



## Costa Rica

Coast to Coast Honeymoon Adventure

# PIONEER EXPEDITIONS



**DO SOMETHING EXTRAORDINARY...**

<b>ITINERARY</b>	<b>Costa Rica • Honeymoon</b>
<b>17 DAYS • 16 NIGHTS</b>	San José – Tortuguero – Siquirres – Sarapiquí – La Fortuna – Monteverde - Arenal Reserve – Selvatura Park – Rincon De La Vieja National Park – Playa Hermosa - San José

HIGHLIGHTS	TOUR ESSENTIALS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Stay in surreal Xandari Hotel</li> <li>■ Raft the wildly beautiful Pacuare River</li> <li>■ Chance to see vast array of birds and mammals</li> <li>■ Relax in hot springs under the shadow of a Volcano</li> <li>■ Enjoy the Pacific coast beach at your leisure.</li> </ul>	<p>Tour Style</p> <p>Tour Start</p> <p>Tour End</p> <p>Accommodation</p> <p>Included Meals</p> <p>Difficulty Level</p>	<p>Family Expedition</p> <p>San José</p> <p>San José</p> <p>Hotel, Lodge</p> <p>16 Breakfasts, 4 lunches, 4 Dinners</p> <p>Medium</p>



## COSTA RICA HONEYMOON ADVENTURE

For this fantastic Costa Rican Honeymoon adventure, we explore National Parks and Forests, experience rapids, unforgettable wildlife, hot springs and even a volcano. There is so much to take in; including days spent relaxing on the beach towards the end of the trip. A perfect way to spend your honeymoon with your loved one.



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# COSTA RICA, *an overview*

Eco-diversity like no other - Costa Rica encases 500,000 different species which account for roughly 4% of the world's plant, insect and wildlife species. Witness Sloths, Monkeys, Frogs, Snakes, Turtles, Iguanas, Humming Birds and so much more. Wander through tranquil bird-packed cloud forests and rich rainforests brimming with a plethora of spectacular wildlife. As well as its head-turning abundance of wildlife, this Central American paradise is famed for its never-ending activities, making it an adventure-seeker's dream; the vast array of activities widely on offer include Zip-lining, White-Water Rafting and Trekking. The incredibly beautiful east and west shores that run down the sides of Costa Rica display gorgeous paradise beaches lined with jungle, such as the secluded sandy stretches of the laid-back Caribbean coastline and the 'sun and surf' pacific stretches containing some great marine life. Become acquainted with the warm friendly locals, offering huge smiles, an easy-going manner and 'Pura Vida's. Despite receiving a heavy influx of tourists in recent years, there are still some extraordinary hidden gems and quiet spots to be found which will allow the more adventurous of tourists to experience nature, activities and culture that the typical tourists let pass them by.

## WHY PIONEER EXPEDITIONS?

Pioneer Expeditions are one of the few specialists that really *do* off the beaten track and unique adventures. The team have a real passion for wildlife and adventure travel which we love to share with our clients. We delight in searching the world for new destinations, new experiences and creating the most incredible adventures.

We like to introduce our clients to unique, the different, and the incredible. Whether it is through wildlife tracking, sea kayaking, snorkelling, trekking, rafting, cycling or observing wildlife in its natural environment, we want to give you the real Pioneer experience.

From the moment you choose to travel with Pioneer Expeditions until you return back home, you are supported by our dedicated team. We listen to what you want and can create an itinerary around your specific needs, working with your budget and with a commitment to responsible travel.

## ITINERARY



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## DAY 1: Arrive in SAN JOSÉ



Meeting and greeting at the San Jose International Airport by our staff and get a private transfer to your Hotel in San Jose.

Our staff will help you with the check-in and will give you the Welcome Kit with important information about your trip and will review the itinerary with you. Hotel includes: 2 hours open bar, free international phone calls – Wi-Fi- daily breakfast.

