

AGUILA DE OSA
DRAKE BAY, COSTA RICA



Aguila de Osa Inn
Tour Information
& Vacation Planning Guide
www.aguiladeosainn.com

Welcome to Aguila de Osa Inn and thank you for choosing us for your vacation! To help you plan and maximize your stay at Aguila de Osa Inn we have prepared this booklet for your review. If you still have questions, please feel free to consult with our hotel manager.

From all of the staff, we look forward to serving you and ensuring that your stay here at Aguila de Osa Inn is enjoyable and memorable.

ABOUT AGUILA DE OSA INN

Aguila de Osa Inn is located in Costa Rica's Osa Peninsula, situated on a high bluff overlooking the Aguitas river with panoramic views of Drake Bay. Reaching out into the Pacific Ocean along the southwest coast, the Osa was once described by National Geographic as one of the most biologically intense places on earth. Encompassing Corcovado National Park and Caño Island, two of Costa Rica's most prized protected areas, the Osa Peninsula is a priceless natural treasure with an abundance of tropical plants, mammals, insects and over 350 species of birds.

No other region of Costa Rica offers the visitor a more pristine, virgin environment to discover. The Aguila de Osa Inn offers visitors to the region a comfortable and private refuge from which to explore the magic and beauty of mother nature in all her glory and complexity.

We welcome you to Aguila de Osa Inn and look forward to providing you with a long lasting, memorable vacation experience.

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HOTEL SERVICES

Drinking Water

The drinking water at Aguila de Osa Inn is pure, filtered well water that is tested several times a year. At Aguila de Osa we go to great lengths to provide our clients with safe, pure drinking water, so feel free to drink the water in your room.

Hot Water

Aguila de Osa Inn uses a forced hot water system run by gas. If you find yourself without hot water kindly consult with the hotel staff so they can change gas tanks and restore hot water to your room.

Hot Coffee & Tea

For those who wish to begin their day with a hot cup of coffee and/or tea, we ask that you kindly notify the hotel staff. Coffee and/or tea will be placed just outside your room at 5:00 a.m. every morning.

Sanitary System

Our sanitary system is very delicate so we ask that you kindly refrain from flushing paper or other solid objects in the toilet.

Beach Towels

You will be supplied with beach towels on all of your organized tours, so don't worry about packing them! If you find yourself in need of a beach towel for a private walk along the beach, inquire with reception, and we'll gladly supply you with one.

Massages

If you are tired or sore, Aguila de Osa Inn can help you relax with a massage in the privacy of your own room. At \$60.00 per hour, our professionally trained masseur can attend to your needs upon request.

Dining & Restaurant

Below we have listed the approximate time that meals will be served in our restaurant. If, at any time during the day you wish to have a snack and/or drink please feel free to consult with the hotel manager or the hotel's kitchen. We recommend bringing a flashlight to dinner as the sun sets close to 6:00 and extra light is always helpful, especially on the stairs.

HOTEL SERVICES

Meal Times

Breakfast: 6:00 a.m - 8:45 a.m. for those departing on tours, unless you've made other arrangements. If you are not leaving on a tour please feel free to sleep in and come down anytime for breakfast.

Lunch: 12:30 p.m. If you would like to make other arrangements, feel free to do so.

Appetizers: 6:00 p.m. During this time guides will be available to help coordinate tours for the following day.

Dinner: 7:00 p.m., following appetizers.

Bar Drinks & Services

Below we have supplied the prices for all bar drinks not included in your tour package.

Local Beer	\$4.00
Imported Beer	\$5.00
Mixed Drinks	\$5.00
Mixed Fruit Drinks	\$6.50
Glass of Wine	\$6.50
Bottle of Wine	\$24.00 and up
Bottled Water	\$3.00
Soft Drinks & Fruit Drinks	\$3.00

Laundry Service

Aguila de Osa Inn provides same-day laundry service for \$12.00 per load (20lbs.). We ask that you kindly fill out the laundry list and place it with your clothes in the laundry bag that is supplied in your room. To ensure that your clothing will be completed in a timely fashion we recommend that you leave the bag outside your room in the early morning hours before departing on any tour, or drop off

HOTEL SERVICES

your laundry bag to reception in the morning. On the same day, your washed, dried, and folded clothing will be returned to your room. For those returning from tours with wet footwear, your tour guide or a staff member can bring your shoes and/or sneakers to our laundry room where the excess heat from our drying machine will dry your footwear. Leaving your footwear in the laundry room overnight should give them time to dry for use the following morning.

Medical Treatment

For minor injuries like cuts, bruises and twisted ankles, there is a small medical clinic in Drake Bay where the doctor can take care of you. The clinic is open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. For smaller medical concerns, the hotel has a first aid kit. For major medical treatment we have an evacuation plan in place. Should any major medical problem arise, please contact hotel's administration.

Things to Bring

- ✓ Small flashlight
- ✓ Sunscreen
- ✓ Sun glasses
- ✓ Hats
- ✓ Bug spray
- ✓ Binoculars

Drake Bay School

Aguila de Osa Inn is dedicated to helping the schools in Drake Bay. The children in the area study in a one-room school house with no access to many of the things other children take for granted. With efforts by local hotels and tourists, we now have a high school. Aguila de Osa and other local hotels sell note cards to support the school's English program. This includes hiring a teacher who instructs five hours of classes per week. Any contribution you make will be greatly appreciated. If you would like to donate, we have a box in the restaurant where you can deposit your contribution.

Tours & Excursions

San Pedrillo Ranger Station (Corcovado National Park)

Cost: \$85.00

Duration: 8 Hours

Time: 6:30 a.m. - 2:30/3:00 p.m.

