

Costa Rica 2017

Tropical Horticulture, Fruit and Nature A tour for Extension Master Gardener Volunteers

February 26- March 5, 2017

LAND ONLY PACKAGE PRICE:

Register by 9/1/2016

\$2,150 per person double occupancy

After 9/1/2016

\$2,350/person double occupancy

\$600 upgrade to single occupancy

Airfare is not included in the package price, and can be arranged independently or by the tour operator.

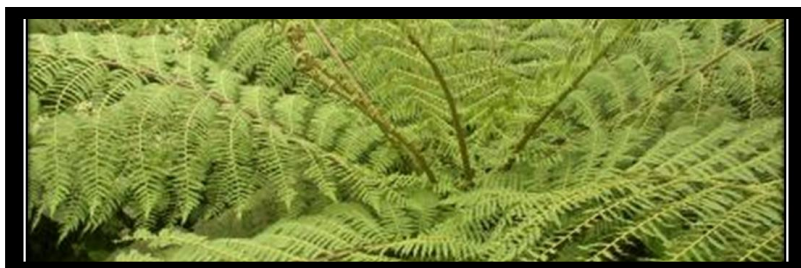
For more information, contact

Kari Laudano at (573) 303-2872

Or email kari@hiddentreasuretours.com

\$1,000 deposit holds your reservation

Final payment due by November 28, 2016



Extension Master Gardener Tour of Costa Rica -- 2017

Costa Rica is one of the most peaceful countries in the world. The tremendous natural diversity of plants and animals, as well as culture; the friendliness of the Costa Rican people will ensure that you have an unforgettable experience as our guest on this magnificent tour. Costa Rica is also the land of gardens, where you will see some of your most cherished garden plants growing in the wild. The national flower of Costa Rica is an orchid. Costa Rica has the richest orchid flora in Central America, with more than 1,400 identified species.

Join Lisa Sanderson, NC Extension Master Gardener State Coordinator and Dr. L. George Wilson, NC State Horticulture Professor Emeritus, on this extraordinary, atypical tour through this lush, beautiful country, discovering the diversity of rainforest plants and wildlife in their natural environment, and experiencing agriculture in this tropical country from strawberries and organic bananas to a fruits of the world tour. For more information about the itinerary, or details about travel conditions, logistics, health and safety issues, etc., contact Kari Laudano. "**Hidden Treasures Tours**", 201 W. Broadway, Suite 103-113, Columbia, Missouri 65203, (573) 303-2872, kari@hiddentreasures.tours.

The Itinerary

Day 1 – Sunday, February 26

Upon arrival in **Juan Santamaría International Airport**, your guide meet you and take you to the Hotel Bougainvillea where you will have the remainder of the day to relax and take photographs. The Garden Club of Costa Rica recently recognized the garden at **Hotel Bougainvillea** as the "Best Garden of Costa Rica"—proving a perfect start to this tour.

Meals included: Welcome Dinner

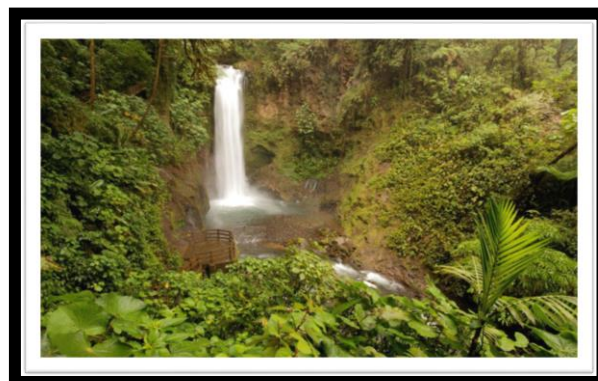
Lodging: Hotel Bougainvillea www.hb.co.cr

Day 2 - Monday, February 27

After breakfast, travel to the slopes of **Poás Volcano** (<http://costa-rica-guide.com/nature/national-parks/poas-volcano/>). Here you will visit **Freddo's place** www.facebook.com/Restaurante-Freddo-Fresas, a local dairy farm and organic strawberry plantation. You will enjoy a tractor cart ride around the farm, stopping to pick strawberries, followed by watching how they make their delicious artisanal cheese. 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** (www.waterfallgardens.com) 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

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Lodging: Hotel Bougainvillea www.hb.co.cr



Day 3 – Tuesday, February 28

Morning visit to one of the world's premier artisan chocolatiers, **Sibü Chocolate** (<http://sibuchocolate.com>), where Julio and George, the Master Chocolatiers will guide you on a tasting tour of the history of chocolate, from the times it was used as currency, until today. You will get to watch them make their famous artisanal chocolates and get to taste many delicious samples. After that, you will continue to the area of **Sarapiquí**, there will be some time off in the afternoon to enjoy the hotel grounds.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Lodging: Hotel Sueño Azul <http://www.suenoazulresort.com/>



