



THE GREEN CIRCLE EXPERIENCE

To explore Costa Rica by way of the Green Circle experience is not your ordinary travelling choice. Green Circle hotels offer you a unique experience, so that within 10 minutes you already know you will not forget this stay, even in 10 years. Green Circle hotels offer something different, something special, something extra.

You have decided to visit at least 4 Green Circle hotels and therefore you are an official Green Circle guest. Each hotel will receive you as such and therefore are offering you something special. In your travel description below you'll read more about these extra's some of the hotels are offering you, with others it's still a surprise.

Welcome to Costa Rica and to the Green Circle! We hope you'll enjoy your trip to the fullest and become as enthusiastic about the Green Circle hotels as the owners themselves. We are convinced it almost can't get any better than this, enjoy!

TRAVEL SCHEDULE GREEN CIRCLE

Day	Destination	Hotel
1	San Jose	Grano de Oro
2	San Jose	Grano de Oro
3	Guapiles	Hacienda La Isla
4	Guapiles	Hacienda La Isla
5	Boca Tapada	Maquenque Eco Lodge
6	Boca Tapada	Maquenque Eco Lodge
7	Boca Tapada	Maquenque Eco Lodge
8	Arenal	Rancho Margot
9	Arenal	Rancho Margot
10	Arenal	Rancho Margot
11	Montezuma	Ylang Ylang
12	Montezuma	Ylang Ylang
13	Montezuma	Ylang Ylang
14	San Jose	Grano de Oro
15	Departure	

All hotels are subject to availability when confirming your reservation. In case the requested rooms are not available we will offer an alternative in close consultation with you. Any price difference will be taken into account when calculating the final amount of your trip.



TRAVEL ITINERARY

Day 1 Arrival Costa Rica

A 'Green Circle' taxi is waiting for you at the international airport and it's a 20-30 minute drive to your first Green Circle hotel in the centre of capital San Jose; Grano de Oro. Upon your arrival you will receive more information about the hotel and about your Green Circle Experience. Besides, you will receive a free voucher for a guided walking tour in San Jose the day after your arrival. Hotel Grano de Oro offers this voucher exclusively to Green Circle guests.

Day 2 San Jose, Grano de Oro (www.hotelgranodeoro.com)

San Jose is the capital of Costa Rica, and is located in the Central Valley beautifully surrounded by mountains. The city has a compact centre and various small indoor markets where you can buy tropical fruit, vegetables, meat etc. Besides, there's a large market selling typical Costa Rican trinkets and souvenirs. In the centre of San Jose you'll find various restaurants, but for the true local experience go and have lunch at a little 'Soda' and enjoy a 'gallo pinto' with fresh natural juice. In the city center you can still admire a few historical buildings. The National Theatre, built in 1928 and the National Post Office dating back to 1917, are both worth a visit.



Your excellent guide will also take you along the different museums, parks and 'plazas' and will entertain you with interesting stories about this interesting city.

Hotel Grano de Oro is a beautiful, tranquil oasis in a busy San Jose. The colonial building was originally the home of a well known Costa Rican family and has been spectacularly renovated a few years ago. It is now the perfect combination of old and new. The hotel restaurant is one of the best in town and offers exquisite evening entertainment. You will



also soon notice that Grano de Oro is not your average boutique hotel, their social engagement towards their management and personnel are without comparison. Grano de Oro is thus the perfect start of your Green Circle Experience in Costa Rica!

Dag 3 Guapiles (Hacienda La Isla, www.haciendalaisla.com)

Today you will start exploring Costa Rica for real and at your next destination, hotel Hacienda La Isla (about an hour's drive from San Jose), the country's history and stunning nature will come together.

Hacienda La Isla's Belgian owner, Jean Pierre Knockaert, will warmly welcome you to his hotel and show you around his beautiful property.

One of his latest projects includes a historical garden which is a recreation of an ancient garden first described in a 15th century indigenous manuscript which was translated into Latin. The newly created Sura Chocolate Tour is another recommendation. An experienced guide, or Jean Pierre himself, will let you relive the



history of cacao in Central America and you'll taste chocolate like it tasted some 500 years ago!

Jean Pierre is a man of many stories and interests and Costa Rica's indigenous tribes and their cultures so closely related to the country's stunning nature is subject of the museum he built. His museum is unique in Costa Rica and the only one

fully dedicated to the country's indigenous cultures.

After a dive in the pool, an exquisite dinner and a no doubt interesting conversation with Jean Pierre, you might want to go to bed for a good night's sleep and get up early to go....



Dag 4 Guapiles (Hacienda La Isla, www.haciendalaisla.com)

..... whitewater rafting?? The Pacuare river is a world famous whitewater rafting spot and only an hour away from Hacienda La Isla. For those who would like to take it easier, the Sarapiquí river is an excellent alternative (suitable for kids as well). Around the town of Puerto Viejo de Sarapiquí you can also learn how pineapples grow, visit the beautiful Heliconia Island and much more. Please ask Jean Pierre or us for more information about the various options.



