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1. Geographical location

The beach resort town of Jacó finds itself between several mountains, and is neighboured by the beaches of Herradura Bay to the North, and Playa Hermosa to the South. Sitting at an altitude of 7 meters above sea level, it is located in a tropical climate zone is mainly defined by dry and wet seasons very differentiated. The city has a population of approximately 10,000 residents.



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2. Neighbouring cities/countries

Jaco Finds Itself 75kms Away From Manuel Antonio Followed By San Jose At 98kms, Monteverde At 112kms, Alajuela 157kms And Liberia At 185kms. Nicaragua And Panama Are The Neighbouring Countries To Costa Rica.



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3. Significance

Finding itself about 1 hour away from the country's Juan Santamaria International Airport, Jaco proudly stands as the closest beachside location from the capital of Costa Rica. Surrounding itself with rolling green hills, wild jungle and farm pasture, the city sets itself in a wide cove with rocky points one each end. A town where the rarest species of Scarlett Macaws chatter to wake you up, Jaco boasts off being one the country's most prospered and developed beach town where the main strip of sand runs adjacent to the town. The beach offers numerous activities both at day and night and this small yet attractive touristy town is very well known for that among the travellers from all over the globe. One of the most visited coastal destinations in the country, the beach certainly doesn't fail to attract all the adventure junkies and surfers from all over due to its perfect opportunities. In the recent year, Jaco might have developed the reputation of being the party town where the party hunters go wild and adult-only night time activities take place, but the town is slowly growing towards attracting the family population who flock around here on the weekends for some relaxation from the 9-5 jobs and skyscrapers.

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4. History

Jacó is newly established mid-20th century town. Although the area was inhabited since pre - Columbian times by natives of the ethnic huetar who gave rise to the name of the canton, it was in 1522 that the region was discovered by Gil Gonzalez Dvila. This resort city was originally planned by Charles Elwood Jaco who conquered the land and wanted it to be a fun family resort community for everyone out there. A successful Oil Tycoon when he started he envisioned Playa Jaco to be one of the best beaches for fun and recreational activities for both adults and children In Law No. 20 of 18 October 1915 on territorial division for administrative purposes hamlets Needles, Tárcoles, Pigres, blankets and Herradura were part of the first district of the canton of Puntarenas, without mention of the existence of Jacó. It wasn't until 50 years later that by No. 3549 of September 16, Jacó became the ninth district of the canton of Puntarenas, whose head was set at the Jacó neighbourhood. The town was further awarded the title of Villa in the year 1972. Later in law No 6512 of 25 September 1980, the government of President Rodrigo Carazo Odio, who created the Garabito, the town acquired the status of city, being head of the new administrative unit established at that time. The 19th century saw this town prospering with the important buildings and population was on a rise. Electric lighting was installed in September 1981 in the administration of Don Rodrigo Carazo Odio further which there was no looking back for Jaco. Today the town stands as one of the most visited beach towns of the country where people flock around for some great surfing opportunities.

5. Cultural identity

Costa Rican culture has been heavily influenced by Spanish culture ever since the Spanish colonization of the Americas. Costa Ricans, as people in other countries, are caught between old cultural forces and new ones that influence especially its young inhabitants. Ticos as a whole still respect conservative values, but they're starting to adopt several American cultural traits. The people of the country are of primarily Spanish or Spanish/Mixed ancestry with minorities of German, Italian, French, Dutch, British, Swedish and Greek ancestry. Whites, Castizo and Mestizo together comprise 83% of the population. The culture of the city can rather be seen at Jaco beach than the whole of town where you will find traditional tunes played all over and people humming to the same. The restaurants on the beach boasts of traditional cuisines to give the local flavour of the city to everyone who visits. To get into the local the culture and history of the town, the local theatre is the best place to visit as it takes you through the different traditions and ceremonies through various folkloric shows. Most of the music and folklore comes from the north of the country, including the Mayan culture and Afro-Caribbean culture. Costa Rican music is marked by a rhythm known as tambito, as well as a distinctive musical genre known as punto whereas the cuisine of the country is a combination of Spanish, South American, Caribbean, and American influences. Costa Rica celebrates life, both human and otherwise; innovative sustainability initiatives protect its tropical jungles, misty cloud forests, and fantastic biodiversity while the absence of a standing army reflects the country's commitment to peace. It's a unique place for enjoying "pura vida" or pure life, a phrase locals use for everything from greetings to saying thank you or even "cool".

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6. Natural resources

The Manuel Antonio National Park and Wildlife Refuge Punta Leona are within walking distance Jaco vehicle. Manuel Antonio can be one of the smallest parks in the country, but is considered one of the purest examples of fauna preserved. Other natural attractions nearby include the Carara Biological Reserve , which is less than 10 kilometres away. Both parks offer ideal opportunities to witness wildlife and unique whole area flora. Besides Coffee, other natural resources growing in Costa Rica are corn, bananas, guavas, oranges, and rice.



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7. Key site seeing places (paid and free)

7.1. Paid

7.1.1. Rainforest Adventures Costa Rica Pacific

Located only 2 miles outside the town on a dirt road, this 220-acre reserve is home to the Rainforest Adventure Park that offers everything from zip-line tours to serpentariums, gardens and much more. This adventure park is situated through a transitional area in the midst of 2 ecosystems of a tropical rainforest and a rare tropical dry forest and is packed with remarkable wildlife. Dive into one of the most unspoiled natural lush spaces and participate in activities like waterfall-climbing. Climb the sky bridge that is speckled with different species of reptiles at the serpentarium, one of the most famous attractions of the Central America.

Address : Jaco, 5mins del centro. 5 mins. from Jaco downtown, Provincia de Puntarenas 1959-1002, Costa Rica

Zipcode : 61101

Location : 9.6479482, -84.6007669

Contact : +506 2257 5961

Website : <http://www.rainforestadventure.com/>

Nearest Public Transport : Terminal Jacó - San José Bus Station (Not Recommended)

Entry Fee : Packages starting from CRC \$33,044

Time Required : 6

Expected Wait Time : 15-30 minutes

Buy Ticket : Yes

7.1.2. Carara National Park

A favorite among the Scarlet Macaws who flock their wings around in search of fresh food, Carara National Park is a crucial wildlife sanctuary at a distance 15 kilometers from the city. Encompassing a transitional forest in the middle of Amazonian and Mesoamerican habitats, this 13,000-acre jungle harbors distinct flora and fauna from each of the respective habitats. Take a tour of this National Park and spend some time bird-watching to spot few of the most exotic aves of Central America. Note: Don't forget to carry insect repellent.

Address : Jaco 61102, Costa Rica

Zipcode : 61102

Location : 9.7801643, -84.55366659999999

Contact : +506 2637 1054

Nearest Public Transport : Terminal Jacó - San José Bus Station (Not Recommended)

Entry Fee : CRC \$5,510

Open & Close Timing : Daily 07:00hrs-16:00hrs

Time Required : 6

Expected Wait Time : 15-30 minutes

Buy Ticket : Yes

7.1.3. Pura Vida Gardens And Waterfall

Colorful flowers are seen jiggling their stems to the breeze at the mountains of Pura Vida Gardens situated at an altitude of 2,000 feet. This destination houses almost 400 species of both endemic, as well as exotic plants that trace the walkways and lead you over the ridges along the top of the hill. Gaze at the tallest waterfall in the country and stunning landscapes of the Pacific and experience the true wonders of Mother Nature. Dine at the on-site restaurant opposite the majestic 600 feet waterfall overlooking the spellbinding views of the Pacific coastline and the surrounding mountains. Be sure to not miss the spectacular sunsets.

Address : Jaco 61102, Costa Rica

Zipcode : 61102

Location : 9.749162999999998, -84.58654200000001

Contact : +506 2645 1001

Website : <http://www.puravidagarden.com/>

Nearest Public Transport : Terminal Jacó - San José Bus Station (Not Recommended)

Entry Fee : Adults: CRC \$6610; Children: CRC \$5510.

Open & Close Timing : Open 24 Hours

Time Required : 6

Expected Wait Time : 10-15 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

7.1.4. Neofauna Butterfly Farm and Serpentarium

Located just 10 minutes north of Jacó, this 1,000 square foot institution is home to a large butterfly garden, a serpentarium and frog garden. You can come here and observe morpho and tiger butterflies among the few animals. Many of the country's snakes are also sheltered here.

Address : Jacó, Puntarenas Province, Costa Rica

Zipcode : 61101

Location : 9.658551500000002, -84.61897899999997

Nearest Public Transport : Terminal Jacó - San José Bus Station

Entry Fee : CRC \$13,700

Open & Close Timing : Daily 07:00hrs-17:00hrs

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : No

7.1.5. Manuel Antonio National Park

Opened in 1972, the Manuel Antonio National Park was established to conserve the natural richness of the verdant forests and the peaceful beaches, and today houses many of the country's endangered species. The 682-hectare park is recognized as being one of the most biodiverse parks on the planet and boasts of its diversity that includes everything from lush tropical forests and mangroves to lagoons and pristine white beaches.

Address : Puntarenas Province, Cantón de Aguirre, Puntarenas, Costa Rica

Zipcode : 61101

Location : 9.392308, -84.13698790000001

Contact : +506 2777 5185

Website : <http://www.sinac.go.cr/AC/ACOPAC/PNManuelAntonio>

Nearest Public Transport : Terminal Jacó - San José Bus Station (Not Recommended)

Entry Fee : General: CRC \$8,825; Children under 12years free; Guided Tours: Adults- CRC \$2,812; Children- CRC \$19,300.

Open & Close Timing : December-June: Daily 07:00hrs-16:00hrs; July-November: Tuesday-Sunday 07:00hrs-16:00hrs.

Time Required : 7

Expected Wait Time : 15-20 minutes

Buy Ticket : Yes

7.1.6. Tortuga Island Catamaran Cruise

Tortuga Island is located in the heavenly archipelago of the Gulf of Nicoya. Take a cruise tour through the lush natural beauty of several islands in this sublime archipelago that is home to various seabirds and exotic flora and fauna of the Central Pacific Region. Relax at the white sand beaches and sail through the 120 hectares sanctuary of Tortuga Island that has been awarded with the Ecological Blue Flag for more than 5 years for its pollution-free water.

