



Traveling Aggies

A PROGRAM OF
The Association of Former Students



COSTA RICA'S NATURAL HERITAGE

February 21-March 3, 2019

11 days for \$3,681 total price from Houston
(\$3,495 air & land inclusive plus \$186 airline taxes and fees)

Due to popular demand we've added a 2nd date, February 21, 2019—Book Now!



This tour is provided by
Odysseys Unlimited,
six-time honoree
Travel & Leisure's World's
Best Tour Operators award.

An Exclusive Small Group Tour for
Aggies & Friends of Texas A&M University



Howdy, Ags!

Join fellow Aggies on an exciting 11-day journey to amazing Costa Rica! Your small group will visit rainforests, volcanoes, national parks, and other exquisite, memorable settings.

Setting out from the Costa Rican capital of San Jose, you take a guided walk in Poas Volcano National Park to view one of the world's largest volcanic craters, followed by a visit to the Doka Coffee Estate. Then travel northward to the Arenal region for spectacular views of Arenal Volcano. Explore a biological reserve and take a sky walk tour high above the rainforest floor before visiting the cloud forest region of Monteverde. Your adventure concludes with a three-night stay at a resort along the pristine Costa Rican coastline and a float safari on the beautiful Tempisque River. If you are interested in beginning the tour earlier in exceptional Tortuguero National Park, a four-day/three-night pre-tour option is available.

With room for only 18 guests on this exclusive Traveling Aggies departure, we expect this tour to fill quickly. Book today to secure your spot!

Gig 'em!

Jennifer Bohac

Jennifer Bohac '87, Ph.D.
Director of Travel – Outreach and Engagement
The Association of Former Students

Marisa Liles

Marisa Liles
Director of Travel – Operations and Customer Service
The Association of Former Students

TRAVELING AGGIES RESERVATION FORM: COSTA RICA'S NATURAL HERITAGE

Enclosed is my/our deposit for \$_____(\$500 per person) for _____ person(s) on **Costa Rica's Natural Heritage**, departing **February 21, 2019**. I/We understand the final payment is due at least 95 days prior to departure. Payment may be made by American Express, Discover, MasterCard, VISA, or by personal check. **Please make check payable to Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., and send, with completed reservation form, to: The Association of Former Students, 505 George Bush Drive, College Station, Texas 77840-2918. Or you may call the Traveling Aggies at 979-845-7514 or toll-free at 800-633-7514, or fax your reservation form to 979-845-9263. You may also call Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. toll-free at 888-370-6765, or fax your reservation to 617-454-9199.**

Full Passport Name _____ Date of Birth _____ Gender _____

Badge Name _____ Class Year _____

Full Passport Name _____ Date of Birth _____ Gender _____

Badge Name _____ Class Year _____

Address _____ E-mail(s) _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Home Phone (_____) _____ Cell Phone (_____) _____

Please book my/our air from _____

I will share a room with _____ I request a single room (limited availability)

Pre-Tour "Tortuguero National Park" Option: Please sign me/us up

Please Note: The undersigned has read the schedule of activities for **Costa Rica's Natural Heritage, February 21-March 3, 2019**, and agrees that their signature below represents their acceptance of the General Terms & Conditions.

Signature(s) _____ Date _____

Method of Payment Check American Express Discover MasterCard VISA

Account # _____ Security Code _____ Exp. Date _____

Name of Cardholder _____

Signature _____

Final invoicing will be sent by our tour operator, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. The balance of the program price must be paid to Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. Final payment is due 95 days prior to departure, and is payable by check or credit card.

Tour membership limited to 18 Traveling Aggies and friends

COSTA RICA'S NATURAL HERITAGE

11 days for \$3,681 total price from Houston
(\$3,495 air & land inclusive plus \$186 airline taxes and fees)

In this small Central American democracy kissed by nature, our small group discovers a nation's wealth in four distinct regions, from cloud forest to rainforest; Central Valley to Pacific Coast. As Costa Rica presents its staggering display of biodiversity – pristine landscapes, unique microclimates, exotic flora and fauna – we enjoy a relaxed yet comprehensive exploration that celebrates Costa Rica's wide-ranging natural resources.



Avg. High (°F)	Feb	Mar
San Jose	76	79
Guanacaste	89	89

Day 1: Depart for San Jose, Costa Rica We arrive in the Costa Rican capital and transfer to our hotel located in the Escazu area outside the city. This afternoon and evening are at leisure.