Day 5 Boca Tapada, Maquenque Eco Lodge (www.maquenqueecolodge.com)

Today you'll be leaving Hacienda La Isla and drive up north (about 3 hours) to you next Green Circle destination:

Maquenque Eco Lodge!

Before you arrive at Maquenque please enjoy the diverse landscapes along



the way and take your time to get to know rural Costa Rica. Make a stop in one of the little villages you're passing and feel free not only to watch the daily village life but to participate in it as well. As you will notice, especially during the weekends, soccer is Costa Rican's number 1 sport and the Costa Ricans are very friendly, warm hearted people who are always open to chat or tell you more about their country or the game



that they're currently watching. An excellent opportunity as well to try the local beer!

What we actually want to say it this, take you time and relax....Leave your hotel not too late in the morning and take the rest of the day to arrive at your next Green Circle destination. Along the way, you'll then feel that you really are in Costa Rica and experiencing what the country has to offer. When you passed the tiny village of Boca Tapada, you park your car at the hotel parking lot, take



your luggage and step on the boat that will take you to Maquenque Eco Lodge, a great way to arrive at this beautiful hotel tucked away along the river...

Day 6 - 7 Boca Tapada, Maquenque Eco Lodge

www.maquenqueecolodge.com

The Costa Rican Artavia family who built the lodge were cattle farmers originally and decided to give their farming fields back to nature. Today they earn their money with eco tourism and they're doing a great job in a vulnerable region like Maquenque, the natural habitat of various endangered species, among which the Green Macaw.

In the past 10 years Costa Rica developed into the largest pineapple exporter in the world and unfortunately this did not come without severe natural consequences which are visible around Maquenque.

The Artavia family understands both sides and were for years involved in logging the rainforest to be able to expand meadows for their growing cattle stock and thus making sufficient money to let their children go to school and study later on. They realized however, that this same nature is their future. By sharing this vision by way of their eco lodge, they are now making a difference in their local community. You can help protect primary rainforest as well by staying at the lodge. The Artavia family will invite you to plant a tree at their property in support of replanting the rainforest. As Green Circle guest you will explore the jungle with a naturalist guide and the nearby river by canoe. On weekdays you can also visit the local school in Boca Tapada where all Artavia kids spent their primary school years.



Once you are back at the lodge, take your time (and your binoculars) and enjoy everything that comes by flying, swimming or crawling. This is nature at its best, right at your doorstep!



Day 8, El Castillo, Arenal, Rancho Margot (www.ranchoMargot.org)



After a week of travelling the Green Circle in Costa Rica, we hope you are enjoying your trip to the fullest and that you are ready for your next destination Rancho Margot. Rancho Margot is in our opinion the most sustainable hotel in Costa Rica and a very inspiring destination that will stimulate all your senses and above all shows you how sustainability can be made visible and understandable.

But, before you arrive, enjoy your journey first! Once you have arrived again in Pital you drive in the direction of La Fortuna. A nice stop for lunch of coffee is Muelle. Next to the bridge is a small restaurant which is not only home to excellent food, but also some 200 iguanas! La Fortuna is your next stop and a busy tourist town. Almost all hotels and lodges offer spectacular views of the famous Arenal volcano, but unfortunately the Arenal hasn't been very active lately....Rancho Margot, your next destination, doesn't offer those direct volcano views, but what they have to offer is no less spectacular!



Day 9 and 10, El Castillo, Arenal, Rancho Margot (www.ranchoMargot.org)



Juan Sostheim, the Chilean owner and founder of Rancho Margot, introduced Burger King in Europe in the 1970's and owned his own chemical factory in the Netherlands in the 90's....an unusual start to this eventually sustainable story. A heart attack changed the course of his life and made him to come to Costa Rica and do things differently.



Rancho Margot literally lies at the end of the road and the property was bought some 10 years ago by Juan and his sons. Now the Rancho is on its way to become the inspiring self sufficient community Juan envisioned all these years ago. At the Rancho everything you eat is



produced organically in its own gardens, greenhouses and

stables. You are invited to come and milk the cows, collect your eggs and herbs from the herb garden and to see how your bathroom soap is made.

The hot water in the shower of your comfortable bungalow is being heated via an ingenious system of pipes and with the help of manure...and no this doesn't smell! Hear, see and experience these stories and more during the Rancho tour

which is a free guided walk of about an hour or 2 around the impressive farm grounds.



As for activities on and around the farm; you can enjoy a free yoga class twice a day at a beautiful location or go horseback riding...or kayaking...or hiking...Along the way you for sure will get to know some of the staff who together with volunteers are working hard to make Rancho Margot every day an even nicer place to stay: Care to Learn, Learn to Care!

Of course you can also explore the Arenal National Park or visit a stunning waterfall nearby, try a canopy tour or go and relax in hot spring complex Baldi!





