

Costa Rica: A World of Nature

March 15 - 26, 2020



Registration Begins

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

- * Walk-in registration begins at 8:30 a.m.
 - * Phone registration begins at 9:30 a.m.
- (On-line registration is NOT available for multiple day trips)*



Osher Lifelong Learning Institute



**SAGINAW VALLEY
STATE UNIVERSITY**

Costa Rica: A World of Nature

Join SVSU-OLLI on this unique adventure to Costa Rica . . . Immerse yourself in an emerald wonderland, where extraordinary animals roam free, and hundreds of bird species take flight. From discoveries on water to journeys on foot, experience Costa Rica – a living Eden on Central America’s isthmus. **Experience** the rainforest up close and sample the fresh cacao during a visit to a local plantation. **Savor** the flavors of a farm-to-table lunch at a family owned finca, and visit the green sea turtle research station in Tortuguero National Park, where more than a dozen of Costa Rica’s endangered species live. **Embark** on a crocodile safari in the jungle, and a bird-watching cruise in a dense rainforest. **Admire** the white sand beaches of Manuel Antonio National Park, and stand suspended over the rainforest floor on a journey across a network of hanging bridges. **Hike** the lava fields of the world-famous Arenal Volcano, or soar over jungle canopies on a zip line. This is the very best of Costa Rica – a world of nature!



About Our Lodging

The lodging will be at the hotels listed below, or similar.

- Day 1 Doubletree Cariari Hotel, San Jose
- Day 2-3 Evergreen Lodge, Tortuguero
- Day 4-5 Tilajari Hotel Resort, San Carlos
- Day 6-8 Arenal Springs Resort, Arenal
- Day 9,10 Parador Resort and Spa, Punta Quepos, Manuel Antonio
- Day 11 Doubletree Cariari Hotel, San Jose

About Our Travel Provider

Trip Providers:

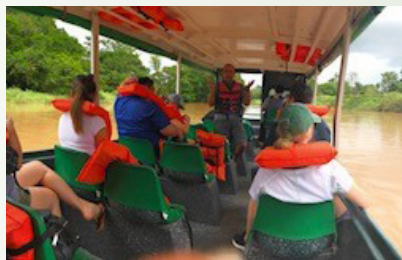
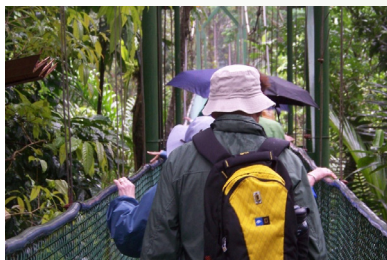
Collette Vacations is a third generation, family-owned company headquartered in Pawtucket, Rhode Island with offices in Toronto and Vancouver, Canada; and London, England. Collette’s employees are travel experts who are passionate about travel and who strive daily to make your vacation worry-free, fun, and memorable. They offer more than 150 expertly designed, escorted tours spanning 50-plus countries on all seven continents. Founded in 1918, they are the oldest major U.S. tour operator.

This 12-Day Trip Includes:

- Lodging at strategically located hotels (4 stars and above).
- (24) Meals included: (11) breakfasts, (5) lunches & (8) dinners.
- A professionally planned itinerary.
- The services of a professional tour manager and expert local guides who provide insider knowledge about the region.
- Destinations Include: San Jose, San Carlos, Tortuguero National Park, Sarapiquí, Tirimbina Rainforest Center, Arenal Volcano, Manuel Antonio National Park,
- Some of your unique experiences will include: river safari, finca experience, culinary demonstration, hanging bridges, zip lining or volcano lava field hike, a jungle crocodile safari & bird watching excursion, a visit to a sea turtle research station, and a traditional Costa Rican dinner.
- Ground transportation from SVSU to Detroit airport and from the airport back to SVSU on the return trip.
- Pre-trip dinner at SVSU*

* We will offer a pre-trip dinner about two weeks prior to departure where you will meet fellow OLLI travelers and receive your travel documents. We will cover trip logistics and questions you may have about your upcoming trip.

Please note that you will receive information about trip optionals to add on to your trip experience in Arenal at a later date.



