

Costa Rica for Families

June 19 to 26, 2010

8 Days / 7 Nights

Recommended for families with children 6 and up





Dear Rice Alumni and Friends,

We invite you and your family to experience the beauty and natural treasures of friendly, tropical Costa Rica.

Imagine your family discovering spectacular beaches, hiking through protected ecosystems and private nature reserves, spotting caimans, sloths, monkeys, and tropical birds, and seeing the spectacular sight of one of the world's most active volcanoes. And all along the way you'll meet ordinary Costa Ricans, admirable people who honor, respect, and work to maintain a harmonious relationship with nature.

Your family's journey begins in the area around Arenal Volcano, where you can tour a traditional coffee farm and learn how coffee is produced. Then go for a soak in hot springs that are warmed by the heat of the nearby volcano. Visit a traditional farm, and explore the forest canopy from the Hanging Bridges at Arenal and on a thrilling zip line canopy tour.



Next, travel to the beaches of Guanacaste. During a wildlife boat trip on the Tempisque River in Palo Verde National Park you can watch for birds, monkeys and crocodiles. Here in a nearby community, your children will spend time with their pen pals and all of you will have an opportunity to volunteer with local community members on various projects. Later, enjoy an outrigger canoe trip and explore white sand beaches in the area.

This peaceful, modern country – a world leader in protecting natural resources – is an ideal place to visit with your children. Just a few hours from the U.S. by plane, it's a world of exotic, unspoiled beauty. Come explore it with us.

Sincerely,

Rose Sundin
Associate Director, Alumni Affairs
Rice University

Itinerary:

Day 1: Saturday, June 19 San Jose

Depart U.S. / Arrive San Jose

Upon arrival in San Jose, your family is met and transferred to the hotel. Rest and relax after your long journey.

Overnight: Hotel Bougainvillea

Day 2: Sunday, June 20 Arenal

Coffee plantation, traditional lunch, hot springs

After a welcome breakfast and orientation, we depart for a local organic coffee plantation. Watch how coffee is picked, milled and ground, then sample the results! If your eyes are still a little heavy from the early morning, they are sure to perk up from the rich aroma and flavorful taste of a hot cup of fresh Costa Rican coffee. After a traditional lunch with a local family, you can soak and relax in natural hot springs, whose waters are warmed by the geothermic activity beneath the earth's crust.

Overnight: Arenal Manoa (B, L, D)

Day 3: Monday, June 21 Arenal

Manoa farm visit, Hanging Bridges, canopy tour

Early this morning, you have the option to visit Manoa's farm and its flock of sheep and cow pasture, and learn about the milking process. Then explore protected, primary neo-tropical rain forest from the Hanging Bridges at Arenal. This series of trails is interconnected by nine stationary bridges, a tunnel, and six suspension bridges. Enjoy spectacular views of Lake Arenal and Arenal Volcano as you walk through the treetops. Later, get your adrenaline pumping on an exhilarating canopy tour. Secured to steel zipline cables with the help of our experienced guides, glide from platform to platform for a unique opportunity to see the forest from a bird's-eye view. Those who wish to keep their feet on the ground might opt for a Maleku Indigenous experience. The Maleku Tribe used to reside in this area of Costa Rica. They speak their own language and are struggling to hold onto their original traditions and customs. There are only a few hundred Malekus left! Enjoy a presentation by them to learn more about their tribe and traditions.

Overnight: Arenal Manoa (B, L, D)

Day 4: Tuesday, June 22 Arenal - Guanacaste

Pen pal meeting

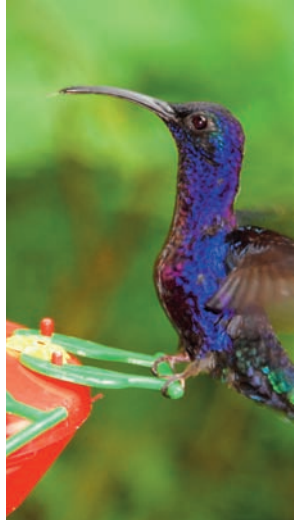
Start driving to the North Pacific coast. En route we will stop for lunch, where children can meet their pen pals. During this meeting we will begin a special activity that will be finalized on the following day during our community service project. We will arrive at our hotel in early afternoon.

Overnight: Bosque del Mar (B, L, D)

Day 5: Wednesday, June 23 Guanacaste

Full day community service project at Escuela Altos del Roble

Rise and enjoy breakfast before heading off for your full day of volun-





teer work. During your time here you will meet up again with your pen pals and form close connections with local people as your own understanding of Costa Rican culture expands. Your volunteering project will be carefully selected based on the community's most pressing needs at the time of your visit, which will be determined close to your departure date. The work may include painting or plastering a classroom, planting trees with students, teaching computer skills, playing games, teaching English or simply reading aloud. After a fulfilling day, you'll return to your lodge for a delicious dinner and a well deserved rest.

