

September 2024 edition

QUICK GUIDE TO OUR BLOG

*Click on a topic below
to access our
related article* 

NEW TO THE CRTB? START HERE:

Our unique approach to
Costa Rica vacation planning

Costa Rica vacation planning,
step by step

The costs associated with
traveling to Costa Rica

Must-know info about groups and
crowds in Costa Rica

Must-know info about reserving
tours and activities for Costa Rica

Must-know info about reserving
hotels, rental cars, transportation
services, and restaurants
in Costa Rica

Costa Rica scams and sketchy
practices to watch out for



Nikki and Ricky

TRAVEL BLOG COSTA RICA .COM

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SAFETY / MENTAL HEALTH

Staying safe in Costa Rica

Minimizing anxiety while visiting Costa Rica

WHEN TO VISIT COSTA RICA

Understanding Costa Rica's travel seasons and the best time of year to visit according to your priorities

- January
- February
- March
- April
- May
- June
- July
- August
- September
- October
- November
- December

HOW MUCH TIME TO SPEND IN COSTA RICA

- 5 days in Costa Rica
- 8 days in Costa Rica
- 10 days in Costa Rica
- 12 days in Costa Rica
- 15 days in Costa Rica

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COSTA RICA DESTINATIONS

An overview of
70+ Costa Rica destinations

Using our Costa Rica Destination
Tool to narrow down destinations
worth visiting in Costa Rica

Discovering Costa Rica
destinations via
popular things to do

Discovering Costa Rica
destinations via
off-the-beaten path things to do

An overview of
80+ Costa Rica beaches

Choosing from the top 20
Costa Rica beach towns

Blue flag (eco-friendly)
Costa Rica beach destinations

An important thing to
keep in mind when selecting
Costa Rica destinations

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COSTA RICA DESTINATIONS

LA FORTUNA / ARENAL

[La Fortuna city guide](#)

[La Fortuna hotel guide](#)

[Driving to La Fortuna](#)

[Deciding between La Fortuna and Monteverde](#)

[Travel options between La Fortuna and Monteverde](#)

[Sky Adventures Arenal Park](#)

[Mistico Park](#)

[Arenal Sky Walk hanging bridges vs. Mistico Park hanging bridges](#)

[Arenal Volcano National Park](#)

[La Fortuna Waterfall](#)

[Making a day trip between Monteverde and La Fortuna](#)

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COSTA RICA DESTINATIONS

LA FORTUNA / ARENAL

All 12 La Fortuna Hot Springs

Tabacon
Springs Resort
Baldi
Club Rio

EcoTermales
Paradise
Los Lagos
El Chollin

El Salto swimming hole

MONTEVERDE / SANTA ELENA

Monteverde city guide

Monteverde hotel guide

Driving to Monteverde

Deciding between
Monteverde and La Fortuna

Travel options between
Monteverde and La Fortuna

Monteverde Cloud Forest vs.
Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserves

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COSTA RICA DESTINATIONS

MONTEVERDE / SANTA ELENA

Treetopia Park (formerly the Sky Adventures Monteverde Park)

Selvatura Park

Monteverde Orchid Garden

Making a day trip between Monteverde and La Fortuna

MANUEL ANTONIO / QUEPOS

Manuel Antonio city guide

Manuel Antonio National Park

Playa Manuel Antonio

PUERTO VIEJO DE TALAMANCA

Puerto Viejo city guide

Playa Puerto Viejo

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COSTA RICA DESTINATIONS

SAN JOSE / ALAJUELA

Things to do in San Jose

National Theater

Things to do in Alajuela

Poas Volcano National Park

Rescate Wildlife Rescue Center

Hacienda Doka Coffee Farm

El Toledo Coffee Farm

SJO Airport hotels

Things to do in Sarchi, Grecia, and Zarcero

RINCON DE LA VIEJA

Vandara

Rio Negro Hot Springs

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COSTA RICA DESTINATIONS

TORTUGUERO

Getting to Tortuguero by boat:
La Pavona vs. Cano Blanco

Tortuguero National Park:
Cuatro Esquinas Sector

Tortuguero National Park:
Cerro Tortuguero Sector

PACUARE RIVER

Rafting on the Pacuare River

BEACHES

NORTHERN PACIFIC / GUANACASTE

All Northern Pacific / Guanacaste
beaches

Playa Danta

Playa Hermosa

Playa Nacascolo

Playa Tamarindo

Playa Dantita

Playa Junquillal

Playa Puerto Viejo

Playa Virador

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GOSTA RICA DESTINATIONS

BEACHES

NICOYA PENINSULA

All Nicoya Peninsula beaches

Playa Cangrejal

Playa Quesera

Playa Samara

Playa Santa Teresa

Playa Curu

Playa Garza

Playa Las Manchas

Playa Tropical

CENTRAL PACIFIC

All Central Pacific beaches

Playa Blanca

Playa Herradura

Playa Mantas

Playa Uvita

Playa Dominical

Playa Jaco

Playa Manuel Antonio

Playa Ventanas

CARIBBEAN

All Caribbean beaches

Playa Arrecife

Playa Puerto Viejo

Playa Chiquita

Playa Manzanillo

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COSTA RICA DESTINATIONS

BEACHES

OSA PENINSULA

All Osa Peninsula beaches

Playa Cocalito

Playa Preciosa

COSTA RICA ACCOMMODATIONS

Choosing hotels in Costa Rica:
Why location is so important!

