

Dold World Journeys presents

# Costa Rica & Nicaragua 17 days

*A mix of Natural Beauty and Colonial Discovery!*



## Dates & Prices

Leave **Sun. Jan. 15** - Return **Tue. Jan. 31, 2017** - **\$5,295**

Single Room Supplement - \$995 / Triple Reduction (\$205) / Land Only - \$4,237 / Travel Insurance - \$289

**Save Up To \$100** with our Sign-up Discounts.

**\$170** - Globus Journeys Club Discount (submit your Globus Journeys Club number to qualify).

## Highlights

- 15 nights in First Class or hotels with rustic character. **Custom First Class Globus.** 15 (B) Breakfasts, 5 (L) Lunches including a homemade lunch at the Trapiche Farm, and 15 (D) Dinners, with Welcome Dinner in San Jose and Farewell Dinners in Rincon De La Vieja National Park and Managua.
- Escorted by **Alex Dold** from Honolulu. Specially selected Globus tour directors. Local guides and/or Naturalists at sites. Twin-bedded rooms with private bath or shower, hotel taxes, service charges, and tips for baggage handling.
- **United Airlines** from Honolulu. Multiple boat rides in Tortuguero National Park, float trip on the Penas Blancas River, and ferry ride to and from Ometepe Island. Horse-drawn Carriage Tour in Granada. Private motorcoach with air-conditioning.
- Guided City sightseeing Granada, Leon, and Managua. Orientation tour of San Jose.
- Guided Nature walks at the Tortuguero Rainforest, Santa Elena Cloud Forest Reserve, Arenal's Natura Park, Rincon De La Vieja National Park, Valle Escondida Preserve, and Charco Verde Natural Reserve.
- Scenic highlights include Tortuguero National Park, Rainforest, Natura Park, Ecotermals Hot Springs, Santa Elena Cloud Forest Reserve, Rincon De La Vieja National Park, Ometepe Island Biosphere Reserve (UNESCO), Masaya Volcano, and San Jacinto Mud Pots.
- Special features include Banana Plantation, Skywalk and Night Walk in Monteverde, Night exploration of Masaya Volcano lava tubes, Nicaraguan Chocolate making workshop, and Flor De Cana Rum Factory tour with samples.
- Interact with locals at a School in San Carlos as they perform a traditional dance and folklore show; also in San Carlo visit a family Farm; at the Trapiche Farm learn about Costa Rican production and savor a homemade lunch, and at the villages of Los Pueblos Blancos browse the many craft stalls and workshops.

# Itinerary

**Day 1. Honolulu Departure.** Our exploration of Costa Rica amazing nature and the discovery of Nicaragua begins tonight with an overnight departure for the Houston, Texas. The preliminary flight schedule is displayed online at [doldworldjourneys.com](http://doldworldjourneys.com) under the journey's page.

**Day 2. Via Houston to San Jose, Costa Rica.** After a quick connection in Houston, take a comfortable four hour flight to arrive at San Jose's Juan Santamaría International Airport a little after noon (*the same day*). We clear immigration and customs then are met by our Globus Tour director for a transfer to the Wyndham Herradura Hotel for the night. After we settled in and freshen up, we enjoy an orientation tour of San Jose before a savoring our Welcome Dinner. (D)

**Day 3. To Tortuguero.** This morning we journey east to the **Caribbean shore** and **Tortuguero National Park**. On the way, stop at a working **Banana Plantation**. In the afternoon, board a motor launch for our cruise along the **Tortuguero Canals**, waterways crisscrossing a national park dedicated to the protection of endangered turtles. The trained eyes of our guide and boatman help us spot freshwater turtles, caimans, herons, toucans, egrets, and monkeys.

The park is a water thoroughfare which is a 100 mile stretch of natural rivers, lagoons and estuaries, and connection man-made waterways that run almost to the Nicaraguan border. The canal is the main "highway" of the northern coastal region, complete with directional signs and branches for the main trunk route.