Day 11 Montezuma, Ylang Ylang (www.ylangylangbeachresort.com)

The Green Circle is slowly closing, and the end of your trip is drawing near. Costa Rica's



stunning nature doesn't confine itself to valleys, mountains or volcanoes and you haven't seen it all without a visit to one of the country's most beautiful beaches.

It's quite a ride to your final destination, but if you leave on time in the morning it's worth stopping in the little town of Nuevo Arenal. You might want to take a break here and learn how to wakeboard on Lago Arenal, if not then the German Bakery offers you all you need for a savory coffee break or lunch, before you drive towards the Nicoya Peninsula.

The Ylang Ylang Beach Resort can be reached via the Taiwanese Friendship Bridge, or the ferry from Puntarenas to Paquera. If you choose the ferry, make sure that you're on time, and once on the boat...sit back and relax!

Once you get off the ferry or have crossed the bridge into Nicoya, you'll follow a narrow and winding road to the little village of

Montezuma. And when you've finally arrived here, you sit down, have a drink and park your car. The friendly staff of El Sano Banano (or the healthy banana!) will make you feel at home right away when making the arrangements for your pick up to Ylang Ylang. A four wheel drive will take you and



your luggage on a short drive over the beach before reaching paradise....and no, we're not exaggerating!

Patricia and Lenny, an amiable Dutch American couple, moved to Montezuma more than 30 years ago and bought a piece of land right at the beach. Over the years they built Ylang Ylang Beach Resort and now it is a stunning resort where you will be warmly received by them, their children and their hospitable staff. Your room or suite has ocean view and you'll enjoy your lavish breakfasts and dinners at the open air restaurant, right at the beach.



Day 12 and 13 Montezuma, Ylang Ylang (www.ylangylangbeachresort.com)

There's lots you can do around Ylang Ylang and Montezuma; surfing, diving, snorkeling....

As Green Circle guest, you will be invited for a personal garden tour by Patricia, during which she passionately shares her great knowledge on plants and flowers with you.

Also, for half a day you can use the resort's boogie boards for free on Playa Grande.



If you just want to relax, then Ylang Ylang is also the perfect place to be. Enjoy your last days of the Green Circle Experience and Costa Rica's beachside life!

Day 14 San Jose, Grano de Oro (www.hotelgranodeoro.com)

And then, before flying back home you'll stop at your home in San Jose once more, Hotel Grano de Oro. A beautiful start of an even more beautiful trip we hope, and a comfortable place to enjoy your last evening in Costa Rica and muse about your Green Circle Experience. We hope your trip inspired you, surprised you, encouraged you to maybe see things differently and above all it showed you Costa Rica, a country rich in nature, with warm, friendly people and the place where the Green Circle hotel owners decided to live and work for the rest of their lives, a life in paradise.



Day 15 Departure

Your Green Circle Experience has come to an end, but we look forward to seeing you



again in Costa Rica or Central America. Experiences are to be shared, and we hope you will do that with us and many more.

Thank you very much, have a safe trip and see you again soon!



CAR RENTAL

The Green Circle gives you a 10% discount on the website prices of Mapache, the only carbon neutral car rental company in Costa Rica:

Please find the additional information regarding your rental car (for 12 days) below. If you prefer another type of car, please let us know and we will adjust our offer.

Car type	Daihatsu Bego 4x4
Drop off date	Day 3
Drop off time	08:00 hrs
Drop off location	San Jose
Pick up date	Day 15
Pick up time	08:00 hrs
Pick up location	Airport Juan Santamaria
Basic insurance	Yes (compulsory) \$18 per day

The car type mentioned above is subject to availability. In case this car is not available we will offer an alternative in close consultation with you.



ADDITIONAL DETAILS

Meals

- At Rancho Margot all meals are included in the Green Circle Experience
- At Ylang Ylang breakfast and dinner (main course) are included in the Green Circle Experience
- At the other hotels breakfast is included

Green Circle Tours

- Grano de Oro offers Green Circle guests a free guided city walk in San Jose.
- Hacienda La Isla offers a 50% discount on their great 'Sura Chocolate Tour'.
- Maquenque Eco Lodge offers their Green Circle guests a guided jungle tour, a kayak tour and the opportunity to plant a tree. On weekdays Green Circle guests can visit the local school in Boca Tapada.
- At Rancho Margot a farm tour and two daily yoga classes are included as well as a special surprise for Green Circle guests.
- At Ylang Ylang you will enjoy a private garden tour by owner Patricia and they offer free use of boogie boards for half a day.

Transport

- Transport from the airport to hotel Grano de Oro on your day of arrival in Costa Rica is included
- Rental car with basic insurance, see also the details mentioned above

RATE

The Green Circle Experience (including hotels, transfer in, car rental with basic insurance and meals as described above) will cost per person, based on two persons in the **low season:**

Rate per person:	US\$ 1.875*
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*Please check the Euro-Dollar exchange rate via: www.xe.com

Edventure works with the exchange rate on the day of payment.