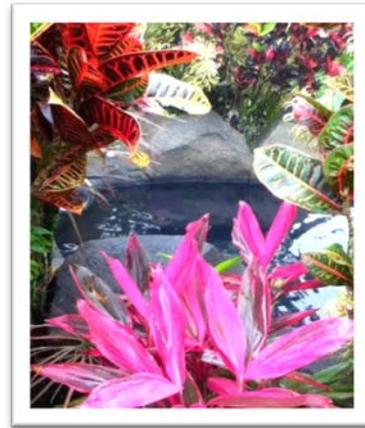




## QUINTANGO'S GREEN HEART OF COSTA RICA TOUR - July 16-27, 2014

- **DAY 1 - July 16 - San Jose:** We will be met at the airport in San Jose and taken to the Hotel Bougainvillea outside San Jose (Heredia), our home for the next 3 nights. Nestled in ten lushly planted acres, this family-run hotel immerses you in the Costarican lifestyle the minute you enter. We will gather at sunset for drinks in the beautiful botanical garden before dining together at the hotel. Overnight: [Hotel Bougainvillea](#)
- **DAY 2 - July 17 - San Jose:** Today we visit the [Gold Museum](#), [Teatro Nacional](#), and marketplace in San Jose. Lunch provided. There will be time to visit the Jade Museum (\$10 entrance fee) if you prefer another museum to the marketplace. Back to the Hotel Bougainvillea in time for a nap by the pool/garden before heading out to [Jazz Café Escazu](#) for QuinTango's opening concert of the tour. This hip club has room for dancing, so bring your shoes if you want to join the ticos on the dance floor. You are QuinTango's guests for the concert, but on your own for food and drinks. [Café menu](#) is reasonable and delicious!
- **DAY 3 - July 18 - San Jose:** Today we learn first hand about Costa Rica's famous volcanos and coffee plantations as we explore [Poas Volcano](#) and [Doka Coffee Estate](#). Lunch provided. Our resident geologist, Dr. Irwin Singer, will tell us how Costa Rica began to form some 20 million years ago when plate tectonics created a string of volcanos that now connects North and South America (and, by the way, caused the Ice Ages that began 2 million years ago!). You will be returned to the Bougainvillea wiser and happier. Tonight you will want to look your best because you are joining the cream of San Jose society as special guests of the Gold Museum for a gala fundraising concert by QuinTango at the [Teatro Nacional](#). On your own for dinner at the hotel or in the city (we have lists of restaurants).
- **DAY 4 - July 19 - Monteverde Cloud Forest:** We travel by bus (with bathroom) to the mountain-top cloud forest of [Monteverde](#), a rustic community started by Alabama Quakers fleeing conscription during the Korean war. The 18 km of unpaved road leading to Monteverde discourages all but the most adventurous visitors (including QuinTango and Friends), frustrates developers, but establishes eco-balance as a priority: Orchids, hummingbirds, toucans, deep cloud forest and the gentle ping of cloud misting on your cheeks. Tonight we dine by the fireplace (yes, it gets chilly!) in our art-filled rustic hotel, the [Fonda Vela](#), and then join the Monteverde community for a QuinTango concert at the hotel. Monteverdeans speak English – their Quaker heritage – so this is a rare opportunity to talk to the locals.
- **DAY 5 - July 20 Monteverde Cloud Forest:** After breakfast we visit the [Butterfly Garden](#). If you are squeamish about insects, prepare for a life-changing encounter! These exotic, astonishing masters of camouflage are essential partners in Costa Rica's life cycle. Take advantage of the beautiful covered pool, Jacuzzi, and billiards(it rains a lot!) or visit the world-famous Cloud Forest Reserve to bird watch or just wander in amazement through the



jungle.. Dinner on your own at the hotel, the walk-to neighboring pizza place, or take a trip into the village of [Santa Elena](#). Bring long sleeves, binoculars and a rain poncho for Monteverde!

• **DAY 6 - July 21 - Arenal Volcano:** After breakfast, we travel by bus through lush, mountainous coffee *fincas* to Lake Arenal, where we board a boat and head to lunch at our new hotel, the [Hotel Arenal Kioro](#). If the day is clear, we might see smoke rising from [Arenal!](#) (No lava has been in evidence for 2 years). Our host, Ricardo Araya, fell in love with this property and has devoted his life to making the natural wonders of Arenal available to his guests. Kioro has seven lava-rock hot springs cascading through tropical flora (I tried all seven - heavenly); the spa features coffee massages, chocolate wraps, native-inspired body treatments and restorative volcanic mud facials. There are plenty of [nearby adventures](#): hikes to the Arenal Caldera at the [National Park](#) (\$10 admission), the Zip Line tour (\$61), rafting, safari river floats, mountain biking and visits to local hot springs. Dinner on your own at the hotel or you can venture into the town of Fortuna. When we checked out Kioro this summer, we hardly ventured off the grounds - too beautiful, too relaxing. Our bus driver is available throughout the tour to shuttle us around for these extras. Our guide is on hand to help negotiate local customs and currency. We are leaving you time to explore the area with the level of physical exertion you prefer! We'll meet up at the pool bar, in full view of the volcano, and compare notes at the end of the day.