(for an earlier departure, please consult with the tour guides the evening before).

The San Pedrillo Ranger Station tour offers visitors a wonderful, unparalleled opportunity to see both primary and secondary rainforest, as well as a wide variety of plant and animal life. You will take a short, 30- minute boat ride, that may include whale and dolphin sightings.

En route to Corcovado National Park, your tour will pass Piqueros Island by boat, which is a short distance from the entrance to the San Pedrillo Ranger Station. This island is an important refuge for several species of marine birds, including the Brown Boobie, Blue Heron and Brown Pelican, and you'll be able to see these beautiful marine birds up close, though you are not permitted to physically go onto the island. You'll then proceed to the San Pedrillo Ranger Station, where you will begin your hike into Corcovado National Park (please remember to sign into the guest book!).

Your hike begins near the Ranger Station, which is situated alongside the river. The initial portion of the trail is a rather steep uphill climb through secondary rainforest. Just before reaching the plateau, there is a lookout area with views of the ranger station and Pacific Ocean. This is a good spot for a brief rest, photos, or whale/dolphin watching.

Entering the primary rainforest, the trail remains relatively flat weaving through the forest, often around or over fallen trees and branches. This portion of the hike lasts approximately 1 1/2 hours, and will bring you to the National Park boundary just north of the Ranger Station. Beyond this point the rainforest is a reserve, and no longer considered part of the National Park.

After reaching the National Park border, your tour will retrace back towards the Ranger Station and take another trail to the San Pedrillo river and waterfalls. This hike takes approximately 45 minutes, and there is a rather steep, downhill section over some slippery terrain. Upon reaching the upper portion of the river, you will need to cross it in order to continue on the trail, to the large waterfall. Your guide will help you cross the river if you need assistance. It is not recommended that you swim at the base of the large waterfall, however further down river, there is the opportunity to swim under smaller waterfalls. The water level of the river varies

depending on the time of year, but you should expect to get wet, perhaps knee deep or higher. If you are really adventurous, you can even follow the river all the way to the ranger station, walking chest high in some locations.

The hike will bring you back to the ranger station at about 12:30 p.m., when you'll have lunch and prepare for the boat ride back to the hotel at about 1:30 p.m.

Throughout the tour, your guide will point out items of interest, and bring to your attention interesting facts and information about the surrounding rainforest. The animal life in this section of the National Park can be very prolific, with frequent sighting of monkeys, coatimundis, squirrels, spiders, macaws, bats, leaf cutting ants, and other animal species. As well, much will be mentioned about the plant and tree species, which is lush, and teeming with life

TIPS

- ✓ Hiking boots are recommended over sandals, as the trail throughout this tour is a hard, reddish type clay that is very, very slippery when wet.
- ✓ We suggest that you take an ample supply of water with you on the hike.
- ✓ Mosquitoes here are not much of a problem, however, insect repellent is always recommended.
- ✓ The trail conditions are always well marked and maintained, but their condition varies depending on the weather, so please be prepared.

Tours & Excursions

Sirena Ranger Station (Corcovado National Park)

Cost: \$125.00 / minimum 4 people

Duration: 8.5 Hours

Time: 6:30 a.m - 3:00/3:30 p.m.

(for an earlier departure, please consult with the tour guides the evening before).

For those seeking the ultimate adventure, we recommend you visit the Sirena Ranger Station, situated in the heart of Corcovado National Park. A full day tour, this excursion is not for the tepid traveler.

The tour begins with a 1 - 1 1/2 hour boat ride heading south along the Osa Peninsula towards Corcovado National Park, during which you will be able to watch for whales and dolphins. Your boat ride runs parallel to the coast, taking you past the San Pedrillo Ranger Station and Piqueros Island, where Brown Boobies, Blue Herons and Brown Pelicans reside. When returning to the hotel in the afternoon, you will see a thundering waterfall just beyond the San Pedrillo Ranger Station.

Upon arriving at Sirena, your boat will travel up the Sirena River to a drop-off area, where you will gather your personal belongings and prepare for the hike. The Guanacaste Trail is approximately 1.2

miles (2 km) long, and earned its name from the many Guanacaste trees found along the trail.

The flat trail runs parallel to the river through secondary rainforest. There are several rivers and streams to cross, and the trail is muddy in low-lying areas, particularly during the rainy season. Shortly thereafter, you will enter primary forest, which is considerably more dense with taller, older trees. The hike along the Guanacaste trail takes approximately 1 hour to complete, and will then intersect the Los Patos trail, which connects the Sirena and Los Patos Ranger Stations. You will turn off the Los Patos trail onto the Espaveles trail, which is 1.6 miles (2.5 km) long and runs through primary rainforest behind the Sirena Ranger Station. Like the Guanacaste trail, this trail is quite flat, easy to navigate and crosses several small streams and rivers. The canopy overhead is very thick on this portion of the hike, with little direct sunlight. After approximately 2 hours of hiking, the Espuvellas trail emerges from the rainforest just behind the Sirena Ranger Station.

You will spend approximately 15 -20 minutes at the Sirena Ranger Station, during which time you can use the bathrooms or showers, sign the guestbook, chat with other tourists, walk around, or just relax. The remaining portion of your hike is along the Rio Claro trail, which begins close to the Sirena Ranger Station. The trail is only .6 miles (1 km) long and finishes at the beach just to the right of the Claro River.

