

Costa Rica

Travel Facts

US State Dept Travel Advisory

The US Department of State currently recommends US citizens exercise increased caution in Costa Rica due to crime.

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories.html>

Passport/Visa Requirements

For the latest passport and visa requirements for this country, please consult the U.S. State Department's "Learn About Your Destination" search tool, available through the link below.

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages.html>

US Embassy/Consulate

[506] 2519-2000; US Embassy in San Jose, Calle 98 Vía 104, Pavas, San José, Costa Rica; <https://cr.usembassy.gov/>; acssanjose@state.gov

Disabled Travelers

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/before-you-go/travelers-with-special-considerations/traveling-with-disabilities.html>

LGBTQ+ Travelers

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/before-you-go/travelers-with-special-considerations/lgbtqi.html>

Women Travelers

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/before-you-go/travelers-with-special-considerations/women-travelers.html>

Telephone Code

506

Local Emergency Phone

911

Vaccinations

An International Certificate of Vaccination for yellow fever is required for travelers arriving from countries with a risk of yellow fever transmission and for travelers having transited through the airport of a country with risk of yellow fever transmission. See WHO recommendations. <http://www.who.int/>

Climate

Tropical and subtropical; dry season (December to April); rainy season (May to November); cooler in highlands

Currency (Code)

Costa Rican colones (CRC)

Electricity/Voltage/Plug Type(s)

120 V / 60 Hz / plug types(s): A, B



Type A



Type B

Major Languages

Spanish, English

Major Religions

Roman Catholic, Evangelical and Pentecostal, other Protestant, Jehovah's Witness

Time Difference

UTC-6 (1 hour behind Washington, DC, during Standard Time)



Potable Water

Opt for bottled water

International Driving Permit

Suggested; additionally, if you plan to drive in Costa Rica, you will need an Inter-American Driving Permit issued by the AAA

Road Driving Side

Right



Tourist Destinations

Manuel Antonio National Park; Poas Volcano National Park; Arenal Volcano National Park; Monteverde and the Cloud Forests; Cocos Island; Tamarindo; Mal Pais and Santa Teresa; Tortuguero National Park

Major Sports

Soccer, basketball

Cultural Practices

Costa Ricans are incredibly polite and courteous; therefore, shouting, confrontation and accusations are not considered to be acceptable behavior, especially in public.

Tipping Guidelines

Many restaurants will add a 10% service charge to the bill. It is standard to leave 500 CR (or \$1 USD) per drink at bars. Tip tour guides between \$10-15 (USD) per person depending on the size of the tour; \$1-5 (USD) for taxi drivers depending on the distance. Tip bellhops \$1 (USD) per bag; \$2 (USD) per day for housekeeping.

Souvenirs

Coffee, hammocks, ceramic and wood bowls, wooden macaw statues and other carved items, leather rocking chairs, handmade earrings and threaded necklaces

Traditional Cuisine

Gallo Pinto — kidney or black beans or pigeon peas and rice cooked together, mixed with Lizano sauce; often served as breakfast

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