



Explorations
GUIDE

NATURE WITHOUT BORDERS

WELCOME TO A WORLD OF WONDER

*We only have to
step outside to play
freely in nature.*

Peninsula Papagayo is one of the most beautiful places in the world—a tropical 1,400-acre playground offering an unparalleled closeness to nature. Imagine 11 miles of coastline, eight miles of bluff edges, seven beaches and one of the last remaining dry forests on the planet. It's heaven on earth for hikers, surfers, paddleboarders, animal lovers, snorkelers, divers and anyone who feels happiest in the outdoors.

Papagayo Explorers Club welcomes all explorers staying at Peninsula Papagayo to join our expert team for a world of epic eco-adventures into wide-open wonder. We're here to connect, learn, educate and share in the discovery of the peninsula with you through experiences with purpose. Whether by land or sea. On solo treks or fun-filled family outings. As close as your doorstep, but far beyond your wildest dreams.

So leave it all behind, step into the joy of the moment and explore the riches of paradise. The possibilities are astounding.

MEET THE TEAM

YOUR EXPERT GUIDES TO ECO-ADVENTURE

Get to know our specialized team of guides and biologists—many homegrown. All nature lovers and influential champions of science and research in Costa Rica. Each one is here to build confidence in beginners, take virtuosos to the next level and share a love of this country's wondrous nature that will bring you back, again and again, for life-changing eco-adventure.

MIGUEL SÁNCHEZ

GENERAL MANAGER

ORIGIN: Barcelona, Spain

DOMAIN: Under the sea

CLAIMS TO FAME: Scuba diver, videographer, dive instructor, global traveler with a taste for the extreme, inspired home chef celebrating his Spanish-Cuban cooking genes

MAGIC POWER: Creating outrageous excursions few people ever experience
Fun fact: Addicted to big-animal ocean encounters

EPIC MOMENT: Rescuing a giant Pacific manta ray entangled in a fishing net while scuba diving
FAVORITE GUANACASTE SPOT: Playa Iguanita with a good swell

MOTTO: Life's about enjoying the ride

ERSEL AGUILAR VILLALOBOS

OPERATIONS MANAGER

ORIGIN: Alajuela, Costa Rica

DOMAIN: In the jungles, on the rivers

CLAIMS TO FAME: Nature tour guide and designer, TripAdvisor #1 best tours in the area, Ministry of Culture award winner

MAGIC POWER: Connecting people with nature and *pura vida*

FUN FACT: Creator of YouTube channel *Ersel Costa Rica*

EPIC MOMENT: Rescued and handled a baby sloth that was lost on the ground; after a hug that stopped the baby sloth's crying, Ersel gallantly helped find its mother

FAVORITE GUANACASTE SPOT: Bahía Santa Elena

MOTTO: Every day is a great day

JHONNY HERNANDEZ MARTÍNEZ

LEAD NATURALIST GUIDE

ORIGIN: Limón, Costa Rica

DOMAIN: Reptiles and amphibians

CLAIMS TO FAME: Conservationist, manager of wildlife refuge, honor medal as a conservationist from Boy Scouts

MAGIC POWER: Interpreting the sounds of the forest

FUN FACT: Wildlife photographer on the side

EPIC MOMENT: Taking care of crocodiles in the reptile farm rescue center

FAVORITE GUANACASTE SPOT: Santa Rosa National Park

MOTTO: Nature is life



WALTER MARCINI

OCEAN EXPERT & PERSONAL TRAINER

ORIGIN: San José, Costa Rica

DOMAIN: Ocean and well-being

CLAIMS TO FAME: Red Cross Lifeguarding Instructor, surf and SUP instructor for over 18 years, personal trainer for over 19 years

MAGIC POWER: Empowering people to believe in their inner energy

FUN FACT: Martial arts, Muay Thai and boxing enthusiast

EPIC MOMENT: Rescuing people in the rough sea conditions

FAVORITE GUANACASTE SPOT: Santa Rosa National Park

MOTTO: Doing something for somebody is the chance God gives you to deserve his favor



