This tour is provided by Odysseys Unlimited, six-time honoree Travel & Leisure’s World’s Best Tour Operators award.

COSTA RICA’S NATURAL HERITAGE
February 22-March 3, 2020

11 days for $4,281 total price from Detroit
($4,095 air & land inclusive plus $186 airline taxes and fees)

An Exclusive Small Group Tour for Alumni and Friends of MSU
Featuring MSU Professor Dr. Alan Prather
Dear MSU Alumni and Friends,

Please join MSU Professor Dr. Alan Prather for this exclusive 11-day journey through Costa Rica. This small group will visit rainforests, volcanoes, national parks, and other exquisite natural settings.

Setting out from the Costa Rican capital of San Jose, you will take a guided walk in Poas Volcano National Park to view one of the world’s largest volcanic craters, followed by a visit to the Doka Coffee Estate. Then travel northward to the Arenal region for spectacular views of Arenal Volcano. Explore a biological reserve and take a sky walk tour high above the rainforest floor before visiting the cloud forest region of Monteverde. Your adventure concludes with a three-night stay at a resort along the pristine Costa Rican coastline and a float safari on the beautiful Tempisque River. If you are interested in beginning the tour earlier in exceptional Tortuguero National Park, a four-day/three-night pre-tour option is available.

Space on this exclusive MSU Alumni Office departure is limited to just 18 guests, and will fill quickly. Please call today to reserve your place!

Go Green!

Regina Cross
Director of Alumni Travel
MSU Alumni Association

*A minimum number of participants is needed for faculty participation.

THE MSU RESERVATION FORM: COSTA RICA’S NATURAL HERITAGE

Enclosed is my/our deposit for $______($500 per person) for ____ person(s) on Costa Rica’s Natural Heritage, departing February 22, 2020. I/We understand the final payment is due at least 95 days prior to departure. Payment may be made by American Express, Discover, MasterCard, VISA, or by personal check. Please make check payable to Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., and send, with completed reservation form, to: Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., Attn: Special Interest Groups, One Newton Place, 275 Washington Street, Suite 300, Newton, MA 02458. Or you may call Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. toll-free at 888-370-6765. You may also call the MSU Alumni Office toll-free at 888-697-2863 for more information.

Full Passport Name ___________________________ Date of Birth ______ Gender ______
Full Passport Name ___________________________ Date of Birth ______ Gender ______
Address ___________________________________________________________________________________________
City ___________________________________________ State ___________ ZIP _______________________________
Home Phone (______)____________________________ Cell Phone (______)__________________________________
E-mail(s) _______________________________________ Badge Name(s) ___________________________________
Please book my/our air from _________________________________________________________________________
I will share a room with _____________________________________ I request a single room (limited availability) q

Pre-Tour “Tortuguero National Park” Option: Please sign me/us up q

Please Note: The undersigned has read the schedule of activities for Costa Rica’s Natural Heritage, February 22-March 3, 2020, and agrees that their signature below represents their acceptance of the General Terms and Conditions.

Signature(s) _________________________________________________________________ Date _________________

Method of Payment

☐ Check   ☐ American Express   ☐ Discover   ☐ MasterCard   ☐ VISA

Account # ___________________________________ Security Code __________ Exp. Date __________________

Name of Cardholder ________________________________________________________________________________

Signature __________________________________________________________________________________________

Final invoicing will be sent by our tour operator, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. The balance of the program price must be paid to Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. Final payment is due at least 95 days prior to departure, and is payable by check or credit card.
**COSTA RICA’S NATURAL HERITAGE**

11 days for $4,281 total price from Detroit ($4,095 air & land inclusive plus $186 airline taxes and fees)

In this small Central American democracy kissed by nature, our small group discovers a nation’s wealth in four distinct regions, from cloud forest to rainforest; Central Valley to Pacific Coast. As Costa Rica presents its staggering display of biodiversity – pristine landscapes, unique microclimates, exotic flora and fauna – we enjoy a relaxed yet comprehensive exploration that celebrates Costa Rica’s wide-ranging natural resources.

