BAHIA AVENTURAS TOUR DESCRIPTION SEASON 2015

“Connecting with the power of nature through its energy and creating memorable experiences.”

Bahia Aventuras boat and nature tour operator is located in Bahia Ballena-Uvita de Osa, the heart of Costa Ballena. Created and operated since 2007 by a local community leader that reflects in the company its love for the nature and for the good customer service. Stretching from Dominical to Ojochal, Costa Ballena encompasses a vast stretch of a gorgeously rugged shoreline and a number of beautiful beaches. Known as the Whale Coast (Costa Ballena), for the large number of migratory whales spotted here, the most popular attraction in the area includes the unique whale and dolphin watching adventures. The humpback whales regularly pass through Costa Ballena Pacific Ocean between mid-July and October, and again in December through March as they migrate to and from feeding and mating grounds. Other popular water activities include snorkeling, sport fishing, surfing and kayaking, transfers services.

The Marino Ballena National Park is the major attraction in Bahia Ballena, bringing tourists to its secluded beaches and beautiful coral reefs. Created to preserve the fragile marine ecosystem and natural habitats of the marine species, it covers approximately 175 hectares of coastline and 5,300 hectares of ocean. Bahia Aventuras also operated its tours at Corcovado National Park, Cano Island Biological reserve and the Terraba-Sierpe Wetland.

- Bahia Aventuras is certified as part of the program “Best Practices for Sustainable Marine Tourism” by KETO Foundation (Sea Star System with the maximum 3 stars).
- Captains with more than 10 years local ocean navigation experience.
- Professional boating and tourism experience with a Pura Vida Spirit!
- Professional and friendly local bi-lingual staff.
- First-rate navigation, fishing, and snorkel equipment. Members of the Marino Ballena National Park Tour Operators Association.
- Three top of the line boats (2014) with modern hull design equipped with 175 HP/300 HP/200HP Suzuki motors.

Our Mission

Offering to our customer high quality tourism services within an environment of respects, safety and harmony with the nature.

Our Vision

Consolidate as leaders in high quality tourism services throughout the South Pacific region and the rest of Costa Rica, keeping high standards of service in harmony with the environment.
Our Boats & Equipment

Bahia Aventuras has three boats: **Bahia Aventuras I, Bahia Aventuras II & Bahia Aventuras II** with a capacity of 14, 11 & 19 passengers with the following features:

- Sun-protective awning to provide protection from the sun and rain.
- Lifesaver ring buoys in each boat and fire extinguisher.
- Outboard engines: 300 HP, 200 HP & 175 HP four stroke, fuel injected & with hydraulic direction.
- Accident Risk Insurance.
- Navigation equipment: GPS, long reach radio communication and compass.
- First aid kit

Other equipments:

- Life jackets for safety travel (Adult & children)
- Snorkel gear & fins (*small, medium, large, & adjustable*)
- Inflatable life vests for snorkeling (*Adult & Children*)
- Rangefinder (whale watching)
- Coolers & Water proof boxes
- Drybag
- Car available for pick up & drop off service of customers.
- Fishing equipment: Complete Shimano Fishing Equipment with Penn reels & jigs.

**Ground transportation services**

Bahia Aventuras offers private transportation services from hotels to our tours and to other destinations. We use comfortable vehicles to make the vacation time even more memorable and enjoyable to our customers.

For prices and destinations please check our transfer list of the season.
Bahia Aventuras Combination Tour
(Whale & Dolphin Watching)

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The Bahia Aventuras Combo Tour is the best option to see the most of the Marino Ballena National Park. The Boat departs from Punta Uvita Beach and visits the famous Punta Uvita Whale’s Tail, Ballena Island, Tres Hermanas Islets and Ventana Sea Caves. During the tour we search for *Humpback Whales (seasonally) and two different species of resident *Dolphins. When granted the opportunity, you might see and hear the song of the Humpback Whales and or observe the acrobatic displays of the dolphins making this trip the best Whale watching tour of Costa Rica. Others species that are seeing occasionally during this are: Bryde’s Whales, Pilot whales, False Killer whales and Whale sharks. We also visit the coral and rock reefs to *snorkel and observe the wonderful marine wildlife of the Ballena Marine Park. While cruising in the boat you can enjoy the scenic beauty of the coastline of Costa Ballena and observe the diversity of shore and pelagic birds nesting and roosting in the Islets of the park. During the trip our captain will take you to the caverns of Ventanas Beach where you can observe wonderful rocky formations and an amazing caverns that were carve by the ocean and tectonic movements during thousands of years. This tour is very popular in Bahia Ballena and highly recommended for all the family visiting this side of OSA, Costa Rica.

