

Costa Rica

Rafting & Wildlife Of Corcovado

PIONEER EXPEDITIONS



ITINERARY

Costa Rica • Corcovado Explorer

9 DAYS . 8 NIGHTS

San José — Pacuare River – Drake Bay

HIGHLIGHTS

- Visit one of most biologically intense places on earth
- Raft the Pacuare river
- Trek the varied coastal habitat
- Chance to see vast array of birds and mammals

TOUR ESSENTIALS

Tour Style	Nature Expedition
Tour Start	Juan Santamaria
Tour End	San José
Accommodation	Lodge & Hotel
Included Meals	As mentioned
Difficulty Level	Medium

WILDLIFE ADVENTURE

For this amazing Costa Rican adventure – we spend 3 days on the spectacular Pacuare River before exploring the Osa Penisula in the Corcovado National park, one of the most remote and least visited tourist destinations on the continent.

Described as 'the most biologically intense place on Earth' by National Geographic Magazine, we will raft and trek this rainforest. This is a moderate adventure and is ideal for both adventure seekers and nature lovers who are in are comfortable travelling with limited facilities.

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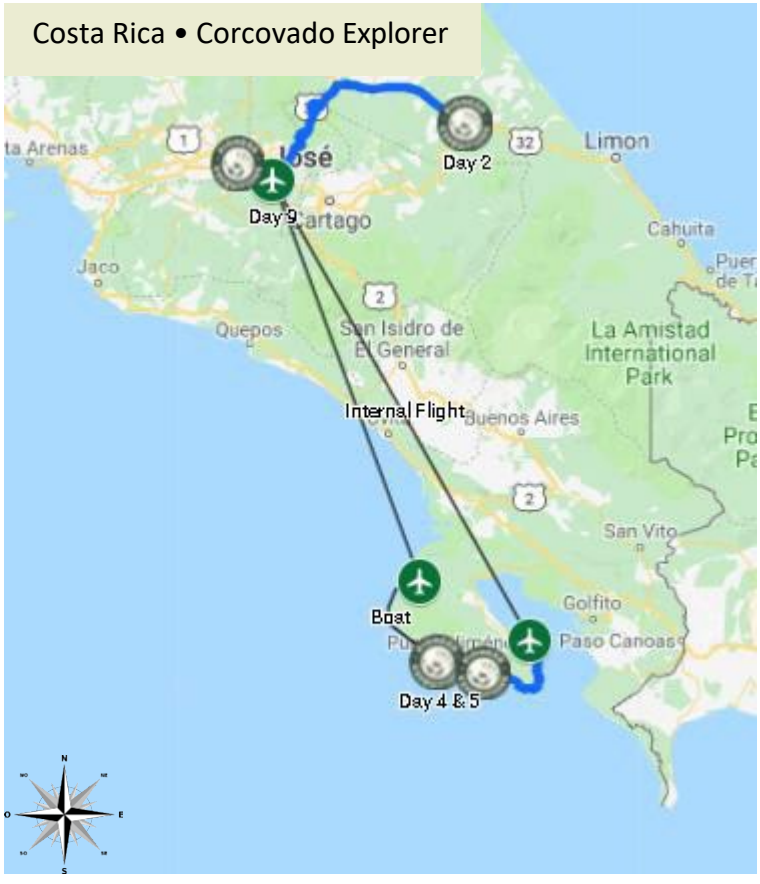
COSTA RICA, *an overview*

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



DAY 1: Arrive into SAN JOSE

After arriving at Juan Santamaria (SJO) Airport, we will transfer to our hotel in the San Jose City.
The city of San Jose, located in the centre of the country, has served as the main hub for the exploration of Costa Rica. Attractions in San Jose include the National Theatre, the National Museum, the Art Museum or the Pre-Columbian Gold Museum, the picturesque Central Market Place and several art cafes. Shopping also finds its birthplace in San Jose, from the modern malls to the little souvenir shops spread out all over the city.

