San Jose Airport – San Jose
Arrival at the Juan Santamaría International Airport. A Swiss Travel representative will meet and greet you upon arrival and will provide you with all the necessary documentation that you will need during your vacation, such as day by day itinerary and the main contacts information and phone numbers. Then, you will be transferred to your hotel in San Jose which is approximately 20 minutes driving distance.

Accommodations: Studio Hotel Boutique (or similar)

San Jose – San Gerardo de Dota
Early morning, a representative from the car rental company will deliver to you a SUV Compact 4WD MT - Ssang Yong Korando or similar so you can continue the rest of the trip by driving on your own. The first driving venture will take you approximately two hours towards San Gerardo de Dota, a small community in the Talamanca Mountain Range in the midst of a precious ecosystem, the Tropical Cloud forest, filled with massive oaks and other native species. It is recommend leaving very early in the morning in order to maximize and visit the different attractions that this route provides. Leaving the San José City you can continue until the city of Cartago, former capital of Costa Rica. Right there, you can visit The Basilica de Los Angeles Church which is the most important religious center for Costa Ricans. Also, you can make a detour and visit the Irazú Volcano National Park, where you can admire the different craters of past eruptions. Moving forward, you will take the Inter-American Highway and will start the driving ascending through the Talamanca Mountain Range. Finally, you will drive towards the San Gerardo Villa.

Estimated driving time, non-stop: 2h 45 min.
Estimated route time if stopping for recommended visits: 4-5 hours
Meal: Breakfast
Accommodations: Savegre Mountain Lodge (or similar)

San Gerardo de Dota
Day at leisure to explore the area. If you are a nature lover and if you are looking for inner peace. Quetzal Valley is perfect for you! The 62,000-hectares nature preserve is ideal for those who are delighted by nature. The huge boulders river, lush trees, vines, orchids, bromeliads, the ethereal light, cloud forest, rainforest and all the jungle sounds make this a pleasant place for connecting with nature, resting, reading, thinking and hiking.

Meals: Breakfast
Accommodations: Savegre Mountain Lodge (or similar)
San Gerardo de Dota – Ballena Bay
Today, you will drive to the South Pacific Coast, specifically to the Ballena Bay. You will be passing through a scenic mountain road with various climates and elevations. On the way, you will pass by San Isidro del General and Dominical beach, then you will continue driving along the coastal road until reach the fishing town of Uvita. Finally, at just few minutes from there, you will arrive to Ballena Bay, where you will be impressed by the magnificent views of the South Pacific Coastal line.
Estimated driving time, non-stop: 3 hours
Estimated route time if stopping for recommended visits: 5-7 hours
Meal: Breakfast
Accommodations: Cristal Ballena Hotel (or similar)

Ballena Bay
Day at leisure to explore the area.
We highly recommend you the visit to Marino Ballena National Park where you can visit the famous Punta Uvita Whale Tale, Ballena Island, Tres Hermanas Islets and Ventana Sea Caves. When granted the opportunity, you might see and hear the Humpback Whales and or observe the acrobatic displays of the dolphins. There are also a coral and rock reefs ideal to snorkel and observe the wonderful marine wildlife.
Meal: Breakfast
Accommodations: Cristal Ballena Hotel (or similar)

Ballena Bay – Poas Volcano
Today, drive to the central mountain range to set out on your own to explore the real Costa Rica, with its abounding natural beauty. You’ll travel the scenic roads and experience the country’s small villages and rural way of life, with the freedom to stop along the way, walk around the little town squares, and fully immerse yourself in the local culture.
Your ultimate destination today will be the central volcanic mountain range, specifically the cloud forest of the Poas Volcano and Vara Blanca village. Coming from Bahia Ballena, you’ll find many attractions on route; the first one is Manuel Antonio National Park, the smallest National Park in Costa Rica but one of the most visited due the excellent combination between exuberant jungles and exotic beaches. Once on the central valley and as you continue on, you should stop at the world-famous coffee plantations of the Doka Estate, or the Souvenir Museum Verdes & Colores, a collaborative project that teaches visitors about sustainability while shopping for the colorful, locally handmade fair-trade goods. You’ll continue on the Hydrangeas Touristic Route, which takes you through dairy farms and small roadside markets, amidst scenery that grows more beautiful as you approach the top of the mountain. At the top of the mountain you will reach your accommodations for the night – the Poas Volcano Lodge. This stunning mountain lodge is located on the edge of the cloud forest, with breathtaking views of the Poas Volcano and northern Caribbean plains.
Estimated driving time, non-stop: 4 hours
Estimated route time if stopping for recommended visits: 5-6 hours
Meal: Breakfast
Accommodations: Poas Volcano Lodge (or similar)