Address : Puntarenas Province, Herradura 61101, Costa Rica

Zipcode : 61101

Location : 9.6476309, -84.65622429999996

Contact : +506 8810 1101

Nearest Public Transport : Terminal Jacó - San José Bus Station (Not Recommended)

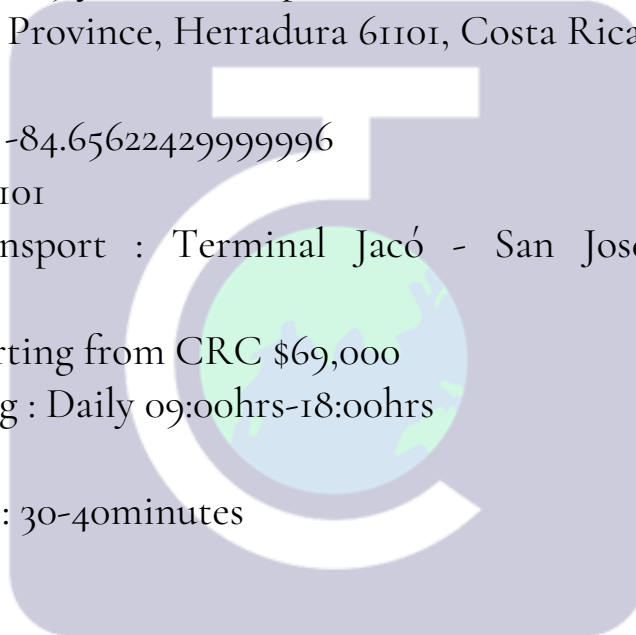
Entry Fee : Tours starting from CRC \$69,000

Open & Close Timing : Daily 09:00hrs-18:00hrs

Time Required : 4

Expected Wait Time : 30-40minutes

Buy Ticket : Yes



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7.2. Free

7.2.1. Jaco Beach

The city of Jaco owes its popularity to the Jaco Beach. Wander along the stretch of dark sands at the beach, observing surfers riding the breakers at sea. The beach hosts a number of fun and recreational activities like horseback riding, water sports or some great surfing lessons. Try your hand at fishing, with many of big game fish in the ocean or just simply relax on the shore and watch a mesmerizing sunset. Be aware of the strong currents in the sea as they make for an unsuitable swimming spot for children.

Address : Jaco 61101, Costa Rica

Zipcode : 61101

Location : 9.6116902000000002, -84.629272000000001

Nearest Public Transport : Terminal Jacó - San José Bus Station

Open & Close Timing : Open 24 Hours

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.2. Bijagual Waterfall

The Bijagual falls are found just 35 minutes from Jaco, where the roar of the waterfall berates the canyon walls and reverberates throughout the valley beneath. The sound grows and sinks behind the great stone walls of the mountain as you move down the mossy, stone steps through the rainforest. One of the largest waterfalls in the country, the silver view of this 600-meter waterfall lies in the secret upper ridges of the Carara National Park and offers little cascades to play along with many natural swimming pools for relaxation. When it comes Bijagual falls, you should definitely contact the tour operators since they excel in combining the best tours that bring hiking, horseback riding and ATV excursions together at one of the tallest falls in the country. Note: Don't miss the hiking tours to this waterfall as they ensure some great adventures. Tours start from CRC \$30,330.

Address : Jaco 61102, Costa Rica

Zipcode : 61102

Location : 9.7491629999999998, -84.586542000000001

Contact : +506 2645 1001

Nearest Public Transport : Terminal Jacó - San José Bus Station (Not Recommended)

Time Required : 3

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.3. Tarcoles River

This river is considered to be quite a risky bet, as more than 2,000 crocodiles have found their home in the murky waters making it one of the most exciting and obviously dangerous rivers in Costa Rica. The scaled-monsters cannot be fed by the public, hence be extremely careful. The river is laden with so many crocs that there are around 63 per square mile on an average. A boat tour to this Crocodile River will leave you intrigued by the abundance of flora and fauna that take shelter here. Almost 50 species of native, migratory as well as coastal birds, iguanas, Jesu Cristo lizards and mangrove trees can be found here. You can find yourself flocking here through different boat tours that leave from the river's delta, between the northern border of the park and the Pacific Ocean. Note: It is recommended that you take a tour guide to this river.

Address : Provincia de Puntarenas, Tarcoles 61102 Costa Rica

Zipcode : 61102

Location : 9.779334899999998, -84.62611649999997

Nearest Public Transport : Terminal Jacó - San José Bus Station (Not Recommended)

Open & Close Timing : Tour Timings: 08:00hrs, 10:00hrs, 12:00hrs, 14:00hrs & 16:00hrs

Time Required : 2.5

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.4. Playa Bejuco

Finding itself just 30 kilometers away from the resort town, Playa Bejuco is a mile-long, a sandy stretch path that looks like an exclamation point from a distance. This beach is popular for its cool breeze that carries the mist from the ocean's powerful waves. Come here to enjoy one of the most beautiful sunsets or just dig your feet in the golden sand and watch the waves crash by.

Address : Puntarenas Province, Bejuco 00143, Costa Rica

Zipcode : 61101

Location : 9.513502199999998, -84.4202209

Nearest Public Transport : Terminal Jacó - San José Bus Station

Open & Close Timing : Open 24 Hours

Time Required : 1.5

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.5. Teatro Jacó

Teatro Jaco is a recently opened Costa Rica-based theatrical production company devoted to "bringing the world of entertainment to Playa Jaco". Come here to enjoy the local theater and culture through various art and folkloric shows. Though it isn't as huge as the other theaters, it has its own charm that attracts the locals and tourists alike.

Address : Av Pastor Diaz, Provincia de Puntarenas, Jacó 61102, Costa Rica

Zipcode : 61102

Location : 9.6171261, -84.63105740000003

Contact : +506 2609 9812

Website : <http://www.teatrojaco.com/>

Nearest Public Transport : Terminal Jacó - San José Bus Station

Time Required : 1.5

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.6. Tortuga Island

Falling 120 kilometers away from Jaco, Isla Tortuga is one of Nicoya Peninsula's major attractions. You can take day tours from Jaco to this island that boasts of its crystalline waters and tropical white-sand beaches. Often referred to as Turtle Island due to its volcanic rock formations that resemble these marine creatures, it comprises of 2 uninhabited islands and finds itself in front of the Curu Wildlife Refuge. Relax on the beaches and play volleyball or just enjoy the sun!

Address : Puntarenas Province, Costa Rica

Location : 9.7701083, -84.8919664

Nearest Public Transport : Terminal Jacó - San José Bus Station (Not Recommended)

Open & Close Timing : Open 24 Hours

Time Required : 12

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.7. Playa Herradura

Herradura's horseshoe-shaped beach features calm water and cinnamon sands. The beach is popular for its excellent restaurants and vivacious nightlife. It is known to be a jumping off point for diving and snorkeling if you want to discover the copious marine life. You can also explore other aqua sports like stand-up paddle-boarding or kayaking in the calm waters.

Address : Puntarenas Province 61101, Costa Rica

Zipcode : 61101

Location : 9.6516703, -84.6613352

Nearest Public Transport : Terminal Jacó - San José Bus Station (Not Recommended)

Open & Close Timing : Open 24 Hours

Time Required : 1.5

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.8. Playa Esterillos

The deserted and secluded beaches of Playas Esterillos, located about 13 miles from Jaco, are definitely worth visiting if you are looking for an invigorating getaway. Segregating themselves into Esterillos Este, Centro and Oeste (Estilleros East, Central and West), each section has something different to offer. The waves on the beaches are quite strong, hence it is advised that you be careful. The coastline encompasses 2 villages that have a handful of hotels, vacation rentals and cafés for all types of visitors.

Address : Puntarenas Province 60901, Costa Rica

Zipcode : 60901

Location : 9.528615499999999, -84.48927759999998

Nearest Public Transport : Terminal Jacó - San José Bus Station (Not Recommended)

Open & Close Timing : Open 24 Hours

Time Required : 3

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.9. Playa Hermosa

Located 3 miles from Jaco, Playa Hermosa translates to a beautiful shoreline and without any surprise, is a place of great aesthetic appeal. The broad gray sand beach is well accompanied by the crystal clear waters. It is also the favorite destination for surfers, with 7 distinct surf points along its 6-mile shore. Further adding to its charm, the beach is part of a wildlife refuge that protects nesting Olive Ridley sea turtles.

Address : Puntarenas Province, Bejuco, Costa Rica

Zipcode : 61101

Location : 9.5727431, -84.5981913

Nearest Public Transport : Terminal Jacó - San José Bus Station (Not Recommended)

Open & Close Timing : Open 24 Hours

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.10. Tico Pod

A must-see shopping center, Tico Pod features authentic art and jewelry, paintings, masks, necklaces, and much more. There is no doubt that you'll find a Costa Rica treasure box to take home.

Address : Av Pastor Diaz, Provincia de Puntarenas, Jacó, Costa Rica

Zipcode : 61101

Location : 9.614679599999999, -84.62802690000001

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.11. Lorena Vera Designs

This boutique has an extensive collection of works by local designer, Lorena Vera and is majorly known for beach wear.

Address : Av Pastor Días calle Copacabana edificio de cristal local 1 Lorena Vera, 61101 Jacó, Costa Rica

Zipcode : 61101

Location : 9.623709999999999, -84.63657999999998

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.12. Mango Surf Shop

Everything you need to complete your beach attire and surfing experience including flip flops, trunks, bathing suits and tanks can be found here.

Address : Puntarenas Province, Jaco, Costa Rica

Zipcode : 61101

Location : 9.6125746, -84.62619660000001

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.13. Aguamarina Store

Aguamarina Store is a local shop is particularly known for a variety of locally crafted items of clothing and swimwear. They also sell local brands of organic skincare and haircare products.

Address : Aguamarina, Edificio Costa Brava Local #4, Jacó 146-4023, Costa Rica

Zipcode : 61101

Location : 9.619418, -84.63581299999998

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.14. Galeone

A tiny mall located in the town, Galeone features some domestic stores selling local souvenirs and numerous eateries.

Address : Jacó, Provincia de Puntarenas, Jacó, Costa Rica

Zipcode : 61101

Location : 9.6150033, -84.62809419999996

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.15. Bambu

Famous for unusual souvenir items made from wood, Bambu is also known for

upscale paintings and some religious artworks.