*The humpback whales visit the waters of Costa Rica and the Ballena marine national park between mid-July to October late (Southern Humpback Whales), and again in mid-December through late March (Northern Humpback Whales) as they migrate to and from feeding and mating grounds. The snorkeling is good only during the dry months (November late through June) due to visibility. The Bottle Nosed Dolphins and Pacific spotted Dolphins are regularly seeing year round in the waters of the Ballena Marine Park.

When Whale season is off the tour combine Dolphin encounter, visit to caves, bird watching and snorkeling if the conditions are favorable.

Tour Includes: Bilingual naturalist guide, Bottled water, box with tropical fruits, entrance fee to Ballena Park, and snorkeling equipment.

- **What to bring:** Bring small bags to safeguard personal belongings • Bring sun block • Come in shorts, bathing suit and towel. Wear sandals or flip-flops. During rainy months (June to November) we recommend to bring a rain coat or poncho.

- **Special Notes:** Participants need to be in our operation center 30 minutes before departure time to get sized their equipment and to listen the safety briefing. We serve fruits, coffee and fresh juice at our local before the beginning of the tour. Bahia Aventuras do not take its boats through the caves at ventanas. Whale & Dolphin sightseeing is not guarantee since they are in their natural habitat and move constantly to different areas. In Costa Rica there is a code for Whale & Dolphin watching that limit the distance and time spent with a Whale and the number of boats.

- **Tour duration:** 3.5-4 hours approximately (Boat leave at 8.30 am and return at 12/12.30 pm )

- **Age limitations:** Children over 3 years old • Not recommended for infants.

- **Physical considerations:** All fitness levels • not recommended for pregnant
Snorkeling Tour in Marino Ballena National Park

Marino Ballena National Park is the second best place along the South Pacific Coast of Costa Rica with great coral reefs and incredible fish diversity. On the Snorkeling Tour, we depart from Punta Uvita and visit the great snorkeling treasures of the Marino Ballena National Park: reefs of Ballena Island, Tres Hermanas Islets and the Punta Uvita or Whale's tail. During the snorkeling you can find parrotfish, butterfly fish, blue surgeonfish, and a great number of starfish at a depth that ranges from 1 to 3 meters.

Our guide will spent an hour in each reef pointing and searching for the marine life, and then provide an explanation of what was seen underwater when back on the boat.

This tour is recommended for those that do not want to take a boat ride to Cano Island due to physical considerations or just want to snorkel close to shore of Bahia Ballena. Highly recommended for families with children that want to learn to snorkel.

*Departure time depends on tide conditions. Snorkeling sites located at only 10 minutes from the shore.
Tour available only on dry season: from **December to June**.

**Tour Includes:** Bilingual guide, bottled water, snack box of tropical fruits, snorkeling equipment, Inflatable life vest for snorkeling, and entrance fee to the Ballena national park.

- **What to bring:** Bring small bags to safeguard personal belongings • Bring sun block Come in shorts, bathing suit, and bring towel and sandals. • Previous snorkeling experience is not necessary.

- **Special Notes:** This tour is available only at low tide. Participants need to be in our operation center 30 minutes before departure time to get sized their equipment and to listen the safety briefing.

- **Tour duration:** 2.5 hours approximately

- **Age limitations:** Children over 3 years old - Not recommended for infants

- **Physical considerations:** All fitness levels - not recommended for pregnant women

- **Minimum People:** 2 pax ( contact us to check availability & minimums for the day requested)

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BAHIA AVENTURAS S.A. - Bahía Ballena, OSA, Costa Rica

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Terraba Sierpe Mangrove Boat Tour

Terraba-Sierpe National Wetlands is an internationally recognized RAMSAR wetland site and includes the estuary of the Rivers Térraba and Sierpe. It is one of the largest mangrove wetlands in all of Central America and serves as an important habitat of many species of birds, fish, mammals and reptiles. This boat tour departs from one of the extensive arms of the Terraba and enters the intricate mangrove wetlands allowing visitors an intimate magical experience with some of Mother Nature’s most interesting flora and fauna. Our guides will explain the role of every component in the ecosystem and will search for the wildlife. This tour is highly recommended for families, bird watchers & students.

