



# Know before you Go!

Costa Rica, land of Ticos & Pura Vida...

## Welcome to Costa Rica:

Costa Rica is a crossroad, located between the Pacific and the Caribbean, Nicaragua and Panama and between continents on the Central American isthmus. It is a convergence of lifestyles, wildlife, culture, pastimes and a very promising future. Gourmet coffee plantations and rain forests flank an inland range active and dormant volcanoes whose slopes descend over miles to the rain forest lowlands to the east and west, endless savannah to the north fringed with beaches for border to border. Costa Ricans who often call themselves “Ticos”, are generally fun to mingle with, quick to smile and many times go to great lengths to help out foreigners get the best of their vacation time, as you will hear them say... the country is Pura Vida!

## Wildlife at its best!

Over 25% of its territory is still virgin forest, laws provide waterways, beaches and mountains permanent protection. Costa Rica is the world’s most famous ecotourism destination.

## Entry Requirements:

Most foreigners, including U.S. and Canadian citizens and most Europeans need only to present a valid passport that will have 6 month validity. Costa Rica requires visas from a few countries, however, so check with the closest embassy.

## Spring-like weather all year-round.

Unlike temperate zones, Costa Rica has 2 seasons a Green Season from June to November and the Gold Season from December to May. Temperatures are dictated more by elevation and location than by season, ranging from tropical on the coastal plains to temperate in the interior highlands. Typically, mornings are sunny, with light showers in the afternoon during the Green Season, rain is rare during the Gold Season.

## What to bring:

- Hat
- Sunglasses
- Sunscreen
- Waterproof Jacket
- Insect Repellent
- Swimsuit
- Camera
- Pants
- Shorts
- Walking Closed Shoes
- Binoculars
- Beach/ hand Bag

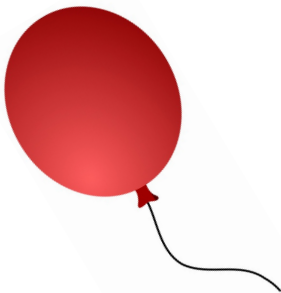


### **Important:**

Upon arrival and after clearing immigration, baggage claim and customs, please look for **Costa Rica DMC**, travel staff holding a sign with your name and a red balloon.

You will be directed to your pre-assigned private transportation for the transfer.

**Please look for the Red Balloon!**



### **General Information**

**Time Zone:** we are in Central Standard Time all year round, Costa Rica does NOT observe daylight saving.

**Languages Spoken:** Spanish is the official language, while English is widely spoken throughout the country.

**Currency:** monetary exchange is in Colones, but the American dollar is widely accepted. The rate of exchange is controlled by the Central Bank.

**Electrical System:** standard electricity in Costa Rica is the same as in the United States and Canada: 110 volts AC (60 cycles) and outlets are the same.

**Name of the President:** the actual President started office in May 2014; his name is Mr. Luis Guillermo Solís, a Tulane University Master Degree in Political Sciences & Sociology.

**Water:** tap water in Costa Rica is generally considered safe to drink; however, water quality varies widely outside of major cities. To ensure a comfortable trip, only bottled water should be consumed.

**Phone Network:** international mobile service is efficient and Costa Rica, make sure you activate the roaming service with your supplier. Internet service is widespread throughout the country. Wi-Fi wireless services are offered in every resort.

**Credit Cards:** most global credit cards are accepted throughout the country, your photo ID will be required in most transactions.

**Travelers Checks:** are not accepted in commercial establishments, neither banks.

**Tipping:** a 10% tip will automatically be added to your restaurant bill. You should check your bill carefully, especially before paying an extra tip. Tour guides and drivers expect tips.

**Taxes:** a 13% sales tax is tacked on to hotel, restaurant and most service-industry bills.

**Attire:** visitors should wear clothing designed for tropical countries, made of cotton and other lightweight fabrics. Closed shoes, jeans and long sleeve light shirts are recommended for outdoor adventures and horseback riding. A light jacket is recommended for long bus rides or visiting volcanoes, as temperatures can drop as low as 50°F.

**Hospitals:** In San Jose 3 private hospitals and 4 public national hospitals within 30 minutes from the San Jose International Airport. There are 2 private clinic hospitals and 1 public national hospital within 30 minutes from the Liberia International Airport.

**Emergency phone:** +506.8858.9638, available 24/7