



Costa Rica Product Guide – Multi-Destination

Helpful hints for selling Costa Rica

- Costa Rica may be enjoyed by everyone except for those looking for that perfect white sand beach and crystal clear waters
- Costa Rica is a fantastic group/incentive destination with many opportunities for team building and exciting events. Contact the Vacation Express Group Department for assistance with groups of 10 or more passengers.
- There are plenty of activities that are not age or physical health restrictive
- Activities are often available from many regions and are not always specific to one region.
- Road conditions will vary depending on the area, but traveling through the country is enjoyable! Road access to the majority of the most popular tourist areas is good. Please refer to the Transfer Information section of the Training Materials for approximate travel times between regions.
- Allow for ample travel time between destinations and esp. to airport for return flight
- People are very friendly and accommodating, but remind clients that Spanish is their first language
- Tour guides throughout are extremely knowledgeable
- Car rental is an option but GPS recommended
- Be creative and allow for a combination of private transfers and shared transfers to save cost.
- Even high-end travelers tend to appreciate some of the more basic accommodations in certain areas. Combine some less expensive hotels and splurge on others.
- Primarily EP destination, but F&B very reasonable throughout, including at higher end resorts. Most resorts include a daily full breakfast

Transportation Options

We offer 4 different Transportation Options: *(all options are not available for all regions)*

Shared Transfer: Clients share a bus/van and are taken to one or more resorts before being dropped off at their selected resort; prices are per person

Shared Shuttle Transfer: Clients will share a bus to transfer between resorts with clients of multiple tour companies in a country-wide bus pool that covers multiple regions and areas; prices are per person

Private Transfer: Clients will have a private van or vehicle convey them directly to and from their destination; prices are per vehicle

Car Rentals: Car Rental options will be shown in the “Car Rental” area of the booking engine or as a hotel add on for single resort stays. Car rental is available only for the entire duration of a client’s stay (ie: if a client books 7nts, they must do an 8 day car rental, they cannot do just 4 days). Vehicle must be picked up and dropped off at the airport. Car rentals do not include mandatory insurance (\$17-\$26 p/day approx.) as well as an \$800 refundable credit card deposit. These fees are mandatory and are payable in destination when the car is picked up. If the clients choose to pick-up or leave their car at their resort, pick-up or drop-off fees may apply and are also payable in destination. Clients must be at least 21 to rent a car. Car descriptions are as follows:

Suzuki Alto – compact, allows 2 adults and 2 small children

Suzuki Jimmy – SUV, allows 2 adults, 2 children/teens and one infant or 3 small children

Daihatsu BEGO – SUV 4 Wheel Drive, allows 2 adults and 2 children/teens
Toyota Prado – SUV, allows 7 passengers

Trip Protection: TIP Travel Insurance is available for Costa Rica multi-region packages. TIP and PPP are available for select single resort stays.

Vacation Express Resorts and Regional Activities

In the Vacation Express multiple region booking engine, resorts are grouped by region, not airport. All resorts are accessible from either airport. Tours and Hotel Service add-ons are bookable in the SHOPPING CART area once the hotel(s)/transfers are selected and finalized. If you wish to change a resort in only one specific region once in the shopping cart, you must start the entire quote process over again.

SAN JOSE REGION: Region offers private transfers only from airport to resort.

- Perfect for first and last night stay depending on flight time.
- Central location from which many activities are accessible.

Sample activities: Class III, IV rafting, Tortuga Island, One day Tortugero Canals, Grecia and Sarchi artisan towns, Poas Volcano, Doka Estate coffee farm, City tour, Rainforest Ariel Tram, Turu Bari Nature and Adventure park, Canopy tours, Irazu Volcano

Xandari Resort and Spa (3.5 stars, BP) Located just above the town of Alajuela approximately 20 minutes from the SJO airport. The resort sits on a 40-acre plantation at an elevation of 3900 ft., which allows for spectacular views of the city below and a comfortable average temperature of 70 degrees year round. The 21 individually designed villas start at 500 sq. ft. and feature all the comforts of home including private terrace and bar/kitchen area. The décor of each villa is unique with stunning, colorful artwork, hand carved doors, stained glass, colorful tiles and architectural details. There are two lap pools, a heated Jacuzzi, wireless internet and a TV lounge. The central dining room offers a variety of selections including organic produce grown onsite, and continental breakfast is included in the rates. A full service spa is available offering a variety of massages, facials and body treatments in a private setting.

