



October 23, 2024

COCOS ISLAND OF THE SHARKS

10 Days / 9 Nights

About Costa Rica

PURA VIDA! WE ARE BACK!

You are going to hear “pura vida” a lot when you join us in Costa Rica. It represents Costa Ricans’ relaxed attitude towards life, no matter the circumstance. It’s used to say hello, goodbye, to express that everything is okay, and to brush off any negativity. It’s a way of life, an attitude, and a reminder to us of how extremely fortunate we are to have gained permission to run liveaboard adventures in this truly natural paradise.

Costa Rica is home to some of the world’s greatest biodiversity, with dense jungles, rainforests, national parks, volcanoes, rushing rivers, spectacular waterfalls, sandy beaches, and of course, beautiful diving, hiking, kayaking and swimming. Your booking is for Cocos - Island of the Sharks, an offshore oasis in the Pacific Ocean just a day’s sail from the mainland. This trip is mainly centred on diving, although there will be opportunities to go ashore. Like Socorro, Cocos is a bucket-list trip and most experienced divers consider it to be among the best diving in the world. The island concentrates life from hundreds of miles around and is especially famous for hammerhead sharks in the hundreds. We should see lots of other sharks including whitetip reef and tigers, dolphins, tuna, and other pelagics species. You are visiting during the summer season which gives us the best odds that we will see whale sharks, humpback whales, and giant mantas.

While summer is known as the “rainy season,” don’t be fooled. It doesn’t rain every day, and when it does, it’s usually in the middle of the afternoon when the storm clouds roll in. In terms of animals and diving, this is the best time of year to visit.

Our Cocos adventures no longer depart from the tidal-restricted, gritty fishing town of Puntarenas. Instead, our trips now meet and board at a beautiful, modern marina in Golfito, at the edge of the tropical rainforest, near Piedras Blancas Park, Osa Peninsula, Corcovado Park, and the very best shoreside adventures in Costa Rica. It’s the perfect place for a pre- or post-trip expedition, or better yet, join our Oceans and Rainforest adventure. It’s easy to get to Golfito from the international airport at San Jose, either by connecting flight or by road.



Ocean & Rainforest Adventure

Diving in Costa Rica is legendary. Experiencing the tropical rainforest and national parks of Costa Rica is something not to be missed. Our Oceans and Rainforest trips depart from Golfito, and we will spend most of our time around Drake Bay and the Osa Peninsula. The diving at Caño Island is really really good, with sharks, turtles, rays, huge schools of fish, and hopefully humpback whales.

[More info](#)

[Dates & Rates](#)

We plan on to access Corcovado National Park by landing our zodiacs on sandy beaches and venturing ashore with our naturalist and guides for an amazing experience. Corcovado is known as one of the most biologically intense places on Earth, with a high concentration of species in a relatively small area including:

- **Trees:** 500 species
- **Birds:** 375 species, including 24 endemic species
- **Mammals:** 124 species, including endangered species like Baird’s tapir and Central American squirrel monkey
- **Amphibians:** 46 species, including poison dart frogs & glass frogs
- **Reptiles:** 71 species, including bushmaster snakes
- **Freshwater Fish:** 61 species, including bull sharks
- **Insects:** More than 8,000 species

Sample Itinerary

10 Days / 9 Nights Trip

Bienvenidos a Costa Rica!!

Costa Rica is an amazing and beautiful place. We heartily recommend flying in early to better experience this wonderful country. SJO (San Jose International) is our recommended gateway airport. If you prefer to stay over in San Jose, our concierges can assist with a very good deal at the Marriott Hotel Hacienda Belen, and we will provide a complimentary afternoon shuttle van to Golfito on boarding day. However! We recommend heading immediately south towards Golfito upon arrival in SJO. Sansa airlines has multiple connecting flights daily, and once you are in Golfito, the hotels are terrific and there are loads of really interesting day trips.

Alternatively, we can assist with arranging a 3, 4, 5-day, or longer guided driving adventure through the national parks, ending up in Golfito. You could also rent a car and go off on your own adventure. Or, we can help with a private car transfer from SJO to Golfito, typically costing around \$400 USD for a car and driver, including interesting stops along the way. Driving time from San Jose to Golfito is usually around 5 hours. Please note that there are luggage restrictions on Sansa Airlines' Cessna Caravan aircraft if you choose to fly south with them.

Day 1 - Boarding day!

