

# ***Discover Creation Costa Rica Adventure Tour***

## **March 2 – 11, 2018**

### **(Optional Ministry Outreach March 11-19)**



(For Families or Individuals )

**This Creation tour, offered by Alpha Omega Institute, is not your ordinary “tourist” trip.** Not only will you see many popular sights that nobody would want to miss, but you will also hear about and soak in the wonders of our awesome Creator! You will say, “This is why I came to Costa Rica!” You will be taken off the beaten track to experience the real Costa Rica with its volcanoes, beautiful rainforest environments and amazingly colorful exotic birds that many bird watchers long to see. Marvel at tropical mammals, fish, reptiles, and amazing butterflies such as the Blue Morpho that defy evolutionary explanations and point to the amazing wisdom of our Creator!

We have chosen many sites for you to explore that are not in typical tourist haunts. Enjoy a safe aerial tram over rainforests; take a boat trip to explore some fabulous mangrove swamps; explore the underwater world as you snorkel at the famous Caño Island; see fabulous waterfalls; relax at postcard-picture beaches; visit and/or hike in the fabulous Corcovado National Park which is really off the beaten track and on the bucket list even of native Costa Ricans.

An experienced native naturalist will accompany us on the entire trip to supply us with fascinating information and point out what most of us would miss without that expertise. Typical reptiles and mammals seen include several species of monkeys, coatimundis, sloths, iguanas, land and sea turtles, crocodiles, and perhaps, for the fortunate, a tapir or maybe even a jaguar!

#### **What is included?**

- Most expenses including **ALL** meals and hotels (3\* and better)!
- Transportation in the country including airport/hotel transfers.
- Entrance fees to National Parks, boat transportation, tram costs, and all other sites.
- Experienced and professional bilingual Naturalist Guide
- Native Costa Rican tour coordinator to keep things running smoothly
- Veteran Creation speakers as additional guides
- Tips (These can mount up to a great expense for tourists, but we have them covered.)

#### **What is not covered?**

- Air travel to/from San Jose, Costa Rica
- Trip cancellation insurance (recommended)
- Snacks, alcoholic beverages
- Country Exit tax (Frequently included in airline ticket)
- Camera, batteries, and plenty of memory cards



## Daily Itinerary

Below is a detailed itinerary for the tour. Scroll through and click On the arrows for each day's schedule. The hotels listed below that have been reserved for this tour are classed as 3-Star or better -- all with very good ratings and with private baths. \*Subject to change, if necessary.\*

### March 2 – Arrive in San Jose

Arrive early at Juan Santamaria International Airport (SJO) in San Jose where your Adventure Host will transport you to your first night's lodging hotel. Our first official activity is our welcome and a great authentic Costa Rican restaurant dinner. This is followed by a tour overview and special Creation program. **Hint: Get there early** so that you do not miss anything. (Let us know if you wish us to book an extra day for you at the start on March 2!) Your hotel is within a couple of miles nutes of walking from Mercado Nacional de Artesanías (authentic Costa Rican shopping), or several museums including the Jade museum, National Museum, Gold museum, etc. **Lodging: Hotel Villa Tournon**



### March 3 – Poás Volcanic National Park, Peace Waterfall, Butterfly Gardens, Museums



Breakfast at hotel. Our bus departs bright and early to visit Poás (volcano) National Park, and Peace Waterfall Gardens. See lush green farmland and countryside on the way to the top of the Poás volcano. At Peace Waterfall Gardens, you will not only enjoy a series of waterfalls, but many other options including its famous butterfly gardens with a multitude of beautiful and exotic flowers and butterflies like the evolution defying Blue Morpho. Upon returning to San Jose, you will have your choice of visiting museums close to your hotel such as the National Museum, Jade Museum, or the Fine Arts Museum. Enjoy dinner at your hotel. By this time, you may already wish you had brought extra or a larger camera memory card! **Lodging: Hotel Villa Tournon**

### March 4 – Guided Nature Hike at San Gerardo Dota



After breakfast, we check out of our hotel and depart to the south to San Gerardo Dota via amazing scenery. After checking into our next hotel and enjoying a great lunch, you will participate in a nature hike on the reserve led by your expert naturalist guide and then have time to enjoy the beauty of your surroundings.

**Lodging: Savegre Lodge**

## March 5 – Bird Watching and Depart to Coto Brus Valley



The early bird sees the most birds! Go on an early bird watch with your guide to see some of the many birds Costa Rica is famous for. After returning to the hotel for breakfast, prepare to enjoy great scenery and sites as we head to the Coto Brus Valley with lunch at a restaurant along the way. We are headed to Amistad Coffee country as well as an area rich in other produce! Your eyes will feast on a variety of scenery including this famous rainforest area. We will be staying at the La Amistad Lodge on the Hacienda La Amistad at Las Mellizas near the border of Panama.

**Lodging: La Amistad Lodge**

## March 6 – Las Tablas, Coffee Plantation and Chelita Farm.



After breakfast at your La Amistad Lodge, you jump in the excursion vehicles heading high up to another protected area (reserve) called Las Tablas. Expect to add hundreds of more photos to your already full camera card. (Did we say bring plenty of memory cards?) After lunch, visit the coffee processing facilities and see lush production on the Chelita Farm. The hacienda you are on has elevations from 4,100 to 7,218 feet (1,250 to 2,200 m). It includes thousands of acres of rain forest within the Las Tablas Protected Zone. On the Pacific slope of the Talamanca Mountains, Las Tablas was declared part of the Amistad Biosphere Reserve by the United Nations and a World Heritage site by UNESCO for its rich biodiversity. Sixty percent of the flora and fauna in Costa Rica is thought to exist here.