The canopy overhead is very thin on this trail, and it has a more coastal feel, lined with beautiful heliconia plants and colorful berry trees. The ground in this section is considerably drier due to the direct sunlight that hits the trail. Near the midway point of the trail, the rainforest becomes denser and begins to resemble the Guanacaste and Espaveles trails. For a short time you will need to straddle a river that runs adjacent to the trail, which can get muddy and wet during the rainy season. Your hike ends at the beach, after approximately 30 minutes of hiking. Here, your lunch will be served and you'll have time to relax and prepare for the boat ride back to Aguila de Osa.

Your tour will involve about 3 1/2 hours of hiking, but much depends on the weather, trail conditions and interest level of those on the tour. The rainforest is a very complex community of living organisms, with much to see and talk about

TIPS

- ✓ Hiking boots are recommended over sandals.
- ✓ We suggest that you take an ample supply of water with you on the hike.
- ✓ Mosquitoes here are not much of a problem, however, insect repellent is always recommended.
- ✓ Parts of this hike, particularly that portion along the Sirena River, can be very, very muddy during the rainy season.

Tours & Excursions

VIP Corcovado National Park Tour Sirena Biological Station by Plane

Cost: \$1,250.00 (min. 4 people)

Duration: 5 1/2 Hours

Time: 7:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m..

The day starts with breakfast at 6:30 A.M. leaving the hotel at 7:00 sharp! Our boat driver will take you to the town beach (a wet landing) to catch a taxi that will take you to the Drake Bay airport for the flight to Sirena Station.

During the flight you'll get to look over the entire Corcovado Park. You'll fly over Corcovado Lagoon, the unexplored rainforest and beaches of the Osa Peninsula.

Your flight will be approximately 20 minutes. Upon arrival, your tour guide will lead you through the forest trails pointing out the flora and fauna of one the most intense places on earth. After lunch you'll board your plane for the flight back to Drake Bay.

TIPS

- ✓ Mosquitoes are not much of a problem, however, insect repellent is always suggested.
- ✓ Parts of this hike, particularly that portion along the Sirena River, can be very, very muddy during the rainy season.
- ✓ Hiking boots are highly recommended over sandals.

Tours & Excursions

Caño Island Snorkeling

Cost: \$85.00

Duration: 7-8 Hours

Time: 7:30 a.m. - 2:30/3:30 p.m.

Caño Island is only 12 nautical miles from Aguila de Osa Inn, and is a paradise for snorkelers, scuba divers, swimmers, and sunbathers alike! The Island can be seen just minutes after leaving the protected cove of the hotel, and the boat ride takes about 45 minutes. During the months of the Northern and Southern migrations (December to April and July to November) you may be lucky enough to spot humpback whales or dolphins frolicking in the ocean on your way to the Island!

Your boat will anchor at two different sites close Caño Island, and your snorkeling guide will point out the diverse species living just below the surface. The dark, volcanic rock and the open water around the Island are home to a variety of marine life including Olive Ridley and Hawksbill Sea Turtles, White-Tipped Sharks, several species of Moray Eels, Mobula and Sting Rays, big Cubera Snapper, schools of Horse-Eyed Jacks, King Angel fish, Grunts, Barracudas, and much, much more.

Between snorkeling trips, you will have time to relax on the beach and enjoy the beauty of Caño Island. This tour includes lunch,

which may include a variety of tropical fruits and drinks, salad, sandwiches, and cookies. Lunch is prepared by your tour guide and served around midday at shaded picnic tables on the beach. The Caño Island Park Ranger Station has an office, public bathrooms, and an outdoor, freshwater shower.

TIPS

- ✓ There is no drinkable water on the Island, so we recommend that you bring a water bottle. There is, however, a freshwater shower.
- ✓ Some species of trees have spines and/or needles protruding from their bark, which serves as a protective measure. So, make sure you look before you grab!
- ✓ An extra t-shirt is recommended for snorkeling to prevent sunburn.
- ✓ Drinks will be provided during and after the tour.

Tours & Excursions

Scuba Diving

Cost: \$125.00 / 2 tanks per person

Duration: 7-8 Hours

Time: 7:30 a.m. - 2:30/3:30 p.m.

Osa Peninsula offers several excursions to encounter the unseen communities of tropical fish below the water's surface. With Costa Rica's finest Pacific coastal diving and snorkeling, the clear waters surrounding Caño Island Biological Reserve are best described as an Eden of coral and rock formations housing vibrant marine life.

Whether you're a beginner, intermediate, or advanced scuba diver, or you just choose to snorkel, the rich and abundant marine life will amaze you. With visibility 30 – 100 ft. or more year-round, and teeming with exotic sea life, diving Caño Island is an underwater photographer's dream. Scuba among large schools of colorful reef fish or observe the large pelagic that frequent these waters.

Let our Padi dive instructors and dive masters aboard our 30 ft Island Hopper take you on a voyage of breathtaking dives through schools of barracudas and horse-eye jack. The variety of sea life is extraordinary, with Mobula, Eagle and Giant Manta Rays, Southern Sting Rays, Guitarfish, Octopus, Olive Ridley and Hawksbill Sea Turtles, many species of Moray eels, and much more!

As the oldest established dive operation in Drake Bay, we guarantee you a memorable Costa Rican scuba diving adventure unlike any you've ever experienced.

TIPS

- ✓ Don't forget to pay attention to the open water, where larger schools of fish habitually pass by.
- ✓ If you would like to use any of your own gear, (regulators, etc.), kindly inform the dive master.
- ✓ Discovery Scuba courses are also available upon request.
- ✓ To ensure the highest level of safety and pleasure, Aguila de Osa Inn uses only the highest quality dive equipment: Sherwood Oasis regulators, Scuba Pro BCD's, and O'Neill Dive Suits.

