



# Costa Rica 2018 –

*Tropical Horticulture and Nature*

A tour for MASTER GARDENERS or anyone interested in nature

**JANUARY 4 - 13, 2018**

**LAND ONLY PACKAGE PRICE: \$3,475 per person**

Airfare is not included in package price; cost will vary depending on the departure airport and can be arranged independently or by the tour operator.

For more information contact Kari Harper at  
(573) 303-2872 or email [kari@hiddentreasurestours.com](mailto:kari@hiddentreasurestours.com)

\$1,000 deposit per person holds your reservation. Final payment due by  
October 4, 2017

**Early Bird Deal**

\$500 off per couple or  
\$300 off a single room  
if booked by July 1



Costa Rica, 'rich coast' in Spanish, has a wealth of natural diversity and wildlife — over 10,000 plant species and more than 850 species of birds, including many endemics found nowhere else on earth. This 10-day study program will expose you to some of this stunning array of exotic tropical plants and animals, the ecology of the rainforest and other ecological habitats, and tropical horticultural production.

Join Susan Mahr, Wisconsin MG Program Coordinator, on a special trip as we leave the typical tourist route to visit some of the most exclusive areas of this stunningly beautiful country to discover the vast array of endemic plants in the rainforest, learn about tropical horticulture and crops, see abundant wildlife — monkeys, butterflies, birds, frogs and more — in their natural habitat, and much more.



**Your University of Wisconsin Extension  
host for the trip:**

Susan Mahr  
Wisconsin MG Program Coordinator  
(608) 265-4504  
semahr@wisc.edu

## The Itinerary

### Thursday, January 4

Travel to Costa Rica. Upon arrival at Juan Santamaría International Airport you will be met by your guide and transportation. For those who arrive early enough (many flights don't arrive until evening), enjoy the extensive gardens behind the hotel where you may be lucky enough to spot the blue-crowned motmots or arrange your own optional excursion in the city.

Meals included: none

Lodging: Hotel Bougainvillea ([www.hb.co.cr/](http://www.hb.co.cr/))

### Friday, January 5

This morning we visit the University of Costa Rica's Lankester Botanical Garden where you will enjoy over 3,000 species of beautiful orchids and other epiphytic plants in greenhouses and secondary forests. In late afternoon, we will visit La Laguna, Ileana Terán's private house and enchanting garden filled with orchids and tropical plants. Ms. Terán is founder of SACRO (Save Costa Rica's Orchids), an organization dedicated to maintaining natural habitats where orchids grow wild. We enjoy a garden tour, presentation on SACRO and dinner with our gracious hostess in her home.

Meals included: Breakfast, lunch, dinner

Lodging: Hotel Bougainvillea

### Saturday, January 6

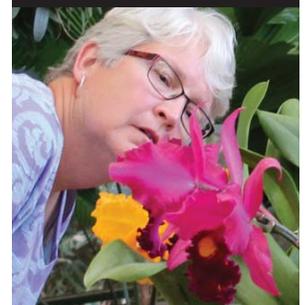
This morning we visit Sibú Chocolate, Costa Rica's premier artisan chocolate company, for a lively presentation about chocolate and its role in Costa Rica's pre-Columbian past and economic development that includes tasting fresh cacao fruit, roasted beans, and an indigenous hot chocolate recipe from the 1500s before savoring dark chocolate squares and classic European-style bonbons made on the premises. We then head to La Paz Waterfall Gardens where you will enjoy beautiful orchid and hummingbird gardens and hike to magnificent waterfalls. Three kilometers of serpentine paved trails wind through both cloud



**RELAX**



**LEARN**



and rainforest, allowing visitors to experience and photograph the forest. It also has the world's largest enclosed Butterfly Observatory covering 18,000 ft<sup>2</sup> with many species of colorful Costa Rican butterflies, as well as many native plants and animals on display in other enclosures. We then drive through lush rainforested hills to the Caribbean slopes.

Meals included: Breakfast, lunch, dinner

Lodging: Selve Verde Lodge ([www.selvaverde.com/](http://www.selvaverde.com/))

### Sunday, January 7

This morning we'll enjoy the Chocolate Tour at Tirimbina Rainforest Center (originally part of the Milwaukee Public Museum, it became privately owned in 2006 by the Pura Vida Foundation of Milwaukee) to learn about growing and processing cacao, how cocoa powder is transformed into chocolate, and taste some of the demonstration materials! In the afternoon we visit the Corsicana pineapple farm (Collin Street Bakery) and their packing plant to learn about the various types of this exotic fruit and why Costa Rican pineapples are among the world's best.