Address : Puntarenas Province, Jaco, Costa Rica.

Zipcode : 61101

Location : 9.614951399999997, -84.62858440000002

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.16. The Costa Rica Coffee Experience

If you are a coffee-lover, The Costa Rica Coffee Experience is your place to be to taste different flavors of coffee from various coffee-growing regions in the country. Don't forget to buy the aromatic coffee beans.

Address : Av Pastor Diaz, Provincia de Puntarenas, Jacó, Costa Rica

Zipcode : 61101

Location : 9.613399000000001, -84.62726980000002

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.17. Urban Awol

Situated right next to one of the top restaurants in the city, Urban Awol is a place where you can find local handicrafts, precious stone ornaments and fashion clothing.

Address : Centro Comercial Pacific Center, Pastor Diaz Avenue, Jaco, Costa Rica, Costa Rica

Zipcode : 61101

Location : 9.6167863, -84.63006159999998

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

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8. Key sites sports & adventure

Jaco is a paradise on earth for the adrenaline junkies out there. The opportunity to practice exciting adventure sports is out there. From Hiking, ATVs, Canopy, Rappelling, Zip-Lining, Surfing there's anything and everything.

• Ocean Ranch Park Eco Adventure Tours -

Address : Quebrada Amarilla, 120 Jaco, Costa Rica

Location : 9.586559099999999,-84.5461679

Contact No : +506 2643 2182

Website : <https://oceanranchpark.com/>

Nearest Public Transport : Terminal Jacó - San José (Not Recommended).

Entry Fees : Activities Starting from CRC \$35,500

Open / Close Time : Daily 07:00hrs-19:00hrs

Time Required : 8

Wait Time : 15-30minutes

• ATV & Buggy Tour -

Address : AXR, Pastor Diaz Avenue, Jaco 61101, Puntarenas Province, Costa Rica

Location : 9.6123359,-84.6260977

Contact No : +506 2643 3130

Website : <http://axrjaco.com/>

Nearest Public Transport : Terminal Jacó - San José Bus Station (Not Recommended)

Entry Fees : Full Day Tours Starting from CRC \$1,04,230; 4 Hour tour from CRC \$66,180; 3 Hour tour from CRC \$ 52,390.

Open / Close Time : Daily 08:00hrs-18:00hrs

Time Required : 6

- **Canopy Tours -**

Address : 1.7km east of the Heradura main intersection, beach, Provincia de Puntarenas, Herradura, Costa Rica

Location : 9.675535,-84.6307779999999

Contact No : +506 2637 6020

Website : <http://www.canopyvistalossuenos.com/>

Nearest Public Transport : Terminal Jacó - San José Bus Station (Not Recommended)

Entry Fees : Jaco Canopy Tour Price: CRC \$32,500.

Open / Close Time : Daily 07:00hrs-17:00hrs

Time Required : 2

- **Whitewater Rafting Costa Rica -**

Address : Jaco - Los Sueños Jaco Centro - Avenida Pastor Dias Next to Subway - Local #1, Jaco 61101, Costa Rica

Location : 9.616743999999999,-84.6295519999999

Contact No : +506 2643-5720

Website : <http://www.adventuretourscostarica.com/tours/rafting/>

Nearest Public Transport : Terminal Jacó - San José Bus Station (Not Recommended)

Entry Fees : Tours starting from CRC \$46,800.

Time Required : 4

Wait Time : 15-20minutes

- **Kayak Jaco -**

Address : Puntarenas Province, Playa Agujas, APDO 195-4023, Jaco, Costa Rica

Location : 9.721173499999999,-84.6506302999999

Contact No : +506 2643 1233

Website : <http://kayakjaco.com/>

Nearest Public Transport : Terminal Jacó - San José Bus Station (Not Recommended)

Entry Fees : Snorkeling (Outrigger Canoe) Price: CRC \$30,300; Fishing (Kayak) Price: CRC \$55,150; Snorkeling (Kayak) Price: CRC \$30,300.

Open / Close Time : Daily 07:30hrs-20:00hrs

Time Required : 4

- **Canyoning & Rappelling -**

Address : Ave Pastor Diaz, 200 meters South of the Best Western, Edficio Crystal First Floor, Jaco Beach, Puntarenas, Costa Rica 61101

Location : 9.6183813,-84.6326128

Contact No : (+506) 2643 1834

Website : <https://jacocanyoning.com/>

Nearest Public Transport : Terminal Jacó - San José Bus Station (Not Recommended)

Entry Fees : Starting from CRC \$54,000

Open / Close Time : Daily 07:30hrs-11:30hrs & 13:00hrs-17:30hrs

Time Required : 6

Wait Time : 15-30minutes

- **Costa Rica Surfing -**

Address : Centro Comercial El Paso #1, Calle Bohio 1, Provincia de Puntarenas, Jacó 61101, Costa Rica

Location : 9.614719299999999,-84.6292310999999

Contact No : +506 8810 5893

Website : <http://www.jacosurfclub.com/surf-adventure/>

Nearest Public Transport : Terminal Jacó - San José Bus Station (Not

Recommended)

Entry Fees : Jaco Surf Lessons starting from CRC \$32,530.

Open / Close Time : Daily 07:00hrs-17:30hrs

Time Required : 3

Wait Time : 10-15minutes

- **Hiking & Waterfall Horseback Tours -**

Address : Main street Jaco Beach 506, Edificio de Crystal, Provincia de Puntarenas, 60101, Costa Rica

Location : 9.6183813,-84.6326128

Contact No : +506 2643 1834

Website : <https://costaricawaterfalltours.com/>

Nearest Public Transport : Terminal Jacó - San José Bus Station

Entry Fees : Starting from CRC \$49,083

Open / Close Time : Daily 07:00hrs-21:00hrs

Time Required : 4

Wait Time : 10-15minutes

- **Standup Paddleboarding -**

Address : CONTIGUO AL SUPER LAS CHANCLETAS CALLE DE CLARITAS, Provincia de Puntarenas, Jacó 61101, Costa Rica

Location : 9.6218136,-84.637335899999

Contact No : +506 2643 4054

Website : <http://manualboards.com/>

Nearest Public Transport : Terminal Jacó - San José Bus Station

Entry Fees : Tours starting from CRC \$26,700

Open / Close Time : Daily 08:00hrs-19:00hrs

Time Required : 2

- **Costa Rica Paragliding. -**

Address : C/La Nacion 69, Jaco 61101, Costa Rica

Location : 9.622705499999999,-84.6248253999999

Contact No : +506 8310 1073

Website : <http://www.costaricaparapente.com/contact.html>

Nearest Public Transport : Terminal Jacó - San José Bus Station (Not Recommended)

Entry Fees : Regular ride: CRC \$46,800; Luxury Ride: CRC \$77,200

Open / Close Time : Daily 09:00hrs-20:00hrs

Time Required : 2

Wait Time : 30minutes

- **Fishing -**

Address : Costa Rica Dreams, Marina Los Suenos, Provincia de Puntarenas, Playa Herradura - Jaco - Garabito, 61101, Costa Rica

Location : 9.650580999999999,-84.663659

Contact No : +506 2637 8516

Website : <http://www.costaricadreams.com/>

Nearest Public Transport : Terminal Jacó - San José Bus Station (Not Recommended)

Entry Fees : Tours starting from CRC \$275,000

Open / Close Time : Daily 06:00hrs-19:00hrs

Time Required : 5

- **Jaco Ropes Adventure Park -**

Address : Costanera Sur Hwy, Jacó, 61101, Costa Rica

Location : 9.605193,-84.6157969999999

Contact No : +506 2643 4820

Website : <http://www.jacoropes.com/index.php>

Nearest Public Transport : Terminal Jacó - San José Bus Station

Entry Fees : Activities starting from CRC \$17,000

Open / Close Time : Daily 08:00hrs-16:00hrs

Time Required : 5

Wait Time : 15-20minutes



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9. Adventure sports, Local sports, stadiums

The country passionately follows soccer as a sport, besides this basketball, rugby, golf are some of the popular sports played in Costa Rica. The city of Jaco is not home to any professional football clubs or stadium.



10. Spas and relaxation

There are numerous Spas in this resort time that aims to make your vacation perfect through their various therapies and activities.

- **Croc's Casino Resort:**

Address : Puntarenas Province, Jaco 60901, Costa Rica

Location : 9.622870299999999,-84.6406493

Contact No : +506 4001 5398

Website: <http://croscasinoresort.com/hotel/amenities/spa-in-jaco-costa-rica/>

- **Massage Jaco:**

Address : Boulevard, Provincia de Puntarenas, Jacó 61101, Costa Rica

Location : 9.623659699999997,-84.63667629999998

Contact No : +506 7053 4926

Website : <http://jacomassage.net/>

- **Nazareth Spa:**

Address : Jaco servicio a domicilio 506, Jaco 61101, Costa Rica

Location : 9.623897,-84.638905

Contact No : +506 8432 1333

- **Acqua Spa Jaco Beach:**

Address : Avenida Pastor Diaz, Jaco 61101, Costa Rica

Location : 9.616575100000002,-84.6329212

Contact No : +506 2630 0505

Website : <http://www.acquaspajaco.com/>



11. Events calendar

Month

Events

New Year's Day Celebration

Fireworks light up the country on this national holiday while street parties lure locals with music, dancing and food. In San Jose, festivities are centered around downtown and in every city.

January 1

Festival de las Kobe

This is held in late January at Playas Esterillos, near Jacó. Mule races are held on the beach, with bullfights, music and a crafts fair.

Sun Festival

An annual celebration of the Mayan New Year on February 25 that culminates in a fire ceremony and a gathering to promote solar power.

San Jose Day

Fairs, Catholic masses, bullfights and plenty of street food mark the feast of Saint Joseph; celebrated throughout Costa Rica. Celebrated on March 19.

Semana Santa

Holy week is observed with religious processions and masses. The official holiday falls on the Thursday and Friday before Easter Sunday. Public transportation does not run on these two days and is extremely crowded the whole week. All alcohol sales are prohibited Thurs.- Sun. Many businesses extend the holiday to the entire week. It will start from 13th April,2017.

