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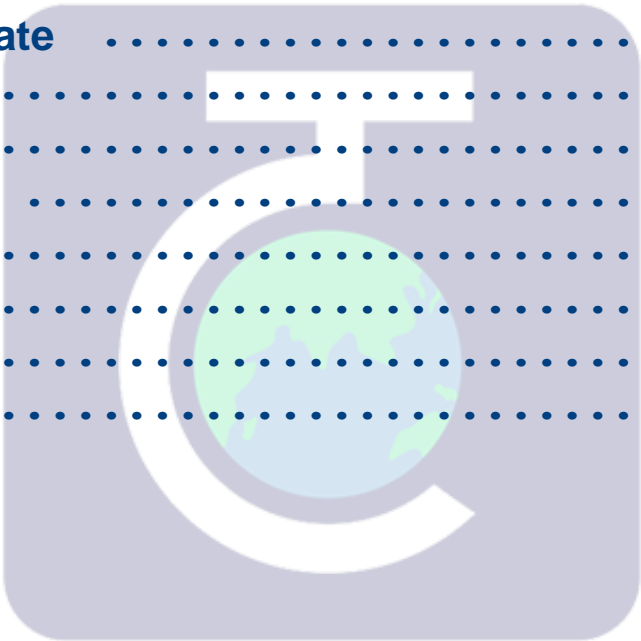
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### 1. Geographical location

The largest city of Costa Rica finds itself situated in the broad, fertile Valle Central 3,800 feet above sea level. Ringed by the jagged silhouettes of soaring mountains – some of them volcanoes – on all sides. The population of this city is probably half of the whole country.



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### 2. Neighbouring cities/countries

The Capital City Lies 344 Kms Way From Managua, Followed By Panama City At 511kms, 512 Km To San Miguelito And Tegucigalpa At 577kms. Nicaragua And Panama Are The Neighboring Countries To Costa Rica.



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### 3. Significance

Gazing at the exteriors, the capital city of Costa Rica, might just look like a commercial center with massive buildings and people running around in suits. But beyond this superficial analysis, the city is a sprawling metropolis that can be categorized as something in between a modern North American cosmopolitan and the standard Central American capital. The city surprisingly transits itself from a commercial block of department stores, quirky cafes and restaurants to disorganized residential areas in an instant. The city may not be the ideal place for a vacation but does possess a special charm maybe because of being the country's cultural hub. When you walk down the streets of the city you will spot numerous restaurants, museums, parks, and many other forms of diversion that are typical of large population centers. The central downtown section of the city exists in a near-constant state of gridlock where most visitors flock around to gaze at the Culture plaza that provides an ideal location to begin exploring the city's urban attractions. The city is mostly devoid of antique colonial architecture and the typical stand-out monuments found in other Latin American cities that are complemented by massive skyscrapers making it a modern city. The city's central location is one of the reasons of it being popular among the tourists for one launches itself the picturesque beaches and national parks that have defined Costa Rica through San Jose.

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### 4. History

When the city was established in 1737, most area residents farmed fruits, vegetables and the ever-popular coffee plant. The town began its modern life as "Villanueva de la Boca del Monte del Valle de Abra" (New Village of the Mountain's Mouth in the Open Valley), a mouthful even in those days. Soon, the name was changed to the shorter and more religious San Jose, honoring Joseph, the city's patron saint. Founded in 1738 by order of Cabildo de León, its objective was to concentrate the scattered inhabitants of the Aserrí Valley. The newly-founded town soon attracted the valley's scattered residents, and San Jose began to grow and develop. By the end of the 18th century, the city had dominated Costa Rica's tobacco and coffee production, and profits lined the pockets of both the city's elite and the government. Military quarters, a beautiful cathedral, developed parks, a mint and other buildings were constructed, visual symbols of the town's growth and success. San Jose was not considered as a city or town, and lacked a city government. It was not until the enactment of the Constitution of Cádiz in 1812 when San José had its first city government. In 1813, the Spanish parliament gave the town the title of city, which was then lost in 1814. However the municipal government was soon restored in the year 1820 with the title of city population. The city is one of the youngest named capital in the year 1823 and is a modern city with bustling commerce, brisk expressions of art and architecture, and spurred by the country's improved tourism industry, it is a significant destination and stopover for foreign visitors.

## 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. San José, the capital city, is a hub of Costa Rican culture with a growing network of theatres and museums. It's a modern city with bustling commerce and brisk expressions of art and architecture. The central valley city of Alajuela and the city of Limon right on the Caribbean are also popular destinations. It became the capital of Costa Rica in 1838. For more than 250 years, it has been the heart and soul of the country's arts and culture scene. 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

There are currently 26 National Parks of Costa Rica, which are managed under the umbrella of SINAC (Sistema Nacional de Areas de Conservacion). San Jose is home to Braulio Carrillo National Park and Parque Nacional Los Quetzales. Other parks near San Jose are Irazú Volcano National Park, Poás Volcano National Park, Palo Verde National Park, Arenal National Park, Manuel Antonio National Park, Carara National Park and Tortuguero National Park. Besides Coffee, other natural resources growing in Costa Rica are corn, bananas, eggs, guavas, oranges, and rice.



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### 7. Key site seeing places (paid and free)

#### 7.1. Paid

##### 7.1.1. Museo del Oro Precolombino

Right in the heart of the capital city lies the Museo del Oro Precolombino or the pre-Colombian gold museum, which treasures and exhibits thousands of archaeological relics and gold artworks that reflect the indigenous culture of the native inhabitants in Costa Rica. Proudly standing as the crown jewel of the country's historical heritage, this underground museum encompasses an extensive collection of the most priceless artefacts including historical currency and contemporary regional art dating back from 500 A.D to 1400 A.D. Learn more about the archaeological as well as cultural aspects of Costa Rica as you explore the intriguing goldwork and the numismatic collection of this 3-in-1 museum. There is also an on-site gift shop that deals in indigenous crafts, books and jewelry.

Address : Calle 5, Provincia de San José, San José 10303, Costa Rica

Zipcode : 10303

Location : 9.9335258, -84.07665259999999

Contact : +506 2223 0528

Website : <https://museosdelbancocentral.org/>

Nearest Public Transport : Parabús Barrio Luján Bus Station

Entry Fee : Nationals: Regular: CRC 2,000 Students (with a valid ID proof): CRC 500; Foreigners Regular: CRC 5,500 Students (with an ID proof): CRC 4500; Free for children under 12 years, Gold and resident citizens of Costa Rica and Members of indigenous communities. Free Admission on Wednesdays (Night Art City tour).

Open & Close Timing : Daily 09:15hrs-17:00hrs

Time Required : 2

Expected Wait Time : 15 minutes

Buy Ticket : Yes

##### 7.1.2. Spirogyra Butterfly Garden

The quaint neighborhood of Guadeloupe in San Jose houses a woodsy oasis of little star creatures. Witness the beauty of the butterflies as they flock their

colorful wings in their own little slice of paradise at Spirogyra Butterfly Garden. Explore this tranquil garden and be fascinated by the different species of hostplants cultivated by the farming families of nearby remote villages who also feed the tiny creatures and supply pupae for sales worldwide. The green space also supports the ecosystem by expanding the breeding habitats for butterflies at the edge of the Costa Rican rainforests.

Address : San José 10303, Costa Rica

Zipcode : 10303

Location : 9.9400494, -84.07274989999996

Contact : +506 2222 2937

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

Nearest Public Transport : Parada Antigua Fabrica de Licores Bus Station

Entry Fee : Adult & Students: CRC 2,000 Children: CRC 1,500.

Open & Close Timing : Monday-Friday 09:00hrs-14:00hrs, Saturday-Sunday 09:00hrs-15:00hrs

Time Required : 2

Expected Wait Time : 10 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

### 7.1.3. Teatro Nacional de Costa Rica

Nestled on the southern edge of the Plaza de la Cultura, Teatro Nacional is the city's most revered building that was built in 1897. Boasting of a columned neoclassical facade that is surrounded by statues of popular 17th century Spanish dramatics, the auditorium is complemented with a painting depicting various facets of 19th-century life. The highlight of the theater lies in its most famous painting - Alegoría al café y el banano, an idyllic canvas showing coffee and banana harvests. You can take hourly tours of the theater, followed by some good coffee at the onsite café.

Address : Avenida 2, Calles 3/5, San José 10303, Costa Rica

Zipcode : 10303

Location : 9.9331286, -84.07694240000001

Contact : +506 2010 1100

Website : <https://www.teatronacional.go.cr/>

Nearest Public Transport : Parabús Barrio Luján Bus Station

Entry Fee : Nationals: CRC 1,500, Foreigners: CRC 5,500, Free admission for children under 12 years.

Open & Close Timing : Daily 09:00hrs-17:00hrs

Time Required : 1.5

Expected Wait Time : 20 Minutes

Buy Ticket : Yes

#### 7.1.4. Museo Nacional de Costa Rica

Discover centuries of Costa Rican history at the National Museum, a historical hotbed that has witnessed Civil War battles and thus is also the place where President Jose Figueres Ferrer abolished the military in 1949. Established in 1887, this museum impresses you with its historic structure and awakens the history buff within you with the exhibits of the country's history ranging from pre-Colombian artefacts to displays about the colonial era and the independent nation. There's also a butterfly garden in the museum that attracts the crowd.