Overnight: Bosque del Mar (B, L, D)

Day 6: Thursday, June 24 Guanacaste

Palo Verde National Park and workshop at Guaitil

Today we will visit Palo Verde National Park via a boat trip on the Tempisque River. This park has a unique character as it's simultaneously wetlands and one of the best examples of tropical dry forests remaining anywhere in the world. This dual nature is a result of the Tempisque River flooding over land located in a relatively arid climate region. On this wildlife adventure we will watch for birds, monkeys, and crocodiles. Enjoy a Costa Rican lunch at Doña Dalilia's place. This afternoon we will go to Guaitil for a workshop on traditional pottery.

Overnight: Bosque del Mar (B, L, D)

Day 7: Friday, June 25 Guanacaste

Outrigger canoe trip, free afternoon

Paddle to quiet Pacific coves for swimming, snorkeling, tide pooling, and beachcombing. Lunch will be a picnic on the beach before heading back to the hotel. The afternoon is free for you to enjoy the beach or hotel pool. Meet up again this evening for our farewell dinner.

Overnight: Bosque del Mar (B, L, D)

Day 8: Saturday, June 26

Depart Liberia / Arrive U.S.

This morning you and your family will be transferred to the airport at Liberia for your departing flight. (B)





Includes:

- All entrance fees
- Accommodations based on double and triple occupancy at comfortable and distinctive tourist level hotels
- Meals per the itinerary
- Tips for porters, drivers, waitstaff and guides
- Services of a national guide who will accompany you throughout your trip
- All excursions as listed in the itinerary
- Pen pals for all interested children, who they can write to in advance and meet on the trip
- Unlimited bottles of water for the land portion of your tour
- Airport transfers for families arriving into San Jose on the scheduled arrival day and departing from Liberia airport on the scheduled departure day



What to expect

This Costa Rica for Families program is designed specifically for families who are seeking to get off the beaten path and experience all Costa Rica has to offer, up close and personal.

The accommodations are family-friendly lodges, not hotels, and have been chosen for their unique Costa Rican feel and ideal settings. This means clean, comfortable rooms and personalized attention – often from the owners; good and plentiful meals (family style or buffet), and limited services. Laundry facilities and hair dryers, for example, may not be available. You can prepare for this by packing easy-wash, quick-dry clothing, and by not worrying about being spotless.

Prices:

Land
only

Adults	\$3,290
Children 6 to 17	\$2,640
Single supplement	\$900

Costa Rica is tropical! This can mean hot and humid. You will experience temperatures from 60 – 90 F, with humidity from 60 to 95%, **and a good chance of rain at some point on your trip.** Bring a poncho and dress in layers. If you are prepared, you will find that experiencing rain in the rain forest only adds to your enjoyment.

Booking Conditions:

FINAL PAYMENT - Payment is due in full no later than ninety (90) days (March 19, 2010) prior to the date of your departure, unless otherwise noted. Final payment must be made by personal check, cashiers check, or wire. Credit cards are not accepted for final payment. If full payment has not been received at that time, Thomson Family Adventures reserves the right either to treat the reservation as cancelled or to charge your credit card for the cancellation fees.

Wire Information:

Cambridge Trust Co.,
1336 Mass. Ave.,
Cambridge MA

Account name:

Thomson Family Adventures

Account number: 90 392 201

Swift code: CAUPUS31

Routing number: 011300595

Phone number: 617-876-5500

CANCELLATION AND REFUNDS – Notification of cancellation must be made in writing to Thomson Family Adventures. At the time we receive the cancellation, all moneys will be refunded less the following cancellation charges per person, deducted from the total package price.

Time of Cancellation

90 days plus before departure
\$700 deposit

90-60 days before departure
50% of the package price

60 days or less before departure
100% of the package price

Please note that no partial refunds will be given for unused meals, hotels rooms, airport transfers etc., for any reason whatsoever. Thomson Family Adventures reserves the right to increase the tour price in the event of cost increases due to changes in airfares, currency fluctuation, park fees increases, or fuel surcharges. If the expenses exceed 10% of the total tour then the participants can choose to cancel and receive a complete refund. Thomson Family Adventures reserves the right to alter the tour without notice for the safety or the convenience of the participant for conditions that are outside the control of Thomson. Thomson Family Adventures is not responsible for expenses incurred by trip members in preparing for the trip (e.g. visa fees, equipment, etc.) or for any necessary additional travel arrangements should you embark from home before the group departure date. Accommodations are subject to change.

CANCELLED TRIPS – Thomson Family Adventures reserves the right to cancel this departure to protect your safety due to a natural disaster, act of God, act of terrorism, sickness or disease outbreak, or other causes beyond our control. In such a case a refund is given which equals the total payments received less than \$700 per person deposit and less all non-refundable expenditures paid our adventure outfitters. For trips cancelled by Thomson Family Adventures for other reasons, each customer will be sent a full refund. In both cases Thomson Family Adventures is not responsible for additional expenses incurred by customers such as non-refundable advance purchase air tickets, visa fees, etc.

RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND ASSUMPTION OF

ALL RISK – Wineland-Thomson Adventures, Inc. does not own or operate any entity which provides goods or services for your trip including, for example, accommodations, air or other transportation companies, food service providers, equipment suppliers, etc. Wineland-Thomson Adventures, Inc. is not liable for any negligent or willful act or failure to act of any such person, or of any other third party. As used hereinafter, Wineland-Thomson Adventures, Inc. includes its employees, shareholders, officers, directors, successors, and assigns (collectively Thomson Family Adventures).

