

A vibrant, colorful illustration of a tropical festival. In the foreground, a large toucan with a green body and a red and yellow beak is perched on a branch. Below it, a yellow banner with black text reads "It's only natural". The background shows a grassy field where a group of people in white shirts and hats are gathered. Some are sitting on the grass, while others stand holding flags. In the foreground, there are baskets of tropical fruits, including coconuts, pineapples, and watermelon slices. The scene is framed by palm trees and other tropical foliage.

**It's only natural**

**Tourist Guide**

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## **I Welcome**

Welcome to Costa Rica!

This small country has much to offer—you. Costa Rica offers you its peaceful climate and tranquility, basic element for the costarrican life.

This peaceful air is breathed in the calm and transparent air: from the flowers that shine all year around as an everlasting spring.

The traditional costarrican hospitality makes you feel like in a different world, full of multiples attractions.

Costarricans are friendly, always ready to please the visitors, and happy of being able to show the natural beauties of their land that enjoys an incredible democracy.

In the Central Valley, you can find San José, the homy capital city sorrouded by mountains.

In the caribbean region, the vegetation is estrictly tropical, and the wild life is preserved likewise in very few spots of the world. In the Pacific region there are hundreds of beaches, framed in beautiful sceneries. We invite you to visit our country. Enjoy it.

## **II General Information**

The geographical ublication of Costa Rica, in the southern most of Central America, gives you a privileged situation. It offers the traveler of any part of the continent easy access.

The two oceans. The Pacific and the Atlantic offer a great deal of beaches to the visitors of other places. Notwithstanding, this is a small country, its coasts are extended, especially on the pacific, its peninsulas, golfs, and bays, offer several characteristics on its beaches of natural beauty, and the possibility of practicing all kinds of seasports and fishing.

The heavy tropical vegetation, that almost invade the beaches or reach the sea in the slopes. It has a wide-spread fauna to go hunting or fishing.

In Costa Rica there is a great varity of flora and fauna therefore, it has had a great influence of the north and the south of the continent.

### **Extension**

Costa Rica has an estension of 51.900 km<sup>2</sup> and a population of 2.416809 habitants (July 1985).

### **Temperature and Climate**

Its average temperature is of 26°C and has a year arround spring climate, with an average temperature of 20°C on the medium and high lands, on the low lands, the temperature is arround 26°C. The rainy season is from May through November. During these months, the mornings are sunny and shinny most of the times. The dry season begins in December and ends in April and it's a little cooler arround Christmas time.

### **Rainfall**

The average rainfall is, in the province of San José from 1900 to 3050 mm; in Alajuela from 1770 to 4490 mm; in Cartago from 1316 to 2645 mm; in Heredia from 2200 to 2400 mm; in Guanacaste from 1736 to 2034 mm; in Puntarenas from 1500 to 2827 mm; and in Limón from 2700 to 4535 mm.

## **Political Division**

### **Government**

Costa Rica is famous for its democracy. Moreover, it's considered one of the most democratic countries of the world. This is originated on its traditional political stability, based on an open minded government of public opinion and of traditional civilism.

Costa Rica is a democratic Republic, free and independent. The government of the Republic is popular, representative, alternative, and responsible. Its performed by three different and independent powers: Legislative, Executive and Judicial. None of the powers can delegate the exercise of the functions that must perform.

### **The Executive Power**

It's exercised on the people's name, the President of the Republic, and the Ministers of Government as compelled cooperators. The presidential period is of four years, and the President must not be reelected.

### **The Legislative Power**

The power of legislate dwells in the people who delegate on it by the suffrage in the legislative Assembly. The Assembly is composed by 57 congressmen. The congressmen last four years in their charges and cannot by reelected continously.

### **The Judicial Power**

It's exercised by the Supreme Court of Justice, and the rest of the tribunals that the law may establish. It corresponds to the Judicial Power to know the civil causes, penals, commercials, labor, and adiministratives contentious, thus as others that the law may promulgate. The Supreme Court of Justice is formed by the magistrates and elected by legislative Assembly for an eight year period.

There is a Supreme Elections Tribunal with the range of independence from the powers of the State. It has under its charge exclusively and independently, the organization, direction and vigilance of acts concerning with the votes, thus as the rest of the functions that atributes the

constitution and laws. The constitution of Costa Rica proscribes the army as a permanent Institution; only by continental agreement or for the national defense military powers may be organized. There are police powers for the vigilance conservation of the public order, mostly formed by the Civil Guard and the Rural Assistance Guard, with a total of 5000 men .

### **Territorial Division**

Costa Rica's territory is divided in 7 provinces: San José, the modern capital city, it is found in a large valley of 1160 meters over the sea level surrounded by tall mountains up to 3432 meters. It has an everlasting spring climate. On the Central Valley we can find the provinces of Alajuela, Heredia, and Cartago. On the Atlantic side, South east of the country, the province of Limón is located. On the Pacific coast you can find the provinces of Guanacaste, and Puntarenas. The last one covers the northern and southern part of the Pacific.

### **Population**

Alajuela .....	427962
Cartago .....	271671
Guanacaste .....	195208
Heredia .....	197575
Limón .....	168076
Puntarenas .....	265883
San José .....	890434

### **Education**

Costa Rica has always been proud for its high grade of alphabetization. Perhaps, is the only nation that has more teachers than soldiers. Public elementary school is free and compulsory. High School are free. There are private schools as well as many centers of specialized education, vocational and technical. In Costa Rica, school begin in march and end in november. The mid-year vacation consist of two weeks during the month of July.

## Language

The official language is Spanish, however the English speaking people won't have any problems, for Costa Rica has a high percentage of the population that master the English.

## Religion

Catholic is the official religion, however there is a religion's free will.

## Currency:

The official costarrican currency is the colon. The official value is determined by the law.

The currency is divided in the following way:

Red bill	= ₡1000
Purple bill	= ₡ 500
Gray bill	= ₡ 100
Light green bill	= ₡ 50
Brown bill	= ₡ 20
Blue bill	= ₡ 10
Dark green bill	= ₡ 5

Coins of ₡20, ₡10, ₡5, ₡2, ₡1, ₡0.50, and ₡025.

Actually the foreign monetary exchange must be made only by the National Bank System where the transactions can be made by any amount or the cash registers of the hotels.

## III History

Costa Rica was discovered by Cristopher Columbus in 1502, during his fourth trip to America. The ships of Columbus anchored in front of Cariari Island, near of what is called today Port Limón in the Caribbean.

Thrilled by its heavy vegetation and by the gold jewels that indians wore, Columbus bautized that land by the name of Costa Rica. The conquest, and colonization of that country was relatively pacific.

The scarce population and the absence of mine riches, gave place to an economy based principally on the exchange of foods. But a better way of richness was already gesticulating. Since there was a little population and a few mineral richness, in comparison with other



latinamerican countries, the indian labors were not slaved, but an igual society was being made in which the land and the work was distributed the same among the families. Those are the basis of the costarrican traditional democracy that we find nowadays. The country obtained its independence from Spain on the 15 of September 1821.

In the twenty century, great investments in education, services and highways, and the abolition of the army in 1948, gave place to a society that today is reconized as a model of progress, democracy, and stability.

#### **IV Requirement and Rights to Enter**

Tourist card: It can be obtained at the costarrican consulate or at any of the main airlines that fly to the country by only showing the airline ticket. Must be accompanied by the passport to get in country.

The Tourist card has a cost of \$2 and you are allowed to stay in the country for thirty days, you can renewal the permit for three months, presenting yourself at migration's office en 21<sup>th</sup> Street, 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> avenues, with the departure ticket, two spap shots and the passport. These documents must be carried all the time by the tourist while staying in the country, so that he would show them to the athorities, when these ones ask him so.

#### **Tourists Visa**

The citezens of the countries in the following list, do not require a visa to enter Costa Rica, but must present the passport as a migratory identification, the exit ticket form Costa Rica and prove that they own a minimun of \$150 U. S. Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Luxembourg, Liechtenstein, Norway, West Germany, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, North Ireland, South Corea, Japan, Israel, Finland, Holland, France, Canada, United States, Yugoslavia, Portugal, Italy, Spain, Colombia, Panama, Brazil, Bolivia, and Bahamas.

The following luggage will be consider duty free; therefore no problem at the custom house.

- a) Used clothes

- b) Personal items such as Jewels, purses, umbrellas, etc. all used and in proportions quantities to the personal conditions of the traveler.
- c) Medicine, food for children or ill persons, medical items, cosmetics, in appropriate amounts to the circumstances and needs of the traveler. The articles must be portable, and with prooves of being used.
- ch) Used sport articles: The stroller, and toys of the children who travel, the wheel chair, if the traveler is cripple.
- d) A photograph camara and movie camara both portables and its accesories, all used, up to six rolls for each one and a far view lens.
- e) A typewriter, a sound tape recorder, a receptor radio and tools or instruments related with the art, profession or occupation of the traveler as long as they are portables and used. The stated does not include complete equipment for shops, offices, laboratories, etc.
- f) A musical instrument and its used accesories.
- g) Books and manuscripts and commercial photos, photoengraving.
- h) Five hundred grams of elaborated tobacco and three liters of wine or alcoholic beverages, that, if the traveler is an adult, and two kilograms of sweets.
- i) The national or nationalized products that for having being identified in his departure are the same that the traveler returns.
- j) Hunting weapons and up two hundred loaded cartridges, even a revolver or a pistol, a camping tent, and the necessary equipment for camping as far as he can proof it in a faithful way thats the traveler is a tourist.

The entrance of weapons and ammunitions will be subjected to the country's regulations.

### **Requirements to Introduce Pets**

The persons that desire to bring their cats and dogs to Costa Rica must first write a note to the Zoonosis Department's Chief and ask for the "exportation permit".

A registered veterinarian, must witness that the cat or dog has none internal or external parasites. Such certified document has to be confirmed by the Costa Rican consul. The pets must be updated in what rabies, hepatitis, distemper and leptospirosis vaccination is concern, all the stated properly certified.

The rabies vaccination musn't have less than 30 days or more than three years of being put.

If the animal arrives to Costa Rica without the last documents, this could be submitted to quarantine denying its entry or else, it could also be sacrificed. A period of condensation of one month is allowed in case that the days of entry and exit contained in the exportation permit may be different for the same reason.