Address : Cuesta de Moras, Provincia de San José, San José 10303, Costa Rica

Zipcode : 10303

Location : 9.9327591, -84.0712744

Contact : +506 2257 1433

Website : <http://www.museocostarica.go.cr/>

Nearest Public Transport : Parada de Barrio Mexico y Barrio Lujan

Entry Fee : Nationals: Adults: CRC 2,000 Free for students, children under 12 years and adults over 65 years with identity card, Free admission on Sundays for all nationals; Foreigners- Adults: CRC 5000, Students with ID: CRC 2210, Foreigners under 12 years: free admission.

Open & Close Timing : Tuesday-Saturday 08:30hrs-16:30hrs, Sunday 09:00hrs-16:30hrs

Time Required : 2

Expected Wait Time : 15 minutes

Buy Ticket : Yes

#### 7.1.5. MADC

Presenting a collection of Central American and international artworks, the Museum of Contemporary Art and Design or MADC is the cultural hub of the

city's art scene. Everything from photographs, sculptures, etchings, video art and paintings are displayed across 4 exhibitions rooms and auditorium and an open-air space. Since the information is in Spanish, do make use of the free wi-fi to translate the information.

Address : Calle 15, San José, 133391-1000, Costa Rica

Zipcode : 33391-100

Location : 9.935615499999997, -84.07199079999998

Contact : +506 2257 7202

Nearest Public Transport : Parada Antigua Fabrica de Licores Bus Station

Entry Fee : Nationals and residents: ₡1500 Foreigners: \$3 Students (with student ID card): ₡1000 Children under 5 years and seniors: Free Entrance. Free Entrance on the first Tuesdays of each month

Open & Close Timing : Monday-Saturday 09:30hrs-17:00hrs

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : No

### 7.1.6. Museo de Insectos

Reputedly the country's largest insect museum, the museum has an extensive collection assembled by the Facultad de Agronomía at the Universidad de Costa Rica. After viewing the specimens, visitors are invited to a room with a kitchen to sample meal worms, scarabs and crickets. A little salt and oregano do wonders! The museum finds itself in the basement of the music building.

Address : Edificio de Música, Campus Universitario Rodrigo Facio, San José Province, San Pedro, 2260, San Jose 11501, Costa Rica

Zipcode : 11501

Location : 9.937225399999999, -84.04821950000002

Contact : +506 2511 5318

Website : <http://www.miucr.ucr.ac.cr/>

Nearest Public Transport : Parada Calle Masis Bus Station

Entry Fee : Children ₡ 400 National ₡ 700 Foreign ₡ 1400

Open & Close Timing : Monday-Friday 08:00hrs-12:00hrs & 13:00hrs-16:45hrs

Time Required : 1

Buy Ticket : No

### 7.1.7. Parque Zoológico Simón Bolívar

A 14-hectare urban park in the heart of the city, Parque Zoológico Nacional Simón Bolívar is the oldest zoo and botanical garden in one of the most biologically rich countries in the world. A popular spot visited by local families especially on weekends, the zoo also features a Child Discovery area that serves as a basic primer for children on the city's wildlife.

Address : Calle 13, Provincia de San José, San José 10303, Costa Rica

Zipcode : 10303

Location : 9.9386739, -84.0732481

Contact : +506 2256 0012

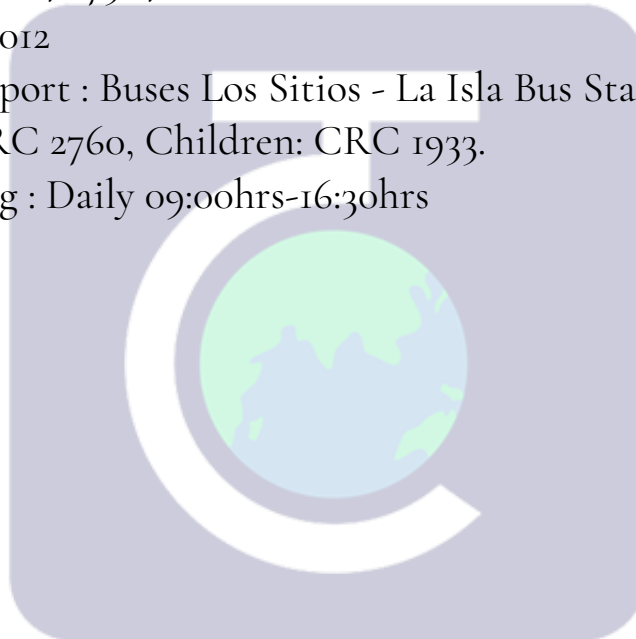
Nearest Public Transport : Buses Los Sitios - La Isla Bus Station

Entry Fee : Adult: CRC 2760, Children: CRC 1933.

Open & Close Timing : Daily 09:00hrs-16:30hrs

Time Required : 2.5

Buy Ticket : No



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### 7.2. Free

#### 7.2.1. Iglesia de la Merced

One of the architectural landmarks of the city, Iglesia de la Merced is known for its colourful decorations. Finding itself to the east of the Hospital San Juan de Dios, the building proudly shows off its German and neo-Gothic architecture and is one of the most recognisable buildings in San José. It was designated a Costa Rican architectural heritage site in 1996.

Address : Calle 10 Provincia de San José, San José 10303, Costa Rica

Zipcode : 10303

Location : 9.9333333, -84.0836276

Contact : +5062203586

Nearest Public Transport : Parada Buses De Alajuelita Bus Station

Time Required : 0.5

Buy Ticket : No

#### 7.2.2. Plaza de La Cultura

Come and experience the thriving local life with a visit to Plaza de la Cultura, a vibrant central square and social epicenter. Sit back with an ice-cream and watch the world go by as everyone from entrepreneurs to juggling clowns and street food stalls to handicraft vendors jostle for attention among the throng of spirited locals. The plaza surrounds itself with numerous architecturally significant buildings.

Address : Av. Central, San José 12005, Costa Rica

Zipcode : 12005

Location : 9.9335647, -84.07702489999997

Nearest Public Transport : Parabús Barrio Luján Bus Station

Open & Close Timing : Open 24 Hours

Time Required : 1.5

Buy Ticket : No

#### 7.2.3. Banco Central de Costa Rica

An important place of the national economy, Central Bank is an architectural gem that surrounds itself by a plaza and is known for its imposing statues that

display the hard work of the locals. This structure is a symbol of a powerful economy.

Address : Avenida Central y Primera, Calles 2 y 4 San José, Costa Rica, Av. 1, San José 12005, Costa Rica

Zipcode : 12005

Location : 9.934509799999999, -84.08024030000001

Contact : +506 2243 3333

Website : <http://www.bccr.fi.cr/>

Nearest Public Transport : Parada Barrio Mexico Bus Station

Open & Close Timing : Monday-Friday 9:15hrs-16:00hrs

Time Required : 0.5

Buy Ticket : No

#### 7.2.4. Central Park

Located in the heart of the city, Central Park is a social epicenter flocked with locals who come here to enjoy a peaceful time at the gazebo, which supported by 4 legs and sitting atop a platform famously donated by former Nicaraguan dictator, Anastasio Somoza. A socializing hub, this parkland is enclosed by green trees with the national flag of the country proudly soaring in the sky.

Address : Calle Central Alfredo Volio, Provincia de San José, San José 10803, Costa Rica

Zipcode : 10803

Location : 9.932915900000001, -84.0796661

Contact : +506 8957 0350

Nearest Public Transport : Parabús Barrio Luján Bus Station

Open & Close Timing : Open 24 Hours

Time Required : 1.5

Buy Ticket : No

#### 7.2.5. Templo de la Musica

Nestled in the centre of Morazan Park, this unusual architectural structure is a beautiful old temple that buzzes with students and young adults. A replica of Versailles' Temple of Love and Music, the Temple of Music of Morazan Park was built by architect and painter, José Francisco Salazar. This cultural space now



serves as the site for many cultural activities such as the International Festival of Arts and also hosts live music in the evenings.

Address : Calle 7, Provincia de San José, San José 10803, Costa Rica

Zipcode : 10803

Location : 9.935511799999997, -84.07526180000002

Nearest Public Transport : Parada Frente al Parque Morazan Bus Station

Open & Close Timing : Daily 08:00hrs-18:00hrs

Time Required : 1

Buy Ticket : No

### 7.2.6. Cementerio de Obreros

A quiet place where inspiring personalities' of the country were laid to rest, Cementerio de Obreros houses different headstones that you will stumble upon as you stroll through the cemetery. This beautiful place is filled with graves and tombs of renowned personalities from presidents to the wealthy and influential. On Saturdays, there is a flea market about a block from here.

Address : Calle 26, San José 10803, Costa Rica

Zipcode : 10803

Location : 9.9298251, -84.09171479999998

Nearest Public Transport : Parada Frente instrumentos La Voz Bus Station

Time Required : 0.5

Buy Ticket : No

### 7.2.7. La Gran Vista Agroecological Farm

Find yourself in a peaceful place surrounded by nature's beautiful bounty, experience the life of farmers and learn about sustainable agriculture at La Gran Vista Agroecological Farm. This farm lives and breaths the definition of "leaving no waste", since everything is so wisely used. The owner has spent years with the Costa Rican Department of Agriculture so his knowledge of farming is extremely vast. Take this agricultural tour and participate in various activities over the weeks to know more about the agriculture and development.

