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# Hands on Learning *in Costa Rica*






# Horizontes

Nature Tours • Costa Rica

Horizontes Nature Tours is a well-known tour operator recognized in the market for its sustainable practices and futuristic vision. For 30 years Horizontes has held a high standard of ethics and professionalism that has earned the company a tremendous portfolio of faithful clients, and the most valuable comments from its visitors, whose level of satisfaction after traveling with Horizontes is unparalleled. We aspire to be more than a simple tour operator, and to somehow influence those who visit us through their learning experiences in Costa Rica, resulting from our carefully planned holidays and adventures.

Sustainable development and social corporate responsibility have for many years determined our North. We feel that through the knowledge, wisdom and expertise that thirty years in business have given us, we are ready to take a step further and formally launch our hands on learning program. How else can we influence the behavior of people towards the planet in a meaningful fashion?



We are your eyes in Costa Rica  
 +506 2222 2022  
[www.horizontes.com](http://www.horizontes.com)  
[info@horizontes.com](mailto:info@horizontes.com)



As a privileged haven of exports of top quality goods, services and human talent, Costa Rica has cradled some of the most innovative and visionary minds of our times. From a scientist whose work on molds was a precursor to the formal discovery of penicillin, to the astronaut that claims that the first person to walk on the surface of Mars has already been born, the possibilities of finding your true nature with us, in Costa Rica, are endless.

The attributes of Costa Ricans can be contagious. We are happy, innovative, solidary people, with a can do attitude, passionate for life, peace, democracy and nature, educated, authentic, enthusiastic and talented. We want to pass on these attributes to others, since it can lead to positive results. We rank among the top innovation countries in Latin America, the No. 1 in the Social Progress Index and have been nominated as the Happiest Country in the World on more than one occasion. We must be doing something right.