Lodging at Xandari



Overnight:  
**Hotel**



Meals:  
**Nil**



Distance:  
**10-15min airport transfer**



Activity:  
**Travel**

## DAY 2: Transfer to TORTUGUERO NATIONAL PARK

Early morning start as you are picked up from your hotel and transferred to Tortuguero (breakfast on route). You will arrive to Caño Blanco pier before boarding a motor boat (2hours) to take you to the lodge for lunch.

In the afternoon you will get the chance to adventure into Tortuguero Town and visit the Turtle Centre!

\*\* Today we recommend taking the tour to see turtles, it has to be arranged at the front desk of the hotel (cost \$35 per person). You can also book it for the second night in case that you don't have any luck on the first night.

Lodging at Mawamba or Pachira Lodge – Standard Room or similar



Overnight:  
**Lodge**



Meals:  
**B, L, D**



Distance:  
**Approx. 2.5hrs driving**



Activity:  
**Travel and wildlife**



## DAY 3: Explore TORTUGUERO NATIONAL PARK

Day in Tortuguero, visit to the canals. (Entrance fee to the National Park is not included, as this has to be paid directly at the park, \$10 per person). *Tour can be in the morning or afternoon; it will depend on the itinerary.* Today you can also visit the butterfly garden, frog garden and the trails around the hotel. Optional tours are offered at the lodge

Lodging at Mawamba or Pachira Lodge – Standard Room or similar



Overnight:  
**Lodge**



Meals:  
**B, L, D**



Distance:  
**Varies**



Activity:  
**Wildlife**

## DAY 4: Depart from TORTUGUERO and travel to SIQUIRRES for some White Water Rafting – SAN MARTIN

Breakfast at the lodge, followed by a 2 hour motor boat to the pier where you will board the bus for your return drive to Siquirres. You will be dropped off at a restaurant where the rafting company Rios Tropicales will be waiting to take you to their Operations Centre where lunch will be served. You'll then depart for our private rafting put-in on the Pacuare River in San Martin. There your professional guides will load your gear into dry bags, prepare all the rafting equipment, give you complete safety and paddle instruction. The first day's Class III rapids welcome you to the Pacuare gorge's charm as you raft deep in the heart of primary rainforest. Along its course lie several densely vegetated gorges sheltering many animals, including sloths, river otters, and anteaters, and an incredible variety of birds—toucans,



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egrets, herons, kingfishers, sunbirds, and trogons. Before you know it, you'll arrive at our unique Rios Tropicales Lodge where you can spend the afternoon relaxing, hiking or soaking in our waterfall and pools. Nestled in the jungle on our 2,000-acre private reserve, the Lodge offers you all the comforts you need in "Cabecar Indian" style bungalows.

*Dinner and overnight at Rios Tropicales Lodge*



**Overnight:**  
**Lodge**



**Meals:**  
**B, L, D**



**Distance:**



**Activity:**  
**White water rafting**



## DAY 5: A Forest Adventure past Waterfalls, Serene Pools and Pounding Rapid – LA FORTUNA

Breakfast at the hotel

This morning, enjoy a four-platform canopy tour through the forest. Hike on a trail high above the rainforest canopy for sweeping view of the river corridor below. After the hike we will pack up and load the rafts in preparation for paddling down the Pacuare gorge past gushing waterfalls, serene pools and pounding rapids. A snack stop by the riverside lets you explore more waterfalls and natural waterslides. An adrenaline-packed afternoon running rapids like Double Drop, Upper Huacas, Lower Huacas, Cimarron, Dos Montañas and many more, will have you cheering ecstatically. We take out near the town of Siquirres and come back to the Operation Centre where you can take a shower and get ready for the transfer to La Fortuna, home of the famous Arenal Volcano.

*Lodging at Montaña de Fuego – Standard room or similar*



**Overnight:**  
**Resort**



**Meals:**  
**B, L**



**Distance:**  
**Approx. 3hr transfer**



**Activity:**  
**Hiking**



## DAY 6: LA FORTUNA ADVENTURE – BALDI HOT SPRINGS

After a delicious breakfast your adventure begins. Get ready to fly through the rain forest on one of the best zip lines in La Fortuna. You will ride an open-air gondola from the ground to the heights where you'll be dropped off at an observation deck for fantastic views of the volcano and land below. From the observation deck, return to the ground below by riding down on a circuit of zip lines stretching across canyons and between treetops.