Address : San José, Pérez Zeledón 11910, Costa Rica

Zipcode : 11910

Location : 9.2904882, -83.65702629999998

Contact : +506 8924 8983  
Website : <http://www.lagranvista.com/>  
Nearest Public Transport : MUSOC Bus Station  
Time Required : 3  
Buy Ticket : No

### 7.2.8. Iglesia de Ladrillo

Iglesia de San Francisco de Asis is a small church that attracts pilgrims to worship St. Francis of Assisi and was declared an architectural relic by the local government (municipality of Goicoechea) in the 1970s. This small church is a pleasant place known for its tradition and infrastructure.

Address : Av. 17, Provincia de San José, San José 10303, Costa Rica  
Zipcode : 10303  
Location : 9.9411186, -84.07237980000002  
Nearest Public Transport : Parada Antigua Fabrica de Licores Bus Station  
Time Required : 0.5  
Buy Ticket : No

### 7.2.9. Plaza de las Artes

This is a social hub that bustles with numerous people who will bump into you while you are busy admiring the art of the surroundings. The plaza is home to the John Lennon sculpture and interesting concentric red circles making for a good backdrop to pose. Being near Chinatown, this space captivates you with its architectural buildings as you grab a bite from one of the eclectic restaurants.

Address : Calle 9 San José 10303, Costa Rica  
Zipcode : 10303  
Location : 9.931879799999999, -84.07512650000001  
Nearest Public Transport : Estación Museo Train Station  
Open & Close Timing : Open 24 Hours  
Time Required : 2  
Buy Ticket : No

### 7.2.10. Cruz de Alajuelita

Hike to Cruz de Alajuelita and surround yourself with awe-inspiring panoramas

as you enjoy the windy atmosphere at the top of the hill. Know that the hike, though difficult, has jaw-dropping views that make the climb absolutely worth the effort. A pilgrimage site, it is an isolated trail up a steep rocky path high up the mountain through a truly enchanting forest for physically fit travelers. Note: It is not recommended to visit this place alone.

Address : San José, Alajuelita 11005, Costa Rica

Zipcode : 11005

Location : 9.8765986, -84.12902099999997

Nearest Public Transport : Parada de Buses de Escazú Bus Station

Open & Close Timing : Open 24 Hours

Time Required : 2.5

Buy Ticket : No

### 7.2.11. Barrio Chino

This vibrant neighborhood in the city bustles with Chinese immigrants who are waiting to share their culinary delights, cultures and wares with you. Browse through the myriad stores and street markets and shop till your heart desires or grab a bite from an array of restaurants serving authentic Chinese delicacies; this piece of China right in San Jose has something for everyone. There are numerous landmarks and some exciting activities that will grab your attention.

Address : Between Avenida 2 and 14, and between Calle 7 and 11, San Jose 10303, Costa Rica

Zipcode : 10303

Location : 9.9284974, -84.07553919999998

Nearest Public Transport : Lumaca San José Cartago Bus Station

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : No

### 7.2.12. Museo de Arte Costarricense

The Spanish-style structure that was once used as the city's main airport terminal up until 1955, today, serves as a remodeled museum displaying regional art and other exhibits. This museum encourages plastic confrontation and promotes critical thinking that captivates the visitors through its interactive and educational programs. Exhibiting a treasure of over 6,400 artworks including the

native Costa Rican canvases, sculptures, an encyclopedic collection of prints and drawings that date back to the mid-19th century across the walls and grounds, this charming gallery is known to be every art-lover's retreat.

Address : 1, San José Province, San José 10303, Costa Rica

Zipcode : 10303

Location : 9.9353388, -84.09881089999999

Contact : +506 2256 1281

Website : <http://www.musarco.go.cr/>

Nearest Public Transport : Parada de Buses Sabana Cementerio y la Periferica LI Bus Station

Open & Close Timing : Tuesday-Sunday 09:00hrs-16:00hrs

Time Required : 1.5

Buy Ticket : No

### 7.2.13. Catedral Metropolitana

Located near Parque Central, this graceful cathedral was constructed in 1871 after the previous cathedral that was ram-shackled in an earthquake. The Renaissance-style architecture is complemented by striking Neoclassical interiors with colorful Spanish-tile floors, stained-glass windows, and a marvelous structure of the Lord Almighty.

Address : Calle Central, Avenida Segunda, Av. 2, Provincia de San José, San José 10303, Costa Rica

Zipcode : 10303

Location : 9.932701999999999, -84.07906179999998

Contact : +506 2221 3820

Nearest Public Transport : Parada de Barrio Lujan, Sabana Estadio y Quesada Duran Bus Station

Time Required : 0.5

Buy Ticket : No

### 7.2.14. Universidad de Costa Rica

This is one of the main educational institutions of the country that is not only appreciated because of its academics but also for its marvelous architecture. Stroll around the campus or ease your appetite at the onsite restaurants or enroll

yourself for one of their Spanish courses specially designed for foreigners. The structure is also home numerous educational buildings, beautiful gardens, detailed sculptures and a small but fabulous Museum of Insects.

Address : Ciudad universitaria Rodrigo Facio Brenes,, Costa Rica

Location : 9.936693100000001, -84.05408940000001

Contact : +506 207 4000

Website : <http://www.ucr.ac.cr/>

Nearest Public Transport : Parada Facultad de Derecho Bus Station

Time Required : 1.5

Buy Ticket : No

### 7.2.15. Las Ruinas de Ujarras

An interesting visit, the ruins at Ujarras will take you back to the time of the history of the region. The grounds are lovely and the area surrounds itself with massive trees that are believed to be as old as the ruins. Although there are no places to eat or rest nearby, these ruins still make for an interesting location thanks to its spectacular views. Do not forget to carry your camera and strike a pose against the ruins.

Address : El Valle del Rio Orosi, San Jose 10104, Costa Rica

Zipcode : 10104

Location : 9.827340500000002, -83.8362515

Nearest Public Transport : Turrialba - San Jose / Bus Station Transportes Transtusa Bus Station (not recommended)

Time Required : 4

Buy Ticket : No

### 7.2.16. Correos de Costa Rica

Built in 1917, Correos de Costa Rica is an architectural gem that currently serves as a home to the National Post Office, Tourism Office, and Philatelic Museum. Designed by a foreign architect, Correos de Costa Rica shows off an eclectic mix of styles with the nation's coat of arms displayed on the central facade. The interiors, on the other hand, enchants with its display of items of historical significance, such as old telegraphic equipment and the first Costa Rican stamps, which date back to 1863.

Address : Calle 1, Provincia de San José, Tibás, 1100, Costa Rica

Zipcode : 1100

Location : 9.918164, -84.05462399999999

Contact : +506 2297 0767

Nearest Public Transport : Cuatro Reinas Train Station

Open & Close Timing : Monday-Saturday 7:30hrs-18:00hrs

Time Required : 1

Buy Ticket : No

### 7.2.17. Arenal Volcano

Settled within fertile northern lowlands of the country, the Arenal Volcano National Park is known to hold a reputation that precedes itself. The perfect symmetrical shape makes it a photographer's dream, while numerous adventure sports that are carried out here makes this a thrill seeker's paradise. Popularly known as "Pan de Azúcar", "Canaste", "Volcan Costa Rica", "Volcan Río Frío" or "Guatusos Peak, the volcano was active until 2010 and is surrounded by a National Park that is home to various hot springs. The National Park protects the stratovolcano Arenal as well as the dormant Chato volcano. You can also take different tours to experience exciting adventures in and around this imposing volcanic structure.

Address : Alajuela Province, San Carlos 20101, Costa Rica

Zipcode : 20101

Location : 10.4626262, -84.70317940000001

Nearest Public Transport : TicaBus Bus Station

Time Required : 5

Buy Ticket : No

### 7.2.18. Feria Verde de Aranjuez

You will find everything from organic coffee, artisanal chocolate, tropical fruit ice blocks, fresh produce, baked goods, leather, jewelry and much more at this market. Do come here on Saturdays to pamper your taste buds with scrumptious local delicacies at the fabulous Saturday farmers market.

Address : Calle 19, San José, Costa Rica

Location : 9.940026300000001, -84.06814459999998

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

### 7.2.19. Galería Namu

This gallery brings together cultural objects and artwork from a diverse population of regional ethnicities. Finely woven Wounaan baskets, Boruca masks, Bribri canoes, Guaymi dolls and contemporary urban and Afro-Caribbean crafts are the highlights.

Address : Av. 7 between Calles 5 and 7, San Jose, Costa Rica, Costa Rica

Location : 9.9368, -84.07560000000001

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

### 7.2.20. Librería Lehmann

For all the avid readers, Librería Lehmann is your stop for a good selection of multi-language books, maps, and guidebooks.

Address : San Pedro, costado norte de la iglesia Católica, San José, 10011, Costa Rica

Zipcode : 10011

Location : 9.958193999999999, -84.07800199999997

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

### 7.2.21. Mercado Nacional de Artesanías

Mercado Nacional de Artesanías is known for catering to the needs of every shopaholic. Their shopping diversion extends from handicrafts and jewellery to Bob Marley t-shirts and elaborate woodwork and Guatemalan sarongs.

Address : Avenida Segunda, San José, Costa Rica

Location : 9.9328556, -84.07254710000001

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

### 7.2.22. Multiplaza Escazú

One of the most stylish and massive shopping centers of the country, this mall has



everything you need.