Día de Juan Santamaría

National holiday honoring a young fighter from Alajuela who defended his country to the death against William Walkers forces at the battle of Rivas in 1856. April 11.

Labour Day

Celebrated on May 1, Labour Day is a very big deal in the country. A national holiday, hence don't be surprised to see the streets and attractions crowded.

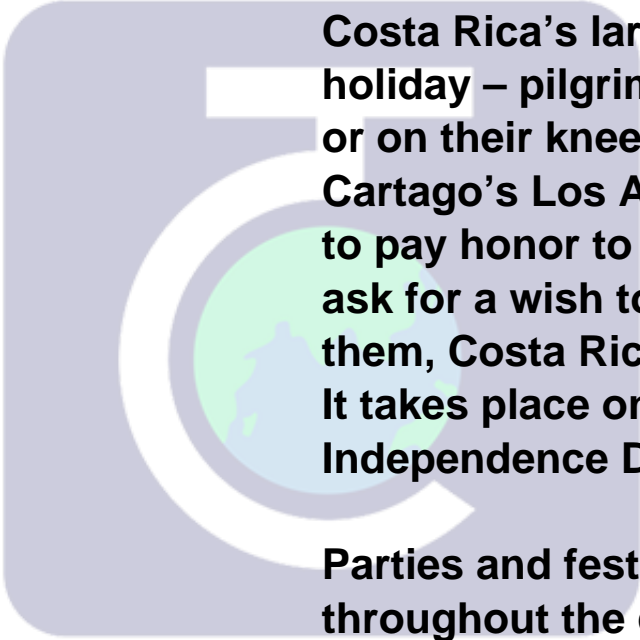
Corpus Christi Day

A religious festival that warrants a day off from work held country-

**wide. Celebrated on May 29.
Saints Peter and Paul Day**

**Religious celebrations to honor
the Catholic saints Paul and
Peter held throughout the
country. June 29.**

Virgin of Los Angeles Day



**Costa Rica's largest religious
holiday – pilgrims march on foot
or on their knees toward
Cartago's Los Angeles Basilica
to pay honor to La Negrita and
ask for a wish to be granted for
them, Costa Rica's black Virgin.
It takes place on August 2.
Independence Day**

**Parties and festivals are held
throughout the country
celebrating Costa Rica's
independence from Spain.
Traveling south from Guatemala,
the flame of independence
arrives in Cartago on this day.
Celebrated throughout the
country on September 15.
International Beach Clean-Up
Day**

**A modern celebration, this day
joins locals and visitors together
to keep Costa Rica's beaches**

clean and pristine. The third week of September.

Dia de la Raza

A celebration of Columbus' discovery of the New World and the many cultural influences that helped form modern-day Latin America; held throughout the country on October 12.

Dia de los Inocentes

Costa Rica's version of Mexico's famous Day of the Dead has people paying their respects to lost loved ones. November 2.

Christmas Celebrations

Decorations have been up for months, but Costa Ricans really begin to celebrate in early December. This is the best time to begin making tamales – each family has its own recipe. The long preparation process produces one-of-a-kind treats that are distributed as gifts to friends and neighbours. Early December.

Christmas

Christmas is celebrated with very high spirits, the city is decorated

with beautiful lights which attract the tourist to the city especially during the time of Christmas.



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12. Key local guides and tours

Unfortunately, there are no personal guides available in the area. However one may certainly find some guides at certain attractions, there are also different tours that takes you on a journey to see the area around – The tours are – Manuel Antonio National Park: Manuel Antonio National Park cannot be missed if one is travelling to this country. Get yourself ready for this full day tour from Jaco and join the naturalist guide who will take you through the park and introduce you to the native wildlife! Furthermore, spend the day just sitting under the sun on pristine white sandy beaches. Carara National Park Tour: The national park finds itself between Amazonian and Mesoamerican habitats and on this tour you will explore the park's trails and get up close with the plant and animal life that call it home. Poas Volcano With La Paz Waterfall: Hike to 4 most beautiful waterfalls of the region and have the best strawberry milkshake of your life followed by a fantastic wildlife exhibition and finally ending your tour by gazing into the crater of an 8900ft active stratovolcano! All in a day! Aerial Tram Tour: Take this tour to see panoramic views of the Costa Rican rainforest through Aerial Tram and get up close and personal with the exotic plant, bird and wildlife from the surrounding area. Admire the views of the Pacific coast on this relaxing tram ride! Quick Jump: Just outside the beach town, do find yourself visiting this luxuriant forest with lots of healthy green growth. The forest is home some of the finest Jaco Ropes course and Quick jump is one of the most adventurous activities here. First you climb a ladder to your destination in the treetops then from there you embark on a 40ft descent that also includes a 10ft free fall. Don't worry, your instructor will make sure to prepare you pre-hand. High Ropes Course Tour: This tour is rather designed to make you feel like a monkey, leaping through the rainforest. Take this exciting tour that takes you through high ropes and pass through 12 obstacles to reach your destination. The Explorer: This 4 hour tour you will explore the waterfalls that exists in the forests of Jaco. This tour will take you to an area that is bustling with the rushing water of about 10 waterfalls. For all the hiking junkies, take up the chance to hike the trails and swim in the natural pools. Tortuga Island Cruise: If you want to experience heaven on earth, this is the tour to take! On this full day tour from Jaco sail across the magnificent

Gulf of Nicoya to land on the white sandy beaches of the ever picturesque Tortuga Island. Once on the island don your explorer hats on and explore the area's biodiversity with a nature hike or set yourself out for some great adventures in the clear waters. Relaxing on the beach is always an option! Crocodile Man Tour from Jaco: On this 2 hour guided tour come close to the scaled animals and watch for reptiles that measure over 25ft along with scarlet macaws, tiger herons and monkeys. Also enjoy an up-close encounter of the crocodile man who feeds the monster from a boat. An unforgettable experience indeed.



Index**13. Transportation hubs**

Airport: Juan Santamaría International Airport: The main airport serving the city of Jacó is Juan Santamaría International Airport. The airport is located 85.3kms away from the city. **Bus Terminal:** Terminal Jacó - San José: The main bus terminal serving the city is located around 3kms away from the city. **Port:** Puerto Caldera: The major port finds itself 54.8kms away from the city.



14. Transportation cost

Transportation in and around the city is quite simple. Jacó is small enough, that walking from one end to the other is not an impossible thing to do. But when it's hot, or it's dark, there are always plenty of taxis to take you down the strip wherever you might want to go. There are local buses that circulate from Herradura to Jacó every hour. The bus does not go through all of Jacó, it does not travel to the most Northern side, but it you can get off at any spot in central Jacó. Bikes, Motorcycles and Scooters: One can also hire Motorcycles, Bikes and Scooters to commute around the city. Scooters can be rented at 49000 colones whereas Bikes are a little less expensive and can be hired at 27000 colones and motorcycles at 55000 colones. Taxis: The taxis in Jacó are red. Don't get in a taxi that does not look official. All official taxis have meters and are clearly displayed. 1,500 colones is a standard price to go just about anywhere in the town, unless it's a short distance and then it's usually 750. Buses: The main bus stop to go to Herradura is located across the street and down the road a short distance from the grocery store, Mas o Menos. The Herradura/Jacó bus will take you to Central Jacó, and all the way to Herradura beach for less than it would cost to take a taxi. The price to ride the bus is 250 colones.

Index**15. Baggage allowance**

One can certainly carry heavy amount of baggage if travelling by car or public bus in the city, however when it comes to commuting through public transportation within the city, make sure not to carry heavy amount of luggage especially in the buses, bikes, scooters and motorcycles since it can cause inconvenience to self and those around you. If you have chosen to walk around the city, make sure to carry only a backpack or a money belt while if travelling by taxis, feel free to carry large suitcases and bags.



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16. Must try food and local savouries

Costa Rican food might not be one of the most exciting cuisine on the planet. In fact, many people may even go as far as calling it unmemorable, boring, and bland. This is not surprising as the traditional Costa Rican diet consists primarily of two staples: rice and beans. Besides this, the Seafood served in the country is as fresh as it can get. Chicken is usually free range and beef is grass fed. One thing about having meals in this country is that you will be surprised by the hearty portions that the restaurants has to offer. Tropical fruits and vegetables also increase the aesthetic of the plates. Here are some of the extra special items to keep an eye out for – Rondon: Rondon dates back to earlier times of subsistence diets in the Caribbean. Typically, you'll find a fish head and assorted catches of the day, along with a variety of tubers like sweet potatoes and yucca, simmered in coconut milk for hours over an open wood flame that imparts a smoky depth. Toss in a couple Panamanian chilies for that signature lip singe, and there you have it — rondon. Naturales: Wherever you are in the country, you'll see standalone kiosks dedicated to juicing tropical fruits. Mango, pineapple, blackberry, melon, and banana are the usual favorites, though watch out for seasonal offerings like cas (sour green mango), or horchata (rice, cinnamon, and milk). These delicious beverages also go by the name refrescos. Cacao fresco: When cacao pods ripen, they look like little yellow footballs. Crack them open and you can eat the tender white flesh encasing the cacao beans (from which you get cocoa powder when twice roasted and ground). The fruit's sweet and tangy taste will give you a whole new outlook on what you thought chocolate was. Picadillo: A typical Costa Rican side dish, you'll see picadillo accompany many meals, most notably the casados. These are diced vegetables, a common one being the chayote squash, that are parboiled and then fried with onions, carrots, garlic, and sometimes a little ground meat. Chifrijo: Chifrijo is a popular layered dish of rice topped with black beans, twice-fried pork bits, and pico de gallo (tomato salsa with onion, cilantro, and lemon), served with fresh tortilla chips. A fixture in the bar scene, chifrijos are a drunken rally brick and next-day booze mop wrapped in one. Granizados: This is a cold treat to stave off the heat when hitting the beach. You'll see men pushing wooden carts down the sand shouting

