



# Costa Rica 2016 -

Tropical Horticulture and Nature  
A tour for Extension Master Gardener Volunteers



**February 24-March 2, 2016**

LAND ONLY PACKAGE PRICE: \$2,350 per person  
Airfare is not included in package price, and can be arranged independently or by the tour operator.

For more information, contact

Mary Kroening at (573) 881-6316

Or email [mary@hiddentreasurestours.com](mailto:mary@hiddentreasurestours.com)

\$1,000 deposit per person holds your reservation.

Final payment due by November 25, 2015





## Extension Master Gardener Tour of Costa Rica -- 2016

Costa Rica, 'rich coast' in Spanish, has a wealth of natural diversity and wildlife — over 10,000 plant species and more than 850 species of birds, including many endemics found nowhere else on earth. This 8-day study program will introduce you to a stunning array of exotic tropical plants and animals, the ecology of the rainforest and other ecological habitats, and tropical horticultural production.

Join Dr. Lucy Bradley, North Carolina EMGV Extension Specialist, on this special trip as we leave the typical tourist route to visit exclusive areas of this stunningly beautiful country to discover the vast array of endemic plants in the rainforest, learn about tropical horticulture, and see abundant wildlife — monkeys, butterflies, birds, frogs and more — in their natural habitat. For more information about the itinerary, or details of travel conditions, logistics, health and safety issues, etc., contact Mary Kroening. “**Hidden Treasures Tours**”, 2101 W Broadway, Suite 103-113, Columbia, Missouri 65203, (573) 881-6316, [mary@hiddentreasures.com](mailto:mary@hiddentreasures.com)

## The Itinerary

### Day 1 – Wednesday, February 24

We will meet you when you arrive in **Juan Santamaría International Airport** in San Jose (SJO), and take you to your hotel where you will have the remainder of the day to relax and take photographs. The garden at **Hotel Bougainvillea** was recently recognized as the “Best Garden of Costa Rica” by the Garden Club of Costa Rica —proving a perfect start to this tour.

**Meals included:** none

**Lodging:** Hotel Bougainvillea, [www.hb.co.cr](http://www.hb.co.cr)

### Day 2 – Thursday, February 25

After breakfast we will explore the magnificent **La Paz Waterfall Gardens** ([www.waterfallgardens.com](http://www.waterfallgardens.com)). When you think of Costa Rica, you imagine lush tropical rain forests, flowing white-water rivers, spectacular waterfalls, birds, butterflies and flowers galore. La Paz Waterfall Gardens has all this and more, including one of the largest collections of bromeliads in the country. Sturdy soled shoes are essential for this adventure as trails can be slippery. Later we will visit one of the world’s premier artisan chocolatiers, **Sibu Chocolate**, for a tasting tour of the history of chocolate.

[sibuchocolate.com](http://sibuchocolate.com)

**Meals included:** breakfast, lunch, dinner

**Lodging:** Hotel Bougainvillea, [www.hb.co.cr](http://www.hb.co.cr)



Your North Carolina Cooperative Extension  
host for this tour:

Dr. Lucy Bradley, State Specialist  
NC Extension Master Gardeners  
919-513-2001  
[Lucy\\_Bradley@NCSU.edu](mailto:Lucy_Bradley@NCSU.edu)



RELAX



LEARN





### Day 3 – Friday, February 26

We will start this fun day off at the **Else Kientzler Botanical Garden** (<http://www.elsegarden.com/>). This garden is a member of the organization Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) and home to over 2,000 different plants from around the world. This 17 acre garden at the foot of the Poas Volcano in Costa Rica’s Central Valley is part of Innovaplant of Costa Rica; an agricultural company that produces and exports ornamental plants. We then head north to the famous Monteverde Cloud forest region. When we arrive midafternoon we will have a garden visit with the famous Costa Rican botanist, author of Tropical Plants of Costa Rica: A Guide to Native and Exotic Flora, Willow Zuchowski.

**Meals included:** breakfast, lunch, dinner

**Lodging:** Monteverde Country Lodge, <http://www.monteverdecountrylodge.com/>



ENCOUNTER

### Day 4 – Saturday, February 27

We will start the day with visiting an orchid garden in the morning and the Monteverde Reserve [reservamonteverde.com](http://reservamonteverde.com) in the afternoon with Willow Zuchowski. Dinner this evening will be at your leisure.

**Meals included:** breakfast, lunch (Dinner on your own this evening)

**Lodging:** Monteverde Country Lodge, <http://www.monteverdecountrylodge.com/>



DISCOVER

### Day 5 – Sunday, February 28

Today we depart for the Arenal Volcano region of Costa Rica, crossing the very scenic Arenal Lake en route. We will enjoy a day of exploring as we travel. Upon arrival near Arenal, you will enjoy a nice hot springs soaking.

