



Tours for
Girl Scouts®



— 9 or 10 days —
**COSTA RICA: A TOUCH
OF THE TROPICS**





9 or 10 days

Costa Rica: A Touch of the Tropics

SAN JOSÉ

DAY 1 | Flight to Costa Rica —

Your adventure begins as you board your flight to Costa Rica.

Arrival in San José — Touch down in San José, the country's bustling capital and cultural center. Founded in 1737 as "Villa Nueva de la Boca del Monte del Valle de Abra," the city's name was later changed to honor its patron saint, Saint Joseph. After clearing customs and immigration, meet your Tour Director, who will remain with you throughout your stay.

SAN JOSÉ - ARENAL REGION

DAY 2 | Visit to INBiosphere —

Learn about biological diversity as we visit this theme park and research station created by the National Institute of Biodiversity. Get up-close and personal with tarantulas, frogs, bees and butterflies in the permanent exhibits, or walk through the three different ecosystem trails. Explore the plant life in the lagoon before admiring the butterfly garden. Stop by the Ecological Tourism Office on your way out for further

information on Costa Rica's protected land areas.

Poás Volcano — Continue along a scenic 22-mile drive overlooking the Central Valley as you make your way to the Poás Volcano. This still-active volcano is part of Costa Rica's most developed national park. Here, you can see one of the largest craters in the world (about a mile wide and nearly 1,000 feet deep), whose hot sulfurous lake changes color with volcanic activity. From a lookout point, see geysers and active fumaroles; in addition, a 20-minute hike uphill rewards you with a view of the jewel-like Botos Lake, which occupies an extinct crater.

Transfer to Arenal — Journey west across the Central Valley to Arenal. This area is one of the world's major coffee producers.

Visit to the hot springs — Experience the relaxation properties of natural hot springs, filled with water heated by nearby volcanoes and channeled into pools. It's an ideal way to soothe muscles after the day's activities!

DAY 3 | Kayaking on Lake

Arenal — Get ready for an adventure to remember—kayaking along Lake Arenal. Picture-perfect scenery surrounds you, including mountains and the Arenal Volcano, as you navigate the lake.

Visit to La Fortuna Waterfall —

One of Costa Rica's most spectacular waterfalls, La Fortuna is located within the thick jungle of the Arenal Rainforest. You'll pass some impressive scenery (keep your camera ready for wildlife photos) as you walk to the bottom of the waterfall.

MONTEVERDE

DAY 4 | Transfer to Monteverde —

Continue through the mountainous scenery to the Monteverde (Green Mountain) Reserve. The reserve was settled in 1951 by a group of Alabama Quakers; attracted by the country's pacifist history, they began dairy farming here. In 1972, the area became the Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve, a private nonprofit reserve with six distinct ecological zones containing a wide range of spectacular flora and fauna.

Everything you get

-  Round-trip airfare
-  Full-time Tour Director
-  Comfortable motorcoach
-  8 overnight stays in hotels with private bathrooms (9 with extension)
-  3 meals daily, dinner on arrival day and breakfast on departure day
-  Entrance to: INBiosphere; Poás Volcano; Hot springs; Kayaking tour; La Fortuna waterfall; Santa Elena Reserve; Canopy tour; Carara Biological Reserve; Manuel Antonio National Park; With extension: Whitewater rafting
-  Experiential learning: Visit a local school; Tree planting in Monteverde
-  Optional: Horseback riding in Monteverde; Folklore Evening



Visit to a local school — In Monteverde, you will stop at a local school where you'll meet Costa Rican students.

Optional horseback riding in Monteverde — Join an optional horseback riding excursion to explore the ecological wealth and natural beauty of Monteverde.

