

WELCOME TO THE **COSTA RICA** INSIDER COLLECTION

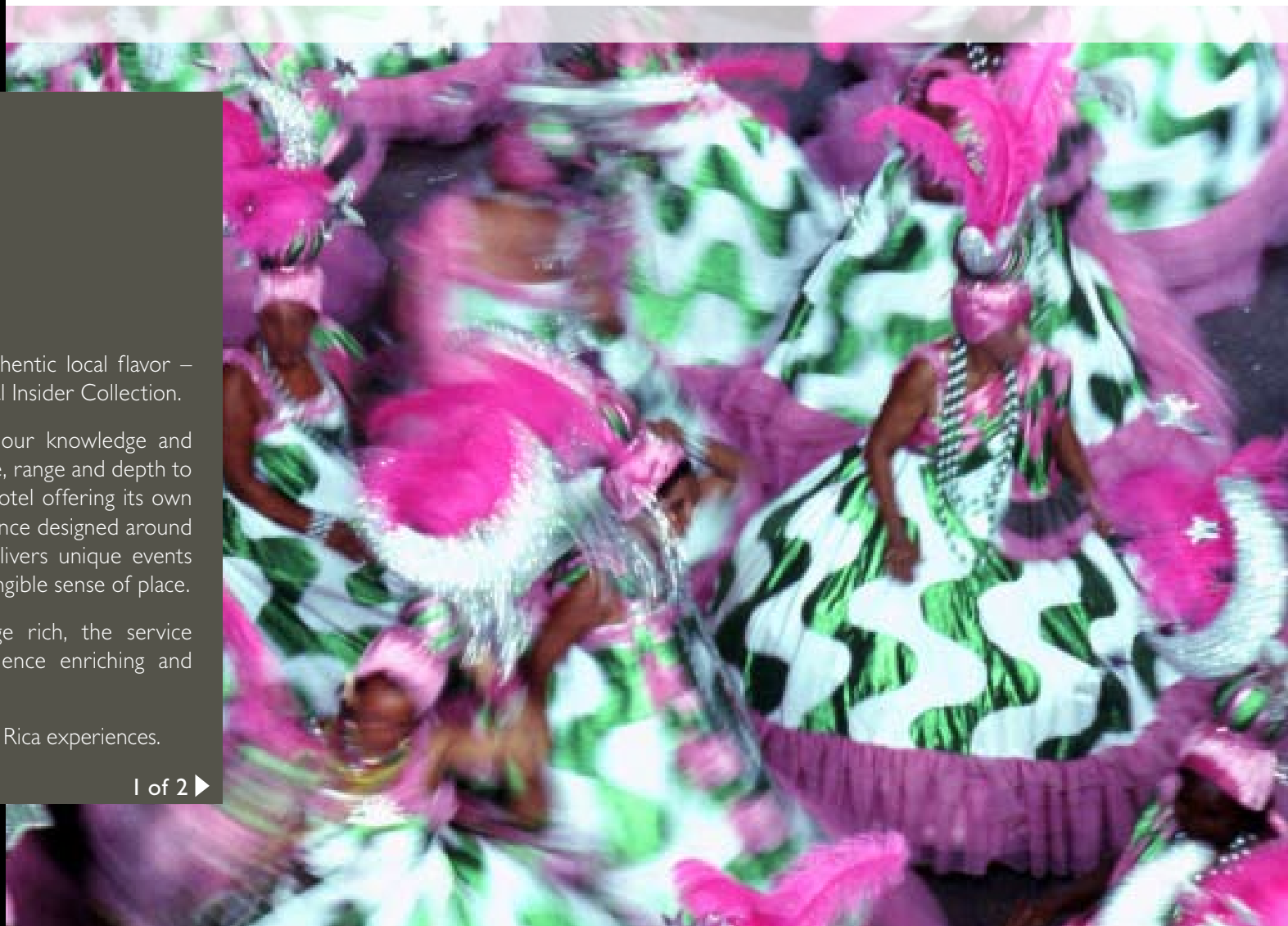
Truly memorable meetings and events with authentic local flavor – that is the inspiration behind the InterContinental Insider Collection.