Further information about requirements for other animals are available at the Zoonosis Department of the Agriculture Ministry (38-23-71) or at the Health Ministry. The mailing address of the Health Ministry is: Departamento de Zoonosis. P.O. Box. 10123, San José, Phone 23-03-33, Ext. 331.

## **V Internacional Air Transportation**

You can easily get to Costa Rica, many internacional airlines arrive to Costa Rica in direct flights or through connections with all over the world. The airlines that operate derectly are:

### **1. Lacsá**

Costarrican Airlines  
Address: 1 St; Ave 5  
Phone: 31-05-01

### **2. Mexicana de Aviación**

Address: Edificio Metropolitano.  
1 St, 2 Ave.  
Phone: 22-17-11

### **3. Sahsa**

Honduras Air Service  
Address: 1 ST; 3 and 5 ave.  
Phone 21-57-74

- 4. Sam**  
Medellin's Air Service  
Address: 1 St, 3 and 5 Ave.  
Phone 22-97-94
- 5. Taca**  
Address: 1 St; 3 Ave.  
Phone: 22-17-90
- 6. Copa**  
Address: 1 St; 5 Ave.  
Phone: 21-55-96
- 7. Aeronica**  
Address: 1 and 3 St; 2 Ave.  
Phone: 33-24-83
- 8. K.L.M.**  
Address: 1 St; 5 and 7 Ave.  
Phone: 21-30-87
- 9. Varig**  
Address: 1 St; 5 and 7 Ave.  
Phone: 21-30-87
- 10. IBERIA**  
Address: Edificio Metropolitano, 1 floor  
Phone: 21-64-76
- 11. Argentines Air Lines**  
Address: 1 St; 3 and 5 Ave.  
Phone: 21-64-76
- 12. Air France**  
Address: 4 and 6 St; 1 Ave.  
Phone: 22-68-50
- 13. Alitalia**  
Address: 1 St; Central 1 and 2 Ave.  
Phone: 22-61-38

**14. Avianca**

Address: 1 and 3 St; 5 Ave.  
Phone: 23-23-21

**15. Air Panamá**

Address: 1 St; 5 Ave.  
Phone: 21-55-96

**16. British Airways**

Address: 1 St; 5 Ave.  
Phone: 23-56-48

**17. Iceland Air**

Address: 1 St; 3 and 5 Ave.  
Phone: 21-64-76

**18. Japan Airlines**

Address: 1 St; 3 and 5 Ave.  
Phone: 22-52-17

**19. Lan Chile**

Address: 1 St; 5 and 7 Ave.  
Phone: 22-77-24

**20. Swiss Air**

Address: Central St; 1 and 3 Ave.  
Phone: 21-66-13

**21. T W A**

Address: 1 and 3 St; 1 Ave.  
Phone: 22-47-37

**22. Lufthansa**

Address: 5 St; 3 and 5 Ave.  
Phone: 21-74-44

### **23. PAN AM**

Address: 3 and 5 St; 3 Ave.  
Phone: 21-89-55

### **24. Varig**

Address: 2 St; Central Ave and 1  
Phone: 22-13-32

### **25. Viasa**

Address: 1 St; 5 Ave.  
Phone: 31-05-01

## **Land Transportation**

### **Tica Bus (Panamá)**

Address: 9 and 1 St; 4 Ave.  
Phone: 21-89-54

### **Tracopa (Panamá)**

Address: 2 and 4 St; 18 Ave.  
Phone: 21-42-14

## **Ports and Terminals:**

### **Airports**

International Airport Juan Santamaría

Administration: Phones: 41-47-37. Information office:  
41-07-44

International Airport Tobías Bolaños

Phone: 32-28-20

Limón Airport

Control Tower: Phone 58-17-79

LLano Grande Airport Liberia

Administration: Phone: 66-06-95

### **Borders:**

Paso Canoas (South border with Panamá)

Phone: 78-21-01

Peñas Blancas (North border with Nicaragua)

Phone: 69-04-44

## **Sea Ports:**

Puntarenas (Pacific)

Caldera

Phone: 63-41-37

Limón (Atlantic)

Moín, Port Operation

Phone: 58-11-13

## **VI Local Transportation**

### **Air Transportation**

SANSA: National Air Services, offers flights to the most important spots out of San José. Its offices are located on 24 St; 1 Ave, Paseo Colón.

Phones: 21-94-14, 33-03-97, and 33-32-58. It flies to Río Frío, Golfito, Coto 47, Limón, Quepos, Tamarindo, and Liberia.

They departure to these places under a specific schedule, from Juan Santamaría Airport.

### **Air Taxis:**

Aero Taxi V.E.A.S.A.

Tobías Bolaños Airport

Phone: 32-10-10

Aero Transportes Batalla

Pavas, Tobías Bolaños

Phone: 32-06-60

Aviones Taxi Aereo S.A.

Juan Santamaría

Phone: 41-14-44

SAETA

Servicios Aéreos Tomás Acevedo

Tobías Bolaños

Phone: 32-14-74

### **Buses:**

The bus stations are located in the following places:  
Buses that travel to the Northeast, province Heredia 5 Ave; 1 St.

Buses that go to the Northeast, provinces of Alajuela and Puntarenas (12 St; 9 Ave) and Guanacaste. The Coca Cola Bus Terminal and its surroundings between 14 and 18 St, 1 and 5 Ave.

Buses that go Southward: Southern part of the province of Puntarenas, Tracopa bus Terminal 2 St; 18 Ave.

Buses which head East: Turrialba, Cartago 13 St; Central St and 2.

Buses to Limón: 19 and 21 St, 3 Ave.

## **Rent A Car.**

The tourist has the possibility of knowing Costa Rica by car since he can count with paved roads, that will take him to the different spots of interest. He may rent a car at any of this places:

<b>Company</b>		<b>Telephone</b>
Ada Rent a Car	4 St; 4 and 6 Ave.	33-77-33
Avis Rent a Car	Sabana Norte	32-99-22
Budget Rent a Car	30 St; Paseo Colón	23-32-84
Dollar Rent a Car	Central St; 7 and 9 Ave.	33-33-39
Econo Rent a Car	3 St; 1 and 1 Ave.	22-84-28
El Indio Rent a Car	40 and 42 St; Paseo Colón	33-21-57
Global Rent a Car	15 St; 7 and 9 Ave.	23-40-56
Greyhound Rent a Car	38 St, Paseo Colón	21-45-90
Hertz Rent a Car	38 St; Paseo Colón	23-59-59
National Car Rent	38 St; Paseo Colón	33-44-06
Odin Rent a Car	38 St; Central Ave And 1	23-58-06
Pan American Rent a Car	38 St; Central Ave and 1	21-18-18
Poas rent a Car	26 and 28 St; Paseo Colón	23-42-49
Rent a Car Elegant S.A.	10 St; 13 and 15 Ave	21-02-84
Rent a Car S.A.	Central Ave; 7 and 9 St;	21-71-16
Tico Rent a Car S.A.	10 St; 13 and 15 Ave	22-89-20
Tipicos Rent a Car S.A.	4 St; Central Ave 1 and 2	22-02-38

## **Taxis**

There are more than one thousand taxis functioning in the city of San Jose and they take you to any part of the country. All of them are painted red, in order to make it easy to recognize. Moreover, they have the radio system. The fare works very accordingly to the length of the distances.



## Enterprise

## Phones

Coopetico	(San Jose)	21-25-52
Coopeirazú	(San José)	27-12-11
Taxis San Jorge	(San José)	21-34-34
Taxis Alfaro	(San José)	21-84-66
Coopetaxi	(San Jose)	35-99-66
Taxi Cootaxa	(Alajuela)	41-30-30
Garaje los Angeles	(Limón)	58-00-49
Central de Taxis	(Puntarenas)	61-09-61
Taxis el Herediano	(Heredia)	37-05-64
Taxis Liberia	(Liberia)	66-00-73
Taxis Nicoya	(Nicoya)	68-62-57
Taxis Servicios Unidos		
At the Juan Santamaría Airport	Alajuela	21-68-65
Taxi Cartago	(Cartago)	51-48-48

## Taxis Aeropuerto

Juan Santamaría Airport has a good taxi system and they travel fast to any part of the country.

They are characterized for its orange color.

## Trains

FECOSA, costarrican railroads.

A train from San José to Puntarenas (Pacific) 2 St; 20 Ave, Phone 26-00-11.

It has different schedules during the day.

The train from San José to Limón (Atlantic) 17 St; 3 Ave. Phone: 23-33-11.

## Ferries

Sea Ferry "Salinero": Puntarenas – Playa Naranjo. Phone 61-10-69.

Ferry "Tempisque" Guanacaste. Phone: 62-01-47

You can take Ferry Salinero in Puntarenas. It crosses the Nicoyan Gulf, leaving the tourist in Playa Naranjo from where you can start on visiting several Nicoyan beaches.

On the "Tempisque" you can cross the river of the same name located in Guanacaste.

## **VII Tours**

Make your dreams come true in Costa Rica. Stand on the top of an active volcano and gaze down into the steaming cauldron. Ride a narrowgauge train through the mountains. Immerse yourself in a classic jungle, and watch acrobatic monkeys and brilliantly-colored macaws, or lie on a white sand beach lined with coconut palms and absorb the sun's radiance.

In Costa Rica it's all possible. Explore on your own and experience your fantasies or take advantage of the variety of tours offered by Travel Agencies in Costa Rica.

### **Tour of San José**

Tour the elegant National Theater constructed during the last century and know master work in the Renaissance style. The Metropolitan Cathedral. The Supreme Court of Justice. The University of Costa Rica. And the National Museum, famous for its large collection of precolombian art.

### **Tour to the Orosi Valley and Ujarrás Ruins**

Travel to the Shangri-la of Costa Rica, the lush tropical Orosi Valley.

The tour includes visits to the Reventazón river, the Ruins of Ujarrás, the Orosi Church, the Cachí Dam and the "Pañadero Charrara".

### **Tour to Lankester Gardens**

For orchid lovers, Lankester Gardens is without doubt a true paradise that maintains a permanent exhibit of 1500 orchids.