Address : Escazu, San José Province, San Rafael, Costa Rica

Location : 9.944065799999999, -84.1504387

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

### 7.2.23. Biesanz Woodworks

Finding itself in the hills of Bello Horizonte, this shop is one of the finest woodcrafting studios in the nation, run by celebrated artisan Barry Biesanz.

Address : 33 Calle 110/Calle El Pedrero, Escazú, 10201, Costa Rica

Zipcode : 10201

Location : 9.912780000000001, -84.12956199999996

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

### 7.2.24. Sin Domicilio Fijo

Finding itself in a 150-year-old manor with adobe walls, near the southwest corner of Escazú's church, the place is full of unique handicrafts that make ideal gifts, from dainty footwear to kitchen adornments. You will also find a lovely open-air café here.

Address : 134,, Av 32, San José Province, Escazu, Costa Rica

Location : 9.9192963, -84.13989230000004

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

### 7.2.25. Tienda Eñe

Explore the designs specially crafted by Costa Rican designers and artists at Tienda Eñe. Selling everything from clothing, jewelry, handbags and picture frames to zines and works of graphic art, this shop is your stop for a taste of native artwork.

Address : Entre Av 7 y Calle 11A, San José, Calle 11A, San José, Costa Rica

Location : 9.936291899999997, -84.07299160000002

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No



### 7.2.26. Boutique Kiosco

Nestled in Barrio Escalante, this arts and crafts emporium is known for handmade jewelry, original photography, hand-tooled leather boots and bags, fashion and contemporary home decor and artisanal chocolates by established regional designers. Be rest assured that this place will put a dent in your pocket!

Address : Nature Escape, Calle 5 5, San José Province, San Jose, Costa Rica, 1000, Costa Rica

Zipcode : 10303

Location : 9.9340069, -84.07656989999998

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

### 7.2.27. Mall San Pedro

Ease your appetite or shop till you drop at Mall San Pedro, a 4-storey mall that is studded with fashion boutiques and souvenir stores. The mall also houses departmental stores and other specialty shops to cater to all your shopping needs. After a day out shopping, catch a movie at the multiscreen cinema or at a video arcade and challenge your friends at the gaming arcade.

Address : Rotonda de la Fuente de La Hispanidad, San José, San Pedro, Costa Rica

Zipcode : 11501

Location : 9.9342461, -84.05655209999998

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

### 7.2.28. Shoppers

A large discount store that features an extensive a great variety of products. You can find clothing, furniture and supermarket items.

Zipcode : 0

Location : 9.918695999999999, -84.0618361

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

### 7.2.29. La Sabana Park

Popularly referred to as "the green lung of the city", La Sabana Park is your retreat from the humdrum of the city life. Spread over 150 acres, this urban park features a range of activities from jogging and tennis to paddle boating and more. Whether you wish to find yourself a shady spot amid the meadow and observe the passersby, or lay a picnic mat and enjoy a day out with your family while relishing a good meal, you can do it all here at one of the largest parks in the country. After spending some quality time relaxing and engaging in numerous activities, visit the art museum and the stadium on-site.

Address : Av. de Las Américas, San José, Costa Rica

Zipcode : 60111

Location : 9.936066, -84.10344399999997

Contact : +506 2549 0700

Nearest Public Transport : Parada Sabana Norte Bus Station, Parada de Buses a Escazú, Santa Ana y Ciudad Colón Bus Station and Contraloría Train Station

Open & Close Timing : Open 24 Hours

Time Required : 2.5

Buy Ticket : No

### 7.2.30. San José Central Market

An ever-pulsating hub in the city, the San Jose Central Market bustles with a lively local atmosphere. With over 200 purveyors selling everything from memorabilia and cowboy boots to herbal remedies and coffee beans, this market is your place to experience the daily Costa Rican life. Founded in 1880, visit the meeting hub for locals and taste some of the lip-smacking delicacies made out of blending old recipes with a tinge of creativity. Some of the must-try dishes include the famous Casados, tortillas and Gallo Pinto while Agua Dulce is a traditional drink.

Address : Av. Central, San José, Costa Rica

Zipcode : 10101

Location : 9.934769399999999, -84.0819376

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

### 7.2.31. Parque Diversiones

Established in 1981, Parque Diversiones is an amusement park with the unique objective to donate the money collected as funds for a hospital. The entralling theme park features numerous attractions that are split into 3 parts based on the intensity to cater to all ages. The aquatic rides like Pacuaré, Reventazón and Pedal Boats are perfect for a family, whereas Sky Master, Twister, Bocaraca, Tower, Disko, Búmeran, Chocolates, Octopus and Chicago Wheel grab the attention of adventure junkies. The little ones have wide options to select from like Drones, Convoy, Globos, Mini Tower, Tacitas Locas, Teletren, Play Parke and more. The park is home to the Old Town thematic sector wherein you can admire the replicas of the notable structures of the city or enjoy events like theatrical shows, parades and masquerades. Note: Admission to the park is free, however, you have to pay for the attractions, either by buying individual tickets for each attraction or by purchasing the Special Pass. Visitors with disabilities receive a free Special Pass.

Address : 2km oeste del Hospital México, Av 59, San José, Costa Rica

Location : 9.9600628, -84.1280970999999

Contact : +506 2242 9200

Website : <https://www.parquediversiones.com/contenido/>

Nearest Public Transport : Estación de Autobús Bus Station

Open & Close Timing : Hours of operations vary depending on the day of the week/month. The park usually opens at 09:00hrs and closes anywhere between 17:00hrs-21:00hrs depending on the day of the week. It is advisable to check the same once you finalize the day of visit.

Time Required : 6

Expected Wait Time : 20 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

## Index

### 8. Adventure sports, Local sports, stadiums

The country like most of the Americas is dominated by football as a sport and the capital city is no behind when it comes to this sport. The city represents a lot of clubs however the major one being Deportivo Saprissa, who won a record 32 league titles. Other sports in the country include Tico-style bullfighting, water sports, Olympic sports, basketball and rugby. The people of the city are also passionate about golf and San Jose is home to many golf courses, major being Melia Cariari Golf Course.

- **Estadio Ricardo Saprissa:**

Address : Calle 7, Provincia de Heredia, Heredia 12005, Costa Rica

Location : 9.965506300000001,-84.0753087

Contact No : +506 2240 0190

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

## 9. Spas and relaxation

The city of San Jose is home to many Spas and Relaxation centers that caters to the specific needs. To harmonize your mind and soul, do pay a visit to the following Spas –

- **Vitta Corporale Spa:**

Address : San José 10803, Costa Rica

Location : 9.931167199999999,-84.10627740000001

Contact No : +506 2296 3639

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

- **Image Design Salon & Spa:**

Address : Calle 72A, San José 10803, Costa Rica

Location : 9.937042800000002,-84.1119933

Contact No : +506 2291 0807

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

- **MioDerma:**

Address : San José, San Pedro, 11501, Costa Rica

Location : 9.928999,-84.05717099999998

Contact No : +506 2280 0090

Website : <https://www.mioderma.com/>

- **Costa Rica Marriott Hotel San Jose:**

Address : 700 meters west from Bridgestone/Firestone La Ribera de

Belen, Heredia Province, Heredia 12005, Costa Rica

Location : 9.987193,-84.17352299999999

Contact No : +506 2298 0000

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

- **Barceló San José:**

Address : Calle Costa Rica, Provincia de San José, San José 00011, Costa Rica

Location : 9.9456878,-84.10515750000002

Contact No : +506 2220 2034

Website : [https://www.barcelo.com/barcelohotels/es\\_es/hoteles/costa-rica/san-jose-de-costa-rica/hotel-barcelo-san-jose-palacio/descripcion-general.aspx](https://www.barcelo.com/barcelohotels/es_es/hoteles/costa-rica/san-jose-de-costa-rica/hotel-barcelo-san-jose-palacio/descripcion-general.aspx)

- **Corteza Amarilla Art Lodge Boutique Hotel San Jose:**

Address : Santa Ana From Forum Center; San Jose; Costa Rica 6150, San Jose, 6150-221 SANTA ANA, Costa Rica

Location : 9.93706,-84.18459999999999

Contact No : +506 2203 7503

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

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### 10. Key local guides and tours

Following are some of the local guides who will help you make your trip better – Henry G: Exploring the country as a professional local facilitator for more than ten years, Henry is the best one out there to know about anything and everything in San Jose. Be it historical landmarks, National parks, Restaurants or even adventure sports, he's got it all. Angelica G: Might be a tour guide for the last 2 years, but Angelica what she is doing. Fluent in English & Spanish, she is very knowledgeable and will offer exactly what you want. Be it tailor made tours or classic tours, she's got it all. Following are some of the tours that cannot be missed – San Jose Tropical Rainforest Adventure including Chocolate Tasting: This tour combines the Costa Rican delights of chocolate tasting and wildlife encounters in just 10 hours. Visit La Selva Biological Reserve that provides great opportunities to observe animals and birds in their natural habitat. Get your chocolate fix at a tasting of locally made cacao products while learning about the fascinating history and cultivation of the cacao bean in Central America. Arenal Volcano and Hot Springs Day Trip from San Jose: Come to experience one of the country's most iconic adventures as you explore Arenal Volcano and relax with a dip in natural volcanic hot springs. On this trip take in gorgeous views of the volcano that regularly emits puff of smoke and lava followed by rejuvenating in one of the area's natural hot springs. Combo Tour - Best of Costa Rica from San Jose: Make the most of your vacation with a packed day exploring the country's natural and cultural treasures! On this tour from San Jose, you'll sample Costa Rica's favourite drink during a tour of the Doka Estate coffee plantation and see the incredible blue lagoon that fills the crater of Poás Volcano. Enjoy a hike through the rain forest, and immerse yourself in the world of butterflies and hummingbirds at La Paz Waterfall Gardens. Manuel Antonio National Park Day Trip from San Jose: Discover one of the most beautiful beaches in Costa Rica on this full-day trip from San Jose to Manuel Antonio National Park. After a scenic drive along the Pacific coast, you'll arrive at this protected reserve that features lush tropical rain forest and unspoiled stretches of white sandy beach. Tortuguero National Park: Explore the natural beauty and protected wildlife of Costa Rica's Tortuguero National Park with a full-day guided tour from San Jose. Cruise

through freshwater rivers on a boat — the only way to access the inner reaches of this beautiful nature reserve and learn about the park's incredible biodiversity

The Art of Craft Beer in San José: On this tour you'll go on a pub crawl in the trendy Escalante neighborhood and try some popular Costa Rican brews.