Doubletree Cariari (4 stars, BP plan): This resort offers both convenience and charm, located just 15 minutes from the SJO airport. The hotel offers a variety of rooms, some with balcony, the “Suite Dreams” signature Hilton bedding, mini bar, Neutrogena amenities, 24 hr. room service, in room internet. Wireless is available at no charge in the lobby. The hotel offers a fitness center and pool with swim-up bar, as well as a casino. Clients can choose between fine dining at the Curime restaurant or casual international fare at Las Tejas. Golf is available nearby and complimentary shuttle is available. Great location for exploring San Jose and the surrounding Central Valley region.

Costa Rica Marriott San Jose (4 stars, BP): Just 5 minutes from the airport, this resort sets the stage for a perfect Costa Rica getaway. Clients can stroll the 30 acre coffee plantation or practice their golf swing at the onsite driving range. The Spanish Colonial ambiance of the resort is perfect for relaxing in one of the two pools or at the new Kuo spa. The guestrooms offer comfort and convenience and include down comforters, a/c, mini bar, full marble bath, step-out balconies (most), Bath and Body Works amenities, internet access, safe and more. Guests can wake up and enjoy gourmet coffees and pastries at the Casa del Café or sample from international cuisine at the Antigua Restaurant and Bar. There is also a tapas restaurant, complete with wine list.

Finca Rosa Blanca (4 stars, BP): A truly unique and private retreat set in the hillside of Santa Barbara de Heredia overlooking the spectacular Central Valley. Awarded with 5 out of 5 CST (Certificate for Sustainable Tourism) leaves, this family owned and operated inn combines luxury with sustainability. Each of the 13 rooms are individually decorated with bold Gauguin-type murals, tile and local wood finishes. All rooms feature a Jacuzzi, mini bar and private verandahs with views to the valley below. The hotel sustains its own working fully organic and sustainable coffee plantation and guests are invited to tour the facility and participate in a “cupping” to better appreciate the quality and taste of coffee. Clients can relax in the pool or at the full service El Targua Spa with a variety of massages and therapies based on local botanical products. The El Tigre Vestido Restaurant and Bar specializes in creatively prepared Costa Rican and Central American cuisine, all locally sourced and organically grown wherever possible. Numerous

activities are available for clients, including to some of the hotel's community projects, including the local school, senior center and recycling center.

CENTRAL VALLEY CLOUD FOREST REGION: Private transfers only are available from and to the airport. Shared shuttle transportation is not available to other regions so only car rental or private transfers are available for inter-country transportation.

- Excellent location for exploring the interior
 - Secluded lodges make this perfect for honeymooners and adventure seeking couples
- Sample activities include: Horseback riding, river rafting (Class III and IV), mountain biking, canopy zip-lining, La Paz Waterfall Gardens with stunning rainforests, cascading waterfalls, and butterfly and orchid gardens, Poas Volcano, Irazu Volcano, Sarchi for arts and craft, Braulio Carrillo National Park, Coffee plantations, Botanical gardens, and the cosmopolitan city of San Jose is just an hour away*

Peace Lodge (4 stars, EP) NOTE: 4NT MAX STAY: Set on the grounds of the La Paz Waterfall Garden, approx. 1 hour from the San Jose airport, this unique rainforest lodge was selected as one of Trista and Ryan's Honeymoon Hotspots for the Travel Channel. House policy allows for a maximum stay of 4nts, and guests have full access to the breathtaking La Paz Waterfall Garden with over 2 miles of trails, a butterfly house, hummingbird garden and much more. The accommodations at the lodge are truly unique, using local materials and each featuring a stone fireplace, waterfall garden shower and Jacuzzi tub on the balcony – perfect for viewing the La Paz river valley and Poas Volcano. In addition, the rooms all have satellite TV, room service, aromatherapy bath products, robes, stereo, refrigerator and coffee maker. Complimentary internet access is available in the reception area or the Vista Poas dining room. Three dining outlets at both the lodge and the park afford a wide selection of cuisines, from light snack fare at the Big Trout Bar, and buffet dining at Colibries to elegant continental presentations at the Vista Poas Dining Room. A lagoon pool, Jacuzzi and massage services are also available for guest use.

El Silencio Lodge and Spa (4.5 Stars, FAP, part of the **Concierge Collection**): Tucked away in Bajos del Toro a little over an hour from the SJO airport, this distinctive resort offers rustic luxury in total harmony with its surroundings. The 16 individual *cabinas* (cabins) include a gas fireplace, balcony with private Jacuzzi, L'Occitane amenities and daily in room snacks. Each party is paired with an Eco-Concierge to help coordinate daily activities and lead the included Mystic Hike and tree planting ceremony. The Esencia spa offers a variety of treatments incorporating natural healing products. The resort includes 3 daily a la carte meals and non-alcoholic beverages, with an emphasis on indigenous dishes and produce grown on site. Guests have access to numerous activities such as canopy tours, whitewater rafting, mountain biking, Sarchi town, Poas Volcano, coffee tours, and is just 1 ½ hrs from Arenal volcano and the numerous tours available there as well. *\$25 spa credit exclusive for VE Concierge Collection clients.*

ARENAL REGION: Recommend private transfers to and from the airport. Shared shuttles are available from SJO airport, but only 2:30pm departure. Clients should be advised and be sure that arrivals allow ample time for customs, delays, etc.

