

AgroEco Coffee Tour

Learn first hand the realities of your cup of coffee on this exciting journey through southern Costa Rica!

In the mountainous region of Coto Brus in southern Costa Rica, coffee is a way of life. Nestled in the foothills of the Talamanca mountains, the altitude and climate are ideal for coffee production. Sometimes called “the keeper of the rainforest”, quality coffee is grown under the shade canopy, maintaining both the existing biodiversity and providing a livelihood for the farmer. However, when the Coffee Crisis hit in the early 2000’s, and the international price for coffee hit an all time low, the region was devastated. Many were forced to abandon coffee production and either migrated to cities or the US, or turned their coffee fields into environmentally unsustainable pasture.



In an effort to both maintain their livelihoods and the natural environment around them, a new cooperative organization called CoopePueblos was formed in the small town of Agua Buena by a group of 50 farm families committed to maintaining their community and sustainable farming practices. Through partnerships with the Community Agroecology Network (CAN) and progressive coffee roasting companies like Santa Cruz Coffee Roasting, CoopePueblos has formed an alternative trade network that more directly supports both the farmers in the region and the natural world around them.

Join CAN and the Santa Cruz Coffee Roasting Company as we explore more about sustainable coffee production and alternative trade. While in Agua Buena, we’ll hear directly from farmers and community organizers in the region about their experience as commodity producers. We’ll also have the chance to admire beauty of biodiversity guided by experts in tropical ecology and agroecology. Of course, there’ll be plenty of opportunity for leisure as well by hiking through national parks and enjoying the pristine beaches (and excellent swells) of Southern Costa Rica.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Harvest coffee—pick the red berries right off of the plant along with the farmers!
- Experience Costa Rica in an intimate setting with your homestay family
- Participate in a community-defined sustainability project with the CoopePueblos Coffee Cooperative
- Learn about every step of the coffee process, from harvesting to processing to packing and shipping.
- Tour biodiverse hot-spots and shade-grown coffee farms with tropical ecology and agroecology experts
- Relax on world-famous beaches

DATES:

September 16th-26th, 2010

COST:

\$1850

INCLUDES:

- Most meals (All meals in Agua Buena, breakfast and dinner outside of Agua Buena)
- Homestay lodging in Agua Buena
- Double room accommodation while outside of Agua Buena
- All group activities, including park entrance fees
- Materials for projects
- Tour leaders and guides
- All in-country transportation

DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- Airfare
- Lunch outside of Agua Buena
- Travel Insurance
- Single room accommodation is available for an extra \$200.
- Personal expenses

HOW TO REGISTER, PAYMENT INFORMATION

To reserve your place, download the registration form and send in your deposit of \$250. Full payment is due August 1st, 2010. Reservations will be made on a first come, first serve basis. Trip is limited to 15 participants.

*Note: If you prefer to pay via credit card, please contact CAN for arrangements.

CONTACT INFO

If you have any questions regarding the trip, please feel free to contact Grace Voorheis.

outreach@canunite.org

831-459-3619

REFUND POLICY

The \$250 deposit sent with your registration form is non-refundable. Tour fees paid after August 1st, 2010 may be refundable only if a replacement participant is found.

CAN is an international network connecting farmers, consumers, students, and educators to create an alternative globalization where **people, healthy food systems, and environments** come first. Our research and education programs support conservation – both of the land and people’s livelihoods – through sustainable agriculture and alternative market channels.

Santa Cruz Coffee Roasting is a family owned, small-batch gourmet coffee roaster with three retail coffee shops in Santa Cruz, Ca and a network of wholesale clients throughout the US. For over 30 years, Santa Cruz Coffee has been dedicated to achieving roasting perfection. We

also believe in establishing strong and lasting relationships with our farming partners, having traveled extensively throughout Latin America and Africa to build partnerships, educate the public, and embrace new ways of doing business including Organic, Fair Trade, and now AgroEco Coffee!

CoopePueblos is located in the town of Agua Buena, in the Coto Brus County of southern Costa Rica. Currently, there are approximately 100 members of Coopepueblos. The two main requirements to sell coffee to Coopepueblos are that the farm must be located in the Agua Buena district and it must be sustainably operated.