Day 1: Depart for San Jose, Costa Rica  We arrive in the Costa Rican capital and transfer to our hotel located in the Escazu area outside the city. This afternoon and evening are at leisure.

Day 2: San Jose  After meeting our tour director and fellow travelers at this morning’s breakfast briefing, we embark on an excursion through the Central Valley to Poas Volcano National Park. Here we view one of the world’s largest craters, a steaming, bubbling cauldron; and also take a guided walk along park trails. We continue on to the Doka Coffee Estate, located on the fertile slopes of Poas Volcano, where we learn about coffee-making and Costa Rica’s coffee crop, one of the country’s largest exports. After lunch at the Doka Estate, we return to our hotel late afternoon. Tonight we enjoy a welcome dinner together. B,L,D

Day 3: San Jose/Arenal Region  We leave this morning for the Arenal region, passing picturesque villages along the way. We stop in Carrizal at the family-owned Botanical Orchid Garden, with tropical trails, exhibits, nurseries, and gardens all dedicated to the wondrous orchid plant. After time to explore here, we travel on to Arenal and our hotel, which offers magnificent views of Arenal Volcano and where we dine tonight. B,L,D

Day 4: Arenal Region  This morning we visit a local elementary school to enjoy a cultural exchange with the children and learn about Costa Rica’s vaunted educational system – the country boasts a literacy rate of more than 95%. We continue on to Ecocentro Danaus, a biological reserve focused on conservation, environmental education, and sustainability. A series of trails winds through the secondary forest, where we see diverse flora, including orchids, bromelia, and heliconia, along with some of the preserve’s 150 species of birds, sloths, and bats, among other fauna. Highlights include a butterfly farm with 30 different species and a natural water spring that attracts waterfowl, alligators, and iguanas. Later today there’s time for more volcano viewing before and after dinner (at a local restaurant) from a comfortable perch at our hotel. B,L,D

Small Group Tour Highlights

Poas Volcano excursion • Doka Coffee Estate • Carrizal’s Botanical Orchid Garden • Visit with schoolchildren • Ecocentro Danaus Biological Reserve • Arenal hanging bridges Sky Walk • Night viewing of Arenal Volcano • Monteverde Cloud Forest biological reserve • Tempisque River float safari • Three-night Guanacaste stay at a beachfront resort

Day Itinerary Hotel Rating
1 Depart U.S. for San Jose InterContinental Costa Rica Sup. First Class
2 San Jose InterContinental Costa Rica Sup. First Class
3-5 Arenal Region Arenal Manoa First Class
6-7 Monteverde Cloud Forest El Establo Mountain Hotel First Class
8-10 Guanacaste JW Marriott Guanacaste Resort & Spa Sup. First Class
11 Depart Guanacaste for U.S.

Ratings are based on the Hotel & Travel Index, the travel industry standard reference.

Cover photo: We see Arenal, one of the world’s most active volcanoes, from a safe distance.
Day 5: Arenal Region  
On this morning’s visit to Arenal’s hanging bridges Sky Walk, we have the special opportunity to experience the rainforest from the canopy level as we traverse a series of five suspension bridges high above the forest floor. While we observe the rainforest from a unique perspective, our naturalist guide will point out some of the flora and fauna that thrive here. Then we return to our hotel, where the remainder of the day is at leisure to relax amidst the beautiful grounds and thermal waters. Lunch and dinner today are on our own.  

Day 6: Arenal Region/Monteverde Cloud Forest  
We travel today to the “green cathedral” of Monteverde. En route we stop to visit a non-profit handicrafts cooperative dedicated to enhancing the economic and social well-being of local women artists. After lunch on our own in Santa Elena, we continue on to our hotel, arriving late afternoon. We dine tonight at a local restaurant in Monteverde.  

Day 7: Monteverde  
This morning we embark on a guided walk through Monteverde’s biological reserve, learning about the amazing biodiversity in this relatively small area. Next we tour the Hummingbird Gallery, where feeders attract several different species of the delicate hummingbird. After lunch together we visit the Monteverde Bat Jungle to learn about Costa Rica’s diverse – and important – bat population. Late this afternoon we return to our hotel for time at leisure before we dine together this evening.  