In the evening you will travel to the Baldi Hot springs where you can relax on the 18 free form, landscaped pools that provide a great view of the volcano and a multitude of options. With temperatures ranging from 83 °F to 103°F and



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environments that vary from raging waterfalls to tranquil forest experiences you can find the perfect pool for their mood and the current weather conditions. Dinner is included at the hot springs. Transportation is not included but you can coordinate a taxi from the front desk of the hotel.

*Lodging at Montaña de Fuego – Standard room or similar*



**Overnight:**  
**Resort**



**Meals:**  
**B, D**



**Distance:**

**Activity:**



## DAY 7: Spend the day explore the ARENAL VOLCANO before indulging on a CHOCOLATE & COFFEE TOUR

Breakfast included at the hotel.

Today you have a shared transfer to Monteverde. Your 3 hours transfer starts with a ground transfer, then continues from where you will admire the exotic wildlife that lives within this zone while enjoying the transition from the rain forest to the cloud forest, reaching the best view point of the Monteverde Cloud Forest Preserve and an impressive panoramic view of the Arenal Volcano. The scenic transfer ends on the other side of the Lake, where a jeep ride will be waiting for you to take you to your hotel.

Afternoon Chocolate & Coffee Tour. On the tour you will be completely immersed for 30 minutes within the world of chocolate enjoying its delicious aromas and learning about its history. You will participate in the chocolate making process and have the opportunity to taste the fruit of the cacao and observe how the small cocoa beans are magically converted into a rich tasting chocolate drink.

You will get an insight into the traditional methods that our ancestors used to roast the beans, separate the husks and grind the beans. At the end of the tour you can enjoy the taste of the chocolate you've made in a variety of forms; liquid chocolate, plain chocolate, spiced chocolate and of course, coffee chocolate.

*Lodging at Monteverde Country Lodge – Standard room or similar.*



**Overnight:**  
**Lodge**



**Meals:**  
**B**



**Distance:**  
**3 hr**

**Activity:**  
**Wildlife**



## DAY 8: SELVATURA PARK, MONTEVERDE CLOUD FOREST

Breakfast included at the hotel.

Selvatura Park is a nature and Adventure Park where visitors can enjoy the beauty of the Monteverde Cloud Forest today you will enjoy of the Hanging Treetop Walkways Bridges, Selvatura's Tree Top Walkways consist of a **1.9 mile** (approximately 3 kilometres) trail that crosses through the Monteverde Cloud Forest. Here visitors will walk on eight different bridges with various lengths ranging between 150 feet (50 meters) up to 510 feet (170 meters) and altitudes ranging between 36 feet (12 meters) up to 180 feet (60 meters). Each bridge has a width of five feet, the widest bridges in Costa Rica, and also a capacity of up to 80 people per bridge making them both the longest and strongest bridge systems in the Monteverde Cloud Forest. The duration of the hike usually takes between 1.5 and 2 hours we recommend the early morning tour so you can have more chance of observing more wild life. After that, visit to the Butterfly garden of Selvatura. Afternoon, shared transfer to Rincon de la Vieja.

