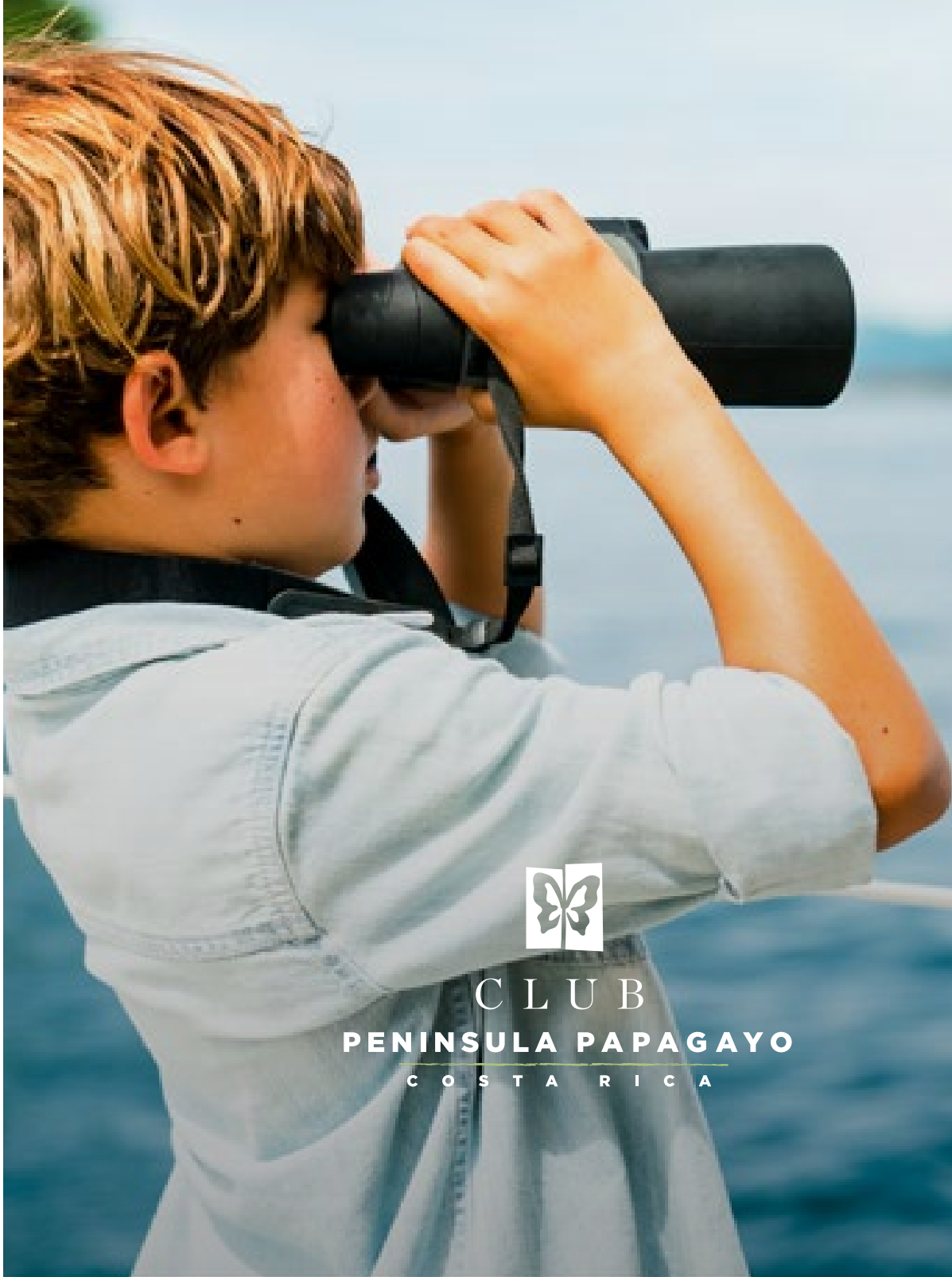


PENINSULA PAPAGAYO

DISCOVER RO

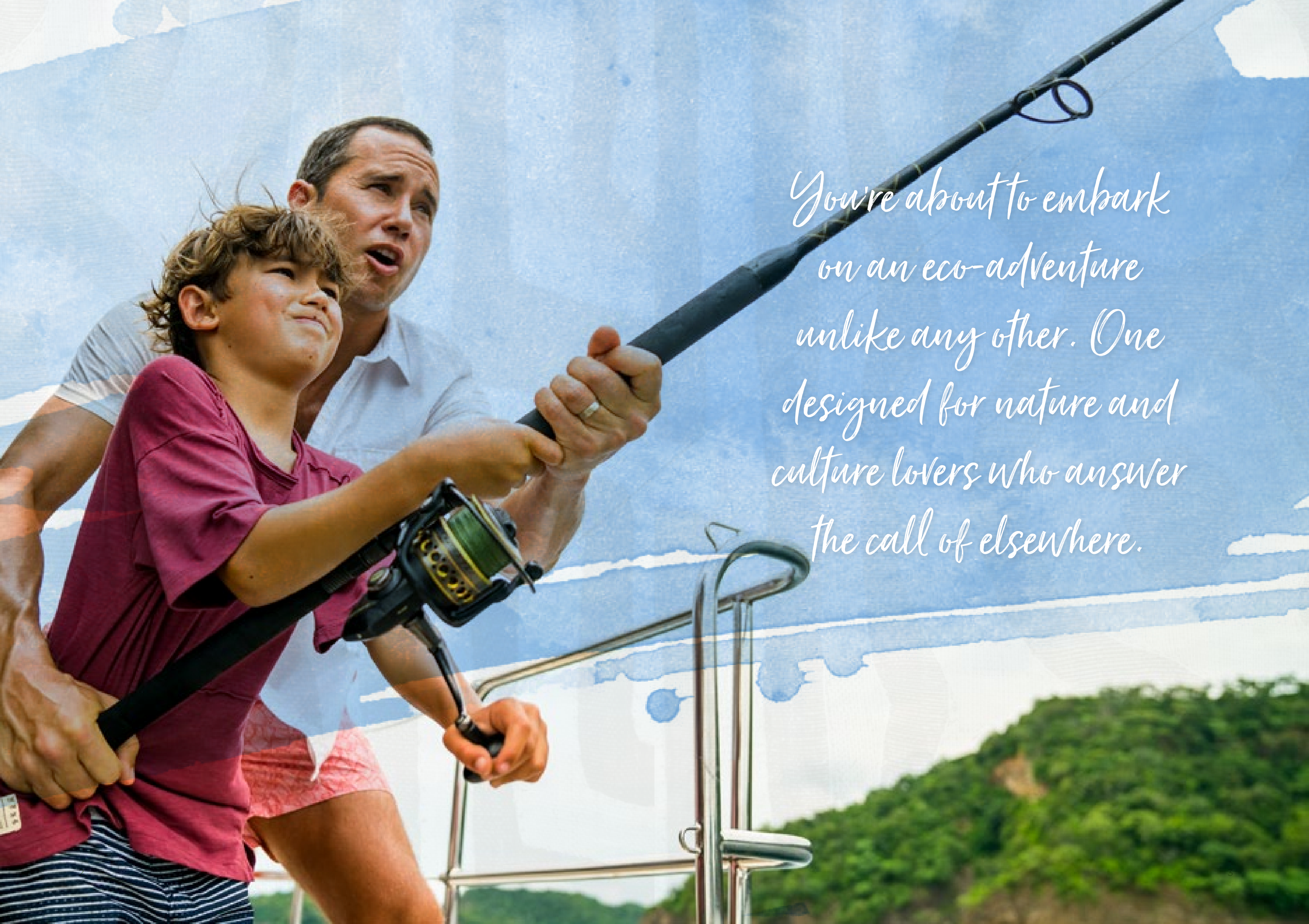
PROGRAM



CLUB

PENINSULA PAPAGAYO

C O S T A R I C A



*You're about to embark
on an eco-adventure
unlike any other. One
designed for nature and
culture lovers who answer
the call of elsewhere.*



BASECAMP TO EXPLORATION

Adventure Without Limits

Imagine the beauty of getting as close as possible to a 1,400-acre tropical retreat and beyond. With the insight of friendly guides who know it best. It's your opportunity for transformational experiences, whether via land, water, culture, community outreach—or any combination. And there's no other program like it anywhere in the world.

Designed for Peninsula Papagayo Club members only, our Discovery Program offers infinite co-created and individualized experiences to explore nature without borders—and adventure without limits. There's something for everyone in the family.

So get out of your comfort zone. Connect with nature. And be transformed by epic outdoor adventures and cultural explorations.

BEYOND THE IMAGINATION

Co-Create Your Perfect Experience

MEET THE TEAM

Say Hello to Your Local Outdoor Experts

DISCOVERY MAP

Seven Wonders of A World Apart

ON THE PENINSULA

1,400 Acres of Epic Eco-Adventure

MONTEVERDE CLOUD FOREST RESERVE

Reach High: A Mythic Experience in the Sky

VOLCANO MAGIC

Four Takes on Crater Wildlands

OCEAN OUTINGS

Our Vast Blue-Water Playground

BAY EXPLORATIONS

Behold the Beauty & the Beach

RIVER EXCURSIONS

Fulfill Your Huck Finn Fantasies

SANTA ROSA NATIONAL PARK

Seeking the Trail Less Traveled

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Human Side of the Journey

LIVING THE DREAM

Awaken Your Inner Explorer

Contents





BEYOND THE IMAGINATION

Co-Create Your Perfect Experience

Consult the Discovery Program Explorations Guide for inspiration and see what catches your eye. Fulfill a passion or spark a new pursuit. Mix and match, or go off the menu entirely. Then call the club concierge (or, better yet, sit down in person), and start planning your itinerary together.

Coordinate your next discovery around special nature happenings. Or plan repeat visits to develop a particular skill you never imagined you had in you. Bring your family here over and over again. You'll never have the same experience twice. Kids will learn to connect with another part of the world and grow up with a second culture. You'll banish the word "bored" from their vocabulary forever. Every exploration caters to your interests, your budget and your time here in paradise.