Tours & Excursions

And for those of you who are not certified divers we offer several options...

Discovery Scuba Course (for non-certified divers)

How about swimming on the ocean's surface and looking at the fish thru a dive mask and breathing air from a tank? That's right, you'll be able to feel what it's like to wear all this equipment in the water, and at the same time view all the marine life below. And if you really enjoy yourself and would like to go one step further, our instructor can lead you to the ocean's bottom along the anchor line permitting you to observe the ocean floor and feel what it's like to breath underwater.

If you enjoy that, we'll take you on a mini diving tour around the same area and look at the fish we saw from above, only up close! You may go for another dive with your instructor to another beautiful diving spot. Visit the reception desk for all the information you need to make you feel safe and sure about your new adventure!

Snorkeling

The shallow bays and inlets that surround Caño Island are ideal for nondivers. Snorkelers will have an excellent opportunity to survey the underwater terrain and sea life surrounding Caño Island. The dark, volcanic rock is home to many species of marine life, much of which you can see just a short swim from the beach.

Local Dive Sites

Bajo del Diablo

One of our most popular dive spots, this site earned its name from the large schools of Devil Rays that frequent the area. With an average depth of 70 ft. a steady current, and visibility of 50+ ft., the marine life at Bajo del Diablo is prolific and the underwater landscape is just magnificent.

The large canyons and rock formations on the ocean floor are separated only by small patches of white, sandy bottom. White tip reef sharks are common sightings here, often resting along the ocean floor or cruising through the canyons. Much of the volcanic rock that make up the canyon walls are blanketed with thick, beautiful white gorgonias, giving them an almost Christmas tree effect. Small crevices, holes and passageways abound, all of which are occupied by healthy numbers of moray eel, octopus, lobster, blennies, sea stars, gobys, groupers, parrot fish, puffer fish, and other colorful, tropical fish. For underwater photographers, there are opportunities for both wide angle and macro shots.

Throughout the dive you will be permitted to ascend or descend along the canyon walls, surveying the topography and colorful marine life. Or, cruise above the uppermost portion of the rock formations, in just 35 ft. of water, and take note of all the marine life nearer to the surface. Reflecting off the different colors of hard coral.

Local Dive Sites

El Arco (The Arch)

This site has similar marine life to "Shark Cave," except that when you cross under this arch waiting on the other side, there are schools of grunts are there to swim through. If you have a good eye, you might encounter flounder, frogfish, or lobster (don't touch!) This is a good, easy dive.

Cueva del Tiburon (Shark Cave)

This site is half a kilometer from the ranger station with a maximum depth of 60 feet. You will survey volcanic rock with pinnacle formations covering the area. One of the pinnacles has developed into a cave that is home to the white tip sharks. You will usually find several sharks sleeping in the cave. Though divers are not permitted to enter do to park regulations, from the opening you can get a good look.

Around the rock formations you are likely to see puffers, damsels, moorish idols, box fish, goat fish and other tropical fish. There's a good chance you will catch a glance at turtles, mobula rays and sting rays. The visibility can be anywhere between 15 to 75 feet, and when there's 30 feet or more there is an incredible color show from the sun reflecting off the different colors of hard coral.

El Barco (The Shipwreck)

Eleven years ago a sailboat broke anchor, washed up on the beach, and eventually wash back to where El Barco's site is today. After two years it disappeared, but the name still remains. This is the best spot to see white tip sharks, as many 15 around the rock formations. This is a special location because it contains a cleaning station for the Southern Stingray, which have wing spans of up to six feet. Here there is another chance to see turtles and mobula rays. This another good, easy dive, and has visibility that ranges from 15 to 70 feet with an average 35 to 45 feet.

The Coral Gardens

This is a shallow dive (15 to 40 feet,) and there is spectacular array of brilliantly colored coral. Here you'll see goby's, blennys, wrasses, butterflyfish, parrotfish, damselfish, porcupinefish, octopus and turtles at times. Visibility is 15 to 80 feet, and depending on the seas, it can be very impressive and a easy dive.

Local Dive Sites

Paradiso (Paradise)

The name speaks for itself. It lies 2 miles from Cano Island. The layers of lava formations stretch for a mile, are 150 meters wide, and 80 to 90 feet deep with an up crop that reaches to 60 feet from the surface.

The main area is filled with big schools of blue and gold snapper, and if you swim slowly you can enter these schools. You might find bigger fish including amberjacks, dog tooth snapper, barracudas, and schools of horse-eye jacks. Amberjacks are attracted to divers' bubbles, so you may see them as close as two feet away. This is one of the best places to see white tip sharks and nurse sharks; at times they are in schools of over twenty. Tropical fish include, parrot fish, trigger eels, puffers and occasionally mobula rays. Depending on seas the visibility may be 15 feet, but on calm, clear days it can reach to 100 feet.

Coastal Diving

Marenco Rock

This is the closest rock to the lodge. Here you'll find black corals, snappers, grunts, lobsters and more. The rock is about 50 feet below the surface. Visibility is 15 to 50 feet on good days. A lot of plankton inhabits the area which attracts large schools of fish.

20 Minutes

This site is called 20 minutes because that's how long it takes to get there! Lobsters, white tips and several types of tropical fish are common, as are sea fan and other species of coral. Visibility varies between 15 to 50 feet depending on seas and the current, and the maximum depth is 40 feet.

Campanario

Located near Corcovado National Park, Campanario is a set of pinnacles filled with schools of horse-eye jacks, barracudas, grunts, snappers to 60 lbs., and at times school of Rooster fish come to meet the divers. The maximum depth is 40 feet and visibility is around 40 feet as well. With certain currents and sea swells this area cannot be dived.

