

# ***Discover Creation Costa Rica Adventure Tour***

## **March 4 – 13, 2016**



### **( For families or individuals )**

This Creation tour, offered by Alpha Omega Institute, is not your ordinary “tourist” trip. Not only will you see many popular sights that nobody would want to miss, but you will also hear about and see the wonders of our awesome Creator! You will say, “This is why I came to Costa Rica!” You will be taken off the beaten track to experience the real Costa Rica with its volcanoes, beautiful rainforest environments and birds that many bird watchers long to see. Marvel at tropical mammals, fish, reptiles, and amazing butterflies such as the Blue Morpho that defy evolutionary explanations and point to the amazing wisdom of our Creator!

We have chosen many sites for you to explore that are not in typical tourist haunts. Enjoy an safe aerial tram over rainforests; take a boat trip to explore some fabulous mangrove swamps; explore the underwater world as you snorkel at the famous Caño Island; see fabulous waterfalls; relax at picture–perfect, postcard beaches; visit and/or hike in the fabulous Corcovado National Park which is really off the beaten track and on the bucket list even of native Costa Ricans.

An experienced naturalist will accompany us on the entire trip to supply us with fascinating information and point out what most of us would miss without that expertise. Typical reptiles and mammals seen include several species of monkeys, coatimundis, sloths, iguanas, land and sea turtles, crocodiles, and perhaps, for the fortunate, a tapir or even a jaguar!

### **What is included?**

- Most expenses including **ALL** meals and hotels (3\* and better)!
- Transportation in the country including airport/hotel transfers.
- Entrance fees to National Parks, boat transportation, tram costs, and all other sites.
- Experienced and professional bilingual Naturalist Guide
- Native Costa Rican tour coordinator to keep things running smoothly
- Veteran Creation speakers as additional guides
- Tips (These can mount up to a great expense for tourists, but we have them covered.)

### **What is not covered?**

- Air travel to/from San Jose, Costa Rica
- Trip cancellation insurance (recommended)
- Snacks, alcoholic beverages
- Country Exit tax
- Camera, batteries, and plenty of memory cards



## Daily Itinerary

Below is a detailed itinerary for the tour. Scroll through and click On the arrows for each day's schedule. The hotels listed below that have been reserved for this tour are classed as 3-Star or better -- all with very good ratings and with private baths.\*

### March 4 – Arrive in San Jose

Arrive early at Juan Santamaria International Airport (SJO) in San Jose where your Adventure Host will transport you to your first night's lodging hotel. Our first official activity is our welcome and a great authentic Costa Rican restaurant dinner. This is followed by a tour overview and special Creation program. **Hint: Get there early** so that you do not miss anything. (Let us know if you wish us to book an extra day for you at the start on March 3!) Your hotel is within a couple of minutes of walking from Mercado Nacional de Artesanías (authentic Costa Rican shopping), or several museums including the Jade museum, National Museum, Gold museum, etc.

**Lodging: Fleur de Lys Hotel**



### March 5 – Poás Volcanic National Park, Peace Waterfall, Butterfly Gardens, Museums



Breakfast at hotel. Our bus departs bright and early to visit Poás (volcano) National Park, and Peace Waterfall Gardens. See lush green farmland and countryside on the way to the top of the Poás volcano. At Peace Waterfall Gardens, you will not only enjoy a series of waterfalls, but many other options including its famous butterfly gardens with a multitude of beautiful and exotic flowers and butterflies like the evolution defying Blue Morpho. Upon returning to San Jose, you will have your choice of visiting museums close to your hotel such as the National Museum, Jade Museum, or the Fine Arts Museum. Enjoy dinner at your hotel. By this time, you may already wish you had brought extra or a larger camera memory card! **Lodging: Fleur de Lys Hotel**

### March 6 – Guided Nature Hike at San Gerardo Dota



After breakfast, we check out of our hotel and depart to the south to San Gerardo Dota via amazing scenery. After checking into our next hotel and enjoying a great lunch, you will participate in a nature hike on the reserve led by your expert naturalist guide and then have time to enjoy the beauty of your surroundings.