### **Tour to Sarchí**

After passing the colonial city of Heredia, small villages, and sugar, pineapple and coffee plantations, you'll arrive at Sarchí. Here you'll visit a factory where traditionally painted ox-carts are made.

### **Tour to Puntarenas**

The port of Puntarenas lies on a 5 kilometer strip of land thrusting out into the Nicoya Gulf.

Here you'll eat exquisite seafood at the seaside.

### **Tour to Guayabo National Monument**

Archeological buffs will enjoy the tour to Guayabo in Turrialba, one of Costa Rica's most important archeological cities.

Here you'll find clues to a precolumbian civilization such as monticules petroglyphs, aqueducts and roads.

### **Tour to Barva Volcano**

This trip to the lake of the dormant crater of Barva Volcano offers you the opportunity to hike in fresh, cool mountain air and immerse yourself in the cloud forest.

### **Tour to Monteverde**

Monteverde, high in the mountains of Puntarenas, perhaps protects the world's largest density of resplendent quetzals, said to be the most beautiful bird in the Americas. In Monteverde's lush cloud forest, every tree is a garden saturated with orchids and bromeliads.

### **Tour Through the Canals of Tortuguero**

Take this tour into the heart of the jungle. As you cruise through the system of rivers and man-made canals you'll be entertained by acrobatic monkeys, lazy solths and colorful toucans.

### **Tour On the Jungle Train**

Once considered impossible to construct this narrow gauge railroad to the Atlantic Port of Limón, is now world famous for its amazing historic and scenic trip along the Reventazón River through small, isolated towns, and coffee, banana and coconut plantations.

Passengers will return to San José from Port Limón by plane.

## **Whitewater Rafting On The Reventazón River**

The Reventazón River (the name means bursting) has some thrilling rapids that will no doubt provide you an exciting day as you paddle your way down the river in a rubber raft.

## **"Pacific Island Cruise"**

Consistently voted the No. 1 tour in Costa Rica. Board the 50 ft motor launch "Calypso"; custom built to carry passengers in comfort and safety.

Gliding through the calm waters of the Gulf of Nicoya, discover the many uninhabited islands teeming with exotic birds. Have a cocktail at the bar, then sit down to a sumptuous lunch complimented by lush tropical fruits.

There is time for swimming and shell collecting while we anchor off one of the islands. Try your luck fishing as we make our way back to port.

## **Tour to the Chirripó National Park**

For the hardy and adventurous, here's your opportunity to hike through a virgin cloud forest, and scale southern Central America's highest peak at 3819 meters.

## **Tour to Corcovado National Park**

Few places are better suited for naturalists than Corcovado. You'll immerse yourself in a classic jungle with screaming monkeys, brilliant scarlet macaws and enormous trees covered with epiphytes and dangling vines.

## **Tour to Rincon de la Vieja National Park**

Visitors to this park, the site of the active Rincon de la Vieja Volcano, will be fascinated by the area called "Las Pailas". It's a fifty-hectare site of thermal activities such as steaming hot pools, bubbling mudpots, and noisy geysers.

## **Tour to Santa Rosa National Park**

Santa Rosa protects one of the few remaining dry forests in Central America. The fauna is abundant and it is easy

to see peccaries, anteaters, mokeys, deer, and many species of birds.

### **Tour to Beaches**

With coastlines on both oceans, Costa Rica can boast of a diversity of beaches. Take your pick of white sand or black san, big waves or little waves, an isolated beach or a developed beach, Costa Rica has a beach for everyone's taste.

### **Visit to Heredia**

Going out of San José, by the highway of Villa Colón passing the sun valley through Santa Ana. Visiting Ojo de Agua the only natural water spring in Costa Rica. From there will continued by the old Panamericanan highway to San Joaquín de Flores to the City of Heredia where you will admire the colonial cathedral.

### **Ojo de Agua Tourist Resort**

The most famous of Central American with an amazing water spring which gives 6000 gallons-per minute. It has several swimming pools, a lake with oar boats and all kinds of sport courts. Also a bar-restaurant.

### **The Snake Zoo, Leather Factory, and University of Costa Rica**

After visiting the city of San Isidro de Coronado, where you'll appreciate its oustanding church and art of work that any American town would be proud of. You will also visit the snake zoo of the University of Costa Rica. There you'll observe the snake's poison extraction that will be turned into antiophidic whey. On the way back you can visit leather factories, the University of Costa Rica and El Pueblo Shopping Center.

### **Irazú Volcano and Cartago**

In a wonderful run, passing through residencial zones and coffee farms, we will arrive to the city of Cartago, the old capital city until 1823.

Here you'll visit the ruins of the old cathedral, and Nuestra Señora de los Angeles church, Virgin of Costa Rica. From here on, we'll start going up on our way to the volcano, which maximum altitude is of 11,135 feet high between varied vegetation, and milk cow's farms.

### **Poás Volcano and National Park**

After traveling through the fabulous milk cow and coffee farms scenes we will arrive to Poás Volcano crater, considered one of the largest active ones at 9000 feet high over the sea level and generally in action, now turned into a beautiful National Park. 700 meters away there is a clear water lagoon, which used to be an active crater many years ago.

Orosi Valley and Ujarrás: This valley, irrigated by Reventazón river source of electric production. It was discovered by the Spaniards 400 years ago, who built a Mission, the oldest in Costa Rica. You may also find several observatories, from where you'll appreciate the costarrican national beauties.

### **VIII Travel Agencies List**

Agencia de Viajes Alajuela S.A.  
Half block north from the Cathedral's dome  
Phones: 42-14-14 and 42-15-15

Agencia de Viajes Alfavia, Ltda  
11 St, 6 Ave.  
P.O. Box 1284-1000 San José  
Phone: 21-62-22

Agencia de Viajes ATA, Ltda  
1 St, 5-7 Ave, No. 18  
P.O. Box 273-1000 San José  
Phones: 21-71-47 and 21-70-85

Agencia de Viajes Atlántico  
Edificio 2.000 San José  
P.O. Box 1.078 C. C.  
Phone: 32-27-32

Agencia de Viajes Atlántico  
Sub-Agency – Limón  
1 and 2 St, 2 Ave-Limón  
Phone: 58-09-10

Aviatica, Ltda.  
1 St, 1 Ave.  
P.O. Box 4.538-1000 San José  
Phones: 22-59-30 and 22-56-30

Blanco Travel Service, S.A.  
Central Ave, 7 and 9 St.  
P.O. Box 4.559-1000 San José  
Phones: 22-17-92 and 21-71-16

Caravana International, S.A.  
From Escazú church 2 bloks East,  
across from Depósito Maderas Oriente  
P.O. Box 845-1000 San José  
Phone: 28-10-34

Caribbean Tours, S.A.  
Across from Centro Comercial El Pueblo  
Urbanización Tournón  
P.O. Box 5.171-1000 San José  
Phones: 23-21-25 and 21-57-54

Agencia de Viajes CATA, Ltda.  
Central St, 3 Ave.  
P.O. Box 10.173-1000 San José  
Phone: 21-54-55

Central American Tours, CAT  
5 St, 1 and 3 Ave  
P.O. Box 531-1000 San José  
Phone: 23-08-50

Agencia de Viajes Colón, S.A.  
38 and 40 St, Centro Colón  
P.O. Box 986-1007 C. C.  
Phone: 21-27-66

Agencia de Viajes Colosal, S. A.  
38 and 5 St, 7 Ave.  
P.O. Box 1743-1000 San José  
Phones: 21-24-22 and 33-36-33

Agencia de Viajes Conexpress, S.A.  
Central St, and 1, 7 Ave.  
P.O. Box 4.775-1000 San José  
Phone: 21-01-55

Agencia de Viajes Continental, S.A.  
3 St, 1 and 3 Ave.  
P.O. Box 8-6720-1000 San José  
Phones: 23-10-10 and 23-20-20

Coopetur, S. A.  
Central St, 1-3 Ave.  
P.O. Box 1767-1000 San José  
Phone: 33-13-18

Cosmos Tours, S.A.  
1 and 3 St, 9 Ave, No. 125  
P.O. Box 298-1000 San José  
Phone: 33-34-66

Costamundo, S.A.  
3 Ave, 3 and 5 St.  
P.O. Box 136-1000 San José  
Phone: 22-03-92

Costa Rica Express, Ltda.  
1 St, 9 Ave.  
P.O. Box 819-1000 San José  
Phone: 22-81-33

Costa Rica Tours, S.A.  
1 St, 5 Ave.  
Numar Building  
P.O. Box 6.490-1000 San José  
Phone: 22-11-66

Costa Rica Travel Advisors, S.A.  
9 St, 1 Ave.  
P.O. Box 999-1000 San José  
Phones: 23-43-31 and 21-20-39

Co-Viajes, S.A.  
2 Ave, 7 and 9 St, Cartago  
P.O. Box 705-7050 Cartago  
Phone: 51-82-03



Agencia de Viajes Chase, S.A.  
7 St, 1 and 3 Ave.  
P.O. Box 6.528-1000 San José  
Phones: 21-66-81 and 23-09-28

Agencia de Viajes EVISA, S.A.  
Central and 1 St, 7 Ave.  
P.O. Box 4.750-1000 San José  
Phone: 23-13-44

Excursiones Aéreas Internacionales  
Cristal Building, 1 Ave, 1 and 3 St.  
P.O. Box 7.347-1000 San José  
Phone: 23-01-55

Excursiones Aguila Dorada S.A.  
Central Avenue, 19 and 21 St.  
P.O. Box 2.657-1000 San José  
Phones: 23-23-97, 22-98-41, 23-28-02

Agencia de Viajes Exintur  
1 St, 7 Ave.  
P.O. Box 8-5940-1000 San José  
Phones: 23-71-75 and 23-72-00

Fast Travel Service, S.A.  
3 St, 5 and 7 Ave.  
P.O. Box 3.844-1000 San José  
Phone: 22-26-22

Fiesta Tours, S.A.  
1 Ave, 5 and 7 St.  
P.O. Box 8-4320-1000 San José  
Phone: 23-34-33

Geotur, S.A.  
Centro Comercial del Sur, 3 floor  
P.O. Box: 469-1.011 San José  
Phones: 26-43-09 and 26-15-03