The Nautilus Explorer will be berthed in Marina Bahia Golfito. It's beautiful. We imagine you will be excited to board, but please give our hardworking crew time to get the ship turned around, cleaned, fuelled, provisioned, and ready for you. We ask that you take advantage of the local facilities and not drop by the boat until 6:30 pm. We don't mean to be rude, but it would be much appreciated if you could avoid coming by early to say "hi." Boarding will begin after 6:30 pm, and we will sail by 8 pm for the approximately 30-hour run to Cocos Island.

Day 2 - At sea.

Your ship is a heavy steel stabilized oceangoing ship, ensuring you the best ride possible. We encourage you to relax, and it's usually a good idea to take some anti-seasickness medicine just in case. It's far better to feel 100% and enjoy the crossing than to risk feeling under the weather without medication... There will be ample time for briefings, setting up dive and camera gear, and, of course, cocktail hour at 7 pm with all our other guests!

Days 3-8 - Dive. Have fun. Dive some more!

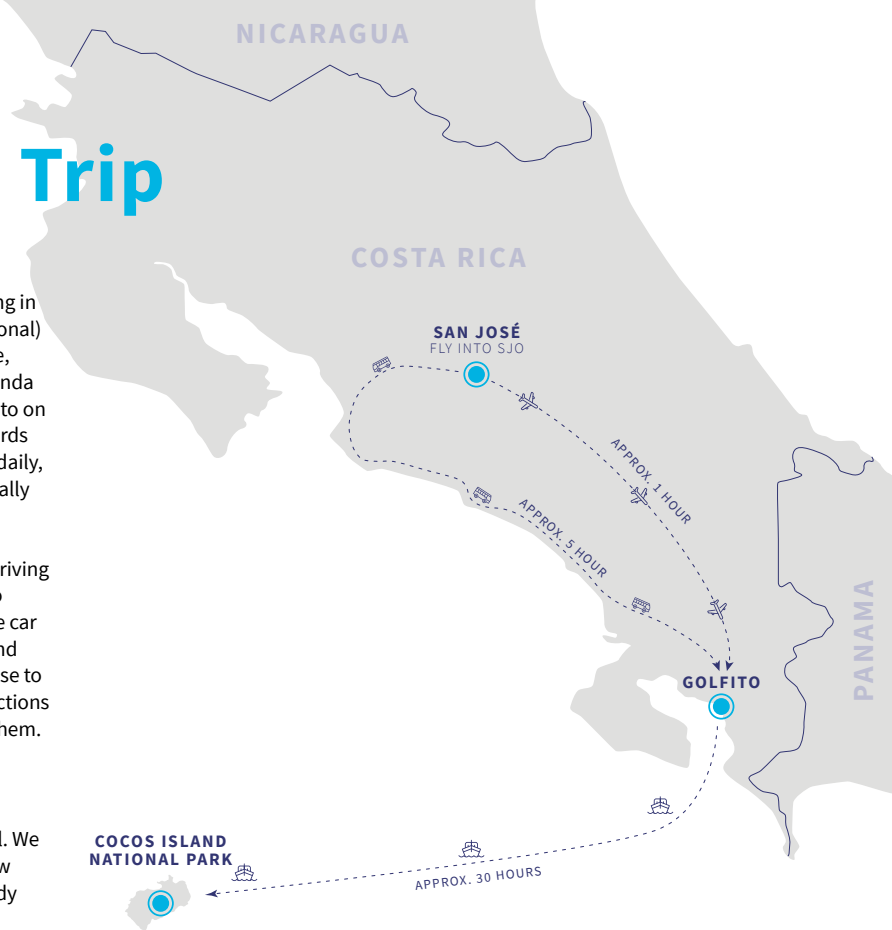
Anchored in the lee of Cocos Island!! Enjoy some of the best diving in the world on the pinnacles surrounding cocos. The choice of dive sites is at the discretion of the park rangers and influenced by Mother Ocean, with a lot of input from your captain and dive guides. Typically, there will be an opportunity for 2 dives in the morning and 1 in the afternoon, with water temps ranging from 78 - 82°F (27 - 28°C). Plus, there's the opportunity to go ashore several times, whale watch with the humpbacks, relax, and have a great time!!

Day 9 - At sea.

Voyage back to Golfito. Packing gear up, visiting with your new friends, and making plans for your next adventure with Nautilus.

Day 10 - Disembarkation.