Some leisure time lets us explore Laguna Lodge until it's time for an informative slideshow presentation on the area. This will be our home for the next two nights. (B), (L), (D)

**Day 4. Exploring Tortuguero National Park.** A local Naturalist accompanies us on a leisurely boat ride along remote, unspoiled sections of the park's waterways, explaining the bountiful flora and fauna along the way. Enjoy a fascinating stroll through an accessible portion of the nearby **Rainforest**. Later we visit the **Sea Turtle Conservancy Museum** to learn about the nesting cycle of the Green Sea Turtles that come to this area to nest along the beach each year. (B), (L), (D)

**Day 5. Via San Carlos to Arenal.** A morning boat transfer begins our journey to the **San Carlos** area. Arrive at a **Local School** where we will be welcomed by the school students who will perform a *traditional dance* and *folklore show*. Next, continue to a **local Farm** to learn about organic farming and the traditions of the Costa Rican family. We will learn about the cultivating and harvesting of two of Costa Rica's main exports, *sugar cane* and *coffee*. Continue to the Volcano Lodge in the lush town of Arenal, located in the shadow of Arenal Volcano. After settling in, experience the magic of the resort's pool and hot spring-fed Jacuzzi or consider a walk in the nearby nature trail in search of 300- to 400-year-old trees, poisonous frogs, monkeys, birds, and possibly small animals native to the area. (B), (L), (D)

**Day 6. Discovering Arenal.** This morning, enjoy the sights and the sounds of the **rainforest** and experience its peacefulness while paddling the **Penas Blancas River**. Monkeys, sloths, iguanas, crocodiles and numerous tropical birds are waiting for us. A professional guide explain and point out the local flora and fauna as we peacefully float down the river without a motor.

This afternoon, enjoy a walking tour of the town of **La Fortuna de San Carlos**, offering spectacular views of the active Arenal Volcano. Next a Naturalist guides us through **Natura Park**. On our stroll keep an eye out for toucans, iguanas, frogs, birds, butterflies, and caimans commonly seen here. Then drive to nearby **Ecotermales Hot Springs** for a dip in the curative and relaxing pools. This evening, view **Arenal Volcano**, hoping to see lava glowing on its sides. (B), (D)

**Day 7. To Monteverde.** After breakfast, our coach takes us through the rustic rural countryside to **Monteverde**, where we will savor two days in the cloud forest. The forest is created by the winds, particular temperature and moisture conditions, and mountainous topography which combine during the dry season to hold a steady cloud cover along the Continental Divide.

This afternoon, take a guided tour on the **Skywalk hanging bridges**, which combines trails and suspension bridges through the canopy of **Monteverde Cloud Forest**, to search for flora and fauna. There is more to the forest than the trees and lesser plants. Of over 320 bird species, the most notable is the quetzal with its long arc of tail feathers. About 500 kinds of butterfly are found at Monteverde. Among the more than 100 mammalian species are howler, white-faced and spider monkeys, coatis and their cousins, raccoons.

As night falls this evening, experience a **Night Walk** in the Valle Escondida Preserve. This is the best time to explore with our expert Naturalist as the jungle and its animals come alive. El Establo Mountain Hotel. (B), (D)

**Day 8. Experiencing Monteverde.** We start with a visit to **Santa Elena Cloud Forest Reserve**. Located on the Continental Divide of Costa Rica, the Santa Elena Cloud Forest Reserve comprises an area of 765 acres, and is home to forest fauna such as the resplendent quetzal, jaguars, ocelots, monkeys, and numerous species of birds. With almost 100% humidity throughout the year, the cloud forest experiences almost 12 feet of rain per year. Later, visit the family-owned **Trapiche Farm**, where we savor a homemade lunch. While here, learn about the production of sugar cane, coffee, and the traditional ways of cultivating bananas, arracacha (a local legume), avocado, macadamia nuts, as well as other products. The remainder of our day is at leisure. (B), (L), (D)

**Day 9. To Rincon de la Vieja National Park.** *Today adventure was highly recommend by Todd Ney as the only a few Costa Rica programs include this visit.* We transfer to **Rincon De La Vieja National Park**. Rincon de la Vieja is one of the most active volcanoes in Costa Rica. Towering with nine extraordinary eruption points, at over 6,200 feet high, it is part of the *Guanacaste Mountain Range*. The park contains small geysers, bubbling mud pots and mineral hot springs that have earned it the name, "*Costa Rica's Yellowstone.*"

On our stroll search for insects, butterflies, extraordinary vegetation and numerous waterways like the *Colorado River* and the *Rio Blanco*. Over 300 species of birds have been recorded to live within the park, like emerald toucans, and long-tailed manakins. Three different species of monkeys and other extraordinary animals also know this place as their home. And we'll have the chance to glimpse the *wild purple orchids* protected by this area. Tonight, our Costa Rican Tour Director hosts a Farewell Dinner, toasting an unforgettable visit to his country. Borinquen Resort. (B), (D)

**Day 10. To Ometepe Island, Nicaragua.** This morning we head north for Nicaragua and then say "Aloha" to Costa Rica and our new found friends. After clearing our border formalities we take a ferry across **Lake Nicaragua** to **Ometepe Island**, a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve and home to 30,000 people and rich pre-Columbian vestiges. It is considered one of the most impressive sights in Central America.