Tour Includes: Naturalist Bilingual guide, Bottled water, snack box of tropical fruits, and life vest.

- **What to bring:** Bring small bags to safeguard personal belongings *Bring sun block * Come in shorts. *Bring repellent insect, towel, sandals & binocular.

- **Special Notes:** This tour start just at high tide. Participants need to be in our operation center 30 minutes before departure time to get sized their equipment and to listen the safety briefing.

- **Tour duration:** 3.5- hours approximately

- **Age limitations:** Children over 3 years old

- **Minimum People:** 2 pax ( contact us to check availability & minimums for the day requested)

- **Physical considerations:** All fitness level

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Snorkeling Cano Island Day Tour

This tour combines two magnificent jewels of Costa Rica: Caño Island Biological Reserve and Violines Island. Please be at the Bahia Aventuras office at 7:00 am to get sized for your equipment. The tour departs from Punta Uvita at 7:30 AM and arrives at Caño Island approximately 1.5 hours later. It is a magical trip where you can observe whales, experience dolphin encounters, and observe other marine animals such as sea turtles and marine birds. Arriving at the island you will be able to appreciate the healthiest coral reefs on this Costa Rica snorkeling adventure and observe a great variety of marine species, many of which are in danger of extinction. After this, you will head by boat to Violines Island (30 minutes) arriving to the north side of the beautiful small Island with lush vegetation. Upon arrival the guides will prepare a picnic lunch. Then the rest of the time will be spent on the beach or swimming on its safe bay and hiking on the beach and during dry season it is possible to snorkel in the reefs of Violines Island. During your visit, you might see a lot of birds and a wonderful tropical vegetation. The boat will head back to Uvita beach at 2:30-3:00 pm following the coast where you will be able to see from the boat the largest Mangrove forest under protection in Central America, the Terraba Mangrove Forest. The boat will arrive to Uvita around 4:00 pm.

Tour Includes: Bilingual guide, snorkeling equipment, picnic style lunch, entrance fee to Cano Island.

- **What to bring:** Bring small bags to safeguard personal belongings • Bring sun block & bug spray - Come in shorts. • Bring camera, extra clothing, towels. Wear sandals or flipflops.

- **Special Notes** Participants need to be in our operation center 30 minutes before departure time to get sized their equipment and to listen the safety briefing. We serve fruits, coffee and fresh juice at our local before the beginning of the tour. The amount of time for spent at Violines Island depends on the amount of time spent snorkeling at Cano Island. In case of seasickness during the snorkeling we take the people to the beach of the Island till they get better. Use of the restrooms at Cano island is NOT permitted at this moment due to new government regulations. For snorkeling we provide flotation device (inflatable vest) to each participant. We do not recommend the participation of pregnant women in this tour.

- **Physical considerations:** All fitness level but this tour is not recommended for people with serious health problems as I.B.S (irritable bowel syndrome) or urinary incontinence due to lack of restrooms on the boat and Cano Island. Restrooms are available at a private resort in Violines Island.

- **Tour duration:** 9 hours (1.5 boat ride each way)

- **Age limitations:** This tour is not recommended for children under 6 years of age.

- **Minimum People:** 6 pax (contact us to check availability & minimums for the day requested)

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Corcovado National Park Day Tour

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The Corcovado National Park Day Tour departs from Punta Uvita at 7:30 AM by boat and arrives approximately 1.5 hour later at San Pedrillo Ranger Station, Corcovado National Park. Please be at the Bahia Aventuras office at 7:00am to get sized for your equipment. Upon arrival at San Pedrillo Ranger Station, you will prepare for two guided hikes along two different trails and observe beautiful flora and fauna in the most biologically intense place on earth. The first hike takes around 3.2 hours and the second hike about 1.5 hours. During the hikes you will be able to see many mammals such as spider, howler, and white-faced monkeys, sloths, coatis, raccoons, and tapirs as well as a great variety of birds, plants, and trees with over one hundred years of existence and in danger of extinction. After the first hike, we serve a picnic lunch near the ranger station and then we begin the second trek to a nearby waterfall.