Consider this your rough guide to the region. Choose your destination. Choose your pleasure. Choose to co-create memories that will last forever.



MIGUEL SÁNCHEZ

GENERAL MANAGER, PAPAGAYO EXPLORERS CLUB

ORIGIN: Barcelona, Spain

DOMAIN: Under the sea

CLAIM TO FAME: Scuba diver, videographer, dive instructor, global traveler with a taste for the extreme

MAGIC POWER: Creating outrageous excursions few people ever experience Epic moment: Once caught a silky shark by the caudal fin with his bare hands while scuba diving

FAVORITE GUANACASTE SPOT: Playa Nacascolito in the afternoon

MOTTO: Life's about enjoying the ride

ERSEL AGUILAR VILLALOBOS

OPERATIONS MANAGER, PAPAGAYO EXPLORERS CLUB

ORIGIN: Alajuela, Costa Rica

DOMAIN: In the jungles, on the rivers

CLAIMS TO FAME: Nature tour guide and designer, Trip Advisor #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 helped stopped the baby sloth's crying, he helped find its mother

FAVORITE GUANACASTE SPOT: Bahía Santa Elena

MOTTO: Every day is a great day

JHONNY HERNANDEZ MARTÍNEZ

NATURALIST LEADER GUIDE, PAPAGAYO EXPLORERS CLUB

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

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 my 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

FRANCESCA PODDIE

DIRECTOR OF MEMBER SERVICES

ORIGIN: San José, Costa Rica

DOMAIN: Everywhere members are

CLAIM TO FAME: Peninsula Papagayo's go-to person

MAGIC POWER: Creating fun environments

FUN FACT: Has sand-boarded in three different deserts and off one active volcano

EPIC MOMENT: Snorkeling in a frenzy of whale sharks

FAVORITE GUANACASTE SPOT: Playa Jicaro in Bahía Culebra (white-faced ocean-bathing monkeys and all...)

MOTTO: Positive vibe, positive life

JESSIE MÉNDEZ

ORIGIN: LIBERIA, Guanacaste

DOMAIN: Follow the coffee

CLAIM TO FAME: Worked in ALL departments in Peninsula Papagayo

MAGIC POWER: Making impossible things possible
FUN FACT: Has participated in over 25 "topes" (first one at age 10!)

EPIC MOMENT: First sight of Machu Pichu, Peru

FAVORITE GUANACASTE SPOT: Playa Cabuyal

MOTTO: Follow me on this

MEET THE TEAM

Say Hello to Your Local Outdoor Experts

Get to know our elite team of diverse experts intimately, and share their unique perspectives as they curate your every desire. Each one is here to build confidence in beginners, take virtuosos to the next level and share a love of Guanacaste's wondrous nature that stirs your soul.

