

GO Philanthropic
Changing the way we see the world...



Discovering Deaf Worlds - Journey to Costa Rica

Feb 24th – March 5th 2011



Trip Highlights:

- ~ **Engage with Costa Rica's deaf world**—Learn **LESCO** (Costa Rican Sign Language), meet with the local deaf association **ANASCOR**, and visit a school for the deaf in San Jose
- ~ Explore **Arenal Volcano**, lake and thermal hot springs
- ~ Take a **canopy tour and zip-line** through the rainforest
- ~ Visit an organic **eco farm** and spend the morning with a local farmer
- ~ Travel to the renowned **Monteverde Cloud Forest** to explore the jungle canopy
- ~ Enjoy R&R at **Manuel Antonio Beach and National Park** – home to exceptional diversity in jungle plant and animal life
- ~ Optional tours: **White Water Rafting, Spice Tour, Safari Float by Kayak, Waterfall Trekking, Hot Springs, Evening Volcano Hike**

ITINERARY

Feb 24th, 2011: Arrival San Jose – Juan Santamaria International Airport

Upon arrival, GoPhilanthropic and DDW's ground staff will meet you at the arrival hall with a welcome sign, then escort you to awaiting transportation. Once you check into your room, you will have the remainder of the day/evening to rest or visit the shops and restaurants outside your hotel.

Meals: None
Accommodation: Presidente Hotel www.hotel-presidente.com

Feb 25th, 2011: Visit to Fernando Centeno Deaf School, Learn LESCO, & Evening Deaf Social

After breakfast at the hotel, we will visit **Fernando Centeno Guell** school for the deaf in Guadalupe. You will learn about the history deaf education in Costa Rica, and meet with students and teachers. Lunch will be provided by the school.

In the afternoon, our local deaf guide Leo Lopez will help us become acquainted with **LESCO** - the sign language used in Costa Rica.

From 6-9pm we will enjoy an **evening social** near the Plaza de Cultura with members from the local deaf community.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
Accommodation: Presidente Hotel www.hotel-presidente.com

Feb 26th, 2011: Connect with ANASCOR

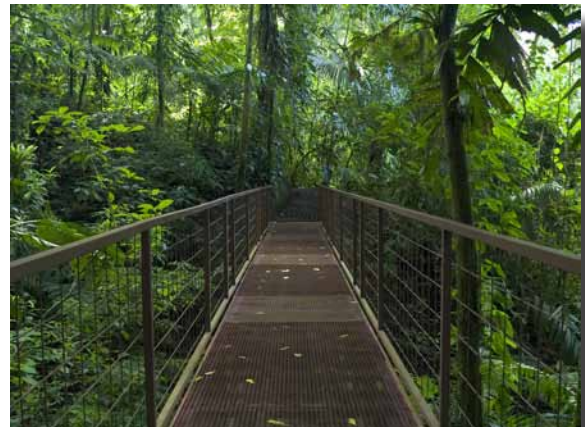
After breakfast at the hotel, enjoy a lazy morning **exploring shops and museums** in the surrounding area.

Our group will reconvene for lunch at a local restaurant then the afternoon will be spent with members of **ANASCOR**, the local deaf association of Costa Rica. We will learn about their current efforts to create the first official **LESCO DVD and website**, to be used as an educational tool for teaching sign language and deaf culture throughout rural parts of Costa Rica.

Dinner will be at your leisure.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
Accommodation: Presidente Hotel www.hotel-presidente.com

February 27th, 2011: Arenal Volcano - Sky Tram and Trek / Options for Zip-Lining



After breakfast we will depart for **Arenal Volcano**. Located 3 1/2 hours from San Jose, this is the most active volcano in the country. Situated to the north of the capitol of San Juan, this area is home to **caves, Lake Arenal, and hot springs** which are fed by the volcano.

On the way, we will stop at **Arenal's Sky Tram and Trek** to explore the rainforest. Sit back and appreciate the natural beauty that surrounds you as the slow paced Sky Tram gondolas provide a smooth ride through the **rain forest**. Once at the **observation deck**, you will witness the most magnificent views of the volcano's south face.

From there, you will have two options for returning to the base: You can **ride back down on the Sky Tram** the same way you came up. On the ride you will be able to notice how the vegetation varies as the altitude changes once again. The other more exciting option for those seeking an adrenaline rush is to **zip-line** your way to the bottom along the fast moving canopy tour!



Late afternoon, we will settle into our hotel and lounge by the pool. Our bus will transfer you to town if you would like to explore the local area for dinner. You can also join an optional evening activity and **hike to the volcano to see the lava** (*see details and rates below*).

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
Accommodation: Villas Eco Arenal www.ecoarenal.com

February 28th, 2011: Learn about organic farming at Don Juan's Eco-Farm



After breakfast, we will head to **Don Juan's Eco-Farm**. This project started with the vision of creating a viable, organic farm to serve as an example to others based on their methods of production, conservation and education.