What to know about hotel
pick-ups and drop-offs
for tours and activities

The cost of accommodations

Types of high-end hotels,
if you're looking for luxury

All-inclusive resorts and
non-all-inclusive resorts

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COSTA RICA ACCOMMODATIONS

SJO Airport hotels

La Fortuna / Arenal hotels

Monteverde hotels

COSTA RICA TRANSPORTATION

An overview of 15 modes of transportation in Costa Rica

The cost of transportation

Help deciding whether or not to rent a car in Costa Rica

Costa Rica car rental scams

Costa Rica car rental insurance

Costa Rica highways

The distance and duration of popular routes

Using adventure/nature tours to travel between destinations

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COSTA RICA TRANSPORTATION

Driving to La Fortuna / Arenal

Driving to Monteverde

Driving to Drake Bay

Getting to Tortuguero by boat:
La Pavona dock vs. Cano Blanco

COSTA RICA FOOD & DRINK

Costa Rica food guide:
What to eat and where to get it

Costa Rica drink guide:
What to drink
(alcoholic and non-alcoholic)

Sodas: Traditional Costa Rican
restaurants

The cost of food

Vegetarian and vegan food

Gluten-free food

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COSTA RICA TOURS & ACTIVITIES

When to book tours and activities

The cost of tours and activities

Tour guides: Are they required?

Self-guided tours and activities

Child-friendly tours and activities

Popular tours and activities

Off-the-beaten-path tours and activities

Entrance fees

Operating hours

Trail maps

ADVENTURE PARKS

Sky Adventures Arenal Park

Treetopia Park (formerly the Sky Adventures Monteverde Park)

Selvatura Park

Mistico Park

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COSTA RICA TOURS & ACTIVITIES

NATIONAL PARKS & RESERVES

Arenal Volcano National Park

Manuel Antonio National Park

Poas Volcano National Park

Carara National Park

Tortuguero National Park:
Cuatro Esquinas Sector

Tortuguero National Park:
Cerro Tortuguero Sector

Cano Negro Wildlife Refuge

OTHER SITES & ATTRACTIONS

Rafting on the Pacuare River

Visiting waterfalls

Visiting active volcanoes

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COSTA RICA TOURS & ACTIVITIES

OTHER SITES & ATTRACTIONS

National Theater

El Toledo Coffee

Hacienda Doka Coffee

Choco Tour chocolate tour

Monteverde Orchid Garden

Rescate Wildlife Rescue Center

Seeing sloths

Hot springs:

All 12 La Fortuna Hot Springs

Tabacon
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Los Lagos
El Chollin
Rio Negro

El Salto swimming hole

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COSTA RICA
.COM****MISC. MUST-KNOW EXTRAS**

Packing for Costa Rica

Common payment policies

Costa Rica's tourism tax

What to know about USD, Costa Rican colones, and credit cards

Currency exchange

Tipping

Buying souvenirs

Using phones, SIM cards, Wi-Fi, and more!

Sustainable tourism

Costa Rica do's and don'ts

Want private Costa Rica trip-planning help? Book a Costa Rica consultation appointment with us here!



Nikki and Ricky

COSTA RICA .COM TRAVEL BLOG

Thank you for choosing our authentic website and resources over others, for trusting our firsthand experience, and for preferring our human-backed recommendations!

Other ways we at the Costa Rica Travel Blog are unique:

- ✓ **We choose not to display ads, sponsored content, or affiliate marketing on our blog.** Because we prioritize your privacy, we don't earn money when you visit us, when you sign up for our e-course, or when you click on our links, which means **the time and work we put into our blog is entirely voluntary.**
- ✓ Ricky is a **born-and-raised Costa Rican** and Nikki (married to Ricky) has explored Costa Rica **since the mid-2000s.**
- ✓ We've operated our Costa Rica-based business, Pura Vida! eh? Inc., for 17 years (and counting!).
- ✓ **Our Costa Rica guidebooks are published by the prestigious Moon Travel Guides brand.**
- ✓ **We only ever write about experiences we know firsthand, and we never stuff our blog with general information about Costa Rica that is widely available elsewhere.**
- ✓ **We never copy or plagiarize other writers' content.** How we wish other writers would show us the same respect!
- ✓ Unless stated otherwise, **every photo displayed on our blog was taken by us, and with our own two hands.** (Unlike some other bloggers, who rely on drones to travel and conduct research for them, **we actually visit and explore the places we write about.**)
- ✓ **We're active in promoting Costa Rica around the world.** We've written about Costa Rica for Wanderlust Magazine (UK), presented Costa Rica on Rick Steves' Monday Night Travel Show and podcast/radio show (US), and served as a Costa Rica Destination Editor for Essentialist (Spain).
- ✓ Our work is **backed by hundreds of positive reviews and testimonials (read some here).**
- ✓ **We are not overly active on social media.** Instead of fixating on our own popularity, we spend the majority of our time exploring and researching Costa Rica, updating our various Costa Rica resources, and working with travelers one-on-one. **We're focused on the quality of your travel experience, not the quantity of our followers.** Pura vida, amigos!