

Costa Rica - 2022

Guanacaste: Monteverde, Nosara and Tamarindo

- Fri Jan 28 | LAX → Liberia
 - Park:
 - Joe's Airport Parking - Self Park Garage, 6141 West Century Boulevard
 - Fly:
 - Alaska Flight 282
 - LAX → LIB 130p-900pm (5h30m, 2hr Time Change)
 - Rental Car:
 - Avis Confirm: 17563991US4 (At Airport, Unlimited Mileage, SUV)
 - Requires purchase of Costa Rica insurance
 - Stay:
 - [Hilton Garden Inn at Airport](#)
- Sat Jan 29 | Libera → MonteVerde + Waterfall Hike & Night Tour
 - Drive:
 - Liberia to Monteverde ~2h20m
 - Use WAZE not Google Maps
 - Explore:
 - 830a: Breakfast at Airport Hotel
 - 1200p: Drop bags at Hotel
 - 1230-330p: El Tigre Waterfall Hike (<https://www.eltigrewaterfalls.com/>)
 - 5km hike + 3km horseback ride + Lunch at end included
 - 330-600p: Settle into Hotel Room and Explore Town
 - 630p: Celajas at Hotel Belmar
 - Stay:
 - [Hidden Canopy Treehouses](#)

- Sun Jan 30 | MonteVerde - Cloud Forest Preserve Tour & Down Time

- Drive:
 - None
- Explore:
 - 915-12pm: Guided Cloud Forest Experience @ Sante Elena Cloud forest preserve
 - Confirmed via Email: <http://www.reservasantaelena.org/>
 - Afternoon: Down Time / Lunch/ Bopping around Santa Elena
 - Taco Taco Monteverde
 - 500-730pm: Dinner at [San Lucas TreeTop Dining](#)
- Stay:
 - [Hidden Canopy Treehouses](#)

- Mon Jan 31 | MonteVerde - Selvatura Adventure Park Day

- Drive:
 - None
- Explore:
 - 830-1100a: Selvatura Zipline Tour (<https://selvatura.com/>)
 - 1115a-1200p: Sloth Exhibit
 - 1215-100p: Butterfly Garden
 - 100-300p: Hanging Bridges Self Guided Walk
 - 400-500p: Down Time
 - 520-720p: Night Jungle Tour
 - By Guide Koky via Hotel in Refugio Silvestre Preserve!
 - 800pm: Dinner El Sapo at Senda
 - <http://www.sendamonteverde.com/>
- Stay:
 - [Hidden Canopy Treehouses](#)

- **Tues Feb 01 | MonteVerde → Nosara**

- **Drive:**
 - **MonteVerde → Nosara ~3h10m**
- **Explore:**
 - **Playa Pelada (Nosara)**
- **Dinner:** [La Luna](#)
- **Stay:**
 - [Nosara Beach Hotel](#)

- **Wed Feb 02 | Nosara - Guiones Beach**

- **Drive:** None
- **Explore:**
 - **Ostional Nacional Wildlife Refuge (Olive Ridley / Hawkbill Turtles)**
 - **Guiones Beach - Surf/Yoga Sesh**
 - **Massages at hotel**
 - **6:30pm Sports: USMNT vs Honduras (FS1)**
- **Restaurants in Nosara/Guiones:**
 - **La Brasa**
 - **La Dolce Vita**
 - **Il Pepperoni**
 - **Beach Dog Cafe**
 - **10Pies**
- **Stay:**
 - [Nosara Beach Hotel](#)

- **Thurs Feb 03 | Nosara → Tamarindo**

- **Drive:**
 - **Nosara to Tamarindo ~2h10m (Leave early, arrive Tamarindo by noon)**
- **Explore:**
 - **Tamarindo Beach**
 - **Playa Grande / Tamarindo Wildlife Refuge (Leatherback/Hawkbill Turtles)**
 - **El Mercadito de Tamarindo Food and Cocktail Market**
- **Restaurants in Tamarindo:**
 - **Dragonfly Bar & Grill**
 - **Pangas Beach Club**
 - **LA KITCHEN**
 - **Antichi Saponi**
- **Stay:** Tamarindo
 - [Capitan Suizo](#) - Beach Bungalow