FABIÁN CASTRO HILLER

LEAD OCEAN GUIDE

ORIGIN: San José, Costa Rica

DOMAIN: Water

CLAIMS TO FAME: Divemaster, former national swim team member, water sports enthusiast, physical-condition addict, HIIT instructor, lifeguard

MAGIC POWER: Keeping it together around huge animals

FUN FACT: Can sleep for days in a row

EPIC MOMENT: Swimming with humpback whales

FAVORITE GUANACASTE SPOT: Playa Avellana

MOTTO: Good vibes only



GABRIEL CHACON

MOUNTAIN BIKE EXPERT

ORIGIN: San José, Costa Rica

DOMAIN: Mountain bike and trail builder

CLAIMS TO FAME: Adventure tour guide and trails designer, Costa Rica's 3rd-place winner of Enduro, climbing Chirripó Peak 12 times

MAGIC POWER: Creating unparalleled experiences for his clients

FUN FACT: Trail running and biking the wild side of Costa Rica

EPIC MOMENT: Seeing a savage jaguar hunting a deer

FAVORITE GUANACASTE SPOT: Rincón de la Vieja Volcano

MOTTO: Improving your skills is my satisfaction



YAJAIRA ESTER BALDONADO MARADIAGA

NATURALIST GUIDE

ORIGIN: Limón, Costa Rica

DOMAIN: Birds of Papagayo

CLAIMS TO FAME: Nature tour guide and environmental planning and management student

MAGIC POWER: Imparting a lifelong passion for nature

FUN FACT: Fitness fanatic who loves visiting Costa Rica's diversity of amazing places

EPIC MOMENT: Releasing a wounded bird, after caring for it for days, and watching it fly free

FAVORITE GUANACASTE SPOT: Rincón de la Vieja National Park

MOTTO: Be better than you were yesterday

EVEN MORE WAYS TO EXPLORE

RIGHT HERE IN YOUR OWN BACKYARD

Calling all nature lovers and biking enthusiasts. Explorers Club has first-rate facilities designed to get you closer to Costa Rica's nature. It's all you can imagine and more.

NATURE CENTER

All great explorations have to begin somewhere. Many of ours start at the Nature Center—a basecamp for memorable expeditions and discoveries, past and future. Stop by and meet our team. Explore our natural treasures. Get outfitted with the right gear. Our guides are happy to answer your questions and share insights with explorers of all ages.



BIKE CENTER

If discovery on two wheels is your passion, start your pedal-powered engines at our new Bike Center—your gateway to epic cycling and mountain biking adventures. Choose your ride from top-brand mountain, road and electric-assist bikes for men, women and kids. Then saddle up for miles of scenic trails tracing the peninsula from end to end.

EPIC OUTINGS START HERE

FIND YOUR PASSION

With 1,400 wonder-filled acres in our backyard, there's no end to the activities you can choose to get out into the pristine nature of the peninsula. These are just a few of our favorites. The possibilities are limited only by your imagination.

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CAMP JAGUAR21

For rates and reservations, call +506 2696.2222 or email explore@peninsulapapagayo.com.

BAY EXPLORATION

Explore our beautiful adjacent bays by whichever mode you choose: SUP, water bike or outrigger canoe. Go at your own speed, catch sight of dolphins and mantas and experience the amazing nature that's in and above the water. Our guided trips reward active travelers with a unique and exhilarating way to connect with one of the world's most spectacular marine environments. You can even snorkel, freedive and swim along the way.

WHAT TO EXPECT	Chance to see different fish, sea turtles, shorebirds and beautiful landscapes
WHAT TO BRING	Long-sleeve rash guard, water shoes, sunscreen lotion, hat, sunglasses with a strap and bottle of water. Camera, dry bags, extra change of clothes and snacks are optional.
DURATION	2 hours
RESTRICTIONS	Age: 10 and up

BIOLUMINESCENCE PADDLE

An evening paddle on Bahía Culebra or Bahía Huevos can take your breath away, especially during one of the seasonal upwellings in the Golfo de Papagayo. This is when plankton blooms occur and nature's most delicate creatures—millions and millions of them—drift with the current just beneath the surface. It's an otherworldly display of dazzling colors and fantastical shapes, including some of the longest living animals on the planet performing an unforgettable underwater ballet known as bioluminescence.

