



**The Harold Rosenbaum Tour Choir
Concert Tour of Costa Rica
July 17 - 25, 2017
Itinerary**

Monday, July 17

Departure US/Arrival in San José

Arrival at JFK airport for check in at least 2-1/2 hours in advance of early morning scheduled flights to Costa Rica. Arrival at *Juan Santamaria International Airport* in **San José**. After clearing customs, you'll be met by your English-speaking Costa Rican guide and transfer by deluxe private motorcoach to San José. At an elevation of 3,777 feet, San José is located on the country's central plateau surrounded by tall mountains. You'll have a brief introduction to the country, its history and its culture.



Check in to your hotel, group dinner and overnight.

Tuesday, July 18

San José

Enjoy a half day tour of Costa Rica's capital city, learning about its history and culture. Visit the principal monuments of the capital, parks, the heart of San José and some of the government buildings, with entrances to the National Museum and the National Theater. Group lunch at a downtown restaurant.

Evening **concert** at a local church (tbc).

Wednesday, July 19

Punta Leona

Transfer to **Punta Leona** on the Central Pacific coast. Punta Leona is home to a transitional ecological zone, where the climates of the dry Pacific north and the hot humid south coasts converge to form a unique ecosystem. Nature lovers and bird watchers (as well as vacationers seeking relaxation and a beautiful beach) are drawn here.

After arrival and check in, you will have free time to enjoy the swimming pool and the beautiful beaches. *Mantas Beach* and *Blanca Beach*. The Punta Leona resort complex has other outdoor activity options: a butterfly garden, hiking trails, volleyball, and water activities such as the banana boat, snorkeling and sea kayaking.



Group dinner and overnight.

Thursday, July 20

Punta Leona

Breakfast at the hotel. Some of the natives would be happy to share your meal, but please--don't feed the monkeys! Free day to relax at the resort, or explore the area. Your guide and the hotel staff will be happy to make recommendations and assist with arrangements. Some suggestions:

Jaco - Just 20 minutes from your hotel is the beach town of Jaco. Enjoy the many restaurants and shops along the main street. Near Jaco is the excellent surf town of Playa Hermosa, which hosts an international surfing competition every year.

Carara National Park - One of Costa Rica's beautiful national parks, the *Parque Nacional Carara* is named after the Huetar word for crocodile. The park is home to several ecosystems, with a fantastic array of wildlife including monkeys, armadillos, sloths, jaguars, and a wide assortment of birds, reptiles and amphibians.

Possible **concert** in Punta Leona or nearby town (tbc).

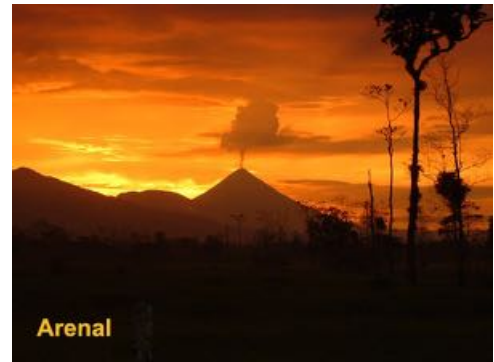
Friday, July 21

Arenal

Transfer from the Mid-Pacific region to the region with the youngest and most active volcano in Costa Rica: **Arenal**. The top is usually surrounded by clouds, so it's considered good luck to see the whole volcano without cloud cover. The lava and incandescent rocks make a spectacular sight, especially at night. You'll have great views of the volcano from your hotel.

Later today, enjoy the Eco Termales hot springs, a family project built over time and years of hard work. Relax in the 4 thermal pools, ranging in temperature from 91 degrees to 105 degrees Fahrenheit. Group dinner at the Eco Termales restaurant.

Overnight in your La Fortuna hotel.



Saturday, July 22

Arenal

Morning guided visit to the Mistico Arenal Hanging Bridges, located along the bird migration corridor between North and South America. Experience Nature's magnificence by (literally) walking right into the rain forest. This safe and easy-to-walk system of hanging bridges and beautiful trails will bring you as close as you could ever hope to get to the birds, flowers and lush vegetation of the primary rain forest.

Group lunch at the hotel. The rest of the afternoon is at leisure to enjoy your surroundings.

Concert at a church in La Fortuna (tbc).



Sunday, July 23

San José

After breakfast, check out and return across the continental divide to San José. Along the way you'll stop in Costa Rica's most famous craft center, **Sarchi**. You'll find a wide variety of items for sale in the town's 200+ stores and family woodworking factories, including the most popular - the elaborately painted "Ox Carts", strong symbols of Costa Rica's rural past.

Check into your hotel from the first night. Group dinner at hotel.

Possible **concert** today or tomorrow.

Monday, July 24

San José

Today you may visit Costa Rica's first capital, **Cartago** and its spectacular Basilica de los Angeles. Founded in 1563 by Juan Vasquez de Coronado, the city was the first Spanish settlement in the country. The countryside you'll pass through offers a glimpse of the pre-Columbian times, when natives farmed what was once Costa Rica's breadbasket region.

Visit the highest volcano in Costa Rica at Irazu Volcano National Park. Its huge crater is surrounded by a moonscape, with a small lagoon at the bottom. From the top you can enjoy one of the most wonderful views over the forest of the Braulio Carrillo National Park, the Caribbean coast and lowlands.

Tour the Lankester Botanical Garden, established in 1973 as a center for the exhibition, conservation and research of tropical epiphytic plants, with a special interest in orchids.

Tonight you'll enjoy a **festive farewell dinner** with folklore show at a traditional restaurant overlooking the Central Valley to celebrate your tour!



Tuesday, July 25

Flight home

Transfer to *Juan Santamaria International Airport* to check in 3 hours prior to your return flight(s) to the U.S.
Welcome home!



See Information Sheet for tour costs, inclusions and other details.