



THE
Wanderlust
WONDER OF
COSTA RICA

Bucket-list tourism has never been so hip; travel expert Sabrina Chakici tells us why Costa Rica should be top of that list.

The days of booking package holidays at the local travel agency have been rapidly taken over by the trendy focus on unique and exclusive travel choices.

Since the introduction of social media, the desire for a more immersive and adventurous travel experience has never been more in demand and now, on average, Britons take a bucket-list holiday once every three years, combining the fascination and need for a more authentic and engaging holiday.

With such culturally curious demands for this type of travel, Costa Rica ticks all the boxes when it comes to the latest travel trend.

The wanderlust of Costa Rica

Nestled between Nicaragua and Panama, the Central American country of Costa Rica offers a unique 360 travel experience. The country's 'Pura Vida' national motto may be a boasting statement but with idyllic beaches, alluring dense rainforest and frequent unique

wildlife encounters the 'Pure Life' is indeed discovered when visiting Costa Rica - a discovery that will even if just for a few days, satisfy the most well-travelled explorer.

The capital city of San Jose is vibrant and lively but for those insta-worthy moments the small coastal village of Turtuguero is where some of the most enchanting and mesmerising encounters are experienced. Located on the Caribbean Coast of Costa Rica, the eco-friendly hotspot where the sea meets the rainforest is



a bird watching mecca and an exotic wildlife haven.

The journey to Turtuguero is just a short yet exhilarating flight from San Jose, offering unimaginable views of the active volcanoes and rainforest from above. After landing on the small and single runway, it's out of the aircraft and straight into a boat. With these few steps, the reality of being deep in the rainforest really comes to life.

After checking-in to your eco-friendly accommodation it's time to head straight back out on the water, this time trading in the boat for a kayak. Once submerged, it's all eyes to the sky as the kayak meanders gently through the thick mangroves. Within

moments of wading through the water you'll see monkeys playfully jump from tree to tree, toucans soar through the skies and cayman slither along the shallow edges. Countless birds only experienced watchers would recognise swoosh and swoop overhead filling the vast skyline with colours, then disappear into the thick fringe of vegetation that lines the river.

Costa Rica is a country that appreciates some of the most magical moments are experienced when guests are able to fully immerse themselves in nature, almost

“Costa Rica is well known for amazing wildlife conservation and encounters”

achieving a feeling of belonging rather than being on the sidelines. Turtuguero really delivers when it comes to these unmatched experiences with the simplicity of its rainforest location and wildlife preservation.

Days in Turtuguero are spent on the river but in the evenings the small village has something unique and lively to offer explorers – but not in the way you may usually suspect. Rather than transforming into a lively nightlife scene, the village lights are shut down for nature's sake as Turtuguero is one of the few regulated destinations in the world where, each year, thousands of homebound sea turtles nest. Mum turtles line the beach, creating safe burrows to lay their hundreds of eggs whilst baby turtles take their

first wobbly steps down to the sea. Regulated, restricted and guided tours of the beach are the only way to see the reproduction cycle up close and watching the full circle of life of the sea turtle is a truly once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Costa Rica is well known for amazing wildlife conservation and encounters but another unique reason to travel to the Latin American country is the adventure-packed town of Arenal. Once a few days have been spent living in the coastal rainforest of Turtuguero, head further north. The volcanic town of Arenal boasts a number of high-adrenaline activities as well being home to some of the country's most luxury hotels. From sky-high zip lines to nature walks in the clouds, Arenal offers an amazing escape for daredevil adventurers or those seeking out a romantic getaway.

The town features stunning views of the active volcano as well as a towering waterfall and treetop hikes. It's also home to Costa Rica's famous thermal spas, where you can enjoy an invigorating yet calming experience of swimming in the naturally heated pools or soaking in the bubbling hot Jacuzzis. The earth fuelled hot springs are incredibly romantic and for the ultimate whimsical experience visit the spa at night so you can blissfully bathe underneath a blanket of stars.



“Costa Rica offers a unique 360 travel experience”