- **Fri Feb 05 | Tamarindo - Full Day**

- **Drive:**
 - **None**
- **Explore:**
 - **1:30p Boat Cruise on Marlin del Rey (15 mins early)**
- **Dinner:**
 - **Dragonfly Bar & Grill**
 - **Pangas Beach Club**
 - **LA KITCHEN**

- Antichi Sapori
 - Stay:
 - [Capitan Suizo](#) - Beach Bungalow
- Sat Feb 06 | Tamarindo → Liberia → LAX
 - Drive:
 - Tamarindo → Libera ~1h15m (Depart around 600-630am)
 - Fly Alaska 283 (KYQXWN)
 - LIB → LAX 1000am - 210pm (6h10m, 2hr Time Change)
 - Stay: HOME!

Monteverde Hidden Canopy Treehouse Based Tours

Guided Cloud Forest Experience**

Monteverde offers one of the most unique climates in the world and is located along the Continental Divide! This is probably one of Hidden Canopy's most popular tours. Groups are small and intimate (4 to 6 people) and leave each morning, allowing time for breakfast and then a full morning hike. View mammals, birds and learn about the local ecology. Have your camera with you! Common seasonal sightings include the Resplendent Quetzal, Emerald Toucanettes and Bell Bird. Sloths, and the occasional monkey roam these forests as well. This habitat is brimming with life on top of life as epiphytes and orchids cover the trees. Our guide chooses location of hike (usually in Curicancha Reserve) to accommodate changing weather patterns animal and bird sightings and seasonality. PASSPORT # or License # with you for required waivers. Cost: \$60 per person includes Park Entry, Transportation, Taxes and Guide Fees. Duration, Approx 3 to 4 hours. Departures at 8:30am (Pay Credit card or Cash directly to Guide at time of tour). Note: Minimum 2 participants

Cloud Forest Guided Night Tour:**

After the sunset hour, take a stroll through the nighttime forest in search of sleeping birds, tarantulas, sloths, kinkajous and other local nocturnal mammals. Semi-private tour with only Hidden Canopy guests. Duration: 2 hours, Departure 5:30 nightly. Cost: \$35 per person, includes Park Entry, Transportation, Taxes and Guide Fees. (Pay Credit card or Cash directly to Guide at time of tour) Note Minimum 2 participants

Monteverde/San Luis Organic Coffee tour

Learn all about the coffee process, as well as fair trade market within the industry. Sample fresh brewed coffee in a local farmer's house after touring the farm. This is real Costa Rica life. A bilingual guide will lead you through the coffee farm, showing the process from plant to cup. Great opportunity to purchase coffee direct from the San Luis farm Duration 3 hours, Departures at 10am and 2pm, (pick up 30 minutes prior) Cost: \$35 per person plus taxes, includes Entry and Guide (Pay Tour Provider directly with Credit card or Cash) Note Minimum 2 participants Does not include transportation (Transport is \$5 extra per person)

Canopy Zipline Tour:

Our favorites, for the best security and excellent guides--Original Canopy or Sky Trek. An adrenaline rush and a great gulf view. Duration Approx 2.5 to 3 hours. Cost \$50 to \$80 per person depending on company and tour features. Bring PASSPORT # with you for required waivers at Original Canopy. Aventura and Selvatura can also be booked in combo with hanging bridges at your request for an additional fee. (Pay Tour Provider directly with Credit card or Cash).

Hanging Bridges tour

can also be done on your own, UNGUIDED: cost approx \$35 to 40 per person at Sky Trek and Selvatura Parks (Pay Tour Provider directly with Credit card or Cash)

Sloth Sanctuary at Selvatura :

Up close and personal-- but don't touch. Learn about these fascinating creatures in this limited capacity guided exhibition by appointment only from 915am to 315pm daily. \$35 pp (Pay Tour Provider directly with Credit card or Cash).