Arrival back at the Golfito marina by 5 am for those catching the early morning Sansa flight. Early breakfast and 7 am departure for guests heading back to San Jose in our courtesy shuttle (to arrive SJO by 1 pm latest). Or a more leisurely 8:30 am disembarkation for this who are staying on in Golfito (the hotel in the marina is beautiful and well-priced: [Marina Bahia Golfito Hotel](#)) or heading off for another adventure in one of the nearby national parks.



WHAT TO BRING

What do I need to pack?

Personal toiletries. Dive gear (or travel light and use our rental gear!) Summer wear, noting that nights can sometimes be chilly which makes a sweater or fleece jacket a good addition. Sunscreen (reefsafe sunscreen will be available onboard with our compliments). Towels and bed linen are provided onboard. Good walking shoes are recommended if you want to go ashore on Cocos.

What dive gear do I need to bring?

We provide aluminum 80 cu. ft tanks and weightbelts. Larger steel rental cylinders are available. 5 mm wetsuit recommended to avoid losing body core temp during multiple days of repetitive diving. It's always better to layer down rather than be cold with no options. We have rentals onboard by prior arrangement for almost anything you need. Please make any rental requests as early as possible.

Baggage limitations?

Pack lightly since you will be dressing for warm tropical weather. At Customs there are no limitations on the personal equipment such as diving, camera and video equipment as well as computers that are for personal use.

What kind of safety gear do you provide divers?

[Nautilus LifeLines](#), DiveAlerts and SMB safety sausages

TRAVEL DETAILS

Do I need a passport and/or visa?

YES and it must be valid six months from entry.

US citizens do not require an entry visa to Costa Rica. However, they must have a return ticket to exit Costa Rica within 90 days. (Either to return to your country or to go to another country).

Guests visiting us from other countries may not require an entry visa also. Please check the requirements for your country.

Do I need dive and other insurance?

Cocos Island is a very remote area and the cost involved in evacuating a diver is very high. Guests are required to have medical and evacuation insurance from a recognized provider before participating in any of our activities. Dive Assure is our recommended carrier. They are really great and have always looked after our guests during difficult situations. [Click here](#) to purchase online.

The policies are very affordable. We also highly recommend the optional purchase of trip interruption insurance, which covers everything from cancelled flights, weather delays, and lost baggage, to reimbursement if another guest has a medical issue that affects your trip. If you decline coverage, please note that we do not issue credits or refunds for anything that is beyond our immediate control.

What airport do I fly into?

You have several options, including Liberia and Panama City. We recommend flying into San Jose (SJO) as it is the closest and most convenient. Please don't make the mistake of flying into San Jose, California which is SJC. SJO, not SJC! (Yes, someone has made this mistake previously.)

When should I fly in?

At least one day prior to boarding to avoid any stress from delayed or cancelled airline flights, bad weather at the originating airport, missing luggage, etc.

DON'T FORGET!

What time do we disembark?

Arrival back at the Golfito marina by 5 am for those catching the early morning Sansa flight. Early breakfast and 7 am departure for guests heading back to San Jose in our courtesy shuttle (to arrive SJO by 1 pm latest). Or a more leisurely 8:30 am disembarkation for this who are staying on in Golfito (the hotel in the marina is beautiful and well-priced: [Marina Bahia Golfito Hotel](#)) or heading off for another adventure in one of the nearby national parks.

Can you accommodate special dietary requests?

YES - with reasonable advance notice. We are pleased to accommodate vegetarian, vegan, lactose intolerance, gluten-free, low sugar, quasi-kosher and quasi-halal. We are likely unable to accommodate more esoteric special dietary requests.

What is NOT included in the trip price?

Our ambition is to keep your trip price as low as possible with a la carte options to cater to everyone's personal choices. Crew gratuities are not included. Neither are rentals, nitrox, internet connection, bar charges, and gift shop purchases.

What fees do I have to pay?

Your national park fee and the 5% tax will have been included with your pre-trip payment, so no worries about that! We never do fuel surcharges or any other additional fees. There are no fees that need to be paid onboard.

What hotel do you recommend?

There are so many options. It depends if you want to go straight to Golfito or enjoy adventuring through Costa Rica on a multi-day trip to Golfito. There is a reasonably priced boutique hotel right in the marina at Golfito, Golfito Bahia. Directly contact them (+ 506 4080 6090) with the code **Tarifa Nautilus Explorer**, for a special package only for Nautilus guests. If you want to stay over in San Jose, we recommend the Marriott Hotel Hacienda Belen, which is 6 km from the airport. Keep in mind that there are 2 different Marriott Hotels in San Jose. We work with the Hacienda Belen. We recommend contacting our concierges for assistance and recommendations with your hotel booking.