**Lodging: La Amistad Lodge**

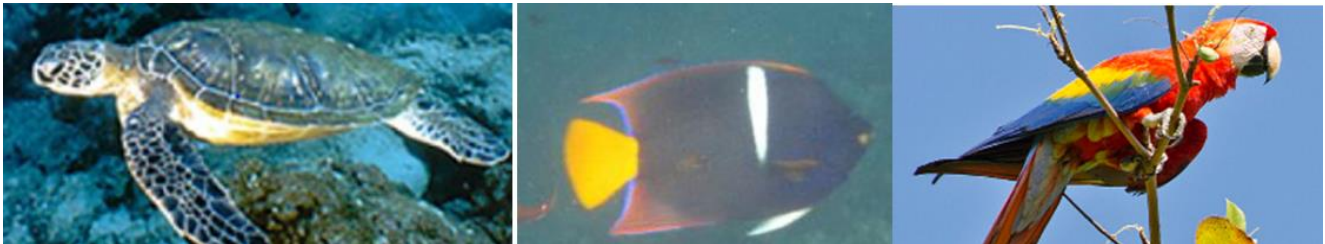
## March 7 – Botanical Gardens, Stone Spheres, and Mangrove Swamps



By this point, you are probably thinking this tour couldn't get better. But it just did! Today is certainly a day you won't forget. After breakfast, we head for the Sierpe-Corcovado area. On the way we tour the Botanical Gardens (Wilson) and see giant stone spheres sculpted by the ancient natives of Costa Rica – an archaeological marvel. Soon after, we leave behind our bus and proceed by boat to Drake Bay from Sierpe through amazing mangrove swamps along the river route. You will arrive at our Hotel on Drake Bay on the Pacific Ocean where we will spend 2 nights. The beauty here will be permanently etched on your memory.

**Lodging: Jinetes de Osa Hotel & Rancho Corcovado (Superior Rooms)**

## March 8 – Snorkeling Caño Island and Guided Experience the Corcovado National Park Area



You think the days before were unforgettable? You are now in an area that is on the bucket list of many Costa Ricans! Relax and soak in the beauty or take in more adventure as your guide gives you a tour of a section of the **Corcovado National Park area**. Located on the remote Osa Peninsula, this area of Costa Rica is considered by many to be the most bio-diverse place on Earth boasting more biodiversity than the entire United States! It is home to over 400 bird species, 140 mammals, and a whopping 500 tree species. The Osa Peninsula lays claim to being the most unspoiled coastal rain forest in Central America and is also home to the gorgeous Scarlet and Blue Macaws – fabulous birds to see. After lunch, take our boat to the Isla Del Caño Biological Preserve located on a small island about 12 miles off the coast. The Preserve has some of the best snorkeling in Costa Rica with hundreds of tropical fish, eels, rays, and even an occasional sea turtle or small shark. This is an underwater paradise for you to enjoy God's awesome Creation!

**Lodging: Jinetes de Osa Hotel and Rancho Corcovado (Superior Rooms) (2 nights)**

### March 9 – Jacó Beach on the Central Pacific Coast



After breakfast, we launch our boat to view more Mangrove swamps, birds, and wildlife. We meet our bus once again to drive along the gorgeous Pacific coast of Costa Rica past beautiful post card-perfect scenery and beaches! Our destination is the famous Jacó Beach area and the Punta Leona Beach. You will check into your hotel, have lunch, and spend the afternoon relaxing and soaking in the sun and the sand.

**Lodging: Punta Leona Beach Resort Hotel ((2 nights)**

### March 10 – Jaco, Puta Leona Beach, Aerial Tram tour (Pacific/Jacó) and Crocodile sighting



Close to Jacó , this *safe* aerial tram tour is a “must do” adventure. You will not only experience the forest canopy from above, but will also have breath-taking views and visit another wonderful butterfly garden. After lunch at the Tram restaurant, we return to Jaco, visit a local native Costa Rican shop, and also relax at our Punta Leona Beach resort. (We sure hope you still have camera memory left!)

**Lodging: Punta Leona Beach Resort Hotel**

March 11 – Head for San Jose and Sadly- Adios!!

Make sure you book a later flight (if possible) so you can enjoy one more scenery packed morning in route to the San Jose Airport (or lodging if you are staying on). You can also have us book an extra night for you in San Jose if you wish if you have a flight out on the 12th. Just let us know. We will let you know how much that is for you to reimburse AOI. We really believe you will depart Costa Rica with unforgettable memories of an amazing Tropical Creation Family Adventure . . . OR . . . you can extend your stay however you want . . . OR ... for a limited number of you who get their requests in early and want to help, **join Dave and Mary Jo Nutting as they spend the next week doing a creation teaching outreach at the University of Costa Rica, churches, and elsewhere.**



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**Hotels for the AOI *Discover Creation*  
Costa Rica Tropical Adventure Tour  
March 2-11, 2018**

**Note:** These are the hotels that have been reserved for this tour. They are rated as 3-Star or better -- all with very good ratings. We reserve the right to substitute a hotel or add additional housing of as close to comparable value as possible if the need arises due to booking issues or for other reasons which are deemed best by the tour coordinators.

**March 2, 3: City Express San Jose Airport**



**March 4: Sueños del Bosque**



**March 5, 6: La Amistad Lodge**



**March 7,8: Jinetes de Osa Hotel & Rancho Corcovado (Superior Rooms)**



**March 9, 10: Hotel Punta Leona**