- 1 SANTA ROSA
National Park
- 2 WITCH'S ROCK
- 3 BAHIA HUEVOS
- 4 PENINSULA PAPAGAYO
- 5 BAHIA CULEBRA
- 6 UNTAMED RIVER
- 7 MIRAVALLS VOLCANO
National Park
- 8 RINCÓN DE LA VIEJA VOLCANO
National Park
- 9 TENORIO VOLCANO
National Park
- 10 ARENAL VOLCANO
National Park
- 11 MONTEVERDE CLOUD FOREST
Reserve
- 12 PALO VERDE
National Park
TEMPEQUE RIVER



DISCOVERY MAP

SEVEN WONDERS

Of A World Apart

Guanacaste is an extraordinary jewel of nature. From active volcanoes and raging rivers to secret forests, waterfall idylls—and everything in between. Exploring its riches could take a lifetime. So we've culled the list to an essential seven, chosen for their ability to cater to different levels of activity in one place. Each offers a rare biological sphere beyond the imagination—many untamed and uncharted. All beckoning you to carve your own path.



ON THE PENINSULA

1,400 Acres of Epic Eco-Adventure

The peninsula's sheer size and diversity is heaven on earth for adventurers. And the peninsula's Discovery Program is your passport to explore every last inch of it—whether solo, with your loved one or your family in tow.

FAST FACTS

- 1,400 protected acres on Costa Rica's North Pacific Coast
- Blessed with 11 miles of dramatic coastline, 8 miles of bluff edges, 7 sandy beaches and one of the last remaining tropical dry forests on the planet
- 13 miles of nature trails and wilderness outposts
- 86 different bird species, 19 mammal species, 115 plant and tree species, 12 reptile species and 20 butterfly species call the peninsula home





BACK TO THE LAND

The lands of Peninsula Papagayo are known as a tropical paradise for bird watchers and nature lovers. This once-remote peninsula still harbors some of the earth's most sacred treasures. Here's a small taste of our favorite land excursions.

Explore the **MACAW SANCTUARY**, a rare refuge for earth's largest parrot, the colorful and highly intelligent scarlet macaw (sadly devastated by the illegal pet trade and now classified as endangered). Learn about Peninsula Papagayo's work with Costa Rican government agencies to provide sanctuary and protection to the last existing wild population of scarlet macaws on the Nicoya Peninsula.

Trek the **13-MILE TRAIL NETWORK** on foot or mountain bike and traverse the peninsula from end to end. Setting out with the experts allows for some serious outdoor adventure and amazing opportunities to learn about fascinating flora and fauna along the way.

Imagine pedaling up a hill as comfortably as riding down. That's what our **E-BIKE EXPERIENCE** is all about. Ride with ease around the peninsula, taking in the natural landscapes and wildlife.

Go **STARGAZING** with a regional guide for an informative look at the night sky as interpreted by our indigenous Chorotega tribes. Complete with a typical *carne asada* feast, bonfire and chance to spy nocturnal wildlife as they emerge from their burrows, nests, trees and hollows.

Consider yourself a modern-day Indiana Jones on a quest for **ARCHEOLOGICAL EXPLORATION**? Unlock the secrets of centuries past and learn the mysteries of Guanacaste's early civilizations through fascinating pre-Columbian artifacts found on site.

Hop aboard a **GOLF CART SAFARI** to explore the trails of the peninsula in the company of our knowledgeable guide. Go deep into the nature areas where wildlife roams about—a chance to find monkeys, coatis and birds like chattering parakeets and iconic woodpeckers.

Ever climbed and rappelled a century-old living tree? For adventure and adrenaline, try our **ARBOREAL EXPERIENCE**. Search the forest for a magnificent, giant ficus (also known as the strangler fig)—and reach the canopy in the hands of expert guides.

ON THE WATER

The ocean teems with its own exotic mysteries. The abundant region of Golfo de Papagayo is prized for untamed coastlines and warm salt waters, offering its share of memorable pursuits. Here's just a sampling to whet your appetite.

Whether you're a newbie in need of confidence or an extreme sports junkie who finds adrenaline in large bodies of waters, **OPEN-OCEAN SWIMMING** is liberating, challenging and a never-ending adventure. Shifting visual horizons transport you to a place like no other, shutting out the white noise of the world for a while

Learn the techniques and tricks of **FREEDIVING**, and witness the proliferation of fish and kaleidoscopic sea life flourishing within one of the most adventurous underwater sanctuaries in the world. Scout for turtles, mantas and occasional whale sharks, captivated by the mysterious pelagic world

For mariners big and small, start at the magnificent port of Marina Papagayo for a myriad of must-do adventures in **BOATS**. Rent the *SS Discovery*—a member-only 24-jet luxury boat with space for 12. Or opt for ocean kayaks, outrigger canoes, pangas or sportfishing boats. Revel in beach hopping, sunset cruises, whale-watching excursions and off-the-beaten path journeys.

Try the latest craze in water sports and experience nature from a new perspective. Hop on a **WATER BIKE** and explore the Golfo de Papagayo's tropical gold-sand beaches and turquoise waters. Or opt for gentle bike cruising, snorkeling, swimming and ocean life spotting on the bay's calm waters. It's for everyone who loves the water.



MONTEVERDE CLOUD FOREST RESERVE

Reach High: A Mythic Experience in the Sky

FAST FACTS

- Largest cloud forest in Central America
- Spans 25,946 acres and 4 life zones
- Host to 2.5% of worldwide biodiversity, including 100 kinds of mammals, 500 birds, 120 amphibians and reptiles
- Over 3,000 plants, including 500 species of orchids
- Altitude is 5,900 feet (1,800 miles) high
- 100% of fees and services are designated for educative, preservation and research programs
- You can step on the Continental Divide—one foot on the Caribbean side and the other on the Pacific side

WHAT WE LOVE

A few short hours and a world away from the peninsula perches Monteverde, a magical, mountainous cloud forest destination (one of the country's few) brimming with wildlife, greenery, butterfly gardens and orchid farms.

MUST-SEE HIKES

Nature lovers will fall fast here for pristine trails flanked by a lush land of liquid plenty—twisting vines, blossoming bromeliads, strangler figs and zapote trees (an evergreen that can reach 130 feet in height and 4.8 feet in diameter) practically grow on top of each other. The highest hikes climb to an elevation of 4,100 feet (1,250 miles), where you'll often pass through thick clouds and heavy mist shifting in the wind. Explore nine trails and eight miles of pathways.