**Meals included:** breakfast, lunch, dinner

**Lodging:** Casa Luna Hotel, [casalunahotel.com](http://casalunahotel.com)

### Day 6 – Monday, February 29

The Hanging Bridges will start our day exploring the Arenal Volcano area. In the afternoon we will tour an extensive organic farm.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Lodging:** Casa Luna Hotel, [casalunahotel.com](http://casalunahotel.com)



APPRECIATE

### Day 7 – Tuesday, March 1

Upon departure of the Arenal Volcano region, we will visit a coffee plantation in route back to San Jose. We will return to San Jose in the mid afternoon for a wonderful farewell dinner at the breathtaking private home and gardens of Ms. Ileana Teran, founder and current President of SACRO (Saving Costa Rica’s Orchids), an organization dedicated to maintaining natural habitats where orchids grow wild. Ms. Teran has one of the largest private collections of orchids in Central America. Her garden is one of the most enchanting private gardens in Costa Rica.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

**Lodging:** **Lodging:** Hotel Bougainvillea, [www.hb.co.cr](http://www.hb.co.cr)

### Day 8 - Wednesday, March 2

All good things must come to an end – Pura Vida!!!! Safe travels home. Transfer to the Juan Santamaría Airport in Alajulea (SJO)

**Meals included:** Breakfast



## Extension Master Gardener Tour of Costa Rica — 2016

### TRIP COST AND CONDITIONS

This trip has been organized by Hidden Treasures Tours, L.L.C. and they reserve the right to make necessary changes to the itinerary due to unforeseen circumstances. Hidden Treasures Tours will provide details on necessary supplies and logistics for this trip when the departure date gets closer. You will receive confirmation of registration by mail within 30 days of receipt of registration and initial deposit of \$1,000 per person. Final payment is due 90 days prior to trip departure and all invoices will be sent in advance of this date.

**Package price per person \$2,350**

**Single room occupancy supplement \$630**

### TOUR PRICE INCLUDES:

- private transportation with driver and air-conditioning
- private guide and his expenses
- meals as listed on daily itinerary
- entrance fees pertinent to itinerary
- all lodging as specified above
- cooler with ice, bottled water, soft drinks and snacks on the bus at all times
- local taxes on lodging and meals
- tips for local guides, maids, porters, waiters, etc.

### TOUR PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- airfare
- airport departure tax (USD\$29.00 per person)
- tips for the guide and driver (\$5 per day per each)
- optional tours
- personal expenses
- alcoholic beverages
- any service or activity not specified above

### PASSPORT

A passport is now mandatory to enter any foreign country and to return to the United States. Passport must be valid for six months beyond return date. Allow several months to obtain a passport or a renewal.

### REFUND SCHEDULE

Final payment is due 90 days prior to trip departure. A full refund will be given up to 90 days prior to the departure date, minus a \$250 administrative fee. Once final payment is made, there are no refunds within 90 days of trip departure as airfare is booked at that time, and hotel non-refundable deposits have been paid. If we can re-sell the slot, we can offer a full refund minus the original deposit and airfare charges.

We highly recommend trip insurance, which include cancellation and trip delay coverage, as well as baggage and medical coverage. Most trip insurance policies waive preexisting conditions if you sign up for trip insurance within 15 days of sending in this registration form and paying your initial trip deposit.



