

COSTA RICA: Art & Ecology

Tour Director/Host: Patrick S. Crabb

Administrator: Diana Farrell

January 8-19, 2012

We are off to faaabulous COSTA RICA this January!!! Imagine the sensuous coastline beaches and palm trees with warm tropical temperatures and constant sunshine. Rest and relaxation will become seductive. Hand-picked by our Meximayan Tour agency, our uniquely exceptional accommodations with amazing views of the ocean or the jungles will energize your spirits for the daily adventures. The Spanish colonial ambience and Caribbean lifestyle will envelope your psyche; the local cuisine will tingle your taste buds.

Ever thought about treetop zip line activities? Cruise our fascinating safari boat tour with colorful toucans, howler monkeys and ever-vigilant iguanas. Visit an exciting butterfly farm. If timing with Mother Nature is perfect, you will see ocean sea turtles birthing on the sandy beaches. Perhaps you can help the babies onto their oceanic destinations! Do you snorkel? Maybe a refreshing dip at the local hot springs and spa after an informative eco-tour. The active Arenal volcano will add some more excitement to our itinerary. This is PARADISE for the Nature Lovers!

And for the cultural minded in our group, a visit to the famous Jade and Gold Museums will open your eyes. The Ancients' handiworks were astounding! There is a possible visit to the studios of international painters. BONUS! With the long layover in Mexico City, I have arranged to take our group to the impressive Anthropological Museum of Mexico City...one of the two top rated anthropological museums in the world! There is no added cost (just tips to bus driver and guide). It will be a well-worth time spent over just sitting at the airport for 6-8+ hours.

What an extraordinary deal!! Should be another SOLD OUT tour. Join us now and avoid the Waiting List!

TOUR HOSTS -

Patrick S. Crabb, Professor of Art, holds a master of Fine Arts from the University of California Santa Barbara. For the past 35 years he has been teaching full time at Santa Ana College (Fine & Performing Arts Division). Demand for his expertise as a working artist has taken him to the four corners of the United States, across Canada, and into Asia. He is a Fulbright Grant recipient. His love for travel with groups has taken him into the American Southwest, Taiwan (1999), Yucatan Peninsula (2000), Mexico City/Oaxaca (2001), New Zealand/Fiji (2002), Peru (2003), China (2004), Guatemala (2005), Mexico/Guadalajara (2006), China (2007), Mexico/Copper Canyon (2008), Belize (2009), Southeast Asia (2010) and Egypt/Jordan (2011).

TESTIMONIALS –

Donna Banning (retired teacher): "...it was beyond spectacular! I thoroughly enjoyed every single day.... Your careful planning paid off...."

Beverly Archer (actor): "What wasn't fabulous?"

Emily Messagee (Peace Corp volunteer): "...such a feluccan' great time!!!"

Brenda Burgess (emerging artist): "I was never disappointed.... so much laughter and great food."

Patty Osagawara (business professional): "...one of our most memorable trips.We look forward to receiving information about the next one!!!"

Helen Williams (retired teacher): "....definitely the best trip we've had!fantastic and a dream come true."

Billie Sessions (professor of art): "...what a bargain! ...commend on how much we got for our dollars, pounds, dinars!"

Marv and Phyllis Kaye (financial planner): "...one of the most congenial groups....we loved meeting so many new and interesting people."

ENROLLMENT CONDITIONS -

Your program host is Professor Patrick Crabb. General tour inquiries: pscrabb@cox.net or (714) 731-0050

Diana Farrell is the registration administrator. All registrations/finances/rooming/accounting inquiries/etc. should be directed to her: dianafarrell@gmail.com or (805) 643-2418

DEPOSIT -

To hold your reservation, an enrollment deposit of \$400/person is required. No credit cards please...sorry. This policy holds down the cost. All payments should be mailed directly to this address: DIANA FARRELL
3101 Breaker Drive
Ventura, CA 93003

All checks payable: "DIANA FARRELL" (held in escrow account)

PAYMENT DEADLINES -

Deposit of \$400/person: deposits prior to July 31st (postmark date) will qualify for 2 raffle tickets/person; otherwise, one 1 raffle ticket/person (see Bonus section). The final balance of payment is due on October 1, 2011.

CANCELLATION/REFUND POLICY –

You must send a written notification of cancellation to Diana Farrell. Cancellations up to Nov 8, 2011 you forfeit \$300, up to Dec, 8, 2011 you forfeit 50% of the land portion, up to Dec. 23rd you forfeit 75%, no refund after that date. Travel Insurance is recommend, please contact Deb Stelton at Meximayan at: debandbob@meximayan.com

PROGRAM COSTS - **LAND PORTION ONLY**

Double occupancy: \$2195/person double occupancy

Single occupancy supplement: \$679/person

IMPORTANT: Each traveler will be responsible to make his/her own air reservation immediately, including the cost, after the initial tour deposit.

