

Set high on a ridge facing Costa Rica's most active and spectacular volcano, the **Arenal Observatory Lodge** offers the adventurous traveler a unique, once-in-a-lifetime experience.

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THE LODGE

Arenal Observatory Lodge Close to the Core!

Set on a ridge 1.7 miles from Arenal Volcano. **Arenal Observatory Lodge** offers the adventurous traveler front row-seating for one of the world's most thrilling fireworks displays - a volcanic eruption. A once-in-a-lifetime experience

After having lain dormant for over 400 years, Arenal Volcano erupted violently on July 29, 1968, wreaking havoc with the local population and creating a "lava landscape" for miles around its base.

At **Arenal Observatory Lodge**, nature is bursting at the seams, tropical flora and fauna abound. And all the while, the imposing majesty of the volcano reflects in the mirrored lake at her feet, enhanced by her fiery tantrum-all this right outside your room at the lodge.

You Can Also:

- Explore the lava flow trail and take night tours to marvel at the active lava flows.
- Ride horseback through varied terrain with great natural beauty.
- Tour the Caño Negro Wildlife Refuge wetlands.
- Canoe Cerro Chato Lake in the crater of an extinct volcano.
- Enjoy the comfort of our swimming pool and Jacuzzi while viewing the volcano.
- Go birdwatching
- Hike our rich rain forests.
- Enjoy a professional massage after your hike.
- Soak in the nearby hot springs.

- Wake to the roar of howler monkeys.
- Watch toucans fly by.
- Wade in the waters beneath a jungle waterfall.
- Go sport-fishing or kayaking in Lake Arenal.
- Hike above the forest canopy at Arenal Hanging Bridges.
- See stalactites and stalagmites at Venado Caverns.
- Raft the white-water of Sarapiquí River.
- Relax on a lazy float down Peñas Blancas River.
- And much more!

Volcano Activity Watch:

Activity:

Occasional eruptions day & night, lava flows on northwest side of the volcano;
 DURING THE LAST MONTH THE VOLCANO HAS INCREASED ITS ACTIVITY
 WITH SPECTACULAR ERUPTIONS AND LAVA FLOWS, VISIBLE FROM OUR
 DINING ROOM BALCONY.

Visibility:

Volcano is partially clear. Temperature 65-70° F. Moderate winds. Chance of rain during the afternoon.

ABOUT THE LODGE:

Arenal Volcano, which lay dormant for centuries, erupted in 1968 and has been continuously active ever since, making it one of the world's most explosive cones.

Arenal Observatory Lodge was originally built in 1987 as a research station for scientists of the Smithsonian Institute. It is the only lodge within Arenal National Park and is protected from danger by a deep gorge of the Agua Caliente River.

The lodge crowns a ridge top overlooking Arenal Lake and the looming volcano 1.7 miles away and is surrounded by 870 acres of private forest and farmland. Nearly 500 acres are protected reserve with virgin rainforest covering one third of the land. Arenal Lake is the largest in Costa Rica with excellent sport fishing.

Arenal Observatory Lodge sits in a private nature reserve in the heart of one of Costa Rica's numerous natural areas. Rich volcanic soil supports primary and secondary rainforest. Waterfalls and crystalline rivers offer sparkling jungle refreshment. A well marked and manicured trail system traverses the property and provides easy access to the breathtaking natural beauty.

There is also a paved, wheelchair-accessible trail that extends 800 meters into the rainforest and provides excellent views of the volcano. The lodge offers daily complimentary walks by resident naturalist guides.(A reforestation project guarantees healthy forest in perpetuity for future generations)

The **Arenal Observatory Lodge** features 37 rooms in a four-building spread on the property. Five rooms are fully equipped for disabled travelers, with rooms,

bathrooms, hallways, parking areas and even the new swimming pool designed accordingly. Most have a view of the volcano and all have verdant garden surroundings. Everywhere one feels the volcano's commanding presence.

The gardens and landscaping are extravagant with color. Natural flowering plants and shrubs were carefully chosen to attract wildlife. Jewel-toned hummingbirds dart from heliconia to oleander and brilliant butterflies adorn the blooms. Other attractions include a waterfall, just a short hike away, which cascades into the cool forest depths. A well maintained path leads guests to this magical spot.

