

MANNING BUILDING SUPPLIES

From all accounts, the Manning trip to Montreal was a huge success and enjoyed by everyone. Even the weather and some delayed flights couldn't spoil the trip. And, only one word can describe the final party at the Rialto Theatre...AWESOME. Andy, Suzy and Kim rocked it!

As you know by now, our next Manning adventure will be to Guanacaste, **COSTA RICA** April 7 – 11, 2018. We are excited to be taking you to this great destination.

COSTA RICA in Spanish literally means "Rich Coast". It is a country in Central America, bordered by Nicaragua to the north, Panama to the southeast, the Pacific Ocean to the west, and the Caribbean Sea to the east. It has a population of around 4.5 million, of who nearly a quarter live in the metropolitan area of the capital and largest city, San Jose.

COSTA RICA was sparsely inhabited by indigenous people before coming under Spanish rule in the 16th century. It remained a peripheral colony of the empire until independence as part of the short-lived First Mexican Empire, followed by membership in the United provinces of Central America, from which it formally declared sovereignty in 1847. Since then, **COSTA RICA** has remained among the most stable, prosperous, and progressive nations in Latin America. Following a brief but bloody civil war, it permanently abolished its army in 1949, becoming the first of only a few sovereign nations without a standing army.

Like the rest of Central America, **COSTA RICA** never fought for independence from Spain. On September 15, 1821, after the final Spanish defeat in the Mexican War of Independence (1810 – 1821), the authorities in Guatemala declared the independence of all of Central America. That date is still celebrated as Independence Day in **COSTA RICA**, even though, technically, under the Spanish Constitution of 1812 that had been readopted in 1820, Nicaragua and **COSTA RICA** had become an autonomous province with its capital in Leon.

We will be learning much more about **COSTA RICA** and the Guanacaste area in future mailings. We hope you are making plans now to join us April 7 – 11, 2018 as we discover all this beautiful country has to offer.

IT'S NOT TOO EARLY TO CHECK YOUR PASSPORT AND MAKE SURE IT IS VALID THROUGH OUR TRAVEL DATES.

