

*Serendipity Adventures, Inc.*

*Serendipity Costa Rica, S.A.*

P.O. Box 2325 • Ann Arbor, MI 48106

Phone (800) 635-2325 • (734) 995-0111 • FAX (734) 426-5026

Costa Rica (Country code 506): Phone 558-1000 FAX: 558-1010

Created:

Saturday, February 02, 2008 1:59 PM

Updated:

Thursday, April 24, 2008 4:00 PM

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## ***Intrepid Adventure in Costa Rica - Serendipity Style!***

<b>DATE</b>	<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>HOTEL</b>
Day 1: Sat.	A private vehicle and driver will meet your flight, and take you to a lovely country inn on the edge of Costa Rica's most exclusive residential area. From here you can walk in the neighborhood or take a taxi into this vibrant city for night life, or, if an early arrival, take a taxi into San José for museums and people-watching.	Costa Verde Inn, Escazú
Day 2: Sun.	<p>Eat a hearty breakfast, then we're off across the mountains. The destination is a primary forest (primary forest? Forest so ancient that it contains trees in excess of 600 years.)</p> <p>There are very few primary forests left in Costa Rica, because they have to withstand not just man's destruction but also nature's own forces of flood, lightning, and wind.</p> <p>Within the forest is the awesome strangler fig. We'll explain what this is when you see it. And climb it (for those who have no fear of heights, or bats). Inside it. Wow!</p>	Tilajari, Meulle, San Carlos (near Arenal Volcano)
Day 3: Mon.	There are a few gentle rivers near Arenal Volcano, full of glorious birds and wildlife -- sloth, monkeys, toucans, and caimans (a dead-ringer for a crocodile). We'll explore this river on our inflatable one and two man kayaks (but remember it is not a crocodile...just looks like one). These silent boats literally creep up on nature, and, if you are silent, you can often see animals that shy away from humans and noisy powerboats.	as above
Day 4: Tue.	<p>What a beautiful way to start the morning - climbing onto the back of a well-trained horse, then traversing fields and through small villages.</p> <p>From the saddle you are in a much better position to observe everything around you -- and our horses are very good at watching where they are stepping.</p> <p>After the horses the hot springs beckon -- a private place, with no sign out front. And after dark, if the fireworks are exploding atop the volcano, we can sneak over to the base</p>	as above



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	<p>of the volcano, ascend on a private farm, and watch, with no artificial light or sign of another human being, as Arenal rumbles and glows and spits in front of us. Even if cloudy and you can't see it, the sound of the volcano is earth-shuddering, and you feel a bit like David listening for Goliath to appear.</p>	
<p>Day 5: Wed.</p>	<p>In the morning we start our move to the white water area. As we climb over a mountain range and view the diverse changes in climate.</p> <p>We're stopping en route to take on this popular Costa Rican "sport" -- an ascent into the higher branches of the forest with harnesses and zip lines. The cables connect massive trees, and you dangle from the cables, one after another, and zip across from platform to platform.</p>	<p>Hacienda Florencia, Turrialba -or- Guayabo Lodge, Santa Cruz</p>
<p>Day 6: Thur.</p>	<p>It's time for a real teamwork expedition - the Pacuare River.</p> <p>On the way to the river we'll stop to visit our friend who knows more about the natural inhabitants of this area (especially those you need to look out for).</p> <p>Today you will learn the essential skills of great rafting, then venture down into the canyons, with 8 Class IV rapids and almost nonstop action.</p> <p>The Pacuare is threatened by plans for a massive hydroelectric project, so we'll enjoy it while we can even as we at Serendipity continue to work to prevent the river's destruction. (NOTE: In high water conditions, Serendipity will change the rafting to a smaller river, either the Pejebeye or the Sarapiquí. In extremely high water conditions we would need to cancel all white water, but this is extremely rare).</p> <p>Serendipity is very proud of our guide training, emergency procedures and equipment backup system. We have extensive -- AND CONSTANTLY REPLENISHED -- first aid kits, first aid trained guides, always a bilingual guide with clients, a safety kayaker, an oar boat which also serves as a safety backup boat, ability to communicate with the outside world, and we have a wealth of experience, and respect, for the river. Our guide-to-paddler ratio is</p>	<p>as above</p>



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	unprecedented in Costa Rica, and most other places of the world. These security measures may appear excessive, but we prefer not to test this...	
Day 7: Fri.	Canyoning is all the stuff from the movies -- going down waterfalls attached to ropes, trusting your Serendipity guides, your traveling companions, your harness, and your own adventurous spirit. We'll move from small to bigger to the biggest. And you'll appreciate the hot chocolate to rejuvenate your shaking hands -- is it the cold water or the adrenaline? We'll stay on the west side of San José tonight, and see if there is some local dancing or entertainment we can find. Ever tried salsa?	as above
Day 8: Sat.	Today, sadly, you have to depart, but you will definitely take with you some great memories and new experiences as well, and probably a few Serendipity bumps and bruises.	departure