I am voluntarily participating in this trip with the knowledge of the numerous risks and dangers involved including but not limited to risks of physical exertion for which I am not prepared; forces of nature; transportation failures whether by plane, train, auto, boat, canoe, kayak, bicycle, ski, horseback or other animal, by foot, or by any other conveyance; consumption of alcoholic beverages; risks associated with food or impure water; risks associated with food allergies and/or medical conditions including, without limitation, the failure of any supplier to adhere to my dietary, medical or allergy related protocols; government actions; civil unrest; terrorism or the threat thereof; criminal activity; dangers associated with wild or other animals; breakdown of faulty maintenance of equipment; high altitude; accident or illness without access to means of rapid evacuation of availability of medical supplies or services; the adequacy of medical attention if and when provided; epidemics or the threat thereof; and stolen, lost, or misplaced luggage or property. In addition, I accept all risk of and release Thomson Family Adventures from its own negligent conduct. I acknowledge that the enjoyment and excitement of travel is derived in part from the inherent risks incurred by travel and activity beyond the accepted safety of life at home or work and that these risks contribute to such enjoyment and excitement, being a reason for my participation. I hereby agree to be responsible for selecting a trip which my party, I and our doctors believe we are physically and mentally able to undertake and to be responsible for our own welfare and accept any and all risks of

delay, unanticipated events, inconvenience, illness, injury, emotional trauma or death.

possible. Costs incurred by such changes will be my responsibility.

I acknowledge that the cost of this Thomson Family Adventures trip is based upon trip participants executing this Release of Liability and Assumption of All Risk, and Arbitration Agreement. Therefore, as lawful consideration for being permitted to participate on such trip(s), I hereby release and discharge forever Thomson Family Adventures from and against any and all liability arising from my participation in the trip. I agree that this release shall be legally binding upon me personally, all members of my family and all minors traveling with me, my and their heirs, successors, assigns, and legal representatives, it being my intention fully to assume all the risks associated with this trip and to release Thomson Family Adventures from any and all liabilities to the maximum extent permitted by law.

Thomson Family Adventures will attempt to adhere to my itinerary as much as possible. However, certain conditions (political, climatic, environmental, cultural, wildlife migrations, etc.) may necessitate changes in the itinerary. Thomson Family Adventures reserves the right to alter my itinerary at any time for such reasons or for my safety or convenience. Thomson Family Adventures will attempt to notify participants of changes as far in advance as

MEDICAL PROXY – I hereby give Wineland-Thomson Adventures, Inc. and their contractors permission to arrange emergency medical treatment for me if necessary, and I agree to hold Wineland-Thomson Adventures, Inc. harmless for the provision or non-provision of such services.

BINDING ARBITRATION – I agree that any dispute concerning, relating, or referring to these terms and conditions, the catalog, or any other literature concerning my trip itself shall be resolved exclusively by binding arbitration according to the then existing rules of the American Arbitration Association in Boston, Massachusetts. Such proceedings will be governed by substantive Massachusetts law.

KNOWING AND VOLUNTARY EXECUTION – I have carefully read and fully understand the contents and legal ramifications of this document, including those regarding cancellation and refund policies. I understand that this is a legally binding and enforceable contract and sign it of my own free will. I agree that if any portion of this Contract is found to be void or unenforceable, the remaining portions shall remain in full force and effect.

Signature (1st Guest)	Print Name	Dated
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Signature (2nd Guest)	Print Name	Dated
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Parent or Guardian of a Minor: I, as a parent or guardian of the below named minor(s), hereby give my permission for my child(ren) or ward(s) to participate in the trip and further agree, individually and on behalf of my child(ren) or ward(s), to the terms above.

Name of Minor	Signature of Releasor	Dated
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Name of Minor	Signature of Releasor	Dated
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Name of Minor	Signature of Releasor	Dated
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Name of Minor	Signature of Releasor	Dated
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RESERVATION FORM

Family Adventure in Costa Rica

June 19-26, 2010

#1 First and last name <i>(as it appears on passport)</i>	Rice Affiliation	Date of birth	Rooming with
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#2 First and last name <i>(as it appears on passport)</i>	Rice Affiliation	Date of birth	Rooming with
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#3 First and last name <i>(as it appears on passport)</i>	Rice Affiliation	Date of birth	Rooming with
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#4 First and last name <i>(as it appears on passport)</i>	Rice Affiliation	Date of birth	Rooming with
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Address

City	State	Zip
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Phone (H)	(W)	E-mail
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☐ I acknowledge that I have read the Booking Conditions and agree to abide by them.

☐ Single room (\$900 supplement)

Please reserve ____ space(s). Enclosed is my deposit of ____ (\$700 per person).

☐ Accept my check made payable to Thomson Family Adventures or

Charge my: ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express

Card #	Exp. Date
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Signature as it appears on card

Return to:

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P.O. Box 1892
Houston TX 77251-1892**

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