Day 2: San Jose After meeting our tour director and fellow travelers at this morning's breakfast briefing, we embark on an excursion through the Central Valley to Poas Volcano National Park. Here we view one of the world's largest craters, a steaming, bubbling cauldron; and also take a guided walk along park trails. We continue on to the Doka Coffee Estate, located on the fertile slopes of Poas Volcano, where we learn about coffee-making and Costa Rica's coffee crop, one of the country's largest exports. After lunch at the Doka Estate, we return to our hotel late afternoon. Tonight we enjoy a welcome dinner at the hotel. *B,L,D*

Day 3: San Jose/Arenal Region We leave this morning for the Arenal region, passing picturesque villages along the way. We stop in Carrizal at the family-owned Botanical Orchid Garden, with tropical trails, exhibits, nurseries, and gardens all dedicated to the wondrous orchid plant. After time to explore here, we travel on to Arenal and our hotel, which offers magnificent views of Arenal Volcano and where we dine tonight. *B,L,D*

Day 4: Arenal Region This morning we visit a local elementary school to enjoy a cultural exchange with the children and learn about Costa Rica's vaunted educational system – the country boasts a literacy rate of more than 95%. We continue on to Ecocentro Danaus, a biological reserve focused on conservation, environmental education, and sustainability. A series of trails winds through the secondary forest, where we see diverse flora, including orchids, bromelia, and heliconia, along with some of the preserve's 150 species of birds, sloths, and bats, among other fauna. Highlights include a butterfly farm with 30 different species and a natural water spring that attracts waterfowl, alligators, and iguanas. Later today there's time for more volcano viewing before and after dinner (at a local restaurant) from a comfortable perch at our hotel. *B,L,D*

Small Group Tour Highlights

Poas Volcano excursion • Doka Coffee Estate • Carrizal's Botanical Orchid Garden • Visit with schoolchildren • Ecocentro Danaus Biological Reserve • Arenal hanging bridges Sky Walk • Night viewing of Arenal Volcano • Monteverde Cloud Forest biological reserve • Tempisque River float safari • Three-night Guanacaste stay at a beachfront resort

Day	Itinerary	Hotel	Rating
1	Depart U.S. for San Jose	InterContinental Costa Rica	Sup. First Class
2	San Jose	InterContinental Costa Rica	Sup. First Class
3-5	Arenal Region	Arenal Manoa	First Class
6-7	Monteverde Cloud Forest	El Establo Mountain Hotel	First Class
8-10	Guanacaste	JW Marriott Guanacaste Resort & Spa	Sup. First Class
11	Depart Guanacaste for U.S.		

Ratings are based on the Hotel & Travel Index, the travel industry standard reference.

Cover photo: Take in Arenal, one of the world's most active volcanoes, from a safe distance.



Capuchin monkeys abound in Costa Rica's rainforests.

Day 5: Arenal Region On this morning's visit to Arenal's hanging bridges Sky Walk, we have the special opportunity to experience the rainforest from the canopy level as we traverse a series of five suspension bridges high above the forest floor. While we observe the rainforest from a unique perspective, our naturalist guide will point out some of the flora and fauna that thrive here. Then we return to our hotel, where the remainder of the day is at leisure to relax amidst the beautiful grounds and thermal waters. Lunch and dinner today are on our own. *B*

Day 6: Arenal Region/Monteverde Cloud Forest We travel today to the "green cathedral" of Monteverde. En route we stop to visit a non-profit handicrafts cooperative dedicated to enhancing the economic and social well-being of local women artists. After lunch on our own in Santa Elena, we continue on to our hotel, arriving late afternoon. We dine tonight at a local restaurant in Monteverde. *B,D*

Day 7: Monteverde This morning we embark on a guided walk through Monteverde's biological reserve, learning about the amazing biodiversity in this relatively small area. Next we tour the Hummingbird Gallery, where feeders attract several different species of the delicate hummingbird. After lunch together we visit the Monteverde Bat Jungle to learn about Costa Rica's diverse – and important – bat population. Late this afternoon we return to our hotel for time at leisure before we dine together this evening. *B,L,D*

