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11 Day Homestay Itinerary

DAY 1

After a morning flight, you arrive in San Jose, Costa Rica and meet your Infinite Forest Guide. We drive along the Pan American highway to the Monteverde Region. We relax this evening in the comfort of our Cloud Forest bungalows after a long day of travel.

DAY 2

Today we fly! We visit Sky-Trek and zip line through the canopies of the cloud forest. Expert guides will assist us through all 11 cables, one that is over 700 meters long! We will learn about orchids and other plants that are specific to the cloud forest and possibly have a chance to see the great Resplendent Quetzal. In the afternoon we visit the Monteverde Butterfly Garden to learn about some of the forest's most intricate creatures. In the evening we dine at an exotic restaurant in town.

DAY 3

In the morning we drive around Lake Arenal on the way to the breathtaking Arenal Volcano, Costa Rica's most active volcano. We stop for lunch at an organic sandwich shop with teeming bird life and great views. After lunch, we are introduced to the proper rainforest on a short hike to a stunning waterfall. We swim in the refreshing pools at its base. In the evening, we bathe in Natural Hot Springs, with a view of the lava spewing volcano.

DAY 4

Today we make our way to the Caribbean Coast of the country. On the way we will pass through the Northern lowlands in the Sarapiquí area and see many different types of farming techniques. We will have lunch on the road and stop by a Banana plantation to learn about one of Costa Rica's top export fruits. We will end up in the flavorful coastal town of Puerto Viejo where we catch a sunset on the beach and have dinner.

DAY 5

Our day begins with a visit to the Kekoldi Indigenous Reserve where we learn about the culture and customs of the Bri-Bri peoples. We start out in the Iguana Farm, a local project working to save the endangered Green Iguana. Our Bri-Bri native guide will take us on a walk through secondary and primary forests to teach us about the medicinal plants and trees that have supported their people's existence for 1000's of years. Upon our return we will be served a lunch prepared with organic foods from their local gardens. In the afternoon we swim at one of the most beautiful beaches in Costa Rica. Punta Uva is a magical spot where the forest meets the sea and monkeys are often spotted eating sea grapes on the point. In the evening we will have a delicious dinner at one of towns local restaurants.

DAY 6

We wake up early to ride bicycles to the sleepy town of Manzanillo. The 16km ride will take us down the brilliant Caribbean coast all the way to the end of the road. There we will meet a local Naturalist guide and hike through the Gandoca-Manzanillo Wildlife Reserve. The trail weaves from beach into jungle and our local guide will be stopping along the way to teach us about the vast bio-diversity of this Tropical Humid Forest. We return to the beach to have a picnic lunch, and then ride our bikes back to the hotel for dinner.

DAY 7

After a final relaxing morning in the Caribbean, we leave the coast for the Pacuare area and our home stay in a small rural town. We will meet our families and settle in for the next couple of days of learning and living like a local.

Home Stays

Home stays are stepping stones to learning about the country which you are visiting. Students and individuals stay with rural Tico (Costa Rican) families in their proper homes for several days or more. The idea is for the traveler to become part of the family and do what the family does. This unique experience not only exposes you to a different lifestyle and culture, it allows you to practice and enhance your language skills and make new friends. Daytime activities may include local service projects, a visit to a snake museum, visits to schools, and activities with the young folks and families exploring the village and surrounding areas. All meals will be eaten with the families.

DAY 8

Home stay.

DAY 9

Home stay

DAY 10

We say goodbye to our host family and get ready to have unforgettable day of white water rafting on the Pacuare River. This is one of the top 5 rafting rivers on the planet with class 3 and 4 rapids. Expert experienced guides will safely guide us on our adventure. The river cuts through virgin forest on the Caribbean slope and passes numerous waterfalls that practically pour into our raft. We will have lunch on the river and later return to San Jose to have our farewell dinner.

DAY 11

Depending on the time of your flight we may have time to visit local markets and a museum in the city. Then we board the plane with memories to last a lifetime and head home to share stories with family and friends.