Day 8: Monteverde/Guanacaste  
We depart by coach this morning for Guanacaste, Costa Rica’s stunning northwest Pacific coastal region. Along the way we visit Monteverde’s delightful Butterfly Garden, with a variety of species including the stunning blue morpho and the virtually transparent glasswing. After a stop for lunch, we reach our resort hotel overlooking the Pacific mid-afternoon.  

Day 9: Guanacaste  
A float safari on the Tempisque River highlights this morning’s excursion to the Palo Verde region, which is both an extraordinary wetland and also one of the world’s last tropical dry forests. In this unique ecosystem, we can expect to see many colorful tree frogs in Costa Rica’s rainforests. Lunch and dinner today are on our own.  

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We see many colorful tree frogs in Costa Rica’s rainforests.  

**Pre-Tour Option**  
February 19-22, 2020  
**Tortuguero National Park**  
4 days/3 nights for $745 total price  
Single Supplement: $145  

Encounter exceptional biodiversity, from rainforest to marsh, where fresh water meets the sea to form canals, lagoons, and wetlands; and also to provide an important turtle nesting reserve. An ecological tour de force!  

**Your Tour Price Includes**  
- Round-trip transfers San Jose/Tortuguero by van and boat  
- 3 nights’ accommodations: 1 night in San Jose at InterContinental Costa Rica (Superior First Class); 2 nights in Tortuguero National Park at Mawamba Lodge (First Class)  
- 8 meals: 3 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 2 dinners  
- Included sightseeing: Tortuguero town and Caribbean Conservation Center; two boat safaris along the Tortuguero canals  
- Services of an Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director
see abundant bird- and wildlife, including monkeys, iguanas, and crocodiles. After lunch together we return to our hotel mid-afternoon, with the remainder of the day at leisure along one of Costa Rica’s most beautiful Pacific Coast settings. B,L

Day 10: Guanacaste
Today is at leisure to enjoy the beautiful beach and other amenities of our hotel, including an outdoor infinity pool. Optional activities include kayaking, hiking, or visiting the lively town of Tamarindo. This evening we gather at a farewell dinner to celebrate our Costa Rican adventure. B,D

Day 11: Depart for U.S. We transfer to the airport this morning for our return flights to the U.S. B

Tour Departs: February 22, 2020

Your Tour Price Includes
- Round-trip air transportation from listed cities
- 10 nights’ accommodations in Superior First Class and First Class hotels
- 23 meals: 10 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 7 dinners
- Extensive sightseeing as described, including all entrance fees
- Services of an expert Costa Rica naturalist as your Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director
- Private motorcoach transportation throughout your trip
- Luggage handling for one bag per person
- Gratuities for dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers

Tour Departs: February 22, 2020
Prices include int’l airfare and all taxes, surcharges, and fees.

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Please call if your city is not listed. Prices are per person based on double occupancy and include airline taxes, surcharges, and fees of $186, which are subject to change until final payment is made. Single travelers please add $995. All tour prices above (excluding airline taxes, surcharges, and fees) are guaranteed.

Please note: This tour includes nature walks and lengthy coach rides over bumpy dirt roads. You should be in good physical condition to enjoy the tour to the fullest.

For reservations and information, please call Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. toll-free at 888-370-6765
Monday–Friday, 9:00 AM–7:00 PM, Eastern Time
Or call the MSU Alumni Office toll-free at 888-697-2863

Costa Rica: a paradise for hummingbirds

The earth has its music for those who will listen.
– George Santayana
Due to the nature of tour operator tickets, we regret if you make any changes to your reservation. Please read this information carefully, as payment of a $500 deposit per person represents your acceptance of the following Terms and Conditions.

General Terms and Conditions

Not Included in Tour Price
Wine and dine under personal emergencies such as beverages, laundry, room service, and meals not specified; airport transfers when purchasing a Land Only package; gratuities to your Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director, which are at your discretion (suggested gratuities: $10-$15 per traveler per day); communication changes; optional sightseeing; and travel protection insurance. Additional baggage fees may apply and are subject to change at any time. You should confirm directly with your airline(s) prior to departure.