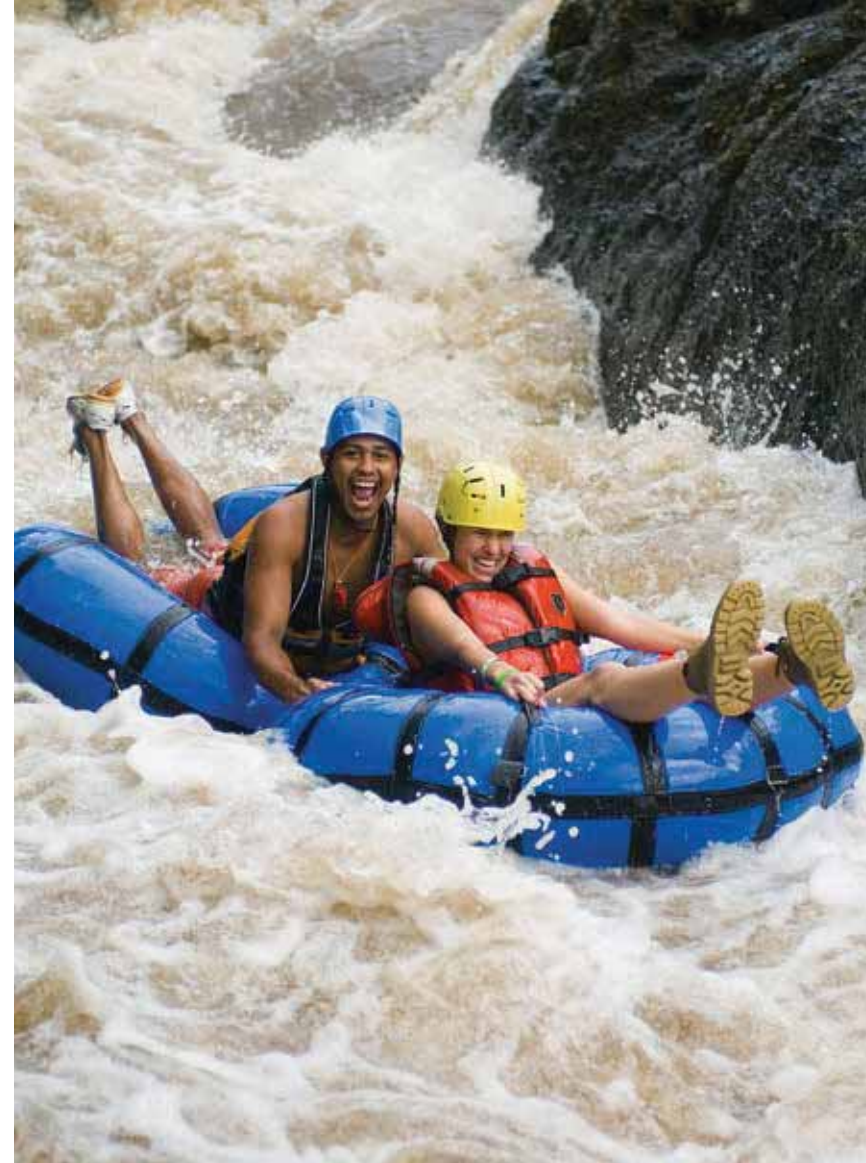




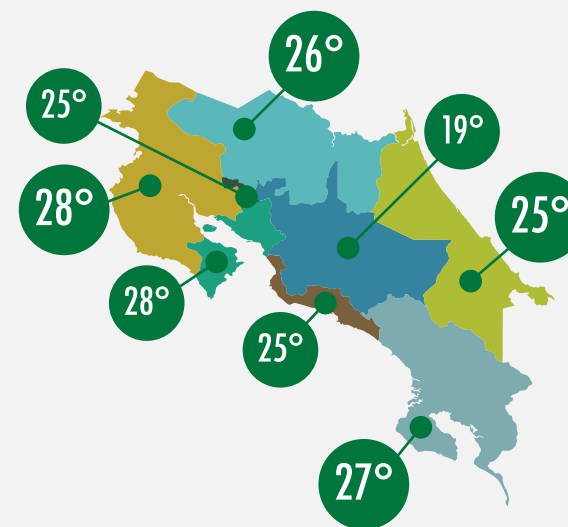
# Why visit Costa Rica?

Costa Rica is a premier destination among experienced travelers, as well as for people searching for adventure and a taste of nature. However, not much of its educational potential has been exposed to the world. Having an impeccable trajectory as a country that traded its army for teachers, its aim was clear and has proven to be effective in the long term. With an increasing access to public education as well as technical and specialty degrees, adult literacy has reached 94.9% of its population, and the health and social security systems are admired by most Latin American nations.

We at Horizontes have put together a vast selection of highly qualified organizations that we consider to have influenced their specific fields and the sustainable development of Costa Rica. We are including possibilities in the fields of education, farming and agriculture, non-governmental organizations, corporate social responsibility, innovation and technology, environmental conservation, prominent government institutions, volunteering and sustainability. They are offering us the possibility of sharing their expertise and experience, focusing on key performance indicators and their sustainability attributes, so that others can assess and evaluate their stories and status within the Costa Rican economy. All of them share high ethics and professionalism, innovative sustainable practices, and a strong social component. And many are also financial success stories. All of these possibilities have one thing in common: they are accessible through Horizontes Nature Tours. Please review our selection of possibilities, and choose those you wish, to prepare the perfect trip for your students. This program can change the way they live their professional lives. We invite you to try it.



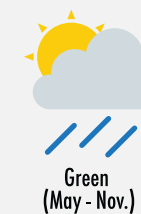
## Temperature



## Seasons



Dry  
(Dic. - April)



Green  
(May - Nov.)



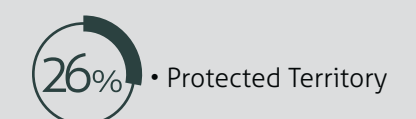
Population 4.8 million people



Surface.  
51.100 km<sup>2</sup> Land.  
568.000 km<sup>2</sup> Maritime Territory.



Life expectancy  
at birth: total  
population





## *Hands on Learning in Costa Rica*

 **A Nation with  
an Army of Teachers**

 **Harvesting  
for the Future**

 **Together we are  
Stronger**

 **The stronger you are the more  
responsibility you have**

 **The future is on the Horizon**

 **Sustainability and  
Climate Change**

 **Government  
related  
Institutions**

 **Volunteering**



We have put together seven different areas of interest that offer a good selection of experiences worth sharing within the Costa Rican economy. Within each area we have listed a limited sample of potential sites or projects to visit. Each project includes a small explanation of its nature and relevance. The idea is that the reader can pick and choose its preferred areas or projects, and add sites within the country plus adventures or entertainment opportunities, so that each party can combine the choices available in its preferred format, to produce the desired trip. Some can emphasize a segment, or a topic, or include more or less educational topics and balance the trip as desired by including adventure or relaxation.

Each project in the program includes a visit guided by an expert within that project. Renowned experts can be added for specific topics if so desired by our guests. Sustainability, CSR, farming and innovation are among the many possibilities you can choose from to build your educational experience; together with the traditional tours you will not want to leave out...hiking, water rafting or bird watching are some of the many options available to complete the journey.

