

COSTA RICA

ECO EXPLORER



JUST GO

EBROCHURE 2020

AESU



START YOUR **ADVENTURE.**

WHY CHOOSE AESU?

ABOUT US

When deciding on a team you can trust to send you on the most magical, informative and fun travel experience, you need not look any further than AESU. We are an Educational Travel Service company founded in 1977. Our headquarters is located in Baltimore, MD with satellite and partner offices around the globe.

With over 40 years of experience we can safely say we know how to combine the wonders of history, the excitement of culture and of course, the adventure of experiencing the world. The balance of learning and fun provides a well-rounded experience, unforgettable memories, and new friendships to last a lifetime. It's time to stop dreaming about travel and start delving into it head first. When travelling with AESU, you get the most out of your journey, from trying local delicacies, to venturing into ancient territories, to living every moment of your time in each city to its absolute fullest. We want you to not only make an investment in the quality of your trip, but in the quality of every memory made along the way.

What are you waiting for? Just go!

OUR EXPERTISE

TRIPS FOR 18 - 35 YEAR OLDS

COLLEGE STUDENT AND YOUNG
PROFESSIONAL TRIPS

GRADUATION TOURS

YOUNG ALUMNI JOURNEYS

TRADITIONAL ALUMNI JOURNEYS

STUDY ABROAD AND STUDENT TRAVEL

FACULTY-LED PROGRAMS TO
DESTINATIONS WORLDWIDE

CUSTOMIZED GROUP TRAVEL
SPECIALIST FOR ALL AGES

The AESU logo is displayed in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters on a teal background. A stylized white swoosh or underline is positioned beneath the letters 'S' and 'U'.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

We highly recommend travel insurance. AESU also offers group travel insurance. Ask our reservations agent for details or click on this link:

<https://www.tripassure.com/main/?welcome=AESU3922MD>

COSTA RICA ECO EXPLORER

5 DAYS

PLACES VISITED:

Playa Hermosa, Guanacaste - Rincon de la Vieja

ABOUT THE TRIP:

Travel to this small but very diverse country on an adventure tour of wildly contrasting landscapes. From volcanoes to waterfalls and tropical forests, from exotic birds and playful monkeys to jungle-canopy walks and hot springs: Costa Rica offers an incredible assortment of outdoor adventures in many shapes and forms. Go canopy zip lining, try out your surfing skills, enjoy a sun-dazed afternoon at the beach and explore the rain and cloud forests in the national parks. You won't run out of things to do. Don't miss out on this amazing adventure.



WHAT'S INCLUDED:

The 5-day land package includes:

- 4 nights in superior tourist class hotels or better, 2-share rooms with private bath/shower
- * 4 continental breakfasts * 1 lunch * 2 specialty dinners: Welcome dinner & farewell dinner *
- All-day Adventure Pass to Rincon de la Vieja National Park including: Hiking - Zip lining - Horseback riding - Tarzan swings - Tubing - Hot springs

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

- Welcome orientation and dinner *
- Hermosa Beach *
- All-day Adventure Pass to Rincon de la Vieja National Park *
- Canyon Tour *
- Zip lining *
- Tarzan swings *
- Horseback riding *
- Waterfalls *
- Volcanos *
- Rainforest *
- Hot Springs ...and much more!



COSTA RICA ECO EXPLORER

ITINERARY

DAY 1 - FLIGHT TO COSTA RICA and LAND TOUR START DAY: HERMOSA BEACH

Today, embark on your flight to Liberia, Costa Rica. Upon arrival, transfer to our beach hotel. Meet fellow explorers at the welcome dinner and orientation with your tour host tonight.

Meals: In-flight, Dinner

Inclusions: Airport transfer included with purchased AESU group airfare, Welcome orientation and dinner

DAY 2 - PLAYA HERMOSA, GUANACASTE - RINCON DE LA VIEJA

After breakfast a full day of adventure begins. A private bus takes us to Rincon de la Vieja National Park, one of the country's most diverse ecological regions. Surrounding two volcanoes, Rincon and Santa Maria, the park is also home to an extraordinary display of flora and fauna, and is part of the Area de Conservacion Guanacaste World Heritage Site. This tropical forest refuge attracts scientists, students, birdwatchers, and nature lovers from around the world. Exciting activities at the park include: 'The Canyon Tour,' a thrilling adventure through the Kazm Cañon, a majestic canyon created by the erosion of the Blanco River. Here there are opportunities for canopy zip lining, rappelling, crossing hanging bridges and more. Consider enjoying a horseback ride to the waterfalls, visiting Azufrales Hot Springs at Rincon, or tubing on Rio Negro. We return to our beach hotel on Playa Hermosa this evening.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Inclusions: Rincon de la Vieja national Park admission, Rincon and Santa Maria volcanoes, Flora and fauna at the Conservacion Guanacaste World Heritage Site, Tropical forests, Waterfalls, Canyon Tour, Tarzan swings, Zip lining, Rappelling, Hanging bridges, Horseback riding, Tubing

