



7-Night Star Clipper Cruise with Costa Rica Add-On

Combine a wonderfully encompassing exploration of some of the finest natural wonders of Costa Rica with a 7-night cruise on the Pacific waters with **Star Clippers**, taking in the remote and underdeveloped coastal destinations of Costa Rica and the serene Nicaraguan seaside town of San Juan del Sur.

After a night in the lush **Central Valley**, head to **Arenal** for an unrushed stay amongst beautifully pristine landscapes, complemented by a further two days in the enigmatic **cloud forests of Monteverde**.

Your elegant four-mast Star Clipper ship will then transport you on an exhilarating 7-night cruise, exploring secluded beach destinations in both Costa Rica and Nicaragua. The traditional ship is reminiscent of the legendary sailing era but furnished with modern comforts and amenities. Enjoy a unique but relaxed experience, with optional hands-on experiences, regaling stories from the Captain, and plenty of opportunities to simply relax and take in the sea air.

Highlights

- Bathe in the natural hot springs of Arenal
- Observe wildlife that thrives within the Monteverde cloud forests
- 7-nights onboard the Star Clipper Tall Ship

- Discover authentic Tico culture in Quepos
- A full day to explore the beautiful surf beaches of Nicaragua's San Juan del Sur

Itinerary

Day 1: Central Valley

Arrive in San José and transfer to the Central Valley, a wide plateau beautifully fringed by majestic mountains. Your hotel for the night - the Buena Vista - benefits from an elevated location overlooking the valley and several nature trails serve as a wonderful introduction to Costa Rica's rich flora and fauna.

Days 2 - 4: Arenal

Three nights are afforded in Arenal, a tranquil region with lush countryside, calm lakes and rich flora and fauna. Your time here is your own to explore the fertile landscapes that lie in the shadows of the imposing conical Arenal Volcano. Bathe in the natural hot springs of your hotel – Arenal Springs Resort & Spa, hike in the rainforests observing wildlife in their natural habitat, visit highly regarded conservation centres or take an exhilarating zip-line through the canopies.

Meals: B

Days 5 & 6: Monteverde

Travel to Monteverde, one of the very few places on earth remaining to experience the fragile biosphere of a natural cloud forest. Stay for two nights in the elegant Senda Monteverde hotel and fill your days exploring the mystical verdant landscapes and observing a myriad of wildlife species in their natural habitat. Monteverde is also an excellent destination to learn about Costa Rica's world-renowned coffee, and there are plenty of opportunities to visit a local plantation and discover the entire crop to cup process.

Meals: B

Day 7: Embark Star Clipper

Transfer to Puerto Caldera, the embarkment point of your Star Clippers adventure. Meet your fellow travellers and the Star Clippers staff before perhaps indulging in the ship's facilities which include two swimming pools, a piano bar, an Edwardian library, expansive observation decks and a convivial al fresco tropical bar.

Meals: B, L, D

Day 8: Quepos

Your first stop on the Star Clipper cruise is Quepos, a small but bustling town with a Tico population and a genial atmosphere. Quepos also serves as the gateway to the Manuel Antonio National Park and your onboard staff will be able to maximise your time here, whether it is arranging an excursion to the park or making other local recommendations.

Meals: B, L, D

Day 9: At Sea

A full day at sea is required to reach Nicaragua from Costa Rica so simply sit back and enjoy the facilities of the Star Clippers ship. As a traditional sailing vessel, there are also hands-on activities you can participate in such as knot tying and navigation classes

Meals: B, L, D

Day 10: San Juan del Sur

Laid-back San Juan del Sur is the perfect introduction to Nicaragua and a full day is spent here to relax on the renowned surf beaches, explore the peaceful fishing villages and observe sea-turtle nesting grounds. The town itself is pretty with colonial architecture and a wealth of colourful dining spots.

Meals: B, L, D

Day 11: Playa Nacascolo

Returning to Costa Rica, this morning the Star Clippers vessel will anchor at one of the country's most beautiful yet underdeveloped beaches - Playa Nacascolo. The beach is located on Costa Rica's Pacific Coast and, with limited infrastructure and a remote location, it is wonderfully secluded. Spend the day at the beach, where the ocean's waters are calm enough for swimming and the perfect, white-powdered sand is fringed by healthy vegetation, attracting many coatis and monkeys to the shore.

Meals: B, L, D

Day 12: Bahia Potrero

Port in the charming seaside village of Potrero, wonderfully underdeveloped and virtually untouched by tourism. Complementing Potrero are a further two small villages - the more developed Flamingo and Surfside, both easily accessible within your time here. All three have pristine beaches and swimmable waters, and Star Clippers will provide paddle boards, kayaks or snorkel equipment for you to explore the offshore islets

Meals: B, L, D

Day 13: Isla Tortuga

Arguably saving the best for last, the final stop of your Star Clippers cruise is the beautiful Isla Tortuga. Whilst many water sports activities and hikes can be arranged here, it will be difficult to resist simply spending the day on the soft white sand beaches and bathing in the cooling azure waters whilst sipping cocktails underneath giant coconut palms.

Meals: B, L, D

Day 14: Depart San José

Disembark your cruise in Puerto Caldera and transfer to San José airport for your onward flight.

Meals: B

Prices from £2,899 per person

(Based on the departure of the Star Clipper Tall Ship on 21st January 2023 2 people sharing a room/cabin throughout.)

Add International Flights

International flights to Costa Rica from the UK start from **£499 per person**

Includes

- 6 nights' accommodation in 4* hotels
- 7-night cruise onboard the Star Clipper Tall Ship
- 27 meals: 13 breakfasts, 7 lunches, 7 dinners
- Transfers as per itinerary
- Cruise port fees & taxes

Excludes:

- International flights
- Transfers and domestic flights as per itinerary
- Local departure taxes payable locally
- Items of a personal nature such as laundry and drinks etc
- Tips for guides and drivers (discretionary)
- Camera or video fees at any sites