Tours & Excursions

Sport Fishing

Cost: \$550.00 (half day) / \$900.00 (full day)

Duration: 5 hour (half day) / 9 hours (full day)

Time: 7:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (half day) /

7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (full day)

(fishing times are flexible)

The challenge and excitement of some of the world's best big game fishing awaits you at Aguila de Osa Inn. Over 40 International Game Fish Association (I.G.F.A.) records have been set within 80 nautical miles from our hotel, with catches including Sailfish, Black, Blue, and Striped Marlin, Yellowfin Tuna, Wahoo, Cubera Snapper, Spanish and Sierra Mackerel, Roosterfish and more. Aguila itself holds four world-fishing records. The Aguila de Osa Inn has the reputation of being a fisherman's paradise.

Our Palm Beach 31-foot cold-molded sport fishing boats are powered by Caterpillar 3116 turbo diesels. We carry a full range of Penn International and Shimano reels in all weight classes. We also accommodate fly fisherman, but ask that you bring your own equipment. If you have any questions about what equipment to bring, please do not hesitate to contact our office. Our professional captains (all English speaking) and crew are anxious to be part of your recordbreaking sport fishing vacation.

Aguila's professionally trained mechanics constantly maintain our boats to the highest possible standards for your safety and enjoyment.

Our boats meet all the U.S. Coast Guard safety regulations with lifejackets, flares, GPS, and VHF radios. In addition, we are equipped with a special frequency that enables us to reach a far greater distance than the normal marine radios in case of an emergency. Thrilled by spectacular runs of big game fish, guests can take advantage of our 1/2 day or full day fishing charters. Aguila de Osa Inn practices responsible catch and release fishing techniques and is the oldest operation in the area to use circle hooks.

TIPS

- ✓ We highly recommend sunscreen, hat, long sleeve shirt and long pants to protect you from the sun's rays. There is very little cover from the tropical sun while fishing

Fishing Seasons

Marlin - August-December is peak season, but an occasional blue or black may be taken any month if the water temperature is right.

Sailfish - A few are taken off and on year-round with the exceptional fishing from December-April. Often slows from May into early June, then picks up again and begins to peak in August or September.

Yellow Fin Tuna - Best fishing for the bigger ones corresponds with marlin and sailfish season, but the schools of footballs can nearly always be found around Caño Island and farther outside.

Dorado - Best runs are traditionally from late May-October.

Wahoo - Not abundant, but an occasional Wahoo may be taken any time. Can be caught between May and October while trolling for sailfish.

Roosterfish - The region has big roosters and they can be caught virtually any month of the year. Some weigh nearly 100 pounds but they average 6-30 pounds.

Snook - Almost all year round, but best from May-August and January-March.

Other Species - includes Horse-eye Jacks, Jack Crevalle, Amber Jack, Spanish Mackerel, Dog Tooth Snapper, and Mutton Snapper, are here year-round.

Tours & Excursions

Whale & Dolphin Watching

(Northern Migration: November - April, Southern Migration: July - October)

Cost: 1/2 day tour \$500.00 minimum, or \$125.00 per person.
There is a 50% discount for children under the age of 12 once the minimum has been met.

Duration: 5 hours

Time: Anytime

The warm, crystal clear waters just off the Osa Peninsula are home to a variety of whale and dolphin species and are ideal for seeing these incredible creatures up close. Guests can see humpback, pilot and false killer whales, or spotted, bottlenose and spinner dolphins.

Aguila de Osa Inn has several different boats available for whale and dolphin watching tours, all of which are spacious and comfortable. As always with this type of tour, the presence and exact location of these sea creatures can't be predicted or guaranteed, however sightings are frequent. Pods of humpback and pilot whales, as well as schools of spinner, bottlenose and spotted dolphins frequent the area at various times throughout the year. Your tour will head towards Caño Island but may change direction if sightings occur elsewhere. Whales and dolphins can be seen surprisingly close to the hotel, though due to protective laws, snorkeling with them is not permitted. While whales and dolphins

are most commonly seen independently of each other, it is not uncommon to see pods of whales accompanied by large schools of dolphins.

Surfacing at regular intervals to breathe, you may see them exhaling with deep, resonating sounds and enormous expulsions of vapor. As they breach the water's surface their large bodies briefly rise out of the water, exposing their heads, dorsal fin and tails. Since the humpbacks' yearly southern migration to give birth takes place in this area of Costa Rica, they are frequently seen with their calves from August through October. Schools of dolphin are most frequently seen in open water, frolicking effortlessly along the surface. They will often ride the waves just in front of the boat, giving passengers an exciting close-up view. Aguila de Osa's location in Drake Bay allows for some of the best whale and dolphin watching tours in Costa Rica.

TIPS

- ✓ Despite the boats' canvas awnings or hard fiberglass tops, we highly recommend you bring sunscreen, a hat, and long sleeve shirt, as the sun is intense.
- ✓ For those with underwater videos or cameras we recommend you bring them along.

Tours & Excursions

Horseback Riding

Cost: \$65.00 / minimum 2 people

Duration: 4-6 hours

Time: Anytime

Gallop along deserted beaches, ride through the primary rainforest, through lush hilltops with sweeping views of the Pacific Ocean, and explore the thundering waterfalls hidden deep in the verdant forest during our half-day horseback riding tours.

