

# COSTA RICA

January 2026

**WELLS GRAY TOURS**  
a world to experience



Arenal Volcano

Costa Rica covers only 0.03% of the planet's surface but is home to 5% of all living organisms on earth. Active volcanoes, lush cloud forests, lowland jungles, rolling savannas, and coral beaches create a spectacular setting to experience the country's natural beauty and exotic flora and fauna. During this unique tour, we travel through some of the richest habitats of Costa Rica, from Caribbean lowland rain forests to central volcanic highlands, from a cloud forest interior to coastal resorts. Enjoy the Tortuguero wildlife cruise, Arenal Volcano, Ecotermals Hot Springs, and Rincon de La Vieja National Park. Another highlight is a three-night stay at the Diria Resort at beautiful Tamarindo Beach.

Come and admire the natural eco-wonders of Costa Rica and get away from a Canadian winter for two relaxing weeks.



INTERNATIONAL



GROUP SIZE



ACTIVITY LEVEL

## ▶ Departure from:

- 1 BC Interior:** January 14, 2026 - 15 days
- V Vancouver Island:** January 14, 2026 - 15 days
- L Lower Mainland:** January 15, 2026 - 14 days

## ▶ Fares per person

- L** from **\$9,425** double/twin, **\$11,070** single\*  
\*Pricing details for all departures provided on page 2.

## ▶ Early Booking Bonus

- \$150** discount on first 8 seats; **\$75** on next 4.

## ▶ Earn 181 Experience Points



**Your specific departure point will be confirmed at the time of booking. Passengers travelling from the BC Interior, Vancouver Island & Lower Mainland regions will begin and end the tour as follows:**

**I BC Interior:** We travel to Vancouver on Wednesday, January 14 and overnight at the Fairmont Hotel, conveniently located in the airport terminal. We fly to San Jose, Costa Rica the following day. We fly from Liberia to Kelowna on Wednesday, January 28. Transportation is provided from your pickup point on the day of departure and back again when we return.

**V Vancouver Island:** We travel to Vancouver on Wednesday, January 14 and overnight at the Fairmont Hotel, conveniently located in the airport terminal. We fly to San Jose, Costa Rica the following day. We fly from Liberia to Victoria on Wednesday, January 28.

**Departure from Victoria:** For passengers in the Greater Victoria Area, transportation is provided from your pickup point on the day of departure and back when we return. Home pickup may be offered in the Greater Victoria Area depending on the number of people booked and coach size. The decision is made about 2 weeks before departure and you will be contacted about your pickup point and time.

**Departure from Up-Island:** There is an additional cost to passengers who wish to depart from Nanaimo or Comox Airport. Transportation to/from Nanaimo or Comox Airport is not provided. Please note that while we always prioritize convenient connections for our clients, sometimes it is not possible given the airline schedule and availability. You will be contacted regarding your schedule after final payment. Please request departure from Nanaimo or Comox at the time of booking.

**L Lower Mainland:** We depart on Thursday, January 15 and fly from Vancouver to San Jose, Costa Rica. We fly from Liberia to Vancouver on Wednesday, January 28. Home pickup for clients in the Greater Vancouver Area may be arranged at the time of booking.

**Departure from Abbotsford or Chilliwack:** We depart on Wednesday, January 14 and overnight at the Fairmont Hotel with the BC Interior and Vancouver Island passengers. When we return on Wednesday, January 28, flights can be arranged to the Abbotsford Airport. No transportation is provided from Abbotsford Airport.

## FARES PER PERSON

	Departure Point	Fares per Person	Notes
<b>I</b>	<b>BC Interior</b>	<b>\$9,595</b> double/twin <b>\$11,430</b> single	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please add 0.3% GST.</li> <li>• There is an additional cost to fly from Nanaimo or Comox to join this tour.</li> </ul>
<b>V</b>	<b>Vancouver Island</b>	<b>\$9,745</b> double/twin <b>\$11,580</b> single	
<b>L</b>	<b>Lower Mainland</b>	<b>\$9,425</b> double/twin <b>\$11,070</b> single	

# WHAT'S INCLUDED

## ▶ Meals

- ① **31 total:** 13 breakfasts, 10 lunches, 8 dinners
- ② **30 total:** 13 breakfasts, 9 lunches, 8 dinners

## ▶ Transportation

- Transportation to Vancouver Airport from the BC Interior, Greater Vancouver, or Greater Victoria Area
- Flights from Vancouver to San Jose, Costa Rica
- Current air taxes, fees & fuel surcharges
- 1 checked bag per person
- Coach transportation throughout Costa Rica
- Flights from Liberia, Costa Rica, to Kelowna, Victoria, Vancouver, Nanaimo, Comox, or Abbotsford
- Transportation from Kelowna, Vancouver, or Victoria Airport to the BC Interior, Greater Vancouver, or Greater Victoria Area

