

***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, large numbers of hummingbirds, and amazing butterflies such as the Blue Morpho which defies evolutionary explanations and point to the amazing wisdom of our Creator!

We have chosen many fantastic sites for you to explore. YES, we will go to some very popular sites. However, since we take a smaller transport bus, unlike other tours, we include other amazing places that you will be extremely glad we included. 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 Costa Rican 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!

**Cost: \$2690 per person: What is included?**

- Most expenses including **ALL** meals and hotels (3\* and better)!
- Transportation in the country including airport/hotel transfers on listed tour days.
- Entrance fees to National Parks, boat transportation, tram costs, and all other sites.
- Experienced and professional bilingual Naturalist Guide
- 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 insurance (recommended)
- Snacks, alcoholic beverages
- Country Exit tax (likely 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 1.) Your hotel is next to a shopping center for anything you might need. It is also not too far by taxi to some great places to visit to get a jump start on your time in Costa Rica.



**Lodging: City Express Hotel**

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



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. (Weather and level of volcanic activity will dictate what we can see). At Peace Waterfall Gardens, you will not only enjoy a series of amazing waterfalls, but many other options including a hummingbird sanctuary, beautiful and exotic flower gardens, a butterfly garden where you can see the evolution-defying Blue Morpho, a popular zoo with reptiles, big cats (including jaguars), monkeys, etc. Our lunch will be a great buffet in the midst of the gardens. After returning to your hotel in San Jose you will enjoy another special dinner and program. By this time, you may already wish you had brought extra or a larger camera memory card!

**Lodging: City Express Hotel**

### March 4 – Crocodile viewing, Aerial Tram, and Jacó Beach on the Central Pacific Coast



Our destinations today are multiple. Heading for the famous Jacó Beach area and the Punta Leona Beach, we will also have opportunity to view large crocodiles in the river. Close to Jacó, we will experience a must do and **safe** aerial tram adventure tour. You will not only experience the forest canopy from above, but will also have breath-taking views and afterwards visit their butterfly garden. After lunch at the Tram restaurant, we continue to Jacó to check into your hotel and spend the rest of the afternoon relaxing and soaking in the sun and beach-combing. If the tide is low enough, you will see an amazingly large assemblage of fossil shells. At the same location, you should be able to collect samples.

**Lodging: Punta Leona Beach Resort Hotel**



March 5 – Boat tour of Mangrove swamps, and the remote Drake Bay.



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 along the Pacific Coast through amazing coastal scenery to the Sierpe-Corcovado area. On the way we 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: Rancho Corcovado (2 nights)**

March 6 – 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 with a fabulous beach.** This is a photographer's paradise 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: Rancho Corcovado**

(We sure hope you still have camera memory left!)

March 7 Head to La Amistad via Boat through Mangrove Swamps then Bus



After breakfast, we launch our boat again to view more Mangrove swamps, birds, and wildlife. We meet our bus once again to drive to Amistad coffee plantation 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 in the very remote Las Tablas area of Costa Rica.

**Lodging: La Amistad Lodge**

March 8 – Las Tablas, Coffee Plantation and Chelita Farm.



After breakfast at your La Amistad Lodge, you jump in the excursion 4-wheel drive 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?) We will experience a very remote farm which grows the famous passion fruit. 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 9 – Amazing Mountain scenery in route to a Guided Nature Hike near San Gerardo Dota



Today we head north passing over the mountains through lush forest to the San Gerardo Dota. Along the way, expect another great lunch, later check into our Cabinas, and participate in a nature hike led by our expert naturalist guide. Relax and enjoy the beauty of your surroundings.

**Lodging: Mirador de Quetzales**

March 10: – Quetzal Quest Birdwatching, Onward to Irazú Volcano and to San Jose



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. This is one of those places that bird watchers from around the world come to see the famous Quetzal. After returning to the hotel for breakfast, we head to the top of the amazing Volcano: Irazú, This volcano is the highest active volcano in Costa Rica. Returning to San Jose, you will be treated to a fabulous dinner and special evening that will be remembered for years to come.

**Lodging: Tryp San Jose Sabana**

March 11 – To the Airport and/or to the National Museum and Butterfly Gardens



Make sure you book a later flight (if possible) so you can enjoy another morning before going to the San Jose Airport. We will tour the National Museum. Those staying on can enjoy a myriad of things from there: Jade Museum, Gold/Money museum, local artisan and gift market, restaurants, fast food, etc. You can also have us book an extra night for you in San Jose at this hotel 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: Hotel Punta Leona**



**March 5,6: Rancho Corcovado**



**March 7, 8: La Amistad Lodge**



**March 9: Mirador de Quetzales**





**March 10: Tryp San Jose Sabana:**