The mysterious emerald lagoon at Cerro Chato Volcano fills the now extinct crater. A challenging hike from the lodge takes guests through primary forest to a waiting canoe for a dreamy paddle on the lake's mirror surface.

Birders will be particularly gratified during their visit. The diverse habitats surrounding the lodge shelter nearly 370 species. Guests can see birds everywhere.

An Infinity swimming pool was added for jungle refreshment. Tiled in cobalt blue, it melts into the rainforest beyond. A sunken bubbling jacuzzi provides soothing relaxation beneath a glass gazebo that frames the volcano's peak against a starry sky.

A host of activities await the spirited adventurer. Mountain biking, whitewater rafting, kayaking, hanging bridges, butterfly gardens, canopy tours, fishing, horseback riding and more are all available. But, one needn't travel far to feel nature's magic. It's all around you!

To explore the attractions of the South Pacific, visit Tiskita Lodge

ROOMS:

Arenal Observatory Lodge features 37 rooms in a four-building spread on the property. Most have a view of the volcano and all have verdant garden surroundings. Everywhere at the lodge one feels the volcano's commanding presence.

Near the main lodge are two Junior Suites. Airy rooms have private terraces and spectacular views of the lake and Arenal volcano. Cool tile floors and colorful fabrics highlight the comfortable furnishings and original artwork depicts the volcano's many moods. These rooms feature two king-size beds, a mini-bar and a mini-refrigerator for your enjoyment.

The Smithsonian rooms feature huge walls of glass that provide premiere views of the volcano from the comfort of your bed, or from the two sitting chairs strategically placed for your comfort and enjoyment.

Seven of the Smithsonian rooms are located just off the main lodge and dining area. Four of these rooms feature a king-sized bed, modern private bath, and an amazing

volcano view through their over-sized windows, one of these rooms also feature views of Lake Arenal. Three of these rooms features two queen- sized beds.

Ten Smithsonian rooms are housed in a modern building located about 110 meters from our main lodge, reached by a 134-foot suspension bridge through a small patch of rain forest. These rooms feature tiled floors, private bathrooms, one queen and one twin-sized bed. This block of rooms is located near the pool and Jacuzzi area. It also features a viewing deck, conference room, and our own volcano museum with an active seismograph constantly monitoring the volcanic and seismic activity just outside your door.

Five Smithsonian rooms are located on the way to the farm. These rooms are fully equipped for physically-challenged travelers and feature one queen and one king-sized bed.

Our nine Standard rooms provide a rustic, yet comfortable base for your volcano viewing and rain forest activities. These rooms were originally designed and used by researchers. Each room features one bunk bed and two full-sized beds, as well as a private bath. Adjacent to the main lodge and dining area, two of them feature direct views of the volcano.

Budget travelers will find five comfortable rooms in La Casona, our original family farmhouse, a perfect place for groups. Four of the rooms have queen-sized beds with direct views of the volcano. And the fifth room has three bunk beds. Located about 500 meters from the main lodge and dining area, La Casona features two full bathrooms and a large common sitting room, as well as a spacious front porch with a volcano and lake view.

White Hawk Villa. Crowning a hilltop some 800 meters from the lodge is the White Hawk Villa with breathtaking views of the volcano and the lake, with a capacity for 8 guests. The spacious living area is open and airy, includes satellite television and a fully-equipped master kitchen.

The two large "Trogon" and "Toucan" bedrooms downstairs feature one double bed and a two twin beds each. The villa also has a living room with a sofa-bed and dining room.

MEALS:

Meals are served in our large main dining room, which features walls of windows opening onto views of the volcano and Lake Arenal. Our chefs prepare a variety of continental and Costa Rican dishes, with an emphasis on fresh, local fruits and vegetables, as well as locally raised beef and poultry, and fish from Lake Arenal.