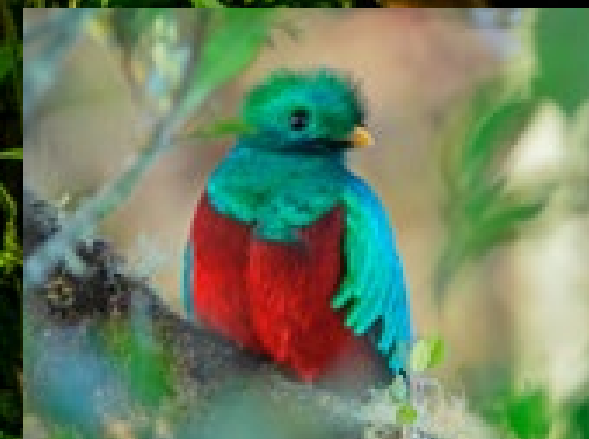
IN THE CANOPIES

Fly over the cloud forest, from cable to platform, high above virgin treetop canopies, where the thrill of the zipline will keep your adrenaline pumping a la Tarzan and Jane. Selvatura Park is the longest of your

options, spanning two miles of trails, hanging bridges and ziplines to observe the forest from a variety of vantage points—above, below and within the canopy itself.

NIGHT WALK

If you still have the energy after hours, try out a night hike and discover some of Costa Rica's most fascinating nocturnal wildlife on a flashlight-led trek through the trails of a 27-acre reserve. Keep your eyes out for slithering snakes, spiders (most notably hole-dwelling tarantulas), crowned motmots, agoutis, porcupines, tree frogs—and the elusive three-toed sloth, likely dangling from the trees. Find out why nighttime is the right time for these darkness dwellers.



THE SACRED QUETZAL

Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve is the home of the quetzal—the most spectacular and colorful bird in the tropics. As witnessed by ancient sculptures and paintings, the quetzal's long tail coverts (nearly twice the length of their bodies in males) were highly prized by Aztec and Mayan nobility. Mayan kings prized the green tail feathers even more than gold.



VOLCANO MAGIC

Four Takes on Crater Wildlands

Costa Rica has five active volcanoes and dozens of inactive ones. Lucky you—Península Papagayo is within reach of four. All part of the Cordillera Guanacaste. Each one unique, unforgettable and endlessly fascinating.

RULERS OF THE UPLANDS

Arenal and Rincón de la Vieja are both active, over 65 million years old and part of the notorious Ring of Fire—a massive circle of volcanoes stretching from one side of the Pacific to the other.

ARENAL VOLCANO NATIONAL PARK

FAST FACTS

- Costa Rica's most active and famous volcano (currently in a resting phase)
- Last eruption 2010
- 30,000 acres include four major climactic life zones
- The impressive, near-perfect cone is 5,358 feet high
- Host to over 500 bird species—about 53% of all birds of Costa Rica
- Lake Arenal is Costa Rica's largest lake

WHAT WE LOVE

Looming large and ominous over the pastured green hillsides that surround its base, Arenal is the volcano that launched a thousand eco-tours. Its heat, steam, mud and fierce physicality of the earth are approachable, even playful.

Hike El Silencio Private Reserve. Traverse the hanging bridges through Jurassic Park-style flora. Soar over the trees on Sky Tram. Zip over the forest on a canopy tour. Tote your camera and shoot otherworldly pictures. Rappel down surging waterfalls. Go sportfishing, windsurfing, sailing or kayaking on Lake Arenal—a recreational powerhouse so large, it's oceanic. Then indulge in a therapeutic finishing touch of volcanic magic at toasty hot springs and mud baths.





RINCÓN DE LA VIEJA NATIONAL PARK

FAST FACTS

- Largest and most active volcano in Guanacaste
 - Stands at 6,286 feet high and 9 miles wide
 - Called the “Colossus of Guanacaste”
 - 600,000-year-old geological wonder with at least 9 volcanic craters
 - At least 32 rivers and 16 intermittent streams flow down its sides, bridging the Continental Divide
-

WHAT WE LOVE

Farthest north in the region, Rincón de la Vieja bubbles with steam vents and creamy mud pools, its waterfalls and rivers colored bright aqua by the rich minerals of the mountain. It’s also a world-class hiking destination for chasing craters—a veritable playground of caves, hot springs and mud baths, lava domes and waterfalls. One secret waterfall is reputed to be 200 feet high, and a warm water lagoon, nearly 1,000 feet wide.

Take your choice of seven different trails, all leading to different viewpoints, and explore every facet of the tropical dry forest. View volcanic activity up close. Tackle the harrowing climb towards the summit, then stand sentinel surveying the surreal landscape. On a clear day you can see the Pacific, Caribbean and Lake Nicaragua.

On the northern slopes of the volcano, dry rolling plains suddenly give way to lush, tall, green rainforest. This is Sensoria Land of Senses, a private nature reserve. Hike where towering trees, mosses and ornate orchids overload the senses, jaguars and tapirs roam the wild earth and you can swim in the natural semi-thermal pools and electric-blue waterfalls.



WIDE AWAKE ON SLEEPING GIANTS

Tenorio and are twin inactive craters with four volcanic peaks surrounded by lush cloud forest, abundant fauna and verdant slopes blanketed in savannah.

TENORIO VOLCANO NATIONAL PARK

FAST FACTS

- Located above Lake Arenal, 30 miles from Peninsula Papagayo
- 31,805 acres in size—roughly three-quarters the size of Washington, DC
- Created in 1995, it's one of Costa Rica's newest national parks and best-kept secrets
- Its main peak reaches 6,286 feet (1,916 miles) and boasts a near-perfect cylindrical core
- Boasts a near-perfect cylindrical core
- Features four life zones and the baby-blue Río Celeste
- Supports rainforest and cloud forest at mid-elevation
- Home to Río Celeste Waterfall, considered Central America's most beautiful, measuring almost 100 feet tall

WHAT WE LOVE

Trace the park's trails past the baby-blue waters, bubbling mud, dual-toned rivers, gurgling hot springs and steamy geysers. Pause and jump into the roaring, cerulean Río Celeste Waterfall, its color the result of minerals in the water reflecting incident light. Or trace the ancient tree walks deep into the virgin forest to see the giant *Árbol de la Paz* (Tree of Peace) and reconnect with nature in a mesmerizing emerald-green canyon.