Your tour begins with a short walk to the beach, where the horses will be waiting. After mounting the horses, you'll walk along the beach, passing the town of Agujitas to your right, and onto Drake Bay's dirt road. This portion of the ride is hilly and weaves through farms, while the roadside is lined with colorful heliconia plants, berry trees, and orchids. You may observe a variety of birds, including hawks, hummingbirds and vultures. Just before reaching the halfway point of the tour, you'll cross over a stream, which, during the height of the rainy season, becomes a roaring river.

Shortly thereafter you will break for a cold soft drink at a local store. The second half of your tour heads down towards the beach. Here, you can run with the horses, or just walk leisurely and admire the spectacular views. For the remainder of your tour you will lead the horses along the beach, crossing a few streams along the way.

Throughout the tour your guide will point out a variety of bird species and plants. The Osa Peninsula contains some of Costa Rica's most beautiful topside scenery, and a horseback riding tour is ideally suited to help you see it.

TIPS

- ✓ We highly recommend sunscreen, hat, long sleeve shirt and long pants to protect you from the sun's rays. There is very little cover from the tropical sun while fishing

Tours & Excursions

Birdwatching

Cost: \$35.00 / minimum 2 people

Duration: 2-3 hours

Time: 5:30 a.m.- 7:30 a.m.,

afternoon tours available upon request

For birding enthusiasts the area surrounding Aguila de Osa Inn is a natural treasure. There are many public and private trails, all of which have been designed with birders in mind. Our professional birding guides have extensive knowledge of the area and the many bird species that reside here.

Common sightings are tanagers, hummingbirds, macaws, toucans, manikins, hawks, robins, flycatchers, and woodpeckers. A variety of migratory birds, such as the osprey also visit the area at designated times throughout the year.

Birding tours depart right from the reception desk of the hotel. The trails are low-impact and well maintained, however, we recommend hiking boots to ensure safe and secure footing, particularly during the rainy season months. If you have your own binoculars we suggest that you bring them along.

The birding tour lasts approximately two hours and is offered twice a day, once in the morning before breakfast, and again late in the

afternoon before dinner. The tour, however, is flexible and can be modified to meet your specific needs or interests. It's best to consult with the guides if you are interested in a particular bird species, as some can be observed more easily at specific times during the day.

TIPS

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Tours & Excursions

River & Ocean Kayaking

Cost: Free

Duration: No Limits

Time: No Limits

Kayak enthusiasts will have a blast at Aguila de Osa Inn! The hotel has 7 lightweight, one-person sit-on-top kayaks, for you to use whenever possible. Made of hard, durable plastic, these kayaks are comfortable, stable and very easy to maneuver. Both the Agujitas River and open water, just in front of the hotel, are ideal for kayaking.

The entrance to the Agujitas River is located just in front and to the left of the hotel, and is best enjoyed during high tide, since it permits you to paddle further up river. You can, however, kayak in the river at any time.

The river's width varies considerably and is relatively unobstructed, however, some small islands of rock do exist. The forest that lines the river is dense and provides for a surprising amount of shade even on sunny days. Expect to spend about 30-45 minutes kayaking in the Agujitas River, but much depends on the tide, skill level, and interest in the wildlife.

Along the riverbed there are many Jesus Christ Lizards, Gekkos, frogs, crabs and more. You'll hear the ruckus of the scarlet Macaws

and other tropical birds living in the canopy overhead. For optimum wildlife viewing it's best to go slowly and quietly. The water conditions in the Agujitas River are normally very flat and tranquil, ideal for even the most tepid kayaker.

For those who prefer to kayak in open water you can venture out in front of the hotel, just beyond the protected cove. The shoreline is very rugged, with plenty of large outcroppings of dark, volcanic rock, separated only by small coves and black sand beaches. Standing behind the rocks, is lush, verdant rainforest that runs right to the water's edge. The scenery here is truly spectacular, and there is no limit as to just how far you can go. The water conditions vary tremendously, depending on the weather, tide, and time of day. Choppy seas are common, as are medium to large swells.

TIPS

- ✓ We recommend that you wear a life jacket, sandals/booties, sunscreen, a hat, and shirt to protect you from the sun.
- ✓ The river's current tends to be strongest in the middle section, whereas along the river's edge the water moves with less force. While kayaking upriver you'll find it easier if you stay off to the side.
- ✓ The water conditions in the open water are calmer in the early morning and late afternoon hours.

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Tours & Excursions

Mountain Biking

Cost: \$65.00

Duration: 1-3 hours

Time: Anytime

Drake's Planes

(times 1.5 – 2 hours)

This is a very uneven road. The ride starts on the beach, goes gradually uphill, then descends a steep hill into the river canyon. Once you cross over the suspended bridge, the remaining section is all uphill, for about 2k. (1.5 mile) until you reach Los Planes on the plateau. From here you have three options: 1) returning to Drake Bay the same way you came, which is mostly downhill with only couple hills to climb; 2) completing any of the next two loops (Planes – Caletas) or (Planes Bijagua) to get back to the beach.

Planes - Caletas

(loop time / 1.45 – 2.5 hours)

After Planes, you'll ride on a relatively flat section that leads to a road carved through old growth forest. The ride continues along a very picturesque portion of the trail, as it passes through pasture land situated along rolling hills, and then ends with a very steep down hill ride to the beach. Once there, you'll follow the walking trail that straddles the beach, passing several little hotels along the way, and finishes near the rocky shore at Cocolito Beach. From there,

you have to carry the bike up the steps and over the river, before reaching Aguila.

Planes - Bijagua

(times 1.5 – 2 hours)

After Planes, the ride continues along a road comprised primarily of rolling hills and lined with beautiful pasture and forest. This trail is a little longer and more strenuous than the trail mentioned above, since the road is more demanding. The trail ends as it merges into the gravel road that you first took as you started off on the Drake's Planes trail.

