



Discover Costa Rica Garden Tour – January 2024

with Discover Our Tours

 DGT

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Trip Overview



Your host

Discover Our Tours 

 Jan 22 - Jan 29, 2024

 Group size: 10-16

 DGT



About this trip

Welcome to the Discover Costa Rica Garden Tour - January 2024!

Immerse yourself in the unparalleled beauty of Costa Rica's tropical gardens and experience the vibrant biodiversity of this stunning Central American country. From the lush rainforests to the dazzling butterfly gardens, you'll discover an array of extraordinary botanical wonders that will take your breath away.

Discover Our Tours takes you on a journey to some of the most extraordinary gardens and nature reserves that Costa Rica has to offer, allowing you to experience this tropical paradise from a unique perspective. Join us on this unforgettable adventure and let us show you why Costa Rica is truly a

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Trip Overview

gardener's paradise!

Special Instructions

A \$1,000 deposit per person is required to hold your reservation. The deposit is due no later than November 1, 2023 with final payment due no later than December 1, 2023.

This tour will require a minimum number of 10 tour participants to establish viability. Do NOT arrange airfare until you have been notified via email that the tour is fully viable !

For more information on this, or any of our other tours, please leave a message for **Ray at 816-842-7500** or send him an email at ray@discoverourtours.com

Please note that changes to the itinerary may be necessary due to weather, availability, or other factors beyond our control. Participants must be able to endure moderate physical activity (daily activities may include 2-4 hours of walking and 3-4 hours of bus rides) and should be in overall good health!

Passport Required

A valid passport is mandatory to leave the U.S. and/or to enter Costa Rica. Your passport must not expire within 6 months of your return from Costa Rica, otherwise, it will be considered non-valid and need to be renewed. If you need a passport, or if your passport needs to be renewed, please act now! It can take up to several months to receive a new or replacement passport.

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Trip Overview

What's included

✓ Lodging	7 nights accommodations - 3 Star+
✓ Transportation	Private shuttle from and to San Jose Airport (SJO) as well as private transportation for duration of tour.
✓ Welcome Dinner	Welcome Dinner the night of arrival
✓ Meals	All meals as noted on the itinerary starting with the Welcome Dinner and ending with breakfast on the last day
✓ Activities	All visits and activities indicated on The Itinerary.
✓ Entrance Fees	All admission and entrance fees to venues and events indicated on The Itinerary
✓ Water	Bottled water will be available onboard the tour shuttle
✓ Tour Guide	One English speaking Tour Guide
✓ Tips	Tips for local tour guides, waiters, and hotel staff
✓ Taxes	VAT taxes
✗ Airfare	No airfare to or from destination city
✗ Personal Expenses	
✗ Alcoholic Drinks	
✗ Tips	Tips for service of full-time tour guide and driver are appreciated. Suggested rate \$3-5/day depending on satisfaction of the service provided.
✗ Optional Activities	

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Trip Overview

<input type="checkbox"/> Covid testing	If applicable at time of tour
<input type="checkbox"/> Trip Insurance	Trip insurance is recommended. For your convenience, we provide a link at the bottom of our website - www.discovergardentours.com .

Packages & Options

Available packages

Double Occupancy, Per Person	\$3550
Price is per guest, with 10 - 14 guests	Deposit: \$1000
Available until Nov 18, 2023	

Single Occupancy, Per Person	\$4550
Price is per guest, with 10 - 14 guests	Deposit: \$1000
Available until Nov 18, 2023	

Group Leader	\$3550
Available until Nov 07, 2023	

Available options

Tour Extensions - available upon request	\$0
Pre-Tour 1-Night Stay	\$170

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Itinerary

DAY 1 – SAN JOSE Arrival in San Jose, Costa Rica

Bienvenidos a Costa Rica! Forget about the stress and hassle of airports and flights, and get ready to enjoy the Pura Vida!

Upon arrival at San Jose International Airport (SJO), you will be met by your driver and taken to the Hotel Bougainvillea. Depending on what time you arrive, take time to relax and explore the hotel and gardens. The Welcome Dinner will begin at 7:00pm.



INCLUDED

- * Airport Transfer from SJO to Hotel Bougainvillea
- * Lodging at Hotel Bougainvillea
- * Welcome Dinner

SPECIAL NOTE

After clearing Migration and Customs, you will exit the terminal. Your driver will be there waiting for you right outside, holding up a sign that will say "**Discover Garden Tours – North Carolina**".

OVERNIGHT AT HOTEL BOUGAINVILLEA

Description

The Hotel Bougainvillea is located 10 minutes away from downtown San Jose. The suburban hotel is surrounded by 10 acres of tropical gardens, with the ambiance of the Costa Rican lifestyle and hospitality. A favorite to nature, garden and birdwatching lovers.