At mid-elevation, the rainforest and cloud forest provide lush habitats for the region's wildlife. A diverse array of tapirs and large felines, including cougars, ocelots, pumas and jaguars, tread the forests (though,

typically, out of sight). Birds and beasts abound, as tanagers, tody motmots, bear-necked umbrella birds, wrens, trogons, toucans, hummingbirds and swallow-tailed kites join you alongside the trails.

For a downright jaw-dropping experience, test your courage on the rollicking rapids of the Upper Tenorio as you plunge through twists, turns and drops down 8 miles of intense Class III-IV white waters. There's even a Class V drop of 12 feet. Families and the fainter of heart relish easygoing, nature lover's safari floats on the Lower Tenorio.

Ancient legend has it that the gods dipped their paintbrushes into the Río Celeste while painting the sky.



MIRAVALLS VOLCANO NATIONAL PARK

FAST FACTS

- Established in 1978
- Spans 28,840 acres
- 6,660 feet (2,028 miles) above sea level—the highest peak in the Guanacaste Mountains
- Last erupted in 1946, but still considered active
- Earned protected status due to surrounding tropical vegetation and geological activity like steam-spewing fishers, sulfur springs and bubbling mud pools

WHAT WE LOVE

Remote and wild, Tenorio's sister volcano, Miravalles, is covered in primary cloud forest and rainforest with myriad rivers, thermal hot springs, waterfalls and wildlife. You can even reach the top of the crater with a steep and strenuous five-hour-plus trek.

Seek natural splendor and inspiration on Río Perdido (Lost River), a 150-foot thermo-mineral gorge that draws energy and rich minerals from deep magma flows. Descend into its magical waters, heated by the surrounding Miravalles Volcano lowlands, and release into natural springs of varying temperatures.

Decamp for a day of inner-tubing—the most traditional yet beloved means of river transportation—and explore this iconic river through a labyrinth of towering canyons and spouting rock walls echoing with otherworldly creatures.

For cable-based adrenaline heaven, bring the family for the Miravalles Canopy Tour, and view the strange blue hues of Río Celeste from high above the treetops. Hundreds of ziplines and several hanging bridges cross Río Blanco Canyon, where you can take in epic views—and may be lucky enough to spot the iridescence of the blue morpho butterfly.

OCEAN OUTINGS

Our Vast Blue-Water Playground

The Pacific's vast blue waters, calm bays and crystalline inlets are the promised land for sportfishermen with a yen for the big one, snorkelers in search of little-seen sea creatures, surfers on the quest for near-mythic status, divers daring to go deeper into the abyss and beachcombers dreaming of pristine beaches no one else knows about. Our aim is to get every club member out of the land mindset—and into the water.

FAST FACTS

- Costa Rica's Pacific Coast measures 631 miles
- Known as the Gold Coast thanks to a warm and dry climate, beautiful beaches and a laidback lifestyle
- The sun shines nearly every day
- Coastal water temps range from the mid 70s to the mid 80s F



WHAT WE LOVE

Surfin' Safaris

Live your surf dreams on the waves of the Guanacaste coastline. Our challenging Surf Safari takes experienced surfers to the next level—and the most jealously guarded spots.

Take Pictures & Leave Bubbles

Among the best and most easily accessible diving sites in the country, the North Pacific Coast boasts a bounty of fascinating marine life—especially around Isla Catalina, Playas del Coco and Playa Ocotal. The rich reefs are world-renowned in oceanic circles. Diving at El Coco reveals a spectrum of strange sea life, from the tiny clown shrimp to the 60-foot humpback whale. We have over 10 dive sites within a 20-minute boat trip. All are accessible year-round—and for all levels.

Gone Fishing

Off the peninsula, you'll find some of the world's best sportfishing year-round. Reel in a few hundred-plus-pound sea monsters and that day becomes epic. Ride the waves in search of prized marlin (black, blue and striped), sailfish, giant yellowfin tuna, wahoo, snapper and roosterfish. Offshore and inshore, these big-game fish bite early and often, and the clean, clear blue water helps us find them with remarkable consistency. April to September's tranquil seas are primetime for the fish to come out to play. Your guide will know what's running—and where.

Dolphins & Daydreams

Spinners (*Stenella longirostris*) are small dolphins that live in offshore tropical oceans around the globe. Their fame and fascination comes from their ability to perform amazing acrobatic feats. Our waters are home to the sub-species Costa Rican spinner dolphin that congregates in mega-pods. Spend the day witnessing miles and miles of dolphins—sometimes 150 at a time—mating, playing and performing extraordinary leaps and tricks.

Slumber with the Sea

The vast blue emptiness of the ocean is even more mystical at night, when it's just you, the moon and stars, and the exotic sea creatures that roam the waters under nightfall. Our overnight ocean expeditions reveal the habitat of the dark, open ocean as billions of otherworldly animals make their nightly movement from the ocean's depths to its surface and back. We also explore the celestial navigation techniques of our ancestors.



BAY EXPLORATIONS

Behold the Beauty and the Beach

Broad and glassy and ringed with beaches, each of these gems is accessible to all kinds of adventure—whether beach hopping, canoeing or fly-fishing.





BAHÍA CULEBRA

FAST FACTS

- Spans 7.7 square miles
- Formed 130 million years ago
- Shaped like (and named for) a serpent
- Average visibility of 20-60 feet
- Rincón de la Vieja Volcano rises from the bottom of its waters
- Declared of National Archaeological Interest in 1994 with evidence of pre-Columbian settlements dating to 500 years BC
- Once used as an exchange zone between Central American and Mesoamerican cultures

WHAT WE LOVE

Enchanting underwater playgrounds captivate snorkelers in Bahía Culebra. One of the best is Monkey's Head, a natural islet that fulfills your **SNORKELING** fantasies in one of nature's most marvelous realms. Explore this nexus of seahorses, wrasses, hawkfish angelfish, pompanos, basses, corals, crustaceans and mollusks—the rainbow of oceanic life. Billowing schools of fish, manta rays and giant turtles may flutter about you among the coral reefs. Bring your budding biologists—kids love this.

Hop on a **WATER BIKE** and experience the ultimate in human-powered transportation. Where you can get up

close and personal with hidden caverns, secluded beaches and the peninsula's maze of varying landscapes. The bay's smooth waters are easily navigable no matter your skill level.