Henchoz Turismo, S.A.  
3 Ave, 3 St, Ferencz Building  
P.O. Box 2830-1000 San José  
Phone: 33-96-58

Horizontes de Costa Rica, S.A.  
Cristal Building, 1 Ave, 1 and 3 St, 2 floor  
P.O. Box 4025-1000 San José  
Phone: 23-38-53 and 23-32-05

Agencia de Viajes Internacionales, S.A.  
2 St, Central Ave and 1.  
P.O. Box: 474-1000 San José  
Phone: 21-41-11 and 21-25-50

Interviajes, S.A.  
From El Carmen church 125 mts north, Heredia  
P.O. Box 296-3000 Heredia  
Phone: 38-12-12

Jorge León Castro e Hijos  
21 St, 1 Ave.  
P.O. Box: 1630-1000 San José  
Phones: 25-21-80 and 25-72-73

Agencia de Viajes Las Olas, S.A.  
Hotel Jaco Beach  
P.O. Box 962-1000 San José  
Phone: 61-12-50

Agencia de Viajes Lara, S.A. AVIL  
11 St, Central Ave and 1  
P.O. Box 1644-1000 San José  
Phone: 23-22-22

Mercurrio, Convenciones y Servicios de Turismo S.A.  
Cristal Building, 1 Ave, 1 and 3 St.  
P.O. Box 6490-1000 San José  
Phones: 33-55-01 and 33-55-03

Agencia de Viajes MIKI, S.A.  
22-24 St, 2 AVE.  
P.O. Box 328-1007, C. C.  
Phones: 33-06-13, 21-36-81, and 22-26-66

Mundirama  
1 block South from the Mercedes Benz  
Central Ave, 24 St.  
P.O. Box 65-2050 San Pedro  
Phone: 33-73-73

Organización Turística Estudiantil  
Costarricense OTEC  
3 Ave, 3 and 5 St.  
P.O. Box 323-1002 Paseo de los Estudiantes  
Phones: 33-27-78 and 22-08-66

Orientur, S.A.  
1 block south from Banco Popular – San Pedro  
P.O. Box 232 San Pedro  
Phone: 24-89-88

Agencia de Viajes OVNI, S.A.  
1 St, 7 and 9 Ave.  
P.O. Box 8196-1000 San José  
Phones: 23-65-32 and 23-66-12

Agencia de Viajes Panamericana, Ltda.  
5 and 7 St, 1 Ave.  
P.O. Box 4016-1000 San José  
Phone: 23-45-67

Panorana, Tours, S.A.  
9 St, Central Ave and 1  
P.O. Box 7323-1000 San José  
Phones: 33-02-33 and 33-30-58  
Of. Hotel Costa Rica

Agencia de Viajes Proturis, S.R.L.  
23 St, 9 and 11 Ave.  
P.O. Box 5631-1000 San José  
Phones: 22-91-09 and 22-72-30

Agencia de Viajes Remtur, S.A.  
1 St, Central and 1 Ave.  
"Alde" Building  
P.O. Box 1122-1000 San José  
Phones: 22-78-61 and 23-00-29

Agencia de Viajes Rodan, S.A.  
1 St, 1 and 3 Ave.  
P.O. Box 6424-1000 San José  
Phones: 22-71-92 and 22-90-70

Agencia de Viajes Saint Tropez, S.A.  
3 and 5 St, 3 Ave.  
P.O. Box 6234-1000 San José  
Phones: 25-03-74 and 23-19-61

Sertur, S.A.  
Paseo Colón, Next Cine Universal  
Minicentro Universal  
Zero Ave, Shop 12-B  
P.O. Box 2423-1000 San José  
Phone: 22-06-73

Agencia Super Viajes, Ltda.  
1 St, Central Ave.  
P.O. Box 3.985-1000 San José  
Phones: 21-62-30 and 23-54-92

Swiss TRAVEL Service, S.A.  
West Sabana, next to Rancho Luna  
P.O. Box 7-1970-1000 San José  
Phones: 32-67-42, 33-05-07, 32-53-62 and 31-30-30

Agencia de Viajes TAM, Ltda.  
1 St, Central and 1 Ave.  
P.O. Box 1.864-1000 San José  
Phone: 23-51-11

Tikal Express, Ltda.  
7 and 9 St, 2 Ave.  
P.O. Box: 6.398-1000 San José  
Phones: 22-68-22 and 23-28-11

Transcomex de Costa Rica, S.A.  
2 Ave, 21 and 25 St.  
P.O. Box 8.508-1000 San José  
Phones: 21-99-28, 33-68-58 and 33-48-97

Transviajes, S.A.  
7 Ave, 1 and 3 St.  
P.O. Box 4.698-1000 San José  
Phone: 33-77-55

Travelburó, S.A.  
Cristal Building, 1 Ave, 1 and 3 St.  
P.O. Box 8-4639-1000 San José  
Phones: 21-60-61 and 23-16-57

Tropical, S.A.  
Across the north – side of La Soledad church  
P.O. Box 6556-1000 San José  
Phone: 33-76-44

Agencia de Viajes Tucán. Ltda.  
On top of Spoon Soda, San Pedro  
P.O. Box 864-1000 San José  
Phone: 34-09-34

Agencia de Viajes Turicentro, S.A.  
Across from Automercado Los Yoses S.A.  
P.O. Box: 3.251-1000 San José  
Phones: 25-88-23 and 24-55-55

Agencia de Viajes Turinsa, S.A.  
3 and 5 St, 3 Ave.  
P.O. Box 5.786-1000 San José  
Phones: 21-91-85 and 22-81-59

Turinter, S.A.  
Barrio Escalante 13 Ave, 37 St.  
P.O. Box 7669-1000 San José  
Phone: 24-17-26

T.T. Turismo Tricolor, S.A.  
21 St, Central Ave, and 2  
Barrio La California  
P.O. Box 4565-1000 San José  
Phones: 21-33-33 and 22-33-33

Agencia de Viajes Turisol, S.A.  
11 St, 13 Ave, 1 Puntarenas  
P.O. box 1115400 Puntarenas  
Phones: 61-12-12

Agencia de Viajes Turistas, S.A.  
Paseo Colón, from Pizza Hut 25 mts north  
P.O. Box 115-1007 C. C.  
Phones: 22-76-18 and 22-67-62

Agencia de Viajes Universal, S.A.  
5 St, Central and 1 Ave.  
P.O. Box 4.276-1000 San José  
Phone: 21-02-55

Vacaciones en Costa Rica, S.A.  
7 Ave, Central and 1 St.  
P.O. Box 4774-1000 San José  
Phone: 33-21-93

Viajes Alrededor del Mundo, S.A.  
7 St, 7 and 9 Ave. No. 736  
P.O. Box 2307-1000 San José  
Phone: 23-60-11

Agencia de Viajes Viatur, S.A.  
Centro Comercial del Oeste, Pavas  
P.O. Box 394-1000 San José  
Phone: 32-49-49

Viajes Receptivos, S.A. VIRSA  
1 Ave, 1 and 3 St.  
P.O. box 892-1000 San José  
Phone: 33-33-66

### **Tourism Operators**

Costa Rica Expediciones, Aventuras y Recreación.  
S.A. CREAM  
Central St, 3 Ave.  
P.O. Box 6.941-1000 San José  
Phone: 22-03-33

Desarrollos Turísticos del Jorco, S.A.  
9 St, 6 and 8 Ave.  
P.O. Box 439-1002 San José  
Phone: 33-36-36

Excursiones de Aventura en Costa Rica  
Corobicí Hotel  
P.O. Box 5.094-1000 San José  
Phones: 32-86-10 and 32-48-63

Excursiones Típicas de Costa a Costa, S.A.  
Next to Cine Universal, behind mini Universal  
P.O. Box 1034 Centro Colón  
Phone: 23-46-93

H y L, Ltda.  
El Pueblo Shopping Center, Local No. 95  
P.O. Box 84-1000 San José  
Phone: 23-93-49

Viajes Melia de Costa Rica, S.A.  
3 St, Central and 1 Ave, Cronos Building, 4 floor  
P.O. box 4.030-1000 San José  
Phones: 22-64-03 and 21-02-39

Mundial de Turismo, S.A. Munditur  
1 St, Central and 1 Ave, Alde Building, 3 floor  
P.O. Box 883-1000 San José  
Phones: 22-19-32 and 33-26-45

Representaciones Turísticas Mundiales  
Alde Building, 1 St, between Central and 1 Ave.  
P.O. Box 6526-1000 San José  
Phone: 21-73-66

Servisa Internacional  
1 Ave, 5 and 7 St, Amalia Building, 3 floor  
P.O. Box 37-1002 Paseo de los Estudiantes  
Phones: 22-24-10 and 22-46-67

Turvisa Centroamericana, S.A.  
6 Ave, 3-32 St.  
P.O. Box 2097-1000 San José  
Phone: 22-22-13

Viajes Ultramérica, S.A.  
5 Ave, 1 St, and Central,  
Lachner Building, 3 floor, office 301  
Phones: 22-19-59 and 22-42-13

Viajes Ecuador, S.A.  
2 Ave, 1 St.  
Las Arcadas Shopping Center  
P.O. Box 702-1000 San José  
Phones: 22-09-42 and 22-09-63

MUTRA, S.A.  
1 and 3 St, 1 Ave, Heredia  
P.O. Box 318-3000 Heredia  
Phone: 37-30-66

Receptur, S.A.  
Across from Cine Universal, Paseo Colón  
P.O. Box 1172-1007 Centro Colón  
Phones: 33-56-28 and 33-61-46

TICO-TOURS  
34-36 St, Centro Comercial 34-36  
P.O. Box 1172-1007 Centro Colón  
Phones: 33-61-46 and 33-56-28

Transportes Herradura  
Herradura Hotel  
P.O. Box 7-1880  
Phone: 39-00-33

Tursa, S.A.  
Central and 1 Ave, 1 St, Alde Building  
P.O. Box 322-1005 Barrio Mexico  
Phone: 33-61-94

### **Whole Sale-Travel-Agencies**

Atturs, S.A.  
El Pueblo Shopping Center  
P.O. Box 83-1009  
Phone: 21-76-41

CANARICA  
5 Ave, Central And 1 St.  
3 floor Lachner Building  
P.O. Box 4.338-1000 San José  
Phone: 23-13-40

Vic-Vic, S.A.  
Cristal Building 4 floor  
P.O. Box 3290-1000 San José  
Phones: 21-58-36 and 21-58-84

### **IX Lodging**

In Costa Rica, there are all different kinds of lodges to please your desires according to your taste and budget. From resort hotels with swimming pools, golf areas, tennis courts and many others recreational conveniences, to small homy hotels, and boarding houses. Also Trailer Parks such as Belén Trailer Park in San Antonio de Belén, Heredia 39-04-21, Punta Leona Trailer Park, Hacienda La Pacífica Trailer Park in Cañas Phone 69-00-50. For additional information consult the Costa Rican Tourist Board's brochure about hotels, and lodging that enlist the authorized lodges.