- Perfect for families, singles, couples, honeymoon/romance, action seekers etc
 - Main attraction is Arenal Volcano, which is active, smoke can be seen during the day and lava at night
- Sample activities include: Sunset and lava view cruise, One day Monteverde, Class III rafting, Canyoning, ATVs, Canopy tours, Venado Caves, Safari float on the Penas Blancas, Lake Arenal Kayaking, Rio Celeste, Cano Negro, Arenal Volcano hiking, birdwatching, Thermal springs, Arenal hanging bridges*

Los Lagos (3 stars, BP): This resort just oozes local character. Set at the base of the Arenal Volcano just 10 minutes from the town of La Fortuna, this family friendly resort offers comfortable rooms with cable TV, a/c, private bath, safe, and spectacular views of the volcano. Premium superior rooms are larger with balcony or terrace, mini fridge and a full bath. The unique facilities of the resort are what set it apart from the other lodges in the area. A complex of three pools, including waterslides, swim-up bar and mini-Arenal Volcano fountain in the small children's pool. In addition, the resort has its own onsite hot springs, with a total of 6 different pools and two Jacuzzis containing the thermal water. For the moms who need a break from all of this fun, the Fungus Spa offers a wide selection of massages and body therapies using the local environmental resources, at a very reasonable rate. The Las Palmas Rainforest Restaurant offers daily breakfast (included in the rate), lunch and dinner featuring local cuisine and international items. A new

restaurant is available for use only by groups. Clients can also take a cab to the nearby town of La Fortuna for around \$5 each way.

Hotel Magic Mountain: (3.5 stars, BP): This charming hotel is located in the town of La Fortuna at the base of the Arenal Volcano with easy access to the volcano in addition to the convenience of an in-town location with cafes, bars and shopping within walking distance of the hotel. Newly built, the resort features 36 standard rooms and 6 jr. suites with volcano view Jacuzzi. The modern accommodations offer a/c, wireless internet (charge), coffee maker, private bath, cable TV, mini fridge, safe and balcony or terrace. Most rooms have a view to the volcano and the rates include complimentary breakfast and a welcome cocktail. The hotel offers a swimming pool with swim-up bar, sports bar and full service restaurant with a variety of local and international selections. Spa services are also available.

Tabacon Grand Spa Thermal Resort (4.5 stars, EP): The 114 room Tabacon Grand Spa Thermal Resort is located at the base of the Arenal Volcano offering luxurious amenities in a lush jungle setting. The resort recently became a member of the 'Leading Hotels of the World' and is also a member of 'Leading Spas of the World'. The elegant rooms are decorated in a modern style with tropical finishes and art, and include state of the art amenities including flat screen cable TV, DVD player, coffee maker, safe, mini bar, robes, and balcony or terrace. The Deluxe Forest, Junior Suite and Honeymoon Suite accommodations also offer Jacuzzis. The resort enforces a two night minimum stay year-round, and the rates also include entrance to the Tabacon Hot Springs – a series of natural pools heated by the volcano and surrounded by the unparalleled beauty of the rainforest. There are two onsite pools, also filled by the mineral water (the main pool has a swim-up bar and waterslide), as well as a restaurant and gift shop. The Grand Spa is located at the Hot Springs and is comprised of a central reception with Jacuzzi, sauna and steam, as well a changing facilities and treatment cabanas surrounded by the jungle. The Grand Spa specializes in hydrotherapy treatments, volcanic mud therapies and skin treatments utilizing regional materials. Yoga sessions and Temazcal are also available. The hotel features a quiet pool and Jacuzzi heated with thermal waters, fully equipped fitness center, a gift shop, and internal transportation from the resort to the hot springs. Guests have a wide selection of dining options, including the fine dining venue Los Tucanes at the resort or the casual option of Ave del Paraiso. Snacks are also available at the Café Brava lobby bar. The resort signature Gala Dinner offers a romantic option with private chef in a bungalow in the rainforest. Onsite weddings can also be arranged.

Hotel Royal Corin (4.5 Stars, BP): One of the newest resorts in the area, this contemporary resort offers 54 rooms, each with balcony and direct volcano views. In addition, the rooms feature modern baths with rain shower and multiple jets, LCD flat screen TV, internet access, mini bar, safe and deluxe amenities. The elegant pool complex has 3 naturally heated pools, complete with swim-up bar, in pool loungers, thermal Jacuzzis and a walk-through steam bath. The elegant Emperador restaurant serves international specialties a la carte for breakfast lunch and dinner. Guests can relax at the lobby bar or bask in spectacular views in the chic Lava Bar located on the 5th floor of the resort. The Loto Spa is a luxurious oasis where clients can sample from an extensive Asian-influenced treatment menu.