**Ometepe** is somewhat isolated from the rest of Nicaragua and therefore still maintains its special mystery and charm. Its beautiful scenery, archeological ruins and rural life amazes visitors from all over the world. Our next to nights are at the rustic Charco Verde Hotel. (B), (L), (D)

**Day 11. Exploring Ometepe Island.** This morning drive to the slopes of **Maderas Volcano**, where we visit a farm to see the ancient carved rocks of different shapes, circles, spirals and zoomorphic forms of animals and humans. After thousands of years these petroglyphs still remain in their natural state and are the oldest pre-Columbian art in Central America. Next continue to **Ometepe Museum** in Altagracia where we view some of the largest stone idols found on Ometepe and also learn about the geology and culture of the island.

Our final visit today takes us to **Charco Verde Natural Reserve** located between the Maderas and Concepcion Volcanoes. This natural reserve encompasses a lagoon once used by the native Indians to make sacrifices and offerings to their gods but today provides shelter for the island's wildlife including monkeys, armadillos and anteaters. (B), (D)

**Day 12. Via Catarina Viewpoint to Granada.** Today we depart Ometepe Island and head for **Catarina Viewpoint** overlooking Apoyo Lagoon. Take some time to marvel at the breathtaking views of Granada and Lake Nicaragua. Then continue to **Granada**, founded in 1524 by Captain Francisco Hernandez de Cordoba, and considered to be the most beautiful Latin American cities for its colonial heritage. This ancient town on the shore of Lake Nicaragua is full of history and Spanish Colonial charm and is one of the oldest European Settlements in the western hemisphere.

Enjoy a guided tour by foot and on *Horse-Drawn Carriage*. Granada is historically one of Nicaragua's most important cities both economically and politically. As with all colonial cities in Central America, Granada is built around its main square (*Parque Central*) that represents the city's social, cultural, and economic hub. Here we find the Cathedral, City Hall, important banks, cultural centers, as well as a myriad of small shops and stalls selling traditional food and handicrafts. Enjoy the next two nights at The Hotel Granada. (B), (D)

**Day 13. Discover Los Pueblos Blancos.** North of Granada, we follow the route of **Los Pueblos Blancos** or the "*White Villages*," so named for their Spanish-style churches and white casitas with colorful windows and doors. The rural villages, known for their market stalls, restaurants and scenic lookouts, are also distinguished by a particular craft the local people of

each village produce. For instance, *San Juan de Oriente* is a major center for wonderful pottery, and we can visit many of the prize-winning potters in their workshops. *Masatapa* is the country's rocking-chair capital, and also tables and dressers. The specialty of the pueblo of *Diriomo* is sorcery and witchcraft. Pueblos Blancos is also known for its calendar full of traditional festivals.

After dinner, enjoy a unique excursion which takes us to **Masaya Volcano** at night. See the resident parrots and parakeets who have adapted to the sulfur smoke and return to their home inside an active crater. Take a walk inside lava tubes and see three different species of bats who call this home while learning about the geology and ecology of the area. (B), (D)

**Day 14. Via Leon Viejo & the San Jacinto Mud Pots to Leon.** For a special treat this morning we will learn how to roast, winnow, and grind cacao beans; mix, conch, and refine chocolate liquor; and *mold our own handmade Nicaraguan chocolate* bar that we take with us. During the workshop see real cacao trees and learn about the history and botany of cacao and chocolate. Even sample Maya, Aztec, and Spanish cacao drinks well and get the recipes if you want.

Next, explore **Leon Viejo** (UNESCO), one of the oldest Spanish colonial settlements in the Americas. The ruins are a remarkable testimony to the economic and social structures of the Spanish Empire in the 16th century as the site preserves the original layout of the first cities founded by the Spaniards in the New World. It also testifies to experiments carried out on materials to find those that would be used in future colonial buildings erected in the Americas. Later visit the **San Jacinto Mud Pots** to see how boiling mud holes are formed from the underground magmatic chambers produced from nearby volcanoes. The field is not big but it is interesting to walk around and see the fiercely bubbling holes, which differ in size and color. Spend two nights at the Las Mercedes Hotel. (B), (D)

**Day 15. Leon City & Rum Tour.** We start the day getting to know the colonial city of **Leon**, that was founded by Francisco Hernandez de Cordoba in the year 1524 next to Lake Xolotlan and the active Momotombo Volcano. The city was actually built next to the town known as Imabite but in the year 1610 it was moved to its current location after being destroyed by a series of eruptions from the Momotombo Volcano and the city was basically buried. That is why the city is dubbed the *Central American Pompeii*. See the main churches including the monumental **Cathedral** (UNESCO), the largest in Central America, the birth house of Nicaragua's most beloved poet, **Ruben Dario**, the "*Ortiz Gurdian*" art gallery and the "*El Convento*" Hotel with its colonial architecture.