Call AeroMexico: 1-800-237-6639 or **Deb Stelton at 1 800 337 6394 for the very lowest fare starting at \$514.** This first step allows you to obtain the lower airfare until it runs out. Insure that your reservation aligns EXACTLY as shown below.

We are not responsible for any Costa Rican government tax increases in hotels, transportation or tours. Currently there are rumors that there will be increases of perhaps 14% Any one who pays in full before an increase goes into effect will not have to pay any increase.

- Jan. 8, 2012 - Flt. # AM 18, 7:20AM LAX departure to Mexico City
- Jan. 8, 2012 - Flt. #AM 656 Mexico City to San Jose, Costa Rica departing 8:10PM (arriving 11:10PM).
- Jan 19, 2012 - Flt. #AM 657 San Jose, Costa Rica to Mexico City departing 7:00AM
- Jan. 19, 2012 - Flt. #AM 642 Mexico City to LAX, departing 2:25PM (arriving 4:30PM)

Please notify Diana Farrell when this step is completed.

PASSPORT -

An updated (at least 6 months remaining past time of travel) passport is MANDATORY. A visa is not required.

BONUS!!

Host/artist Patrick Crabb will again donate a ceramic vessel with a market value of \$175 to an exciting raffle at the Welcome Dinner party. Early registration prior to July 31st, 2011(postmarked date) will qualify you for 2 raffle tickets; all other will have only one ticket. Previous raffle winners will still qualify for this event.



ITINERARY –

Day 1: (Jan 8, 2012): You have a comfortable departure time from Los Angeles LAX at 7:20PM, Terminal 2, on AeroMexico Flt. # AM-18 with a stop-over in Mexico City where we will visit the Anthropological Museum, back to the airport and then on to San Jose, Costa Rica, arriving around 11:10PM. Private bus will transfer our group to the Aurola Holiday Inn Resort Hotel located conveniently in San Jose close to three important museums with ancient artifacts.

Day 2: After breakfast orientation our “cultural/history minded travelers” will be treated for a day of museum visits: The Jade Museum and the Gold Museum. The Jade Museum features the Costa Rican ancient jade works, which are considered the finest casting of all Central America. At one time jade was considered more precious than gold! For the “pottery lovers” the pre-Columbian ceramics is worth noting. The Gold Museum exhibits the intricate earliest gold works that will amaze you. And finally, it may be possible that we will visit the studios of two international artists. At day’s end our group will have our first, formal introductions with each other and to follow with a delicious Welcome Dinner party and the P. CRABB Raffle (see “Bonus” section).
B D

Day 3: Our vehicles will take us eastward thru quaint villages and towns to the Caribbean town of Tortuguero with accommodations at the wonderful Tortuguero Beach Lodge. An afternoon guide will lead the group thru the rain-cloud forest at Braulio Carrillo National Park where 500+ species of exotic birds reside in a virgin forest. The tour will continue through the agricultural lowlands, showing us pineapples/ rice/ bananas/ cattle plantations. The afternoon portion will take us on a visit to the National Park where you will see an exceptional site of biodiversity with the marshy islands and sandy beaches. Would you like to take up the option of a kayak trip thru these areas?
B L D

Day 4: In the morning a naturalist guide will lead us through the Tortuguero Canals where we will see the abundant flora and fauna. In the afternoon you will don jungle boots provided by your lodge to explore the mysterious jungle with our guide. You will learn about rainforest animals on this walk. In the evening you can enjoy a Guided Turtle Nesting Tour (\$30/person)... IF there are turtles laying eggs. This is the home for the giant Green Sea/Leathernecks/Hawksbill turtles. This will day will be for our ardent “Nature Lover Travelers”! Dinner will be at the lodge. B L D

Day 5: In the morning our group will take a boat ride through the canals until we switch to a bus that will take us to the spectacular 4-Star Arenal Springs Resort located in La Fortuna. This small fun-loving town is located in the shadow of the fun-loving, fire-spitting Arenal Volcano. Many of the rooms and terraces have a stunning view of the volcano. We will include a stop at the famous Coco Loco Art Shop/Gallery (owner –artist Ruth Delseroth-Kweton) for those great looking, handmade souvenirs! For the evening you might enjoy the “natural sound and light show” from the volcano itself while enjoying dinner!

