Brattleboro Museum & Art Center
Art, Craft and Nature in Costa Rica
January 9–19, 2024
Pre-trip extension January 8–9

Itinerary

Trip Leader: Ken Klothen
Guides: Jimmy Tosso (San Jose) and Esterling Alfaro (Dominical and Copey)

Contact Sarah Weiler at the museum with questions:
office@brattleboromuseum.org
802 257 0124 ext. 101
Monday, January 8 — Pre-trip Extension

Bienvenidos!

• **Arrival** in San Jose for those participating in the pre-trip extension. Transfer to hotel.

• **Informal dinner** at a local restaurant with Ken and Eve Klothen for those arriving in time.

  *Overnight at Crowne Plaza San Jose Corobici.*

Tuesday, January 9 — Pre-trip Extension

*Introduction to Costa Rican History and Society*

• **After breakfast** at the hotel, we will gather at the National Museum, housed in a former army base and barracks. In 1948, it was from here that the abolition of the Costa Rican army was announced. The museum has been renovated recently to provide a glimpse into the development of contemporary Costa Rica. It also houses beautiful examples of mysterious pre-Columbian spheres that were a hallmark of indigenous civilization in the area. The museum’s entrance is a lovely butterfly garden — a great way to convince yourself that you have left the cares of life in the United States behind, at least for a while.

• **After touring the museum**, we will visit the smaller museum and shop, Chieton Moren. *Chieton Moren* is devoted to the display and sale of crafts from the several indigenous groups found in Costa Rica.

• **From Chieton Moren** we will take a short walking tour past some of San Jose’s most appreciated street art. We will also walk through one of the city’s older neighborhoods and the lovely *Parque España*. Then we will visit a cooperative boutique selling exclusively fine design and craft made by Costa Rican artists.

• **After a brief browse** we will board the bus again for a quick shuttle to *F–Centro de Imagen*, a new center for creative photography. Here we will meet the Center’s co-directors, learn a little about the place of photography in Costa Rican art, and view their current exhibition.

• **From F–Centro de Imagen** we’ll join the lunch crowd at the legendary *La Criollita* restaurant, which has been catering to downtown office workers for 50 years.

• **After lunch** we will visit the workshop and gallery space of *ConArte* — the leading art conservation consultancy in the country. *ConArte* also works with artists on the presentation of their artwork.

  *Overnight at Crowne Plaza Corobici.*
Tuesday, January 9
Mas Bienvenidos!

- **Arrival** in San Jose, Costa Rica for those *not* participating in the pre-trip extension. Transfer to hotel.

- **Welcome Dinner** at Garden Bistro, located in San Jose’s booming restaurant district.

  *Overnight at Crowne Plaza Corobici.*

---

**Wednesday, January 10**
*Introduction to Costa Rica’s Art and Culture + Studio Visits*

- **Breakfast lecture** at the hotel by Lauran Bonilla-Mechav, professor of art history at the University of Costa Rica.

- **Visit to the Museum of Costa Rican Art**, housed in a former airport terminal and what is now the city’s central *La Sabana Park*.

- **Lunch at Soda Tapia**, an iconic San Jose soda (luncheonette).

- **Gallery visit to ArtEspacio 741**, a gallery owned by painters Florencia Urbina and Deirdre Hyde, who have hung a show of their work solely for us.

- **Studio visit to Carolina Guillermet**. Carolina produces beautiful abstract works in a variety of media, exploring the interplay of color and emotion.

- **Dinner at Machu Pichu**, another time-tested downtown restaurant that introduced San Jose to Peruvian cuisine.

  *Overnight at Crowne Plaza Corobici.*
Thursday, January 11
Art and Culture in Major Legacy Institutions

- **Breakfast** at the hotel.