In the afternoon savor a guided tour of **Flor De Cana Rum Factory**. Learn the history of how sugar cane came to the America's and the origin and development of rum worldwide. Witness the fascinating process used to process the rum, learn about the maintenance of the oak barrels, and see firsthand the impressive warehouses with hundreds of oak barrels with 25 year old rum. End our visit with a tasting session of 18 year old rum. (B), (D)

**Day 16. To Managua.** Warm and sunny **Managua** has been the capital of Nicaragua since 1852 and today we get to know this divided city. To the north, we discover the *old city center*; destroyed by an earthquake in 1972, and to the south you explore the *downtown* of Managua where most of the investments are being made. Visit the **National Historic Park Loma de Tiscapa** and get to know the story behind national hero *Augusto Cesar Sandino* and the Somoza dictatorship. View the ruins of the **old presidential palace**, also destroyed by the earthquake that leveled the city, the monument to **Simon Bolivar**, the **National Theater Ruben Dario**, and the **New Presidential House**. In the *new city*, see the modern and metropolitan **Cathedral** as well as the many new investments like hotels, bars, restaurants, and shopping areas. This evening enjoy a special Farewell Dinner hosted by our Tour Director. Hyatt Place Hotel. (B), (D)

**Day 17. To Honolulu.** In the early morning we say "Aloha" to our newly found Nicaraguan friends as we transfer to the airport for our flight via Houston and Los Angeles to Honolulu. (B)

**Please note:** *while this journey may seem like an adventures trek, we don't do any strenuous hiking. This program is designed for our casual strolling Travel Ohana. Someone who has walking challenges could easily visit these places and rest along the way. Please keep in mind; I am always in the back of the group to help. Of course, it is possible to do little more challenging hikes if you want.*

# General Conditions - Costa Rica & Nicaragua

**DEPOSIT AND FINAL PAYMENT:** A **\$250** per person *credit card* deposit processed by the Globus Family is required to secure your space. Please **do not** send money. Once we receive your Reservation Form we will contact you. This deposit is part of your final payment, which is due no later than **65 days** prior to departure. You will receive a final payment request approximately two weeks before its due date. Final payment will be divided, with the land portion going to the Globus Family and the international airfare plus any extras going to ES International (DWJ's airline ticketing agent).

Sign-up discounts are combinable with other discounts, but are not transferable to other programs. Land-only space is limited. Land price does NOT include airport transfers, dayrooms, or pre or post night hotel accommodations. *These can be purchased.*

**CANCELLATION AND REFUND:** Full refund\* will be made, if cancellation is received up to **120 days** prior to departure; thereafter, only the monies which will be recovered from the hotels, tour operators, airlines, etc., will be refunded. No refund will be made for services not used once the tour commences. All refunds or penalties are subject to the rules and tariffs of the vendors concerned. (\*Note: once your airline ticket is issued it is non-refundable.) There is a \$30 fee for any changes made after 65 days.

**TRAVEL INSURANCE:** We recommended purchasing travel insurance with your DEPOSIT. This will insure you are covered from a pre-existing condition AND Cancel for Any Reason. We will send you a copy of the coverage offered for this journey. This insurance is refundable up to 120 days prior to departure. You can also purchase insurance with final payment but **will not** be covered for a pre-existing condition nor Cancel for Any Reason.

**PRICE:** Prices are per person based on two people sharing a room/cabin and accurate as of August 3, 2016. Our program prices are guaranteed (unless taxes increase). We need a minimum of 14 people flying with the group to operate this program.

**PRICE INCLUDES:** The journey price includes airfare based on a special group fare, which is subject to certain restrictions; accommodations in First class or Best Available (character) hotels based on two people sharing a room/cabin with private facilities (bath or shower); meals as indicated in the itinerary: (B) breakfast, (L) lunch, and (D) dinner; and entrance fees where applicable.

**NOT INCLUDED:** The trip price does not include passport expenses; meals not listed above; all beverages; airport tax; baggage and health insurance; laundry expenses; and all items of a personal nature. Tips to tour directors, tour drivers, local guides, and hotel personnel; excursions; city sightseeing; and entrance fees are excluded unless specifically noted in the itinerary.