Our network of hotels and resorts is global; our knowledge and expertise local, giving planners guaranteed choice, range and depth to add to any meeting or conference. With each hotel offering its own bespoke selection of services, and every experience designed around you, the InterContinental Insider Collection delivers unique events firmly rooted in their location with a rare, but tangible sense of place.

The options are limitless, the local knowledge rich, the service professional and faultless, the delegate experience enriching and rewarding every time.

Sample for yourself some of our wonderful Costa Rica experiences.

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INSIDER LOCATIONS

Choose an InterContinental venue for your event and a world of possibilities opens up. As locals, your hotel team hold the key to a side of your locality tourists never see. What and who they know gives you an exclusive mix of authentic venues and experiences to play with.

INSIDER SPEAKERS

Bring your event to life with an inspirational speaker – someone who can really strike a chord with your delegates and enrich their experience beyond measure. Fascinating and engaging, motivating Insider Speakers range from celebrities and cultural experts to sporting heroes. Whatever their passion, they all have a local connection and you will discover that their unique insights and local know-how make your event one to remember.

INSIDER COMMUNITY

There's nothing quite like immersing yourself in the community to gain an added depth and understanding to your experience in a new destination. Insider Community has been designed to benefit local people and create truly memorable and meaningful experiences for your delegates too.

INSIDER INTERACTIONS

This team-building experience will help your delegates connect with each other as never before. Using the unique character, heritage or geography of your destination to inspire interaction, each experience, whether based on or off-site offers an original way to engage delegates and motivate them to build effective working relationships.

INSIDER BREAKS

With Insider Collection even your breaks are fulfilling experiences. From serving up a delicious lunch of provincial dishes for a taste of regional cuisine to spending some quality time with your Concierge team to get their best insider tips, a few minutes out of your busy schedule becomes a whole experience in itself. ◀

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EXPERIENCE A NIGHT OF MAGIC AT THE **GOLD MUSEUM**

Treat your delegates to an exclusive behind-the-scenes tour of one of Costa Rica's most iconic museums. Deep beneath la Plaza de la Cultura in the heart of San José, the Gold Museum houses 1600 golden treasures from the Pre-Columbia period dating back to 500 AD.

The Museum offers a unique experience called 'Gold Night' where expert, bilingual guides provide a private view of this magnificent exhibition. Enjoy cocktails or a gala dinner in the stunningly re-created tropical forest. Each guest also takes home with them a golden souvenir and has the opportunity to purchase unique works from native craftsmen.

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GOLD MUSEUM

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FEAST YOUR EYES OVER COCKTAILS AT THE JADE MUSEUM

Give a different twist to your event by inviting your participants to enjoy cocktails at the Jade Museum with breathtaking views over the San José skyline from the museum's 11th floor vantage point atop the INS (National Insurance Company) opposite Park Spain.

More precious than gold, jade was an important commodity in pre-Columbian Mexico and Central America and this popular museum houses one of the world's greatest collections of jade artefacts dating from 500 B.C. to A.D. 800. Be sure to take in the terracotta vases, bowls, and figurines during your visit. You will be surprised at how modern the designs seem, showing just how advanced craftsmanship was in this era. Look out for one particularly fascinating piece: a vase which has human teeth incorporated into its pattern!

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JADE MUSEUM

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LEARN TO PLAY THE **MARIMBA**

With our hands-on Speaker, you can get a lot closer to Costa Rican culture by learning about the marimba – one of the country's most popular musical instruments.

Similar to a xylophone, the marimba is much-loved in Costa Rica for its gentle and peaceful sound reminiscent of the Costa Rican character itself and will bring style and harmony to your event.

This authentic cultural session can be tailored around you – so you can learn about the marimba during lunch, dinner or over cocktails or coffee.