Your North Carolina Cooperative Extension hosts for this tour:

Lisa Sanderson
NC Extension
Master Gardener State Coordinator
919-515-1226
Lisa_Sanderson@ncsu.edu

and

L. George Wilson, Ph. D.
Professor Emeritus
Postharvest Physiology/Technology
Horticultural Science Department
North Carolina State University



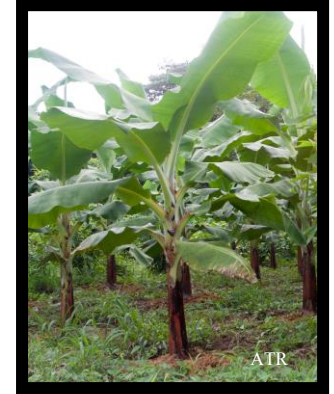
Day 4 – Wednesday, March 1

Morning visit to **La Selva Biological Station** (<http://www.tropicalstudies.org>), a research station managed by the Organization for Tropical Studies. You will experience the rainforest along their well-kept trails. In the afternoon, you will enjoy the views and sounds of the forest along the **Sarapiquí River**, on a leisurely boat tour. This is not white water rafting; it is slow water, perfect for birdwatching and enjoying the view.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Lodging: Hotel Sueño Azul

<http://www.suenoazulresort.com/>



Day 5 – Thursday, March 2

Today you will leave Sarapiquí and head out to the village of **Turrialba**. This busy town is in the bottom of the Turrialba Valley, with the magnificent (and active) **Turrialba volcano** in full view. En route stop at the campus of **EARTH University** (<https://www.earth.ac.cr/>) (School of Agriculture of the Tropical Humid Region), where one of their resident guides will take you to their **organic banana plantation**.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

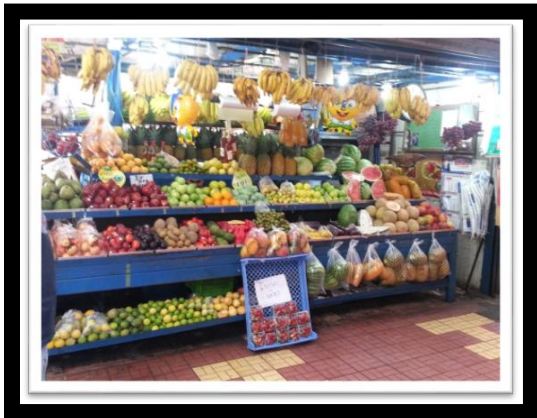
Lodging: Guayabo Lodge <http://www.guayabolodge.co.cr/>

Day 6 – Friday, March 3

In the morning, enjoy the gardens of **CATIE-The Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center** (www.catie.ac.cr/en/), where you will experience their “Fruits of the World” tour. You will have the chance to taste tropical fruits from all around the world. There will be some very pleasant surprises! In the afternoon, there will be a **service-learning project**.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Lodging: Guayabo Lodge <http://www.guayabolodge.co.cr/>



Day 7 – Saturday, March 4

After breakfast, drive back to San José, stopping en route at the **Farmer’s Market**. In the afternoon, visit **Ileana Terán’s** home and private garden.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

Lodging: Hotel Bougainvillea <http://www.hb.co.cr>

Day 8 – Sunday, March 5

We are at the end of our adventure and head for home - Pura Vida!! Transfer to the Juan Santamaria Airport in Alajuela (SJO). Safe travels!

****Please note that some airlines are already including the airport tax in the ticket price. Please check with your airline if this is the case with your ticket. If tax is not included, please pay it at the bank inside the airport*

This itinerary has been custom designed with almost all daily activities, meals, and tips for maids, porters, and the onsite guides included.



TRIP COST AND CONDITIONS

Hidden Treasures Botanical Tours, L.L.C., has organized this trip and they reserve the right to make necessary changes to the itinerary due to unforeseen circumstances. Hidden Treasures Botanical 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.



Register by 9/1:

\$2,150/person based on double occupancy
\$2,750/person based on single occupancy

Register after 9/1:

\$2,350/person based on double occupancy
\$2,950/person based on single occupancy

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 pre-existing conditions if you sign up for trip insurance within 15 days of sending in this registration form and paying your initial trip deposit.

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 unbelievable.

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.

Extension Master Gardener Tour of Costa Rica -- 2017

Registration Form – NC MASTER GARDENER COSTA RICA TOUR 2017

Please record name EXACTLY AS IT APPEARS ON YOUR PASSPORT and attach a photocopy to this registration form. Passport photocopy may be sent later.

Name _____

Passport # _____ Passport Exp. Date _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (home and/or cell) _____ Email _____

Emergency Contact Name and Phone _____

ROOMMATE: 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)

Make check 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. • 6324 N Chatham Ave #333, Kansas City, MO 64151
573-303-2872 (p) • Email: kari@hiddentreasurestours.com • hiddentreasurestours.com