How do I get from SJO to the local hotel in San Jose?

If you decide to stay in San Jose after arrival, we recommend taking a metered taxi (official taxi) from the departure hall to the Marriott Hotel Hacienda Belen.

How do I get from SJO to Golfito?

Choose between connecting flights with Sansa Airlines (with some luggage restrictions), a private car with a driver, a multi-day tour of Costa Rica, or our courtesy shuttle on the afternoon of boarding (meeting at the Marriott Hotel Hacienda Belen) directly to Golfito. Our concierges are on standby to assist with your arrangements

What time can I board the ship?

After 6:30 pm on departure day. We are excited to see you and imagine you will be excited to say hello and get your luggage onboard. However, please allow our super hardworking crew time and space to prepare the ship and resist the temptation to come by before 6:30 pm. The ship sails at 8 pm.

What's the crossing like?

It's an open ocean crossing to Cocos Island Costa Rica. It can be smooth or it might be rough or more likely, something in-between. The Explorer is our flagship that has steamed through everything, from the current-swept chilly waters of Alaska to adventuring down to Clipperton Atoll, just north of the equator. We highly recommend the scopolamine "patch" and a glass of red wine to relax and have a snooze on the crossing. During the trip, we anchor in the calm anchorage behind Cocos.

ABOUT DIVING

What dive experience is needed?

50 logged dives and advanced open water is the bare minimum experience required to safely dive around Cocos Island. More experience is better and all divers should have good buoyancy skills. The diving can be challenging. There could be strong current on some dives. Some of the dive sites are in open water and exposed to the swell. The difference between Cocos and a destination such as Socorro is that there is no navy base or airstrip on the island which means that airplane medevac is not possible. If you have a medical issue, the boat will have to return to port or at least be met part way by fast boat. For all these reasons, these trips are best suited for good experienced divers. Don't worry if you don't feel that you are quite ready yet for Cocos!! Come and visit us in Baja, Sea of Cortez and Socorro and we will get you all tuned and tweaked up for this great adventure!!!

Do I need to dive with a dive guide?

Yes. At Cocos, current and visibility can change dramatically within several hours. If you were to surface unexpectedly mid-dive, there is the possibility of drifting away and needing to use your Nautilus LifeLine to get rescued. In addition to those challenges, local tiger sharks can show erratic behaviour around your safety stop at 15 feet and it's very important for our dive guides to keep a watchful eye on them. For all of these reasons, Cocos is a dive destination in which guests have to stay with our dive guides. Our dive guides are highly experienced and excellent and they will do their best to give you all the freedom and headspace you might be looking for in your diving, and of course, we are very focussed on giving shooters what they need (sorry, bad pun). Ultimately, your captain and dive guides are the final authority on whether a guest can do a specific dive or not.

What are your safety protocols?

Safety, excellence in guest experience and happy staff and crew are the cornerstones of our business. Nothing is more important than your safety. At Nautilus, we are proud to be the only dive operation in the world with ISM certification and external annual audit of an SMS (Safety Management System). This is the same certification as the largest cruise ships on the oceans. We operate within written processes, procedures and checklists that our captains and crew are trained into both initially and annually. Every dive starts with a briefing on a white board. We require that all divers carry LifeLines marine rescue GPS, SMBs and dive alerts. We will loan you one of ours if you are missing any of this safety equipment. We carry AEDs and extensive medical kits with a contract medical officer available shoreside via our sophisticated satellite communication system. NOTE: because of the remoteness of Cocos Island, we highly recommend a medical checkup before leaving on this trip.

How many dives can I expect?

Your dive schedule may vary according to weather, other dive boats and where the action is. You can generally expect 2 dives in the morning and 1 in the afternoon. Entry into the park is restricted and tightly controlled for diving allowing for not more than 65 divers in the park at any one time. An 11 days, 10 nights trip provides for 7 dive days, and 6 dive days for 10 days, 9 nights.

Is there nitrox onboard?

Yes. It's mandatory for all divers and included for this trip.

Water temperature?

78- 82 °F (27 - 28 °C).

Are the boats camera friendly?

YES, VERY! Ask about rental cameras and photo pro services.

WHAT TO EXPECT

What's the weather like and what clothes should I bring?

