

District 5160 Rotary Clubs, The Wheelchair Foundation, and Howard Tours

Rotary



Wheelchair Distribution and Community Service Adventure

San Jose, Costa Rica

September 14 — September 19, 2026



You will never be the same after you have looked into the appreciative eyes of someone whose life you have changed.

Since 2004, U.S. Rotarians and their counterparts across Latin America have built something extraordinary - friendships that last a lifetime and service that changes lives. You will work side-by-side with local Rotarians on meaningful community projects and personally deliver wheelchairs to individuals who lack mobility. Few experiences are as powerful as placing someone into a wheelchair who has never had the freedom to move independently. This is a journey that creates lasting connections, unforgettable moments, and a deep sense of purpose. We will...

- Deliver mobility to those in need.
- Visit humanitarian sites and projects.
- Join local Rotarians for a "hands-on" community service project.
- Explore Costa Rica's sights, sounds, history, and cultures.
- Build friendships with the Costa Rica Rotary members.



wheelchairfoundation.org



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New Adventures

Over the past 22 years, Rotarians from California have traveled to deliver wheelchairs, support community projects and create new friendships. While most trips have been to Mexico, this time we travel to Costa Rica. Whether you have joined us before, or are interested in going for the first time, you are invited to join us to share extraordinary friendship and sense of purpose with the people of Costa Rica.

Service in Comfort

The primary purposes of these trips has been to deliver wheelchairs, perform humanitarian service, and to build strong friendships. Although we will be engaged in humanitarian service, we will travel in comfort and convenience. We will stay in a first-class hotel, and will enjoy a busy itinerary filled with humanitarian effort and Rotary fun.

Howard Tours

Howard Tours collaborated with US Rotary Clubs, the Wheelchair Foundation, and the Costa Rican Rotarians to design this tour. Founded in 1948, and owned and operated by Rotarians, Howard Tours has conducted tours worldwide to eradicate polio, support Rotary's humanitarian projects, and deliver wheelchairs for more than three decades.



Howard Tours is a tour company, and not a travel agency; we do not sell to the general public. Instead, we select and purchase the travel services directly from the airlines, hotels, sightseeing companies, etc., and then sell directly to the travelers. As a result, the traveler is ensured the greatest travel value.

Airfare

The tour price does NOT include roundtrip airfare between San Francisco and San Jose. The most convenient round trip flight itinerary is on United Airlines, with a stopover in Houston. You are free to purchase your round trip airfare on your own, use frequent flyer mileage, or ask Howard Tours for assistance. Group transfers between the airport and hotel are included for designated United Airlines flights.

Passport, Visa and Health Requirements

All U.S. citizens are required to have a valid passport but Costa Rican visas are not required. Citizens of other countries will need to determine their respective visa requirements. The cost of obtaining a passport, visa and inoculations are not included in the tour price. It is your responsibility to apply and pay for:

U.S. Passport: Must be valid until at least March 19, 2027, which is six months after the return date. You must also carry a ticket for onward travel or return home.



Vaccines: The Center for Disease Control indicates that vaccines are **required** (<http://www.cdc.gov>) when visiting Costa Rica. Consult your physician or travel doctor to determine the precautions appropriate for you. It is highly recommended that you take precautions to avoid bug bites.

Currently, the Costa Rican Government does not require proof of COVID vaccination. Additional testing on entry/quarantine may apply based on random testing upon arrival. All tour members are encouraged to take a COVID test within 24 hours of the start of their journey and to bring COVID test kits with them.

5 Days— \$1,599, Per Person, Double Occupancy

For Single Room, Add \$430

Mon., Sep. 14 – San Francisco to San José, Costa Rica: Late afternoon arrival in San José, where we are transferred to the Hotel DoubleTree by Hilton Cariari. Daily breakfasts and Wi-Fi are included throughout our stay. This evening, we meet our Costa Rican Rotary hosts during a welcome dinner at the hotel, beginning what promises to be a memorable week of friendship and service.

Tue., Sep. 15 – Desfile de Faroles Parade: Our Costa Rican experience begins by joining local Rotarians in the colorful *Desfile de Faroles* (Parade of Lanterns), one of the country's most cherished Independence Day celebrations. This vibrant tradition commemorates the 1821 independence of Central America from Spain and offers an unforgettable introduction to Costa Rican culture. ¡Pura Vida! This evening, we gather once again with our Rotary friends for dinner as we strengthen the friendships that will define the week.



Wed., Sep. 16 – Partners in Friendship and Service: This morning, we join local Rotarians in meaningful, hands-on community service. Working in small teams, projects may include painting, landscaping, neighborhood clean-up, or light construction. Lunch is provided during a break in the day's activities. This evening, we experience Home Hospitality, inspired by the popular Rotary International Convention tradition. Small groups will enjoy dinner in the homes of Costa Rican Rotarians or at local restaurants, creating lasting friendships through fellowship and conversation.