Costa Rica: A World of Nature - Trip Itinerary

■ **Day 1: Sunday, March 15** (*San Jose, Costa Rica*)

We'll depart SVSU as a group by motorcoach to Detroit airport for our flight to Costa Rica. Travel details will be given at a later date. *(Note: If we have an early flight, we will stay overnight in Detroit near the airport on Saturday, March 14)*

■ **Day 2: Monday, March 16** (*Tortuguero National Park*)

Seemingly endless mountain horizons. Complex evergreen forests. These are the wonders of Tortuguero National Park. Head down the rivers and canals to the world's first sea turtle research station and go behind the curtain of this jungle paradise. Later, get away from it all and relax at our incredible lodge, an oasis in the middle of the jungle. Let the monkeys lull you to sleep as lush rainforest and wildlife surrounds you. (B/L/D)

■ **Day 3: Tuesday, March 17** (*Tortuguero National Park*)

We'll begin the day on an excursion to spot the elusive green macaw and other unique winged creatures that flock to Tortuguero. If you've ever wondered what life was like on the other side of a rainforest's lush green walls, a nature cruise through the park is your special glimpse. To float on these waters is to live a day in the life of the jaguars, manatees, ocelots, and more. (B/L/D)

■ **Day 4: Wednesday, March 18** (*Tortuguero National Park*)

Cut through the mists of the rainforest on a languid boat ride towards Sarapiquí and Tirimbina Rainforest Center. On land, an experience for the senses awaits at a cacao plantation. Observe the process of converting this magical seed from bean to bar, and taste for yourself why cacao is called "food of the gods." Later, arrive at your secluded nature resort, nestled on the edge of the San Carlos River. Stroll the butterfly and botanical gardens lined with fruit trees, including lemon, soursop, guava, mango and tangerine. (B/L/D)

■ **Day 5: Thursday, March 19** (*San Carlos*)

Explore the beauty of your surroundings on a Peñas Blancas River Safari. Paddle and float down the river on a peaceful adventure, taking in the sights and sounds of the rainforest as your naturalist guide explains the rich wildlife. Visit the farm of a local family and try specialty snacks such as banana bread, Costa Rican gourmet coffee and more. Then, it's your choice! Continue to explore the rich landscape on horseback **-OR-** participate on a guided walk through a private, primary forest reserve. Either way, learn about the various flora and fauna that populate the trails and hear how the native species interact in this rich ecosystem. (B/D)

■ **Day 6: Friday, March 20** (*San Carlos/Arenal*)

Envelop yourself in Costa Rican culture at Finca Don Juan. Explore the family-owned farm during an educational tour of its vegetable and fruit gardens, organically grown through the concept of sustainability. Taste some of their exotic fruit harvest and experience the traditional way to process sugar cane. Enjoy a sip of cane liquor and conclude your visit with a cooking demonstration followed by a farm-to-table lunch.

Later, suspended over the rainforest floor, you'll get a birds-eye view of the jungle on a guided tour of Arenal's famous hanging bridges, high above the jungle canopies. Tonight, you'll settle into your resort where you'll be surrounded by striking views of Arenal's famous volcano for the next three nights. (B/L/D)

■ **Day 7: Saturday, March 21** (*Arenal*)

Today, it's your choice! Since Costa Rica is the birthplace of zip lining, glide over the canopies on a mind-blowing rip through the jungle **-OR-** make your way across lava fields for an up-close-and-personal look at the volcano on a moderate hike along the trails formed by lava during the 1968 eruption. The afternoon is at leisure to discover the town of La Fortuna or the naturally heated pools of the hotel. (B/D)

■ **Day 8: Sunday, March 22** (*Arenal*)

The Arenal Volcano goes by many names: Pan de Azúcar, Canaste, Volcán Costa Rica. Ultimately, it can be translated to a single declaration: extraordinary. In the shadow of this famous monolith, the day is yours to enjoy at your leisure. Or, if you're feeling adventurous, opt for the Cano Negro Wildlife Refuge cruise or an exhilarating white water rafting experience. Or, simply hang back at the resort, opt for a spa service, explore the grounds, and soak in one of Arenal's famous hot springs. (B)

■ **Day 9: Monday, March 23** (*Manuel Antonio National Park*)

Rendezvous with wild crocodiles among the remarkable mangroves of Tarcoles' Rio Grande. On this exhilarating jungle crocodile safari, you'll float along beneath the towering jungle, looking just below the water's surface for a glimpse of these incredible creatures. This afternoon, check into your resort, located just outside Manuel Antonio National Park. Before dinner, watch the sun set over the Pacific alongside birds in every color of the rainbow. (B/L/D)

■ **Day 10: Tuesday, March 24** (*Manuel Antonio National Park*)

Welcome to the jungle, a truly remote experience with nothing around you except the wonders of Manuel Antonio National Park. The rich idyll of rugged rainforests and white sand beaches is the definition of untouched beauty. In this natural wonderland, traverse the trails where the wild things are, or go for a swim in the turquoise waters of a beach as wildlife rummages in the canopies. (B)

■ **Day 11: Wednesday, March 25** (*Manuel Antonio National Park*)

This morning, wake up and smell the coffee at a local coffee farm that produces some of Costa Rica's well-known beans. Then say goodbye to the coast and hello to San Jose. Toast to the pura vida of Costa Rica tonight over a farewell dinner. (B/D)

■ **Day 12: Thursday, March 26** (*San Jose*)

Your tour comes to an end today. After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your flight home. Additional travel details will be given at a later date. (B)



Costa Rica: Registration

IMPORTANT: Clearly print your full name (first/middle/last) as it appears on your passport. In order to avoid any unnecessary change fees, it is imperative that all guest names are entered correctly from the start. The information below must be the legal name and be 100% identical to the your passport including middle names or suffixes (Jr, Sr). A copy of your passport is required at time of registration.