**PASSPORT AND DOCUMENTS:** A passport valid 6 months past the date of your return with at least 3 blank pages is required. Visas are not required for U.S. citizens on this program. Your passport copies are due with the **deposit**.

**SINGLE SUPPLEMENT:** Single rooms are limited. For persons who wish to share hotel rooms, every effort will be made to find you a roommate; however, if this is not possible, through choice or circumstance, the single supplement must be charged.

**SIGHTSEEING AND TRANSFERS:** All sightseeing and transfers are by private deluxe air-conditioned motorcoach with extra leg room. No Smoking on Globus coaches.

**BAGGAGE:** Due to limited motorcoach capacity, only one suitcase (50 lbs maximum) and one carry-on per person will be allowed. Porterage for this suitcase is included in the journey's price. No responsibility is accepted for loss of or damage to baggage or any of the passengers' belongings. We recommend buying travel insurance.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** Dold World Journeys, LLC. and Group Voyagers Inc., dba Globus, 5301 S. Federal Circle, Littleton, CO 80123 (hereinafter referred to as "the Companies") are responsible to you in making arrangements for the tour services offered in the itinerary, including transportation, sightseeing, and hotel accommodations.

The carriers, hotels and other suppliers providing tour services are independent contractors and are not agents, employees, or servants of, or joint ventures with, the Companies or its affiliates. All certificates and other travel documents for tour services issued by the Companies are subject to the terms and conditions specified by the supplier and to the laws of the countries in which the services are supplied. If, after tour departure, the services included in the tour cannot be supplied or there are changes in an itinerary for reasons beyond the control of the Companies, the Companies will arrange for the provision of comparable services. Any resulting additional expense will be payable by tour participants and any resulting savings will be refunded by the Companies to tour participants.

The Companies reserves the right to accept or reject any person as a tour participant, to expel any tour participant from the tour, to make changes in the itinerary whenever the Companies deems it necessary for the comfort, convenience, or safety of the tour participants, and to cancel a tour at any time.

Any disability requiring special attention should be reported to Globus at the time the reservation is made. Globus will make reasonable attempts to accommodate the special needs of disabled tour participants, but the Companies are not responsible for any denial of services by carriers, hotels, restaurants, and other independent suppliers. The motorcoach company and other carrier employees may not physically lift participants or assist them on or off transportation vehicles. Persons requiring such assistance must be accompanied by a qualified companion.

The tour participant agrees that neither the Companies nor its affiliates shall be liable for any damages, loss (including personal injury, death, and property loss), or expense occasioned by any act or omission of any supplier providing tour services or of any other person.

Legal proceedings against the Companies may be instituted only in a state or federal court located within the State of Colorado, and any claim involved in such proceedings shall be decided in accordance with the laws of the State of Colorado. Any legal proceedings against the Companies must be commenced within one year following the date of tour completion.

No person other than an authorized representative of the Companies, by a document in writing, is authorized to vary, add, or waive any term or condition in regard to this tour program, including any term or condition set forth in the preceding provisions. (Travel Agents Registration #7051)

# Reservation Form

## Costa Rica & Nicaragua

Date of Tour: \_\_\_\_\_

To join our journey please complete, sign, and return by e-mail or mail. If the itinerary has been finalized a per person credit card deposit (and possibly insurance payment) will be due to hold your space.

### Dold World Journeys, LLC

4348 Waialae Avenue, Box 372, Honolulu, HI 96816

alex@doldworldjourneys.com / www.DoldWorldJourneys.com / (808) 732-9430

Name (1): Mr. Mrs. Ms. \_\_\_\_\_

Roommate (2): Mr. Mrs. Ms. \_\_\_\_\_

### *Correspondence & Billing Information*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Other Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

### *In Case Of Emergency While On Tour, Please Notify*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Other Phone \_\_\_\_\_

### *Secure Flight Passenger Information*

We need your LEGAL NAME and BIRTH DATE for all tours

Passport copies are due with final payment for all international tours, including Canada & Mexico.

### **Person 1**

Legal Name \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_

Citizenship \_\_\_\_\_ Example: United States, Japan, Philippines

### **Person 2**

Legal Name \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_

Citizenship \_\_\_\_\_ Example: United States, Japan, Philippines

By signing this application I acknowledge that I have read the General Conditions and agree with the terms outlined therein.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

*World Explorations in the Dold Family Tradition of Value and Service!*