Meal Times

Breakfast: 7:00am - 8:30am

Lunch: 10:00am - 5:00pm

Dinner: 6:00pm - 8:30pm

We also have a comfortable bar open from 10:00am to 12:00 midnight everyday. This is a wonderful spot to gather with other guests, an excellent place to be for any volcanic eruptions.

Fishing:
You catch it, we cook it!

GETING THERE:



By Car

The drive to Arenal Volcano from San José passes through some of the most scenic regions in the country. Vibrant pastures, undulating mountains and pastures, patches of lush cloud and rain forests and picturesque Costa Rican villages. On the way, you'll pass by working dairy farms, hillsides full of grazing cattle, as well as fields of papaya, citrus, cacao, yucca, sugar cane and, of course, coffee.

By Bus

There is regular bus service from San José to La Fortuna. From La Fortuna you can take a taxi, or arrange pick-up with the lodge. It is best to call the lodge to find out the most current and accurate bus schedule and information.

There are actually several routes to the Arenal Observatory Lodge. They all take roughly 3 hours by car from San José.

The most popular route heads out of San José along the Inter American Highway to the town of San Ramón, where you head into the hills, passing through La Tigra, on the way to La Fortuna.

An alternative route turns off the Inter American Highway at Naranjo and passes through Zarcero and Ciudad Quesada (San Carlos), before reaching La Fortuna. If you take this route, be sure to stop and walk around.

You can drive north through Alajuela or Heredia, skirting the Poás Volcano enroute to Varablanca and Aguas Zarcas. Beyond Aguas Zarcas, you will come to Ciudad Quesada and continue onwards to La Fortuna. If you have the time, this route permits a visit to the Poás Volcano, as well as a stop to admire the impressive La Paz waterfall.

Once you reach La Fortuna, continue through town towards Tabacón and the Arenal National Park. Just before reaching Lake Arenal you will come to a marked turn-off for the National Park entrance. Take this left turn-off. From here it is 9 kilometers along a somewhat rough dirt road. Continue on past the park entrance following signs for the **Arenal Observatory Lodge**. A four-wheel drive vehicle is recommended in the rainy season, and high clearance is always useful.

Due to extreme weather and heavy rains, road conditions can change rapidly in Costa Rica. It is always best to call the lodge to find out current conditions and what route is best for you.

WHAT TO BRING:

Here's a short list of some essential and highly recommended items to bring with you:

- Binoculars
- Flashlight
- Camera
- Rain gear
- Hiking shoes/boots
- Bathing suit
- Light sweatshirt/sweater or windbreaker
- Birding list
- Any necessary personal medications
- Pocket Knife
- Insect repellent
- Sunscreen
- Sun hat
- A small day pack for hikes
- Plastic bags for your gear

In addition, you may want to pick up a copy of the book *A Guide to the Birds of Costa Rica*, by F. Gary Stiles and Alexander Skutch (Cornell University Press).

The **Arenal Observatory Lodge** is a modern hotel with many conveniences and a small gift shop stocked with certain necessities. Still, adventure travel in Costa Rica is different than most other forms of tourism and a little foresight and planning will make your trip much more enjoyable.

THE VOLCANO

THE VOLCANO AND THE LODGE:

It is estimated that only ten people in every three million will ever have the opportunity of seeing a volcanic eruption in their lifetime, while only four persons in three million will ever view an active lava flow.

Become one of those ten in three million!

The **Arenal Observatory Lodge** was actually born out the very humble buildings originally erected to house scientists and researchers from the Smithsonian Institute and Earthwatch.

The **Arenal Observatory Lodge** is the best place to experience the thrill and beauty of the Arenal Volcano because of its location, its long history as a research center and the knowledge and the experience of its staff and guides.

Arenal Observatory Lodge is situated on a ridge 120 meters above Lake Arenal, southeast of the active volcano. The ridge rises between the Agua Caliente and Quebrada Danta rivers. This topographical feature is important as it keeps lava flows from affecting the lodge. The lodge is within ZONE "D" Low Danger Area near the volcano. Moreover, as prevailing winds are from the east, the lodge would seldom be affected by ash or other fallout a major eruption.

Activity

Fairly constant eruptions during the day & night, lava flows on the north and south west side of the volcano. During the last few months the volcano has increase its activity, seen from our dining room balcony.