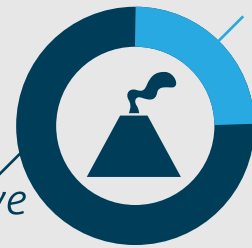
Let us know your preferences and we will be delighted to design a proposal that better suits your needs. As an insert at the end of this publication we have included a one-pager describing the different regions in the country where these learning experiences are available, and approximate prices per day depending on your choices, so that you can have a better understanding of the estimated cost of your own Hands on Learning Program in Costa Rica. We invite you to take a look, pick a few options, and send us your preferences so that we can design your perfect Learning Experience.





## A Nation with an Army of Teachers

103 Inactive volcanoes



5 active volcanoes

35

university programs

In Costa Rica there are 35 different university programs focused on technology and/or environmental practices and sustainability

## Monteverde's cloud forest characteristics

the flora and fauna of the Monteverde cloud forest is typical of 4 different life zones



3021 755

3021 different plant species and 755 species of trees



It is believed that Monteverde is the place with the highest diversity of orchids on earth. The total number of known species is over 500, and 34 of them are new to science.

### CATIE:

A visit to CATIE is an enjoyable, learning experience of close encounters with nature. Guests learn about avant-garde agricultural projects, rare species of the world and survival in the tropics, water shed management and sustainable livestock production among other enthralling topics that contribute to the sustainable growth of the communities. While visiting laboratories and greenhouses, they exchange knowledge with local and international professionals and take advantage of the "live" laboratory that this center offers in the heart of Turrialba.

### EARTH University:

This groundbreaking education center welcomes local and international students and visitors, allowing a hands-on sustainability learning experience and a chance to absorb the beauty of the country, and the rich culture of the regions where it operates. Whether in the heart of the tropical rainforest in the Caribbean lowlands in Limon or EARTH-La Flor, in the dry forest of Guanacaste, the university bids an excellent learning environment and development of research, innovation in laboratories, academic farms and reforested areas, focusing on inspiring students to make a difference in the world.

### Technological Institute of Costa Rica TEC:

Visitors to TEC in Cartago, satisfy their interest in scientific research and receive plenty of information on the technological development and activities, necessary to the learning processes of this reputable university, that has achieved excellence and relevance in the development of Costa Rica; fostering the country's transition from a society with an economy based on agriculture, to one based on knowledge and innovation, as a strategy for a sustainable human development economy.

### University for Peace:

The outstanding mountains of Villa Colon greet the visitors to University for Peace, an institution focused on education intended to achieve peace, a primary right of the human being. In this extraordinary institution, set in the



middle of a private natural reserve with Tropical Pre Mountain Forest, guests experience a unique opportunity to learn about conflict resolution and peace in the world, through tours like Natural History, Central America Contemporary History or a closer look to the university and its mission, presented by faculty members delivering a moving experience that properly complements a visit to Costa Rica.

### Organization for Tropical Studies:

A visit to any of the biological stations managed by the Organization for Tropical Studies promises unique opportunities for learning, while enjoying the plentiful tropical vegetation and biodiversity of each of the three geographical areas where they are located. Whether rainforest, dry forest, freshwater marsh or magnificent wetlands, a walk on the trails identifying colorful birds or being entertained by playful monkeys, will give visitors a deep understanding of the importance of these habitats for the balance of life in our planet, turning it in an outstanding experience.

### INCAE:

With a remarkable reputation, this institution is a seedbed for leaders and business people that will impact the productive and development processes of the Central American region, promoting a better quality of life and a more balanced society. The campus is located amid eye catching landscapes in Alajuela, well known for its pleasant weather and closeness to tourist attractions in the Central Valley. Visitors interested in learning about the school's history and its innovative programs are met by highly qualified staff that will help them attain a pleasant and enriching experience, while visiting Costa Rica.





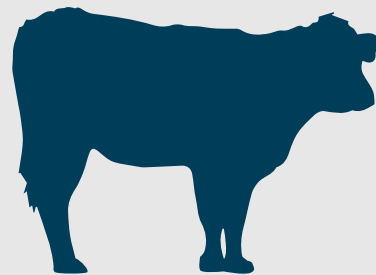
## Harvesting for the Future

Costa Rica is one of the best Arabic Coffee producers in the world. Historically coffee has played a key role in social development. Given that it is efficient to grow coffee in small parcels, traditionally low income workers have been able to complement their income by planting small parcels in their backyards.

Coffee waste is reutilized as organic compost.



Cattle production for meat and dairy, or double purpose, is traditional in Costa Rica.



Reforestation is a trend countrywide. Currently 52% of Costa Rica's territory is covered by forest.

### Hacienda Solimar:

This is a real working cattle farm, sitting on a property of 4000 hectares, where 30% of the land has been reserved for conservation of the Flora and Fauna of the region. It is next to Palo Verde National Park, a habitat for hundreds of species of birds like the rare Jabirú, the Snail Kite and the Black-bellied Whistling Ducks. Educative and engaging tours with local, experienced guides are offered, taking visitors to ideal spots for bird watching through trails with magnificent views of wild nature, an enlightening river boat journeys or horseback riding adventures.