You will learn first-hand about **organic farming** and have the chance to **ready the terrain for planting vegetables, squeeze your own sugarcane juice, milk a cow, or help press fresh tortillas** for lunch with Don Juan's family. Lunch will be served at Don Juan's.

After the tour you will return to the hotel. Optional afternoon tours include: **Safari Float by Kayak,**

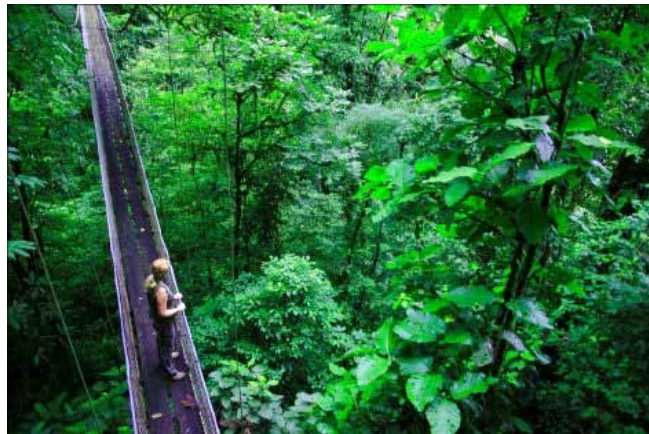
EcoTermales Hot Springs, La Fortuna Waterfall/Horseback Riding Tour (*details and rates below*).



Dinner will be on your own at the hotel.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
Accommodation: Villas Eco Arenal www.ecoarenal.com

March 1st, 2011: Monteverde Cloud Forest



Following breakfast, a combined Jeep-Boat-Jeep transfer from **La Fortuna to Monteverde** awaits you. You will travel by ground to the dam of **Lake Arenal**, where you will meet your motorboat and be whisked away across the beautiful waters while enjoying breathtaking views of **Arenal Volcano and the Costa Rica countryside**. On the other side of the lake you will meet your driver and continue on the back roads to **Santa Elena**, passing farms, small villages and mountains en route. Monteverde has been hailed as one of the most beautiful and diverse wildlife refuges in the country.

After lunch explore the famous **Monteverde Cloud Forest** through the **Hanging Bridges Walkway**, a 1.9- mile (approximately 3 kilometer) trail. Our visitors will **walk across eight different bridges** from 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). These bridges feature a five-foot width with a capacity of up to 80 people per bridge making them the **longest, widest and strongest bridge system** in Costa Rica. The treetop walkways are suitable for people of all ages and physical conditions. Guided and self-guided tours may be booked in advance, and the duration of the tour is usually 1.5 - 2 hours.

In the evening our driver will transfer us to town to enjoy dinner at a local restaurant of your choice.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
Accommodation: Claro de Luna www.clarodelunahotel.com

March 2nd, 2011: Transfer to Manuel Antonio - Beach Time, National Park, Optional Tours



Today we will drive for approximately 4-5 hours to **Manuel Antonio Beach and National Park**, and we will stop for lunch (*not included*) on the way. This is a popular spot for tourists wanting both **beach time** and fun activities. The area is filled with beachside restaurants/bars and the top of the hill offers sweeping views of the Pacific.

For nature lovers, the **National Park** (\$10 entrance fee not included) is just south of Quepos. Its popularity is due to the evergreen forest that grows right up to the high tide line of **expansive white sand beaches**. The principal habitats are primary forest, secondary forest, **mangrove swamps, lagoons and beach vegetation**. There is quite a variety of fauna with **109 species of mammals and 184 of birds**. The park also includes 12 little isles just off the coast. There are a number of **dolphins** here, and at times **migrating whales** can be observed.

Meals: Breakfast
Accommodation: Villa Bosque www.hotelvillabosque.com

March 3rd, 2011: Manuel Antonio Beach Time

This day is free to **loungue on the beach**, have a massage or a surfing lesson, or walk through the national park. You can also enjoy two optional tours: **White-Water Rafting on the Savegre** or the **Spice Farm Tour** (*details and rates below*).

Dinner is on your own, and you will have the option to take a bus transfer to **El Avion**, a 1954 Fairchild C-123 airplane converted into a restaurant, bar and on occasion, live music venue.



Meals: Breakfast
Accommodation: Villa Bosque www.hotelvillabosque.com

March 4th 2011: Return to San Jose and Farewell Dinner with ANASCOR

After breakfast, we will visit the **Titi Conservation Alliance**, a Costa Rican non-governmental organization established in 2001 by local businesses who recognize the need for conservation in the Manuel Antonio area. The Titi Conservation Alliance works to protect and restore the habitat of **endangered titi (squirrel) monkeys**, provide **environmental education** for local school children, and assist members to formalize **sustainable practices** and become certified “green” businesses. This engagement of business owners in the conservation demonstrates a rare understanding: that investment in **environmental and developmental sustainability** is an investment in the future of the businesses themselves as well as the community at large.