Day 8: Monteverde/Guanacaste We depart by coach this morning for Guanacaste, Costa Rica's stunning northwest Pacific coastal region. Along the way we visit Monteverde's delightful Butterfly Garden, with a variety of species including the stunning blue morpho and the virtually transparent glasswing. After

a stop for lunch, we reach our resort hotel overlooking the Pacific mid-afternoon. *B,L,D*

Day 9: Guanacaste A float safari on the Tempisque River highlights this morning's excursion to the Palo Verde region, which is both an extraordinary wetland and also one of the world's last tropical dry forests. In this unique ecosystem, we can expect to

Pre-Tour Option

February 18-21, 2019

TORTUGUERO NATIONAL PARK

4 days/3 nights
for \$695 total price

Single Supplement: \$145

Encounter exceptional biodiversity, from rainforest to marsh, where fresh water meets the sea to form canals, lagoons, and wetlands; and also to provide an important turtle nesting reserve. An ecological tour de force!

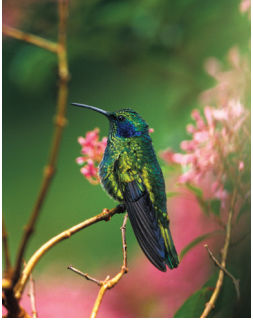
Your Tour Price Includes

- Round-trip transfers San Jose/Tortuguero by van and boat
- 3 nights' accommodations: 1 night in San Jose at InterContinental Costa Rica (Superior First Class); 2 nights in Tortuguero National Park at Mawamba Lodge (First Class)
- 8 meals: 3 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 2 dinners
- Included sightseeing: Tortuguero town and Caribbean Conservation Center; two boat safaris along the Tortuguero canals
- Services of an Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director

“MY COUNTRY ...
IS A COUNTRY OF PEACE.”

– OSCAR ARIAS

see abundant bird- and wildlife, including monkeys, iguanas, and crocodiles. After lunch together we return to our hotel mid-afternoon, with the remainder of the day at leisure along one of Costa Rica’s most beautiful Pacific Coast settings. *B,L*



Costa Rica: a paradise for hummingbirds

Day 10: Guanacaste

Today is at leisure to enjoy the beautiful beach and other amenities of our hotel, including an outdoor infinity pool. Optional activities include kayaking, hiking, or visiting the lively town of Tamarindo. This evening we gather at a farewell dinner to celebrate our Costa Rican adventure. *B,D*

Day 11: Depart for U.S. We transfer to the airport this morning for our return flights to the U.S. *B*



We explore Tortuguero’s canals on the pre-tour option.

Your Tour Price Includes

- Round-trip air transportation from listed cities
- 10 nights’ accommodations in Superior First Class and First Class hotels
- 23 meals: 10 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 7 dinners
- Extensive sightseeing as described, including all entrance fees
- Services of an expert Costa Rica naturalist as your Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director
- Private motorcoach transportation throughout your trip
- Luggage handling for one bag per person
- Gratuities for dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers



Enjoy treetop rainforest views from Arenal’s Sky Walk.

Tour Departs: February 21, 2019

Prices include int’l airfare and all taxes, surcharges, and fees.

Miami	\$3,481
Atlanta, Houston, New York, Orlando, Tampa, Washington, DC	\$3,681
Baltimore, Boston, Charlotte, Dallas, Detroit, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, San Francisco	\$3,781
Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Denver, Minneapolis, Phoenix, Portland (OR), Seattle	\$3,881
Land Only (transfers not included)	\$3,095

Please call if your city is not listed. Prices are per person based on double occupancy and include airline taxes, surcharges, and fees of \$186, which are subject to change until final payment is made.

Single travelers please add \$995.

All tour prices above (excluding airline taxes, surcharges, and fees) are guaranteed.

Please note: This tour includes nature walks and lengthy coach rides over bumpy dirt roads. You should be in good physical condition to enjoy the tour to the fullest.

For more information and reservations, please call the Traveling Aggies at 979-845-7514, or toll-free at 800-633-7514. Or call Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. toll-free at 888-370-6765

Monday–Friday, 9:00 AM–7:00 PM, Eastern Time

GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Please read this information carefully, as payment of a \$500 deposit per person represents your acceptance of the following Terms and Conditions.