First: _____ Middle: _____ Last: _____

Suffix: _____ Gender: Male / Female Date of Birth: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Email: _____

Passport #: _____

ExpirationDate: _____ Date of Issuance _____

City, State, Country of Issuance: _____ Citizenship _____

Traveler Status:

Single Passenger ___ Or Double _____

Rooming With: _____ Phone #: _____

Travel Protection: () Yes, I wish to purchase travel protection \$315 () No, I decline
If you choose not to purchase Collette's Waiver Insurance Plan, you will incur penalties for changes and cancellations. Travel Protection Payment is due with first deposit. The Waiver Fee does not cover any single supplement charges which arise from an individual's traveling companion electing to cancel for any reason prior to departure. The single supplement will be deducted from the refund of the person who cancels. (There is coverage under Part B which includes a single supplement benefit of \$1,000 for certain covered reasons. See travel protection details at <http://www.tripmate.com/wpF430C>)

Registration:

Please fill out the enclosed registration form and bring it to the OLLI office on the day of registration. Reservations are on first-come, first-served basis. **A passport is required for this trip and must be valid through eight months following the end date of the tour.** A copy of your passport is required at time of registration. If you are looking for a roommate please let us know prior to May 10. Our office will maintain a wait-list if this trip fills to capacity.

Trip Activity Level:

The activity level for this tour is **VERY ACTIVE**. To experience the program and destination, you need to be able to participate in physical activities for up to three hours at a time. Travelers should be healthy enough to participate in all included walks, without assistance, (up to three miles at time), walking over uneven terrain, climbing stairs, hanging bridges, be able to climb in and out of water vessels and endure periods of standing. Some of the touring days may be longer, with select included activities occurring later in the evening.

Trip Insurance:

We highly recommend trip insurance. Insurance must be paid at time of deposit. To review full plan details online, go to: <http://www.tripmate.com/wpF430C>. It is the traveler's responsibility to review insurance coverage to make sure it meets your needs prior to purchase.

Air Details

Our package includes round-trip air from Detroit, air taxes and fees/surcharges. Specific flight information will be provided at a later day. If we have an early flight on Sunday, March 15 we will stay overnight in Detroit near the airport on Saturday, March 14. (an added hotel fee will be approx. \$60/\$120 pp). Please note that upon exiting Costa Rica, you will be required to pay approximately \$32 in taxes and fees in local currency or USD.

Cancellation Fees:

Collette's cancellation policies will prevail. (Please note that insurance fees are not refundable). All cancellations must be made in writing to the OLLI office by the traveler. You will be subject to a \$50 change of reservation fee payable to SVSU-OLLI, and any other charges imposed by the airlines or trip provider depending on the date the cancellation takes place.

Weather Projection:

March is the dry season and the weather will be warm across the country. Daytime highs around 86 to 96 °F and nighttime low temperatures of 76 to 86 °F.

Cost & Payment Details:

A deposit of \$500 per person is due upon registration. (Non-members will add membership cost). Registrations are made on a first come, first served basis.

Final payment is due by December 1, 2019.

OLLI Member \$3,849* Double Occupancy
OLLI Member \$4,749* Single Occupancy
* Non-members will pay cost of OLLI membership in addition to the member rate and will receive a 2018/19 OLLI membership.

Payment: (per person)	
Deposit	\$ 500.00
(\$315)Travel Protection	\$ _____
OLLI Membership	\$ _____
Total	\$ _____

() Credit Card () Check (**Please make checks payable to Collette**)

* Book now and save \$100! Price reflects this savings. Price increases \$100 after Aug. 15, 2019. Please note that Non-members will pay an additional \$60 and will at this time and receive 2019/20 OLLI membership

Card Holder Name: _____

Credit Card Type: ___ American Express ___ Discover ___ Mastercard ___ Visa

Credit Card # _____

Expiration Date: _____ Security Code _____ Amount Charged: _____

SIGNATURE REQUIRED for acceptance of the below conditions and agreement to credit card use:

Name _____ Date: _____

I agree to pay according to the card issuer agreement. I understand and accept the cancellation policy, terms and conditions. Important Conditions: Your price is subject to increase prior to the time you make full payment. Your price is not subject to increase after you make full payment, except for charges resulting from increases in government-imposed taxes or fees.