

## Tours in and around Tamarindo for weekdays or weekends:

### **Tamarindo Mangrove Boat Tour**

Being part of the National Park Las Baulas (Marine Leatherback turtles) the mangrove estuary tour is a 2 hour long experience in the vast mangrove forest. It's considered to be a unique brackish water habitat where varieties of marine species enter for feeding and reproduction. A bird watching sanctuary is located within where nearly 250 individuals can be observed. The families of the motmots, trogons, orioles, herons, warblers, cuckoos, lapwings, kingfishers, hummingbirds and ospreys are a highlight of the diverse animal variety the park can offer. Also you'll take a short hike in the dry tropical forest looking for the Howler monkey, considered to be the second loudest mammal in Central America. American crocodiles, green iguanas, black iguanas, crabs and numerous plant life are another attraction in the estuary.

### **Turtle Watching tour**

North to Playa Tamarindo at a secluded beach lost in the middle of pure nature we have the possibility of observing three different species. Leatherback turtle being one of the last dinosaurs roaming on earth has an average weight of 500 kilograms and measuring nearly 6 feet. The black turtle with an approximate of 4 feet and 100 kilograms are the most abundant turtle we have in this protected area. The Olive Ridley, the smallest of the 3 can grow to about 3 feet and weigh in at 50 kilograms. Turtle watching is guaranteed, however turtle nesting will depend on the conditions at the beach due to it's a natural occurring process.

### **Canopy ziplining**

Enjoy the dry forest from the heights. Lots of adrenaline will be part of this activity. It takes 2 hours. Roundtrip transportation, fruits and water are included.

### **Sunset sailing**

Enjoy the afternoon at the sea and come back by twilight. Enjoy a delicious meal and lots of fun doing snorkeling, kayaking, and stand up paddling in a great friendly environment.

### **Bea- to-Bar Chocolate-making class**

You will work on classic corn grinders, adding ingredients and making your dark chocolate bars. You will also have a tour of the chocolate laboratory and preparation rooms and a tasting of the chocolates in stock.

### **Snorkeling at The Catalina Islands**

Starting at the dive store at 7.30am for paperwork and equipment fitting you'll have the opportunity to snorkel at a couple of different sites at the Catalina Islands. Each water session is around 40mins in length. Groups enter the water after finding the most suitable place to get in and follow the rock formations along looking for sharks, rays, angelfish, butterfly fish, varied species of pufferfish and schools of jacks and grunts. Maybe you'll be lucky enough to see one of our beautiful sea-stars too.

### **Scuba diving at The Catalina Islands**

2 tank dive trips are provided daily Monday-Saturday. The dive is mostly at the Catalina Islands, volcanic rock formations approx. 40 mins boat ride from the shore. It starts at 7.30am at the dive shop in Flamingo, for paperwork and equipment fittings, and return to shore around midday.

The temperature in the North Pacific coast of Costa Rica ranges between 16-30°C/60-86°F depending on the time of year. Visibility can change on a daily basis.

Our rocky underwater terrain is home to a huge variety of marine life, some seasonal. You can see white tip reef sharks, giant manta rays, stingrays, eagle rays, jewel and green morays, nudibranchs, angel and butterfly fish and schools of damsels, jacks, grunts and spadefish.

The dive times are based on 40min max. Bottom time and depth 18m/60ft.

### **Discover scuba diving**

Have you always wondered what it's like to breathe underwater? If you want to try scuba diving (or have been before but do not have certification) but aren't quite ready to take the plunge into a certification course then Discover Scuba Diving is for you!!

While not a certification course, Discover Scuba Diving is a quick and easy introduction to what it takes to explore the amazing underwater world.

You'll learn the basic safety guidelines and skills needed to dive under the direct supervision of a PADI professional. After practicing a few basic skills in shallow water to prepare for your adventure you'll make 2 open water dives. We'll take you on an underwater tour looking for sharks, rays, octopus and a huge variety of marine fish we have living in our waters, in the right season you can even sometimes hear humpbacks singing!

Get ready to go over the scuba equipment you use to dive and how easy it is to move around underwater with your gear. Find out what it's like to breathe underwater. Learn key skills that you'll use during every scuba dive. Have fun swimming around and exploring. Hear about becoming a certified diver through the PADI Open Water Diver course.

## Tours to National Parks, perfect for weekends:

### Tenorio Volcano National Park

Tenorio Volcano national park has a major attraction which is The Celeste River that runs through the center of the park; the river is named for its cerulean hue created as copper sulfate and colloidal silica react with sulfur in the merging rivers. The Celeste River's waterfall makes for breathtaking scenery, there is an incredible blue lagoon, the origins of the Celeste River is where two streams merge and their clear waters turn blue. From the park entrance the path begins at 2,300 feet above sea level, from where it is a mere hour and a half journey to get to one of the park's most marvelous water-filled basins.