Visibility

Volcano is partially clear. Temperature between 65 – 70° Fahrenheit. Moderate winds. Possible rain during the afternoon.

VOLCANO HISTORY:

Arenal Erupts

At roughly 7:30 a.m. on Monday July 29, 1968—after having lain relatively dormant of over 400 years—Arenal Volcano erupted with violence and fury. Extreme eruptions and volcanic activity continued for several days, killing some 87 persons and burying over 15 square kilometers in rock, lava and ash. In total, the eruptions affected over 232 square kilometers in the surrounding area to varying degrees, with damage to crops, property, livestock and forests.

At the height of this activity the volcano was throwing out massive amounts of lava and ash and tossing giant rocks for distances of up to a mile at speeds of some 600 meters per second.

The explosions formed three new and active craters.

Since that time, Arenal Volcano has maintained nearly constant activity that ranges from soundless explosions with large mushroom-shaped clouds of ash overhead to booming explosions that send hot rocks nearly a kilometer into the air to pyroclastic explosions highlighted by the rush and flow of lava and gasses down the side of the volcano.

Arenal Volcano rises to approximately 1633 meters at its summit, although the exact summit height changes frequently due to the volcanic activity.

The last major eruptions occurred on May 8, 1998 and gave rise to temporary evacuations from area hotels, although the danger quickly passed and no one was injured.

History

Prior to the 1968 eruption, Arenal Volcano was a nearly perfect conically-shaped rain forest covered volcanic mountain with minor fumerole activity. Local residents had named it variously: Arenal Peak, Pan de Azúcar (Sugarloaf), Canasta Volcano, and Río Frío Volcano.

The area around Arenal Volcano has been the home of indigenous populations for thousands of years. Over this time, these residents have suffered scores of periods of intense volcanic activity.

The Guatuso Indians believed the volcano was home to the God of Fire.

In geological terms, the Arenal Volcano is relatively young, only some 4000 years old. Prior to the 1968 eruption, the volcano's last major eruption has been dated at around 1500 AD and lava flows from this period have been tentatively identified.

CERRO CHATO VOLCANO:

It's hollowed out cone is home to a picturesque crater lagoon, and is a popular destination for day hikes

Chato Volcano, Arenal's Big Little Brother is located just off the southeast flank of Arenal Volcano, the smaller Chato Volcano is actually an older brother living in the shadow of its boisterous young brethren. A truncated volcanic cone rising to some 1,140 meters, Chato Volcano has had no registered volcanic activity for the past 3,500 years, about the time when Arenal was just beginning to be born.

RESEARCH FACILITIES:

One of the reasons Arenal is so appealing to a wide range of volcanologists, biologists, botanists and geologists is the combination of constant activity, rich ecosystems and the close proximity of lava flows from various epochs and periods.

Arenal Volcano receives over 5000 millimeters of rain annually.

The high rainfall has caused rapid erosion and frequent mudflows and landslides.

Research projects have been conducted and are ongoing on a variety of subjects, including the:

- Studies of eruptive activity.
- Reconstruction of details of the 1968 eruptions.
- Reconstruction of details of pre-historic eruptions.
- Measurement of acid rain.
- Measurement of species regeneration in volcanically affected areas.
- Measurement of changes in soil chemistry and mineralogy.
- Studies of local biology and the affects of volcanic activity upon it

Scientists studying at the **Arenal Observatory Lodge** have come from the Smithsonian Institute, the Earthwatch Institute, the Organization of Tropical Studies, OVSICORI (Observatorio Vulcanológico y Sismológico de Costa Rica) of the National University of Costa Rica, the University of Miami, and the University of California, amongst others.

Hydrology, Not Just Volcanology

The Arenal-Corobicí Hydroelectric Complex is part a large-scale project undertaken by the Costa Rican Electricity Institute (ICE) to harness the huge energy generating potential of the Arenal Lake. The project included the construction of two massive dams and the creation of Lake Arenal, a man-made lake covering almost 90 square kilometers of area.