Overnight El President (superior room)

Overnight: ***Inn*** *Meals:* ***Nil*** *Distance:* ***30min airport transfer*** *Activities:* ***Travel***

DAY 2: Begin your RAFTING experience on PACUARE RIVER



We have an early start this morning as we leave our hotel and head to the Caribbean side of Costa Rica. We will stop en-route for breakfast and arrive at el Cairo of Siquirres to start the first part of our adventure – rafting the Pacuare River. Winding deep inside of one of Costa Rica's most impressive primordial rainforests, the Pacuare River, officially declared a Wild and Scenic River, offers some of the finest white water rafting in Latin America. We will traverse 18 miles of remote and scenic waters that course through a wilderness of dense vegetation, plummeting waterfalls and steep gorges that rise above the riverbanks. The thick undergrowth provides shelter for jaguars, ocelots, monkeys, sloths, and numerous other species of animals and birds. We will stop on the river at the Rios lodge where we will have dinner and stay overnight.

Overnight at Rios Lodge

Overnight: ***Lodge*** *Meals:* ***B, L, D*** *Distance:* ***2-3hrs driving*** *Activities:* ***Rafting***

DAY 3: A Day at Rios Lodge for Activities

Following breakfast at the lodge

Enjoy a full day of guided adventures at Ríos Lodge in the heart of the Pacuare rainforest. Choose from a variety of immersive activities, including a waterfall hike through lush jungle trails, wildlife observation with chances to spot toucans and monkeys, or a cultural visit to a nearby indigenous Cabécar community to learn about their traditions. For a thrilling perspective, walk the canopy bridge high above the forest floor, offering stunning views and unique wildlife encounters. Each activity is led by knowledgeable local guides who provide ecological insights and ensure a memorable, nature-filled experience in this pristine environment

Overnight

Overnight: ***Rios Lodge*** *Meals:* ***B L D*** *Distance:* ***2-3hrs driving*** *Activities:* ***Rafting***

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DAY 4 : Continue RAFTING on RIVER PACUARE

Following breakfast at the lodge we start our second day paddling the Pacuare River. In the afternoon we will departure on overland transfer back to San Jose.

Overnight Presidente

Overnight: ***Inn*** *Meals:* ***B*** *Distance:* ***2-3hrs driving*** *Activities:* ***Rafting***

DAY 5: Fly to DRAKE BAY for Corcovado

This morning we will transfer to the local airstrip for our domestic flight to Drake Bay. We will head to Casa Drake . This afternoon will be free to explore the surroundings and enjoy a short hike.



Overnight at Casa Drake Lodge (Jungle Bungalow or similar)

Overnight: ***Lodge*** *Meals:* ***B, L, D*** *Distance:* ***Short flight*** *Activities:* ***Travel***

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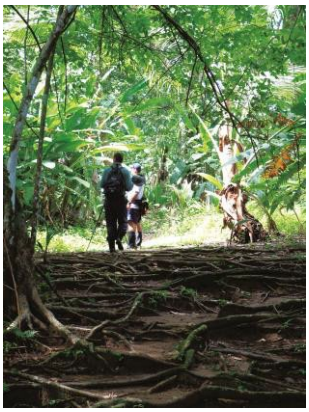
DAY 6 : Spend the day at leisure with optional morning birdwatch

Spend the morning bird watching or enjoying other activities from the lodge and the afternoon at leisure

Overnight at Casa Drake

Overnight: ***Lodge*** *Meals:* ***B, L, D*** *Distance:* ***N/A*** *Activities:* ***Trekking***

DAY 7 : San Pedrillo Corcovado



Enjoy a guided visit to the San Pedrillo sector of Corcovado National Park, one of the most biologically diverse places on Earth. Led by an expert naturalist guide, explore pristine rainforest trails where you may encounter wildlife such as scarlet macaws, tapirs, monkeys, and even elusive jaguars. Learn about the park's unique ecosystems, including primary and secondary rainforest, rivers, and coastal areas. After your adventure, relax at Casa Drake Lodge, a tranquil eco-lodge nestled in the Osa Peninsula's lush jungle. Your stay includes comfortable accommodations and three daily meals—breakfast, lunch, and dinner—featuring fresh, locally sourced ingredients

Overnight Casa Drake

Overnight: ***Lodge*** *Meals:* ***B, L, D*** *Distance:* *Activities:* ***Trekking***

DAY 8: RETURN TO SAN JOSE

This morning we will return to Drakes Bay for our flight to San Jose

Your hotel is within walking distance to San Jose's attractions like the Gold Museum and Central Market which you can visit in the afternoon at your leisure.