*Lodging at Hacienda Guachipelin – Standard room or similar.*



Overnight:  
**Hotel**



Meals:  
**B**



Distance:  
**Approx. 2-3hr transfer**

Activity:  
**Wildlife**



## DAY 9: RINCÓN DE LA VIEJA NATIONAL PARK

Breakfast included at the hotel

Today you have a guided hike to Rincon de la Vieja National Park – Las Pailas section. The Las Pailas section of the Rincón de la Vieja National Park is located very near Hacienda Guachipelín's ranch. On this loop trail of about 2.5 miles (3.5 km), you can enjoy the best views of the active Rincón de la Vieja Volcano without climbing the main crater. Here you can find a great variety of vegetation and trees, and the Park is home to mammals like raccoons, white-nosed coatis, Central American agoutis, armadillos, tapirs and three species of monkeys, as well as birds such as the Blue-crowned Motmot, the Crested Guan and the Emerald Toucanet. The most impressive and spectacular features of the National Park are its volcanic elements. Steam and sulphur pour out of the yellow and rust-coloured ground at natural fumaroles. Clay and coffee-coloured pools bubble with boiling hot volcanic water. Smooth grey volcanic mud froths and explodes upward at the "Cauldrons" ("Las Pailas" in Spanish), for which this section of the Park is named. You'll also find beautiful little rushing rivers and small waterfalls crisscrossing the trails.

The rest of the day is at leisure (you can choose an option to visit the Hot Springs and relax with the volcanic mud – not included in package)

*Lodging at Hacienda Guachipelin – Standard room or similar.*



Overnight:  
**Hotel**



Meals:  
**B**



Distance:  
**Varies**

Activity:  
**Wildlife**



## DAY 10: TO THE BEACH!

Breakfast at the hotel

Today we say good bye to Rincon de la Vieja and we head to the beach! Our Hotel for the next days will be to Bosque del Mar Hotel on Playa Hermosa.

*Lodging at Bosque del Mar Hotel on Playa Hermosa- Beachfront room*



Overnight:  
**Hotel**



Meals:  
**B**



Distance:  
**Approx. 2hrs drive**



Activity:  
**Relax at the beach**

## DAYS 11-14: AT THE BEACH

Breakfast included at the hotel

These days are for you to enjoy the beach and the facilities of the hotel.

On day 14 you will have an option to return to San Jose for a night in Xandari Resort and Spa or option 2 to visit Irazu.

*Lodging at Bosque del Mar Hotel on Playa Hermosa- Beachfront room*



Overnight:  
**Hotel**



Meals:  
**B**



Distance:  
**N/A**



Activity:  
**Days at leisure**

## DAY 15: TRANSFER FROM BEACH TO SAN JOSÉ

Breakfast at the Hotel

Share transfer from Bosque del Mar Hotel on Playa Hermosa to San Jose

*Lodging at Bosque del Mar Hotel on Playa Hermosa- Beachfront room*



Overnight:  
**Hotel**



Meals:  
**B**



Distance:  
**Approx. 4-5hr drive**



Activity:  
**Transfer**

## DAY 16: IRAZU VOLCANO

Breakfast at the hotel

Today we have a tour to Irazu Volcano. The Irazu Volcano (Volcán Irazú) is situated in the Cordillera Central just a few kilometers from Cartago, and it is a relatively short and pleasant drive from the Capital city of San Jose.

The trip begins by ascending the breathtaking summit of the Irazu Volcano, passing all types and forms of vegetation, from coffee plantations, to ferns, depending on the elevation. The trip leads up to a spectacular view of the massive crater which is home to a lagoon with a mystical green hue surrounded by jagged rocks.

It should be mentioned, that on a clear day you can actually see both the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans!

After an exciting tour of the volcano, we will descend to the historical city of Cartago. Here we will visit the mysterious ruins of the old Parish and take in the beautiful Basilica of our Virgin of Los Angeles (Virgen de Los Angeles) with rich displays of carvings, statues and other art.

You will be transferred back to your hotel at the end of the tour.

*Lodging at Xandari*







Overnight:  
**Hotel**



Meals:  
**B**



Distance:  
**Varies**



Activity:  
**Exploring the area**

## DAY 17: TRANSFER TO AIRPORT

Breakfast included

Transfer to the airport. The hotel offers free shuttle to the airport, you can coordinate with the front desk the best time for you to go. Be advised that you need to be 2.5 hours before your flight at the airport to do the necessary arrangements and to buy the departure taxes (\$29usd per person) which you obtain at the airport