Poas Volcano, Doka Coffee Estate and Sarchi Arts and Craft: Take this full-day tour to explore the natural and cultural attractions of the country. From, visiting a still-active volcano at Poas Volcano National Park to exploring a family-owned coffee plantation at the Doka Estate along with a halt in the historical artisan city of Sarchi. This trip is a perfect blend of adventure and culture.





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### 11. Transportation hubs

**Airport:** Juan Santamaría International Airport: The main airport serving the city of San Jose is Juan Santamaría International Airport. It is named after Costa Rica's national hero, Juan Santamaría, a courageous drummer boy who died in 1856 defending his country against forces led by US-American filibuster William Walker. The airport is located around 17.5kms away from the city.

**Bus Terminal:** The city is home to many bus terminals that receive buses from all over the country, however TicaBus Terminal is the most preferred one by the locals and the tourists. It is important to know which bus terminal serves your bus route. Bus stops are usually every few blocks in the city. Tica Bus Terminal is located about 1.4kms away from the city. Other major terminal includes Parada Alajuela (2.6kms), Estación de Buses Turrialba (2.7kms), Terminal MUSOC (1.9kms), Gran Terminal del Caribe (3kms) and San José - Puntarenas (1.1kms).

**Train:** Trains have recently made a comeback in Costa Rica and, after being shut down for many years, several routes have been put back into service. The two main train stations are Estación de Ferrocarril al Atlántico (about 4.5kms away from the city) and Estación del Pacífico (about 1.8kms away from the city).

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### 12. Transportation cost

Although one can walk around to the touristy areas there are many spots that cannot be covered on foot hence make use of the following public transport when visiting the city of San Jose – Taxis: Taxis are generally very expensive, even for locals. Meters are a mandatory thing in all the taxis but the fare starts at 640 colones, and is 640 per kilometre. Taxis are generally honest, but make sure you tell the cab driver to start the meter, or "la maría". some taxis (especially at bus stations) will try to rip you off and charge extra rates to tourists. Bicycle: It is as well possible to get around by bicycle in San Jose. If you want to buy a bicycle you find stores in Calle 6 / Av. 5 (Coca Cola) or south of "Avenida Segunda" on the corner or Av.6 / Calle 4. In the south east corner of plaza Viquez you find a small bicycle store. Bus: Local buses operate chiefly all over the city. Most local buses pick up passengers on the street and on main roads. For most city buses, fares range between 140 and 360 CRC. Trains: One can travel to the nearest cities by train now in the country. Tickets start from 550 colones.

**Index****13. Baggage allowance**

One can certainly carry heavy amount of baggage if travelling by car, trains 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 since it can cause inconvenience to self and those around you. If you have chosen to walk or cycle 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.

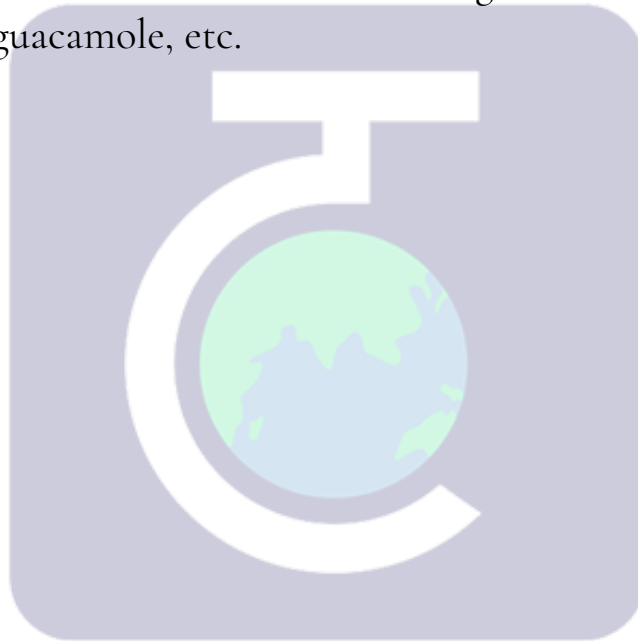


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### 14. Must try food and local savouries

Costa Rican food is definitely not 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. Nonetheless there 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 favorite. It is often eaten with tortillas along with other local favorites like black beans, onions, guacamole, etc.



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### 15. Restaurant & Nightlife

Perhaps Central America's most welcoming country, San Jose without a doubt represents a variety of cultures from those who have come to make Costa Rica home. The city beckons with most varied and cosmopolitan restaurant scene. Italian, Spanish, Asian, French, Middle Eastern, Peruvian – they're all here, along with upscale Costa Rican cuisine. After a busy day exploring San José, you'll find that plenty of new adventures await in Costa Rica's capital after dark. The nightlife scene of the city is defined by vibrant people and places when amazing clubs and bars bring the party animal in you alive. Get ready to groove on the enormous dance floors while getting drunk. The greatest concentration and variety of restaurants is in the downtown area, as well as in the nearby Central Valley suburbs of Escazú and Santa Ana.

#### Food -

Perhaps Central America's most welcoming country, San Jose without a doubt represents a variety of cultures from those who have come to make Costa Rica home. The city beckons with most varied and cosmopolitan restaurant scene. Italian, Spanish, Asian, French, Middle Eastern, Peruvian – they're all here, along with upscale Costa Rican cuisine. After a busy day exploring San José, you'll find that plenty of new adventures await in Costa Rica's capital after dark. The nightlife scene of the city is defined by vibrant people and places when amazing clubs and bars bring the party animal in you alive. Get ready to groove on the enormous dance floors while getting drunk. The greatest concentration and variety of restaurants is in the downtown area, as well as in the nearby Central Valley suburbs of Escazú and Santa Ana.

- **Hotel Grano De Oro - San Jose:**

Address : Calle 30, San José 11856, Costa Rica

Location : 9.933843399999999,-84.09313729999997

Contact No : +506 2255 3322

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

Open / Close Time : Daily 07:00hrs-22:00hrs

- **Restaurante Kalú:**

Address : Calle 31, San José 11856, Costa Rica

Location : 9.934652999999999,-84.064345

Contact No : +506 2253 8426

Website : <http://kalu.co.cr/>

Open / Close Time : Tuesday-Friday 11:55hrs-22:00hrs, 09:00hrs-22:00hrs

Saturday and Sunday 09:00hrs-16:00hrs

- **Nuestra Tierra Restaurant:**

Address : Avenida Segunda, frente a la Plaza de la Democracia, Av. 2, Provincia de San José, San José, 10104, Costa Rica

Location : 9.932076900000002,-84.0720048

Contact No : +506 2258 6500

Open / Close Time : Open 24 hours

- **Doris Metropolitan Costa Rica:**

Address : San José 10901, Santa Ana, Costa Rica

Location : 9.9331623,-84.18003060000001

Contact No : +506 2282 2221

Website : <http://www.dorismetropolitan.com/costa-rica/es/index-4>

Open / Close Time : Daily 12:00hrs-23:00hrs

- **al mercat:**

Address : Av 13, Provincia de San José, San José 10101, Costa Rica

Location : 9.937637299999997,-84.06471640000001

Contact No : +506 2221 0783

Open / Close Time : 12:00hrs-16:30hrs (Tuesday-Wednesday), Thursday-Friday 12:00hrs-16:30hrs, 7:30hrs-23:00hrs & Saturday 07:30hrs-23:00hrs

- **Park Café:**

Address : Sabana Norte, De Rosti Pollo 75 mts Norte, Av. de Las Américas 48, San José, Costa Rica

Location : 9.9390275999,-84.10116299

Contact No : +506 2290 6324

Open / Close Time : Monday-Friday 17:50hrs-21:00hrs

- **Café de los deseos:**

Address : Calle 15, Provincia de San José, San José, Costa Rica

Location : 9.9383632999,-84.07076710

Contact No : +506 2222 0496

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

Open / Close Time : Tuesday-Thursday 14:00hrs-22:00hrs. Friday-Saturday 14:00hrs-23:00hrs