Learn how to surf in one of the world's most magical settings, Bahía Iguanita, where the waves are gentle and forgiving regardless of the open ocean conditions. **Intro to SURFING** is an inspiring experience that begins on land and ends on your first waves. Climb aboard our private boat and be whisked away to this protected area, just five minutes away from Marina Papagayo. Our skilled instructors will have you up on your board in no time.

BAHÍA HUEVOS

BAHÍA HUEVOS

- A small inlet 30 feet above sea level
- 10 minutes from Peninsula Papagayo by boat
- Two islands, Islas Palmitas, lie so close to each other and the shore that they appear to be high wooded bluffs on the mainland
- A detached coral reef lies offshore, about 0.1 mile south of the islands
- The Palmares Estuary at the end of the bay is a hot hangout spot for super-yachts
- Wildcat footprints are seen on the white-sand beaches, where predators brave the night to eat nesting olive ridley turtles

WHAT WE LOVE

Mangrove: Cathedral Without Walls

Where the ocean meets the estuary, old-growth mangroves (*manglar*) nearly 100 feet tall form a womb of the sea: rich ecosystems in water, the treetops and on land. Where your canoe or kayak will glide through another world. At night, it's like a jewel. Within the mystical swamps of the ancient mangrove forest, you can actually hear a loud chorus of shells popping—like being immersed in a giant corn popper—while the largest pod of *loras copetes amarillos* (literally “parrots with yellow feathers”) in the whole Pacific Coast chatters overhead.

Beach Picnic Bliss

The little inlets and coves that line the emerald green waters of Bahía Huevos make beach picnics a beloved pastime. You can pick a different spot every day of the week and never have the same experience twice. Indulge in a

romantic getaway filled with snorkeling, lunching, relaxing and learning about the biological phenomenon above and below the sea. Or have a five-star dinner catered on the sands under a celestial wonderland free from artificial light. At low tide, explore small sea caves and swirling tide pools on Playa Huevos. Or take a short hike to a lookout on top of the hill.

SUP Playground

Using a longboard, a carbon-fiber paddle and a good amount of balance, stand-up paddleboarding (SUP) offers a fresh perspective on the bay. Whether you're an experience SUP'er or a curious newbie, our instructors offer supplies and second-to-none advice. More than an engaging way to travel from point A to point B, you'll enjoy unparalleled views of the peninsula's coastal majesty.





RIVER EXCURSIONS

Fulfill Your Huck Finn Fantasies

Whether you're seeking untamed adrenaline or mellow seclusion, rivers represent freedom and possibility. Where there's adventure around every bend. Rivers, in Costa Rica, mean life.

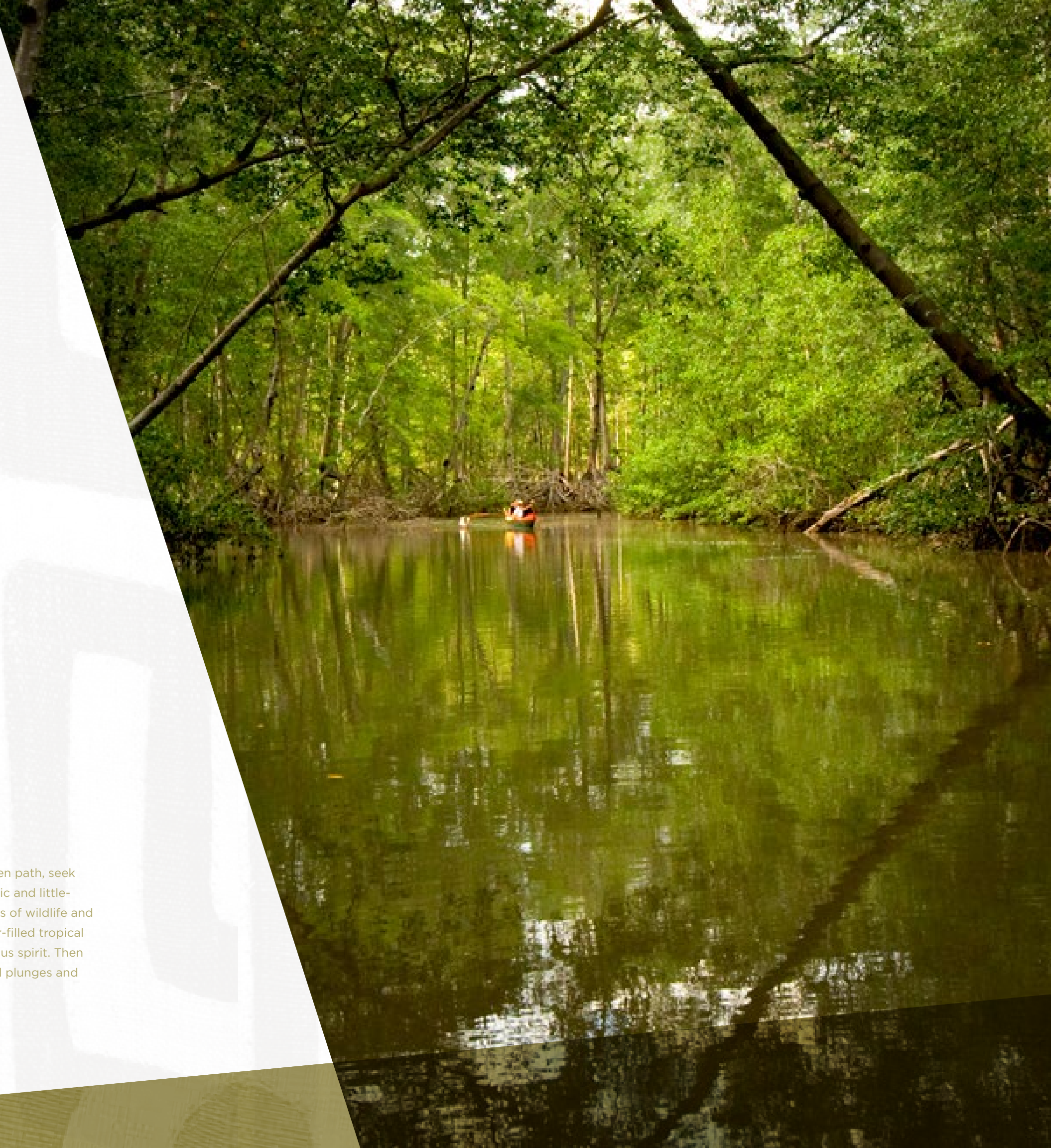
RÍO CUCARACHO

FAST FACTS

- Set on the slopes of Rincón de la Vieja Volcano
 - Flows through pristine primary forest
 - Packed with 12 miles of over 70 Class III-IV rapids plus 2 Class Vs
-

RIVER RAFTING UNTAMED

If you're an adrenaline adventure junkie who prefers your fix off the beaten path, seek unexplored rafting on Río Cucaracho—prized worldwide for its wild, scenic and little-known waterways. Conquer whitewater rapids, spot an incredible richness of wildlife and experience nature in a new way. Without another soul in sight. The critter-filled tropical rainforests will be candy to your eyes. Start slow and test your adventurous spirit. Then rise to the challenge of jaw-dropping rapids in search of pristine waterfall plunges and natural pool pure indulgence.



