



BIG FIVE[®]
TOURS & EXPEDITIONS

Enriching Lives Through Distinctive Journeys

**Big Medicine Retreat's
Beach Extension and Escape
Costa Rica
January 9 - 13, 2018**





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Day by Day Itinerary

JANUARY 9: BIJAGUA / PAPAGAYO

At a pre-arranged time, join your guide for the private 2-hour drive from La Carolina to your boutique hotel in the Papagayo region of the northwest Guanacaste province.

EL MANGROOVE, An Autograph Collection property – Choose from Nesto Suite based on double occupancy or Bark Suite based on single occupancy

The hotel is located in Bahia Papagayo and is the closest resort to any international airport in Costa Rica. Spanning 17 acres and embracing 500 ft. of beach front, it is also ideally situated just 15 minutes from the artsy and bustling town of El Coco. The 85 bohemian-chic suites are nestled amongst mangrove and beach front forest. A hotel surrounding a concept of barefoot luxury, it is the perfect complement to your yoga experience!

Papagayo

The Gulf of Papagayo is becoming one of Costa Rica's primary beach destinations. Papagayo Bay's vast dark and white sand beaches offer the ideal combination of big waves with calm waters conditions. The region is covered with dry tropical forest and mangrove vegetation, the signature of Pacific Coast beaches. Popular activities in this region include horseback tours (on the beach or inland to rainforest private reserves), canopy tours, deep sea fishing, sunset cruises, floating safaris, and visits to national parks such as Palo Verde, Santa Rosa and Rincon de la Vieja. The nearest town is Playas del Coco, and the nearest city (50,000 residents) is Liberia, about 45 minutes away.

JANUARY 10: PAPAGAYO

AM / PM: Beach Hopping (private services)

After an early breakfast, join your guide for a full day offshore tour of this beautiful Pacific coast line, only accessible by boat. Heading north you can visit 10 different secluded and underdeveloped white sand beaches. Enjoy snorkeling in the reef, stand up paddle boarding, and a fantastic picnic lunch.

Includes: water, sodas, beers, wines, snacks, lunch at the beach, snorkeling, wave boards, and paddle board equipment.

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JANUARY 11: PAPAGAYO

AM: Palo Verde Park Tour (private services)



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After breakfast, join your guide for a visit to Palo Verde National Park. Located along the banks of the Tempisque River, Palo Verde is one of the best places in Costa Rica to view native wildlife. In addition, the national park is a birdwatcher's paradise as the lowlands of the river make for ideal wetlands for a variety of aquatic birds. In addition to birds, as you cruise the Tempisque River, you will see crocodiles, some monkeys, and other reptiles. After lunch, visit the famous artisan village of Guaitil and learn about the Chorotega Indians. Watch the artists as they make pottery which they learned from their previous generations and which dates to their Pre-Columbian ancestors. **Includes:** transportation, bilingual guide, lunch, snacks, water. **What to bring:** running shoes or strap-on sport sandals, binoculars, camera, sunscreen, sun hat.

Afternoon at leisure.

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JANUARY 12: PAPAGAYO

Day at leisure for independent exploration.

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While in Papagayo, if you would like to engage in additional immersive experiences during this day at leisure, we suggest the following additional activities:

- Explore the beaches south of the Gulf – Panama, Hermosa and Playas del Coco.
- Shop for souvenirs locally.
- Experience the thrills of the Witches Rock Canopy Tour, one of the country's top-rated adventures.
- Spend a couple hours in a snorkeling or diving expedition off the Catalina Islands near Flamingo. Spot the unique marine wildlife of the Pacific shores of Guanacaste. If you're lucky, you may get to see dolphins and even humpback whales.
- Go Fishing! Stay in-shore for a half-day outing in search of snapper, wahoo, mahi-mahi, and mackerel, or spend the full day offshore fishing for sailfish and marlin with an expert crew professionally equipped and guided by late model electronics.
- Go horseback riding at the Buena Vista Lodge. The Buena Vista also features hot springs and is adjacent to the Tenorio Volcano.