Overnight:  
**N/A**



Meals:  
**B**



Distance:  
**10-15min airport transfer**



Activity:  
**Travel**

## ACCOMMODATION, at a glance

Subject to availability

### Best Western Irazu

San José

<https://www.bestwesterncostarica.com/en-gb>



### Mawamba Lodge

Tortuguero

<https://www.mawamba.com/>



### Pachira Lodge

Tortuguero

<https://www.pachiralodge.com/>



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**Rios Tropicales Lodge**

Guayacán

<https://rios-tropicales.business.site/>



Photos from TripAdvisor

**Montaña de Fuego**

Arenal Volcano

<https://www.montanadefuego.com/>



**Monteverde Country Lodge**

Children's Eternal Rainforest

<http://www.monteverdecountrylodge.com/>



**Hacienda Guachipelin**

Provincia de Guanacaste

<https://www.guachipelin.com/>



**Tamarindo Diria Hotel**

Tamarindo

<https://www.tamarindodiria.com/>



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### Bosque Del Mar

Playa Hermosa

<https://www.xandari.com/>



## WHAT OUR CLIENTS HAVE SAID

*"Everything was just perfect - thank you all!"*

-Di Clemente

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### INCLUDED

- Arrival Airport Transfer (from Juan Santamaría International Airport (SJO) to hotel in San José.
- Accommodation as outlined above.
- Local bilingual English-Spanish speaking guides/interpreters on shared basis during the excursions and tours.
- A combination of private land transportation and shared transfers. Transportation to Tortuguero is on shared basis.
- Meals (B= Breakfast, L= Lunch, S = Snacks/light lunch; D= Dinner).
- All tours and activities as outlined. Some tours are on a shared basis.

### NOT INCLUDED

- International flights
- Meals not mentioned in the itinerary
- International Airport departure tax of \$26 p/p. payable in San Jose upon exit. Extras at hotels (telephone calls, room service, portage, laundry, alcoholic drinks, etc.)
- Any additional/extra tours or park fees.
- Tips & Gratuities for Guide, Driver, local guides and service providers.
- Personal and/or medical expenses.
- Entrance fee to Tortuguero National Park

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION



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ACTIVITY DURATION	2 – 5 hours per day
SEASON	This expedition is open between January and December
BEST TIME TO GO	The driest time of year to travel to Costa Rica is December – April, so this does make a great destination at these times.
GROUP SIZE	This itinerary is based on a family of 4 (aged 9 & above) sharing a quadruple room in high season. If you have older children and would prefer not sharing this is possible at a small supplement.
EXPEDITION SCHEDULE	This is run as a tailor-made departure to suit you and your honeymoon.
DIFFICULTY LEVEL	Our grades have been designated based on our perception of the degree of physical activity you are likely to require to enjoy the adventure. These are only a guideline. This itinerary has a 'Medium' level (2 – 5 hours of activities per day). This means that you will need an average level of fitness.

## THE PIONEER BOOKING PROCESS

Where do you go from here? Well, you can feel free to email us at [info@pioneerexpeditions.com](mailto:info@pioneerexpeditions.com) if you're interested in this trip, or any of our other expeditions from around the world. Visit our website [www.pioneerexpeditions.com](http://www.pioneerexpeditions.com) to unearth all of our other equally amazing trips and destinations.

### 1. Contact us -

We will be happy to answer any questions or enquiries you may have. From here we will begin to plan and put together your dream adventure holiday! Alternatively, on our website you will find our booking and enquiry forms; once filled in, we will be notified of your enquiry and will get back to you ASAP.

### 2. Leave everything to us -

Everything will be arranged and booked by us, but we will make sure to keep you updated every step of the way. In addition, we can arrange your international flights if needed, as we have access to competitive airfares. We can also arrange any additional tours or additional night's accommodation.

### 3. Wait for your adventure to begin -

Sit back and count down the days until your trip of a lifetime with Pioneer Expeditions. We'll handle all of the last minute preparations and provide you with everything you need. All practical information will be sent out to you, prior to your trip.

If you feel like altering this itinerary to suit your personal preferences, we can arrange all of that and more – just get in contact with us and let us know your requirements and wishes. From here, we can simply tailor-make your dream holiday.