### Hacienda Don Fernando:

The verdant plains of San Carlos in the northeast of Costa Rica present ideal conditions for the breeding of the high-quality livestock of Finca Don Fernando; where, through proper practices that improve the quality of soils, pastures and rational use of space, they obtain results in animals of excellent quality. Agronomists and tourist alike enjoy the learning experience of visiting this hacienda for a close look at feeding techniques, optimization of pastures and efforts in reforestation, surrounded by the impressive landscapes of this region.

### Doka Estate:

The rich soil, ideal altitude and climate surrounding the Poas Volcano are essential for the prime coffee produced by Doka Estate. The plant was built early last century and has been declared historical and architectural heritage; it still operates and maintains its original structure and machinery. A tour of the estate includes walking around the fertile slopes of the farm, while listening to interesting facts about the tradition related to production of the coffee bean. At the end of the tour, a cup of delicious aromatic coffee can be enjoyed as well as an appetizing lunch, to finish with a walk through their Museum. An interesting fact of this Estate is that their production is certified by Rainforest Alliance.

### Aqua Corporation International (ACI):

This Tilapia farmer and exporter is a true example of entrepreneurship, social responsibility, and efficient use of resources: human, natural and financial resources. The farm uses water originating in the Atlantic and moved through 3 different hydroelectric plants to the dry Pacific, where it arrives to ACI, who moves the water from pond to pond, and finally puts it back into rivers and canals that take it to



the next agricultural projects of the Pacific Area. All in all an impressive site and a success story. As the larger employer of Cañas, its closest community, ACI had to deal with relevant social issues, such as the empowerment of women in a town historically sustained by men. The presence of the company provided great opportunity to a community otherwise isolated and dependent on traditional farming. Visitors can enjoy a great tour of the facilities, experience firsthand the challenges of such an ambitious enterprise over its 600 hectares of land and their innovative culture, which allows them to use 100% of the fish they produce, in a totally sustainable way.







## Together we are Stronger



85.000

Families in different townships have worked together with volunteers on the construction of their own homes.

Costa Rica is committed to fight against shark fishing for finning purposes on its vast maritime territory.




+250  
multinationals

Enjoy the import and export benefits that Costa Rica provides in order to promote investment.

### Omar Dengo Foundation:

Learn how this organization has been reinforcing the country's education with innovative programs, hand in hand with current and advanced computer technologies, innovative educational programs and new learning environments. Its different projects have benefited hundreds of thousands of Costa Ricans, including children and young students, educators, professionals, communities and senior citizens. Their offices are located in San Jose, but their reach is definitely nationwide.

### Tropical Science Center, Monteverde:

Walking through marvelous trails of embracing nature and biodiversity at the outstanding Monteverde Cloud Forest or the San Luis Biological Reserve, is a fascinating experience.

The Tropical Science Center (CCT) manages these two reserves in Monteverde involving tourist, scientists, youngsters and the whole community in the awesome task of educating and understanding the process of conservation, and seeking solutions that enable sustainable human development.

### PROCOMER:

Get a close look at the local efforts to boost the economy of the country, by supporting all efforts to export for small and large companies, covering a wide range of products, from commercial goods to high tech medical devices, reaching a large range of nations worldwide. This organization designs and coordinates programs to promote exports and investments. By managing special export regimes, Procomer promotes and protects the commercial interests of Costa Rica abroad, and it centralizes and streamlines import and export procedures and foreign trade statistics.

### CINDE:

Considered an important actor in Costa Rica's development, this private, non-profit organization gives International Companies the necessary support to make their investment decisions in Costa Rica, and advice on how to grow and succeed in the country. Their main office is in Escazu, near downtown San Jose. A session with their representatives will highlight the key factors to determine an investment decision abroad, and the advantages of establishing a company within Costa Rica, rather than elsewhere in the world. They are prepared for a comprehensive process that accompanies the investors and guides them in areas such as Costa Rican demographics, legal procedures, culture, society and the benefits of investing in the country.



### Rainforest Alliance:

The Rainforest Alliance works to conserve biodiversity and ensure sustainable livelihoods by transforming land-use practices, business practices and consumer behavior. At the heart of the Rainforest Alliance's approach is the understanding that the health of the land is inextricably connected to the wellbeing of those who depend on it for their livelihoods. Their approach includes training and certification to promote healthy ecosystems and communities in some of the world's most vulnerable ecosystems, and Costa Rica is a great campus for this purpose. Visitors can get a first-hand perspective of the development of sustainable practices, Green Marketing efforts and the valuable tools for sustainable development they have implemented in Costa Rica.



