

Costa Rica

US State Dept Travel Advisory

The US Department of State currently recommends US citizens RECONSIDER TRAVEL to Costa Rica due to COVID-19. Exercise increased caution in Costa Rica due to crime. Consult its website daily via the link below for any travel advisories about visiting this country.

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

Passport/Visa Requirements

US citizens should make sure their passport will not expire for at least 6 months after they enter the country even if they do not intend to stay that long. They should also make sure they have at least 1 blank page in their passport for any entry stamp that will be required. A visa is not required as long as you do not stay in the country more than 90 days, but a return ticket is required.

US Embassy/Consulate

[506] 2519-2000; US Embassy in San Jose, Calle 98 Vía 104, Pavas, San José, Costa Rica

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 type(s): A, B



Major Languages

Spanish, English

Religions

Roman Catholic 71.8%, Evangelical and Pentecostal 12.3%, other Protestant 2.6%, Jehovah's Witness 0.5%, other 2.4%, none 10.4%

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
Cultural Practices	Local Costa Ricans are loath to say "no," instead preferring "maybe." Keep in mind that a "maybe" is not an attempt to lie or mislead.
Tipping Guidelines	Many restaurants will add a 10% service charge to the bill. If the service was good, you may leave a little extra for the server. 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. Give \$1-5 (USD) for taxi drivers depending on the distance. Round up for shorter distances. It is considerate to tip bellhops \$1 (USD) per bag and leave \$2 (USD) per day for housekeeping.
Telephone Code	506
Local Emergency Phone	911

Please visit the following links to find further information about your desired destination.

[World Health Organization \(WHO\) - To learn what vaccines and health precautions to take while visiting your destination. http://www.who.int](http://www.who.int)

[US State Dept Travel Information - Overall information about foreign travel for US citizens. https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel.html](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel.html)

[To obtain an international driving permit \(IDP\). Only two organizations in the US issue IDPs: American Automobile Association \(AAA\) \(www.aaa.com\) and American Automobile Touring Alliance \(ATA\) \(www.aataidp.com\)](http://www.aaa.com)

US citizens may call the US Dept of State (+1-202-501-4444) for emergencies abroad.

Thursday, January 28, 2021