Cancellations, Refunds, and Changes
If you must cancel your trip, the effective date of cancellation will be upon Odysseys Unlimited, Inc.’s receipt of your notification. Refunds for cancellations are subject to the following per person charges: cancel 95 days or more before departure: $200 charge; cancel 94-65 days before departure: 25% of tour price; cancel 64-45 days before departure: 50% of tour price; cancel 44-30 days before departure: 75% of tour price; cancel 29-0 days before departure: no refund.

Airfare when purchasing a Land Only package; costs of passports and visas; personal expenses such as beverages, laundry, room service, and meals not specified; airport transfers when purchasing a Land Only package; gratuities to your Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director, which are at your discretion (suggested gratuities: $10-$15 per traveler per day); communication changes; optional sightseeing; and travel protection insurance. Additional baggage fees may apply and are subject to change at any time. You should confirm directly with your airline(s) prior to departure.

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Final payment of the balance of your tour price is due by the due date(s) as indicated on the confirmation letter you will receive from Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. Upon notification of your deposit and final payment, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. will send you an information packet for your planned tour, which will include important information and contact numbers for your tour director and the company's customer service department.

Responsibility
The liability of the MSU Alumni Office, as sponsor, and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., as tour operator, is strictly limited. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. purchases transportation, hotel accommodations, and restaurant and other services from independent suppliers not under our control. We serve only as agents for these suppliers in securing tour arrangements, and therefore will not accept responsibility for wrongful, negligent, or arbitrary acts or omissions of these independent contractors, or of their employees, agents, servants, or representatives. The MSU Alumni Office and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. are not liable for injury, damage, loss, accident, or delay that may be caused by events not within our control, including, without limitation, acts of terrorism, war, strikes, the defect of any vehicle, or the negligence or default of any third party. All coupons, receipts, and tickets issued are subject to the terms and conditions specified by the air carriers, cruise lines, and other independent suppliers. We will make every effort to operate our tours as planned, but we reserve the right to make itinerary changes as necessary. If unforeseen circumstances require us to change a hotel, we will select alternative accommodations of the same or better quality.

Health and Medical Issues
We request that you be in good health to participate in this tour. There is a reasonable amount of walking as well as nature walks and lengthy coach rides over bumpy roads, and you must be able to get on and off motorcoaches and boats on your own. We regret that we cannot offer individual assistance in such cases you must be accompanied by a companion who will assist you. Please note that many of our tour itineraries, for reasons beyond our control, do not accommodate wheelchairs. Please call or e-mail us to inquire and we will do our best to answer any questions you may have. We reserve the right to remove anyone whose physical or mental condition, in our opinion, compromises the operation of the tour or detracts from the enjoyment or safety of the other passengers. In that event, the MSU Alumni Office and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. assume no financial responsibility for any unused portion of the tour.

Air Transportation – Important Information
Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. includes in its tour price round-trip economy air from designated gateway cities as shown, and contracts with those airlines the company feels provide the level of service, routings, and value necessary for your entire trip. While another airline may offer a more direct connection, it may be at a price unavailable at the lower group rates. You will receive your preliminary air schedule approximately 2½ months prior to departure. Please note that seat assignment on your international flight is usually done at air-port check-in. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. is unable to guarantee any seat assignments. Due to the nature of tour operator tickets, other restrictions apply, including but not limited to, frequent flier mileage accrual, stopovers, alternate travel dates, upgrades, and airline taxes and fees. If you prefer to make your own travel arrangements, Land Only is available on most tours. Since international and domestic air schedules are subject to change at any time, we recommend that if you choose to make your own airline reservations, you do not purchase non-refundable tickets or those with high penalties for changes. If you choose to make your own air arrangements, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. shall not have any liability for any loss resulting from cancellation of this tour or changes in this tour.

Travel Insurance
We strongly suggest purchasing travel insurance. Travel insurance information will be sent to you with your confirmation letter from the MSU Alumni Office.