### AED- Business Development Association:

AED is a nonprofit organization that promotes Corporate Responsibility and the strategic Social Investment of Costa Rica's Corporate Sector. Through an alliance of 112 companies committed with responsible corporate practices and the sustainable development of the country, AED fosters healthy corporate growth in line with social and environmental development, on the understanding that enterprise cannot exist without a healthy society. AED believes in Public Private Alliances as the best mechanism to unite different actors in priority topics for the development of Costa Rica.





### **Corcovado Foundation Osa Peninsula:**

It was created by concerned neighbors of the Corcovado National Park to lead the fight to stop illegal hunting and logging and to protect the wild heritage and the future of native protected areas. Through the promotion of environmental education, empowering local communities and encouraging responsible tourism, meaningful changes have been achieved. The treasures of the Corcovado National Park welcome visitors and are truly enjoyed through the experiences and passion of the people involved in the protection of the Osa Peninsula and the Corcovado National Park. Programs such as the Community Based Rural Tourism, the Environmental Education Program and the Sea Turtle Protection Program are examples where locals and international volunteers can get involved.



### **Acción Joven Foundation:**

This organization begun its efforts to prevent student drop out from public high schools in 2006. Their Integrated Model of Student Dropout Prevention seeks to empower public schools as centers of hope and opportunity for their students. Through the implementation of projects designed by the educational community, different community allies have come together in a supportive way, hoping to separate the youngsters from possible alliances at this young age that will significantly affect their lives. Learning about their efforts, challenges and successful stories, complemented with a visit to one of the schools where they develop their model, can turn into an enriching and inspirational experience.

### **MARVIVA:**

Guests are able to really learn about the reality of the oceans of Costa Rica while visiting the country and discovering its fascinating and vast marine and territorial wealth. Costa Rica may be one of the smallest territories in Latin America, but because of Isla del Coco the maritime territory of Costa Rica is 11 times its size, making CR the largest Central American country. At Marviva's facilities, dedicated experts share their knowledge on challenging issues, as well as impressive facts and projects aimed to the protection, conservation and enjoyment of the oceans and coastal areas of the region.



### **COOPEJUBI:**

Abundant, striking Nature welcomes visitors in the rural town of Bijagua in northern Costa Rica; where this organization operates, led by young residents, interested in the social and environmental development of their community. You take fun, educational tours like walks to the amazing Rio Celeste (Light Blue River), the Bijagua waterfalls, wonderful views of the Miravalles and Tenorio volcanoes or surprising sights of beautiful birds, monkeys or sloths. Coopejubi's main project is to reforest their surroundings with endemic species while building a corridor to protect and conserve the wealth of local flora and fauna.



### **Paniamor Foundation:**

This foundation is dedicated to the protection of children and works along three permanent programs: Violence Prevention, Political Incidence and Social Development. One of its main goals is the implementation of a Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children and Adolescents Related to Travel and Tourism, directly aimed at eliminating sexual and other types of exploitation of children. Learning about them is an excellent way to discover the efforts of the country to protect and educate minors, as well as raising awareness in the Costa Rican society on the importance of promoting a safe and healthy environment for the children to grow and develop. Their role in informing and educating workers of the tourism industry, at all level, to identify irregular behavior in adults towards children has had tremendous impact in the direction of tourism in Costa Rica. Discover and imitate their programs.



### **Habitat for Humanity Costa Rica:**

This social organization is a true world leader in providing access to adequate and permanent housing to families living in poverty. In Costa Rica, more than a thousand homes have been built with the support of government, international churches, local commerce, Habitat affiliates and volunteers. Seeking ways to extend their reach, they also provide education and financial assistance, and inspire volunteers from the world to visit and enjoy the country, adding the cherished experience of working in the construction of houses for the needy.



### **A Roof for My Country - TECHO**

Through the joint work of families living in extreme poverty, with youth volunteers, TECHO seeks to overcome poverty in slums. After 17 years, the organization keeps operations in 19 countries across Latin America, and it stays active through the everyday encounter of volunteers and families living in slums, working together to overcome poverty and exclusion. In 2014, an important agreement was reached between the University of Costa Rica and TECHO, which will run for five years allowing them to emphasize social responsibility at the university, while the organization promotes activities such as meetings with volunteers.





## The stronger you are the more responsibility you have

# 36

Costa Rica ranks 36 on the World Ranking of Corporate Social Responsibility, and ranks second for Latin America and the Caribbean



### 2004

Since 2004 Costa Rica implements a model of Corporate Social Responsibility



### 2008

This model was standardized in 2008 within the CA region as part of the project of regionalization for Corporate Social Responsibility



### 2014

Above 120 companies implement serious Corporate Social Responsibility programs within their organizations.