Well, it's the rainy season in the tropics!! We recommend casual and cool attire onboard (t-shirt and shorts). It can be drizzly in the afternoons and we recommend bringing a windbreaker and a fleece vest or sweater just in case. Make sure you bring good shoes if you are interested in going ashore for a hike. It's spectacular onshore. Just wait until you see the waterfalls!

Is there internet and WhatsApp onboard?

Yes. Internet and WhatsApp connection are available for \$120 per trip. Please keep in mind that a satellite tracking system at sea only gives limited speed internet access. You won't be able to stream Netflix!!

Is there a fuel surcharge?

Of course not! We figure that dive boat companies that with fuel, surcharges year-in, year-out are just taking an extra fee onto the trip.

What's an appropriate crew tip?

US\$ 400 - \$500.

More questions?

Contact our concierges. They will be in touch in the regular way pre-trip to assist with logistics, pre and post activities, transfers and so on.

Phone: +1 (604) 241-1918 - Please ask for Daniela or Maria

WhatsApp: +1 (604) 360-9400

Email: conciierge@nautilusdive.com



Rental Locker

Borrowing safety equipment is always complimentary to all our guests

- Nautilus LifeLine Marine Rescue Radio
- SMB
- Dive Alert Signaling Device

Sample Pricing (USD)

Might we suggest booking your rental gear ahead of time. While our ships carry emergency loaners, visiting SeeCreatures is the best way to check out that perfectly fitted rental wetsuit and ensure that your camera and dive gear is working just right.

Nitrox	\$120	Go-pro Camera	\$150
Steel 95 cf Cylinder	\$36		

Packages

Wetsuit, BCD, Regulator	\$180	Fins, Booties, Hood/Mask	\$75
BCD, Regulator, Dive computer	\$170	Full Gear (Wetsuite, BCD, Reg, Computer, Booties, Hood, Fins, Snorkel and mask)	\$320

Items

Wetsuit	\$70	Hood	\$25
BCD	\$70	Mask	\$25
Regulator	\$70	Snorkel	\$20
Dive Computer	\$50	Hooded Vest	\$25
Fins	\$30	Dive Lights	\$15
Booties	\$30		

Zorb	\$7.63 per pound
Oxygen fills	\$100 / \$20 each additional day more than 5 days
Oxygen Rebreather Cylinder	\$50 / \$10 each additional day
Diluent Rebreather Cylinder	\$50 / \$10 each additional day

* Clients are responsible for the cost of repairing any damage except normal wear and tear. Prices subject to change without notice.

Excursion Risk



We are excited to have you join us, but feel compelled to point out **some of the risks** involved in going to sea on one of our ships.

On a voyage like this, we are always at the whim of Mother Ocean. All of our ships are equipped with the latest in satellite technology, full time data links, internet at sea and marine radios. We can't control the weather but we can monitor the forecasts very carefully and our shoreside management team is in constant contact with the ships and available 24/7 in case of emergencies. We need you to be aware that there is always a risk of adverse weather, mechanical breakdown, errors or mistakes made by our crew, medical evacuations or other interruptions to your trip that are beyond our control.

You can be sure that we will do our best to protect the health and safety of our guests and crew including the following core principles; temperature and health monitoring -> personal hygiene with frequent hand washing, using sanitizer, not touching face, coughing or sneezing into one's elbow -> social distancing -> disinfecting with 1 week hold times using fogging machines -> isolation, or quarantine for possible cases. HOWEVER, we cannot promise that you won't come in contact with someone infected and we cannot promise that you won't potentially get sick.

Guests are responsible for their own dive safety. Our guides are not responsible for teaching primary dive skills or looking after guests who do not have basic buoyancy skills. Diving with marine animals entails risk. Scuba divers risk embolism, dehydration or other medical issues. Guests and crew alike are susceptible to accidents, tripping and falling, sprains or broken bones, heart attacks, stroke or medical conditions such as appendicitis, pancreatitis, diabetic complications, severe infections, abscesses or other emergency conditions.

We sincerely hope that none of our guests will ever have a medical emergency, but in the highly unlikely event that one occurs, we will provide basic first aid and arrange for medical consultation. Aerial medevacs are not possible from Cocos. In the event of a medical emergency we might be able to get a fast boat to help out. Otherwise, the ship will have to return to port. We highly recommend the purchase of trip interruption insurance to provide coverage for YOU so that another guest's medical emergency doesn't impact you financially.

A sample [liability release and waiver can be viewed here](#) and requires your acceptance, agreement and signature before boarding your ship.

