March 2013


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## Fun in Costa Rica

I recently went to Costa Rica with my partner, daughter, and granddaughter. It was a wonderful trip! We first spent three days in a coastal area in Manuel Antonio on the West coast of Costa Rica where we took in the beaches, went white water rafting, saw many birds and animals like the sloth pictured here in a National Forest Preserve, and saw palm oil plantations. We had a wonderful view of the Pacific Ocean from the balcony of our room. The white water rafting was about a Level III, a bit more than I had expected, but exciting and lots of fun. The guides were great!

We also went to Monteverde (central northern area) where we experienced the rain forest and cloud forest. We went on suspension bridges to view the rain forest. On two occasions, we did zip lining. It was an amazing experience to be zipping along over the rainforest.


Then we went to where the hills are lush green with cattle grazing and banana plantations. We could see the Aranal Volcano from our hotel. The volcano was active until 2010. There we had even a more expansive, higher zip line experience. It was exhilarating! We rode horseback within view of the volcano to go to a waterfall. The horses you will see in the picture are small, but at least they weren't nags. They were sure footed and went up and down ravines without any problem. We also went on a safari float to see the animals that come out at night.

The weather was perfect - warm and sunny with a few showers from time to time. The foliage and landscapes were breathtaking. Costa Rica tourism is second only to agriculture. The country is very ecologically conscious and prides itself in being "green." There were re-cycling bins at all three hotels where we stayed.

My daughter worked with Anywhere Costa Rica, a trip planning business in Costa Rica. She selected the areas, activities, and hotels. We were very pleased with our choices. We traveled in pre-arranged vans with a driver and our trip leaders were excellent. Our hotels were exceptionally nice and the food was delicious. Should you ever want to plan a trip to Costa Rica, I highly recommend Anywhere Costa Rica.

## Czstи Pica 2013




## Food for Heart and Mind

In my last newsletter, I mentioned three TED Talks that I wanted you to check out. From my informal survey, I discovered that not many of you did click on the three links that were listed. As I mentioned, these are short talks done by dynamic speakers on very interesting and relevant subjects. The topics are varied, but many are of interest to those of us on a journey to growth and healing.

There are hundreds of TED talks, but in each issue of my newsletter, I will suggest at least one TED talk on subjects that I believe will be of interest to you. I would really appreciate it if after watching one of the TED talks that you would drop me an e-mail letting me know what you thought.

I am going to include the ones I suggested in my last newsletter again and list one additional one on SMILING. Hope you will check them out.
"Sometimes your joy is the source of your smile, but sometimes your smile can be the source of your joy."
-Thict Nhat Hahn
Suggested TED Talks:
Ron Gutman: The Hidden Power of Smiling Brene Brown: Listening to Shame Hedv Schleifer: The Power of Connection