• **DAY 7 - July 22 - Arenal Volcano:** After an amazing buffet breakfast, we head to the [Hanging Bridges](#) for an adventure in the forest canopy. After all the adrenaline, you may want to sink into the hot tub in your room or seek refuge in the soothing tranquility of the spa. Around 5 PM, you'll head to the beautifully landscaped pool area for a ringside table (and perhaps your favorite beverage) and settle in with the locals to enjoy another great concert by QuinTango. It is our good fortune that Senor Araya is a great fan of tango and invited us to perform. Dinner on your own at the hotel dining room or pool café. Join QuinTango for a final soak in the hot springs (an amazing after-concert activity!).

• **DAY 8 - July 23 - Pacific Coast - Papagayo Beach:** After breakfast, we travel by bus through cattle ranches and sugar cane to the all-inclusive [Hilton resort on the Golfo de Papagayo](#) - sea kayaking, cooking lessons, dance parties, sun and sand. Choose the Serenity Pool with adjacent spa (massages overlooking the sea) or the family-centered main pool with its swim up bar. 4 restaurants, 2 bars, secluded beach.



• **DAY 9 - July 24 - Pacific Coast - Papagayo Beach:** We chose Hilton Papagayo because it was not too large, a beautiful location with great dining and had an excellent concert location. After your day of activities (hiking, aerobics, beach and volleyball, tennis, biking, jogging), you and residents from the nearby town, Liberia, will join QuinTango in the resort theater for a tango concert, followed by dinner and dance lessons by the pool (probably salsa and bachata) till the wee hours.

**DAY 10 - July 25 - Central Pacific Coast - Bay of Nicoya:** We travel by bus to one of my favorite hotels in the world, [Villa Caletas](#), the dream project of French architect Denis Roi. High above the tropical jungle, this luxury boutique hotel abounds in tropical flora, Mediterranean architecture, colonial nostalgia and an incomparable view of the Bay of Nicoya and the Pacific beyond. Soak in the infinity pool, take the shuttle to the beach (we are way up on a mountain ridge!), enjoy a world-class massage under the palms at the Spa or take your time and explore the nooks and crannies of this prize-winning boutique hotel. There is a fantastic shop for last-minute gifts (actually all our hotels have well-stocked gift shops with local crafts and handmade items). You are on your own for dinner with several restaurant choices in the hotel, but first, grab a seat in the Greek-columned amphitheater and watch the sun set over the Pacific.

• **DAY 11 - July 26 - Central Pacific Coast - Bay of Nicoya:** After a splendid *al fresco Tico* breakfast, you'll have one final day to indulge your inner fantasies. Take a tango lesson (with Dr. Singer), explore the beach, learn more about the geology of Costa Rica, bird watch and have a poolside drink with all the wonderful folks you have just spent 10 days with. We can organize a trip to Carara National Park if there is interest. But you must be rested and on your game by 5 PM when, as QuinTango's honored guests, you will be whisked up the hill to the [Zephyr Palace](#) for sunset drinks by the multi-columned infinity pool, surrounded by stunning scenery. Voted the number one boutique hotel in Mexico and Central America in 2012, the Zephyr Palace (only 7 rooms) is perfect for our last night in Costa Rica. As the sky darkens and the candles are lit, you will be ushered to your seat in the Champagne Ballroom for QuinTango's final concert of the tour. We will be joined by guest bandoneonist Oscar Lopez Salaberry, former ambassador from Argentina. The evening will continue with dinner and dancing. This is the night we all wish could go on forever.

• **DAY 12 - July 27 Fond Farewell.** After an early breakfast, we will be taken to the airport for our flight home.

#### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

• **COST: \$2890, exclusive of airfare.** We have a good balance of organized meals and tours and opportunities for individual adventures. 20 meals (11 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 5 dinners), guide and driver with us at all times, 5 special tours: City tour including Gold Museum, Teatro Nacional, San Jose Market; Poas Volcano; Doka Coffee Estate; Arenal Hanging Bridges;

Monteverde Butterfly Garden. Optional activities at each hotel. Entrance to 5 distinct QuinTango concerts, welcome get-together and farewell evening.