Meals included: Breakfast, lunch, dinner

Lodging: Selve Verde Lodge

### Monday, January 8

Today we drive to the Arenal area, about 3½ hours north of San José, where you may see lava descending Arenal Volcano (if nature cooperates), the most active volcano in the country. Later in the day we'll soak in the natural hot waters of Ecotermas volcanic spring for a relaxing evening.

Meals included: Breakfast, lunch, dinner

Lodging: El Silencio del Campo ([www.hotelsilenciodelcampo.com/eng/index.html](http://www.hotelsilenciodelcampo.com/eng/index.html))

### Tuesday, January 9

The trails and bridges at Arenal Hanging Bridges bring you as close as you could ever hope to get to the birds and the lush vegetation of the primary rainforest. Almost 2 miles of paths with 8 fixed and 6 hanging bridges wind through 600 acres of primary rainforest. Later we'll tour a local coffee plantation to learn about one of the country's most important crops.

Meals included: Breakfast, lunch, dinner

Lodging: El Silencio del Campo

### Wednesday, January 10

Today is long travel day as we drive toward the Pacific Coast, stopping midway for a boat trip on the Bebedero River bordering Palo Verde National Park. Then we continue a few more hours onto the Nicoya Peninsula to our accommodations on a beautiful and secluded beach. Dinner on your own can be at the hotel (Cristobal Restaurant or the lighter Rancho Grill El Pirata) or in nearby towns, then drift off to sleep to the sound of the waves crashing on the shore.

Meals included: Breakfast & lunch

Lodging: Tango Mar Beachfront Boutique Hotel & Villas (<http://www.tangomar.com/>)



**EXPLORE**



**REJUVENATE**



**EXPERIENCE**



### Thursday, January 11

The day is free to relax. You might choose to take a short trek to the lookout point or waterfall, visit the sandy beach (swimming is not encouraged because the ocean is very rough), enjoy the swimming pool, or take one or more of the many optional tours or extra services.

Meals included: Breakfast  
Lodging: Tango Mar

### Friday, January 12

In the morning we drive back to San José, stopping at the Botanical Orchid Garden of La Garita to enjoy a walk through collections of tropical plants and native trees, an orchid flower show and exotic bird aviary. This evening we enjoy a farewell dinner at the hotel.

Meals included: Breakfast, lunch, dinner  
Lodging: Hotel Bougainvillea

### Saturday, January 13

After breakfast, transfer to Juan Santamaría International Airport for the flight home, or begin an optional extension.

Meals included: Breakfast

**OPTIONAL EXTENSIONS** — these can be arranged to be guided or independent, for as many days as you wish; prices will vary. Possible destinations include Tortuguero in the lowland flooded forest for exploring the Caribbean rainforest by boat; the beach communities of the northwest; or the isolated Osa Peninsula for scuba diving, kayaking, and exploring remote, pristine Corcovado National Park. Please contact Kari Laudano (contact info next page) or Susan to discuss the possibilities. Other extensions can be arranged.



#### PLEASE NOTE —

This trip is suitable for all ages as long as you are in good health, get regular exercise, enjoy the wilderness, and have a good-humored approach to traveling in Latin America — where things might not go as predictably as they do at home. Our trip is not strenuous, and can be considered predominantly leisurely-to-moderate. In order to fully enjoy this trip, you'll need to be willing to accept the many surprises this marvelous environment has in store for us!