WHAT TO EXPECT	Chance to see bioluminescent organisms, different fish, sea turtles and beautiful landscapes
WHAT TO BRING	Long-sleeve rash guard, water shoes and bottle of water. Camera, dry bags, extra change of clothes and snacks are optional.
DURATION	2 hours
RESTRICTIONS	Age: 5 and up



FREEDIVING

Whether swimming with a school of fish or diving with a pod of dolphins, being underwater on one breath is like nothing else in this world. Live in the moment and experience flying through water the most natural way—staying submerged for as long as your breath allows. Join our expert guides and soak up everything you can about freediving.

WHAT TO EXPECT	Humans do have one thing in common with dolphins: a super-powered ability to survive on deep dives. You'll learn all about this superpower.
WHAT TO BRING	Sandals, waterproof camera, shorts, t-shirts, sunglasses, sunblock, rash guard, sun hat, bathing suit and a sense of adventure
DURATION	3 hours
RESTRICTIONS	Age: 16 and up

MAGICAL MANGROVE TOUR

Few experiences are more magical than touring our protected mangrove by canoe or water bike. We begin on Playa Pochota, and then cross the bay to enter the mangrove of Palmares—one of the jewels of the peninsula. Venture bravely into this natural sanctuary, and explore a unique ecosystem of eerie “walking trees” able to survive (and thrive) in salty freshwater, creating a rich refuge for wildlife. Listen for a chorus of shells popping shut, while pods of parrots chatter overhead. This high-tide tour is ideal for nature lovers and families of all ages.

WHAT TO EXPECT	Similar to a floating safari with a chance to see different birds, crabs, reptiles and monkeys
WHAT TO BRING	Long-sleeve rash guard, shorts, water shoes, sunscreen lotion, hat, sunglasses with a strap and bottle of water. Camera, dry bags and snacks are optional.
DURATION	2 hours
RESTRICTIONS	Age: 5 and up (by canoe) / 10 and up (by water bike).



OUTRIGGER CANOE (DAY OR NIGHT)



Immerse in this world apart while exploring the turquoise waters of our surrounding bays in a traditional Hawaiian-style canoe. Get inspired with the energy of your own body as you perfect your stroke, build endurance and experience the wonders of marine life along the peninsula's dramatic coastline—under the sun or the stars.

WHAT TO EXPECT	Outriggers (Hawaiian-style canoes) are great equalizers of abilities. The outrigger is a type of canoe featuring one or more lateral support floats, known as outriggers, which are fastened to one or both sides of the main hull.
WHAT TO BRING	Sandals, waterproof camera, shorts, t-shirts, sunglasses, sunblock, rash guard, sun hat, bathing suit and a sense of adventure
DURATION	2.5 hours
RESTRICTIONS	Age: 5 and up

WATER BIKE



Try the latest craze in water sports and see what the buzz is all about. Self-guided and uncharted, it's a unique and nature-friendly way to explore the Golfo de Papagayo's tropical gold-sand beaches, turquoise waters and places of extreme natural splendor. The bay's calm waters are ideal for spotting myriad rays, sea turtles and fascinating fish. It's so quiet, you can even hear the howlers in the trees. Yes, it's for everyone—no matter your fitness or experience level.

WHAT TO EXPECT	Quiet, sustainable and human-powered, the water bikes provide an easy and fun way to get closer to nature
WHAT TO BRING	Long-sleeve rash guard, comfortable shorts, another set of clothes, water shoes, sunglasses with a strap, sunblock, dry bags, sun hat and a sense of adventure
DURATION	2 hours
RESTRICTIONS	Age: 10 and up. Height: 5'0".



