

Wellness for All!

El Silencio Lodge & Spa: A Symphony of Natural Wellness!

El Silencio's pledge promises a sanctuary where visitors can reconnect with our planet's inspiring melodies. But our holistic concept of wellness goes much further... We envision a tourism model that protects its stunning natural surroundings, fosters the personal growth of its staff, and promotes the sustainable development of its neighbor communities. Harmonizing the welfare of all stakeholders is key to El Silencio's signature experience.



El Silencio Lodge & Spa is guided by the sustainability principles embraced by **Grupo Islita** and its sister beachfront destination, **Hotel Punta Islita**. Engaging the services of **Responsible Business Alliance**, El Silencio Lodge & Spa has designed its own responsible tourism model, tailored to the specific characteristics of its natural setting and human surroundings.

Highlights:

- 500 acre tropical cloud forest reserve
- Blue Flag eco-certification
- CO2 offsetting initiatives
- Waste management program
- Planet-friendly cleaning products
- Active community involvement
- 95% local staff

Our Environmental Context

El Silencio Lodge & Spa is located in Costa Rica's central volcanic region. Flanked by the Juan Castro Blanco and Poas Volcano National Parks, our 500 acres of carbon-offsetting tropical cloud forest serve as a thriving biological corridor. To ensure the long-term protection of this essential transition eco-system, we strictly follow three environmental imperatives: Low-impact construction, ensuring carrying capacity, and zero-harm output.

- Established 90% of its property as a private forest reserve.
- Developed in previously existing grazing land to avoid forest clearing.
- Set on stilted platforms to minimize topographical impact.
- Planet-friendly materials include pressed-cement and metal frame.
- Limited to 16 lodging units for low-density development.
- Preference for natural cleaning products like soda, vinegar, and lime.
- We do not offer single-use water bottles. Refillable containers can be replenished at taps throughout the property.
- 100% of water effluent is treated.
- Comprehensive output management program composts organic waste, reuses and recycles glass, metal, and plastic, and properly disposes of non-recyclables.
- Electric golf carts used for in-property transportation.
- 100% of fixtures are outfitted with energy-efficient light bulbs.
- Animal-friendly outdoor lighting and native-species landscaping.
- Bathrooms are outfitted with biodegradable bags.
- Buy-local and bulk purchase policies minimize transportation impact.
- Gas heaters provide energy-efficient temperature control.
- In-property organic vegetable garden.



La Promesa Waterfall

Our Human Context

El Silencio Lodge & Spa authentically reflects the cultural legacy and traditions of Sarchí, Zarcero, Naranjo, and other landmark regional towns. More than 95% of our staff is local, imprinting the guest's experience with the signature hospitality that characterizes our human context. In turn, El Silencio Lodge & Spa gives back through employment opportunities, local purchases, and the growing relationship with its closest neighbor, the Los Bajos del Toro community.



Los Bajos del Toro

Los Bajos del Toro is a small rural town of about five hundred citizens. Most have traditionally engaged in agricultural activities, but the presence of El Silencio Lodge & Spa has broadened employment prospects. Today, local men and women can find diversified opportunities in landscaping, maintenance, security, guest relations, and spa and restaurant services.

Our goal is to help the development of this community, addressing its most pressing issues in a win-win partnership that guarantees a healthy operating environment, a welcoming ambiance, and long-term sustainability.

We believe that improving the local elementary school and complementing its curriculum is one of the best strategies to foster the social and economic betterment of our neighbors.

Los Bajos del Toro Amarillo School is a single-building educational center set at the heart of Los Bajos del Toro, close to the soccer field. Although local children benefit from a strong state-funded academic program, we have found many infrastructure deficiencies, a shortage of

32 Children have benefitted with:

- New textbooks
- New uniforms
- School supplies

textbooks and uniforms, and a lack of extra-curricular activities. In short, the opportunities for large-impact improvements are many. As we cultivate our relationship with the school, we are better suited to provide immediate assistance to optimize our youngest neighbors' learning environment.



Local school children receive new textbooks.

Getting Involved

Our dynamic corporate social responsibility program is facilitated by the generous contributions from our guests and associates.

If you would like to participate or learn more about our initiatives, please visit our Facebook page. All funded projects will be duly featured, including photographs, interviews, and comments. Thank you!

To learn more, please visit:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Alajuela/El-Silencio-Lodge-Spa/269820550693>

<http://www.elsilenciolodge.com>

Or call +506 2761-0301

Near-Future Goals

- Comprehensive community waste management & recycling center
- Part time English teacher for staff development & local school ESL program
- After-school arts and sports clubs
- Improved school meal plan