The hydraulic energy of Lake Arenal and its surrounding rivers supply almost 40% of Costa Rica's energy production.

THE ACTIVITIES

Arenal Observatory Lodge isn't just a beautiful spot from which to watch the pyrotechnical wonders of the Arenal Volcano. It's also a great base for a whole wide range of activities and adventures.

The **Arenal Observatory Lodge** is strategically located in the central part of Costa Rica's prime eco-tourism area. You'll find rain forests, waterfalls, and of course volcanoes, as well as easy access to the Caño Negro Wildlife Reserve, the Venado Caves, the Rio San Juan and Monteverde Cloud Forest Preserve. Bird watching, hiking, mountain biking, fishing, sail boarding, river rafting are just some of the many available activities.

Take a look at all the options available below and design your own custom itinerary, or choose one of our pre-designed packages. Whatever you do, don't rush through the Arenal area. Take some time to enjoy its bountiful beauty and the many amazing adventures open to you.

FREE ACTIVITIES:

Bird watching:

Over 350 species of birds have been spotted in the area around the **Arenal Observatory Lodge**. Well-marked and groomed trails through primary forest, open pasture land, secondary forest and hardened lava flows offer numerous habitats and bird watching opportunities. Some of the more spectacular local residents include Three-wattled Bellbirds, Fasciated Tiger-herons, Sunbitterns, Laughing Falcons, Red-lored Parrots, Great Curassows, Northern Jacanas, Steely-vented Hummingbirds and Keel-billed Toucans. [Click here for a more complete bird list from the Arenal Observatory Lodge.](#) **List of birds.**

Waterfall Trail:

One of the most popular trails at **Arenal Observatory Lodge**. A short, relatively easy walk from the lodge (20 minutes), the trail ends at the base of a 20-foot waterfall. The climate here is cool and the surrounding forest is lush with ferns and palms.

Duration: 1 hour roundtrip.

Morning hike:

Hike the Arenal Volcano National Park through a well-protected secondary forest to see wildlife like Spider Monkeys, White-throated Capuchins, Howler Monkeys, Toucans, Oropéndulas, Black Guans, Crested Guans, Coatis and Collared Peccaries.

The hike crosses a lava flow from 1992, but continues to steam, where tourists learn about the most important aspects of Arenal Volcano. The trail is easy to hike and visitors should wear closed shoes (not sandals), and carry rain ponchos, binoculars, water and insect repellent.

Although the tour is free, the park entrance fee is \$6 per person.

Departs from the hotel daily at 8:30 a.m., duration 3 hours.

Old Lava Trail:

You can travel this path without a guide, leaving from the hotel and climbing down to the Agua Caliente River. From this point on, the path is in a high-risk zone that leads to the foot of the volcano. Along the way you will see how the local plants are becoming reestablished, and with luck, some howler monkeys. This is a difficult hiking trail due to the slope and texture of the terrain.

Duration approximately 4 hours roundtrip.

This trail takes you to a lava field that stopped flowing in September 1992 but continues to emit steam at some points.

Walking Trails:

Arenal Observatory Lodge lies in the heart of one of Costa Rica's largest natural areas. The rich volcanic soil supports primary and secondary rainforest that teem with birds, butterflies, mammals and reptiles. Howler monkeys call from the forest every morning and late afternoon. A manicured, well-marked trail system traverses the property and provides safe easy access to breathtaking natural beauty. A paved trail, wheelchair accessible, extends 800 meters into the rainforest allowing excellent views of the volcano and primary forest.

Spring-fed Swimming pool and Jacuzzi:

Guests can relax and enjoy a jungle refreshment by our "infinity" swimming pool. Tiled in cobalt blue, it melds with the rainforest backdrop. The bubbling, sunken Jacuzzi provides soothing relaxation for 12 under a glass gazebo that frames the volcanic peak against the starry sky.