BIRD WATCHING & PHOTOGRAPHY

For bird lovers, the study of nature is one of the most fascinating adventures in the world. Join our resident naturalist with binoculars and telescope at the ready to see some of the 100-plus bird species that call the peninsula home—including trogons, the tiger heron, the crabeater hawk, the guaco, the bobo chizo, the turquoise-browed motmot, the manakin, the lined woodpecker, the scissor-tail and blue jay. It's a wonderful opportunity to practice wildlife photography and have fun exploring the aviary world of Peninsula Papagayo.

WHAT TO EXPECT	Parrots, tanagers, woodpeckers, warblers, woodcreepers, hawks, falcons, trogons, motmots, herons, frigate birds and much more
WHAT TO BRING	Comfortable clothes, hat, sunglasses, rubber-soled walking shoes, sunscreen lotion, bug repellent and bottle of water. Camera and snacks are optional.
DURATION	2 hours
RESTRICTIONS	Age: 5 and up



MOUNTAIN BIKING

Peninsula Papagayo's mangroves, estuaries and centuries-old seasonal forest are a wonderland for mountain biking. Choose from an exciting new collection of Santa Cruz mountain and cross-country bikes, plus new electric-assist off-road bikes by Haibike. The XDURO AllMtn isn't just a bicycle: it's a new way of living, a new way of moving and a new way of having fun with friends and family. Escape the confines of pavement, connect with nature and journey out for the ride of your life!

WHAT TO EXPECT	Amazing trails that allow you to submerge into nature and to see birds, monkeys, coatis, stunning ocean views and more
WHAT TO BRING	Comfortable clothes, tennis shoes, sunscreen lotion, hat or cap, bug repellent and bottle of water. Camera and snacks are optional.
DURATION	2 hours (3 hours full trails)
RESTRICTIONS	Age: 10 and up. Height: 5'2" (regular bikes) / 5'4" (Haibikes).



NATURE SEMINAR SERIES

Engage in fascinating interactive conversations about this extraordinary biological corridor with resident naturalists and knowledgeable guides, sharing insights on local culture, ecology and natural history. The series seeks to increase awareness of local conservation issues by featuring distinguished scientists from across Costa Rica, speaking on a range of topics related to the way living things impact each other and the environment.

WHAT TO EXPECT	Presentation and video on 63” screen
WHAT TO BRING	Your questions
DURATION	1 hours
RESTRICTIONS	None

NATURE WALK (DAY OR NIGHT)

Embark on a magical nature walk through the peninsula’s tropical dry forest to explore the rich flora, fauna and history of Peninsula Papagayo. Your enthusiast naturalist guide, equipped with technical gear, leads the way. By day, listen to the whispered secrets of big ash trees, plants, lizards, butterflies, birds, insects and monkeys, and learn all about their relationships with the natural order of the universe. By night, discover the nocturnal mystery of the nightlife creatures that come out to play after dark. Listen to the wild orchestra. Look for sleeping birds. Surround yourself in nature’s built-in fairy lights—fireflies.

WHAT TO EXPECT	Parrots, parakeets, woodpeckers, butterflies, leafcutter ants, army ants, crabs, iguanas, lizards, monkeys, agoutis, peccaries, deer and more by day. Opossums, bats, porcupines, raccoons, fireflies, toads, snakes, geckos, moths and more by night. A few lucky guests might get to share our guides’ night vision goggles.
WHAT TO BRING	Long pants and t-shirt, rubber-soled walking shoes, bug repellent and bottle of water. Camera and snacks are optional.
DURATION	2 hours
RESTRICTIONS	Age: 5 and up



SAFARI NATURE RIDE (DAY OR NIGHT)

Tour Peninsula Papagayo's wildlife paradise in the comfort of a golf cart with a knowledgeable naturalist guide. Relax as you explore nature without borders, taking in pristine landscapes and breathtaking views. There's a good chance you'll spot monkeys, coatis and splendid birds, like parakeets and woodpeckers, while you're busy taking pictures. It's a great experience for kids of all ages who enjoy nature without a lot of walking. Choose an exhilarating day ride or embrace the dark side on a night ride.