Granizados. Line up with the local kids and watch the vendor shave a solid block of ice, and layer it with powdered milk, condensed milk, and any flavored syrup that tickles your fancy. Casado: Translated literally, casado means “married.” Found in nearly any soda (small restaurant serving typical Costa Rican dishes) across the country, casado is the fixed pairing of white rice with a side of savory black beans, a vegetable side (like cabbage slaw dressed in citrus), and a protein — usually a fish fillet, charcoal grilled chicken, or pork chop — smothered in sautéed onions. Tamales: When it comes to Costa Rican snacks, Tamales are probably the most traditional and delicious. Tamale is a dish made of masa (a starchy corn-based dough) mixed with vegetables, meats and/or cheese, which is steamed or boiled in a banana leaf. Carne Asada: Typically consumed as a late night snack, but also served as a dinner main, Carne Asada is another Costa Rican favourite. It is often eaten with tortillas along with other local favourites like black beans, onions, guacamole, etc. Gallo Pinto: Gallo pinto or gallopinto is a traditional dish of Costa Rica and Nicaragua made with rice and beans. Beans are quickly cooked until the juice is almost consumed. Salsa Lizano: It is a thin, smooth, light brown sauce and is meant to be used while cooking or at tableside to flavour one's food when serving. It is slightly sweet with a hint of spiciness lent by black pepper and cumin. Ceviche: In Nicaragua and Costa Rica, the dish includes marinated fish, lime juice, salt, ground black pepper, finely minced onions, coriander (cilantro) and finely minced peppers. Tres Leches Cake (Pasele de Tres Leches): A cake soaked in three kinds of milk, including evaporated milk, sweetened condensed milk and cream. This cake is meant to be served cold. Arroz con Leche: Rice soaked in warm milk with sugar, cinnamon and other spices. Also known as Costa Rican rice pudding. Refrescos: Fruit smoothies made with water or milk (leche). Called “frescos” for short. They are normally prepared with cold fruit. They are great on a hot day. Guaro: a fiery sugar cane liquor, served as a shot or in a cocktail. A must if you go out partying. Pipa: These are green coconuts, thoroughly chilled before having their tops sliced off and straws inserted for immediate enjoyment. Pan de Elote: Costa Rica's sweet corn bread, or pan de elote, is pure comfort – and very filling. Despite its name, you should know that this traditional favorite has neither the taste nor texture of the cornbread you're used to.

17. Restaurant & Nightlife

Behind every great vacation is terrific food and Jacó doesn't fail to impress the hungry stomachs when it comes to the same. Cuisines include Italian, Japanese, French, Spanish, Argentinean, Vegetarian and of course Costa Rican. Around here there is no shortage of fresh and delicious seafood! For those looking for some heavy dancing one thing is for sure, Jacó's night scene will not disappoint you. There is no shortage of great bars and clubs in Jacó. Find yourself around the area of Bohio Street, Pastor Diaz Avenenue and ofcourse Playa Jacó where restaurants and bars sit conveniently waiting for you. So get ready to go out and live a little – Rule of thumb, eat and drink where the locals go, hence check out some of the local favorite eateries and bars –

Food -

Behind every great vacation is terrific food and Jacó doesn't fail to impress the hungry stomachs when it comes to the same. Cuisines include Italian, Japanese, French, Spanish, Argentinean, Vegetarian and of course Costa Rican. Around here there is no shortage of fresh and delicious seafood! For those looking for some heavy dancing one thing is for sure, Jacó's night scene will not disappoint you. There is no shortage of great bars and clubs in Jacó. Find yourself around the area of Bohio Street, Pastor Diaz Avenenue and ofcourse Playa Jacó where restaurants and bars sit conveniently waiting for you. So get ready to go out and live a little – Rule of thumb, eat and drink where the locals go, hence check out some of the local favorite eateries and bars –

- **Kaya Grill & Bar:**

Address : Jacó, Provincia de Puntarenas 61101, Costa Rica

Location : 9.61505710000000,-84.628989400000

Contact No : +506 2643 3153

Website : <https://www.facebook.com/KayaJacó/>

Open / Close Time : Tuesday-Sunday 06:30hrs-22:30hrs

- **Graffiti Restro Cafe & Wine Bar:**

Address : Centro Comercial Pacific Center, Pastor Diaz Avenue, Jaco 61101, Costa Rica, Costa Rica

Location : 9.6167863,-84.630061599999

Contact No : +506 2643 17083

Website : <http://www.graffiticr.com/>

Open / Close Time : Opens at 17:00hrs

- **Lemon Zest:**

Address : Puntarenas Province, Playa de Jaco 61101, Costa Rica

Location : 9.612872,-84.626371100000

Contact No : +506 2643 2591

Website : <http://www.lemonzestjaco.com/>

Open / Close Time : Daily 10:00hrs-21:00hrs

- **Los Amigos Jaco:**

Address : Pastor Diaz Avenue, Frente POPS, Playa Jaco 61101, Costa Rica

Location : 9.6145031,-84.6277647

Contact No : +506 2643 2961

Website : <http://losamigosjaco.com/>

Open / Close Time : Sunday-Wednesday 11:30hrs-23:00hrs, Thursday-Saturday 11:30hrs-02:30hrs

- **Restaurante jaco rustico:**

Address : Calle Hicaco, Provincia de Puntarenas, Jacó 61101, Costa Rica

Location : 9.6118457,-84.627073699999

Contact No : +506 2634 2117

Website : <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Jaco-Rustico/257472927645622>

Open / Close Time : Breakfast: 07:00hrs-10:30hrs, Lunch and Dinner: 11:00hrs-19:30hrs

- **Green Room:**

Address : Puntarenas Province, Jacó 61101, Costa Rica

Location : 9.6138499,-84.627854899999

Contact No : +506 2643 4425

Website : <https://www.facebook.com/Green-Room-Cafe-325667240786166>

Open / Close Time : Daily 09:00hrs-00:00hrs

- **Panaderia Artesanal:**

Address : 70 metros sur de, Calle Ancha, Provincia de Puntarenas, Jacó 61101, Costa Rica

Location : 9.6188428,-84.632996699999

Contact No : +506 2643 6413

Website : <https://www.facebook.com/Panaderia-artesanal-461197593921487/>

Open / Close Time : Monday-Tuesday & Thursday-Sunday 06:30hrs-18:00hrs

- **Tacobar:**

Address : Calle Lapa Verde, Provincia de Puntarenas, Jacó 61101, Costa Rica

Location : 9.61466050000000,-84.6275329999999

Contact No : +506 2643 0222

Open / Close Time : Monday 11:00hrs-22:00hrs, Tuesday-Sunday 07:00hrs-22:00hrs

- **Side Street Sandwich Shop+Bistro:**

Address : Puntarenas Province, Jaco 61101, Costa Rica

Location : 9.61810100000000,-84.6331397999999

Contact No : +506 2643 2724

Open / Close Time : Monday 11:00hrs-16:00hrs, Tuesday-Saturday 11:00hrs-21:00hrs, Sunday 09:00hrs-17:00hrs

- **The Pizza Shop:**

Address : Paseo Las Americas #3 Avenida Pastor Diaz, Provincia de Puntarenas, Playa Jaco, 61101, Costa Rica

Location : 9.61560789999999,-84.6289944999999

Contact No : +506 2643 2643

Website : <http://pizzajaco.com/>

Open / Close Time : Tuesday 11:00hrs-22:00hrs, Wednesday-Thursday 11:00hrs-midnight, Friday-Saturday 11:00hrs-02:30hrs, Sunday 11:00hrs-22:00hrs

- **Cafe Namaste:**

Address : Calle Bohio, Provincia de Puntarenas, Jacó 61101, Costa Rica

Location : 9.61495759999999,-84.62895120000002

Contact No : +506 2643 2120

Website : <https://www.facebook.com/namastejacocr/>

Open / Close Time : Daily 08:00hrs-22:00hrs

- **Cafe Namaste:**

Address : Calle Bohio, Provincia de Puntarenas, Jacó 61101, Costa Rica

Location : 9.614957599999999,-84.62895120000002

Contact No : +506 2643 2120

Website : <https://www.facebook.com/namastejacocr/>

Open / Close Time : Daily 08:00hrs-22:00hrs

- **Pajara Pinta:**

Address : Avenida Pastor Diaz, Frente a Pops, Edificio Rojo. Jaco Centro, Jaco 61101, Costa Rica

Location : 9.6145031,-84.6277647

Contact No : +506 2643-2789

Website : <https://www.facebook.com/Pajara-Pinta-555040367928156/>

Open / Close Time : Wednesday-Thursday 12:00hrs-22:00hrs, Friday-Monday 08:30hrs-22:00hrs, Tuesday closed

- **Caliche's Wishbone Restaurant:**

Address : Frente a Centro Comercial Il Galeone, Av Pastor Diaz, Provincia de Puntarenas, Playa de Jaco 61101, Costa Rica

Location : 9.6147718,-84.628422199999

Contact No : +506 2643 3406

Website : <https://www.facebook.com/Caliches-Wishbone-113760211989823/>

Open / Close Time : Monday-Tuesday 12:00hrs-22:00hrs, Thursday-Sunday 12:00hrs-22:00hrs

- **Clarita's Beach:**

Address : Puntarenas Province, Jaco 61101, Costa Rica

Location : 9.6204301,-84.6382773000000

Contact No : +506 2643 3327

Website : <http://claritashotel.com/>

Open / Close Time : Sunday-Thursday 08:00hrs-22:00hrs, Friday 08:00hrs-23:00hrs, Saturday 08:00hrs-00:00hrs

- **Monkey Bar:**

Address : 100Meters North Tangeri Hotel/ Next To Municipal Park 100, Jaco 61101, Costa Rica

Location : 9.6183813,-84.6326128

Contact No : +506 2643 2357

Website : <https://www.facebook.com/MonkeyBarCR/>

Open / Close Time : Daily 17:00hrs-02:30hrs

- **Nirvana Bar:**

Address : Avenida Pastor Diaz, Puntarenas Province, Jaco 61101, Costa Rica

Location : 9.603567499999999,-84.61999530000003

Contact No : +506 8429 5255

Website : <http://www.barnirvana.com/>

Open / Close Time : Monday-Saturday 18:00hrs-02:30hrs, Sunday 18:00hrs-00:00hrs

- **Orange Pub:**

Address : Av Pastor Diaz, Provincia de Puntarenas, Jacó 61101, Costa

Rica

Location : 9.61527229999999,-84.628579100000

Contact No : +506 8318 7206

Open / Close Time : Monday and Thursday-Saturday 20:30hrs-02:30hrs

- **Jacó Blu Beach Club:**

Address : Jaco 61101, Costa Rica

Location : 9.61736149999999,-84.633641099999

Contact No : +506 2643 4372

Website : <http://jacoblu.com/>

Open / Close Time : Daily 10:00hrs-00:00hrs

- **Beagle Bar:**

Address : Av Pastor Diaz, Provincia de Puntarenas, Jacó 61101, Costa Rica

Location : 9.61832439999999,-84.632147700000

- **Chinita Pacific:**

Address : Bohio Street, Jaco 61101, Costa Rica

Location : 9.616019,-84.629468

Contact No : +506 8501 6651

Website : <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Chinita-Pacific/498163173638562>

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Economical Meal/ Soda Restaurants: 3000-5500¢ Casual Dining: 13000-25000 ¢
Luxury Dining: 30000-50000 ¢ Average cost of water: 1,241.48 ¢ Average cost of
beer: 1,108.65 ¢



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19. Shopping

Jaco is just a small surf town, but you'll find plenty of great stores and boutiques throughout the area. Some of the local art is absolutely amazing. Local woods, custom clothing, jewellery and plenty of Costa Rica souvenirs can be found throughout the town. Here are some of our favourites and most recommended.