- **Aqui es!:**

Address : Av 2, San José 10102, Costa Rica

Location : 9.9347468,-84.09626370000001

Contact No : +506 2221 5727

Open / Close Time : Monday-Thursday 11:00hrs-18:30hrs, Friday-Saturday 12:00hrs-22:30hrs



- **Mantras Veggie Cafe and Tea House:**

Address : Calle 37, San José, Costa Rica

Location : 9.9368447,-84.06189469999998

Contact No : +506 2253 6715

Open / Close Time : Daily 8:30hrs-17:00hrs

- **Sapore Trattoria:**

Address : oeste , Plaza de la Democracia. Frente Caja de Ande., Av. 2 75, Provincia de San José, San José, Costa Rica

Location : 9.9324326,-84.0730342

Contact No : +506 2222 8906

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

Open / Close Time : Monday-Friday 11:30hrs-22:00hrs, Saturday 11:00hrs-23:00hrs & Sunday 12:00hrs-21:00hrs

- **Costa Rica's Craft Brewing Co.:**

Address : San José, Brasil, Costa Rica

Location : 9.932651,-84.23130800

Contact No : +506 2249 0919

Website : <http://beer.cr/>

Open / Close Time : Monday-Wednesday 12:00hrs-22:00hrs, Thursday-Saturday 12:00hrs-midnight, Sunday 12:00hrs-18:00hrs

- **Vértigo:**

Address : 01000 San José, Costa Rica

Location : 9.935929299999998,-84.09654319999999

Contact No : +506 2257 8424

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

Open / Close Time : Monday-Thursday 09:00hrs-17:30hrs, Friday & Saturday 09:00hrs-17:30hrs, 22:00hrs-06:00hrs

- **Club Rouge:**

Address : 10203 San José, San Rafael, Costa Rica

Location : 9.9404034,-84.15145259999997

Contact No : +506 2201 8517

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

Open / Close Time : Daily 10:00hrs-17:00hrs

- **Hoxton Pub:**

Address : Boulevard Los Yoses, 75 Este de la Antigua Subaru, San Pedro De Montes De Oca, San Jose, Costa Rica, Boulevard Los Yoses, Provincia de San José, 11501 San José, Costa Rica

Location : 9.932530299999998,-84.05958829999997

Contact No : +506 7168 1083

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

Open / Close Time : Thursday-Sunday 21:00hrs-00:00hrs

- **El Cuartel:**

Address : 10104 San José, Costa Rica

Location : 9.9336848,-84.06828189999999

Contact No : +506 2221 0327

**Index****16. Average meal cost**

Economical Meal: 3,000-5,500¢ Mid – Segment Restaurant: 13,000-25,000.00 ¢  
Luxury Dining: 30,000-50,000 ¢ Average cost of water: 1,241.48 ¢ Average cost of  
beer: 1,108.65 ¢

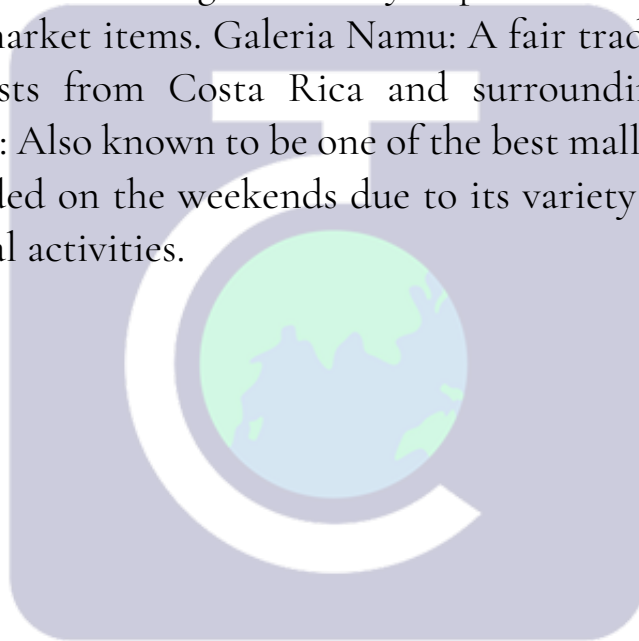


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### 17. Shopping

The capital city of colourful Latin American country, is known for its its diverse craftsmanship (courtesy of the numerous indigenous tribes), splendid coffee and rich cultural and wildlife scene. You can find everything from designer clothing to latest-fashion shoes and accessories, everyday clothing and footwear to anything you could possibly need for your home. There are construction and “fix-up-your-home” superstores, stores for custom-made furniture of wood, iron, rattan, cloth, leather and even concrete. Supermarkets, from high-end boutique specialty shops to bulk discount stores, have multiplied “faster than sales tags after Christmas” in this metropolitan. Following are some of the shopping centers that you cannot miss – Feria Verde de Aranjuez: You'll find everything from organic coffee, artisanal chocolate, tropical-fruit ice blocks, fresh produce, baked goods, leather, jewelry and much more at this market. Do come here on Saturdays to attend the fabulous Saturday farmers market. Galería Namu: This gallery brings together cultural objects and artwork from a diverse population of regional ethnicities. Fine woven Wounaan baskets, Boruca masks, Bribri Canoes, Guaymi dolls and contemporary urban and Afro-Caribbean crafts are the highlights. Librería Lehmann: For all the book lovers don't miss this store that is home to a good selection of English-language books, maps and guidebooks. Mercado Artesanal: This open air market is popular among the tourists and sells everything from handcrafted jewelry and Bob Marley T-shirts to elaborate woodwork and Guatemalan sarongs. Rincón del Habano: Come here and find yourself into a wide selection of cigars in this tiny shop. Multiplaza Escazú: One of the most stylish and massive shopping mall of the country, this mall has everything you need. Biesanz Woodworks: Finding itself in the hills of Bello Horizonte, this shop is one of the finest woodcrafting studios in the nation, run by celebrated artisan Barry Biesanz. Sin Domicilio Fijo: Finding itself in a 150-year-old with adobe walls, near the southwest corner of Escazú's church. The place is full of unique handicrafts that make ideal gifts, from dainty footwear to kitchen adornments. There's also a lovely open-air café. La Bodega de Chema: La Bodega de Chema is a souvenir store where you can buy souvenirs from Costa Rican Microbreweries. You can find everything from T-shirts, Pint Glasses,

Growlers and Hats. eÑe: This center sells manner of pieces crafted by Costa Rican designers and artists, including clothing, jewelry, handbags, picture frames, zines and works of graphic art. Kiosco SJO: This arts and crafts shop in Barrio Escalante is known for handmade jewelry, original photography, hand-tooled leather boots and bags, fashion and contemporary home decor and artisanal chocolates by established regional designers. Note: It's expensive! Mall San Pedro: A four-story mall is home to a food court, multiscreen cinema, a video arcade and the usual mix of clothing, phone and other retailers. Shoppers: A large discount store that features an extensive a great variety of products. You can find clothing, furniture and supermarket items. Galeria Namu: A fair trade art gallery for local and indigenous artists from Costa Rica and surrounding Central America countries. Multiplaza: Also known to be one of the best malls in the city, this mall can get a little crowded on the weekends due to its variety of shops, restaurants and other recreational activities.



## 18. Tourist benefits

The VAT charged in the country increases from 13%-15% which is decent compared to the other countries of the Americas. One will certainly bump into a lot of duty free shops in the city of San Jose, however the airport stands as the best option to buy anything and everything from Liquor, Jewellery, Clothing to Footwear, Electronics etc. The following goods may be imported into Costa Rica without incurring customs duty:

- 400 cigarettes or 50 cigars or 500g tobacco.
- 3L of alcoholic beverages (travellers aged over 18 only).
- Goods to the value of US\$500.

Food items are generally not allowed to be brought into Costa Rica, in particular fruit, vegetables, dairy products, seeds and plants. 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. 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.

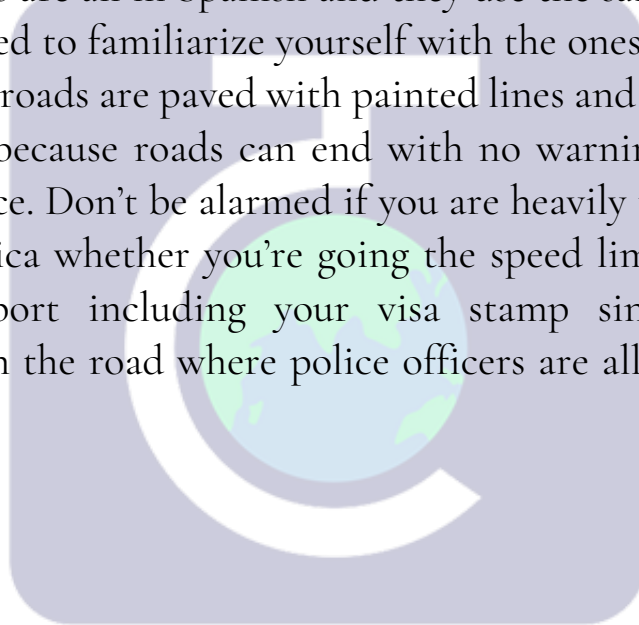
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### 19. Essential local apps

Following are the smart applications for your smartphones that will help you make your trip better – Radio San José De Costa Rica: Enjoy the best radio stations from the country on this app. The app also allows one to write and save text notes within the application. 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, Diga taxi. Taxímetro Costa Rica (maría): Avoid being victim of taxis with altered rates, this mobile app simulates the use of a meter (Mary) to estimate and compare the costs of each path, calculate the collection is made using the phone's GPS and time as is done in taxis. 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.