## ▶ Accommodation

- ① ② 14 nights accommodation & hotel taxes
- ③ 13 nights accommodation & hotel taxes
- Luggage handling at most hotels

## ▶ Key Highlights

- Expert local guides & naturalists
- Doka Coffee Plantation
- Poás Volcano National Park
- La Paz Waterfall Garden
- River boat cruise through Tortuguero National Park to Pachira Lodge & return
- Sea Turtle Conservancy Museum
- Wildlife & birdlife watching boat tour along the Tortuguero Canals
- Arenal Volcano National Park
- Arenal Volcano Sky Tram
- Nature walk on an Arenal trail
- Ecotermales La Fortuna Hot Springs
- Rincon de la Vieja National Park

*Attractions are subject to change. Please see Tour Policies for more information.*

## ▶ Guides & Gratuities

- Gratuities to local guides, drivers, & naturalists

## ▶ Knowledgeable Wells Gray tour director



### Activity Level 3

**High Activity:** You are an active traveller who wants to explore wherever you go. You don't mind a mix of full days, early morning starts, and some late nights. You can walk longer distances, up to 4 km without difficulty which may be over uneven ground, beaches/shorelines, or at higher elevations; climb in and out of small boats without any assistance; stand for prolonged periods; and participate in nature walks looking for birds and animals. You can climb three flights of stairs easily and unassisted and can handle your own luggage in airports or at hotels where luggage handling may not be available.

This tour is not appropriate for people with canes, walkers, wheelchairs, or other mobility assistance devices. Hiking poles are fine. Additionally, this tour is not appropriate for those who have cognitive impairments such as memory loss or confusion, difficulty expressing thoughts, repeating questions, or getting lost. The tour director and driver have many responsibilities, so please do not expect them, or your fellow travellers, to provide ongoing assistance. If you are not capable of keeping up with the group or require frequent assistance, the tour director may stop you from participating in some activities or some days of the tour. In extreme situations, you may be required to leave the tour and travel home at your own expense; travel insurance will probably not cover you.

**Please read** the Activity Level 3 declaration attached to this brochure. **By paying the tour deposit**, you agree that you are capable of travelling on an Activity Level 3 tour.



### Tour Size 25

This tour is limited to 25 participants, making it a more intimate travel experience.



Toucan

# ITINERARY

- Wednesday, January 14** Passengers from the BC Interior and Vancouver Island travel to Vancouver Airport. We stay at the Fairmont Hotel, conveniently located in the airport terminal.  
**Meals included:** ① Lunch  
**Accommodation:** Fairmont YVR Hotel
  
- Thursday, January 15** Passengers from Vancouver join us today. We fly to San Jose, arriving late evening.  
**Welcome to Costa Rica.** San Jose is two hours ahead of Pacific Time. Our coach and Costa Rican guide meet us at the airport.  
**Accommodation:** Hotel Park Inn San Jose
  
- Friday, January 16** Today's tour visits some of the highlights surrounding **San Jose**. First, we visit Doka Coffee Plantation for a **coffee tour** where we learn the techniques used by the experts to produce one of the best coffees in Costa Rica. The careful process involved in the cultivation, harvesting, and roasting of the Golden Bean is demonstrated, then we savour the delectable end-product. At **La Paz Waterfall Garden**, we visit several waterfalls in the rainforest, the hummingbird gallery, the bird house, the butterfly garden, and the frog exhibit. La Casita de la Paz is a farmhouse reproduction that gives a cultural insight into the lives of rural Costa Ricans. A get-acquainted dinner is an opportunity to visit with your fellow travellers.  
**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner  
**Accommodation:** Hotel Park Inn San Jose
  
- Saturday, January 17** At Guápiles, we board a river boat which takes us down the winding Tortuguero River through the ecological diversity of **Tortuguero National Park** with lots of birdlife and wildlife viewing. After a two-hour journey, we arrive at remote **Pachira Lodge**, located in the jungle on one of the Tortuguero waterways, and lunch is waiting. During the afternoon, we boat across the canal to visit the colourful village of Tortuguero and the **Sea Turtle Conservancy Museum**. Renowned naturalist Archie Carr, author of the 1956 book *The Windward Road*, studied sea turtles at Tortuguero and was instrumental in establishing the Caribbean Conservation Corp.  
**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner  
**Accommodation:** Pachira Lodge
  