Tico Pod: A must see shopping center one will bump into plenty of copycat souvenir shops throughout Jaco, but Tico Pod features authentic art and jewellery. Paintings, masks, necklaces, and so much more, no doubt you'll find a Costa Rica treasure to take home.

Lorena Vera Designs: This boutique clothing store has an extensive collection of works by local designer Lorena Vera. Majorly known for bikini and beach wear.

Mango Surf Shop: Flip flops, trunks, bathing suits, tanks. Everything you need for beach attire and the surfing experience.

Aguamarina: Local shop known for a variety of handcrafted and locally made items of clothing and swimwear. They also display local brands of organic and all natural skincare and haircare.

Camelo's Bikinis: Camelo's is a popular local store for bikini's and women's apparel. So all the women out there get ready to show that beach bodies!

El Galeone: A very small mall located in the town known for some domestic stores and eateries.

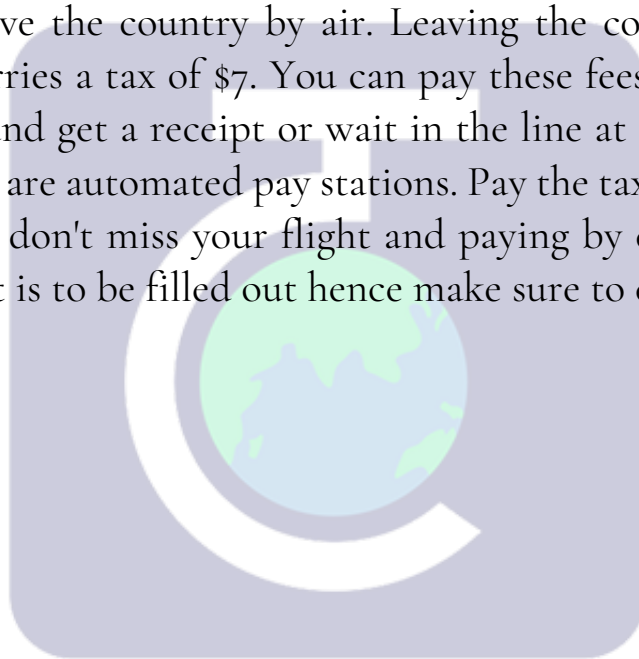
Bambu: The store is known for unusual souvenir items along with high end paintings and some religious art.

The Costa Rica Coffee Experience: One can sample coffees from various growing regions and buy the beans to take home too.

Urban Awol: From the people who brought you Graffiti one of Jaco's top restaurants, Urban Awol is located right next door where you can find local art, jewellery and apparel.

20. Tourist benefits

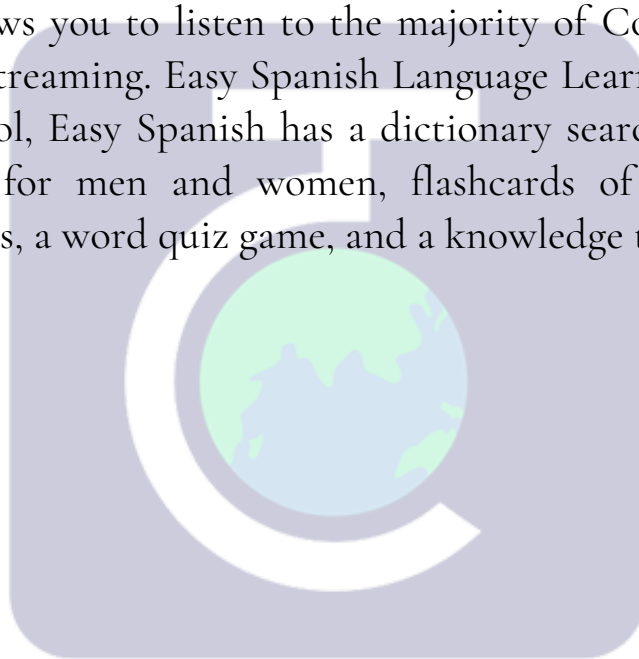
The VAT (IVA in Spanish) charged in the country is 13% which is decent compared to the other countries of the Americas. One will not bump into a lot of duty free shops in the beach-town of Jacó, however the nearest airport stands as the best option to buy anything and everything from Liquor, Jewellery, Clothing to Footwear, Electronics etc. Note: There is an exit tax (US\$29 for both visitors and residents) to leave the country by air. Leaving the country by land at the Nicaragua border carries a tax of \$7. You can pay these fees at a bank (any BCR or Banco Nacional) and get a receipt or wait in the line at the airport or border crossing, where there are automated pay stations. Pay the tax as soon as you arrive at the airport so you don't miss your flight and paying by cash is easier. There's also a small form that is to be filled out hence make sure to carry a pen.



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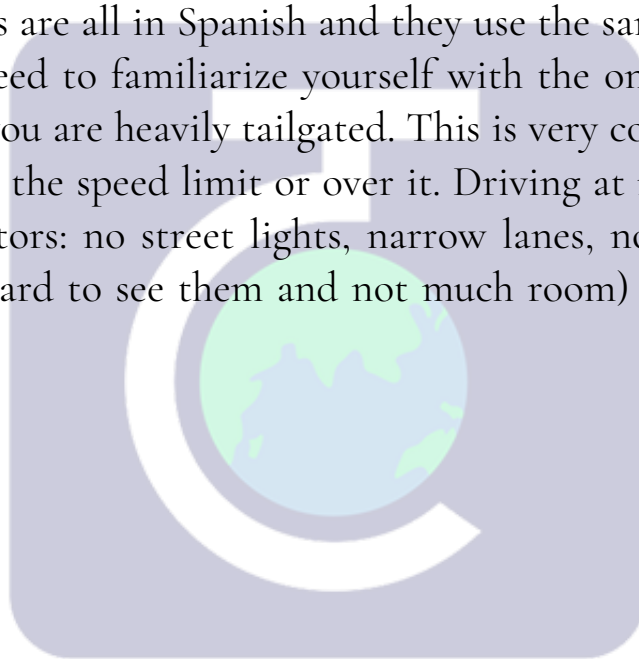
21. Essential local apps

Following are the smart applications for your smartphones that will help you make your trip better – Saytaxi - Get a cab now: With Saytaxi you can book a taxi from your smartphone in just a few seconds. The app uses GPS technology to directly connect you with a driver within a range right when you need it. In Costa Rica service can be recognised as Digataxi. Radio Costa Rica, all radios: An application that allows you to listen to the majority of Costa Rican radio FM, AM radio and web streaming. Easy Spanish Language Learning: A 5-in-1 Spanish language learning tool, Easy Spanish has a dictionary search, categorized travel words and phrases for men and women, flashcards of the top 1000 most frequently used words, a word quiz game, and a knowledge test of fluency.



22. Driving

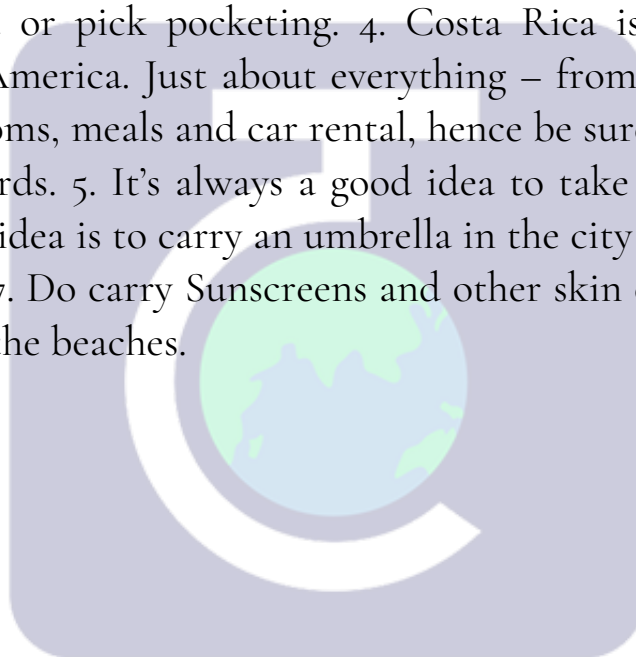
In Costa Rica, all you need is a valid driver's license from your home country to operate a vehicle. Also be sure to have your passport or a copy handy in case you get pulled over. There is no requirement for an international driver's license. Lanes are marked with double solid lines when passing is not allowed and hatched lines when passing is permitted. Speed limits (in kilometres) are posted with signs. Road signs are all in Spanish and they use the same symbols and signs as the US but you need to familiarize yourself with the ones that are different. Don't be alarmed if you are heavily tailgated. This is very common in Costa Rica whether you're going the speed limit or over it. Driving at night can be difficult because of many factors: no street lights, narrow lanes, no street signs, people walk on the roads (hard to see them and not much room) and animals crossing the roads at night.