## **Restaurants**

San José is a paradise for the gastronomers where you'll find national typical dishes, american fast foods, and a great variety of delicious, Italian, Chinese, French, and Spanish foods.

Outside of San José, innumerable small hotels, mountain lodges, and road restaurants offer opportunities to enjoy new and appetizing experiences. See additional information pamphlet about gastronomy by I.C.T.

## **Typical Foods**

The most typical dish for breakfast is the "Gallo Pinto" which consist of mixed rice and beans. Another dish is the "casado" which consists of rice and beans, with meat or egg and fried platano (a kind of banana eatable only cooked), also you'll find the "olla de carne" which has differents kinds of vegetables, and meat broth.

It's also a habit to eat fruits and fresh vegetables.

## **XI Night Life**

In San José you'll be able to enjoy excelente night life places where, in some occasion, national orchestras are shown. Moreover, most of them have the bar sevice. There are discoteques.

## **Discoteques**

### **Cocoloco Discoteque**

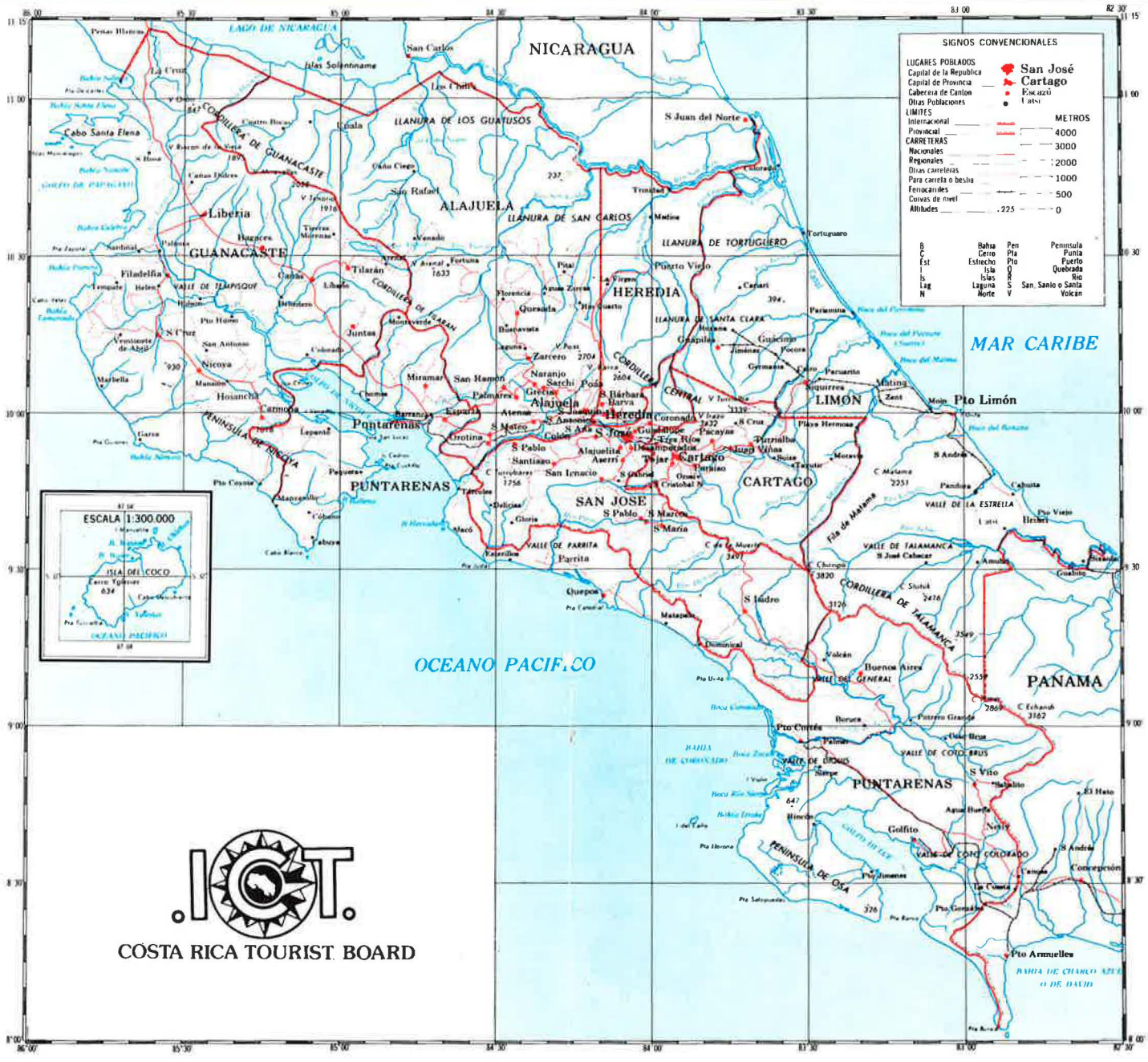
Is at Centro Comercial El Pueblo, Phone: 22-87-82. Open to the public from Monday through Saturday from 7 at night on.

### **Disco Salsa 54**

275 meters north from Teatro Nacional, Phone: 33-19-08

### **Infinito**

El Pueblo Shopping Certer, Phone: 23-21-95



**SIGNOS CONVENCIONALES**

LUGARES POBLADOS	●	San José
Capital de la República	●	Cartago
Capital de Provincia	●	Cartago
Cabeza de Cantón	●	Cartago
Otras Poblaciones	●	Cartago
Altos	●	Cartago
LIMITES	—	METROS
Internacional	—	4000
Provincial	—	3000
CARRETERAS	—	2000
Nacionales	—	1000
Regionales	—	500
Otras carreteras	—	0
Para carreta o bestia	—	
Ferrocarriles	—	
Ciudades de nivel	—	
Altitudes	—	

B	Bahía	Pen	Península
C	Centro	Pla	Punta
E	Estrecho	Pto	Puerto
I	Isla	Q	Quebrada
Is	Islas	R	Rio
L	Laguna	S	San, Santo o Santa
N	Norte	V	Volcan



**COSTA RICA TOURIST BOARD**

### **La Rueda**

At Kamakiri resort on Tibás road, Phones: 22-84-84 and 33-69-66.

### **El Túnel del tiempo**

In the heart of San José, Central Avenue, 5 and 7 St, Phone: 33-19-08.

### **Leonardo's**

Centro Colón, San José, Phone: 22-61-10.

### **Talamanca**

Central Ave, 11 St, Phone: 21-87-45.

### **Top I**

Kamakiri Resort: on the way to Tibás, Phones: 22-84-84 and 36-69-66.

### **Mediterráneo Club**

San Isidro de Coronado. Southern part of the park, Phone: 29-06-61.

### **Partenon**

Centro Comercial del Sur, Phone: 27-59-08

### **Miraflores**

In Heredia across the Central park, Phone: 37-18-80.

### **Le Baron's**

In the center of the province of Heredia, Phone: 35-54-28.

### **The Place**

Hotel Corobici at the beginning of General Cañas Highway, Phone: 32-81-22.

### **Viernes Irazú**

Activity performed every Friday, by Irazú Hotel for the ones who like good music and dancing. At Irazú Hotel, General Cañas Highway, Phone: 32-48-11.

## MOVIES

Sala Garbo	28 St, 2 Ave.	22-10-34
California	23 St, 1 Ave.	21-47-38
Capri	9-11 St, Ctl Ave.	23-02-64
Colón	38 St, 1-3 Ave, Paseo Colón	21-45-17
Magali	23 St, Ctl Ave.	23-00-85
Metropolitan	Ctl St, 6-8 Ave.	21-09-63
Palace	2 St, 2 Ave.	21-38-41
Rex	Ctl St, 4 Ave.	21-00-41
Variedades	5-11 St, Ctl Ave.	22-61-08
Universal	20-28 St, Paseo Colón	21-52-41
Real	11 St, 6-8 Ave.	23-59-72
Bellavista	Ctl, Ave, Cuesta de Moras	21-09-09
Cinema Omni	3 St, Central and 1 Ave.	21-79-03
Cinema Irazú 2000	9 St, 8-10 Ave	23-69-97
Central	2 St, 1-2 Ave.	22-36-41

## Theaters

There is a constant cultural activity in San José, you'll enjoy the theater plays, dances, and concerts; in the following theaters:

Teatro Nacional	3 St, 2 Ave.	21-53-41
Teatro Sala de la Calle 15	13-15 St, 2 Ave.	22-66-26
Teatro del Angel	11-15 St, Ctl, Ave.	22-82-58
Teatro Tiempo	13 St, Ctl, Ave.	23-84-89
Teatro Universitario, Facultad Bellas Artes	University of Costa Rica	22-55-55
Teatro de la Compañía	13 St, 2-4 Ave.	23-45-63
Teatro Carpa	9 St, 1-3 Ave.	23-17-71
Teatro Melico Salazar	Ctl St and 2; 2 Ave.	33-51-72

All the Theaters are closed on Monday.

## Dancing Saloons

They are characterized for its excellent bar and restaurant services. National orchestras of great importance play during the night. Among the dancing saloons you may find: the Typical Mexican Restaurant "**El Nopal**" at only five minutes from San José in Desamparados. Phone: 24-45-54.

Tourist Center **"SUS"**. Across the soccer field in Sabanilla Montes de Oca at only 5 kms from the capital city. Phone: 25-52-74.

### **La Galera**

On the way to Tres Ríos in Curridabat. Phone: 25-08-44.

### **Los Jocotes**

In Heredia, San Joaquín de Flores. Phone: 26-28-48.