Not Included in Tour Price

Airfare when purchasing a Land Only package; costs of passports and visas; personal expenses such as beverages, laundry, room service, and meals not specified; airport transfers when purchasing a Land Only package; gratuities to your Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. Tour Director, which are at your discretion (suggested gratuities: \$10-\$15 per traveler, per day); communication charges; optional sightseeing; and travel protection insurance. Additional baggage fees may apply and are subject to change at any time. You should confirm directly with your airline(s) prior to departure.

Cancellations, Refunds, and Changes

If you must cancel your trip, the effective date of cancellation will be upon Odysseys Unlimited, Inc.'s receipt of your written notification. Refunds for cancellations are subject to the following per person charges: **cancel 95 days or more before departure: \$200 charge; cancel 94-65 days before departure: 25% of tour price; cancel 64-45 days before departure: 50% of tour price; cancel 44-30 days before departure: 75% of tour price; cancel 29-0 days before departure: no refund.** If you make any changes to your reservation from 94 to 30 days prior to departure, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. will apply a \$100 per person administrative fee, in addition to any fees or penalties imposed by third parties. Changes are subject to availability and cannot be guaranteed. If your reservation changes from double occupancy to single occupancy for any reason, you will be charged the single supplement. **No changes are allowed within 30 days of departure. Upon reservation, you must provide your full legal name as it appears on your passport, as well as your date of birth and gender. In the event an airline ticket is issued with incorrect information you have provided, you will be responsible for charges associated with the ticket's reissue.**

No funds donated to The Association of Former Students or to Texas A&M University have been used in the production or mailing of this travel brochure; all such costs are covered by the tour supplier.

Responsibility

The liability of The Association of Former Students, as sponsor, and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., as tour operator, is strictly limited. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. purchases transportation, hotel accommodations, and restaurant and other services from independent suppliers not under our control. We serve only as agents for these suppliers in securing tour arrangements, and therefore will not accept responsibility for wrongful, negligent, or arbitrary acts or omissions of these independent contractors, or of their employees, agents, servants, or representatives. The Association of Former Students and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. are not liable for injury, damage, loss, accident, or delay that may be caused by events not within our control, including, without limitation, acts of terrorism, war, strikes, the defect of any vehicle, or the negligence or default of any third party. All coupons, receipts, and tickets issued are subject to the terms and conditions specified by the air carriers, cruise lines, and other independent suppliers. We will make every effort to operate our tours as planned, but we reserve the right to make itinerary changes as necessary. If unforeseen circumstances require us to change a hotel, we will select alternative accommodations of the same or better quality.

Health and Medical Issues

We request that you be in good health to participate in this tour. There is a reasonable amount of walking, nature walks, and lengthy coach rides over bumpy roads, and **you must be able to get on and off motorcoaches and boats on your own.** We regret that we cannot offer individual assistance; in such cases you must be accompanied by a companion who will assist you. Please note that many of our tour itineraries, for reasons beyond our control, do not accommodate wheelchairs. Please call or e-mail us to inquire and we will do our best to answer any questions you may have. We reserve the right to remove anyone whose physical or mental condition, in our opinion, compromises the operation of the tour or detracts from the enjoyment or safety of the other passengers. In that event, The Association of Former Students and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. assume no financial responsibility for any unused portion of the tour.

Air Transportation – Important Information

Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. includes in its tour price round-trip economy air from designated gateway cities as shown, and contracts with those airlines the company feels provide the level of service, routings, and value necessary for your entire trip. While another airline may offer a more direct connection, it may be at a price unavailable at the lower group rates. You will receive your preliminary air schedule approximately 2½ months prior to departure. **Please note that seat assignment on your international flight is usually done at airport check-in. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. is unable to guarantee any seat assignments.** Due to the nature of tour operator tickets, other restrictions apply, including, but not limited to, frequent flyer mileage accrual, stopovers, alternate travel dates, upgrades, and airline taxes and fees. If you prefer to make your own travel arrangements, Land Only is available on most tours. **Since international and domestic air schedules are subject to change at any time, we recommend that if you choose to make your own airline reservations, you do not purchase non-refundable tickets or those with high penalties for changes, if you choose to make your own air arrangements, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. shall not have any liability for any loss resulting from cancellation of this tour or changes in this tour.**

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JOIN US FOR AN EXCLUSIVE
TRAVELING AGGIES TOUR
TO COSTA RICA!

*Guaranteed Small Group:
Limited to 18 Guests*