Thu., Sep. 17 – Wheelchair Distribution: Today is the emotional heart of our journey as we participate in a wheelchair distribution that transforms lives. Together with our Costa Rican Rotary partners, we will witness the extraordinary moment when the gift of mobility restores independence, dignity, and hope. Working side by side, we will share in the profound joy that comes from changing lives through service. Following the distribution, lunch is served at a traditional Costa Rican restaurant. The evening is free to relax or explore on your own.



Fri., Sep. 18 – Exploring the Cloud Forests of Poás Volcano: Today's excursion into Alajuela Province begins with a scenic drive through the lush volcanic highlands surrounding Poás Volcano. Our first stop is La Paz Waterfall Gardens, a renowned ecological park featuring scenic walking trails, five spectacular waterfalls, and the country's largest butterfly observatory. We then visit the historic, family-owned Doka Coffee Estate for lunch, a guided tour, and a private coffee tasting. This evening, we gather for a Celebration Dinner honoring the accomplishments of the week and the enduring

friendships we have built with the people of Costa Rica.

Sat., Sep. 19 – Depart for Home: Early morning transfer to San José International Airport for our flight home, carrying with us unforgettable memories, meaningful friendships, and the satisfaction of having made a lasting difference in the lives of others.

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PAYMENTS: Send \$600 per person deposit, payable by check, with application and a copy of your passport. Assign check to: Howard Tours & Travel Service, Inc. Specify **Costa Rica 2026** on the lower left corner of the check. After making initial deposit by check, travelers may pay the account balance by Credit Card.

Bank Trustee Account and Financial Responsibilities: Payments are deposited in a Bank of America, Grand Lake Branch, Oakland, California, trustee account, used exclusively for this program. By law, Howard Tours cannot and will not use these funds for any purpose other than to defray the program costs. While the money is in the bank, Bank of America, and NOT Howard Tours, is custodian of the funds. When the travel service companies are paid, Howard Tours. will have met its financial and trustee obligation for the travel services involved. Subsequent to initial deposit, all travelers may pay the balance on account via credit card.

Per Person Tour Prices Include: (1) Double occupancy, hotel accommodations; (2) Meals/events specified in the itinerary; (3) Private, motorcoach with English speaking guide; (4) Entrance fees; (5) Special Rotary events as identified in the itinerary; (6) Tips to local guides, drivers and hotel porters; (7) Wheelchair distribution activities; (8) Tour materials; and (9) Other values detailed in the itinerary.

Prices do NOT include: (1) All Airfares; (2) Passport and visa fees, if any; (3) Airport departure taxes not included in the airline tickets; (4) All insurance; (5) All personal expenses, (e.g., phone, laundry, COVID testing, medical expenses, etc.); (6) All health, medical services and related expenses; (7) Refunds for missed or unused services; (8) Accommodations in excess of the itinerary; (9) Delivery fees for clients outside the continental U.S.; (10) Meals not specified in the tour itinerary.

Conditions of Prices: Prices are based on the exchange rate between the U.S. dollar and the Costa Rican Colón when the tours are priced. If the exchange rates, taxes, or other travel costs change, travelers may be assessed extra charges or refunds.

Changes of Itinerary: Howard Tours reserves the right to change the itinerary or services for reasons which may be out of our control, (e.g.: airline schedule changes, number of people who join a tour, etc.) If changes are necessary, the traveler may be assessed extra charges or refunds.

Cancellations and Other Charges: Cancellations must be made by letter, E-mail, or fax and NOT by telephone. Partial or total cancellation of tour services, regardless of reason, are subject to: (1) Funds that may be withheld or imposed by the airlines, hotels, cruise lines, sightseeing companies, etc.; and (2) A per person Howard Tours' cancellation service fee, prorated before departure, as follows: \$250 up to 46 days before departure. Cancellations within 45 days of departure are fully non-refundable. Travelers whose changes result in rewritten air tickets will be the airline service fee and a Howard Tours \$50 service fee. Those applying within 45 days of departure will be assessed extra expenses caused by late enrollment, with a minimum charge of \$50 per person. Because the airlines, hotels, etc. impose heavy cancellation fees, we recommend the purchase of "Cancellation Insurance," which is available through Howard Tours' website.

Prices Set and Printed July 2026

Howard Tours ; 526 Grand Ave. ; Oakland, CA 94610

Toll Free: 800-475-2260 ; Fax: (510) 834-1019 E-mail: Info@HowardTours.net

Costa Rica 2026 Application—Please Print

Traveler 1: NAME: _____ Date of Birth: _____
(Full Name EXACTLY as it appears on your passport)

Traveler 2: NAME: _____ Date of Birth: _____
(Full Name EXACTLY as it appears on your passport)

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ **STATE:** _____ **ZIP:** _____

PHONE: Day: _____ Evening: _____

E-Mail: _____

If Rotary Member, Rotary Club of: _____

Accommodations Desired: (circle one) Single Double Desire to Share with _____

Please confirm if you want assistance with Air Flights: Yes No

I have read and accept all conditions stated above.

Signature : _____ **Date:** _____