### **Gran Parqueo**

San Rafael de Desamparados. Phone: 26-28-45.

### **Night Centers**

You'll eat typical foods, and bocas which are a tupe of sancks with typical style. Some of those are: **México Bar**, on 16 St, 13 Ave, across Barrio Mexico's soccer field.

### **Rancho El Guanacaste**

On the maine High Way to Alajuelita

### **Restaurante Cuartel de la Boca del Monte**

25 west from Magaly's Movies in San José.  
Phone: 21-32-27.

### **Los Lechones**

On 11-13 At, 6 Ave. Phone: 23-29-57.

### **CASINOS**

Only a few games are authorized to be played in Costa Rica. You'll find them in the following list:

#### **Balmoral Hotel**

7-9 St, Ctl, Ave. Phone: 22-50-22.

**Casa Blanca** 7/9 St, 3 Ave.

### **Irazú Hotel**

La Uruca, Interamericana Highway. Phone: 32-48-11.

### **Cariari Hotel**

San Antonio de Belén, Interamericana Highway. Phone: 39-00-22.

### **Corobicí Hotel, La Sabana, General Cañas Wighway. Phone: 32-81-22**

### **Herradura Hotel**

San Antonio de Belén, Interamericanan Highway.

## **CULTURAL ACTIVITIES**

### **Museums**

National Museum. 17 St, 1-2 Ave, Phone: 21-02-95

Jade Museum. Instituto Nacional de Seguros, 9 St, 7 Ave, Phone: 33-45-70.

Costarrican Art Museum. Parque Metropolitano. La Sabana. Phone: 22-72-47.

Gold Museum. Plaza de la Cultura.

Minusmatic at Central Bank.

Entomology Museum Faculty. University of Costa Rica. Phone: 25-55-55.

Science Museum, Ministry of Agriculture an Cattle. Phone: 32-13-06.

**Note:** For major referencies of other museums consult the I.C.T. guide.

## **GALLERIES**

### **Sala Jorge Debravo**

11 and 15 St, Ctl, Ave. Phone: 33-45-35.

### **Sala Julian Marchena**

National Library. Phone: 33-49-19.

## **Escuela de Bellas Artes**

University of Costa Rica. Phone: 22-55-55.

## **Galería de Arte Forma y Color**

25-27 St, 10 Ave. Phone: 25-44-89.

**Sala Cafe, Teatro Nacional.** Phone: 21-53-41.

## **Galeria del I.N.S.**

Instituto Nacional de Seguros, 9 and 11 St, 7 Ave.

Phone: 23-58-00.

Besides, there are other small galleries in the surroundings of San José.

## **Philately**

Asociación Filatélica. Phone: 33-94-16.

Bolsa Filatélica. Phone: 23-25-19.

## **SAN JOSE**

### **Handicrafts**

Artesanía Bernal	2 bloks west from Escuela Llorente de Tibás	36-28-21
Artesanía Las Arcadas	2 Ave, 1-3 St.	33-22-97
Artesanía La Rueda	3 St, 1-3 Ave. San José Moravia, 1 block South and 1 block east from the Municipality	21-10-04
Conapi	5 St Ctl, and 1 Ave.	35-83-57
Esmeraldas Creaciones	From the Southeast part of the I.C.E. San Pedro, 75 mts South Los Yoses	23-51-93
Galería del Cuero	5 St, 1 Ave.	25-06-37
La Casa del Indio	5 St, 2 Ave.	23-20-34
La Tinaja Souvenirs	Moravia 1 St, 2-4 Ave.	23-06-03
National Market de Artesania	11 St, 4 Ave, bis.	36-77-87
Souvernirs y Joyeria Karit	Moravia City Hall, 1 block East and 25 mts South	21-50-12
		35-99-88

Artesanía El Quijote	Sarchí	45-40-50
Souvenirs and Handicrafts	3-2 blocks from Pino's soccer field. Grecia.	44-57-51
Souvenirs and Furniture El Sueño	Sarchí	45-41-55
Souvenirs La Veranera	From Grecia's Virgin 3 kms to Sarchí	44-71-86
Artesanía y Ebanistería Valverde	Sarchí	45-40-97
Talabartería El Patio	Valverde Vega 3 St, 1/3 Ave. No. 184	21-10-04

### **XIII Purchasing**

In San José and in the largest cities of the country you'll be able to purchase handicrafts.

All along San José's Central Avenue, there are stores, and jewelries with gold and silver precolombian reproduction pieces as well as ceramics, and wooden objects.

#### **Handicrafts**

Tienda de Artesanía Costarricense	Aeropuerto Juan Santamaría	41-58-38
Coopearsa	Sarchí	
Cooperativa de Artesanos	Valverde Vega	45-40-50

#### **Department Stores**

Tienda El Globo, Central Ave. Phone: 21-15-66.

El Caballero Elegante, Central Ave. 7-9 St. Phone 22-36-22.

La Dama Elegante. Central Ave. Phone: 22-36-22.

La Gloria San José with branches in: Guadalupe, Heredia, Pavas and South San José.

Tienda Ultra. Ctl St, Ctl Ave. Phone: 22-15-79.

Talla Grande. 11 St, Ctl Ave. Phone-23-17-37.

Galería Plaza de la Cultura. 3 and 5 St, Ctl Ave. Phone: 21-52-44.

Tienda Simón. 2 and 4 St. Ctl Ave. Phone: 22-21-41.

La Miniatura. 4 and 6 St, Ctl Ave. Phone: 21-71-83.

Nestor Vargas. 1 and 2 Ctl St, Ctl Ave. Phone: 21-12-50.

Calderon Shoe Store. Ctl St, 1 Ave. Phone: 22-69-18.

La Renaciente. Shoe Store. 5 and 7 St, Ctl Ave. Phone: 22-69-18.



Badilla Shoe Store. 9 St, 1 Ave. Phone: 21-32-83.

## **Shopping Centers and Supermarkets**

### **Shooping Centers:**

#### **Yaohan.**

General Cañas Highway. Phone: 23-77-66.

#### **El Pueblo.**

Barrio Tournón. Phone: 21-94-34.

#### **Plaza del Sol. (del este)**

Curridabat Highway. Phone: 25-39-88.

#### **San José 2000.**

La Uruca, next to Irazú Hotel, Phone: 32-34-44.

#### **La Castellana.**

6 and 8 St, 10 Ave. Phone: 32-27-45.

#### **Guadalupe**

#### **Pavas**

#### **El Sur**

### **Supermarkets**

In San José, there are chain supermarkets where you'll find any grossery. Among them, we have the Mas X Menos chain in: Cuesta de Moras, Paseo Colón, Guadalupe, San Pedro and Los Anonos.

Los periféricos which Central supermarket is La Gran Vía, Phone: 22-22-52, and the rest are in: Curridabat, Guadalupe, Tibás, Anonos and Pavas.

The Auto Mercado chain in San José. Phones: 21-08-30. With its branches in Los Yoses and in Plaza del Sol in Curridabat.

Moreover, arround Central Avenue and the rest of San José, the visitor will find small boutiques where you may find the clothes on fashion, shoes, and fake fantasy.

At the Juan Santamaría International Airport you'll find

Duty free stores IMAS where the traveler will find liqueurs, underwear, and other articles. Phone: 41-58-38.

### Central market

It's Between Central and First Avenue, 6 and 8 St. There you'll find maguey rope, twig and wood items on both sides of, on west internal hallway, on the north hallways leather items, on the east side natural flowers, and clothes on the south side. Leather shoes, typical ornaments, jewelry. In the inside of market you'll get fish, butcheries, chicken sales and sodas.

### Developing, photos and Purchasing.

The visitor can develop his or her pictures at:

Its a - Kodak	2 St, 5 Ave	23-14-14
	5 St, Ctl Ave.	22-54-42
Agfa	1/2 Ctl St, 5 Ave.	21-27-22
Agfa	2 St, 16 and 18 Ave.	21-14-60

### Jewelries

Although Costa Rica doesn't produce metals or precious stores, it is indeed possible to find, fine Jelwery in the following places:

José L. Cavallini	6 and 8 St, 1 Ave.	22-72-21
Maxim Ltda.	4 St, Ctl Ave.	22-99-56
Paul Buhre	1-1 Ctl St, 1 Ave.	21-67-14
Esmeraldas	South west side of I.C.E.	
Creaciones 18 k	San Pedro.	24-18-58, 25-0637
Bijou	2 St, 4-6 Ave.	21-44-30
Miller	2-4 St, Ctl Ave.	22-44-30
Lanco	Zero St, Ctl Ave.	21-16-50
Piedras Preciosas Ltda.	Sabana Norte, from El Chicote Restaurant, 1 block north, 1-2 block east and 50 mts north.	31-48-08
Rojas Esquivel	4 St, 3 Ave.	41-59-84
Dérico Cavallini	6 St, 3-5 Ave	21-15-29
Mundo Electrónico	6 St, 1 Ave.	22-86-20

## **Liquor Stores**

They are specialized on selling all types of beverages such as rums, whiskies, wines as well as mixers, and what in this country is called "bocas" (snacks). These places remain open until late night hours.

## **XIV Public Services**

### **Communications**

#### **Post Office, telephone and telex**

There are Post Offices and telegraphs in cities, and towns all over the country. The post Office headquarter is in San José on 2 St, 1 and 3 Ave.

The telephone system in Costa Rica is one of the best in Latin America with a direct dialing system to almost any spot of the world and at very reasonable prices. For additional information dial 116 or to Radiográfica Costarricense on 1 St, 5 Ave. Phone: 33-55-55.

In order to use the telex service, which lets you send messages to any part of the world, you can dial 123.

#### **Public Phones**

There are public phones everywhere in the country, and in order to make a call you must use ₡5, ₡10, and ₡20 coins.

Information: 113

Exact Hour: 112

Local International telegrams: 123

#### **Electric Power**

Costa Rica has an excellent electric service produced by hydroelectric plants located out of San José. These plants have great power and they provide light to all the country. The common electric power in Costa Rica is of 110 volts (before connecting any electric appliance make sure it's not a 220 volts appliance).

There is a 220 volts service when it is needed.