DAY 5 | Half-day at Santa Elena Cloud Forest — Explore the spectacular Santa Elena Cloud Forest, a paradise rich in diverse plant and animal life and situated near the Continental Divide. Warm northeasterly trade winds, filled with moisture, blow in over the Atlantic. As the winds sweep up to the Continental Divide, they cool and condense to form clouds, bathing the forest in a constant soft mist. The cloud forest averages 12 feet of rain annually! Look for bromeliads and orchids as well as brightly colored quetzals among the lush flora. Until recently, the reserve was one of only two places in the world that was home to the now-extinct golden toad.

Leave your mark by planting a tree in the EF reserve—future generations will appreciate the oxygen!

Canopy tour — On our canopy tour, you will make like the birds and monkeys who call the cloud forest home. Zip lines unveil one of the planet's most fascinating

ecological systems from a unique perspective—the tops of the trees. With local expert guides at your side, you can decide which view you prefer—from below or from above!

MONTEVERDE · CENTRAL PACIFIC COAST

DAY 6 | Visit to Carara Reserve — Follow the coastline south to the Carara Reserve, a national park that boasts a dazzling population of rare wildlife. Be on the lookout for scarlet macaws, boat-billed herons, motmots and roseate spoonbills among the lush vines and ancient trees that make up the park's dense jungle.

Transfer to the Central Pacific Coast — Transfer to the breathtaking Central Pacific Coast, where sandy beaches, a rocky coast-line and lush rainforests act as a magnet for travelers.

DAY 7 | Excursion to Manuel Antonio National Park — Embark on an excursion along the shoreline to Manuel Antonio National Park, known for its lush jungle vegetation and white, sandy beaches. This beautiful 716-acre park is home to both the squirrel monkey and the two-toed sloth.

SARCHÍ · SAN JOSÉ

DAY 8 | Transfer via Sarchí — Your full-day transfer to San José begins via picturesque Sarchí, a town known for the brightly painted designs and colorful wheels that adorn local oxcarts. The complex patterns are passed down from one generation to the next. Here you'll visit an oxcart builder and have the chance to paint a piece of your own, which you can take home.

Optional Folklore Evening — During our Costa Rican Folklore Evening, learn about the rich cultural traditions of the region as you enjoy a traditional meal, marimba music and entertainment by a local dance troupe.

DAY 9 | Return home — Your Tour Director assists with the transfer to the airport, where you'll check in for your return flight home.

EXTENSION

DAY 9 | Whitewater rafting — Extend your journey and experience the thrill and excitement of whitewater rafting! Use teamwork to navigate a path through the free-flowing waters of the Sarapiquí River rapids. Choose between rafting levels 1 and 2-3 as you admire the lush Costa Rican scenery as you pass by stretches of tropical forest.

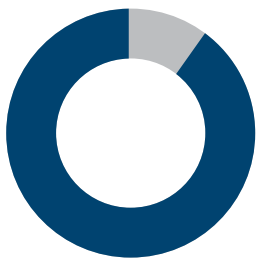
DAY 10 | Return home — Your Tour Director assists with the transfer to the airport, where you'll check in for your return flight home.

Itinerary subject to change. For complete financial and registration details, please refer to the Booking Conditions.

Prepare your girls for success

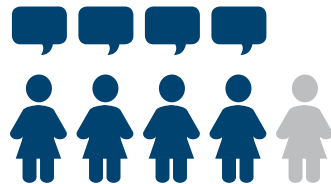
TRAVEL WITH EF, THE WORLD LEADER IN INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

We surveyed thousands of EF travelers and asked how their experience impacted them following high school. Here are some of the results:



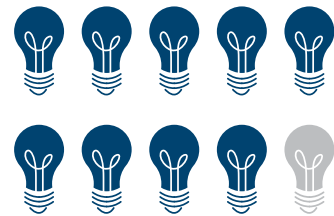
92%

92% of students feel more comfortable in new and different cultural settings.



80%

4 out of 5 say they are better communicators and collaborators.



90%

Nearly 90% of students say they are more adaptable and more flexible. The majority consider themselves to be better at thinking critically and solving problems.

Sign up

Ask your leader for the tour number and use one of the following methods:



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eftours.com/gsenroll



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One Education Street
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