**Lodging: Savegre Lodge**

## March 7 – Bird Watching and Depart to Coto Brus Valley



The early bird sees the most birds! Go on an early bird watch with your guide to see some of the many birds Costa Rica is famous for. After returning to the hotel for breakfast, prepare to enjoy great scenery and sites as we head to the Coto Brus Valley with lunch at a restaurant along the way. We are headed to Amistad Coffee country as well as an area rich in other produce! Your eyes will feast on a variety of scenery including this famous rainforest area. We will be staying at the La Amistad Lodge on the Hacienda La Amistad at Las Mellizas near the border of Panama.

**Lodging: La Amistad Lodge**

## March 8 – Las Tablas, Coffee Plantation and Chelita Farm.



After breakfast at your La Amistad Lodge, you have the opportunity to tour another protected area (reserve) called Las Tablas and add even more photos to your already full camera card. (Did we say bring plenty of memory cards?) After lunch, visit the coffee processing facilities and see lush production on the Chelita Farm. The hacienda you are on has elevations from 4,100 to 7,218 feet (1,250 to 2,200 m). It includes thousands of acres of rain forest within the Las Tablas Protected Zone. On the Pacific slope of the Talamanca Mountains, Las Tablas was declared part of the Amistad Biosphere Reserve by the United Nations and a World Heritage site by UNESCO for its rich biodiversity. Sixty percent of the flora and fauna in Costa Rica is thought to exist here.

**Lodging: La Amistad Lodge**

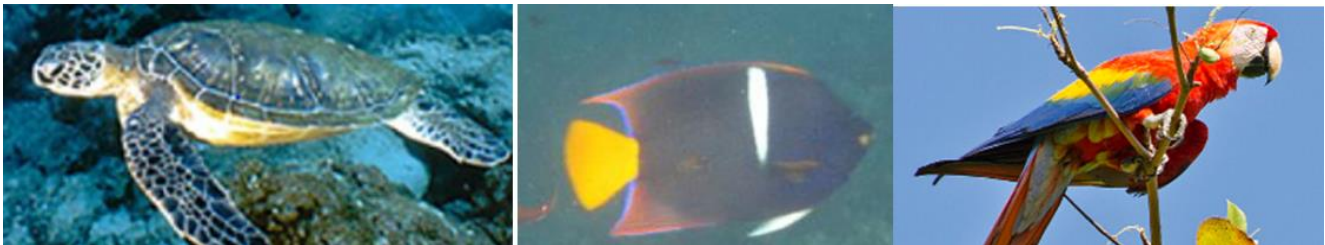
## March 9 – Botanical Gardens, Stone Spheres, and Mangrove Swamps



By this point, you are probably thinking this tour couldn't get better. But it just did! Today is certainly a day you won't forget. After breakfast, we head for the Sierpe-Corcovado area. On the way we tour the Botanical Gardens (Wilson), and visit the giant Stone Spheres Park where you will see huge stone spheres sculpted by the ancient natives of Costa Rica – an archaeological marvel. Soon after, we leave behind our bus and proceed by boat to Drake Bay from Sierpe through amazing mangrove swamps along the river route. You will arrive at our Hotel on Drake Bay on the Pacific Ocean where we will spend 2 nights. The beauty here will be permanently etched on your memory.

**Lodging: Jinetes de Osa Hotel**

## March 10 – Snorkeling Caño Island and Guided tour of Corcovado National Park



You think the days before were unforgettable? You are now in an area that is on the bucket list of many Costa Ricans! We take a boat to the Isla Del Caño Biological Preserve located on a small island about 12 miles off the coast. The Preserve has some of the best snorkeling in Costa Rica with hundreds of tropical fish, eels, rays, and even an occasional sea turtle or small shark. This is an underwater paradise for you to enjoy God's awesome Creation! After lunch, relax and soak in the beauty or take in more adventure as your guide gives you a tour of a part of **Corcovado National Park**. Located in the remote Osa Peninsula, Corcovado is considered by many to be the most bio-diverse place on Earth boasting more biodiversity than the entire United States! It is home to over 400 bird species, 140 mammals, and a whopping 500 tree species. Corcovado National Park also lays claim to being the most unspoiled coastal rain forest in Central America. This area is also home to the gorgeous Scarlet and Blue Macaws – fabulous birds to see.