DAY 3 - PLAYA HERMOSA

Enjoy a day at the beach or consider an optional rafting tour on the Colorado River through beautiful canyons with wildlife, lush vegetation and pristine waters. Relax on this leisure evening and watch another magnificent sunset while dipping your toes in the surf, or explore the colorful local town's dive shops and restaurants.

Meals: Breakfast

Inclusions: Hermosa beach time

Optional activity: Whitewater rafting on the Colorado River

DAY 4 - PLAYA HERMOSA

Plan your day as you like. Consider optional surf lessons, snorkeling and other water sports activities, or enjoy a lazy day just playing in the sand. Your tour director can assist with arranging additional activities such as a deep-sea fishing trip. Tonight, join fellow travelers at our farewell dinner.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Inclusions: Hermosa beach time, Farewell dinner

Optional activities: Water sports (surfing, snorkeling, etc.)



COSTA RICA ECO EXPLORER

ITINERARY

DAY 5 - TRAVEL HOME

After breakfast our land program ends and we bid farewell to sunny Costa Rica, our new-found friends and fellow adventurers. (Please note that a departure tax is due in cash at the airport before departure.)

Meals: Breakfast, In-flight

Inclusions: Transfer from hotel to airport included with purchased AESU group airfare

Community development: A portion of your trip cost will go to benefit the following projects: local animal sanctuary 'Refugio Herpetológico' in Santa Ana, the primary school 'Ticufres,' and organic garden planning in the isolated mountain community of 'Providencia de Dota.'

Your trip includes the services of a private tour director for the duration of the land tour. All services charges and local taxes are included. Thank your tour director and driver with a gratuity at the end of the tour (suggested amount \$4-5 per day for the tour director, \$2-3 per day for the driver.) They will do their very best to make this trip the most memorable and best time of your life.



PROGRAM ACCOMMODATIONS

HOTELS

Our hotels are superior tourist-class or better, with private bathrooms. They are centrally located or have easy access to public transportation. Many have great extra amenities such as pools, gyms and roof-top bars. All land package rates are based on two people sharing a room. If traveling solo and not wanting to pay the single supplement, AESU will attempt to arrange a share with a same-gender traveler. If a share cannot be arranged a single supplement of \$425 will apply.



ACTIVITY LEVEL 3: MODERATE/ACTIVE

This trip features some full-day excursions, and a full and active itinerary with a faster pace. It offers activities with higher intensity. Excursions require standing and walking for extended periods of time over more difficult terrain (e.g. cobblestones, city hills, stairs without handrails, limited or no access to elevators, muddy/slippery walking/hiking trails.) Appropriate for travelers who are physically fit, lead active lives and are comfortable participating in long days of activities.

Please Note:

Travel to and from the tour is not factored into our activity level ratings. You should take into account your stamina when traveling long distances and/or with multiple flight changes. Also, you must be able to handle your luggage independently throughout the itinerary.

TOUR DIRECTORS

We are very proud of our tour directors. They are young professionals; multi-lingual and carefully selected graduates from major European universities. They are eager to show the world through the eyes of an adventurer. Our tour directors know this is a trip of a lifetime and will share their knowledge as well as interesting little-known facts. Our qualified tour directors and staff of local experts mean a trouble-free journey with the added security of group travel.



“BRAVO... YOU MADE THIS TRIP EDUCATIONAL, EXCITING AND ADVENTUROUS!”

- past traveler

BOOKING TERMS & CONDITIONS

EXCLUSIONS: These prices do not include passport and, if applicable, visa fees (Depending on your nationality, you may require visas in addition to a passport to enter certain countries. You must contact appropriate consulates for details on how to obtain on your own.); airport and government taxes; tipping of tour guide and driver (suggested \$4-5 per day for tour director, \$2-3 per day for driver); beverages with meals unless indicated otherwise; laundry; personal insurance; room service; telephone charges; all items of a personal nature; airport transfers when a participant deviates from scheduled flights or travel dates; private transportation; and all items not specifically stated in the itinerary.