Arenal Nayara (4.5 stars, BP): This intimate 24 casita resort offers the perfect combination of privacy and luxury for a romantic escape. Surrounded by lush tropical gardens, all of the rooms feature a balcony with a view of the volcano and a private Jacuzzi. The rustic décor combines dark local woods with bold colored soft goods. The spacious baths include both indoor rain showers and outdoor garden showers, in addition to standard amenities such as stocked mini bar, in room safe, coffee/tea maker, DVD/CD/Ipod dock and a/c. Limited rooms with two double beds are available. After a day of adventure, the pool, with 3 separate Jacuzzis and swim-up bar is the perfect place to relax. Guests will find a variety of international specialties with a stunning view of the volcano from the Altamira restaurant or enjoy a snack and tropical drink from the Kali Kali bar. The Acantha Spa offers a wide variety of massages, facials and wraps or if hiking, canopy tours and mountain biking aren't enough, a fully equipped fitness center is also available. The Arenal/La Fortuna area has an abundance of tours and excursions to suit all ability levels.

The Springs Resort and Spa (4.5 stars, EP. part of the **Concierge Collection**): NOTE: 4NT MAX STAY. Perched on a mountain ridge, the resort offers amazing views of the volcano from most everywhere on property. The main lodge incorporates local wood and with modern Tico style to create a truly distinctive ambiance. There are a variety of different accommodations, including rooms, family suites and villas. All rooms include private terrace with volcano view, hammocks, a/c, marble bathroom with Jacuzzi and multi-head showers, DVD/CD player, MP3 dock, and a wet bar with numerous liquors, non alcoholic beverages wine drawers, and assorted snacks. The Springs has 4 restaurants, offering a wide array of dining choices, from buffet to sushi to fine dining, as well as 5 bars, including a swim-up bar and a bar at the hot springs.

The resort has two different thermal pool complexes, one located at the main building, with 12 pools (some chlorinated and heated by exchange system) and one adjacent to the main resort with 7 pools surrounded by lush tropical vegetation. There is also a 14,000 sq. ft. full service spa with numerous facial and body treatments available and a fully equipped gym. It is important to note that at this time some areas of the property are still under construction; however, the construction is minimal and not intrusive. Eventually the hotel plans to add additional guestrooms, a casino with table games and an old fashioned swimming hole with tubing, and another 12 pools. Like Tabacon, the hot springs complex is open to the public and day passes are sold by numerous local and international tour companies.

MONTEVERDE REGION: Recommend private transfers to and from the airport. Shared shuttles are available from SJO airport, but only 2:30pm departure. Clients should be advised and be sure that arrivals allow ample time for customs, delays, etc.

- Established by Quakers from Alabama in the 1950's.
- Perfect for nature lovers.
- Not recommended for first or last night stay due to tough road conditions
- Two Cloud Forest Reserves: for hikes and educational eco-system tours and activities
- Village of Santa Elena for local coffee shops, restaurants and bars.
- Hotels are usually not air conditioned due to natural cool temperatures in the Cloud Forest.

Recommended to bring a light jacket or sweater.

Sample activities include: Selvatura Park – hanging bridges and canopy, Night hiking in the Cloud Forest, Horseback riding, the Cheese Factory, Insect museum, reptile and butterfly exhibits, coffee plantation tours.

Hotel Heliconia (3 stars, BP): This charming family owned and operated Swiss-chalet-style lodge has a convenient location in Monteverde, just steps from quaint shops and restaurants. The hillside location affords spectacular views of the Cloud Forest and valley and even all the way to the Pacific on a clear day. The hotel offers a variety of accommodations, including standard rooms, family cabins and master suites, all decorated with local woods and vibrant colors. The rooms include full baths, shared balconies, safe and cable TV. The hotel has a small massage cabin and covered outdoor Jacuzzi for relaxation. The Mediterraneo Restaurant features homemade pizzas and a variety of local specialties and guests can relax in the cozy bar at the daily happy hour. Box lunches are available for clients on request.