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MARIMBA

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BRING ON THE CLOWNS

Let your group be charmed with a fascinating talk on a reflection of the colourful, passionate culture of Costa Rica – the traditional Costa Rica carnival masks.

Discover the rich mystery of this fascinating carnival tradition; get the inside track on the country's most famous fiesta of all, la Mascarada, which takes place on Halloween each year.

Uncover the mystery of the carnival clowns, which are a very ancient tradition rooted in the Costa Rican psyche and is in honor of the patron saints of the cities. A common sight at the festivals (each one held in honor of the patron saint of each village), are the crowds of excited children running behind the dejos (clowns) as they merrily dance to the music of the band.

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GO BACK TO SCHOOL AND HELP **DISADVANTAGED** **CHILDREN**

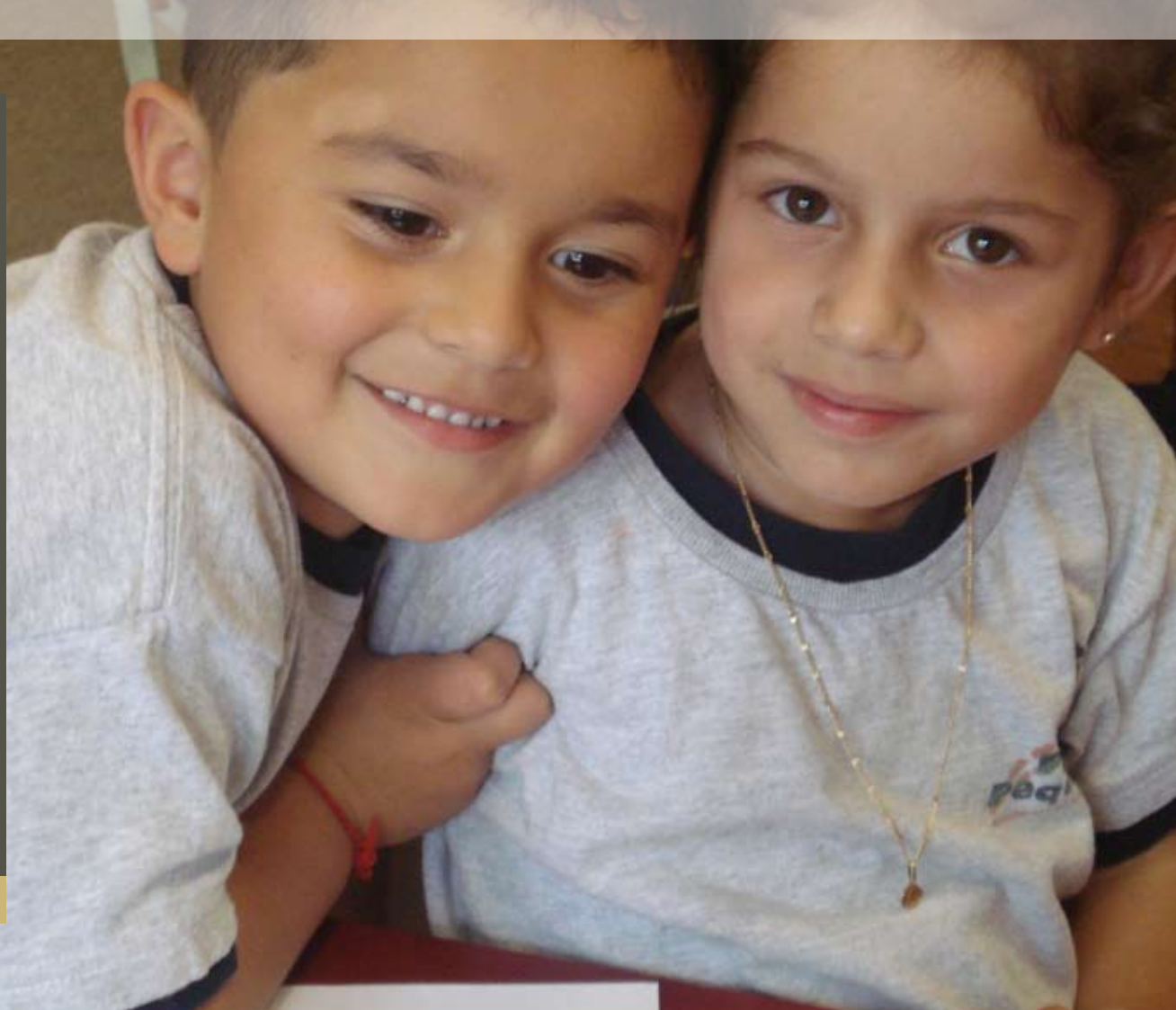
You and your group are invited to spend time at the Don Bosco Institute – a school for some of Costa Rica's least privileged children. You can interact directly with the children, playing games and taking part in activities, as well as helping out with general tasks.