Property Facilities

Bar, Business Centre, Gym, Internet Access (Complimentary), Laundry Service (Available), Pool, Restaurant, TV Room

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Itinerary

Room Facilities

Complimentary Wi-Fi, Fridge, Laundry Service (Available), Satellite / Cable Television, Tea / Coffee, Television

DAY 2 – TURRIALBA Turrialba

This morning we will check-out from Hotel Bougainvillea and board our private shuttle for our trip to Turrialba. Along the way we will visit Irazú Volcano National Park for a walk in its lunar landscape and a look into the crater. Later we will visit the beautiful Lankester Botanical Gardens. In the afternoon, continue traveling to the Turrialba Valley, in the shade of the active Turrialba volcano.



INCLUDED

- * Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- * Lodging: Hotel Villa Florencia
- * Visit: Irazú Volcano National Park
- * Visit: Lankester Botanical Garden

Irazú Volcano National Park

Irazú Volcano National Park, is in the province of Cartago. The volcano is still active although the last major eruptions were between 1963 and 1965, with occasional minor eruptions and some small lava flows since that time. The forest is made up of conifers and other exotic species, and also a native forest consisting mainly of oaks and alder, protecting the watershed of the Reventado River.

The main crater lake has an unusual greenish yellow coloring caused by rainfall dissolving the minerals along the craters walls. It has also been known to change color to rust-red depending on the minerals

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Itinerary

present. The inactive, dry Diego de la Haya crater, sits just up to the right of the main crater and is filled with volcanic ash.

Lankester Botanical Garden

Lankester Botanical Garden is located in Costa Rica, set on a 11-hectare property providing conservation, exhibition and research of tropical epiphytic plants with a focus on orchids. The botanical garden features over 3000 species of plants, a Japanese Garden, forest with trails, souvenir shop and a deck area for eating and drinking.

Turrialba

Situated in the Costa Rican Cartago Province, the small city of Turrialba is home to flourishing agriculture, textile, and tourism industries. Renowned for its amazing white water rafting, visitors can enjoy thrilling excursions down the Pacuare and Reventazon Rivers. This city serves as the gateway to the Costa Rican Caribbean and has been declared as a city of National Archeological Interest. Visitors can explore the largely undiscovered Turrialba Volcano National Park, home of the active Turrialba Volcano.

Hotel Villa Florencia

Hotel Villa Florencia offers guests the ideal place to rest in one of the most picturesque areas of Turrialba Valley. Sugarcane plantations and beautiful vegetation surround the hotel. It is located only 10 minutes from the city of Turrialba and guests will be able to enjoy privacy and hospitality. Hotel Villa Florencia offers 20 rooms carefully designed in harmony with the atmosphere around the villa, and its familiar and personal attention.

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DAY 3 – TURRIALBA Turrialba

This morning we will visit also Hacienda Sitio de Mata, where you will learn about the whole process for the coffee and the sugar cane.

There will be opportunities to try all the different products available! Later in the day we will visit the Tropical Agronomy Center for Research and Learning (CATIE), and see their botanical gardens with plants from around the world.



INCLUDED

- * Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- * Lodging: Villa Florencia
- * Visit: Hacienda Sitio de Mata
- * Visit: CATIE

Hacienda Sitio de Mata Tour

Hacienda Sitio de Mata offers a guided expedition consisting of touring the hacienda, where visitors will learn about the different processes of coffee, macadamia and sugar cane. During the tour, visitors will also visit a colonial church from 1850 and a plank house built in 1750 on the slopes of the Irazú volcano. The journey includes a Costa Rican typical lunch.

The Botanical Garden of CATIE

Surrounded by the calls of birds, the whisper of the giant Guanacaste tree and the imposing Ceiba, The Botanical Garden of CATIE is a special place to relax. Here, tourists will find life ranging from minuscule parasites to exquisite orchids, bromeliads and robust stands of bamboo. The garden serves as a laboratory for students and scientists investigating the molecular and morphological characteristics of the conserved species. It is also an educational

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Itinerary

site, where awareness about environmental conservation and the sustainable use and protection of natural resources is promoted.

DAY 4 - HEREDIA Heredia

After breakfast we will check-out of Hotel Villa Florencia and begin to travel back towards San Jose. After one final visit to a local plant nursery, travel back to the Central Valley. In the evening, visit Mrs. Ileana Terán's home, see her private garden, and share her stories and knowledge over fine wine.

INCLUDED

- * Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
 - * Lodging: Hotel Bougainvillea
 - * Visit: Jardin Ileana Terán
 - * Transfer to Heredia
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DAY 5 - HEREDIA Heredia

This morning we will check out of Hotel Bougainvillea and head West out of San Jose and on to the Central Pacific Coast. On the way there we will be stopping at The Green Ark Foundation. After lunch we will continue on to Quepos.