- Sunday, January 18** First, there is an optional guided walking tour along some trails near the lodge, looking for wildlife and gaining a better understanding of rainforests. After lunch, we take a boat tour along the **Tortuguero Canals**, a unique paradise of magnificent flora and fauna. It's a great place to observe local wildlife such as birds, monkeys, two and three-toed sloths, crocodiles, and caimans. The canals also provide shelter to endangered animals such as the Oriental Indian Manatee, a large variety of crustaceans, and about 30 species of sweet water fish including the gaspar, considered as a living fossil. The rest of the day is free to enjoy the hotel grounds and jungle trails at leisure, or simply relax.  
**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner  
**Accommodation:** Pachira Lodge

## ITINERARY continued

### Monday, January 19

We return to Guápiles by boat, then continue by coach to La Fortuna de San Carlos, a small town located at the base of **Arenal Volcano**. Standing prominently at 1,636 metres, it was one of the 10 most active volcanoes in the world until 2010 with constant lava flows and eruptions. Today, the volcano is dormant, but its perfect cone shape and superb hot springs make this place a must-visit! Our accommodation for three nights is at Hotel Montana de Fuego, a splendid hotel with panoramic views of the volcano and surrounded by gardens and streams.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Hotel Montana de Fuego

### Tuesday, January 20

We board the **Arenal Sky Tram** for a slow-paced journey through the rainforest with awesome views of the volcano during the ascent. Each gondola is accompanied by a bilingual guide and it can be stopped anytime for a special picture or if a bird or animal is spotted. At the top, there is an observation deck with a wonderful vista of the Arenal Volcano's southern face, Lake Arenal far below, and the rolling hillsides around it. Later we relax at **Ecotermas La Fortuna Hot Springs** where four geothermal pools vary in temperature from 32°C up to 41°C.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Hotel Montana de Fuego

### Wednesday, January 21

We drive to the western side of Arenal Volcano where most of the activity since 1968 has occurred. There are two interesting walks and our guide chooses a suitable one. The Las Coladas trail traverses the rainforest and crosses over a large lava flow from 1992 where the impact of recent eruptions is visible. The Los Tucanes trail passes through the regrowing forest where we can see more wildlife. The afternoon is free time.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch

**Accommodation:** Hotel Montana de Fuego

### Thursday, January 22

This morning's drive goes from Arenal to **Rincon de la Vieja National Park**. This 35,000 acre park is home to an intriguing combination of volcanic geological wonders and pristine tropical forests that span six life zones. The main attraction is Rincon de la Vieja, a smooth cinder cone volcano which rises to 1,884 metres and comprises nine contiguous craters. Tropical forests, including sections of montane and dwarf cloud forest, span the park's base, providing a haven for a host of flora and fauna. Mammals include pumas, jaguar, monkeys (howler, spider, and white-faced), kinkajous, sloths, and tapirs. We have a midday arrival at **Borinquen Mountain Resort** and the afternoon is free time. It is located in a lush rainforest with grand waterfalls, natural mineral hot springs, and sparkling streams. Soak in the hot pools and fresh water pool, or wander the botanical gardens.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Borinquen Mountain Resort

### Friday, January 23

The centerpiece of the resort is the **thermal springs** with hot pools, volcanic mineral mud, and natural steam rooms. Enjoy the relaxing experience of a volcanic mud treatment, then soak in the natural spring-water hot pools. The facilities are complimentary and professional spa services are charged. For an extra fee, you can ride the zipline with 18 platforms and 12 cables.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Borinquen Mountain Resort

### Saturday, January 24

We descend from the mountains, driving past huge ranches and lots of cattle to reach the Pacific Coast and the **Guanacaste** region. Local delicacies are corn tortillas or horchata beverages. On arrival at Tamarindo Beach, we settle into the oceanfront **Tamarindo Diria Resort** for three nights. You will be awed by the natural beauty of

## ITINERARY continued

### Saturday, January 24 continued

this private tropical resort, located on a stunning white sand beach. There is plenty of time to relax and soak up the sun. Breakfasts are included and there is a choice of four restaurants and a buffet for other meals. Other facilities are three pools, a whirlpool, free Wi-Fi, and a small casino. The resort is in the town of **Tamarindo** which has plenty of shops and entertainment.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch

**Accommodation:** Tamarindo Diria Resort

### Sunday, January 25

The next two days are free for you to enjoy as you wish. You may wish to relax by the pools or on the beach by the ocean, soaking up the warmth of Costa Rica. Several optional excursions are offered for extra cost:

1. **A 4-hour catamaran sailboat** with guided snorkelling, kayaking or fishing. Snacks and open bar included. \$181 surcharge per person plus 0.3% GST.
2. **A 2-hour boat tour along the Tempisque River** in Palo Verde National Park viewing lots of wildlife. \$271 surcharge per person plus 0.3% GST.
3. **White water rafting** along 20 kms of the Tenorio River (Class III & IV rapids). \$403 surcharge per person plus 0.3% GST.