Overnight at El Presidente (Superior room)

Overnight: ***Inn*** *Meals:* ***B*** *Distance:* ***Approx. 2hr drive*** ***Short flight*** *Activities:* ***Travel***

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DAY 9: END OF EXPEDITION or head to the beach

This morning after breakfast we will transfer to the airport for our onward flight home (or if you fancy an extension in Costa Rica or another Central American country, we are happy to organise this).

 *Overnight:* ***N/A***

 *Meals:* ***B***

 *Distance:* ***30min airport transfer***

 *Activities:* ***Travel***

NB: *This itinerary is subject to change – arrangements, routes and facilities are subject to variation depending on local conditions.*

Beach Extension Idea

On **Day 8**, after a relaxing breakfast at the lodge, you'll embark on a private land transfer from Casa Drake to Uvita. This scenic drive along the Southern Pacific coast lasts approximately 4 to 5 hours, offering stunning ocean views and lush landscapes. Upon arrival, you'll settle into the charming Hotel La Cusinga, staying in an Ocean View Superior Room that captures the natural beauty of the area.

Day 9 begins with breakfast at the hotel before heading out on a morning whale and dolphin watching tour in Marino Ballena National Park, a spectacular experience available seasonally from July to October and December to March. The park is famous for its unique marine life and the iconic whale tail-shaped sandbar visible at low tide. The afternoon is free to relax, explore the pristine beaches, or wander the peaceful trails surrounding the lodge, immersing yourself in the tranquility of Uvita's rainforest and coastline.

On **Day 10**, after breakfast, you'll take a private transfer back to San José, which takes about 3.5 to 4 hours. The day concludes with a delightful dinner in the city's gastronomic district before spending the night in a superior room at Hotel Presidente. Finally, on **Day 11**, after breakfast, a private transfer will take you to San José Airport to conclude your journey.

Ask ChatGPT

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

INCLUDED	NOT INCLUDED

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- Accommodation in twin double shared lodge or room
- English Speaking local specialist trekking guide
- Regular naturalist and rafting guide during Pacuare rafting
- Meals (B= Breakfast, L= Lunch, S = Snacks/light lunch; D= Dinner) as specified on the itinerary
- All transportation
- Domestic flights

- Meals other than mentioned
- Airport taxes
- Personal expenses (alcoholic drinks, telephone calls etc)
- Snorkel and flippers (these can be hired in town or through the hotel)
- Excess luggage on any flight or during water transfers in Tortuguero or Osa Peninsula, where operators and airlines have a luggage restriction of 25 pounds per person
- Late check-out or early check-in

WHEN TO GO

- Costa Rica's weather is affected by it proximity to the equator and the varying altitudes, meaning temperatures can vary depending on where about you are in Costa Rica.
- The wet season is roughly between May to the middle of November, with the heaviest rains in September and October. Costa Rica can still be quite pleasant in the wet season with rainy afternoons but sunny mornings.
- The dry season, therefore, is between the middle of November to April, bringing you sunshine and warm temperatures
- Temperatures can be anything from 16°c to 32°c. However, higher altitudes can exceed 0°c during the night.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ACTIVITY DURATION	5 – 7 hours per day
SEASON	December through June
BEST TIME TO GO	January through April
GROUP SIZE	Tailor-made

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EXPEDITION SCHEDULE	This is run as a private trip, so we are able to suit your dates and requirements. We can also tailor the trip to suit.
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 'difficult level' (5 – 7 hours of activities per day. This means you will need more than a basic level of fitness and some specific training may be required.

THE PIONEER BOOKING PROCESS

Where do you go from here? Well, you can feel free to email us at 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 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 you requirements and wishes. From here, we can simply tailor-make your dream holiday.

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