The above itinerary for 1 person for 8 Days using 1 room in each location is **\$2,790, plus \$390 single supplement, excluding international air fare.** This itinerary includes all hotels as listed, a bilingual Serendipity adventure leader, and when your Serendipity leader is with you (Day 2 through DAY 8) it includes breakfast and lunch each day, dreaded Costa Rican taxes (about 16% on everything!), all transportation and all adventures as listed (plus a few not mentioned). You'll try some things which you never thought even in your wildest dreams you would ever attempt, and you'll appreciate the one-on-one relationship with a knowledgeable guide/leader who takes you through the steps. **NOT INCLUDED:** alcoholic beverages, evening meals, exit visa for Costa Rica (\$26 per person), guide tips. Also excluded are meals, local transportation, and activities when you are "on your own" (without the Serendipity guide): Day 1.

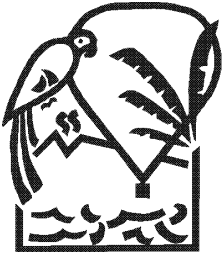
## NOTICE OF RISK

Serendipity Adventures, Inc. and Serendipity Costa Rica, S.A. have advised me that there are risks and dangers involved in participating in their adventure expedition. The dangers include possible injury or death caused by any of the activities provided, including but not limited to: hiking, biking and driving on and off roads, ascending on ropes and harnesses into trees, structures, natural formations or anchor points, rappelling, balloon inflation, flight and landing, white water rafting, rubber Duckies, kayaking, horseback riding, hiking, swimming, scuba,

climbing, insect and snake bites, power boating, animal bites, sailing, hiking on or near volcanoes, food poisoning, fishing, surfing, and windsurfing. I participate in these activities of my own free will, recognize that the element of risk is a necessary part of the enjoyment of this trip, and I hold Serendipity Adventures, Inc. and Serendipity Costa Rica, S.A. harmless for my safety beyond normal due care. By joining this trip I acknowledge that I have been informed of these risks.

## TERMS

Reservations are confirmed upon receipt of \$600 deposit per person. **CANCELLATION:** Full refund, less \$190 per



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person, if requested in writing at least 65 days before start date. No refund if cancellation received less than 65 days before start date. Final payment at least 60 days before start date. Full payment should accompany reservations made less than 45 days before departure.

**Credit cards (AMEX, VISA and Mastercard) may be used for the deposit.** The above price assumes final balance paid by cash, personal or corporate check, or money order. Any other final balance payment will result in a 4% additional processing fee.

**WEATHER RISKS:** As with all outdoor sports, scheduled balloon flights, rafting, climbing, air and ground transportation and other activities are weather dependent. Activities may be rearranged to accommodate weather conditions, or canceled in the interests of safety.

**INSURANCE:** Car theft is EXTREMELY COMMON all over Costa Rica. Please avoid carrying extra "things" and then leaving them in the car when away from your hotel. Serendipity is not able to buy insurance in Costa Rica on vehicle contents or mysterious disappearance from vehicles, hotels, etc. Serendipity must therefore limit its liability to no more than \$100 per person for loss of personal possessions. We **STRONGLY recommend** travel insurance for lost or stolen luggage, trip

cancellation and medical emergency available thru your travel agent or *Travel Insurance Services*, (800) 937-1387 or (925) 932-1387 or [www.travelinsure.com](http://www.travelinsure.com). All participants will be required to sign and return a release form prior to departure.

**TIPPING:** We are constantly asked what is appropriate. Our answer, of course, is that any tip is optional. Our guides, like fishing charter guides or naturalist guides, usually receive about 7-12% of the total trip cost, depending on the quality of the service he or she has provided and on your preference. The principal guide shares his/her tip with the 8-16 other guides -- river guides, horseback guides, climbing guides, naturalist guides, drivers, etc. who will be with you at different times during the adventures. This policy of "lumping" the tip with the principal guide eliminates a need to constantly be concerned about tipping etiquette in Costa Rica).

**EXTENSIONS:** Serendipity is happy to make your travel arrangements within Costa Rica. Give us details of your interests and travel dates, and we will suggest the best options for you.

**AIR FARE** to Costa Rica not included We are pleased to help you decide advantageous routes on American, Delta , Frontier, United, Spirit, U.S. Air, Iberia, Martinair, and Continental Airlines.