**Meals included:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** Tamarindo Diria Resort

### Monday, January 26

Another free day to do as you wish, or take part in one of the optional excursions.

**Meals included:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** Tamarindo Diria Resort

### Tuesday, January 27

In the afternoon, we drive to **Liberia** and stay overnight. Our farewell dinner is a chance to reminisce with fellow travellers about our winter getaway to Costa Rica.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Hilton Garden Inn

### Wednesday, January 28

We fly to from Liberia to home cities.

**Meals included:** Breakfast





Tortuguero Canals

## TOUR NOTES

**Documentation:** A passport is required, valid until your return date. A visa is not required for Canadians.

**Currency & Expenses:** The currency in Costa Rica is the colon; \$1 Canadian = 355 colons as of March 2025. US dollars are widely accepted and exchanged. Gratuities are included for all group meals and for Costa Rica guides, naturalists, and driver-guides. As this tour has been planned and priced 11 months before departure, it is possible that exchange fluctuations could affect the fare, in which case you will be notified of the increase or decrease. All meals are included in Costa Rica except 3 lunches and 3 dinners at the Diria Resort and one other dinner. See also the note about beverages.

**Departure Tax:** Costa Rica charges a departure tax at the Liberia airport. Air fares usually include this tax.

**Flight seating:** We are unable to take requests for window or aisle seating on the planes. The airline will not accept them, as group seating is assigned as a block. If this is important to you, we suggest you take the “No Flight” option with a fare reduction of \$1,500 and book your own flight which allows seat selection.

**Flight upgrades:** Please enquire about current prices for upgrades on the flights from Vancouver to San Jose. Premium economy and business class may be available. We are unable to book upgrades for the return flight.

**Flight delays or cancellations:** Flights can be delayed or cancelled at the last minute, sometimes causing a missed connection. Wells Gray staff will try to assist with rebooking, but the airline usually wants to talk with the individual passenger. There may be an extra payment

required if the issue is weather. Wells Gray Tours is not allowed to interfere with this process. Check that your travel insurance policy has a flight delay benefit because that is usually your best recourse for recouping additional flight costs.

**Accommodation:** Even though Costa Rica has a busy tourism industry, it is still considered a developing country and accommodation outside the cities may not be up to the standards of Canadian hotels. We generally select the best available lodging in each location, but please do not expect to stay in luxury hotels.

**Triples** are not available on this tour.

**Beverages:** In many countries outside Canada and USA, it is not standard practice to include beverages with tour meals. On this tour, a soft drink or bottled water is usually included with each meal and other beverages can be purchased.

**Food Allergies:** You must notify us no later than at final payment if you have a food allergy. This tour goes to some remote places where restaurants may not be able to satisfy all food allergies. An allergy causes medical distress, a preference does not. For some allergies, please consider bringing your own snacks or food items so you are not dependent on what restaurants are able to serve.

**Vaccinations:** Costa Rica is a tropical country, so you may need vaccinations. Please visit your local Travel Health Clinic for advice on required vaccinations. Bring this itinerary.

# TOUR POLICIES

**Payments:** A deposit of \$800 per person is requested at time of booking and balance is due October 9, 2025. By paying the deposit, you agree to the [Terms & Conditions](#), **Activity Level 3 Declaration**, and Cancellation Policy outlined. Payments can be made by online banking or cheque (1.5% discount on tour fare), or by Visa or Mastercard (\$5,000 limit per person on credit cards).

**Early Booking Bonus:** Receive a \$150 discount on the first 8 seats and \$75 on the next 4 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after October 9, 2025.

**Cancellation Policy:** Up to September 9, 2025, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$100 per person. From September 10 to October 9, the cancellation charge is \$300 per person. From October 10 to November 10, the cancellation charge is 70% of the tour fare. After November 10, there is no refund.

**Itinerary and Fare Changes:** Our many suppliers may notify us about changes to the itinerary prior to departure and sometimes during the tour. We do our best to substitute a similar service if something cancels, but occasionally the only alternative is to provide a refund for the missed activity. Please note that if we are forced to cancel a tour component due to an issue beyond our control, the current penalties still apply if you choose to cancel the entire tour. Fuel surcharges and changes to taxes, currency exchange rates, or other

tour costs can occur at any time, therefore Wells Gray Tours reserves the right to increase fares due to such changes up to departure.