CANCELLATION POLICY: All cancellations must be received by AESU in writing. All cancellations for any reason whatsoever will be subject to a \$300 per person cancellation fee. Date of receipt will determine penalties assessed. In addition to \$300, cancellation between 60-31 days of departure will result in forfeiture of 35% of tour cost; between 30-16 days 50%. Cancellation within 15 days of departure or a "no-show" at the time of departure will result in forfeiture of the entire cost of the trip.

AIRFARES are highly restrictive, NON-REFUNDABLE, NON-ENDORSABLE and NON-TRANSFERABLE once ticketed. Once reservation is booked and paid for AESU reserves the right to issue tickets. Once ticketed, airfare portion is non-refundable. Cancellation of airfare reservations is subject to restrictions, regulations and additional penalties of the airlines used. Reservation changes are also subject to penalties. Medical health and accident insurance is compulsory. PLEASE SEE WEBSITE FOR POSSIBLE ADDITIONS TO CANCELLATION POLICIES LISTED ABOVE DEPENDING ON TRIP DESTINATION.

AIRPORT TRANSFERS & BAGGAGE: All participants using AESU flights on regular group departure days and flights receive airport transfers (between airport & tour hotel) overseas. Land-Only participants (providing own flight overseas) do NOT receive airport transfers and must meet group at the first hotel after 3:00 p.m. on program start date. **FLIGHT DELAYS - ALL AIRPORTS:** In the event that airline schedule changes or delays force you to miss your airport transfer, just make your way to the first hotel listed on your hotel list. Many shuttle services are available as well as taxi or train options. As airline delays are beyond the control of AESU, additional expenses, if incurred, will be borne by the tour participant. (Save receipts for possible reimbursement by airline.) AESU is not responsible if an airline cancels, reschedules, or delays a flight for any reason. If you miss your departure flight, it is your responsibility to work with the airline on which you are ticketed to reach your destination. AESU is not responsible for any additional expenses you may incur prior to joining your trip. AESU is not responsible for and will not provide any refund for portions of trips missed due to canceled, rescheduled, or delayed flights. If you purchase your own airfare, book your overnight flight from the USA one day earlier than the tour start date listed on our website. Participants should limit themselves to one checked bag per person and one carry-on per person. Check your airline's website for any additional luggage restrictions. Liability is clearly stated on the passenger contract.

RESPONSIBILITY: The responsibility of AESU as a tour operator, their agents, and any sponsoring association is limited. They act only in the capacity of agents for the passenger in all matters pertaining to accommodations, sightseeing and transportation whether by railroad, motorboat, motorcar, steamship or plane, and as such they shall not be liable for any personal injury, death, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity which may be occasioned, whether by reason of any defect in any vehicle, or through the acts or default of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger, or in carrying out the arrangement of the tour. They can accept no responsibility for strike, war, quarantine, weather and any other natural or unnatural causes. Additional expenses, if incurred under any of these circumstances, will be borne by the tour participant. By forwarding the deposit, the passenger certifies that he/she has no physical, mental or other condition or disability that would create a hazard for himself/ herself or other passengers & accepts the terms of this contract. The right is reserved to decline, to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour or to cancel or alter the tour as required. If improvements in the itinerary can be made, or unforeseen conditions beyond AESU's control make changes necessary, they reserve the right to alter itineraries without penalty. Trip cancellation insurance should be purchased by the individual traveler in the event cancellation of the tour is compelled by circumstances beyond our control. In the event of cancellation due to insufficient number of participants, AESU's liability shall be limited to a FULL REFUND of all payments received from applicants, except non-refundable airfare and insurance. Baggage and personal injury are at owner's risk entirely. The issuance or acceptance of vouchers or tickets shall be considered consent of the above conditions. AESU reserves the right to increase the program price in the event of cost increases due to changes in airfares, currency fluctuations or fuel surcharges. The airlines concerned and their affiliates and agents are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not on board the aircrafts. The passenger ticket in use by said airlines, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the airlines and the purchaser of these tickets and/or the passenger. All services are subject to the laws of the country in which these services are rendered. No refund or allowance will be made for absence during the tour, or for activities missed, even if for causes beyond the control of the participant. For complete terms & conditions, please refer to our web site at www.aesu.com.