- **Tour the museums of the National Bank of Costa Rica.** We will start with new work by Rolando Faba, an artist whose home studio we will visit at the end of the trip. Then we will tour the famous Museo de Oro (Gold Museum), built to display the Bank’s collection of pre-Columbian gold and pottery. This museum was also renovated recently to provide an intricate picture of life in pre-Columbian Costa Rica. Both museums are situated in former vaults of the National Bank, an interesting architectural structure descending beneath the central Cultural Plaza.

- **Lunch in the former Grand Hotel Costa Rica**, recently renovated into a Hilton, with a nice view over the plaza.

- **After lunch** we will tour the National Theater, one of Costa Rica’s most beautiful and unique buildings. The National Theater was built by coffee barons in the late 19th century.

- **Fine dining in groups.** By now you are sophisticated *josefinos y josefinas*, ready to sample the upscale restaurants of the region on your own. We will divide our group into four sub-groups to visit the region’s finest restaurants. Each group will be joined by someone from Costa Rica’s art world for lively conversation and a fun evening.

  *Overnight at Crowne Plaza Corobici.*

---

Friday, January 12

*Studio Visits*

- **Breakfast** at the hotel.

- **Studio visit to Philip Anaskin.** We will journey into the countryside north of the city to visit Phillip Anaskin. Philip is a young figurative painter who was named Costa Rica’s top visual artist in 2023. His family emigrated to Costa Rica from Russia when he was two years old. His powerful work focuses on a variety of social issues. Phillip’s studio is on his family’s compound, where his sister Olga and her husband, both highly regarded artists, also live and work.

- **After our visit**, we will have lunch at the restaurant of the Hotel Bougainvillea, a beautiful country hotel with spectacular gardens that we can explore.
• **Upon our return to town,** we will meet Mauricio Herrero, a leading young printmaker who has also become a mentor to a stable of emerging artists. We will meet several who have work on display, and Mauricio will talk about his own work as well.

• **Dinner at RostiPollos,** San Jose’s beloved family roast chicken chain. The chicken is no longer roasted over a coffee woodfire (as it had been as recently as 10 years ago), but it’s still really good. Vegetarian dishes available as well.

  *Overnight at Crowne Plaza Corobici.*

---

**Saturday, January 13**  
*Studio Visits and Transfer South*

• **Early morning breakfast** at the hotel, then departure. (Some luggage may be stored at the hotel, as we will be returning for the night before we leave Costa Rica.)

• **Studio visit to Rossella Matamoros.** Rossella is one of the ‘deans’ of the Costa Rican art scene. She is an accomplished artist in many media, including: drawing, sculpture, installation, painting, video, performance art, and set design. Rossella is intensely interested in combining art forms, and in linking old and new. She is also a social activist, using art to empower young women from marginalized communities. Rossella was recently named by *Forbes* one of the 100 most influential women in Central America.

• **From Rossella’s stunning studio** we will head out of town to the studio of Adrian Arguedas. Adrian is a painter, printmaker, and sculptor who has three times received Costa Rica’s highest award in the field of visual arts. Much of his work is inspired by Costa Rican daily life and customs.

• **Box lunch on the bus** as we head south to Dominical on the Pacific coast — an approximately 3.5 hour drive. We’ll stop halfway in Tarcoles for ice cream at the Pop’s (Costa Rica’s national ice cream chain; try the tropical fruit flavors!) and a glimpse at the residents of the banks of the Tarcoles River.

  *Dinner and overnight at Hotel Cuna del Angel.*
Sunday, January 14
Waterfall Hike

- **Optional guided bird walk** on hotel grounds for early risers.

- **Breakfast** at the hotel.

- **Hike at Nauyaca waterfall.** Pickup truck ride on an old farm logging road to one of the most beautiful waterfalls in Costa Rica. Swimming in the pool at the base of the falls is possible. (Note: the steep stairs at the foot of the falls are unavoidable, and the pool is surrounded by boulders.) The hike back is a little over two miles. Some overgrown areas; some moderate elevation gains and decreases; parts may be muddy. Pickup ride back can be arranged at a modest fee.