For security reasons, please carry a copy of your passport for all aquatic activities (catamaran, sport fishing, and Jet Ski).



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JANUARY 13: PAPAGAYO / LIBERIA / U.S.

At a pre-arranged time, join your guide for the private 45-minute transfer to the Liberia airport where assisted with check-in procedures for your international flight.

(Breakfast included)



End of Travel Arrangements

Inclusions:

- Accommodations as stated inclusive of hotel taxes;
- Meals as indicated;
- Private airport transfers as indicated;
- All ground transportation as indicated in the itinerary;
- Guided tours as indicated, inclusive of entrance fees;
- Comprehensive assortment of pre-tour planning materials and amenities;
- Big Five's 24-hour White Glove Service® guest assistance;
- A complimentary one-year membership to the nonprofit One More Generation, which includes the adoption of an endangered species in one of the areas of special concern (www.bigfive.com/omg).

Exclusions:

Costa Rica Airport departure taxes (\$29 per person payable locally), passport and visa fees, supplemental travel insurance, excess baggage charges, and other items of personal nature such as gratuities, telephone / fax / internet charges, laundry, beverages, meals and services not specified in the itinerary.

Pricing:

For double occupancy, price is \$1,684.75 per person.

For single occupancy, price is \$2,898.00 per person.

Deposit due is 25% of the total with the balance due 60 days prior.

Notes:

- A passport valid for at least 6 months after arrival date is required for travelling to Costa Rica.
- This itinerary is subject to the General Terms & Conditions of a Big Five Tours & Expeditions program (included in our Booking Forms kit). To enable us to initiate reservations and request confirmations, please forward the required deposit or full payment as applicable. The quoted prices are only valid provided proposed services and accommodations are



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available at time of reservations. Rates may change due to (but not limited to) changes in travel dates, itinerary routing, number of passengers, accommodations, room categories, tour services, flight arrangements, etc.

About Suncierge, Inc.

Whether you want to delegate your travel planning chores to a full-service expert or just troubleshoot a do-it yourself travel plan, Suncierge aims to anticipate all of your needs before, during and after your adventure.

After 20 years in corporate America, founder and CEO Christie Soper said she was inspired by many colleagues, especially women, who juggle so much in their daily lives. “They were overcommitted, overworked and overwhelmed and could hardly carve out time to plan dinner, let alone a much-needed dream vacation with their partner, family or friends.”

In 2015, American workers forfeited 658 million days of their paid time off to their employers, she said. “This statistic prompted me to think about my passion for travel and planning for family and friends over the years. If I could do what I love and help others who crave the opportunity to unplug, refresh and re-bond, what a fulfilling calling.”

The reality is that planning travel, while time-consuming and complex sometimes, is not the hardest part of an escape, Soper said. “It’s all that we must prepare for beforehand and the avalanche waiting for us upon return.” So Suncierge, with traveler advocacy as its core mission, provides everything from customized pack-and-wear lists, safe traveler preparation, and turn-key technology like the SunDialer, an internationally-recognized mobile app for travelers on the go. Learn more at <http://www.suncierge.com/>

Why Suncierge Features Big Five for Your Costa Rica Needs

- 1) **24 Hours a Day:** Every guest receives complimentary enrollment in our **24-hour White Glove Service® guest assistance** program. A team of specialists using proprietary software to track your progress is available 365 days from anywhere in the world. WGS® starts two weeks before your departure to help with anything from in-country concierge services to travel emergencies.
- 2) **Booking in North America vs Booking Overseas:** Big Five doesn’t charge merchant fees for using a credit card. Many overseas companies will charge you 3% or more to pay by credit card. Also, they usually have more inclusions with fewer “optional” activities. You are backed by a comprehensive liability coverage plan that was written and is operated in North America.
- 3) **Sustainability:** We believe in a sustainable future for all. Big Five has been consistently recognized as *a leader in the sustainable travel*, receiving accolades for our work to help change the world through travel. Big Five has also been honored by an internationally recognized travel network as the only company to twice receive an award for *Sustainable Leadership* after being judged against nearly 100 other companies by two separate independent panels.