We wish you an amazing and completely uneventful trip with smooth seas and excellent diving.



PASSENGER GUEST WAIVER, RELEASE AND INDEMNITY (the "Waiver")

In consideration of you allowing me to participate in your camping and/or whale watching and/or excursion (the "Excursion"):

I voluntarily waive, release and forever discharge NAUTILUS DIVE ADVENTURES AND/OR all its related entities: ICARUS AVIATION LTD also doing business as "Lever Diving" AND/OR NAUTILUS EXPLORER MEXICO, S. DE R.L DE C.V. AND/OR 3-101-878943 S.A. (collectively the "Company") and its employees, directors, officers, agents and contractors (collectively the "Operators") from any and all liability, including but not limited to liability arising from the negligence (including gross negligence) or fault of the Operators or any of them for personal injury or death, property loss or damage or any other claims of any kind which may occur to me during or in connection with the Excursion and/or the use or misuse of any equipment, vessels or vehicles.

I agree that all agreements made between the Operators and myself (including this Waiver) shall be governed by the laws of Canada and the courts of British Columbia shall have exclusive jurisdiction over any matter relating to the said agreements or this Waiver.

I agree that this Waiver shall be binding upon my heirs, executors, administrators, successors, assigns and my estate and I agree that in the event that a claim is made against the Operators or any one of them in respect of any cause of action relating to me, I will indemnify the Operator(s) for their losses, damage and expenses arising from such claim.

I confirm that I have both read and fully understood the description of the risks involved in participating in the Excursion as set forth in the Company's disclosure information entitled "DIVING EXCURSION RISKS" published on the Company web site (<https://nautilusliveaboards.com/diving-excursion-risks/>) and in the pre-trip information package provided to me.

I also confirm that I:

- (a) am physically fit; without any health related reasons that would otherwise preclude my;
- (b) have had sufficient instruction, preparation and/or training for; and
- (c) have not been advised by any medical professional to avoid participation in the Excursion.

Finally, I confirm that I read and fully understood this Waiver before signing and, that I had the opportunity

Please note that you will be required to sign this waiver form upon the arrival at the hospitality suite.

Our Responsibilities, Your Responsibilities

Our Responsibilities

- To ensure your safety.
- To give you the best possible diving experience.
- To treat you with respect and consideration and to provide excellence in service onboard.
- To be responsive to special requests and needs.
- To plan each trip with respect to weather, sea conditions and animal behavior in order to maximize your diving experience.
- To keep our ships in top condition, clean and in good mechanical repair. Please note that each ship has many complex systems and it may be impossible to prevent some maintenance problems during your trip, despite our best efforts.

Your Responsibilities

1. Animals

We love Mother Ocean! Unfortunately, sometimes guests will demonstrate unsafe or irresponsible behavior towards animals that impedes other guest's experiences and/or may cause harm to the animals. It is your responsibility to follow the crew's directions and recommendations with respect to interaction with the animals. In the unlikely event that an individual is impeding other guests and/or causing harm to the animals, the captain will speak to that person and give them a formal warning. If the guest continues the same behavior, the captain has the authority to hold that guest out of the water for the remainder of the trip.

2. Diving Safety

It is your responsibility to attend dive briefings and comply with the principles of safe recreational diving. Deco diving or deliberately "going blue" is not allowed. The captain has the right to revoke the diving privileges of anyone who is diving in an unsafe manner.

3. Alcohol

With over many years of operational experience running charters, we have learned the safest alcohol policy is to restrict guests from bringing their own alcohol onboard. We provide a wide selection of beer, wine and alcohol from the ship's bar at reasonable prices. We are also happy to hold your duty-free purchases or local purchases of alcohol in bond in the ship's storage until the end of your trip.

4. Government Rules

You must comply with all Costa Rican government rules and regulations. Please note that government regulations and laws may change without notice. Our contract with you is subject to "force majeure" without compensation.

5. Marijuana

Marijuana is illegal in Costa Rica including medicinal prescription marijuana. We have a zero tolerance policy regarding guests bringing marijuana onboard.

6. Illegal Substances

We maintain a zero tolerance for illegal narcotics or substances on board. We're required under Costa Rican law to report any problems to the Costa Rican Federal Police.

7. Crew

Treating our crew and staff with courtesy and respect.

8. Getting Sick

We sincerely hope that you stay healthy and don't get sick during your trip. Please let the crew know if you are not feeling well so that we can give you extra love and attention and also do our best to prevent anyone else onboard from getting sick.