Palo Verde's uniquely dichotomous character pairs spectacular wetlands with tropical dry forest.

PALO VERDE NATIONAL PARK / RÍO TEMPISQUE

FAST FACTS

- 45,492-acre protected wilderness
- Rising 879 feet above sea level
- 1.5 hours from Peninsula Papagayo
- On the RAMSAR list of Wetlands of International Importance
- One of the planet's last remaining tropical dry forests—an endangered ecosystem
- Costa Rica's most important bird habitat
- Puente La Amistad Bridge, connecting the mainland to the Nicoya Peninsula, was a gift from Taiwan
- Crocodiles are a common sight during low tide

NATURE UNLEASHED

A ruggedly isolated retreat from civilization, the Palo Verde river float is our favorite birding expedition through Amazon-like waterways. Glide through waterfalls, streams, rainforests, estuaries and mangrove swamps teeming with life.

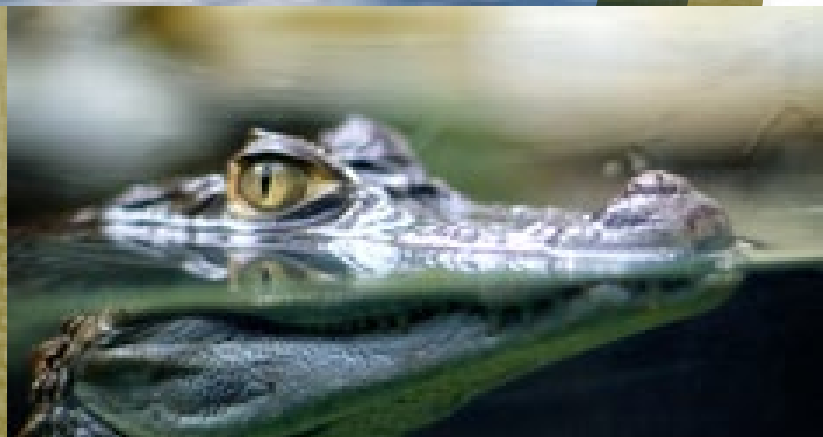
Your company includes hundreds of species of migratory, land and water birds the likes of roseate spoonbills, bare-throated tiger herons, black-bellied whistling ducks, white ibis, snowy egrets, blue herons, ospreys, jabiru stork, resplendent quetzals and fairy-like hummingbirds. Prepare to be glued to

your binoculars and cameras with mouth agape. Travel by hovercraft and indigenous canoe offer alternative modes of river exploration.

Bring your crew for a fun, family nature safari that will have your kids clamoring for more. Spot iguanas flaunting their theatrical colors, long-nosed bats camouflaged against the tree bark and monkeys—howlers and white-faced capuchins—swinging, feeding, chattering and peeking curiously from the treetops. Friendlier monkeys may even come aboard.

CROCODILES ROCK

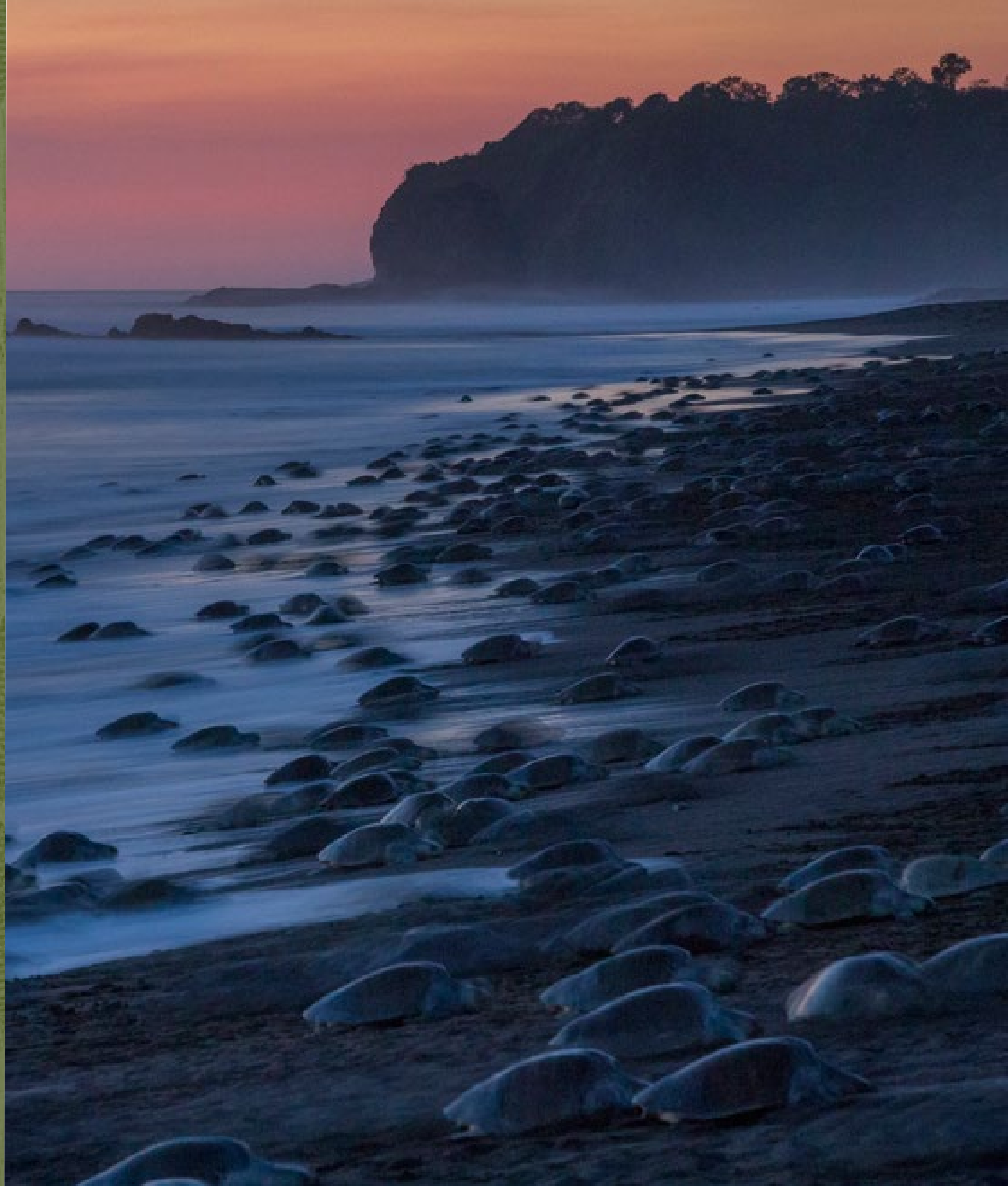
Year-round denizens include fleets of sly-eyed crocodiles, barely discernible on the mud flats. (There are no alligators in Costa Rica.) Crocodiles open their mouths to take in sunlight energy. Though menacing, they're not equal to the rare jaguars and abundant snakes—the fiercest predators of the jungle.