Drake's Progreso

(Drake's – Progreso – Los Angeles Loop 1.5 – 2.5 hours)

Aside from Drake's – Los Planes, this is the only other trail that will take you along a gravel road. As well, this is the only trail that will take you through river/creek crossings. Similar to the Los Planes trail, this ride starts along the beach on rolling terrain (not too steep, but there is some climbing). Upon reaching Progreso, you have the option to return on the same trail or continue further ahead to the real steep hills of Rancho (really steep!) You can also proceed to Los Angelesm along a flat road, until you reach the school, where you'll have an opportunity to do a little off-road biking in forested hills (mostly old growth). This road then leads back to the gravel road where you began your ride. The most difficult ride is to Rancho, where there's some difficult climbing, but after the climb it is steeply downhill. Look out for cars!

Tours & Excursions

Canopy Tour

Cost: \$65.00

Duration: 2-3 hours

Time: Four (4) times per day 7 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m.

For those with an adventurous spirit, we highly recommend the Corcovado Canopy Tour, which are comprised of thirteen elevated wooden platforms that reach 95-100 ft. in height and connected with 11 steel-cables ranging from 625 ft. to 1,310 ft. in length. Traverse from treetop to treetop through the beautiful canopy of the Corcovado rainforest.

Your Canopy Tour adventure begins with a short 5 minute walk from Aguila de Osa, to the beach where you'll meet your transfer to Los Planes, a 20 minute 4x4 truck ride that will bring you to the office of the Canopy tour. Once there, you'll be outfitted with the necessary gear, helmet, harness, gloves, etc., and will be briefed on how to use the equipment, as well on safety issues to ensure a fun safe tour. In addition, you will receive particulars on what to expect during your tour. Before you begin your tour you'll be asked to sign a waiver. (Please note that Corcovado Canopy Tour is certified by the Costa Rican Tourism Institute (ICT) and is insured by the National Institute of Insurances (INS) safety and quality are our top priority). The Canopy Tour is offered throughout the day, at specific times which is 7:30, 10:30 and 1:30.

Night Tour

Cost: \$35.00

Duration: 2 hours

Time: 8:00 p.m. - 10:00/10:30 p.m.

Open your eyes to a world you might never knew existed! Lead by resident naturalist guides, Aguila offers visitors a unique night tour through private trails located on our property.

Many rainforest inhabitants are nocturnal, making the rainforest an exciting and magical place to visit after dark. Throughout the tour, Gustavo or Tracy will reveal interesting and informative aspects of cultural entomology - the impact of insects on our lives, and of us on theirs. Moths, iguanas, frogs, and spiders are common sightings, with snakes and other species of animal life present but less frequently observed.

All those participating will be equipped with lightweight, compact, state of the art ITT night vision optics, in conjunction with infrared laser beams, enabling you to see an examine life that is normally hidden to the human eye. Flashlights are also provided, and will be your primary light source when walking through the rainforest. The evening tour begins shortly after dinner, from the reception area, and lasts approximately 2 - 2 1/2 hours. You will return to the hotel at approximately 10:00 p.m. There are several hiking trails in the area that may be utilized, but much depends on the weather and trail conditions at the time. The trails are well maintained, and easy to follow, so this is an ideal tour for those looking for low impact adventure.

Tours & Excursions

San Josecito Beach Tour

Cost: \$75.00 with guide

(minimum 2 people / \$30.00pp without a guide)

Duration: Flexible

Time: Flexible

Visit one of Costa Rica's most beautiful and acclaimed beaches, Playa San Josecito. Just 15 minutes away by boat, this is the ideal place to relax and explore, work on your tan, or read a book.

For the more adventurous, take a hike through the coastal forests with our naturalist guide to the magnificent "Rio Claro" where a refreshing dip in this pristine river will help you cool down. Or stroll through the Botanical Gardens, where you'll find many types of native plants including heliconia and bromeliads, as well as numerous species of flora from five different continents of the world. Here at San Josecito, the rainforest comes right to the beach, allowing you to watch the wildlife without having to leave the comfort of your beach towel. Macaws are abundant, as are toucans and humming birds. Monkeys, sloths and coatis are also common.

The wildlife doesn't stop at the beach though! Love the water? Then, don your mask, snorkel and fins (provided by us for your use), slip into the clear waters and take a swim with a myriad of colorful fish. If you're patient and get lucky, you might even bump into a marine turtle or two.

Lunch is served on comfortable and shaded picnic tables, with changing rooms, toilets, and fresh water showers all available. Departure times are flexible and sunset options are available. Just let reception know what you want to do and when you want to go and we will do our very best to accommodate your individual needs.

TIPS

- ✓ During the rainy season, a rain jacket is suggested.
- ✓ Hiking boots on this tour are recommended due to the lack of visibility.

Tours & Excursions

Mangrove Tour

Cost: \$400.00 min, or \$100.00 per person.

There is a 50% discount for children under the age of 12 once the minimum has been met.

Duration: 6 hours

Time: 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Visit the mysterious and fascinating Sierpe-Terraba mangroves, the largest untouched mangrove forest on Costa Rica's Pacific Coast. Take a tour with our experienced naturalist guides, and venture into a beautiful maze of canals and rivers as we search for the region's fascinating wildlife from the comfort of our boat. There is no need to walk... This is wildlife viewing at its best! Just sit back and enjoy the mangroves in comfort during this captivating tour of the Osa.

