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)
$83.85 billion (2017 est.)
GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity)
$16,900 (2017 est.)
Exports
$10.55 billion (2017 est.)
partners: US 40.9%, Belgium 6.3%, Panama 5.6%, Netherlands 5.6%, Nicaragua 5.1%, Guatemala 5% (2017)
Imports
$15.55 billion (2017 est.)
partners: US 38.1%, China 13.1%, Mexico 7.3% (2017)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY
Population
4.9 million (July 2017 est.)
Population Growth
1.16% (2017 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 2.6%, 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.)

GEOGRAPHY
Area
Total: 51,100 sq km
Land: 51,060 sq km
Water: 40 sq km
Climate
tropical and subtropical; dry season (December to April); rainy season (May to November); cooler in highlands
Natural Resources
hydropower

as of September 2018