



Joining information for **Adventure Tours** starting in San José, Costa Rica

Before leaving home please make sure you have received ALL of the following information from your travel agent (please note; information marked with an asterisk can also be downloaded from our website at www.tucantravel.com)

- Pre-Departure Booklet
- Trip Dossier* (includes day to day itinerary)
- Country Dossier(s)*
- Joining city local map

The **Pre-Departure Booklet** is full of useful information and will answer the numerous questions you will have as you prepare for your tour. It is the place to look for guidance on travel documents, health & safety, packing and what to expect from your style of tour. You will also find some useful Spanish & Portuguese phrases and a list of recommended reading material.

The **Trip Dossier** will give you important information specific to your tour and will provide you with a detailed description of the itinerary. The **Country Dossier(s)** contain essential information about visas, arrival transfers, spending money & costs, taxes & tips, climate and local food etc.

PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU READ YOUR BROCHURE, PRE-DEPARTURE BOOKLET AND TRIP DOSSIER THOROUGHLY!

Arrival in San José

When arriving at San José International Airport we recommend that you obtain some local currency ('colones') at the airport before making your way to the city centre. US\$ and travellers cheques can be difficult and time-consuming to change in the city centre. US\$ are not widely accepted for general everyday expenses in Costa Rica (buses, markets etc). There are exchange offices/banks and ATM machines located at the airport for your convenience.

There is a reservation desk for taxi services at the airport. They offer a set rate for taxi carriage from the airport to certain destinations within the city. The rate should be between US\$13-15 (San José airport is roughly 17km from the city centre). You simply purchase a taxi voucher to the required destination (give them the name of the hotel) and present it to the driver. There is no cash transaction between the client and the driver, and these services are generally safe and reliable. There are also public buses to the centre. These buses make regular stops directly in front of the airport. Buses cost 210 colones (approx 50c), and depart every five minutes. The bus will take you to a terminal located at the western end of San José. This is within walking distance from the city's main public bus terminal, the 'Coca Cola Bus Terminal'. Taxis are readily available from here and should cost roughly 1000 colones (approx US\$2.50) to the hotel.

Joining Your Tour

Day 1 of all our tours is simply an arrival day, with no organised activities, so you will have some free time to relax or see some of the local sights. You should find some local information (e.g. a few good places to eat and drink, do laundry, etc.) on the hotel notice board. Your tour leader will be staying in the hotel and should have put up a welcome note to let you know what room s/he is in. A pre-departure meeting is usually held in the afternoon or early evening of Day 1. Please note that you will need to give your tour leader the Local Payment in US dollars cash at this meeting.

The hotel serves breakfast from 6-10am in their adjoining restaurant. Continental breakfast (bread, jam and tea/coffee and juice) costs 800 colones and an American breakfast with eggs costs 1500 Colones. The restaurant also serves lunch and dinner. The hotel has safe deposit boxes for your use (you will get an itemised receipt). Please leave all of your important documents, money and travellers cheques here when you go out but remember to carry some form of ID and a photocopy of your passport with you. It is advisable not to wear chains or expensive looking watches or jewellery while in major South American cities. You should also keep your camera concealed when not in use and carry daypacks on your front for extra safety. Crime in Latin America is not as bad as its reputation but you must be sensible and alert.

Enjoy your tour with Tucan Travel!



Joining Hotel Details

HOTEL VESUVIO
Av.11, Calles 13-15,
N1333, Barrio Otoya
San Jose
Costa Rica
Tel: (506) 256 1616