Florida Ice & Farm created the first Corporate Social Responsible enterprise in Central America. Its mission is to eradicate malnutrition in Costa Rica and to reduce it in Central America and Haiti.

### Grupo Nacion:

Grupo Nacion publishes the country's leading newspapers; it's an organization with a long, successful story that includes interesting points of the history of Costa Rica's political, social and economic development after the revolution events of 1948, when the army was abolished. A tour to their premises provides ample information about the growth of this enterprise and the principles on Corporate Social Responsibility that differentiate them, as well as a close view of the high end printing technology and innovative production processes used at La Nacion. An emphasis on their role in education, through the use of their assets and the involvement of the community is a great program to study.

### Florida Ice & Farm:

The largest publicly traded company of the country's main activity is the production and distribution of beverages and foods. A visit to these premises provides interesting information of their operation and high technology production processes, enlightening on three dimensions: economic, social (staff & community) and environmental; which contribute to achieve their high level of excellence. Their most recent social endeavor is the creation of Nutrivida, the first social company of Central America, under the philosophy of Muhhamed Yunus. Through an alliance with **Yunus Social Business GmbH** the company has as its mission to eradicate mal nutrition in Costa Rica through the development of fortified food products accessible to the poor, and to significantly reduce mal nutrition in Central America and Haiti.





**The future  
is on the Horizon**



*Franklin Chang Diaz is a Costa Rican astronaut and Physicist. He participated in 7 space missions for NASA*



*Astronaut Chang is the developer of the Variable Specific Impulse Magneto Plasma Rocket (VASIMIR), a propulsion engine based on plasma for space vehicles.*



*Ad Astra hopes that someday their plasma engines (VASIMIR) may be utilized to activate a solar electric haul configured as a Space Cleaner*

### **Ad Astra Rocket Company:**

This revolutionary organization develops the most innovative technologies. Located in Guanacaste, Ad Astra Rocket Company (AARC) is a leading spaceflight technology company dedicated to the development of advanced plasma rocket propulsion. The company is developing the Variable Specific Impulse Magnetoplasma Rocket (VASIMR®) technology. Astronaut Chang is the developer of the Variable Specific Impulse Magneto plasma Rocket (VASIMIR), a propulsion engine based on plasma for space vehicles.

Through its Costa Rican subsidiary Ad Astra is also currently developing an integrated “turn-key” solution of distributed renewable energy systems, relevant to many niche applications worldwide. One of these involves the hydrogen energy cycle (production, storage and use).

To complement this learning experience, the visit can be combined with a tour of the EARTH University campus that takes visitors through thriving mango and sugar cane plantations showing sustainable agriculture practices.

### **FLOREX:**

Flores is an Eco Friendly Enterprise that develops Eco Friendly Cleaning Products. By using Flores products you contribute to improve the quality of life for your family without polluting the environment. This innovative company has received an award in EcoDesign, as well as the Excellence Award of the Chamber of Industries of Costa Rica, among many other distinctions. Their commitment to the environment was key for the construction of their production plant, which was built considering aspects such as design and strategic positioning to maximize sunlight, reutilization of resources, collection of rainwater, the use of wind currents for ventilation and natural light for workspaces, among others. These efforts and many others are explained in detail as visitors walk through their facilities learning about ways to develop a successful, sustainable business.

### **BioLand:**

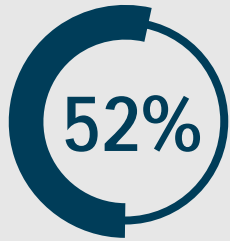
Bio Land produces natural and organic products in the areas of Food and Body Care. Their products are innovative and excellent, but what is interesting about them is their approach to business, totally committed with nature and social development. Their approach includes biological and organic agriculture, the recovery of natural and traditional industrial practices, and the use of cleaner and ecological commercial procedures, aimed to contribute to a healthier and



sustainable world. Their holistic concept of quality and the establishment of a clear and harmonic relationship with the suppliers and consumers has proved to be successful as they continue seeking innovative processes, and conducting intense research to develop new commercial and industrial achievements, attuned with sustainable practices.



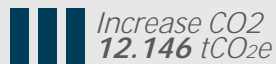
## Sustainability and Climate Change



The country has 52 % of its territory covered by forest.

8 different types of forest cover are present countrywide.

Carbon set estimation for 2014.  
(tCO<sub>2e</sub> = tonne of carbon dioxide equivalent)



Amount of hectares of forest incorporated on the 2008-2012 period



1379.36

**CO<sub>2</sub>** Costa Rica hopes to capture a bit more than **16 million** tons of carbon dioxide through its forests for 2021



Costa Rica is one of the few countries in the world that has managed to prevent and reverse deforestation effects on its territory.

