**GOVERNMENT**

**Chief of State**  
President Carlos ALVARADO Quesada

**Head of Government**  
President Carlos ALVARADO Quesada

**Government Type**  
presidential republic

**Capital**  
San Jose

**Legislature**  
unicameral Legislative Assembly or Asamblea Legislativa (57 seats)

**Judiciary**  
Supreme Court of Justice (consists of 22 judges organized into 3 cassation chambers each with 5 judges and the Constitutional Chamber with 7 judges)

**Ambassador to US**  
Ambassador Fernando LLORCA Castro

**US Ambassador**  
Ambassador Sharon DAY

**ECONOMY**

**Economic Overview**
exports of bananas, coffee, sugar, and beef form the backbone of Costa Rica’s exports, and political stability, relatively high education levels, and a special free trade agreement with the US help it enjoy strong and stable economic growth

**GDP (Purchasing Power Parity)**  
$83.94 billion (2017 est.)

**GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity)**  
$16,900 (2017 est.)

**Exports**  
$10.81 billion (2017 est.)  
partners: US 40.9%, Belgium 6.3%, Panama 5.6%, Netherlands 5.6%, Nicaragua 5.1%, Guatemala 5% (2017)

**Imports**  
$15.15 billion (2017 est.)  
partners: US 38.1%, China 13.1%, Mexico 7.3% (2017)

**PEOPLE & SOCIETY**

**Population**  
5 million (July 2018 est.)

**Population Growth**  
1.13% (2018 est.)

**Ethnicity**  
white or mestizo 83.6%, mulatto 6.7%, indigenous 2.4%, black or African descent 1.1%, other 1.1%, none 2.9%, unspecified 2.2% (2011 est.)

**Language**  
Spanish (official), English

**Religion**  
Roman Catholic 71.8%, Evangelical or Pentecostal 11.2%, other Protestant 2.8%, Jehovah’s Witness 0.5%, other 2.4%, none 10.4% (2016 est.)

**Urbanization**  
urban population: 79.3% of total population (2018)  
rate of urbanization: 1.5% annual rate of change (2015-20 est.)

**Literacy**  
97.8% (2015 est.)

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*as of February 2019*