boutique style of the Aquila de Osa Inn space is limited to the first 20-24 people who pay the non-refundable deposit. Based on the response I have received I expect this trip to fill up in the next two weeks. Due to the popularity of this hotel they will hold the rooms for our group until **September 23rd**. So don't miss out on this amazing trip. If you want to go a decision must be made ASAP.

Your deposit is the **only** way to hold your spot. A *non-refundable* deposit of \$500 made payable to Andrews Group Travel and mailed to  
103 Brighton Close, Nashville, TN 37205