TOURS:

TOURS: All tours are guided, with a required 2 pax minimum (except for the Fishing Tour)

Natural Hike:

For a special evening, enjoy our relaxing night hike through secondary growth forest and experience the sounds, aromas, and volcanic glows during your walk. In 1989, Arenal had a powerful pyroclastic eruption (a lateral flow of hot gases, fragments and ash) that blew out part of the northwest wall of the crater. On the walk to the observation point over the western flank, you can enjoy the resident fauna (monkeys, toucans) and interesting explanations about volcanic activity. Later, on the northwestern flank you will learn more details about the volcano's history while enjoying the view of its activity. You will see blocks of lava that look black at first, but then glow red after sunset due to their high temperatures.

Daily departures from the hotel at 4:00 p.m.

Duration: 3 hours.

Cost: \$25.00/person, including transport, entrance fees and a courtesy beverage.

Cerro Chato Volcano:

Arenal volcano's little big brother is not as high or as active as its younger sibling, but it is a wonderful destination. Pass through dense rainforest and marvel at the crystal waters in the crater lagoon or have a dreamy paddle on its mirrored surface.

After leaving the crater you can climb down to the powerful La Fortuna waterfall and have a rewarding swim at the base of these magnificent falls.

Departs from the hotel.

Duration: 4 hours. Hike to the crater lagoon Cost: \$ 35.00/ 4 pax.

Duration: 6 hours. Hike to the crater lagoon and visit to La Fortuna Waterfalls.

Cost: \$65.00 / pax (entrance fee to La Fortuna Waterfall included).

Fishing:

Lake Arenal is home to a healthy population of Guapote, a hard-fighting species of South American bass. Spend a morning with a fly rod or traditional gear and we'll cook your catch. Four hours on the lake with a guide, gear and snack.

Duration: 4 hours.

Departs from Arenal Lake at 6.00 a.m.

Cost: \$150.00 /boat 1 or 2 pax.

Arenal Hanging Bridges:

This amazing project is located near Arenal Volcano in a 250-hectare protected rainforest preserve. In this natural paradise walk a 3-km trail crossing 15 bridges, 6 of which are hanging bridges with a spectacular but secure design. You'll see nature on the ground, from the understory, and from above the treetops! Enjoy "hanging around" with us in the canopy gardens of the rainforest...nature's last frontier.

Duration: 3 hours.

Departs from the hotel.

Cost: \$65.00/pax; \$45.00/pax without transportation.

Canopy Tour:

Experience the thrill of your life horseback riding, hiking through the rainforest, and gliding through the treetops from tree to tree and platform to platform using pulleys and harnesses on horizontal cables while admiring natural tropical forest. The rainforest canopy is home to nearly 80 percent of all tropical flora and fauna. Treetop platforms to 120 feet in the air and networks of canopy bridges provide a unique way to enjoy tropical rainforest beauty.

Departs from La Fortuna at 8:00 a.m.; 11 a.m.; & 1:00 p.m.

Duration: 4 hours.

Cost: \$ 45.00/pax.

Kayak on Arenal Lake:

Enjoy a pleasant morning of kayaking on Arenal Lake and breathtaking views of Arenal Volcano. You'll see different species of birds like flycatchers, kingfishers, Great Blue Herons and Anhingas, and may hear the Howler Monkeys as well. Includes: kayak, life jacket, oars, tropical fruit snack, and beverages.

Departs La Fortuna at 8:00 a.m. & 1:30 p.m.

Duration: 4.5 hours.

Cost: \$45.00/pax.

Caño Negro Wildlife Refuge:

Caño Negro Wildlife Refuge is one of the richest sites for birds on this continent. Besides the abundant birds, Caño Negro is also home to many exciting animals, such as 3 kinds of monkeys, sloths, caimans, lizards and bats, as well as native wetland vegetation. Our tour to this beautiful region leaves La Fortuna at 7:30 a.m., traveling a little over an hour to Los Chiles, a rustic village just 3 km from the Nicaraguan border where our tour of the wetlands begins. From the very beginning of the trip in La Fortuna your knowledgeable professional guide will identify a variety of crop, plant, and animal species along the way, and tell you about the native Costa Rican people of this region. Recommended for the whole family.

Departs La Fortuna.

Duration: All day tour (from 7.30 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.).

Cost: \$45.00/pax.