A hidden world, accessible only by boat, these flooded forests are home to nearly a 100 species of birds, including the endemic mangrove hummingbird (found nowhere else on earth). The entire region is a twitcher's paradise. Wildlife is prolific, with an abundance of reptiles including caimans, crocodiles, tree frogs, boas, iguanas and river turtles. Mammals are also very common, and you will very likely see three different species of monkey (howlers, squirrel, and white faced capuchins) as well as sloths and coatis. Herons, waders, owls, parrots and shore birds use this area

as a nesting and feeding ground. Boat tours depart from the Aguila dock, and include a 25-minute ride to the mouth of the mangrove estuary. Cold beverages, cookies, and fresh fruit are enjoyed on board while we explore the mangrove eco-system.

TIPS

- ✓ We highly recommend sunscreen, hat, blanket, long sleeve shirt and long pants to protect you from the sun's rays, as well as sandals or some kind of light hiking shoes.

Commitment to Eco-Tourism

Mission

Aguila de Osa Inn has made a commitment to actively participate in protecting the environment. We are working together to increase the awareness of our staff, our clients, and our community about our impact on the environment and the importance of protecting the surrounding ecosystems for future generations. We are also committed to using eco-tourism to develop and improve the community and environment of which we are a part.

Eco-Tourism: Our Definition

We define eco-tourism as environmentally and socially responsible tourism with a focus on experiencing and visiting natural areas. It has the potential to foster growth, understanding, appreciation and conservation of the nature and communities surrounding a destination. Until now there have not been regulations within the industry to ensure the authenticity of eco-tourism destinations. The sustainable tourism certification programs that are being introduced around the world are a way to guarantee that the activities, products and businesses associated with the industry all meet a certain standard. This is exceedingly helpful for the consumer that demands to know that the places they travel to are protecting the environment and community from negative effects.

Costa Rican Certification Program

The Costa Rican government developed a Certification program for Sustainable Tourism (CST) in response to the lack of regulation in the tourism industry. The program seeks to categorize and certify each tourism company according to the degree in which its operations comply with four separate standards:

- ✓ Physical-biological parameters: the natural habitat
- ✓ Infrastructure and services: evaluating policies and systems
- ✓ External clients: education and participation of clients
- Socio-economic environment: the company's local involvement and impact

The goal of the program is to guarantee that the practices of the business are legitimately lessening tourism's impact on the environment and culture of the destination. Aguila de Osa Inn enthusiastically supports the CST and its efforts in regulating the tourism industry and, in addition, is one of the 9 founding members of the Sustainably Managed Association of Responsible Tourism (SMART). The SMART Network consists of hotels around the world that have developed superior management practices which address and support environmental conservation, cultural sensitivity and development, and increased traveler awareness to local efforts. For more information about our efforts visit SMART Destinations of the World (www.smartdestinations.org) and Green Hotels of Costa Rica (www.greenhotelscr.com).

Commitment to Eco-Tourism

How Can You Help

Aguila de Osa Inn asks that our guests join us in helping to conserve our local resources. It is easy to reduce your impact on the environment; here are a few simple steps we take to ensure that our consumption is kept to minimum.

- ✓ You can help conserve water by hanging your towels on the rack to dry. If you wish towels replaced daily leave them on the floor. We will change your linens every three days, if you wish them to be changed sooner, simply place the linen change card on your pillow.
- ✓ Our water comes from our own well and is usually abundant. However, please be respectful of other guests and of our natural resources by being conscious of shower times.
- ✓ Our electric energy is supplied by our local Electric Company, or when not in service it is by our own diesel generators. To ensure that the use of our generators are running efficiently and to minimize the our natural resources, please turn off your fans and lights when not in use.
- ✓ If you need to smoke please only smoke in our designated area in the restaurant or cabin areas, if you don't have an ashtray in your room please ask at the reception and they will retrieve one for you.
- ✓ We have provided you with separate receptacles for recyclables and trash. Please place all glass, plastic, aluminum items in the recycling bin provided for you. This will help Aguila de Osa greatly reduce our waste.

Discovering the Osa Peninsula

The Osa Peninsula has many opportunities for exploration. Whether you are interested in exploring the tropical rainforest or the Pacific Ocean you will see many species of beautiful native plants and animals. We encourage our guests to take advantage of all the diverse Osa Peninsula has to offer. Below are a few suggestions and guidelines to help ensure that you have a safe, responsible, and most importantly, enjoyable experience. Check out the Eco-Tips brochure provided for you by the Corcovado Foundation for more information.

- ✓ Please stay on the well-marked trails provided for you. Because of the large amounts of rain we receive, trails can be slippery or muddy, so use caution, especially on steep inclines and rocky areas.
- ✓ When hiking always keep your eyes down on the trail and stop first before looking around for animals. Look before placing your hand on anything for support.
- ✓ While exploring you will encounter many different species of wild animals. We encourage you to take advantage of seeing these rare and amazing creatures, but please remember that you are in their home. Be cautious and respectful, and keep your distance. While it may seem fun to feed the animals, it is actually quite dangerous.
- ✓ Please do not take anything from the surrounding environment. Whether you are hiking, snorkeling, diving or horseback riding, the extraction of flora and fauna is illegal in the park area and can be harmful to both you and the ecosystem!
- ✓ Remember to bring water on all outings. If you are going with a guide on a tour he/she will bring water, but if you are going alone take an abundant supply. It is very easy to get dehydrated here.
- ✓ When visiting the beach, don't go swimming alone as there are often strong currents and big waves. Always learn about the tides before you go. Use adequate sun protection.
- ✓ Last but not least, have fun in this unique and special place!