B D

Day 6: You may sleep in after your last night’s volcano party. After lunch a naturalist will take us for a walk to see this area’s flora and fauna. When we reach a clearing we will be at the closest point to the volcano. Being the third most active volcano in the world, Arenal erupts every five to ten minutes. In the afternoon the group will visit Baldi Hot Springs where all of us will be able to relax and bathe in incredible pools and spas against the Arenal’s scenic mountain range. Have your picture taken at just the right moment during the eruption! L D

Day 7: We have on schedule a fantastic aerial tram ride along with a “butterfly garden” visit (both prepaid) which will heighten your senses! The canopy tram will allow us to see the 3-fingered sloths and monkeys; the walk thru into the butterfly garden will give us a 360-look-see of the iridescent butterflies.

This is the Day of Options! We have many choices with the following activities:

- 1) Professional guides will navigate you through vibrant Class II and III rapids on the Rio Balsa
- 2) Or... you can take a jungle riverboat ride through the wilds of the Cano Negro Wildlife refuge, home to monkeys, sloths, caimans, waterfowl, birds and many other small critters. Lunch included.
- 3) Or...try your balance on the “monkey bridge walk” thru the forest.
- 4) Or... whatever you choose! Remember that all “Optional Tours” are NOT PRE-PAID (US \$\$ currency is accepted throughout the country). Most optional tours ranges from US \$35-\$45+/person.

B D

Day 8: Private transportation will take us to Papagayo on Playa Manzanillo Beach along the Gulf of Papagayo on the Pacific coast. This is one of 12 majestic beaches to allure and to relax in a dry tropical climate on the Guanacaste Peninsula. Our superb accommodations will be the impressive Occidental Allegro Papagayo Hotel. The shoreline views are postcard perfect! The rest of the day is at leisure. This will be your paradise for the next couple of days. B D (all drinks included!)

Day 9: A professional bilingual guide will led us on a snorkeling adventure above a vibrant coral reef teaming with tropical fish. Does anyone have an underwater camera? A thrilling canopy zip line over treetops can be substituted. How about an optional sunset Catamaran Cruise or Palo Verde Riverboat Ride? B L D (all drinks included!)

Day 10: A final chance to update your travel diary or work on your tan this last day in “paradiso”. How about choosing again one of the many optional activities available such as that sunset Catamaran Cruise you dreamed about? B L D (all drinks included!)

Day 11: A private transfer in the morning to San Jose/Alajuela Holiday Inn Express, ending with the Farewell Dinner Party at a local restaurant. Diana will host another memorable “White Elephant Gift Party”. We will overnight at this convenient and comfortable hotel to save us 40 minutes of extra sleep time and less travel time to the airport. B D

Day 12: (Jan 19) We depart early from this Land of Paradise at 7AM, AeroMexico Flt. #AM-657 (anticipate a US \$26/person Airport Exit Tax), arriving Los Angeles at 4:30PM. A box breakfast will be ready for you with your early airport departure. B

PACKAGE TOUR ITEMS -

Included:

Aerial tram ride
Safari boat travels
Eco-walking tours
Hot springs baths and spas
Private A/C tour bus
Licensed bi-lingual guide w/tours
Hotel accommodations
Museum fees
National Park/garden entrance fees
All-meal plan (except where noted)

Not Included:

Mandatory passport
AeroMexico Airfare
Vaccinations (if desired)
Departure Tax \$26
Gratuities
Additional tips for individual services
Meal beverages (soft drinks/alcohol unless noted otherwise)
Optional tours
Travel insurance

REGISTRATION FORM -

Please use this form to officially register for the tour. This will be the only format. Our traditional printed brochure is cost prohibitive.

Space is limited. Early registration is highly encouraged. Recent tours have been SOLD OUT. Please send in this application with the \$400/person deposit quickly.

“I have carefully read this E-brochure on the Costa Rica tour, and I wish to apply. I also agree to the payment conditions or refund policies as stated. MexiMayan Academic Travel, Inc., its officers and corporate agents, and its appointed escort for this tour, act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation, hotels, and automobile and bus contractors.

They will not be held responsible for accident, delay, sickness, personal injury or death, loss of personal property, additional expenses due to weather or other causes beyond their control. MexiMayan Academic Travel, Inc. reserves the right to amend the itinerary if weather or other factors make it necessary or advisable.”

Signature _____ Date: _____

Include a copy of your passport with this registration.

EXACT Passport Name (please print clearly): _____

Passport Number: # _____ Issue Date: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Birth date: _____ US Passport _____ Non US ___ country: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home phone: () _____ Cell: () _____

Email Address: _____

Emergency contact: _____ Telephone: () _____

Dietary restrictions, such as vegetarian: _____

Roommate (double occupancy only): _____ Single _____

Travelers must be over 18yrs. old. This tour is not an affiliated college course.