#### Sample of Some of the Many Optional Tours and Spa Treatments at Tango Mar

Pedicure	\$25
Resort Horseback Ride (2 hr)	\$40
Mangrove Bird Watching Tour	\$45
Montezuma by Horse (4 hr)	\$60
Relaxing Massage (1 hr)	\$65
Tortuga Island Snorkelling Tour	\$65
Curú Wildlife Reserve	\$72
Cabo Blanco Nature Reserve	\$75
Facial Treatments	\$75-90
Hot Stones Massage (1 hr)	\$85
Peninsula Beaches Tour	\$90
Sunset Champagne Cruise (/couple)	\$180
Tortuga Island Diving (2 tank)	\$160

Full listing available on the Tango Mar website



**ENCOUNTER**



**DISCOVER**



**APPRECIATE**



# Details

This tour has been organized for Master Gardener Volunteers in Wisconsin and other Midwestern states, and other interested individuals, by Kari Harper of Hidden Treasures Tours, L.L.C. **Please note that changes to the itinerary may be necessary due to equipment, weather or other factors beyond our control. Participants must be able to do moderate physical exercise (2-4 hours of walking per day, 3-4 hour bus rides) and should be in good overall health!** We need a minimum number of 10 tour participants to hold this tour. **Please do not arrange airfare until you have been notified that the trip is fully viable!**

Tour price                      \$3,475 per person (double occupancy)  
Single supplement         add \$820

Hidden Treasures  
TOURS

Cost includes:

- 9 nights accommodations
- All meals as indicated
- Tips for maids, porters, and waiters
- Private transportation with driver and air-conditioning
- All admission fees or entrance fees as shown on itinerary
- Private driver and botanist guide and their trip related expenses
- All taxes

**\$1,000 deposit holds  
your reservation**

**Final payment due  
October 4, 2017**

**Please note:**

- Maximum of 18 tour participants.
- A passport is mandatory to enter Costa Rica. Passport must be valid for six months beyond return date. Allow several months to obtain a passport if you need one or a renewal!
- Tour price does **NOT** include:
  - roundtrip airfare from U.S. to San Jose, Costa Rica
  - airport departure fee (USD\$29 per person, but it is now included in most airline tickets)
  - alcoholic beverages
  - optional excursions
  - **end of tour gratuity** for local guide (\$5-10/day) and bus driver (\$5/day)
  - items of a personal nature
  - full coverage travel insurance for health, baggage and cancellation
  - 3% fee for credit card payments
- Trip insurance is highly recommended. This can be booked individually or through Kari Harper at Hidden Treasures Tours.
- Payments are refundable minus a \$250 processing fee for cancellations more than 90 days ahead of trip departure. Deposit and tour payments are non-refundable within 90 days of tour departure..
- For more information about the itinerary, or details of travel conditions, logistics, health and safety issues, etc., contact Kari Harper or Susan Mahr



Mail all tour forms and payments (make checks payable to "Hidden Treasures Tours") to:

Hidden Treasures Tours  
6324 N Chatham Ave #333  
Kansas City, MO 641513

(573) 303-2872  
e-mail: kari@hiddentreasurestours.com

**PLEASE NOTE: \*\*All credit card payments will be assessed a 3.5% fee\*\***

**To reserve YOUR spot on this unique trip**, send the registration form (next page) and a \$1,000 deposit per person to Hidden Treasures Tours (address above). Final payment due **October 4, 2017**.

# Registration Form

## MASTER GARDENER TOUR OF COSTA RICA January 4 - 13, 2018

### Passenger Information

Please record information exactly as it appears on your passport. Passport information may be sent later if you have yet to obtain a passport.

Name as on passport \_\_\_\_\_ Name as on passport \_\_\_\_\_

Passport # \_\_\_\_\_ Passport # \_\_\_\_\_

Passport Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Passport Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (home and / or cell) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Name and Phone \_\_\_\_\_

### Please mark your preferred travel arrangements

- I will make my own airline reservation/arrangements
- I would like Hidden Treasures Tours to arrange airline reservations from this airport:
- Single Occupancy — add \$820
- Double Occupancy — (if not named above\*\*) I would like to room with: \_\_\_\_\_
- \*\* (cannot be guaranteed, and if none available, you will be responsible for single supplement)

### Payment Information (deposit \$1,000 per person)

If paying by check: make payable to Hidden Treasures Tours

amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_ check no. \_\_\_\_\_ If

paying by credit card (all credit card payments incur a 3.5% fee):

Credit card type:  VISA  Mastercard  American Express  Discover Amount to be charged \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Three digit security code from back of the card \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

### Direct Inquires and mail this form to:

Hidden Treasures Tours  
6324 N Chatham Ave #333  
Kansas City, MO 64151  
573-303-2872  
kari@hiddentreasurestours.com  
www.hiddentreasurestours.com/

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