El Establo (3.5 stars, BP): Situated on 150 acres in Monteverde is the modern resort of El Establo. This distinctive property offers all the facilities of a traditional resort while being surrounded by one of the most unique eco systems in the world – the cloud forest, which only occurs at altitudes over 3000 ft. The newly remodeled rooms are NOT air conditioned, as the climate is cool and comfortable year round. Clients visiting Monteverde may want to bring a light jacket or sweater for the evenings, which can be cool. All rooms offer full bath, cable TV, coffee maker, mini fridge and safe. Suites with lofted sleeping areas are also available, and the room rates include a wonderful daily breakfast buffet. Because the rooms are built into the mountain, the hotel does offer shuttle service throughout the property. The hotel has two restaurants, a casual venue and a fine dining outlet, complete with wine list. There are two bars, tennis courts, fitness center and two indoor heated swimming pools. The Green Leaf spa offers private treatment rooms with forest views and a full range of massages and body treatments, along with beauty salon services. The resort also has a conference center with facilities for business meetings, leisure groups, private events and weddings. The resort features its own onsite canopy tour (extra charge) with 16 cables and a Tarzan Swing. In the nearby town of Santa Elena, guests will discover a quaint area of restaurants, bars and shopping. Quakers from Alabama established the community in Monteverde in the 1950's, so English is widely spoken

PUNTARENAS REGION: Region only offers private transfer to and from the airport.

- Beach time for last few days of vacation.
- Many activities are accessible within a few hrs from this area and therefore could be a central location similar to San Jose.
- Jaco and surrounding beaches offer excellent surfing

Sample activities include: Carara National Park, Manuel Antonio National Park, best area for surfing/surf lessons, sportfishing, whitewater rafting, Tortuga Island, Arenal Volcano, Canopy tours, horseback riding, the Pacific Rainforest Ariel Tram, Jungle Crocodile safari, Sea Kayaking/Outrigger Canoe tours, Isla Damas.

Xandari by the Pacific (3.5 stars, BP): Xandari by the Pacific is the sister resort to Xandari Resort and Spa. This beachfront resort is located on Playa Esterillos Este in between Jaco Beach and Quepos around 2 ½ hours from the San Jose airport. As with their sister hotel, all units are individually designed villas with capacity for 4-5 people. Clients can select from a garden villa with private patio and enclosed garden or a beachfront villa located directly on the beach. Five of the 20 villas offer private plunge pools. All the villas offer mini-kitchens offering mini-bars, dishes and glasses, coffeemaker, and a selection of coffee, teas, snacks, juices and water complimentary. All villas are equipped with air conditioning, ceiling fans, a security safe, hair dryer, extra fan, telephone, alarm clock, and CD player, as well as the unique artwork and design features that are the hallmark of both resorts. Two swimming pools and a heated Jacuzzi are available for guest use, and a central open-air restaurant offers international and local cuisine. A generous continental breakfast is included in the rate. High speed internet is available in the TV lounge.

Doubletree Resort by Hilton Puntarenas (4 stars, AI): Located adjacent to the port town of Puntarenas, this resort is a great choice for the client who wants to explore everything Costa Rica has to offer, but prefers a traditional resort setting. The central location is just 1 ½ hrs from SJO and 2 ½ hrs from LIR, and within 2 hours drive of most of the region's major attractions. Over the last year, the resort has upgraded the rooms to include the signature Suite Dreams by Hilton bedding, Neutrogena amenities and all the standard comforts. All rooms, except the Jr. Suites offer balconies with views of the gardens and ocean. Guests can enjoy 4 large pool areas, swim-up bar, a casino, kids club and a host of daily organized activities and nightly shows and entertainment. Clients can enjoy a variety of cuisines at five different restaurants, offering both a la carte and buffet service. The sports bar-disco gets busy nightly after the show ends, but the highlight is the Sunset Bar (only open on weekends) where guests can enjoy tropical cocktails while enjoying spectacular sunsets from the pier.

Los Suenos Marriott Herradura (4 stars, BP and AI): The luxurious beachfront resort is set amidst an 1,100 acre rainforest overlooking the Pacific Ocean. The traditional colonial architecture is the perfect foil for clients wishing to absorb the natural treasures of the region in comfort and style. Cozy rooms offer tropical décor along with a wide variety of creature comforts including Bath and Bodyworks products, spacious full bath, coffee maker, mini bar, room service and French balcony or terrace. The resort offers an 18-hole championship golf course, full gaming casino and new Poseidon Spa and Fitness Center, as well as a fitness and jogging trail. Guests can relax in the beautiful multi-level pool complex and children will enjoy numerous activities at the Tortuga Kids Club. The dining at this resort is a highlight, and guests can choose from 6 different venues offering everything from grab-and-go snacks to creative regional specialties in a fine dining setting.

NICOYA PENINSULA REGION: Transfer options are limited to private transfers and car rentals only. Please note road conditions during the Sept/Oct rainy season peak may prevent Punta Islita from being accessible except by air, however new bridges have just opened so this should not be too much of an issue going forward. See resort description for details on booking air transfers.