#### **Clinics and Hospitals**

In case of health problems the tourist can go to the hospitals that are all over the country, either private or public ones.

Clínica Americana (Private) Ctl 1 and 1 St, 14 Ave. 22-10-10.  
 Clínica Bíblica (Private) 1 and 1 Ctl St, 14 Ave. 22-64-22.  
 Clínica Católica (Private) Barrio San Antonio,  
 Guadalupe 25-50-55.  
 Clínica Santa Rita (Private) (Maternity, Gynecology) 15  
 and 17 St, 8 Ave. 21-64-63.  
 Hospital México General Cañas Highway 32-61-22.  
 (Social Security).  
 Carlos Sáenz Herrera Hospital Paseo Colón 22-01-22.  
 National Children's Hospital (Social Security).  
 Calderón Guardia Hospital Barrio Aranjuez 22-41-33.  
 Max Peralta Hospital Cartago 51-06-11.  
 San Vicente de Paul Hospital Heredia 37-10-91.  
 Dr. Enrique Baltodano Briceño Hospital Liberia  
 Guanacaste 66-00-11.  
 Tony Facio Hospital Limón 58-22-22.  
 Monseñor Sanabria Hospital Puntarenas 63-00-33.  
 San Carlos Hospital Ciudad Quesada 46-11-76.  
 San Juan de Dios Hospital San José 22-01-66  
 These are magnificent hospital instalations, which be-  
 long to the costarrican Social Security, in al regions of  
 the country.

### **Veterinaries Clinics**

Drs. Lutz 3 blocks east from San Pedro de Montes de  
 Oca church P.O. Box 1562, Phones: 25-67-84, 25-64-22.  
 Emergencias: 34-00-61  
 Drs. Echandi 6 Ave. No. 1310 Phone: 23-31-11  
 Raymar 3 blocks west from I.C.E. Escazú 28-07-45, and  
 28-49-71  
 Centro Médico Veterinario Tibás, across from  
 Periféricos  
 35-00-14.  
 Veterinarian Dr. Starke 25-25-00 and 35-17-88

### **Banks**

Costarrican banks are nationalized, and most of the transactions can be made only at the state banks.

Banco Anglo Costarricense	3 St, 2 Ave.	22-33-22
Banco Central de Costa Rica	4 St, Ctl and 1 ave.	33-42-33
Banco Crédito Agrícola de Cartago	5 St, 2 Ave. Cartago	51-30-11

Banco de Costa Rica	4 and 6 St, 2 Ave.	33-11-00
Banco Nacional de Costa Rica	2 and 4 St, 1 Ave.	21-22-23
Banco Popular y de Desarrollo Comunal	1 St, 2 and 4 Ave.	22-81-22

Among the private banks we find the following:

Bancaribe S.A.	3 and 5 St, 7 Ave.	22-13-45
Banco Alemán Panameño	1 St, 2 Ave.	33-15-92
Banco Santander Costa Rica	11 St, Ctl Ave.	22-80-66
Banco del Comercio S.A.	2 and 4 St, Ctl Ave.	23-66-86
Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo	38 and 40 St, Paseo Colón	33-23-80
Banco Internacional de Costa Rica	2 St, 1 and Ctl Ave.	23-65-22
Banco Internacional de Exportación	Ctl St, 1 and 3 Ave.	23-99-44
Banco Lyon S.A.	2 St, 1 and Ctl Ave.	21-26-11
Banco Wedden Internacional S.A.	38 and 40 st, Paseo Colón	33-40-22
Bank of America S.A.	Ctl St, 3 and 5 Ave.	21-99-11
Citicorp S.A. Costa Rica	4 St, 1 and 1 Ctl Ave.	22-94-94
Compañía Financiera de Londres Ltda.	Ctl St, Ctl Ave.	22-81-55
Corporación Internacional de Boston	Barrio Tournón Norte	22-94-55
Crece S.A.	38 and 40 St. Paseo Colón	22-16-94
Financiera del First Pennsylvania	5 St, 1 and Ctl Ave.	22-45-30
Towerbank Overseas Ins.	Ctl St, Ctl and 1 Ave.	22-73-38
Banco B.C.T.	Ctl St, 1 and 3 Ave.	33-66-11
Banco Agro Industria y de Exportaciones S.A.	Ctl St, 1 Ave.	33-48-55
Banco de Fomento Agrícola	La Uruca	31-44-44
Banco de la Construcción	Centro Colón	21-58-11
Banco de la Industria S.A.	9 St. Ctl 1-1 Ave.	21-33-55
Banco de San José	38 and 4 St, Paseo Colón	22-30-66
Banco Interfin S.A.	3 St, 2 and 4 Ave.	21-80-22

The office hours are from 9 A. M. to 3 P.M. from Monday through Friday.

The Central Bank establishes an exchange rate for the operations of the National Bank System.

## National Stock Exchange

Costarrican Market		
Valores Crediticia	Ctl St, 1 Ave	23-01-22
Fomento Urbano		
Valores S.A.	2 St, 2 Ave.	22-65-98
Inversiones SAMAS.A.	4 St, Ctl and 1 Ave	33-33-22

## Emergency Phone Numbers

Police Radio	117
Rural Guard	127
Fire Fighters	118
Red Cross	21-58-18
Insurance (I.N.S.)	23-58-00

## Libraries

Every province and in occasions, some cities have public libraries, where you can go and consult any kind of book, magazine or newspapers. The most important is the National Library.

National Library	15 and 17 St, 3 Ave.	21-24-36
Carlos Monge Alfaro		
Library University of	(Ciudad Universitaria	
Costa Rica	Rodrigo Facio,	
	San José.)	25-73-72
Universidad Nacional	1 St, Ctl 1 and 1 Ave	
Library	Heredia	37-30-52
Alajuela Public Library	4 St, Ctl 2 Ave.	41-22-12
Cartago Public Library	4 St, 2 Ave	
	Cartago	51-00-69
Heredia Public Library	2 St, Ctl Ave	37-80-43
San Ramón Public Library		45-51-26
Estatad a Distancia	Highway to	
Library (UNED)	Sabanilla	34-16-31

## Migration

In order to arrange your papers the visitor must go to: 21 St, 6 and 8 Ave. Phone: 33-67-49.

## Custom Houses

Dirección General de Aduanas	21-31-82
Postal Custom House	22-25-47
Main Coustom House	33-66-18
Aduana Aeropuerto Tobías Bolaños	32-62-38
Aduana Aeropuerto Juan Santamaría (luggage)	41-60-69

## Stationary Stores

Costarrican, and universal literature books as well as specialized texts in the different areas of knowlegments:

Lehmann	1 and 3 St, Ctl Ave.	23-12-12
Universal	1 and Ctl St, Ctl Ave.	22-22-22
Book Shop	1 and 3 St, 1 Ave.	21-68-47

## Crurches

In the further list are the most important churches in San José. It's necessary to call, so you can know the right schedule.

## Catholics

Catedral Metropolitana	1 and 1 Ctl St, 2-4 Ave.	21-38-20
El Carmen	Ctl St, 3 Ave.	22-14-35
La Dolorosa	Ctl St, 10 and 12 Ave.	22-46-26
La Merced	10-12 St, 2/4 Ave.	22-35-86
La Santísima Trinidad	14 St, 13-15 Ave.	21-61-51
La Soledad	9-11 St, 2 Ave, bis.	21-05-60
Nuestra Señora de Luján	17 St, 12-14 Ave.	22-71-97
Nuestra Señora de los Angeles	10-12 St, 12 Ave.	21-19-68
Parroquia Medalla Milagrosa	20 St, 26 Ave.	22-75-46
Parroquia San Sebastián	San Sebastián	26-08-67
Nunciatura Apostólica	Barrio Rohomoser	32-12-28

San Agustín	Cinco Esquinas, Tibás	22-27-17
San Cayetano	24 St, 3-5 Ave.	26-07-15
Santa Teresita	23-25 St, 9 Ave.	22-71-31
Santa Margarita	3 St, 9 Ave	21-13-75

### **Others**

Iglesia Templo Bíblico	6 St, 2-4 Ave	23-64-88
Union Church	Moravia	35-67-09
International Baptist Church	San Pedro	25-52-18
Primera Iglesia Bautista	8 St, 12 Ave.	22-64-28
Iglesia Evangélica Metodista de Costa Rica	Tibás	35-16-04

### **Masses at Herradura Hotel**

Spanish: 11 A.M.

English: 4 P.M.

Ciencia Cristiana	21-22 St, 8 Ave.	21-08-40
Asamblea de la Misión de Dios	Hatillo 4	26-84-11
Bautista Hebron	Barrio La Granja	
	San Pedro	25-20-14
Menonita	Heredia	37-52-09
Bíblica	6 St, 4 Ave.	21-19-21
Iglesia de la Unión	Barrio La Granja, San Pedro	25-60-58

### **Bilingual Elementary, and High Schools**

Colegio Metodista: Barrio Roosevelt, San Pedro. P.O. Box 931 San José. Phone: 25-06-55

Saint Francis College. Moravia. P.O. Box 4405.

Phone: 35-91-61

Costa Rica Academy. Ciudad Cariari. P.O. Box 4991.

Phone 39-03-76

Country Day School. Curridabat P.O. Box 4269.

Phone: 35-77-33

International Christian School. 19 St, Ctl Ave. 1. P.O. Box 3512. Phone 25-14-24

Lincoln School. Moravia. P.O. Box 1919. Phone 35-77-33

Saint Anthony Primary School. Moravia. Phone: 35-10-17

Saint Clare. Moravia. Phone: 35-72-44

Saint Joseph's. Primary School. Moravia. Phone: 35-72-14



The Marian Baker School. Curridabat. P.O. Box 4269.  
Phone: 25-49-16  
Methodists. 9/11 St, Ctl Ave. Phone: 22-03-60

## Language Schools

The foreigner can learn Spanish at any of the following language institutes: Centro Cultural Costarricense-Nor-teamericano, Barrio Dent, San Pedro. P.O. Box 1489. San José. Phone: 25-94-33. Spanish lessons for children and adults.

