Preliminary Itinerary
Costa Rica: An Ecological Family Friendly Adventure
December 21-29, 2019

Saturday, December 21: US/San José
When you arrive in San José, our representative will meet you at the airport. After collecting luggage and exiting customs, look for the CAU sign. The guide will assist you with your luggage and check-in at our comfortable hotel. Enjoy a good night’s sleep after your long day of travel. Tomorrow the adventure begins!
HILTON GARDEN INN

Sunday, December 22: San José to Tortuguero
After a welcome breakfast, we will depart San José by bus for Tortuguero National Park, a region rich with wildlife and flora and a birder’s paradise. This remote area is only accessible by boat. Located in a tropical lowland forest with a system of rivers and man-made channels running through primary forest, the park is named for the Atlantic green sea turtles who nest here from July to September. The park is also well populated with caiman, sloths, monkeys and a variety of tropical birds. An afternoon kayaking trip will be a refreshingly quiet and relaxing way for the whole family to get some great exercise, tico style!
ANINGA LODGE (B,L,D)

Monday, December 23: Tortuguero
In the morning we will again venture out to Tortuguero National Park for a jungle boat expedition along the winding river system. This is the best way to see wildlife and learn about the lowland tropical rain forest. The Tortuguero canal system was built from 1966 to 1974 and its four canals together create a 65-mile aquatic highway. The Tortuguero National Park covers 14 miles of shoreline and extends 19 miles out to sea. After lunch, we will engage with local children in a friendly game of soccer or hacky-sack before we proceed to a chocolate-making workshop. Our local guides will share the fascinating history and cultural traditions of this rich delicacy. Dinner will be at the lodge.
ANINGA LODGE (B,L,D)

Tuesday, December 24: Tortuguero to Manuel Antonio
After an early breakfast and flight to San José, we will travel by land to Manuel Antonio National Park. Today we will tour the Titi Canopy. Guided by bilingual instructors with a perfect safety record, we will be thrilled by the experience of 12 lines, 22 platforms, one rappel, one Tarzan swing, and a treetop suspension bridge. In the late afternoon and evening we'll relax at the picturesque Hotel Parador Resort & Spa.
HOTEL PARADOR RESORT & SPA (B,L,D)
Wednesday, December 25: Manuel Antonio National Park
Following breakfast at the resort, we’ll begin our day by again exploring the thriving nature reserve of Manuel Antonio National Park. Its numerous trails and beautiful coastline waters teem with a wealth of fascinating wildlife. The park is a dense, self-contained microcosm of all the species that makes Costa Rica such an incredible ecological destination for travelers from the world. Later, enjoy swimming at the resort or take in a local surfing lesson. Dinner will be in a local restaurant.
HOTEL PARADOR RESORT & SPA (B,L,D)

Thursday, December 26: Manuel Antonio National Park
After breakfast at the resort, we will visit a local organization called “Kids Saving the Rainforest” which has spent the last 10 years protecting this important habitat. On our visit we’ll see the animal sanctuary and rehab center and feed some monkeys. After a traditional Costa Rican lunch, there will be time for a dip in the pool before we leave the rainforest sanctuary. Enjoy time relaxing over dinner at the hotel or head into town and try something local.
HOTEL PARADOR RESORT & SPA (B,L)

Friday, December 27: Manuel Antonio to San José
Following breakfast, we’ll check out of the resort and leave for San José. We’ll break up our drive with several stops, including at a lively beach town along the Pacific coast. After lunch, we’ll enjoy an outrigger canoe trip before ending our day with dinner at the Hilton Garden Inn.
HILTON GARDEN INN (B,L,D)

Saturday, December 28: San José
We’ll travel east from San Jose on a scenic drive past quaint farm houses, through potato, onion and cabbage fields to Irazú Volcano National Park. The indigenous word “Irazú” translates to “thunder point.” We will drive to its summit at 11,260 feet—typically above the clouds—to enjoy its cooler temperatures and a view of the green-hued lagoon as we sip a piping hot cup of coffee or hot chocolate. Later we will stop at a market that sells produce from the agriculturally rich Orisi Valley and surrounding area. We can wander through the stalls, sample local foods, and do some last minute shopping. We’ll celebrate our travels at a farewell dinner this evening.
HILTON GARDEN INN (B,L,D)

Sunday, December 29: San José/US
Enjoy your last breakfast in Costa Rica and say “hasta luego” to your new friends before departing for the airport on our group transfer.
HILTON GARDEN INN (B)