

# COSTA RICA



## First complete overview of Costa Rican sustainable tourism suppliers

Green Travel Market in partnership with Rainforest Alliance, both non-profit organization, has made an inventory especially for you of the best "green" and "fair" Costa Rican tourism suppliers currently available.

Changes in the travel trade are turning towards more social and environmental responsible ways of doing business. In recent years, there have been many projects and initiatives aimed at minimizing the negative impact of tourism and creating products that make a positive contribution to the local economy, the culture and the environment. Green Travel Market is an innovative service linking those sustainable tourism suppliers and destinations to international tour operators.

Detailed information on products and networks described below is available through [www.greentravelmarket.info](http://www.greentravelmarket.info)  
You can also meet us at the Reisepavillon in Hanover and the ITB 2006 in Berlin.

### First overview of sustainable tourism suppliers in Costa Rica

Many local Costa Rican suppliers market themselves as "eco-friendly," but how many are applying this in practice?

To help international tour operators identify and support suppliers that make the environment and the well-being of local communities' central concerns in their operations, the Green Travel Market has made an inventory of all sustainable products which are certified by the CST (Certification in Sustainable Tourism Program).

The CST is ensuring that a tourism operation's concern for the environment, for workers and for local communities extends beyond their marketing materials. Different levels of certification are recognised: from level 1 to level 5 (maximum commitment).

The accommodations certified are located all over the country, from the coastal areas to the capital city San José. They are mainly cabins, eco-lodges, medium class hotels to luxurious resorts. A description of each of the 51 suppliers is available on: [www.greentravelmarket.info](http://www.greentravelmarket.info)



### Green Travel Market

This unique online guide is designed to help you integrate responsible travel suppliers from around the globe into your packages.

At Green Travel Market you will find a complete range of tourism products: attractions and activities, accommodation and excursions, protected areas and destinations and even incoming tour operators.

All products are rated based on sustainability standards for their support to environmental, social or nature protection goals.

*Green Travel Market is supported by the Dutch Ministry of Environment, the Bilateral Treaty on Sustainable Tourism between the Netherlands and Costa Rica, and the Group of National Travel Agencies' and Tour operators' associations within the EU and the EU-LINK ALL program.*

*Green Travel Market is an initiative of ECEAT-Projects, The European Centre for Eco Agro Tourism.*

### Community Based Tourism

Community Based Tourism supports directly the well being of the local population and environment and provide an exciting cultural experience. Since the mid nineties many often co-operative initiatives have been established which united themselves with the COPRENA network. They offer a variety of products such as lodging, tours, handicrafts, adventure experiences and meals services.

Other community based tourism networks focus on rural tourism or ecotourism.

COOPRENA network of co-operative lodges,  
ACTUAR network of community-based eco-tourism enterprises,  
and more than 50 products available through [www.greentravelmarket.info](http://www.greentravelmarket.info)



The Rainforest Alliance's sustainable tourism program works with local incoming tour operators and tourism entrepreneurs informing and training them towards environmentally and socially sound tourism management. You can advise your local partners to join their educational programmes.

To learn more, visit [www.rainforest-alliance.org](http://www.rainforest-alliance.org)