- **Lunch at Soda Roger,** a local place with a beautiful view of the famous “Whale’s Tail” formation off the Uvita beach.

- **Balance of afternoon at leisure:** hotel pool, air conditioning, bar, or additional guided nature walk in the area.

- **Picnic dinner** of Argentine empanadas and pizza at Ken and Eve’s home in Uvita.

  *Overnight at Hotel Cuna del Angel.*

---

Monday, January 15
Rainforest Adventures

- **Optional guided bird walk** on hotel grounds for early risers.

- **Breakfast** at the hotel.

- **Zipline tour or guided nature walk** at Hacienda Baru, a private nature reserve encompassing multiple habitats — ocean beach, riverine zone, mangrove, secondary forest, and primary rainforest. Hacienda Baru hosts healthy, sustaining populations of many species of birds, amphibians, reptiles and mammals. The reserve prides itself on hiring guides from the immediate local area and training them to professional licensure level, as well as employing local people in all of its other operations.

- **Optional additional explorations in the area** can be arranged depending on interests and vehicle availability.
• Lunch on your own.

• Dinner at *Restaurante Los Laureles* in Uvita. This is Ken and Eve’s and many locals’ favorite place to dine. Also home of absolutely the best fish tacos and *patacones* in the universe (seriously) — *patacones* are fried non-ripe plantains, topped in Costa Rica with a variety of meat and vegetables to make *nacho patacones*.

  *Overnight at Hotel Cuna del Angel.*

---

**Tuesday, January 16**

*Transfer to the Highland Coffee Country*

Wear warm clothing in the highlands.

• *Breakfast* at the hotel.

• *Morning at leisure;* guided nature walk in the area for those who wish.

• *Late 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,* which serves impeccably fresh trout from nearby trout farms just up the road.

  *Overnight at 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 Maya.
- **Breakfast en route.**
- **Late morning wandering** on your own through the pretty little town of Santa Maria. You’ll have lunch on your own at one of several local sodas or restaurants.
- **Tour of the Coopedota coffee cooperative plant** to learn about the process of producing coffee from plant to roaster. We’ll also receive an introduction to cupping, a technique for assessing characteristics of various beans and roasts.
- **Dinner at La Catarata**, a restaurant built at the foot of a small waterfall that is popular with local families.

*Overnight at Toucanet Lodge.*

Thursday, January 18  
*Return to San Jose*

- **Breakfast** at the hotel.
- **Morning departure** for San Jose.
- **Lunch en route.**
- **Studio visit to Rolando Faba**, whose work we first encountered at the museums of the National Bank of Costa Rica.
- **Return to the hotel**; balance of afternoon at leisure.
- **Farewell Dinner at Restaurante Sofia**, back where we started in *Barrio Escalante*. *Sofia* is one of the district’s older restaurants, a Mediterranean food stalwart that has been popular with *Josefinos* for a decade or more.

*Overnight at Crowne Plaza Corobic.*
Friday, January 19
Don’t Say Adios, Say Hasta La Próxima, Costa Rica

- **Breakfast** at the hotel.

- **Transportation to the airport will be provided** for your flight, arranged to arrive at the recommended time of two hours prior to takeoff.

---

**PLEASE NOTE:**

- All activities are subject to change based on weather, road, or other conditions or factors not subject to the control of the trip leaders and guides. A sense of flexibility and openness to the unexpected will greatly enhance your enjoyment of this trip.

- The workday in Costa Rica begins in the wee hours of the morning for many, and delivery vehicles frequently work at night to avoid heavy traffic. Also, all manner of birds tend to announce the dawn in the manner of, well, birds. If you are a light sleeper please consider bringing earplugs of your choice.

**Contact Sarah Weiler at the museum with questions:**
office@brattleboromuseum.org
802 257 0124 ext. 101