Horseback Riding to La Fortuna Waterfall:

This is a challenging horseback ride and hike. Sound horses will take you to the entrance of the waterfall through pastures, forest and high hills. The view of the valley and tropical forest is spectacular.

At the end of the road we will leave the horses and walk the natural trail to the base of the waterfall, a special place to relax and swim.

Plunging more than 100 feet through dense rainforest into a mist-shrouded pool, La Fortuna Waterfall is a spectacular site. Located just 3 miles outside the town of La Fortuna, these falls are great for day trips. Be careful on the final slippery section of the hike down to the fall. You will be rewarded by the view once you get there. The pool right beneath the falls can be too rough for swimming but you'll find several perfect swimming holes a little bit downstream.

Departs from La Fortuna at 8:00 a.m.; 9:00 a.m.; 10:00 a.m.; 11:00 a.m.; 12:00 m; 1:00 p.m.

Duration: 4 hours.

Cost: \$25.00/pax (horses and entrance fee to La Fortuna Waterfall included).

Venado Caves:

If you get tired of Arenal volcano's aboveground geological exploits, why not head underground? Located just 50 minutes from Arenal Observatory Lodge, the Venado Caves feature beautiful stalactite and stalagmite formations, as well as a chance to see many members of the bat family.

Departs from La Fortuna at 8:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m.

Duration: 4 hours.

Cost: \$35.00/pax (entrance fee included).

Sarapiquí White Water Rafting:

Our journey starts by picking you up at your hotel followed by a 1.5 hour ride to the Sarapiquí River from La Fortuna. Here you will start your day's adventure in one of the country's most spectacular rivers that winds through virgin rainforest and magnificent scenery.

Includes: Transportation, experienced bilingual guide, rafting equipment, lunch, fresh fruit and beverages.

Departs from La Fortuna.

Duration: All day tour (from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.).

Cost: \$65.00/pax.

Safari Adventure Float:

We start with a brief 20-minute drive to the lower Peñas Blanca River where we launch inflatable rafts on a slower moving section of the river. Enjoy a relaxing 2 hour float with no motor, only the incredible sounds of the nature around you. Our expert bilingual naturalist guide will describe the many kinds of wildlife in the region. An optional tour includes a stop at Don Pedro's farm and a visit with this fascinating man.

Departs from La Fortuna at 8:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m. At 7:30 a.m. with tour to Don Pedro's farm.

Duration: 5 hours.

Cost: \$35.00/pax; \$40.00/pax with tour to Don Pedro's farm.

Biking:

25 km bike ride.

Departs from the hotel.

Duration: 3 hours.

Cost: \$50.00/pax.

Monteverde Boat:

This tour departs the hotel for Lake Arenal, for a 25-minute trip in a covered skiff to the Chiquito River where a microbus will take you to Monteverde.

Duration: 2.5 hours.

Cost: \$ 25/pax.

Horseback riding to Monteverde:

Departs the hotel for the village of El Castillo from where you travel by horseback past rivers, fields and forest to the San Gerardo lookout. From here you can

enjoy excellent views of the volcano and the plains surrounding it, then continue on to a hotel in Monteverde.

Duration: 2.5 hours.

Cost: \$60/person.

Butterfly Botanical Garden:

An enclosure allows the butterflies to fly freely in their own habitat. Butterflies are studied from egg to larva to pupa, until they metamorphose into butterflies and emerge for their first flight. More than 25 tropical species and their host plants are housed here.

Departs from the hotel.

Duration: 2 hours.

Cost: \$45.00/pax.

Canoeing Peñas Blancas River:

Float the river and enjoy the rainforest at a relaxed pace. The brilliant green of the river, flashing deep blues of Costa Rica's famous morpho butterflies, and the flights of brightly colored birds make the trip unforgettable. Wrens sing in duet, frogs chorus and monkeys call while we scan the canopy, river and quiet farmland seeking basking iguanas and other wild animals along the Peñas Blancas River. Includes: lunch.

Departs from La Fortuna at 9:00 a.m.

Duration: 5:30 hours.

Cost: \$45.00/pax.