- Remote and eclectic beachfront hideaways, perfect for couples, surfers and families
- Access to world class surfing at Montezuma, Santa Teresa, Playa Manzanillo and more
- Plenty of eco-adventure activities available nearby

Sample Activities: Tortuga Island, Pochote Mangrove, Curu Nature Reserve, Canopy tours, horseback riding, sport fishing, Montezuma/Waterfalls, Cabo Blanco Reserve, sailing, sunset cruises, beach tours, surfing and surfing lessons

Punta Islita (4 stars, BP): Located in between Playa Samara and Santa Teresa on the Nicoya Peninsula, this remote hideaway is worth the effort to get there. The resort rooms and facilities climb up the hillside overlooking the breathtaking Pacific Ocean and the semi-private beach cove. Clients can choose from a variety of room types that incorporate rustic Tico style with modern comfort and plush amenities. The rooms are located in small groupings; each unit with private entrance and the majority feature a private outdoor Jacuzzi or plunge pool. All rooms offer terrace with hammock, views to the ocean and gardens,

L'Occitane amenities, high thread count linens and fully stocked refreshment center. Larger, 2 bedroom casitas and private house rentals are also available. The resort offers a 9-hole golf course, onsite canopy tour, surf school and light activities and entertainment. There is a pool and swim-up bar and casual restaurant at beach level, as well as an additional infinity pool adjacent to the lobby. The adjacent Islita town also has an art gallery, a few small boutiques and a restaurant and clients can get an up close look at rural Costa Rican life. The 1492 Restaurant offers a varied selection of international cuisine with Costa Rican flair and an extensive wine list. Complimentary internet service, tour planning and concierge services are also available. Getting to the resort is a bit of an adventure. Clients can fly from San Jose via one of the regional carriers for \$220 per person one way, including transfers from San Jose hotels to the regional airport. The drive to Punta Islita from either the LIR or SJO airport takes about 4 hours in the best road conditions and minimal traffic, but the resort is not always accessible by car, so clients traveling during the peak of the rainy season should consider the inter-destination flight options. These must be booked manually and are on request to be confirmed by Hotelbeds (our ground operator) with the schedule. Clients should plan to overnigh in San Jose and depart for the resort the morning after their arrival in the destination and prior to their departure.

Tango Mar (3.5 stars, BP): Tango Mar is a casual and friendly hideaway nestled on the tip of the Nicoya Peninsula. Located between Tambor and the popular surf village of Montezuma, this intimate retreat is worth the drive. From San Jose, clients will be transferred 2 hours to the Punta Arenas ferry dock for a 1 hr. and 15 min. boat ride; then a 40 min. land transfer to the resort. From Liberia (LIR) it's a 4 ½ hr drive overland. There is shared shuttle service available from San Jose. Guests can select from three different room categories. The newly renovated standard beachfront rooms offer 2 queen beds, a/c, private bath, stocked mini bar, coffee maker, satellite TV and fresh new soft goods. The Tropical Suites are double occupancy only. Surrounded by lush jungle, each suite has a hand carved canopy bed and private bath with Jacuzzi. The unique Tiki Suites are Polynesian style wood and bamboo cabanas just 60 ft. from the beach and include sitting areas and private Jacuzzis. Four villas are also available on a request basis with 2-5 bedrooms, some with private pools and all with full kitchens. Tango Mar has two restaurants: Cristobal, which serves breakfast and dinner and El Pirata for snacks and light fare during the day. Beverages are available at the Tango Bar or the new Oceanside deck. New meeting space and an upstairs lounge are available for private events. The resort is ideal for destination weddings with its beautiful beachfront location and spectacular 'mirador' (overlook) for ceremonies and receptions. The resort has two private beaches for guest use, a lighted tennis court, swimming pool and onsite horses and stables, a 9 hole pitch and putt course as well as unique spa services and yoga sessions. While remote, the location of the resort is ideal for exploring many untouched areas of Costa Rica.

MANUEL ANTONIO REGION: Recommend private transfers to and from the airport. Shared shuttles are available from SJO airport, but only 2:30pm departure. Clients should be advised and be sure that arrivals allow ample time for customs, delays, etc.

- Interesting and fun town area with reasonably priced restaurants and bars. Nice beaches in certain areas.
- All resorts hillside, not the easiest area for physically challenged clients
- Arenas del Mar and Hotel Parador have direct beach access from the property

Sample activities include: Canopy tours, Rainmaker Tour (primary rainforest/watershed area), Damas Island, Butterfly and Aquatic Gardens Nature Reserve, Savegre whitewater rafting, Naranjo whitewater rafting, Manuel Antonio National Park, Horseback riding; Canopy safari; Naranjo Rivier (class III/IV) rafting; Savegre River (class II/III) rafting; Wave runners; Mangrove or Sea Kayaking tours and a variety of water sports including surfing on the legendary waves of Manuel Antonio as featured in Endless Summer II.

