

# Monteverde and the cloud forest.





We left La Fortuna for Monteverde by crossing Lake Arenal by the "taxi-boat-taxi" shortcut that is quicker and avoids a bumpy coach ride.





All aboard the water taxi.





# Lake Arenal.





Farmland along the coast of the lake.





Our first activity was the  
El Trapiche coffee tour.





Part of the tour involved an ox-cart ride.





The ox-cart is loaded and ready to go.





Having too much fun  
on the oxcart ride.





Costa Rican ox-carts were once very important for commercial transport of agricultural goods. Today they are highly decorative.





The Costa Rican ox-cart has a solid wooden wheel to allow them to function better on muddy roads.





The wheels are adorned with geometric shapes, pointed stars and flowers.





The coffee tour was followed by a few hours on a night walk.





The night walk was run by  
Santamaria night tours.

A few minutes into the walk,  
the group scored a tarantula.





Phones and  
flashlights on  
the night tour.





Dinner was at the Treehouse restaurant and café  
in downtown Santa Elena, Monteverde.





Katie, Nancy and Jamie with  
fruity drinks under the *Ficus*  
tree in the Treehouse cafe.





Matt going green with a  
fruity parasol and  
ornamental straw.





The hotel was the Historias Lodge.





It was common to have the towels folded into animals like swans.





Katie and Sarah outside the Historias Lodge.





The next day we hiked in the Monteverde cloud forest Curicancha Reserve.





It was a wonderful misty day for hiking in the cloud forest.





The group really wanted to see a Quetzal bird and we were informed of a likely location.





The location was a bit off track, but we heard but did not see a Quetzal.





Cloud forest canopy.





There are so many plants in the upper canopy. When a tree falls, it brings down the epiphytes for viewing.





Several species of *Peperomia* could be seen on the trail.





The trail had several  
orchids in bloom.





Most of the orchids are miniatures, but Sarah found a relatively large-flowered orchid in bloom.

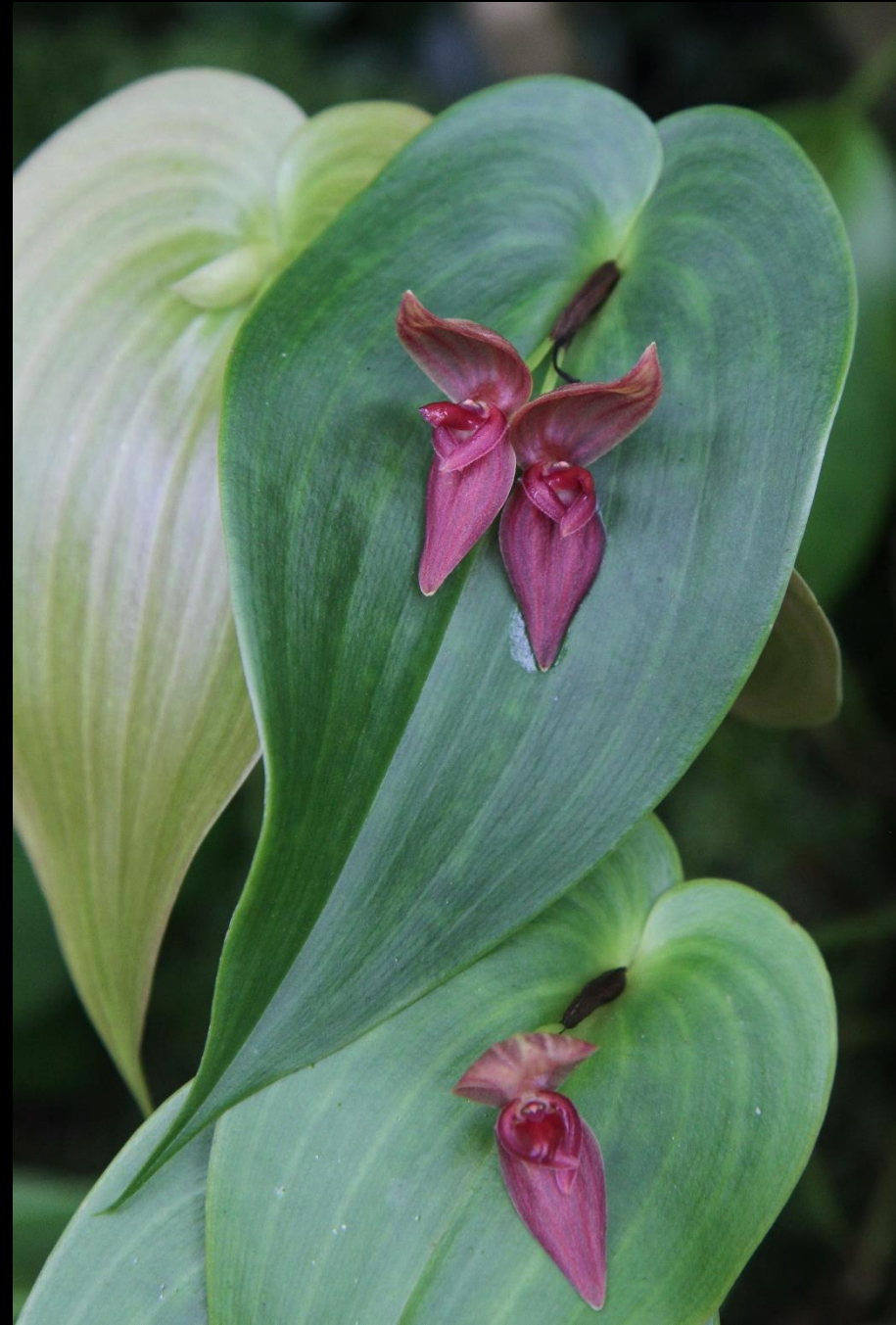








The orchid, *Pleurothallis* is unusual in that it flowers and fruits from the main vein on the leaf.





Alice really liked the mushrooms.





The strangler figs were the tree highlight in the cloud forest.





Fear the strangler fig.





The afternoon was the Adventure Canopy zipline experience.





Sarah started the group off with the Superman zipline technique.





Matt seems ready to go.





Dr. Williams trying to hurt himself.





Nancy seems confident - sort of.





Nancy, almost ready to go.





Alice appears not quite sure about this Superman zipline adventure.





Zipline - no problem. Super Alice.