During boat transit to Corcovado you may observe whales (seasonally), dolphins, turtles, marine birds and fantastic views of the southern pacific OSA coastline. The boat returns from Corcovado and arrives to Punta Uvita at 4-4:30 p.m.

**Tour includes:** Naturalist bilingual guide, boat transportation to and from Corcovado, picnic style lunch, bottled water, and entrance fee to Corcovado Park.

- **What to bring:** Bring small bags to safeguard personal belonging, Come in shorts & sandals for the boat ride. Bring hiking shoes, towel, bug spray, sunblock for the hiking. During rainy season bring raincoat or poncho. Bring an extra change of clothes in case you get wet.

- **Special Notes:** Participants need to be in our operation center 30 minutes before departure time to get sized their equipment and to listen the safety briefing. We serve fruits, coffee and fresh juice at our local before the beginning of the tour. The trails at Corcovado are flat and easy, during rainy season can be muddy and slippery. The Ocean gets choppy sometimes during the rainy season and might rain on the way back to UVita.

- **Physical considerations:** All fitness level

- **Tour duration:** 9 hours ( 1.5 boat ride each way in good tide conditions )

- **Age limitations:** This tour is not recommended for children under 4 years of age.

- **Minimum People:** 6 pax ( contact us to check availability & minimums for the day requested)
Corcovado shared with Snorkeling at Cano Island Day Tour

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| *Children 3 to 10 year old

The tour departs from Punta Uvita at 7:30 AM and arrives at Corcovado National Park (San pedrillo Station) approximately 1 ½ hours later. It is a magical trip where you can observe whales (during season), experience dolphin encounters, and observe other marine animals such as sea turtles and marine birds.

Upon arrival at Corcovado we start with a hike of approximately 2.5 hours and be able to see some mammals such as the spider, howler, and white-faced monkeys, as well as a great variety of birds, plants, and trees with over one hundred years of existence and in danger of extinction. Then a delicious picnic-style lunch will be awaiting for you at the ranger station. After lunch time the boat will head to Cano Island Biological reserve for a great snorkeling session. Upon Arriving at the island you will be able to appreciate the healthiest coral reefs of Costa Rica where you will be able to snorkel for about 1.5 hour and observe a great variety of marine species, many of which are in danger of extinction.

The boat will get back to Uvita beach at 4.30 pm approximately

This tour is available only on Saturdays during the dry season (January to April)
Starting on January 2015

Tour Includes: Bilingual guide, snorkeling equipment, picnic style lunch, entrance fee to Cano Island & Corcovado National Park


- **Special Notes:** Participants need to be in our operation center 30 minutes before departure time to get sized their equipment and to listen the safety briefing. We serve fruits, coffee and fresh juice at our local before the beginning of the tour. Use of the restrooms at Cano Island is NOT permitted at this moment due to new government regulations, restrooms are available at Corcovado. For snorkeling we provide flotation device (inflatable vest) to each participant. We do not recommend the participation of pregnant women in this tour.

- **Physical considerations:** All fitness level but this tour is not recommended for people with serious health problems as I.B.S (irritable bowel syndrome) or urinary incontinence due to lack of restrooms on the boat and Cano Island.

- **Tour duration:** 9 hours ( 1.5 boat ride each way )

- **Age limitations:** This tour is not recommended for children under 6 years of age.
Guided Naturalist Hike at Ballena National Park

Start: Low tide  
Duration: 2.5-3 hours

Take a guided hike/walk through the area known as Punta Uvita in Ballena Marine Park. Here you will see a variety of vegetation and wildlife, especially birds, in the mangroves and lagoon that are not are a hidden treasure in the park. The tour begins at the entrance to Marino Ballena Park (Playa Uvita) covering a section of the beach before you enter a trail near the Whale's Tail. Our naturalist guide will explain the history of this area, the unique features of the Park and the natural history and the relationship of the fragile ecosystems as you venture on a 2.5-3 hour hike. Our guide will also help identify the howler monkeys, white-faced monkeys, bats, raccoons, and marine and forest birds you will see during your adventure. Don't forget about the insects and plants that are of great biological interest! We’ll take you to the mouth of one of the rivers that empties into the waters of the park were you'll see more waterfowl and marine birds, and perhaps a crocodile or alligator. Where else can you experience the sounds of the forest and the ocean at the same time!! We will return by the beach to the park entrance if the tide and weather conditions permit.