Casitas Eclipse (3 stars, BP): Located 5 minutes from the entrance to Manuel Antonio National park and approx. 4 hours from the San Jose airport, this adorable Mediterranean style hotel sits on top of a peak overlooking the jungle and Pacific Ocean. Access to a half-mile plus stretch of beach is just 5 minutes from the hotel. The resort offers three different types of rooms: a standard, which holds 3 guests, a suite accommodating 4 guests and a casita which can accommodate up to 6 people in the unit. All rooms offer private bath, air conditioning, and cable television and the rates include breakfast daily. The hotel has three pools, a small eco-park, which highlights preservation, conservation and the creative use of recycled

materials, the Bar Tutu with nightly entertainment and tropical cocktails, and the Gato Negro Restaurant featuring Mediterranean cuisine and live music. The area of Manuel Antonio has long been one of the most popular tourist areas in Costa Rica because of its stunning beaches and amazing adjacent rainforest reserve. This hotel is more oriented toward the younger, more adventurous traveler.

Parador Resort and Spa (4 stars, BP): Located on the crest of Punta Quepos, this beachfront resort offers spectacular views of the Pacific and lush tropical rainforest from all sides. However, clients will have to walk the hills to get to the beach and certain room categories, including the new Las Suites area. The location offers a great combination of privacy and easy access to the area's many local attractions, and the flamboyant European style décor, mini-golf and 4 separate pools (two adults only) make this a great choice from which active families can explore the region. The rooms are spacious and comfortable offering full baths, balcony or terrace, stocked mini-bar, safes, cable TV and all the typical amenities. Clients in the premium rooms can access these rooms by incline lift. The new rooms in the Las Suites section are adults only and decorated with a more modern touch, as well as Jacuzzis on the balcony and king beds (some units with sofa beds), as well as a private adults only pool and restaurant. The new Pacifica Spa offers a variety of massage and body therapies as well as a whirlpool, plunge pool, steam room and new gym. The resort includes a full breakfast buffet daily, and offers a variety of international dining options, both a la carte and buffet as well as a private dining room with seating for 10. The new La Fragata Restaurant is available exclusively for guests of the Las Suites section and serves lunch and sunset tapas. Clients can relax during the day at the swim-up bar and in the evening choose from the lounge or piano bar. Room service is also available from 7am until 11:30pm. The resort also offers 12 acres of nature trails, meeting space for up to 60 and free wireless internet in the main building, pool and terraces (computer stations are also available). Shuttle service to the beach and to Manuel Antonio National Park is also offered on a daily basis.

Arenas del Mar (4.5 stars, BP, part of the **Concierge Collection**): Set in the perfect location to explore Costa Rica's Pacific Coast, Arenas del Mar offers an upscale resort environment just a little over a mile from the port town of Quepos adjacent to Manuel Antonio National Park. The hotel itself sits on a cliff and has direct access to two spectacular beaches. Inter-resort golf carts are available on demand to transport clients throughout the resort. The 38 rooms overlook the Pacific and surrounding rainforest. Clients can select from 4 different room categories, but all rooms are king bed only, although some suites do have pull out sofas and can accommodate 3 or 4 guests. Rooms include full bath, balcony, wireless internet access (fee), flat screen cable TV, stocked mini bar, coffee maker, safe, iron, and ironing board. Ocean View Apartments and Ocean Breeze Suites feature a Jacuzzi on the large balcony, and all rooms enjoy sweeping views of the Pacific Ocean or the lush tropical rainforest include full a la carte breakfast in the rate. The resort has one full service restaurant serving breakfast, lunch and dinner and one beachside restaurant offering lunch/snack fare. Two bars are available on property, as is room service from 7am-10pm. Arenas del Mar has two swimming pools, rainforest walking trails and the Las Brisas boutique spa with a wide selection of facial treatments, massages and spa experiences designed with the natural elements of the destination.

Gaia Hotel and Reserve (4.5 stars, BP): ADULTS ONLY 16+ The property originally began as a nature reserve, Jardin Gaia, a center for native orchid conservation and endangered species rehabilitation. This boutique haven offers just 38 rooms decorated with a modern South Beach feel surrounded by the lush tropical lowland forest. Units range from 350 to 2000 sq ft and feature LCD flat screen TV, 500 thread count linens, full bath, CD/DVD player, 24-hr room service and personalized concierge service, as well as balcony or terrace. Higher categories offer Jacuzzis and plunge pools and internet connectivity is available throughout the resort. The resort operates on a Concierge service included with every room, and the Concierge will assist clients with anything the client needs, including restaurant recommendations and personal shopping. The full service Terra Spa offers a complete range of body and facial therapies and a complete fitness center with Pilates, yoga, cardio and weights available. Clients can also relax in the tri-level infinity pool and Jacuzzi or take the complimentary shuttle to the beach. The La Luna restaurant offers a selection of international, local and low-carb cuisines, along with a 24 hr. light menu, while tapas and beverages are available at the Ambar Lounge. Poolside snacks and beverages are also readily available, along with an extensive wine selection.