In the afternoon, we will transfer back to San Jose for a recap **visit with ANASCOR**. During our **farewell dinner at an authentic family-run hotel** and restaurant, we will reflect on what was learned about the local deaf associations and schools in Costa Rica and review how we might assist ANASCOR in their efforts to advocate for the local deaf community.



Meals: Breakfast and Farewell Dinner
Accommodation: El Rodeo Hotel www.elrodeohotel.com

March 5th, 2011: Return Flight Home

You will be transferred privately to the airport for your return flight home. *Please note the \$26 USD departure tax necessary to leave the country.*

Meals: Breakfast

End of your journey!!

TOUR COST

The tour price is based on the above suggested hotel/room categories. It is subject to change due to availability and increases in travel fares.

Rate does not include flights to/from Costa Rica	8-12 Travelers	Single Supplement
RATE PER PERSON (in US dollars)	\$1875	\$500

- Rates listed are for payments made by check. A 3.5% surcharge is applied to all credit card payments.
- GoPhilanthropic can also assist with Travel Insurance. Please inquire: info@gophilanthropic.com

SERVICES TO BE INCLUDED / EXCLUDED IN THE TOUR COST

<i>INCLUDED</i>	<i>EXCLUDED</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~ All accommodations as outlined above. ~ Meals as specified each day ~ Taxes on included services: 13% sales + 10% service ~ Private land transportation for the group ~ Boat Transfer from Arenal Dam to Rio Chiquito ~ Costa Rican deaf guide & DDW representative ~ Gratuity for drivers and guides for below tour activities <p>TOURS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~ Fernando Centeno Guell deaf school ~ ANASCOR ~ Sky Trek & Sky Tram ~ Don Juan Eco Farm ~ Hanging Bridges Walkway ~ Titi Conservation Alliance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~ Flights to and from Costa Rica ~ Travel insurance ~ International Airport departure tax of \$26 payable upon exiting San Jose ~ Extras at hotels (telephone calls, room service, porter service, laundry, alcoholic drinks, etc.) ~ Any incidentals or out of pocket medical expenses. <i>* Please ensure you carry appropriate insurance, which covers all the activities in this itinerary, inherited risks, luggage protection, and cancellation.</i> ~ Excess luggage on any flight where airlines have a luggage restriction of 25 pounds per person ~ Other meals not mentioned in the program ~ Late check-out or early check-in at hotels ~ Any additional/extra tours or park fees for optional activities mentioned above ~ Personal expenses ~ Other services not listed in inclusive column

FEATURED HOTELS *(subject to change)*



Presidente Hotel: A landmark in San Jose, Costa Rica. A four-star, 100-room hotel in the heart of Downtown San José, Costa Rica, the Hotel Presidente is located on the corner of the Central Avenue Pedestrian Boulevard and Seventh Street, just 20 minutes from the San Jose, Costa Rica International Airport (SJO). Guests staying at the Hotel Presidente will be gratified by its ideal location, only a few blocks from the most important cultural and historical places to visit.



Villas Eco Arenal: This hotel offers comfortable and nice rooms in a quiet environment surrounded by gardens. Each room has: A/C, king size or individual beds, private bathroom with hot water, a mini refrigerator, cable TV, telephone and balcony.



Claro de Luna: This intimate hotel nestled beside a family-owned horse farm just outside the busy town of Santa Elena is surrounded by beautiful views of Nicoya Gulf and the lush green mountains of Monteverde. This nicely finished mahogany-wood house offers an excellent ambiance and 15 tastefully-decorated rooms with double beds or single bunk beds, telephone, and en suite beautifully decorated bathrooms with hot water. The hotel is surrounded by lovely tropical gardens and in the mornings a delicious breakfast awaits you. There is private parking and internet access available.



Villa Bosque: Is a small hotel next to Manuel Antonio beach and National Park. The hotel has 16 comfortable and elegant rooms. All of them have A/C, cable TV, hot water, and a security box.

The hotel also features laundry service, a panoramic pool, bar, restaurant, private parking lot, free internet service, fax and mail service, lounge area, and 24 hours surveillance.