## 20. 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. In San Jose, most of the roads are paved with painted lines and signs. You need to be careful on freeways because roads can end with no warning and you'll have to merge with little space. 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. Have a copy of your passport including your visa stamp since there are many immigration stops on the road where police officers are allowed to ask for your documents.



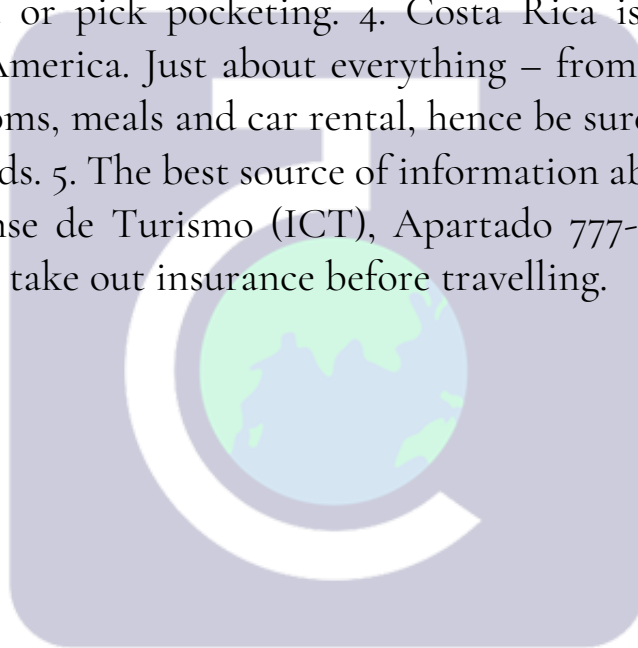


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### 21. Travel essentials

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. The best source of information about Costa Rica is the Instituto Costarricense de Turismo (ICT), Apartado 777-1000, San José
6. It's always a good idea to take out insurance before travelling.

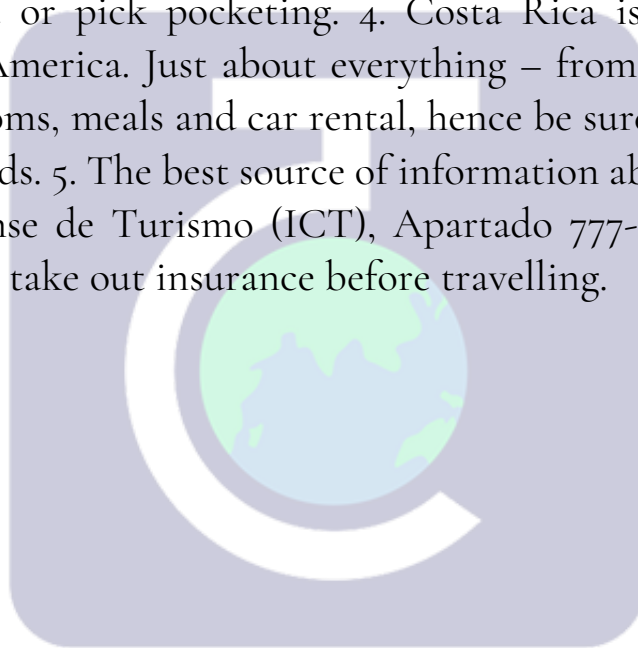


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### 22. Essential clothes

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.
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5. The best source of information about Costa Rica is the Instituto Costarricense de Turismo (ICT), Apartado 777-1000, San José
6. It's always a good idea to take out insurance before travelling.



**Index****23. Local currency**

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

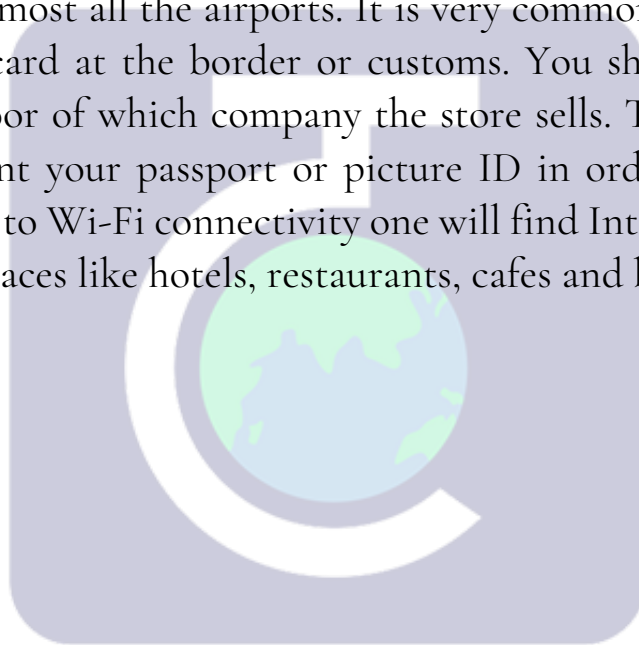


## 24. Change vendor's commission, ATM charges

The city home to many ATMs. 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 out to between ₡500-550 per US dollar. 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.

**Index****25. 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. When it comes to Wi-Fi connectivity one will find Internet cafes and Wi-Fi availability at a lot places like hotels, restaurants, cafes and bars.



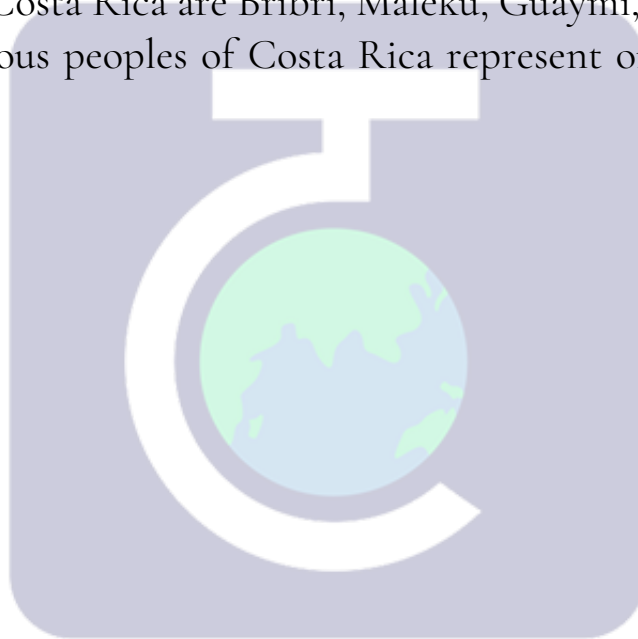
## 26. Time Zone

Costa Rica is in the Central Standard Time Zone. Central Standard Time (CST) is 6 hours behind Coordinated Universal Time (UTC-6h)



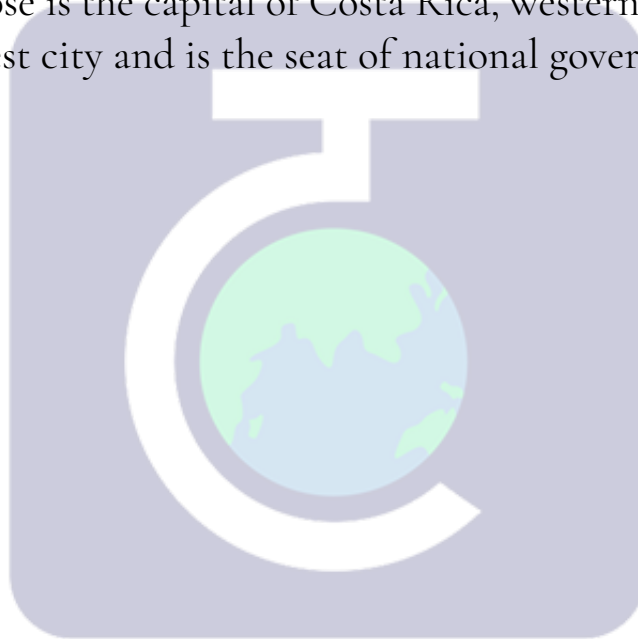
**Index****27. Languages**

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.



**Index****28. 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. San José is the capital of Costa Rica, western province of San José, and the nation's largest city and is the seat of national government.





**Index****29. Economic Scenario**

San Jose stands as the economic center of the country. The city's economy is derived by multi-national companies, high end industries and most of the financial institutions find their home in the city. Agriculture and Tourism also constitute to the economy.



**Index****30. 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, Islam, Taoism, Hare Krishna, Paganism, Wicca, Scientology, Tenrikyo, and the Bahá'í Faith



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### 31. 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 or a business visa (multiple entry) from United States of America, Canada, Japon, 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 (Japon) 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****32. Essential vaccination**

One needs to be any 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. Also, when travelling to Costa Rica, some basic vaccines are suggested – • Typhoid • Malaria • Hepatitis A • Hepatitis B • Rabies • Measles • Mumps • Rubella



### 33. Theft and Safety

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

- The traffic in the city is very dangerous for the cars do not stop for pedestrians and they are generally rolling up on higher speed. The area around the Coca Cola Bus Station is secluded and not safe at night, hence make sure to not travel alone at the night in the district.
- Most Ticos are honest and friendly, however if you are stuck on the highway with a broke-down car don't expect help from the locals except from an established service station. petty theft is high risk especially from housekeepers in hotels and valet parking staff.
- 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.
- 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).
- Whenever roaming around the tourist spots in the city, be sure to be aware of your surroundings and avoid showing off valuables more than necessary.
- Avoid at all costs walking at night, either right downtown or in the suburbs, cabs, Uber, and buses are cheap, so walking at night is a very unnecessary risk.
- Costa Rica has a good reputation among gay and lesbian travellers, and continues to be generally hassle-free for gay and lesbian visitors.