AFTER ARENAL:

Guanacaste Beaches

The **Arenal Observatory Lodge** is the perfect midway point to spend several days before heading on to sun and sand. Located less than 3 hours from the **Arenal Observatory Lodge**, Guanacaste province is home to Costa Rica's most popular: Playa Hermosa, Playa Ocotal, Flamingo, Conchal and more...

Monteverde Cloud Forest

The Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve is a unique ecosystem, rich in flora and fauna, and home to the Resplendent Quetzal. Like Arenal Volcano, the Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve and its surroundings provide eco- and adventure tourists with a wide range of activities and opportunities. Although relatively close as the crow flies

(you can hear Arenal erupt from Monteverde), Monteverde is about `3 hours from the **Arenal Observatory Lodge** by car and about 4 hours by horseback.

The car route is quite scenic, taking you around Lake Arenal and through the towns of Nuevo Arenal and Tilarán. A four-wheel drive vehicle is highly recommended.

The horseback route is considerably more rugged, heading over the mountains through rain and cloud forests to the town of San Gerardo.

RATES & RESERVATIONS

RATES:

Rates Include:

- Personal attention by our host service manager
- Full breakfast buffet
- Complementary morning walk with a local guide
- (*Entrance fee to Arenal National Park \$6 not included) .
- Walking trails
- Swimming pool and Jacuzzi
- List of Birds
- Children under 6 years free meals and lodging* 7-11 years 50% meal cost, free lodging*
(*Sharing room with their parents)

Rates for lodging (\$)

(Full breakfast buffet included. Add 16.39% for taxes)

Rooms	Low Season May 01, 2004 to November 30, 2004			
	SGL	DBL	TPL	QUAD
La Casona	\$39.00 + tax	\$51.00 + tax	\$68.00 + tax	\$83.00 + tax
Standard	\$54.00 + tax	\$72.00 + tax	\$88.00 + tax	\$100.00 + tax
Smithsonian	\$78.00 + tax	\$96.00 + tax	\$115.00 + tax	\$125.00 + tax
Jr. Suite	\$105.00 + tax	\$107.00 + tax	\$126.00 + tax	\$132.00 + tax

Rooms	High Season December 01, 2004 to April 30, 2005			
	SGL	DBL	TPL	QUAD
La Casona	\$47.00 + tax	\$64.00 + tax	\$77.00 + tax	\$90.00 + tax
Standard	\$69.00 + tax	\$86.00 + tax	\$95.00 + tax	\$112.00 + tax
Smithsonian	\$95.00 + tax	\$116.00 + tax	\$125.00 + tax	\$133.00 + tax
Jr. Suite	\$129.00 + tax	\$133.00 + tax	\$142.00 + tax	\$150.00 + tax

White Hawk Villa The whole villa \$375/night, 8 pax
"Trogon" and "Toucan" Individual rooms: Smithsonian Room Rates

Rates & Taxes For Meals (\$)

Lunch	13.00 + 23% TAX = 15.99
Dinner (Buffet)	15.50 + 23% TAX = 19.07
Box Lunch	7.50 + 13% TAX = 8.48

Tax Breakdown: 13% sales tax, 10% service fax

*Rates subject to change.

RESERVATIONS:

Reservation Policies

Cancellations or changes to the reservation dates must be made in writing.

Deposits / Payments

100% - required 15 days before the guest's arrival date.

If the Lodge is completely reserved and we receive another reservation for the same dates, we allow the first reservation 3 days to re-confirm with a proper deposit. This deposit is non-refundable.

Reservations which are not guaranteed with a deposit within the limits established above are subject to cancellation without notice.

Cancellation

Cancellations received more than 30 days prior to arrival daterefund 100%

Cancellations received 30 - 15 days prior to arrival daterefund 50%

There is no refund for cancellations received less than 15 days prior to arrival date. The exception is, if we are able to sell the rooms a refund of 80% is given.

Pre-reservations

To guarantee your reservation request make out your check payable to "Arenal Observatory Lodge":

Arenal Observatory Lodge

#SJO-12410

P.O.BOX 025331

MIAMI, FL 33102-5331

NOTE: Please fax us a copy of your check so that we know it's on the way.