The school has a novel approach to education – building recreational facilities like playgrounds, soccer fields and basketball courts, before building any classrooms. Children come to play, and eventually, they stay to learn.

A donation of \$1 for every person in your group will also be given to help teach children a trade so they can get a job and a future.

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DON BOSCO INSTITUTE

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A MEANINGFUL INTERACTION WITH LOCAL PEOPLE

Give your delegates a chance to get a lot closer to local communities in San José, and to help out with a very good cause. Hogar Magdala is a home for children who have been abandoned due to brain damage or a physical disability.

You are invited to join in the daily activities for the children including training and exercises, as well as helping out with feeding and other duties.

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HOGAR MAGDALA

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DANCE AT THE WORLD-FAMOUS MERECUMBÉ SCHOOL

Get your dancing shoes on for this fantastic opportunity to learn to dance like a true Costa Rican! Your guests can have a dancing lesson at the world-renowned Merecumbé – the cultural institution in Costa Rica, which specialises in teaching and researching the culture of Latin American dance.

Lose yourself in the smooth rhythm of the Costa Rican swing, feel the passion of la cumbia and salsa, perfect the exotic moves of la soca, lambada, marcado and meringue.

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MERECUMBÉ SCHOOL

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COFFEE CULTURE — COSTA RICAN STYLE

A visit to the Café Britt is not to be missed. Be sure to sign up your guests to the Classic Coffee Tour and an introduction to the world of gourmet coffee at its very best. Award-winning, educational and hugely entertaining, this whistle-stop tour of Costa Rica's finest coffee growing tradition is sure to delight.

Stroll through beautifully landscaped surroundings — home to native song birds and wild orchids. Learn how the professionals spot a good coffee in the roasting house. Then enjoy a delicious lunch — served with the best coffee in the world, of course!

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LEARN TO COOK SUSHI WITH AUTHENTIC LOCAL INGREDIENTS

Spend time mastering the ancient Japanese art of Sushi. This exquisite dish of home cooked rice marinated with rice vinegar, sugar and salt is the most renowned in Japan. In this workshop your group will choose from an array of delicious, local ingredients – including freshly caught shellfish and tree ripened fruit – to make your own Sushi with a twist!

Learn the secrets of the best master Sushi chefs; improve your culinary repertoire, and work together with your colleagues to create a well deserved lunch. And best of all, leave the washing up to us!

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SUSHI

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ENJOY EL CAFÉ AT ITS BEST WITH OUR MASTER COFFEE MAKERS

The name 'coffee' comes from the Turkish 'cahvé', but it is believed that this much-loved drink originally came from Ethiopia.

Use your break-time to discover the fascinating history of coffee – and try a few different flavours!

When coffee plants first arrived in Costa Rica, locals used them to decorate their patios. Then in the early 1800s the Costa Rican government began to encourage families to grow coffee for export. And so the Grano de Oro or 'Golden Grains' became the key to Costa Rica's subsequent wealth and development.

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