- **GROUP SIZE:** around 20 (plus QuinTango)
- **TEMPERATURE:** In spite of its tropical location, much of Costa Rica is cooler than Washington, DC in July. July is their winter, which means lush greens and occasional rain. We will experience various micro-climates, but temperatures will be in the high 70's, low 80's, except for Papagayo Beach, which will be mid-high 80's.
- **WHAT TO EXPECT:** This is a QuinTango concert tour - you are with the band! You will interact personally with our concert hosts (hotel owners, museum directors, guest musicians) and share concert experiences with the tango-loving Costa Rican public. There will be lots of walking (bring sturdy shoes), *a la carte* opportunities for eco-activities (jungle hikes, zip lines, rafting, bird watching) and always a complementary pool and hot tub for relaxation plus a spa and workout room. We included enough activities for you to get to know the country and each distinct area; if you want more, we can arrange it; or you can just hang out and enjoy these amazing spots with QuinTango and our very special fans/friends.
- **WHY COSTA RICA?** QuinTango participated in the International Music Festivals in 1999 and 2002. We fell in love with this beautiful country and made many friends. When our Costa Rican board member (and former Alexandria resident) Sylvia Saborio suggested we return to do a fundraiser for the Gold Museum, we realized it was the perfect place to take you all with us. We owe this trip to Sylvia!

#### **WHAT TO DO NEXT:**

- \$100 deposit will hold your place (deductible from total). Checks to QuinTango, 812 W. Braddock Road, Alexandria VA 22302.
- \$1000 due on November 15.
- \$1000 due on February 15.
- \$790 due on May 1.

**MORE INFORMATION:** You will receive a packing list, reading list and information on suggested flights after the New Year. If airline schedules don't change, we'll likely recommend Delta, flying out of Atlanta at 9:50 AM on Wednesday, July 16<sup>th</sup>, and returning from San Jose at 12:45 PM on Monday the 27<sup>th</sup>. If you are flying American, you should try to approximate that schedule. Our travel agency in Costa Rica is Horizontes.

*Finally, to help you understand exactly what you get for your \$2890, here is a summary of all the activities, transportation, meals, concerts that QuinTango is covering for you on this trip. We will have a guide with us at all times; outside San Jose we will be able to arrange activities for you through our travel agent (that's for those of you who want to whitewater raft, zip line, photograph, mountain bike, etc.). Contact me if you have questions – Joan at 703-548-6811.*

#### **QUINTANGO'S GREEN HEART OF COSTA RICA TOUR - WHAT'S INCLUDED**

- *Wednesday, July 16:* Transport from airport to hotel Bougainvillea in Heredia. Welcome cocktails and dinner. Overnight: Hotel Bougainvillea
- *Thursday, July 17:* Breakfast at hotel. City tour of San Jose - special tour of Gold Museum with museum director, tour of Teatro Nacional with theater director, tour of San Jose. Visit to

Marketplace. Lunch. Transportation to Jazz Café Escazu for QuinTango concert. Overnight: Hotel Bougainvillea

- *Friday, July 18:* Breakfast at hotel. Visit to Poas Volcano, Doka Coffee Estate, lunch. Transportation and ticket to QuinTango concert at Teatro Nacional. Overnight: Hotel Bougainvillea
- *Saturday, July 19:* Breakfast at hotel. Bus transport (with guide) to Monteverde. Dinner at Hotel Fonda Vela. Evening QuinTango concert at Hotel Fonda Vela. Overnight: Hotel Fonda Vela/Monteverde
- *Sunday, July 20:* Breakfast at hotel. Tour of Montverde's Butterfly Farm. Overnight: Hotel Fonda Vela/Monteverde.
- *Monday, July 21:* Breakfast at hotel. Travel by bus and boat to Arenal Volcano and Hotel Arenal Kioro. Lunch. Overnight: Hotel Arenal Kioro
- *Tuesday, July 22:* Breakfast at hotel. Tour of Hanging Gardens. Evening QuinTango concert at Hotel Kioro. Overnight: Hotel Arenal Kioro.
- *Wednesday, July 23:* Breakfast at hotel. Travel by bus to Guanacaste. Dinner. Overnight: Hilton Papagayo resort (All-inclusive).
- *Thursday, July 24:* Breakfast at hotel. Lunch. Dinner. Concert by QuinTango. Overnight: Hilton Papagayo
- *Friday, July 25:* Breakfast at hotel. Bus transport to Hotel Villa Caletas in Central Pacific region of Puntarenas. Overnight: Hotel Villa Caletas
- *Saturday, July 26:* Breakfast at hotel. Cocktails at Zehyr Palace. Concert by QuinTango followed by dinner and dancing.
- *Sunday, July 27:* Breakfast at hotel. Transport to San Jose International Airport for trip home.



QuinTango is so excited about this trip! We - Joan, Eva, Lukasz, Jon and Jeffery - will be playing our hearts out in some of the most beautiful venues in Central America. We want to look out in the audience and see you smiling back - then meet you at the bar for the post-show celebration. Check your calendars and send in your registration - this will be QuinTango's one and only Green Heart of Costa Rica tour!

Joan Singer, Music Director, QuinTango  
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Alexandria VA 22302  
[703-548-6811](tel:703-548-6811)

PS. *The photos in this letter were taken on our scouting trip July 2013*