INCLUDED

- * Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
 - * Lodging: Hotel San Bada
 - * Visit: The Green Ark
-



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Itinerary

The Green Ark Foundation

The Green Ark Foundation is located in Santa Barbara de Heredia, Costa Rica, and is a foundation that aims to educate and share knowledge of the use of plants. The botanical garden features different terraces, including a Medicinal garden, a culinary garden, a tropical food garden, an essential oils garden and a natural colorants garden. Visitors may enjoy walking around the garden, and there are guided tours available. The on-site restaurant serves delicious produce from the garden, which visitors may enjoy.

Hotel San Bada

Hotel San Bada is located a two minute walk away from the popular Manuel Antonio Beach in Costa Rica. The hotel is approximately 6 km from downtown Quepos and its marine port. Travel through colorful places by the mountains, bridges that cross rivers full of crocodiles and highways that border the coast of the Costa Rican Pacific. Observe the mountains covered with beautiful foliage and the beaches of the Central Pacific.

DAY 6 – MANUEL ANTONIO Manuel Antonio

This morning we will experience the Rainforest Spices tour at Villa Vanilla. Afterwards, we will visit Manuel Antonio National Park. Come prepared to hike in the forest and enjoy time at the beach!

INCLUDED

- * Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- * Lodging: Hotel San Bada
- * Visit: Villa Vanilla



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Itinerary

* Visit: Manuel Antonio National Park

Villa Vanilla Rainforest Spices Farm Tour

Villa Vanilla Rainforest Spices Farm Tour takes place at the magical Villa Vanilla Spice Plantation located in the Central Pacific rain forest, overlooking Manuel Antonio National Park. Spanning over 27 acres of agriculture production and 125 acres of primary and secondary rainforest, this expansive farmland houses vanilla, as well as true Ceylon cinnamon, cocoa, black pepper, allspice, turmeric, and a variety of exotic fruits, essential oil and medicinal plants. Available in both the morning and afternoon, this serene half-day tour allows participants to experience the sights, tastes, and aromas of the spices, meander along the winding plantation trail and shop for souvenirs to take home.

Manuel Antonio National Park

Set just south of Quepos, on Costa Rica's Central Pacific Coast, the Manuel Antonio National Park is one of the most bio-diverse areas in the world. Boasting enthralling rain forests, beaches, and gorgeous coral reefs, this is an ultimate destination for outdoor explorers. Some of the best beaches are the Playa Espadilla Sur and Playa Manuel Antonio, and the conditions for swimming, snorkeling, and surfing (lessons are offered) are excellent here. In the forests, hikers may see iguanas, sloths, snakes, lizards, butterflies, different types of monkeys and brightly colored tiny crabs. The forest is a mecca for birdwatchers - there are more than 350 spectacular bird species including toucans and emerald amazon kingfishers. Several lovely bistros and bars are scattered around the outskirts.

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Itinerary

DAY 7 – SAN JOSE San Jose

After breakfast we will check-out of Hotel San Bada and board the shuttle to begin our trip back into the Central Valley and our final trip back into San Jose. On our way we will stop at Botanical Orchid Garden where we will spend time exploring the gardens and enjoying a nice lunch.

INCLUDED

- * Meals: Breakfast, lunch, dinner
- * Lodging: Hotel Don Ernesto
- * Visit: The Botanical Orchid Garden

Botanical Orchid Garden

Botanical Orchid Garden is located in La Garita, Alajuela. For more than 30 years, trees and palms have been planted throughout the property. This has created a habitat for hundreds of plants so that visitors can enjoy walking along the garden's trails. The nurseries preserve, cultivate and reproduce an extensive orchid family.

Hotel Don Ernesto

Our hotel is located in a beautiful 74-hectare coffee plantation, the song of the birds will wake you up, you will be able to walk through beautiful private trails, you will learn everything about coffee. Our rooms are inspired by the typical Costa Rican country house, cozy without frills. With a view of the coffee plantation, you will enjoy a delicious Gallo Pinto and freshly brewed coffee. Lush tropical gardens await you just 30 minutes from the airport.



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Itinerary

DAY 8 – SAN JOSE Transfer to the SJO airport

- After Breakfast we will check-out from Hotel Don Ernesto for our transfer back to San Jose International Airport (SJO) where you will catch your flight back home.
- Or begin your Optional Tour Extension. See Discover Garden Tours for details.



Pura vida!

INCLUDED

- * Breakfast
 - * Airport transfer
-

Your organizer



Discover Our Tours

★★★★★ 4 reviews

At Discover Garden Tours we design all of our tours to maximize your intimate garden tour experience. This year's list of curated garden tours are designed for both Master Gardeners and garden lovers alike. We handle the details; you make the memories.

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 <https://discoverourtours.com/>

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