Tour Includes:  Naturalist Bilingual guide, bottled water, entrance fee to Ballena Park

- Special Notes  The trail is flat and easily accessible for anyone and is covered by trees for a good portion of the trip. Only at low tide is possible to acces this portion of the Ballena Marine park. It is important to check the tide conditions with the reservation department.

Important recommendation:
- Bring small bags to safeguard personal belongings
- Bring sun block
- Come in shorts or pants, bring hiking shoes
- During rainy season bring raincoat
- Bring insect repellent
- Bring camera

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Tel: (506) 2743-8362 Telefax: 2743-8079 Cel.: 8846-6576
Sea Kayaking Tour at Ballena Marine Park

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This Sea Kayaking trip begins at low tide as the waves go to one side of the passage of Moses or better known as the Whale's Tail, which is a good spot for snorkeling. Paddling to this point will take between 30 to 45 minutes, depending on your experience. The Snorkeling portion of the tour lasts between 45 minutes and 1.5 hours and enables you to see a variety of fish and coral species. Some marine species that you can see while snorkeling are: giant conch, starfish, parrotfish snapper, damsels, eels, Moorish idol, surgeons and some of the various types of coral species. We will then continue with kayak surfing, as the tide rises, to arrive into shore. After kayak surfing, which is suitable for all types of people, we will enter and small mangrove forest in Marino Ballena National Park where it is possible to spot sea birds, toucans, and some small reptiles. Most people can take this tour but being in good physical condition is best.


- **What to bring:** Bring small bag to safeguard personal belongings. Bring sun block. •Come in shorts or bathing suit, sandals.

- **Special Notes:** Participants need to be in our operation center 30 minutes before departure time to get sized their equipment and to listen the safety briefing. The snorkeling at the Whale’s Tail depend on the condition of the visibility. It is not necessary previous experienced with sea kayaking.

- **Physical considerations:** All fitness level

- **Tour duration:** 3.5 to 4 hours

- **Age limitations:** This tour is not recommended for children under 6 years of age.

- **Minimum People:** 2 pax
Sport Fishing Trips

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Fight for your catch of the day! Put your sport fishing skills to practice and feel the adrenaline rush of fighting a fierce mahi-mahi, yellow fin tuna, during your sport fishing tour. The waters off of the OSA Peninsula in the South Pacific Ocean of Costa Rica are rich in nutrients and there is a great variety of fish for your sport fishing tour. Our local captains of over 10+ years of experience know the hottest areas for fishing and the best time of year. The OSA Peninsula region continues to produce world record catches year after year.

For those fishing lovers or those that just want to learn we offer two options of fishing trips leaving from Uvita beach:

**Half Day inshore Fishing Trip**

- Depart: 7.00 am - Return: 12.30 pm
- The inshore fishing is done within a few miles of the shore at Bahia Ballena
- Techniques: Trolling, Casting & Bottom fishing
- To catch: Mackerel, Roosterfish, Snapper, tuna.
- Rate: $750.00 USD private boat - Maximum 5 people

**Full Day Offshore Fishing Trip**

- Depart: 7.00 am - Return: 3.30 pm
- The offshore fishing is done within a 20 miles of the shore. Deep water.
- Techniques: Trolling, Casting & in some spots bottom fishing
- To catch: Mackerel, wahoo, Mahi-Mahi, Yellow fin tuna, black tuna & snapper.
- Rate: $950.00 USD private boat - maximum 5 people

**Tour includes:** Bilingual crew, food, beverage, tropical fruits, bottled water, fishing gear, cooler and ice for the catch of the day.

- **What to bring:** Bring small bag to safeguard personal belongings. Bring sun block. •Come in shorts or bathing suit, wear sandals or flip flops.

