The following sample itinerary is abridged from the 2023 ARTravel trip itinerary. The 2024 trip itinerary will be substantially similar.

Optional pre-trip extension:

Monday, January 8 - Bienvenidos!

Arrival in San Jose, Cost Rica and transfer to hotel
Informal dinner at a local restaurant

Overnight at Crowne Plaza Corobici Hotel

Tuesday, January 9 - Introduction to Costa Rican history and society

After breakfast at the hotel, we gather at the National Museum, housed in the former army base and barracks from which the abolition of the army was announced in 1948. The Museum has been recently renovated to provide a survey of the development of contemporary Costa Rican society. It houses as well some beautiful examples of the mysterious pre-Columbian spheres that were a hallmark of the indigenous civilization here, and its entrance is a beautiful butterfly garden.

After touring the Museum we visit a small museum and shop, devoted to the display and sale of crafts from the several indigenous groups found in Costa Rica.

We then take a short walking tour past some of San Jose’s most appreciated street art, through the lovely Parque España, to a cooperative boutique selling exclusively fine design and craft made by Costa Rican artists. We continue to a nicely done urban river walk. No guarantees, but on occasion a local resident sloth can be seen along this walk, as well as many birds.

After lunch we visit a unique small enterprise offering museum quality conservation and restoration of all kinds of art works; as well as a small gallery exhibiting new work by some of the country’s finest artists.

Continue with Welcome Dinner as below

Group Trip: Tuesday, January 9 - Mas Bienvenidos!

Arrival in San Jose, Costa Rica and transfer to hotel for those not participating in the pre-trip extension

Welcome Dinner in the city’s booming “cuisine district”
**Wednesday, January 10 - Introduction to Costa Rica’s Art and Culture; Studio Visit**

Breakfast seminar with a professor of art history at the University of Costa Rica

Studio visit TBA

Lunch

Gallery visit to ArtEspacio 741

Studio Visit to a young artist making beautiful abstract works in a variety of media exploring the interplay of color and emotion

Dinner TBA

**Thursday, January 11 - Art and Culture Through the Lens of Museums**

Breakfast at the hotel

Tour the Museo de Oro (Gold Museum), and its well-curated display of pre-Columbian gold and pottery

Tour the National Theater, one of Costa Rica’s most beautiful and most unique buildings.

Lunch at an iconic diner-type restaurant facing San Jose’s central La Sabana park

Tour the Museo de Arte Costarricense (Museum of Costa Rican Art),

Dinner on your own

**Friday, January 12 - Studio Visits**

Breakfast at the hotel

Meet and greet early career artists hosted by one of Costa Rica’s leading young printmakers who has focused on bringing young, locally trained artists together for workshops and to display their work. We will meet several young artists who will have work on display

Lunch at a beautifully situated hotel in the countryside surrounding the city

Studio visit to a figurative painter awarded the country’s highest prize in art for 2023. His powerful work focuses on a variety of social issues and his studio is on his family’s pretty, rural compound.

Dinner TBA
Saturday, January 13 - Studio Visit and Transfer South

Breakfast at the hotel and departure (some luggage may be stored at the hotel as we will be returning here for the night before departure)

Studio visit to one of the “deans” of the Costa Rican art scene, an accomplished, internationally exhibited artist in many media, including drawing, sculpture, installation, painting, video, performance art and set design, who is also an activist for the empowerment of young women from marginal neighborhoods.

Lunch on your own at Plaza Tempo - a food market designed on the lines of Madrid’s famous Mercado San Miguel. You can get everything from a Chinese bao to German beer wurst (and the beer to go with it - Costa Rica has a burgeoning craft beer scene).

Drive to Dominical on the Pacific coast, with a stop for ice cream

Dinner and overnight at Hotel Cuna del Angel

Sunday, January 14 - Waterfall Hike with beach option

Optional guided bird walk on hotel grounds for early risers

Breakfast at the hotel

For those who wish, a hike of about two miles each way to a beautiful waterfall.

Optional other explorations in the area, including to the beach, can be arranged depending on interests and vehicle availability.

Lunch at a local “soda” with a beautiful view of the famous Whale’s Tail formation off the Uvita beach

Afternoon at leisure (hotel pool, hotel air conditioning, hotel bar… or additional guided nature walk in the area)

Picnic dinner of Argentine empanadas and pizza

Overnight Hotel Cuna del Angel

Monday, January 15 - Rain Forest Adventures

Optional guided bird walk on hotel grounds for early risers

Breakfast at the hotel

Zip line tour or guided nature walk at Hacienda Baru, a private nature reserve encompassing multiple habitats (ocean beach, riverine zone, mangrove, secondary forest, and primary rain forest) and hosting healthy, sustaining populations of many species of birds, amphibians, reptiles and mammals.
Optional other explorations in the area, including to the beach, can be arranged depending on interests and vehicle availability.

Dinner TBA

Overnight Hotel Cuna del Angel

**Tuesday, January 16 - Transfer to Copey (and Cool Weather!)**

Breakfast at the hotel

Early morning at leisure; guided nature walk in the area for those who wish.

Mid-morning departure for Copey in the Dota region of the Los Santos highlands.

Lunch en route at a local soda with beautiful views of the valley below.

Tour of an organic farm growing many high elevation fruits for which this region is esteemed.

Afternoon check in at Toucanet Lodge.

Dinner at the hotel.

Overnight Toucanet Lodge

**Wednesday, January 17 - The magical quetzal and Costa Rica's Grano de Oro**

Early morning tour to view quetzals, the beautiful long tailed green bird sacred to the Mayas

Breakfast en route

Late morning wandering on your own through the pretty little town of Santa Maria, with lunch on your own.

Tour of the Coopedota coffee cooperative plant to learn about the process of producing coffee from plant to roaster, and an introduction to cupping to assess the characteristics of various beans and roasts.

Dinner at a restaurant built at the foot of a small waterfall that is popular with local families

Overnight Toucanet Lodge

**Thursday, January 18 - Return to San Jose**

Early breakfast at the hotel

Morning departure for San Jose
Studio visit to a painter who built his career as an expatriate in Spain and in recent years has returned to his native Costa Rica.

Lunch TBA

Return to the hotel; balance of afternoon at leisure

Farewell Dinner TBA

Overnight Crowne Plaza Corobici Hotel

**Friday, January 19 - Don’t Say Adios, Say Hasta Próxima, Costa Rica**

Breakfast at the hotel (may not be available for those taking early morning flights)

Transportation to the airport will be provided for your flight (to arrive at the recommended time of two hours prior to takeoff)