**EXPLORE**



**REJUVENATE**



**EXPERIENCE**





## EXPECTATIONS OF PARTICIPANTS

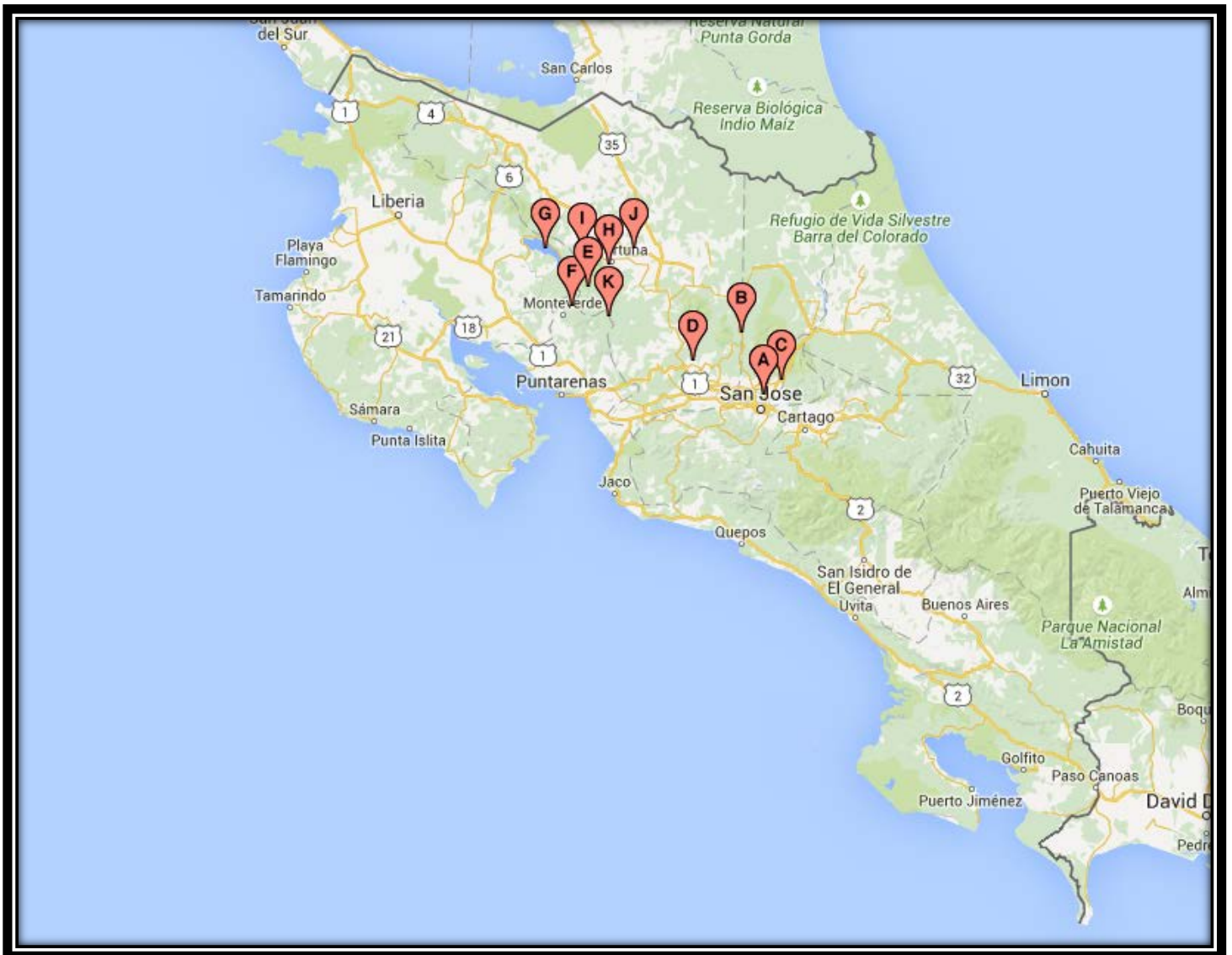
This tour will include onsite visits to private gardens, wildlife and rainforest preserves, national parks, local farms and botanical gardens. Please keep in mind that the very nature of an eco-tour will put us in out-of-the-way places. This means walking trails might be rough, uneven or steep, and there is always a chance of encountering exotic insects and snakes.

You are traveling into a developing (Third World) country. Conditions are not the same as in the States. We stay in resorts that are eco-lodge style. Our accommodations will be wonderfully pleasant, but often rooms will not have air conditioning. Please leave our country with the attitude that you are going into Costa Rica to experience another culture, another climate, and to see how people in another country live. The food is incredible, the culture is captivating and the scenery is beyond belief.

We will dine in restaurants during the tour. Although Costa Ricans are very accommodating, there are limits to meeting special dietary needs. Special foods and/or special preparation may not be available at each or any stop.

You will thoroughly enjoy this trip, and find all locations we visit absolutely delightful. Please always remember to be a gracious guest, and remember you are in a different country.

*Images and Graphic Design by Susan Mahr*



**Registration Form – NC MASTER GARDENER COSTA RICA TOUR 2016**

Passenger Information - Please record name EXACTLY AS IT APPEARS ON YOUR PASSPORT and attach a photocopy of your passport to this registration form. Passport photocopy may be sent later if you have yet to obtain a passport.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Passport # \_\_\_\_\_ Passport Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (home and/or cell) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Name and Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Passport # \_\_\_\_\_ Passport Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (home and/or cell) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Name and Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please mark your preferred travel arrangements:

\_\_\_\_ I will make my own airline reservation/arrangements

\_\_\_\_ I would like Hidden Treasures Tours to arrange airline reservations from the following

airport and bill me for the airfare. Departure Airport: \_\_\_\_\_

**Payment Information** (deposit \$1,000 per person)

If paying by check: make payable to Hidden Treasures Tours, L.L.C.

Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_ check no. \_\_\_\_\_

If paying by credit card we will assess an additional 3% surcharge

Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Amount to be charged \$ \_\_\_\_\_ 3-digit security code from back of the card \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

*Final payment is due 90 days prior to trip departure. A full refund will be given up to 90 days prior to the departure date, minus a \$250 administrative fee. There are no refunds within 90 days of trip departure as all invoices have been paid in full at this time on a non-refundable group rate basis.*

*Hidden Treasures Tours reserves the right to make necessary changes to the itinerary due to unforeseen circumstances. This trip is custom designed and very inclusive with no hidden costs. Mail this form and direct inquiries to:*

**Hidden Treasures Tours, L.L.C. • 2101 W Broadway, Ste. 103-113 Columbia, MO 65203  
573-303-2872 (p) • Email: kari@hiddentreasurestours.com • www.hiddentreasurestours.com**