23. Travel essentials

Following are the necessary things to keep in mind while travelling in the country –

1. Costa Rica uses 110 volt, 60 cycle electricity, same as the US. Plugs are typically the 2 pronged flat type so US travellers will not typically need a converter or adapter.
2. It is always advised to carry sufficient prescribed medicines as OTCs may not be allowed.
3. One needs to carry a money belt in order to avoid theft or pick pocketing.
4. Costa Rica is the most expensive country in Central America. Just about everything – from ice-cream cones and groceries to hotel rooms, meals and car rental, hence be sure to always carry cash and loaded credit cards.
5. It's always a good idea to take out insurance before travelling.
6. A good idea is to carry an umbrella in the city due to its fluctuating weather conditions.
7. Do carry Sunscreens and other skin care products for you are going to explore the beaches.

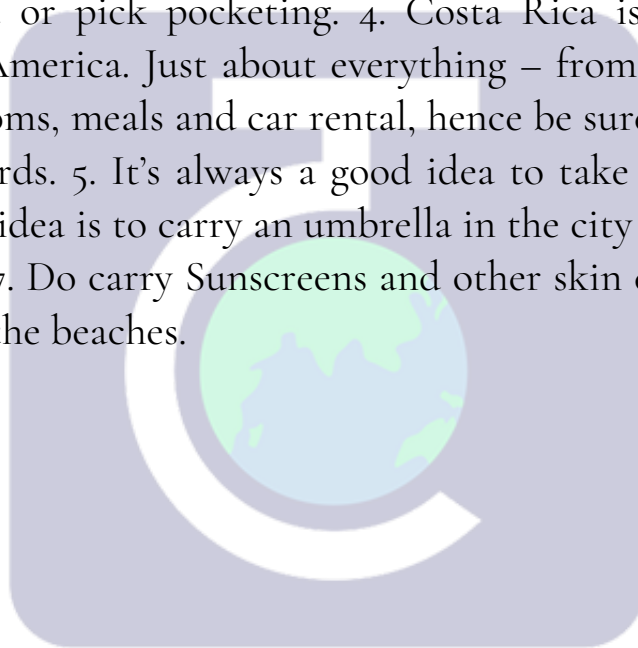


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24. Essential clothes

Following are the necessary things to keep in mind while travelling in the country –

1. Costa Rica uses 110 volt, 60 cycle electricity, same as the US. Plugs are typically the 2 pronged flat type so US travellers will not typically need a converter or adapter.
2. It is always advised to carry sufficient prescribed medicines as OTCs may not be allowed.
3. One needs to carry a money belt in order to avoid theft or pick pocketing.
4. Costa Rica is the most expensive country in Central America. Just about everything – from ice-cream cones and groceries to hotel rooms, meals and car rental, hence be sure to always carry cash and loaded credit cards.
5. It's always a good idea to take out insurance before travelling.
6. A good idea is to carry an umbrella in the city due to its fluctuating weather conditions.
7. Do carry Sunscreens and other skin care products for you are going to explore the beaches.



Index**25. Local currency**

The currency of Costa Rica is Costa Rican colón. 1 USD = 552.456 CRC



26. Change vendor's commission, ATM charges

The city isn't home to many ATMs. ATMs marked "ATH" should work for almost any type of debit card, national or international, and will always use the day's established exchange rate. Most of the cards are accepted in the ATMs. Money withdrawal from ATM with VISA also work fine and at good rates depending commissions to your bank. One can only take out a limited amount, so it is recommended to take out the maximum amount in one go. There are many shops, restaurants and hotels around the city that accept Euros/US Dollars hence exchanging is not mandatory, however there are local shops that do not accept US Dollars so keeping some amount of local cash in handy is always recommended. One option to exchange money when you arrive in Costa Rica is at a local bank because they will give you the most favourable exchange rate. Be sure to bring your passport and some patience, as the lines at banks can be long. Although it is also possible to change money at the airport, they have the worst exchange rates so are best avoided. The exchange commission charged at the airport might be 20% higher than usual hence make sure to confirm the price prior to buying the currency. The exchange rate fluctuates daily but usually works around 5-8%. One very convenient aspect of traveling in Costa Rica is that credit cards are widely accepted. Many restaurants, hotels, gas stations, and tour operators accept credit so be sure to ask. Be sure to authorize your credit card for use internationally so that your bank doesn't flag your account for fraud when you use it. Also ask your bank about its fees for foreign transactions so that you don't have any surprises when you get back home. These charges typically range from 1-3% of the total transaction amount.

27. Staying connected

Major networks that dominate Costa Rica are Kolbi, Movistar, Claro and Tuyo móvil. However, make sure to unlock your phone prior to your travel in order to use any SIM card in the country. If your stay is for a longer period of time, it is recommended that you buy a local SIM to stay connected. Most of the phone companies in Costa Rica have stands all over the country. If you are flying, you will find booths at almost all the airports. It is very common to see local vendors offering you a SIM card at the border or customs. You should see signs in the window or by the door of which company the store sells. The only requirement you need is to present your passport or picture ID in order to fill out a short form. There seem to be less and less public phones in Costa Rica. It is recommended to buy a Kolbi SIM card as they are known to provide best services. There are many cafes and restaurants with Wi-Fi in the area. Most hotels have it in the rooms or at least in their reception area. Internet here is relatively high speed but can be irregular in service.

28. Time Zone

Costa Rica is in the Central Standard Time Zone from October-April. Central Standard Time (CST) is 6 hours behind Coordinated Universal Time (UTC-6h). Costa Rica does not observe Daylight Saving Time hence during the months from April-October, Costa Rica follows Mountain Standard Time (MST) which is 7hours behind the Coordinated Universal Time (UTC-7h)



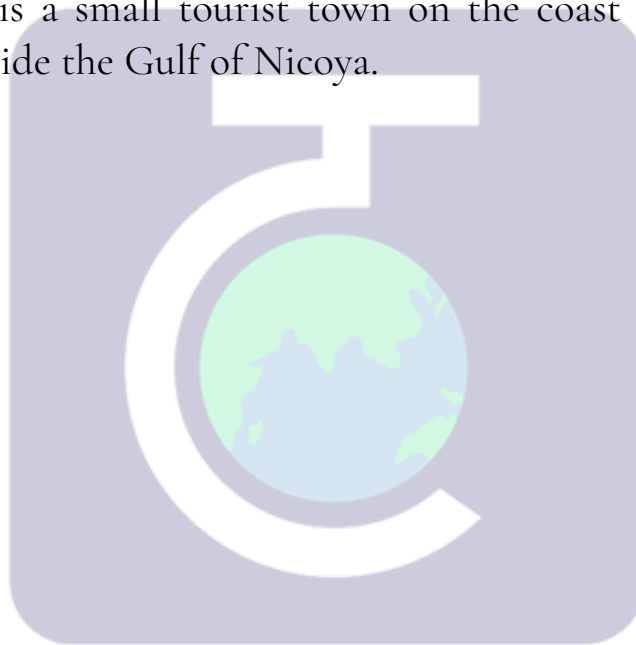
Index**29. Languages**

The official language of Costa Rica People is Spanish. Latin American Spanish not only has some differences from the Spanish spoken in Spain but also the meaning of some words varies from one Latin American country to another, even the pronunciation may vary from one country to another or from one province to other. Besides Spanish other Costa Rica spoken languages or Indigenous languages spoken in Costa Rica are Bribri, Maleku, Guaymí, Cabécar and Boruca, however the Indigenous peoples of Costa Rica represent only a 1% of the Costa Rican population. English is widely spoken at major tourist hubs in the country.



Index**30. Political Scenario**

The politics of Costa Rica take place in a framework of a presidential, representative democratic republic, with a multi-party system. Executive power is exercised by the president and his cabinet, and the President of Costa Rica is both the head of state and head of government. Legislative power is vested in the Legislative Assembly. The Judiciary operates independent of the executive and the legislature. Jaco is a small tourist town on the coast of Central Pacific of Costa Rica , just outside the Gulf of Nicoya.



Index**31. Economic Scenario**

The Garabito is an important center for foreign investment, especially in construction of beach hotels. It is among the 10 Costa Rican cantons with the highest human development index. Jacó's economy is mainly based on the tertiary sector, especially in activities related to tourism, which is the absorbing as much revenue.



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32. Religious belief

Catholicism remains by far the most populous and influential religious faith in Costa Rica today. Roman Catholicism dominates the country with nearly 62% of the population being Catholic followed by a 21% of population who are Protestantism, Agnostic/Atheist/None at 9%. where as other religions 6%. Other religious groups, including followers of Buddhism, Judaism, Methodist; Episcopalian, Islam, Taoism, Baptist; Hare Krishna, Paganism, Wicca, Scientology, Evangelical, Tenrikyo, and the Bahá'í Faith.



33. Visa requirements

Not all people who wish to travel to Costa Rica need a tourist visa; this will depend on your nationality, purpose of visit, country of residence and duration of stay. Visa requirements are based on international agreements or treaties. Americans do not need a visa to enter Costa Rica. However, they must have a current valid passport and a return ticket to exit Costa Rica. (Either to return to your country or to go to another country). US passport must be valid for a minimum of one day from the day you enter Costa Rica. Citizens of other nationalities do not need a tourist visa to enter Costa Rica if they have a tourist visa, a visa for crew, student or a business visa (multiple entry) from United States of America, Canada, Japan, Schengen Visa and/ or any country of the European Union . Note: Such visa must be stamped in the passport and be valid for at least 1 day (The length of stay may not be greater than the validity of the visa and may not exceed 30 days) or 6 months (Japan) from the day you enter Costa Rica. For more information on Visa for other countries, visit the following the link – <http://www.costarica-embassy.org/?q=node/51>

Index**34. Essential vaccination**

One needs to be disease free before travelling in the country and during the visit in the country. Hence it is recommended that one should visit their General Doctor for a routine check-up. A tetanus shot or a booster before travelling is highly recommended. Also, when travelling to Costa Rica, some basic vaccines suggested are– • Typhoid • Malaria • Hepatitis A • Hepatitis B • Rabies • Measles • Mumps • Rubella • Yellow Fever



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35. Theft and Safety

When it comes the safety in the city. Following are some points that shouldn't be forgotten –

- Crime is a serious problem so be constantly alert and aware of your surroundings and use your common sense. Be particularly careful with your passport. Also, police may stop you and take you to jail for not carrying your passport, or a photocopy of the main page and the entry stamp (highly recommended instead of carrying the original passport with you).
- Avoid walking at night at all costs, either right downtown or in the suburbs, cabs, Uber, and buses are cheap, so walking at night is a very unnecessary risk.
- Be cautious if travelling through local buses in the city for pick picketers roam around the city and especially target gringos. Take care for your belongings and do not put any precious belongings in the overhead bins.
- Costa Rica has a good reputation among gay and lesbian travellers, and continues to be generally hassle-free for gay and lesbian visitors.
- Do not flash money or valuables and carry only what you need. If you partake in drugs or prostitution you put yourself at additional risk for trouble.
- At night is advisable to take taxis and avoid walking by yourself on the street or on the beach, especially if you are drunk.