WHAT TO EXPECT	Birds like parrots, parakeets and woodpeckers, plus butterflies, leafcutter ants, army ants, crabs, iguanas, lizards, monkeys, agoutis, peccaries, boas and deer
WHAT TO BRING	Comfortable clothes, hat, sunglasses, rubber-soled walking shoes, sunblock, bug repellent and bottle of water. Camera and snacks are optional.
DURATION	2 hours
RESTRICTIONS	Age: 5 and up

WILDERNESS HIKE

Monkeys and parrots and hawks, oh my! You never know what you'll encounter in the wilderness of Palmares. This large swatch of land is largely untouched, save for a few hidden trails known only to your PEC guide. Our moderate hike leads deep into the forest, where you can witness plants in all shades of green and animals in their natural habitats. Tucked away from civilization, Palmares provides shelter for a dizzying array of wildlife. If you're lucky (and very quiet), you might even spot a big cat—a rare experience sure to delight families with kids.

WHAT TO EXPECT	Chance to see different birds, like herons, hawks and parrots, plus crabs, reptiles, monkeys and other mammals
WHAT TO BRING	T-shirt, shorts, hiking shoes, sunscreen lotion, hat, sunglasses with a strap and bottle of water. Camera and snacks are optional.
DURATION	2 hours (moderate hiking)
RESTRICTIONS	Age: 7 and up



ADVENTURE FOR AGES 12-16

CAMP JAGUAR



Our fun-filled explorations are tailored to explorers, ages 12-16, in search of adventure, self-discovery, self-confidence, new friends and a deep connection to our world and its denizens. Pick your favorite days—or come for all three—and join our expert guides for a lifetime of memories. Let the games begin!

2019 SCHEDULE SCHOOL HOLIDAY WEEKS

PRESIDENT'S DAY

February 18, 19 & 21

SPRING BREAK

March 18, 19 & 21
March 25, 26 & 28

EASTER

April 15, 16 & 18

SUMMER VACATION

All Mondays, Tuesdays & Thursdays in
July & August

THANKSGIVING

November 25, 26 & 28

FESTIVE

December 23, 24 & 26
December 30 & 31, January 1, 2020

MONDAYS, 9AM-3PM

INTO THE WILD: SURVIVAL

Be brave, inquisitive—and ready for anything. Explore and identify local flora, fauna and wildlife footprints. Forage for ancestral food supplies. Discover how to make use of our natural resources, while developing your skills in the art of surviving in the wilds of Palmares Estuary.

- Biological field survey, featuring camera trap and wildlife footprints recognition
- Wildlife watching and photography
- Foraging for ancestral food supplies
- Survival medicinal plants ID
- Ancient utensils and rope-making techniques with natural materials

TUESDAYS, 9AM-3PM

IN THE ZONE: WATER SAFETY

Get empowered in our aquatic environment by learning how to recognize potential hazardous conditions. Explore a day dedicated to safety, physical fitness, problem solving, lifesaving methods and rescue scenarios.

- Swimming challenges
- Cooperation and lifesaving methods
- Local first aid and CPR certification
- Rescue scenarios

THURSDAYS, 9AM-3PM

BIKING FOREST ADVENTURE

It's all about attitude. Push the boundaries of your comfort zone and embrace new experiences. Visit a protected natural area, discover the daily tasks of Park Rangers and become a guardian of the forest. While you're here, master cool mountain bike tricks and connect with local culture.

- Visit to protected natural area (Horizontes Experimental Forest)
- Reforestation and conservation activity
- Mountain bike ride
- Mejenga and games
- English/Spanish conversation exchange





EXPLORERS CLUB

PENINSULA PAPAGAYO
C O S T A R I C A

For rates and reservations, call +506 2696.2222
or email explore@peninsulapapagayo.com.

www.peninsulapapagayo.com

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