**Lodging: Jinetes de Osa Hotel**

March 11 – Jacó Beach on the Central Pacific Coast



After breakfast, we head for the bus to drive along the gorgeous Pacific coast of Costa Rica past beautiful post card-perfect scenery and beaches! Our destination is Jacó Beach where you will check into your hotel, have lunch, and spend the afternoon relaxing and soaking in the sun and the sand.

**Lodging: Arenas Punta Leona Hotel**

March 12 – Aerial Tram tour (Pacific/Jacó) and Crocodile sighting



Close to Jacó beach, this **safe** aerial tram tour is a “must do” adventure. You will not only experience the forest canopy from above, but will also have breath-taking views. Your lunch will be at the Tram restaurant.

Afterwards, we depart through great scenery for San Jose via the popular Tárcoles River bridge which is a famous site for viewing a lot of big crocodiles as they sun themselves along the river. (We sure hope you still have camera memory left!) **Lodging: San José Sabana Hotel (Wyndham)**

March 13 – (Sadly) Adios!!

Transportation is included from your Hotel to the Airport. We really believe you will depart Costa Rica with unforgettable memories of an amazing Tropical Creation Family Adventure . . . OR . . . you can extend your stay however you want . . . OR ... for a limited number of you who get their requests in early and want to help, **join Dave and Mary Jo Nutting as they spend the next week doing a creation teaching outreach at the University of Costa Rica and elsewhere.**



# Hotels for the AOI *Discover Creation* Costa Rica Tropical Adventure Tour March 4-13, 2016

Note: These are hotels that have been reserved for this tour. They are rated as 3-Star or better -- all with very good ratings with private baths. We reserve the right to substitute a hotel or add additional housing with as close to comparable value as possible if the need arises due to booking issues or for other reasons which are deemed best by the tour coordinators.

## March 4, 5: Hotel Fleur De Lys (San Jose)



More photos of Hotel Fleur de Lys



## March 6: Savegre Lodge



**March 7, 8: La Amistad Lodge**



**March 9,10: Jinetes de Osa Hotel**





## March 11: Arenas Punta Leona Hotel



## March 12: Tryp San Jose Sabana:



### Price

**Adult: \$2590.** Prices given are for double occupancy. For single occupancy, please contact AOI. Be advised that because this tour is during the high season, prices for later registrations may vary. We will let you know before we finalize your registration if that should need to happen.

**Children (7-11): \$1990** (in same room as parents)

### Payment Schedule

This tour is limited to 20 participants, so we recommend that you register as soon as possible to reserve your place. Down payment of \$1000/ per person is due at the time of registration. The balance is due by Jan 15, 2016. Call AOI at 970-523-9943 Tuesday-Friday (9 AM – 5 PM) to register.

These prices include **ALL** meals and hotels (3-Star or better), transportation in the country including airport/hotel transfers, boat transportation, tram costs, and entrance fees to National Parks and all other sights. It also includes an experienced and professional bilingual Naturalist Guide and a Native Costa Rican tour coordinator, who will accompany us to keep things running smoothly, as well as veteran Creation speakers, Dave and Mary Jo Nutting. All tips are included. (These can be a great expense for tourists, but we have chosen to cover them.)



**\*Note: The sites, activities, and hotels mentioned above have been reserved for this tour. Hotels are rated as 3-Star or better -- all with very good ratings. We reserve the right to substitute a site, activity, or housing with as close to comparable value as possible if deemed best by the tour coordinators.**