GUANACASTE REGION: Private transfers are available from either airport. Shared transfers are available from the LIR airport only.

- Pristine beaches and a variety of resorts, including all inclusive products, offer a more traditional leisure option, great for singles, couples, families, groups, and romantic escapes
- Several resorts have more remote locations, so getting to town can be pricey with cabs.
- The coast of Guanacaste is a tropical dry forest, and the vegetation will be greener from May-November.

Sample activities include: Palo Verde National Park, day trips to Nicaragua, Rincon de la Vieja and Miravalles Volcanos, surfing beaches in Tamarindo and south to Nosara, Carillo, day trips to Arenal and Monteverde, canopy tours, rappelling, white water rafting, Las Baulas National Park, kayaking, water sports, deep sea fishing, scuba diving.

New Guanacaste Resorts

Capitan Suizo (3.5 stars, BP): Located on the beach on the outskirts of Tamarindo, this charming family owned boutique resort offers 30 rooms and bungalows in a private jungle setting. The standard rooms offer Tico style furnishings with fresh linens and cool color accents. Some of these units do not have a/c, but all include balcony or terrace, mini fridge and bath with shower. The bungalows are set into the resort's gardens offering more privacy and feature romantic bed draping, Jacuzzi and outdoor hot water shower as well as large terraces. Guests can use the small fitness room to stay in shape or relax in the free form swimming pool. The resort also has a poolside restaurant serving international a la carte breakfast, lunch and dinner. During the dry season, beach barbeques are held, as well as candlelight dinners on the beach. Internet service is also available at the resort. Light evening entertainment, including folkloric shows and marimba bands are offered on some days of the week. Of course, clients can also walk or take a taxi into Tamarindo for shopping and nightlife.

RIU Guanacaste (4 stars, AI): Opening Oct. 30, 2009, this will eventually be a 4 resort complex, including a golf course. The resort is located on Matapalo beach, just 30 minutes from the LIR airport, between the Villas Sol and Ocotal area. The resort features all the RIU standard amenities, 24 hour all-inclusive snack and beverage service, access to the onsite casino and entry to Riu's renowned nightclub, liquor dispenser, full bath, balcony or terrace. Jacuzzi suites and large Family suites are also available, as are rooms with ocean views. The resort is situated on a plain, so it is easier to navigate for clients with mobility issues than some other resorts in the area that climb up the mountains. With 701 rooms, a casino and full meeting space, the resort is also ideal for groups. Guests will also enjoy the free form pool and swim-up bar as well as the full service Renova Spa and fitness center. Daily and nightly activities are available, as well as a supervised mini-club for kids. The resort features 4 restaurants and 5 bars, including 24-hr food and beverage service.

Existing Guanacaste Hotel Updates

Flamingo Beach Resort (3.5 stars, BP/AI): recently completed all renovations and now has fully refurbished rooms and public areas, as well as a brand new spa. Family Studios allow up to 6 guests including 2A/4C. Rating has been increased to 3.5 stars.

Villas Sol Hotel and Beach Resort (3.5 stars, AI): Also recently completed full resort renovation with new motor lobby and modern room décor, as well as new villa units (units with private pools are still available on a request basis only). The resort still has beach access and shuttle service, but for the moment does not offer food and beverage service at the beach, there is also a larger free form pool with swim-up bar and a mini-spa/beauty salon available for guests.

Tamarindo Diria (3.5 stars, BP): The resort has an entirely new section located across the street from the lobby, with large free form pool, swim-up bar and new larger room units. All rooms have been recently renovated and have newer, more modern fabrics. For clients who want the original beachfront section, book the Sunset Ocean View room category, which remain the only beachfront rooms in Tamarindo.

Hilton Papagayo (4 stars, BP): Refurbished all guestrooms to now include signature Hilton Serenity bedding, as well as a more atonal color scheme. The Ocean View guestrooms are located in a new building at the crest of the hill, along with the Junior Suites, which feature private plunge pools. While no longer an AI resort, FAP and MAP plans are available as add-ons.

Paradisus Playa Conchal (5 stars, AI, part of the **Concierge Collection**): Opened a new full service spa, complete with hydrotherapy circuit. Rooms have been refreshed with new linens and furniture. The resort also has a new 'chill-out' lounge area, and new Gabi restaurant, as well as a new adults only pool for Royal Service guests.