Along the way, visitors will enjoy scenic views, stunning volcanic formations, and the incredible Celeste River. Baird's tapirs and endangered relatives of the rhinoceros, are known to gather around Tapir Lake at twilight for an evening sip of water. A tapir encounter is especially rewarding, as these rare creatures spend most of their lives hiding from predators, and in areas like this feeding of an endemic tree to Park. The national park Tenorio offers an incredibly rich habitat for flora and fauna, spider monkeys, pumas, tapirs, howler monkeys and white-faced monkeys, collared peccaries, toucans, aracarís, sloths, blue jean dart frog, hawks, turkey vultures as well as the occasional ocelot and king vulture are one of the frequently spotted species through the park. Hike will be conditional to the client's physical condition.

### Rincon de la Vieja National Park Hike and Hot springs

Only 35 kilometers north from Liberia city, the national Park Rincon de la Vieja is a protected area of 142km<sup>2</sup> mainly to protect 32 rivers and streams that conform the most important watershed of the area. This area is also composed of nine separated but contiguous craters that make up the largest of the five volcanoes in the Guanacaste Mountain Range. Due to its proximity to the Caribbean foothills and middle elevations it creates a natural passage way for the exchange of species from different zones of life creating a major diversity.

From the 300 birds present in this area families of the motmots, trogons, tanagers, vireos, saltadors, jays, toucans, manikins and falcons are one of the most abundant in this habitat. Other than bird life, plant and mammal life are also abundant from couragards, panthers, ocelots, peccaries, and the highest number of the Costa Rican national flower the purple orchid (cattaleya skinneri). Trails through the park are easy accessible and takes you to the geysers, mud pools, waterfall, and hot springs. Hikes will be conditional to the client's physical condition.

### Palo Verde National Park and Chorotega Pottery

Situate just south from the Liberia International Airport we encounter the lowlands of the Tempisque basin. In the Chorotega language, Tempisque is a mystical river that flows both ways. A tidal affects river with a change from 6 up 10 feet of water with 2 complete cycles and known to be the third most important population status of the American crocodile in the world, with approximately 200 crocodiles per mile at the river. National Park Palo Verde is

considered in Central America one of the most important sites for bird watching. Here species are not only migratory, but residents and regional endemic species inhabit these areas for the extended lowlands and marshes. The bird families of the orioles, herons, storks, ibis, spoonbills, warblers, swallows, cuckoos, flycatchers, owls, kingfishers, trogons, motmots, and jacanas are a distinctive jizz out of 350 individuals that can be found in this Evergreen Forest in the middle of the Guanacaste province. Jabiru Mycteria is an endangered species where the most favorable status of populations is situated inside the protected area during dry season streams dry up temporarily and moisture loving water plant are often found in a varied number near waterways. Pollinators and seed disseminators such as butterflies wasp and a great number of bats increase their activity during this time and become more concentrated in areas where there is water. There is also Pottery stop for an experience of the ancient tradition living inside a culture where pottery manufacturing is demonstrated and clients have opportunity to purchase an original piece of art, and help with the economical up growth of the community.

### ONE DAY TOUR TO NICARAGUA:

The day starts with a delicious breakfast in Guanacaste, Costa Rica and after that we move towards the border with Nicaragua.

At the border you don't need to be in long lines, our guide takes your passport to endorse the output of Costa Rica and for the migration office in Nicaragua.

We leave the border and make a short stop at the edge of the Great Lake of Nicaragua where you can take beautiful photographs of the world's largest island in a freshwater lake, the island of Ometepe.

After this short stop we continue to the small town of Catarina where we have a beautiful view of the Laguna de Apoyo, Granada and the Nicaragua Lake.

We go down to the city of Masaya, where we expect a delicious lunch made of local style and then visit the craft market in the city.

After the lunch we continue to visit the majestic crater of Masaya volcano, this volcano is fully active and gases emanating from the crater to form an impressive cloud in the sky and when it is clear you can see the fire in the center of the crater.

We continue our journey towards the city of colonial Granada.

- First, we enjoy a boat ride towards the islands of Granada. Over 365 beautiful islands are scattered on the shores of Lake Nicaragua, where residents from Nicaragua and abroad have their houses.
- Second, we make a little walk through the city center where you can see the different colonial style buildings.

At the end of the afternoon we start our way back to Costa Rica with an amazing sunset over the Ometepe Island and great memories of Nicaragua.

All these tours and more can be booked directly through the school. Please contact us for more details regarding rates, dates etc

## Most popular activities for activities after school (usually Monday and Wednesday from 5:00pm to 6:00pm):

**Volleyball at Playa Langosta:** We drive a small van to the closest beach to Tamarindo: Playa Langosta where we will have fun during the volleyball game and we will enjoy a beautiful sunset.

**Boccia game at the hill:** We will walk to a high view point close to town where we will enjoy the view and a boccia game.

**Crazy Monkey Bar:** We join at Crazy Monkey Bar and Restaurant to have fun at the pool and drink or eat something.

**Sports Bar in Langosta:** The perfect place for those who love table games like ping pong, table football, billiards and others.

**Cooking class:** We will learn how to prepare one of the delicious and easy costa rican meal.

**Eat pizza at a restaurant:** We will go to a nice restaurant to share a pizza.

**Minigolf:** Have fun playing minigolf!

**Dance lessons:** An experienced dance teacher will teach us a few steps of tropical rythms.

**Movie time:** Who would like to watch a movie? Let's buy some popcorn.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Most of the activities are free except for the pizza time, minigolf and dance lessons.