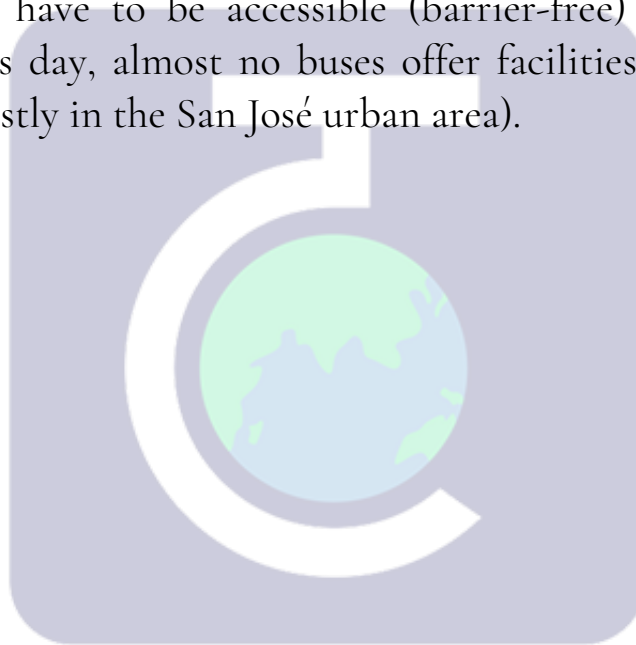
**Index****34. Embassy/Consulate**

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



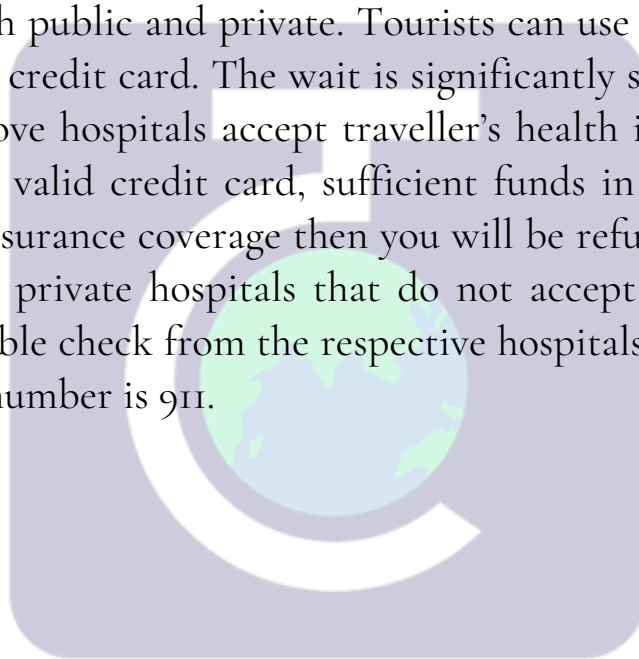
## 35. Accessibility

Since being the capital of Costa Rica and one of the main cities of the country, San Jose does not lack facilities to the aid of people with reduced mobility. There are many hospitals and hotels located in the city offering special services along with restaurants and attractions extending their hand for the disables. According to the Law for Equal Opportunities for Disabled Persons, new structures that are built in Costa Rica have to be accessible (barrier-free) for disabled people. Unfortunately to this day, almost no buses offer facilities for wheelchairs (the available ones are mostly in the San José urban area).



## 36. Emergencies

Hospital Clínica Bíblica Address: Av. 14, San José, Costa Rica Phone: +506 2522 1000 Hospital Cima San José Address: Autopista Próspero Fernández, San José, San Rafael, Costa Rica Phone: +506 2208 1000 Hospital Nacional De Niños Address: Calle 20, Avenida o, Paseo Colón, Provincia de San José, San José, Costa Rica Phone: +506 2523 3600 Note: San Jose, as the largest city in C.R. has the largest hospitals, both public and private. Tourists can use the private hospitals, and pay with cash or credit card. The wait is significantly shorter than at public hospitals. All the above hospitals accept traveller's health insurance, however if you fail to present a valid credit card, sufficient funds in cash or check and a proof of traveller's insurance coverage then you will be refused treatment. There are some public and private hospitals that do not accept International health insurance, hence double check from the respective hospitals about the same. The national emergency number is 911.





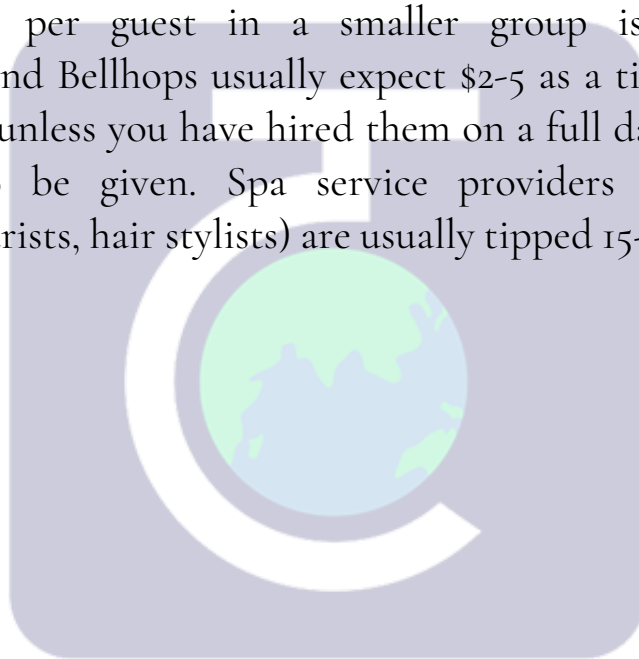
### 37. Do's and Don'ts

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 save \$26 US for the Costa Rica exit visa, payable upon leaving the country on land or by air. • 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 space credit card in a separate location. • Do address people of the country with a formal title. Christian names are addressed by Senor for a man and Senora for a woman. However, a highly respected man is addressed as Don and Dona is used for a female equivalent. • Do observe basic courtesies when invited at someone's home and gifts are generally appreciated as a token of thanks. • Do Brush your teeth at least three times in a day. Costa Ricans do the same after every meal. 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. • Don't take unlicensed or unmarked taxi cabs. In San Jose, always make sure the meter is turned on. Outside of San Jose, many taxis don't have meters; always settle upon a price before climbing inside. • 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 surprised to see drugs and prostitution. Avoid San Jose at night if possible. • Don't choose the option of driving as the road signs in the country are notoriously poor in the rural areas and it's easy to get lost. • Don't Bathe nude on the beaches. • Do not eat, drink or smell anything a taxi driver offers. It can be laced.

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### 38.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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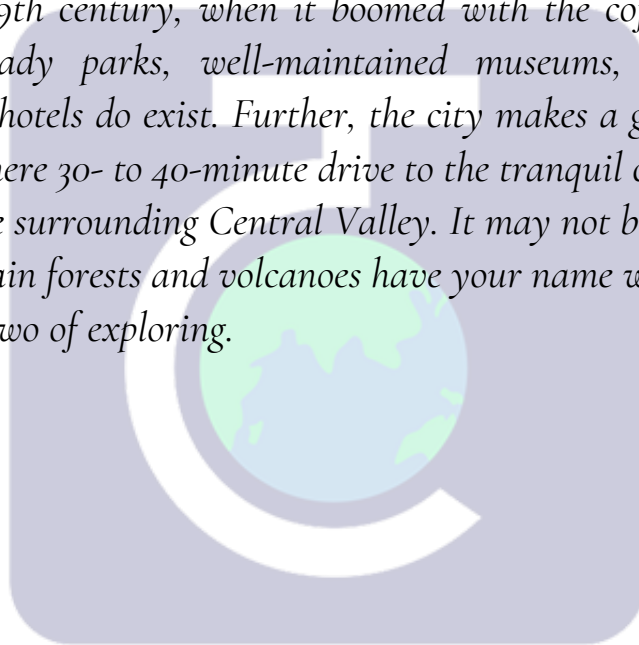
### 39. Pet info

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

*Sprawling smack in the middle of the fertile Valle Central, San José, the only city of any size and administrative importance in Costa Rica, has a spectacular setting, ringed by the jagged silhouettes of soaring mountains – some of them volcanoes – on all sides. “Chepe” as the locals it, the city comes across as little more than a chaotic jumble of cars, buses, buildings, and people. Founded in 1737, San José was a forgotten backwater of the Spanish empire until the late 19th century, when it boomed with the coffee business. Amid the noise and traffic, shady parks, well-maintained museums, lively plazas, terrific restaurants, and great hotels do exist. Further, the city makes a great base for day trips: from downtown it's a mere 30- to 40-minute drive to the tranquil countryside and myriad outdoor activities of the surrounding Central Valley. It may not be the center of your trip to Costa Rica—those rain forests and volcanoes have your name written on them. But the city is worth a day or two of exploring.*



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