### Clean Energies Route:

92% of the installed capacity for production of energy is from clean sources: hydro, Eolic, geothermal, solar and biomass. In fact, Costa Rica is the only country in the world where you can find all of these types of energy in a 10-mile radius, and of course the setting is on the base of the volcanoes of Guanacaste, thus combining technology and tremendous beauty. Taking a ride on the rural roads of Guanacaste, surrounded by the magnificence of the vast plains and dry forest, while an expert engineer explains the benefits of Wind, Hydroelectric Power and Geothermal Energy, turns into a very enjoyable learning experience. It is also an opportunity to witness efficient use of water, and the very clever transfer of water from where it is abundant, in the Atlantic region, to the dry Pacific.

### ACC (Alliance for Climate Change):

In addition to creating awareness and promoting environmental education, ACC's goals are:

- To contribute to adapt to climate change, focusing in investment in strategic reforestation and supporting the 4 areas most vulnerable to climate change: water, biodiversity, agriculture and rural communities.
- To contribute to the construction of a green economy, by offering environmental services that thrive to get a balance between development, nature and communities.

Its director, a dedicated engineer in Forestry, is passionate about the goals of the organization and enjoys sharing her experience and promoting the growth of this concept.

### FONAFIFO

FONAFIFO benefits small and medium producers, through credits and other innovative mechanisms, to promote forest management for the environmental services they provide to our society, and to the world at large. Through Fonafifo owners of forests are compensated for keeping their land untouched, thus preserving the forest. The compensations attained are estimated based on the fair payment for the value of their environmental services, such as mitigation of greenhouse gases (carbon sequestration); protection of water for rural, urban or hydro-electric purposes; and the protection of the biodiversity for the conservation and preservation of natural scenic beauty. The source of the funds is normally from companies or persons that through their productive practices somehow impact the environment, and thus to compensate any damage, they support conservation elsewhere.



### Tirimбина Rainforest Lodge & Reserve:

Conservationists and researchers from around the world visit La Tirimbina to study important relationships among species while they enjoy its intriguing surroundings and take interesting tours to explore the world of bats, watch amazing birds or learn about sustainable practices in the production of chocolate, among others. This educational, scientific and ecotourism site set amidst forests and rivers of the northern region of Costa Rica, provides environmental education and scientific research, while it protects 345 hectares of pre-montane forest.





## Government related Institutions



*Blue Ecological Flag program was developed to promote best practices for tourism, thus limiting its impact over nature and enhancing its effects in social development.*



*Airlift is key for the development of the country. The strategy to attract new airlines and to increase the frequency of flights has allowed, from January through October 2013, to generate above 2.5 million available seats, 231.338 more than last year, equivalent to a 10% increase.*

*When compared with any other region of the world, Costa Rica has more diversity of species and ecosystems, and interactions amongst them.*



*Costa Rica is considered amongst the 20 countries with the most biodiversity of the world.*



*Over 500,000 species are present in Costa Rica, which represent close to 4.5% of the total number of species of the world. Of these 500,000, just shy of 300,000 are insects.*

### **The Costa Rican Tourism Institute:**

This government managed institution, works with all the different companies, organizations and tourism services suppliers in the country to develop an attractive, innovative and sustainable offer to visitors worldwide. ICT is the organization that grants the Certificate for Sustainable Tourism – CST, which provides financial and marketing incentives and advantages to those who get certified, helping the Institute promote sustainable practices in the industry. Those interested in learning about the challenges and achievements implicit in the development of the Tourism Industry in a sustainable context, can have an intensive presentation from the experts, as they enjoy some of the benefits it has brought to the country.



### **INBIO:**

INBIO is a semi private research and biodiversity management institution that works in close collaboration with government, superior education entities, the private sector and other organizations in and outside Costa Rica.

With the motto: **We all are Biodiversity**, this outstanding institution teaches, motivates and inspires people to appreciate nature and everything enclosed in it. They open their doors to share their “live” laboratory located in Santo Domingo de Heredia, a charming town that still has good examples of old adobe homes and colonial Spanish architecture surrounded by coffee plantations and peaceful landscapes.

Visitor’s walk through friendly trails learning curiosities of the surrounding nature with over 600 species of plants, birds, iguanas, sloths and more. This is definitely a worth experience to complement an educational and gratifying visit to Costa Rica.