**Travel Insurance:** A Comprehensive Insurance policy is available through Wells Gray Tours and coverage is provided by Travel Guard. Policies purchased at deposit include a waiver of the pre-existing condition clause for medical and cancellation claims, otherwise policies can be purchased no later than at final payment. Medical questionnaire is not needed. Please contact us for details. If you have your own travel insurance, please read the policy carefully to be sure that you are adequately covered for medical, cancellation, interruption, and luggage.

**Photo Credits:** Pixabay (Arenal Volcano, Toucan), Adobe Stock (La Paz Waterfall Gardens), and tour director Laura (Wells Gray Group at Playa Tortuguero 2025, Tortuguero Canals).

**Experience Points or E-points:** This tour earns 181 e-points. Each time you travel on a Wells Gray tour, you earn e-points that are added to your account after the tour returns. One e-point equals \$1. Redeem your earned points on select tours or accumulate enough points to earn a free tour! Redemptions offered until October 9, 2025.

**Consumer Protection BC Licences:** Kamloops 178, Vernon 655, Kelowna 588, Penticton 924, Victoria 65842

WE PLAN.  
YOU PACK.  
NO WORRIES!

[www.wellsgraytours.com](http://www.wellsgraytours.com)

1-800-667-9552



Offices are open weekdays from 9 am to 4 pm. Book an appointment or walk-in and visit us. \_\_\_\_\_

## KAMLOOPS

Head Office  
250 Lansdowne St.  
Kamloops, BC  
V2C 1X7  
**250-374-0831**

## KELOWNA

2575 Richter St.  
Kelowna, BC  
V1Y 2R1  
**250-762-3435**

## VERNON

3206 35th St.  
Vernon, BC  
V1T 6B7  
**250-545-9197**

## PENTICTON

159 Wade Ave East  
Penticton, BC  
V2A 8B6  
**250-493-1255**

## VICTORIA

102-736 Broughton St.  
Victoria, BC  
V8W 1E1  
**250-590-7889**



## Costa Rica — January 2026

This tour is rated “Activity Level 3” by the tour planners at Wells Gray Tours using our new scale with 4 levels. This rating means there is a lot of activity as described here:



**High Activity:** You are an active traveller who wants to explore wherever you go. You don't mind a mix of full days, early morning starts, and some late nights. You can walk longer distances, up to 4 km without difficulty which may be over uneven ground, beaches/shorelines, or at higher elevations; climb in and out of small boats without any assistance; stand for prolonged periods; and participate in nature walks looking for birds and animals. You can climb three flights of stairs easily and unassisted and can handle your own luggage in airports or at hotels where luggage handling may not be available. This tour is not appropriate for people with canes, walkers, wheelchairs, or other mobility assistance devices. Hiking poles are fine. Additionally, this tour is not appropriate for those who have cognitive impairments such as memory loss or confusion, difficulty expressing thoughts, repeating questions, or getting lost.

Since a few people who are not capable of doing these activities can hold up the entire group, Wells Gray Tours expects everybody booking a tour with “Activity Level 3” to be reasonably fit physically and mentally. **By paying the deposit**, you agree that you have read this Activity Level 3 Declaration and the statements are true.

- I want to travel on a Wells Gray tour with a rating of “Activity Level 3” on the new scale with 4 levels.
- I have read the brochure with the full itinerary and description of the activities that are typical on this tour.
- I understand that this is the second highest activity level that a Wells Gray tour can be rated.
- I am confident that I can participate in tour activities at this level, and I will not hold up or delay the other members of the tour.
- I do not require the use of a cane, walker, wheelchair, or other mobility assistance devices.
- I have no cognitive impairment such as memory loss or confusion, difficulty expressing thoughts, repeating questions, or getting lost.
- If my physical or cognitive condition changes between booking and departure date such that I can no longer do this level of activity, I will notify the Wells Gray office or agent. The specified penalties will apply for cancelling and travel insurance may cover this.
- If I am not capable of keeping up with the group or require ongoing assistance, I understand that the Wells Gray tour director has the right to stop me from participating in some activities or some days of the tour. In extreme situations, I acknowledge that I may be required to leave the tour and travel home at my own expense, and that travel insurance will probably not cover me. There will be no refund for unused tour services.

This statement has been implemented by Wells Gray Tours to maintain high quality itineraries, accurate timing, and the enjoyment of all tour participants.