SANTA ROSA NATIONAL PARK

Seeking the Trail Less Traveled

In the northwestern reaches of Costa Rica, Santa Rosa National Park, neighbor to Peninsula Papagayo, juts from the Guanacaste coastline with the promise of history, magic and mystery. This is the place where it all began.





FAST FACTS

- Founded in 1971—the first park established in all of Costa Rica
- 10 minutes by boat from Peninsula Papagayo
- 10 unique habitats span the 122,350-acre park—from mangrove swamp to dry tropical forest—each providing sanctuary for copious animal species
- Inhabited by 250 species of birds as well as 115 species of mammals, including iguanas, deer, monkeys—white-faced, howler and spider—5 species of big cats and a plethora of bats
- Home to Peninsula Santa Elena—the oldest geographical formation in Costa Rica, some 85 million years old
- Protects the largest remaining swath of protected tropical dry forest in the Neotropics
- Most famous for Hacienda Santa Rosa—better known as La Casona—the nation’s most cherished historic monument

WHAT WE LOVE

Soul Surfing

Whether you’re a beginner or a surf fanatic, you can ride the waves at nearby Witch’s Rock, Ollie’s Point and Labyrinth—among the most famed and beloved beaches in the surfing world. When conditions are right, Ollie’s Point, a storied surf break at Santa Elena Peninsula, produces waves as long as 328 yards—more than three times the length of a football field. Like its neighbor, Witch’s Rock, Ollie’s Point is a shrine to surfing.

Primal Ritual: the Arribada

In the spectacle known as the arribada (arrival), powdery sands and clean surf breaks share coastal space with biological preserves of global importance. As many as 175,000 olive ridley turtles come ashore isolated beaches, leaving behind as many as 10 million eggs. Less than an hour ashore, maternal duties fulfilled, the turtles turn seaward and crawl back to their watery home, leaving the eggs to hatch 45 days later. Then perfectly formed hatchlings, dwarfed by their new world and the bigness of the beach, wobble, one by one, toward the ocean.

The turtle nesting process takes place on only six beaches around the world. Ostional may be the best known, but Playa Nancite is closer and draws fewer visitors. To bear witness to this pilgrimage—with wide-eyed kids in tow—is profound.

Cruising the Coastline

Relish the cruise of a lifetime, complete with astounding views of Santa Elena Peninsula and gorgeous sunsets—complete with snorkels for the kids and a bottle of champagne for the lovebirds. Visit secluded, pristine beaches nobody else can. Ply the waters, pausing to explore secret coves, deserted islands and ancient caves. You can cater the trip to your preferences: the ocean is all yours. Should you take your ocean excursions with a side of adrenaline, hop on a jet ski, head out on a surfboard or experience the sensation of underwater flight on a SubWing. Glide through the water like a dolphin, do thrilling acrobatics or just relax on the surface.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Human Side of the Journey

You've come to Costa Rica to experience otherness—a departure from what you know, a difference in culture, a new way of looking at the world. The natural side of the Discovery Program is just one avenue of exploration. Enscorced in a regional hotbed of humanities, our unique cultural enrichment experiences guide you deep into the daily lives of the Ticos. Consult our Explorations Guide for more ideas.

Creciendo Juntos: This Is How We Grow

One of the foundations of Peninsula Papagayo's legacy is our investment in the growth of Creciendo Juntos (Growing Together), created in 2001 to support the strengthening of local Guanacaste communities through various educational, health and leadership programs, like buying books for local schools and building computer rooms for local families. As a club member, you can make a difference for future generations—and set an invaluable example for your own children and grandchildren.

The Joy of Giving Back

For hands-on immersion with the Costa Rican people, we recommend a day of volunteering at one of the 18 schools Peninsula Papagayo partners with. Help children paint murals on their walls. Eat traditional foods alongside families. Get to know the character of the Ticos and Ticas by giving back. And build deep bonds with locals that fill your life with joy and nourish your soul.



"Innately gracious, the Ticos taught me another language. It is pura vida: pure life, the gift of grace that transcends culture to bestow an immense and innocent generosity."

JOCELYN FUJII
VOICES OF GUANACASTE



LIVING THE DREAM

Awaken Your Inner Explorer

Within the beloved environs of Guanacaste, the club's exclusive Discovery Program provides a broad outdoor avenue to channel your inner Swiss Family Robinson or Robinson Crusoe. Our dedicated team provides paths to adventures unknown. We're always here to help you co-create your own course of discovery—be it better physical condition, new skills and knowledge, a stronger connection to nature and culture, or simply unforgettable experiences that become a part of your family story.

Now that we've given you a quick tour around the region, it's time to explore our exclusive list of tours, activities and experiences. Use our Explorations Guide as your jumping-off point for inspiration. If there's something here you didn't see that you'd really like to do, we're always up for planning something new and unimagined.

So push beyond. Let your imagination soar. Go deeper into Costa Rica than ever before. A lifetime of adventure is calling you home.



PENINSULA
PAPAGAYO
C O S T A R I C A

A W O R L D A P A R T

To embark on your next co-created eco-exploration,
please visit the club concierge at Prieta Beach Club,
call us at (506) 2696-2126 or email us at
concierge@peninsulapapagayo.com.

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