Poas Volcano
Your morning will be at leisure to enjoy the resort and explore the nearby attractions. It’s highly recommended that you visit the Poas Volcano National Park (10 minutes from your hotel) to visit the crater, trails and lagoon.
Also, you can visit La Paz Waterfalls Gardens an ecological theme park with beautiful waterfalls, a hummingbird garden and Costa Rica’s largest butterfly garden! Admission is not included.
Meal: Breakfast
Accommodations: Poas Volcano Lodge (or similar)

Poas Volcano – San Jose Airport
Your self-guided Costa Rican adventure ends today. Return your rental car at the San Jose Airport, before boarding your flight home.
Driving time: The trip from your hotel to the airport is only 45 minutes. Please allow extra time for your rental car drop-off.
Meal: Breakfast

IMPORTANT NOTES
BOOKING REQUIREMENTS
- Must be at least 2 people to book
- Infants 0-3 years are not permitted on this tour.
- Itinerary sequence subject to change depending on availability of activities, weather, etc.

THE PROGRAM IS NOT AVAILABLE ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:
- November 18-24, 2019
- December 20, 2019 to January 8, 2020
- February 15-23, 2020
- April 5-23, 2020
- November 21-29, 2020

CAR RENTAL
- Drivers must be a minimum of 23 years old.
- Drivers must bring a valid driver’s license and passport.
- Drivers must bring a personal credit card to cover the insurance and deposit (only MasterCard, Visa and American Express are accepted)
- A cost occurs for an additional driver
- Cars cannot be taken out of Costa Rica
- Unlimited mileage is included.
- Fuel, toll rates, ferry tickets is not included.
- GPS and or child seats are available at an additional charge, if requested in advance.
- After 4 hours of late car return, clients will be charged with the daily rate

CAR RENTAL INSURANCE
Mandatory Primary Liability for Third Party Damages (PLI) is not included and is mandatory. There is a required deposit of US$750. Passengers must pay approximately US$20 - $26 per day, depending on the selected car.

Description
- Basic coverage in damages to third parties properties involved in an accident
- Basic coverage for injury or death to third parties involved in an accident
- It is mandatory.
- Passengers must pay approximately US$20 - $26 per day, depending on the selected car.

Conditions
- Coverage limit of US$20,000 for damages to third parties properties.
- Deductible of 0%
- Coverage limit of US$200,000 for injury or death of third parties involved in an accident.

Restrictions
- Not reporting the event to the car rental office at the time of the accident.
- Insurances from companies via internet or bought abroad are not accepted.
- Guarantee deposit of US$750 will be required in credit card.

Extended Cover is not included but is optional. There is a required deposit of US$100. Passengers must pay approximately US$42-$48 per day, depending on the selected car.

Description
- Enlarged coverage in damages to third parties properties involved in an accident
- Enlarged coverage for injury or death to third parties involved in an accident
- Zero deductible for direct car damages, collision and tipping the car over.
- Zero deductible for total or partial car theft.
- It covers: windows, car lights, vandalism, tow truck and road assistance.
- Passengers must pay approximately US$42-$48 per day, depending on the selected car.

Conditions
- Coverage of US$500,000 for injury or death of third parties involved in an accident.
- It also covers: windows, car lights, vandalism, tow truck and road assistance.
- A guarantee deposit of US$100 will be required in credit card.

Restrictions
- The benefits mentioned beforehand will be void in case of proven negligence on behalf of the driver, such as: driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, driving across rivers, the ocean, beaches, mangroves, lakes or areas where there is no officially traced road.
- An unauthorized driver drives the vehicle.
- Not providing the official accident report (Police Officer (Transit Police) and Insurance Agent’s Reports)
- Not reporting the event to the car rental office at the time of the accident, independently of the nature of the event.
- Violations to the traffic law and fines for breaking these laws are complete responsibility.

ACCOMMODATIONS
Unless otherwise indicated, guests will stay in a Standard Room at all hotels during the trip. Where “or similar” is indicated, accommodations are as indicated or may be substituted for a similar hotel/accommodation.