- **Special Notes:** Participants need to be in our operation center 30 minutes before departure time to get sized their equipment.

- **Physical considerations:** All fitness level

- **Age limitations:** This tour is not recommended for children under 6 years of age.

- **Maximum People:** 5 pax per boat
Promoting Responsible Tourism

Today, more and more people around the world are experiencing the thrill of seeing whales in their natural habitats. Whale watching can educate people about our ocean planet, the magnificent creatures that share our world, and the importance of maintaining wildlife habitats. To observe whales and other marine life in their natural environment is a powerful, moving experience and one that underlines the importance of protecting these remarkable creatures. In order to assure that, BAHIA AVENTURAS S.A. makes a great effort to follow a set of rules and standards, to provide an enjoyable experience to the customers while protecting the environment and resources of the area.

In recognition of our responsible tourism practices, we have been certified by KETO Foundation Certified as part of their “Best Practices for Sustainable Marine Tourism” program. In this program, the Sea Star System, we have been recognized with the maximum 3 stars.

Responsible actions during our tours:

- Keep a distance of 50 meters from marine animals while engine is running.
- Keep a distance of 30 meters while engine is not running.
- Maintain a distance of 100 meters with marine animals larger than 10 meters or marine animals with their birth.
- Maximum of 35 minute visits with any one individual sighting and 20 minutes for a pair sighting.
- Captains navigate the boats parallel in the direction with the marine animals for safety purposes; captains do not circle marine animals or pursue them from behind.
- Do not exceed 4 knots (7km/h) while in presence of marine animals.
- No throwing objects, feeding, or contacting marine animals.

Additionally, we help preserve local wildlife and habitats by respecting rules and regulations, such as sticking to footpaths, not standing on coral reefs and not buying products made from endangered plants or animals.

Protecting from the Pollution of our boats and tour operation:

- Maintain our motors regulated and revised according to the fabric recommendations.
- Use oil/gas according to the Suzuki Motor recommendations.
- Maintain and revise engine, valves, and exhaust.
- Scheduled and required oil and filter changes in safe registered places.
- Recycling program to minimize our impact in the environment.
Protecting from Noise Pollution:
- Proper installment of motors to avoid excessive vibration and noise.
- Scheduled maintenance checks for adjustments and revisions of propellers.
- Avoid unnecessary noise while in the presence of marine animals.

Bahia Aventuras hires local people for the operation of all our tours making a positive impact in the economy and social living of the locals. All the people hired need to be qualified and are regularly trained to give the best service and be responsibly with the environment.

We buy most of the food for the tours to the local shops and their preparation is done by local people.

Bahia Aventuras hire the ground transportation services to local companies with vehicles in excellent conditions and with all the permissions required by the law and drivers qualified as well.

WE PROVIDE:
- Individual life jackets, first AID kit, ring buoy, snorkeling equipment, fishing equipment, extra plastic bag, bilingual guide, fruits, snacks, bottled water and Pick-Nic lunch on full day trips.

RESPONSIBILITY:

Bahía Aventuras S.A. encourages clients to participate in our tours with no valuable possessions (money, jewelry, expensive equipment, etc.) We suggest leaving those items at the hotel, as the company assumes no responsibility for the damage and or the loss of our clients’ items. Additionally, our company gives notice that they assume no responsibility for injury, thefts and pilferage. We are not responsible for acts of God, detention, annoyance, delays, and expense, which cause loss of life, personal injury, cancellations, and delays. Changes in the itinerary may be made where and when deemed advisable for the comfort and wellbeing of Bahia Aventuras S.A. and its’ clients. We cannot be held liable for quarantine in convenience to arrive or depart as scheduled, civil disturbances, government restrictions or regulations, discrepancies or change in transit or hotel service, or damage to person or property in connection with any service. This also includes same bookings, loss or damage of baggage, and / or any loss of services as a result of the tour participants.

MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICE:

Guests with particular health conditions and / or handicaps and pregnant women should inform representatives of Bahia Aventuras S.A. staff in writing before arrival to tours. Staff members carry a fully stocked first aid kit. In case of illness, hospital facilities for serious problems are excellent in Costa Rica. Bahia Aventuras S.A. assumes no liability for costs of evacuation or provision of medical care.