El Tigre Waterfall tour:

Heavy hiking, horseback ride, cross suspended bridges and spend a wonderful half day on this hiking and waterfall adventure (with traditional lunch included). \$59 per person. (Pay Tour Provider directly with Credit card or Cash).

Rental Car Insurance Coverage

Important Things to Know About Credit Card Rental Car Insurance in Costa Rica

You must check with your credit card company and the specific car rental agency you're working with for coverage details but there are some things that are generally true and important to know about using VISA, MasterCard or American Express.

If you accept or purchase any coverage sold by the rental car company (CDW, Limited Liability, Comprehensive Coverage, Zero Deductible see this link insurance explanation) then all credit card coverage is rendered null and void.

Here's the confusing part. **The government issued liability insurance (SLI) does not cancel the credit card coverage. This is because you are required by law to purchase SLI and even though you pay for it along with your car it is not sold by the rental car company it is sold by the government.**

Some car rental agencies force you to purchase their CDW or other insurance. This is not ever required by law but some companies simply refuse to rent you a car using credit card coverage. If you want to use your credit card you will need to use a different company (Alamo has always been good for us).

NOTE: in early 2020 the Alamo.com online reservation form began forcing CDW coverage...you can no longer unselect it. We do not know if Alamo has changed policy to force all rentals to purchase CDW but as soon as we get an answer we'll post it. The reservation below for March 2020 was made in November and does not include CDW.

Most rent-a-car representatives will try hard to get you to accept their insurance because it is the most profitable part of the contract. It may help to have a statement of your credit card insurance policy in writing. If they get ridiculous (e.g. requiring a signed letter from your issuing bank stating the coverage applies to you) then they probably have no intention of accepting the coverage no matter what and are just wearing you down.

If damage occurs to the car the cost of repairs will be charged to your credit card and you will only be reimbursed after submitting a successful claim to cardmember services. You may be required to provide documentation like a copy of a police report.

If you use credit card coverage (and often when you don't) the car rental agency will "authorize" a deposit usually between \$1,000 and \$2,000 on your credit card to cover potential damages. You will not be charged that amount unless damages occur but it will reduce your available credit when using the card for other purchases like hotels or restaurants.

Some cards have exclusions specifically against insuring Latin American rentals so be sure to check carefully.

Note – in 2017 we discovered a new clause appearing on some credit card service agreements limiting coverage to \$50k or excluding "specialty vehicles" like pick-up trucks (used to be a convenient choice for surf boards).

This isn't a problem most places but in Costa Rica car values are double and even regular vehicles might exceed \$50k. The Toyota Prado Diesels we normally drive are "valued" at \$92,000 in Costa Rica. Make sure your coverage is sufficient or you may be stuck buying the CDW.

Other Options | Damage Claims | Fine Print

When There's a Damage Claim

I'm sure it's happened but I have never heard of anyone having any problems with credit card coverage.

It makes sense. The credit card company wants their customers (you and me) to be happy. They spend billions of dollars a year acquiring and retaining customers and they're not going to let some car rental agency mess up that relationship or their reputation for taking care of their customers. The credit card is also negotiating from a position of power. If they feel the repair bill is not fair they simply don't pay until the rental agency proves it's legit.

On the other hand we hear complaints on a regular basis about claims when the vehicle is covered by the rent-a-car agency's insurance. Some of the most common are below.

"But I paid \$372 for the extra insurance. Why did you charge another \$879 to my credit card for dent repair?" – the answer is that the extra insurance (CDW, LDW etc.) has a \$1,000 deductible so you pay up front and then you pay again if

the vehicle is damaged. If you don't want to pay the \$879 dent repair bill you have to buy the extra-extra insurance (Zero Liability or Full Coverage) on top of the extra insurance

"How could a half inch scratch cost \$1,114 to repair? I'm not paying for that" – sorry, you are paying for that. There's very little an individual can do to prove that the cost of damage repairs has been inflated.

"What do you mean you're charging me \$769 for a cracked windshield? I paid for the extra-extra full coverage insurance."
– sorry, the windshield (and usually tires) are only covered under the extra-extra-extra windshield and tire insurance.