

-Costa Rica Fun Facts –

Region: Central America

Country: Costa Rica

Costa Rica by the Numbers:

- Population of Costa Rica: 4, 196,000 inhabitants
- Area of Costa Rica: 19,730 sq. miles (about the size of Vermont and New Hampshire combined)
- Average Elevation of Alajuela, Costa Rica: 3,141 ft
- Annual Rainfall : 100 inches
- Average Winter Temperature: 75 degrees F
- Average Summer Temperature: 80 degrees F

Quick Facts:

- Time Zone: Central Time Zone (GMT- 6)
- Country Dialing Code: 506
- Currency: Costa Rican Colon (CRC)
- Electricity: 110volts @ 60Hz Type A-Flat Blade plug
- Major Airport: Juan Santamaria (SJO), Tobias Bolanos (SYQ), and Daniel Oduber (LIR)
- English Newspapers: "Tico Times" and "AM Costa Rica"
- Spanish Newspapers: "Al Dia", "La Nacion" and "La Republica"
- Principal Industries: Electronics, Pharmaceuticals, Financial Outsourcing, Software Development, Ecotourism, Bananas, Pineapples and Coffee

Did You Know?

- Costa Rica means "Rich Coast" in Spanish.
- People who live in Costa Rica are called "Ticos".
- Christopher Columbus discovered and named Costa Rica in 1502.
- Costa Rica is the oldest democracy in Latin America.
- Costa Rica abolished their National Army in 1949 and decided to, instead, invest public resources in education and infrastructural improvements to benefit the people.
- Costa Rica prides itself on being the "Land of Peace" as they have had over 100 years of political stability.
- Costa Rica is home to Juan Santamaria, the official national hero. Other notable citizens include: Francisco Amighetti, painter; Oscar Arias Sanchez, Nobel Peace Prize recipient and current president; Franklin Chang-Diaz, astronaut; Claudia and Silvia Poll, Olympic medalists in swimming
- The national dish of Costa Rica is "Gallo Pinto", pre-cooked rice and beans fried together with onions, peppers, cilantro and more.
- Famous for the country's biological diversity, varied geography, volcanoes and rainforest. ¼ of the country protected by the government.
- September and October are the wettest months of the year. January through March is the driest time of the year.

Places of Interest:

- Cano Negro National Wildlife Refuge
- Arenal National Park
- Poas Volcano National Park
- Juan Castro Blanco National Park
- Guanacaste
- Rincon de la Vieja
- Zarcero Toiary
- Sarchi
- La Virgin del Socorro
- Juan Santamaria Museum

Orientation:

- Located in the Central American isthmus (the narrow strip of land connecting North and South America) at 9°55'N 84°4'W.
- The terrain is primarily coastal plain separated by the rugged Cordillera Central and Cordillera de Talamanca mountains.
- The capital of Costa Rica is San Jose.
- Alajuela is 11 miles northwest of San Jose, 61 miles southeast of Puntarenas, 87 miles west of Limon and 124 miles southeast of Liberia.

Costa Rican National Holidays:

- New Years (January 1st)
- Easter (April 10-13th)
- Juan Santa Maria's Day (April 11th)
- Labor Day (May 1st)
- Guanacaste Annexation (July 25th)
- Virgin of Los Angeles, Feast of Patroness of Costa Rica (August 2nd)
- Mother's Day & Assumption (August 15th)
- Independence Day (September 15th)
- Dia de la Raza/Columbus Day (October 11th)
- Christmas (December 25th)