### **Blue Flag Program:**

Costa Rica’s Blue Flag Ecological Program was originally created to work towards the protection of the nation’s diverse and delicate coastal ecosystems. Eventually they discovered that efforts must start inland, and the perspective became more ample, so the program now focuses on good environmental practices and prevention of pollution, which will also impact the health of the citizens and reflect the country’s commitment to be an ecotourism destination. Blue Flag program continues to expand with inter-institutional cooperation within the country and impacting positively more and more communities.



### **OVSICORI/UNA:**

For geologists, volcanologists and sustainable development specialists this will be a special experience. Four tectonic plates dominate tectonics in Costa Rica: Coco, Caribbean, Nazca and Panama Block. The movement and lifting of the Panama block towards the Northeast, is the origin of most tectonics. And of course tectonics are the origin of our ridge of volcanoes. The plates are so close to the Costa Rican coast, that the area is a playground for researchers and geologists from around the world. Do not miss this great opportunity.





## About us

WE ARE YOUR EYES IN COSTA RICA.

Horizontes is a pioneer in the tourism industry in Latin America. With over 30 years of experience, we continue to lead the way in Costa Rica. Our extensive local knowledge and networks provide us with a strong competitive advantage. We do not improvise, we apply our expertise.

### *Our competitive advantages include:*

- Extensive knowledge of the destination.
- 24 / 7 service.
- A proven quality assurance program.
- Highly qualified guides: Our guides make the difference.
- A consolidated team of professionals.
- A high level portfolio of clients.
- A sustainable development approach.

### *Our Mission:*

"We inspire the enjoyment, fulfillment, and personal discovery of our guests through responsibly designed and operated travel programs that provide meaningful experiences with Costa Rican people and nature."

### *Our commitment:*

In our commitment to sustainability, the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions generated by the printing of this document have been compensated in its entirety by tree planting. Horizontes promotes good environmental practices in all of its activities.



### *Our Mission:*

"We design and implement projects responsibly to strengthen the development of society and the environment in a sustainable manner".

### *Horizontes Foundation:*

Horizontes Foundation is a nonprofit private organization that unites individuals and legal entities. It was created as a result of the responsibility and commitment of Horizontes Nature Tours and to promote funding for projects that can solve or minimize issues related to the environment and social areas of the country.



## What does Horizontes do to stand out from the rest?

All Prices in USA dollars		Lodging per night (DBL room, Breakfast & tax incl.)		Tours (per person, per tour)		Transportation (per person, per day)	
Areas	Level	Low	High	Basic	Top	10-20 pax	21-50 pax
Arenal	Basic	130	130	45	105	65	45
	Intermediate	143	199				
	Top	280	375				
Dominical	Basic	115	115	70	115	65	45
	Intermediate	180	180				
	Top	230	250				
Guanacaste	Basic	120	165	65	120	65	45
	Intermediate	155	195				
	Top	300	405				
Manuel Antonio	Basic	80	190	60	115	65	45
	Intermediate	115	165				
	Top	280	350				
Monteverde	Basic	95	110	45	100	65	45
	Intermediate	145	155				
	Top	195	210				
San Jose	Basic	100	110	45	115	65	45
	Intermediate	120	145				
	Top	210	225				
Sarapiquí	Basic	50	65	50	95	65	45
	Intermediate	115	130				
	Top	135	165				
Tortuguero	Intermediate	275	295	45	85	65	45
	Top	1040	1200				
Turrialba	Basic	35	35	75	105	65	45
	Intermediate	165	175				
	Top	180	190				

- **Basic/Intermediate/Top:** Based on Star Rating and Level of Comfort.  
 - **Low:** Green Season from May - October  
 - **High:** Season from November to April, excluding from Dec 15 to Jan 05, & Easter Week  
 - **Basic Tours** include entrance / **Top Tours** include meals and special equipment  
 - Tours available include hiking, horseback riding, zip line, rafting and others

**We are dedicated professionals**

For more than 30 years, we have developed our product with utmost focus. This is our field of expertise and we have the knowledge to put it to your service. We are well known for our commitment, our safety and sustainable practices, and have a long history of good standing with our international and local clients.

**We are consistent with our sustainability efforts**

We walk the talk. We design and organize our trips showing respect for nature and local communities, and hopefully inspire our guests to follow our example.

**We test services before offering them**

Our Research & Development department makes sure the lodges, tours, restaurants, and transportation services we include in our offer are up to the standards set by the company in relation to safety, comfort, accessibility, quality of the experience, and sustainable practices.

**We create value**

By making good use of our competitive advantages we design superb trips at competitive rates, and execute a state of the art operation, leading to full client satisfaction.

**We provide the best Naturalist Guides**

Horizontes Naturalist Guides are considered among the best of the world. They are certified professionals who provide experience, knowledge and friendly, quality service to our guests.



*essential*  
**COSTA  
RICA**



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