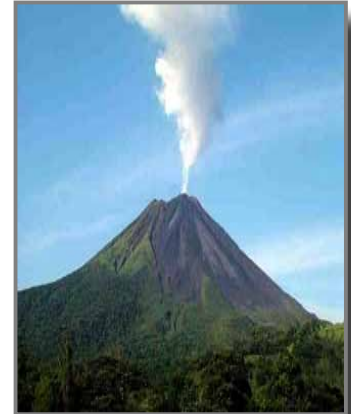


El Rodeo Hotel: El Rodeo is a four-star Costa Rican country inn in San Antonio de Belén, the latest bustling business and commercial district of Santa Ana. This hotel is a 10-minute drive from the Juan Santamaría International Airport and 15 minutes from downtown San Jose. El Rodeo welcomes guests with Costa Rican warmth and exceptional service in a natural and peaceful environment. Rooms are equipped with cable TV, air conditioning, direct telephone, alarm clock, bathrooms with hot water and bathtub, hair dryer, coffee maker and safe deposit box. The facilities are set in tropical gardens and include a swimming pool, Jacuzzi, tennis court, a charming cafeteria and “El Rodeo Steakhouse”, a Costa Rican favorite.

OPTIONAL TOURS *(not included in tour package rate)*

ARENAL AREA

El Silencio Trail Hike: The tour begins with a 20-minute drive to the far west side of Arenal Volcano where you will spend one hour exploring the Silencio Trail. Our expert bilingual naturalist guide will point-out indigenous rain forest plants and educate you about their medicinal properties. Frequent animal sightings include: monkeys, wild boars, two types of toucans, white-nosed coatis, oro pendula birds, golden eyelash vipers, boa constrictors, white-tailed deer, and curassows. Before dark, you'll continue to the lookout/observation point, which offers the closest, most direct lava flow vista. Relax, enjoy a drink and feel the incredible rumble of Arenal volcano. If cloud cover is high enough, expect to see a dazzling display of lava eruption.



Rates: (Please note that we require the minimum of participants)
Minimum 10 participants..... \$ 18.50 USD per person
Minimum 05 participants..... \$ 23.75 USD per person
(Includes transportation, entrance fee and local guide)

Ecotermiales Hot Springs: A series of pools fed with volcanic hot water that springs from the Hidalgo Family Farm sitting at the foot of the impressive Arenal Volcano. There are five pools of thermal hot water between 37° and 42° C. (98° - 107° F°), plus one pool of cool water. The first pool has water that propitiates a natural massage and if you go behind it, the water steam becomes a natural sauna. There is also a small waterfall and a natural Jacuzzi. This unique oasis is surrounded by lush gardens, forests and cemented trails. For your enjoyment and comfort there are two bar areas, a restaurant serving typical Costa Rican food, a secure private parking lot, and dressing rooms with private lockers. The property is also suitable for children and disables visitors.

Entrance Fee Per Person: \$ 29.00 USD **Dinner Option:** \$ 20.00 USD
(Includes transportation and entrance fee)

La Fortuna Waterfall/Horseback Riding Tour: From La Fortuna we go 5½ kilometers southeast, and drive 1½ hours to get to the rest site of the horses. Enjoy a pleasant horseback ride through pasture and rainforest for about an hour- keep your eyes peeled for toucans, monkeys and other creatures. After the horseback ride, we walk five hundred meters down through the forest to get to the waterfall, which is 70 meters high. At the base of the waterfall there is a “natural pool” where we can swim in the fresh water of La Fortuna River for about one hour. The total length of the tour is approximately four hours.



Rate Per person: \$ 59.00 USD
(Includes transportation, equipment & local guide)

Safari Float by Kayak: Don't miss this outstanding inflatable rafting trip on the quiet waters of Peñas Blancas River. You will experience a relaxing half-day tour, led by our bilingual naturalist guide. An expert in Safari adventures, your guide will provide a safe environment and point out the beautiful flora and fauna of this region. Animals like sloths, monkeys, toucans, crocodiles, Jesus Christ Lizards and turtles might cross your way.

Rate per person: \$ 47.00 USD
(Includes transportation, naturalist guide)

MANUEL ANTONIO AREA

Savegre White Water Rafting: Class II-III rapids. The Savegre River is a magnificent stretch of whitewater that begins its course by winding out of a sparsely inhabited valley in the mountains. At the lower savegre the whitewater rapids are exciting, but not so demanding that you won't have time to enjoy the spectacular tropical scenery. This is one of the most pristine rivers in the country, and is surrounded by impressive views of the primary rainforest.

Rate per person: \$ 95.00 USD

(Includes transportation, rafting equipment, snacks & local guide)



Spice Plantation Tour & Flavors of the World Tasting: The Flavors of the World Tasting is an assortment of gourmet vanilla, cinnamon and chocolate treats prepared by a pastry chef overlooking an expansive viewpoint. The tours start at the post-harvest warehouse where spices are dried, processed, and packaged. Your guide will explain ancient origins, history and properties for these spices. Then you'll take a gentle walk through the plantation on the "Epiphyte Trail" (air plants), a winding garden path where you will experience the sights, flavours, and aromas of tropical spices and flowering plants, essential oil plants and rock gardens.

Rate per person: \$ 50.00 USD

(Includes transportation, entrance fee & local guide)