Index**36. Embassy/Consulate**

List of embassies and consulates in the country are –
<http://embassy.goabroad.com/embassies-of/costa-rica>



37. Accessibility

Jacó is certainly not the best place for people with reduced mobility, since only a handful of hotels and hospitals offers wheelchairs or assistance to the disabled. The town is a disappointment as most of it is surrounded by forests and bad roads hence it is not good idea for the disabled to roam around the town. Although the laws of Costa Rica have strict guidelines for new structures to be accessible (barrier- free) for disabled people, Jacó has not been able to live up-to the expectations yet.



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38. Emergencies

For minor injuries or concerns find yourself going to the nearest pharmacy. Pharmacies in the country are required to have a licensed pharmacist present at all time. The pharmacist is the charged to give all the medication approved by your doctor. However in a severe case, do visit a proper hospital. . Public hospitals have longer wait times, but are located in every province and provide excellent service at low cost. Some private hospitals, which are prevalent in the Central Valley, will accept your U.S. insurance; be sure to check with your insurance provider before travel abroad. The city isn't home to any major hospitals. For medical emergencies the only hospital option from Jaco is in Quepos or Puntarenas, which are both about 45 minutes from Jaco. Hospital Clinica Biblica - Los Suenos Address: Jaco, Costa Rica Phone: +506 2637 8610 Clínica Hospital Santa Catalina S.A. Address: Jaco, Costa Rica Phone: +506 2643 5059 The Emergency Number is 911.

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39. Do's and Don'ts

Do's • Do learn some Spanish, including a few specific Costa Rica words and phrases. • Do support the local economy by patronizing Costa Rica-owned hotels, restaurants, and shops. • Do wear insect repellent with DEET. Malaria isn't much of a problem in Costa Rica, but dengue fever can be in certain regions. • Do photocopy your passport and keep the copy in a separate place than your actual passport. It's also smart to keep some extra cash and a spare credit card in a separate location. • Do shake hands with people you meet, and say hello. Liberians are friendly and will not understand if you are conservative or so. They think you are "proud" that is, you look down on others. • Always carry your driving license. There are tough drunk driving laws, with the penalty of having your driving license impounded for a minimum of three years. • Do pack a whole lot supply of all the medications necessary and take along a comprehensive list of your prescriptions. If your home doctor has approved of taking refills then do take a copy your prescription receipt. Although many of your medications will be available in the country but it is best to have as much as documentation as possible. • Many beaches in the country fall short of lifeguards hence be careful with the warnings and signs. Whenever in doubt ask the locals about strong currents and strong riptides in order to avoid the harm • 400 cigarettes or 50 cigars or 500g tobacco, 3L of alcoholic beverages (travellers aged over 18 only) and Goods to the value of US\$500 can be imported into Costa Rica without incurring customs duty. Don't • Don't do anything to harm the environment or wildlife. Don't feed animals. Always stay on marked trails, and don't pick flowers or collect seashells. • Do not be too affectionate in public. Excessive affection in public is frowned upon in Costa Rica. • Don't drink tap water. • Don't rely on travellers cheques. • Don't be afraid to talk to people, you can get some insights from them that is helpful in your line of work. • Resist begging, if possible. Giving money only encourages more aggressive begging. That includes uniformed people. Try friendly ways out. • Do not visit people on Saturdays. Sunday is for visiting, Saturday is for working at home. • Do not flash money or valuables and carry only what you need • Don't get in a taxi that does not look official. • Do not allow strangers to stand near you and avoid taking unsolicited help. • Giving gifts in the

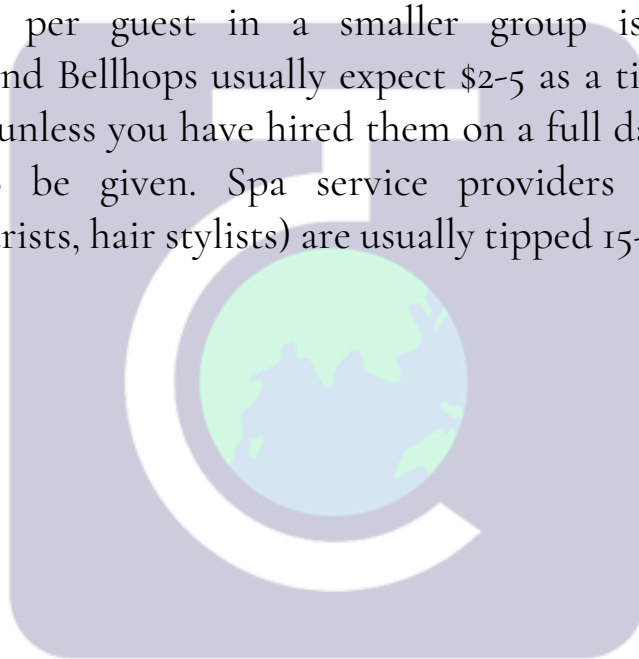
country is a common practice since presents are exchanged on all the major festivals with Mother's Day being one of the important ones. Do take a bottle of wine to a dinner party or give flowers however avoid Lilies since they are reserved for funerals. • People in the country are very courteous, and confrontation and accusations are considered impolite. It's uncommon for a local to get angry in public even when the complaint is warranted. • Food items like fruits, vegetables, dairy products, seeds and plants in particular are generally not allowed to be brought into Costa Rica. • Firearms are not permitted. • It is forbidden under the CITES treaty (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species) to remove orchids from Costa Rica, or indeed any wild flora and fauna. Removing animals, dead or alive, is also forbidden, and be very careful when buying carvings or antiques in Costa Rica



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40.Tipping basics

Tipping is never customary (except for the 10% already included in your restaurant tab) but if your instructor, guide, driver or service staff made your stay particularly enjoyable consider giving them a gratuity. As noted restaurant bills normally include service but it's normal to leave an extra 5-10% for really good service. If happy with the services of the tour guides, then \$2-5 per guest in a larger group, \$5-10 per guest in a smaller group is expected, whereas Housekeeping staff and Bellhops usually expect \$2-5 as a tip. Taxis drivers need not be given any tip unless you have hired them on a full day basis, then a tip of 10% is expected to be given. Spa service providers (massage therapists, aestheticians, manicurists, hair stylists) are usually tipped 15-20% of the cost of the spa treatment.



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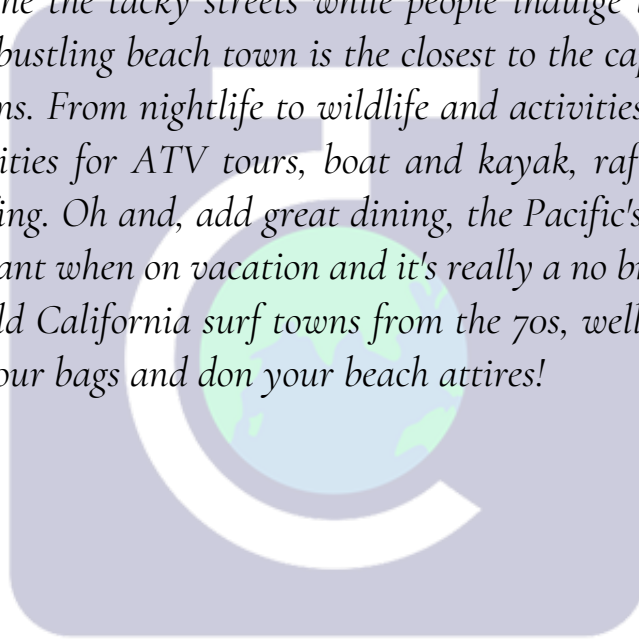
41. Pet info

Following are the necessary things to be kept in mind if willing to bring your pet in Costa Rica • Costa Rica does not require that your pet be identified with a pet microchip, but it is recommended that you microchip your pet and register your contact information prior to traveling as a means of identification should your pet be lost or separated from you. • Proof of current vaccination against rabies at least 21 days prior to entering Costa Rica must be provided. Rica will accept the 3 year vaccine from dogs and cats entering the country from the United States or Canada. All details about the vaccine must be on the health certificate. • A blood titer test is not required to enter Costa Rica from any country. Dogs must also be vaccinated for Distemper, Hepatitis, Leptospirosis, and Parvovirus. • Within 14 days of entry, a licensed veterinarian must complete the Veterinary Certificate for Costa Rica. An alternate copy translated into Spanish is also recommended but not required. The certificate must be endorsed by your State USDA office if your pet is traveling from the United States and by the local CFIA office if your pet is traveling from Canada. Up to five personal pets can be imported to Costa Rica without an import permit. • You must obtain an Import Permit if your pet is entering Costa Rica as unaccompanied air cargo or other classes of service where an airway bill is involved regardless of whether you are traveling with your pet. • Before your dog or cat can enter Costa Rica, it must be treated against internal and external parasites between 10 and 30 days prior to entering the country.

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Conclusion – Why to select this destination

Jaco - a place for North American retirees, Partying surfers and International Developers who crowd the streets and the beaches for its hard-core nightlife, booming real estate opportunities and a chilled atmosphere. The town was the first town on the central Pacific coast to explode with tourist development and till today it remains to be a touristy town attracting backpackers, surfers, snowbirds and city-weary josefinos (inhabitants of San José). Tour operators line the tacky streets while people indulge themselves into various adventure sports. This bustling beach town is the closest to the capital city and welcomes everyone with open arms. From nightlife to wildlife and activities, Jaco has it all . There are plenty of opportunities for ATV tours, boat and kayak, rafting, safaris, horseback riding, fishing and surfing. Oh and, add great dining, the Pacific's best amenities, and all the conveniences you want when on vacation and it's really a no brainer. Many people say Jaco reminds them of old California surf towns from the 70s, well who knows who might say the time. So pack your bags and don your beach attires!



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