Conversa. P.O. Box 171007, Centro Colón, San José.  
Phone: 21-76-49

## Universities

Universidad de Costa Rica (U.C.R.)  
Ciudad Universitaria Rodrigo Facio, San Pedro. San José. Phone 25-55-55

Universidad Nacional (UNA). Heredia. Phone: 37-63-63  
Universidad Autónoma de Centroamérica (U.A.C.A.). San José. Phone: 23-58-22

Universidad Para La Paz. Ciudad Colón. Phone: 49-10-72

Universidad Estatal a Distancia. Sabanilla.

Phone: 25-87-88

Instituto Tecnológico de Costa Rica. (I.T.C.R.). Cartago.  
Phone: 51-53-33

## Credit Cards

At most places in Costa Rica you can use a credit card.

Dinners Club	2 St, 1 Ave.	21-00-78
Unicard	19 St, 6 Ave.	22-96-22
American Express	Ctl 1 and 1 St, 1 Ave.	33-00-44
Credomatic International		
Costa Rica	31 and 33 St, Ctl Ave.	24-21-55
Visa	Banco Crédito Agrícola de Cartago	23-22-11

## Professional Colleges

All new professionals are obligated to be a member of their respective college in order to work as such.

Colegio de Dentistas	21 St, 2 and 4 Ave.	23-63-63 23-58-01
Colegio de Abogados	Zapote	25-35-36
Colegio de Médicos	Sabana Sur	32-34-37

Colegio de Periodistas	42 St, 2 and 4 Ave.	23-64-77
Colegio de Biólogos	3 St, 3 Ave.	21-98-86

## Ministries

American Chamber of Commerce of Costa Rica		
P.O. box 4946	3 St, 1 and 3 Ave	33-21-33
Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería. (M.A.G.)	Sabana Sur	31-23-44
Cultura Juventud y Deportes		23-13-57
Economía Industria y Comercio		22-15-66
Educación Pública		23-16-66
Industria Energía y Minas		33-45-33
Obras Públicas y Transportes	9 St, 20 and 22 Ave.	27-21-88
Ministerio de Salud	16 St, 6 and 8 Ave.	23-03-33
Seguridad Pública		33-66-66
Trabajo y Seguridad Social		23-71-66
Coalición Costarricense de Industrias de Desarrollo	3 and 5 St, 1 Ave.	33-17-11
Centro de Inversiones y Exportaciones(CEMPRO)	7 St, 1 and 8 Ave.	21-71-66
P.O. box 5418		

## Parks of the City of San José

1. Central Park: Ctl and 2 St, 2 and 4 Ave. In this park you'll find the Carmen Lyra Library.
2. National Park: 13 and 17 St, 1 and 3 Ave. On the north side of the park you'll see the National Library, and in the center of the park it's the National Monument.
3. Parque Carrillo: 12 and 14 St, 2 and 4 Ave..
4. Parque León Cortés: 42 St, Paseo Colón, across from the Costarrican Art Museum.
5. Parque Cañas: 2 and 4 St, 18 and 20 Ave. across the Pacific Railroad Station.
6. Parque España: 11 St, 5 and 7 Ave.
7. Parque González Víquez: 11 and 13 St, 18, 20 and 22 Ave.
8. Parque Isabel La Católica: Ctl St, and 2, 1 and 3 Ave.
9. Parque Japonés: 7 and 9 St, 3 and 5 Ave.
10. Parque Morazán: 5 and 7 St, 3 and 5 Ave.
11. La Soledad Park: 9 St, 4 Ave. across La Soledad Church, in this park there is a statue in honor of Carlos Gardel.
12. Parque Beneméritos: 36 and 38 St, 2 and 4 Ave.

## **Recreation Parks**

In Costa Rica there are numerous recreation, and sport spots, for further information see the Sideviewing, and Recreation Centers brochure by the I.C.T. or go to such offices.

## **Whereabouts and Observatories**

### **Cartago**

The city of Cartago, capital of this province, is one of the oldest in the country. In the ruins of the antique church, there is a beautiful tropical garden flowers. Cartago is also the religious capital of Costa Rica since you'll find in it's main church the Virgin of Los Angeles.

### **Irazú Volcano**

Going up through a panoramic road you'll get to the crater or this huge volcano, one of the most outstanding tourist attractions for its misterious moon aspect.

### **Lankester Gardens**

This garden is the place where flower lover's dreams como true.

They belong to the University of Costa Rica, and it holds one of the largest orchid collections in the world . It's open daily to the public.

### **Orosi's Observatory:**

The visitor of this tourist zone can go down to the valley, and to the town, stopping at the observatory.

### **Orosi's Church, and Museum**

In Orosi you'll see a small, but beautiful colonial church recently fixed. Next to the church , there is a museum which is dedicated to religious objects brought by priests on the colonial epoc.

### **Ujarrás Observatory**

It has a comfortable restaurant, a playground, and small tables to lunch, besides a great terrace to observe the wonderful Orosi Valley.

## **Ujarrás Ruins**

Cornered in the valley, you'll see the mysterious ruins of the colonial church built with rocks and destroyed by elements in the XVII century.

## **Charrara**

Near the man made lake's shoore, formed by the Cachí dam, the I.C.T. (Costa Rican Tourist Board) has built a giant tourist resort with many conveniences and out door sport instalations such a children's swimming pool, a swimming pool for grown ups, a soccer field, and basket ball courts. Inside an eucalyptus forest, there are many swings and slides for children to play with, small open little houses to sit and eat, camping facilities, a parking place, a restaurant, a bar, a pier with small motor boats and colorful sailboats, and many other complementary instalations.

## **Puntarenas**

### **Doña Ana Beach**

Near the well known Puntarenas beach is the Doña Ana Beach. The Barranca river has its end on this spot, which has been taken advantage by the I.C.T. by building a camping area, a restaurant, a bar, rest rooms, lockers and a picnic area.

## **Guanacaste**

### **Cañas, Tilarán**

On the way from San José to Guanacaste traveling on the Interamerican Wighway you'll first get to Cañas. From here, you'll gen on another road in order to head toward Tilarán, and visit the amazing Hidroelectric Proyect of Arenal which belongs to the I.C.E. (Costarrican Electric Institute).

You won't miss the outstanding Arenal Volcano. You'll be able to watch at the smoke coming out of this mysterious active volcano.

## **Liberia**

Liberia is the Province Capital of Guanacaste. It's sorrouned by cow farms and all it's environment fullfills such proper elements of the stated activity. It pays to go visit the old "Casona" house, and the stoned corrals which are the witnesses of the glorious

battle held in 1856 against the filibusters.

The Casona is today a museum that preserves documents, maps and antiques from the 1856 year, as well as furniture, and other objects of those times.

From the Casona there is a marked path that goes into a characteristic tropical dry forest where you can see at a few animals in their natural environment.

## **Nicoya**

Nicoya was declared folkloric city of Costa Rica. It has an interesting church that goes back to the XVII century. The city itself, is a combination of the modern with the colonial, and rustic architecture. At its surrounding there are good cattle farms, as well as grain farms. The Nicoyan region is characterized for its agriculture and cattle production.

## **Santa Cruz**

Most of the beaches of Guanacaste are near this folkloric city. On the way from Santa Cruz to Nicoya there is the small town called Guaitil whose people are famous for having the skill to make ceramics as their ancestors used to do, the Chorotega indians.

## **Limón**

Limón Province is also very attractive to the tourists. You can get to Limón, main port of Costa Rica on Caribbean, by plane, by train, or by car. A quite interesting experience is to get on the old train that shows you many changeable views, valley, and mountains, small towns, and coffee, sugar cane, banana, and cacao farms.

## **Cahuita National Park**

Southward of Limón, traveling through a scenic framed palm tree road, you'll find this National Park. It's main treasures are the living coral reefs, a great joy to the experimented divers.

Some visitors decide to travel a little farther South, reaching the small but enchanting town of Puerto Viejo, where you'll eat delicious fresh shellfish next to sea shore.

## **Tortuguero, Parismina and Barra del Colorado**

In the northern part of Limón we have a great deal of canals which are paralalled to the coast.

These wide canals make communication easy in these extended zone of the costarrican territory. Along the canals you'll see the tropical humid vegetation on its wild stage. National Park Tortuguero was created in order to protect the green turtle (*chelonía mydas*); a valuable specie in danger of being extinguished.

## **Alajuela**

The province of Alajuela is one of the largest and diversified of Costa Rica. It's located in the west of the Central Valley. The City has two main parks, one across the cathedral with very tall mango trees so its main characteristic, and with a concert kiosk, where the neighbors get together in order to enjoy the excellent weather; the other park is called "Juan Santamaría"; where a statue of this national 1856 war heroe is. Too, there are four churches that outstand for it's architecture.

## **In Alajuela you'll find**

### **National Park Poás Volcano**

It's a pleasant and short trip from San José. The 57 km long road goes up within changable sceneries, which leads you very close to the crater's volcano. This is one of the largests and most spectaculars of the world. Moderately active, it produces white smoke that contrasts with the mineral colors in the background.

National Park Poás Volcano has a center for visitors, a picnic are, marked paths, and tourist information.

### **Fraijanes Lagoon Park.**

It has a lagoon with its wild flora, and its fish natural fauna, ducks, storks ond others, there are also wooden paths, plays, instalations, amphitheaters, picnic cabins in the forest, the 21 vitacourses stations, and the flora and fauna of the zone.

## **Sarchí**

This agricultural town of Alajuela's province is known

for its wooden multicolored handicrafts production, having a looming characteristic the oxen carts' paintings with rich geometrical designs and living colors.

## Zarcero

It's Alfaro Ruiz's county seat city. It's geographical ubication among the mountains, garnished by the countless lines of cypresses and numerous pastures. This beautiful city has a colored fulfilled temple, which has a gorgeous garden that offers its pretty flowers the 12 months of the year, where you'll notice endless different kinds of art shapes elaborated on the cypresses.

## List of Bathing Resorts in Costa Rica

To enjoy the Costarrican climate, besides the beaches, we have a bathing resorts, these don't only have a swimming pool but also a restaurant.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Phone</b>
<b>Province of San José</b>		
Los Juncales Bathing Resort	Road to Aserri	26-69-23
Parque Recreativo del Este	San Rafael de Montes de Oca	34-16-39
Plaza González Víquez Swimming Pool	San José	27-65-81
Parque Metropolitano La Sabana	San José	23-85-08
<b>Province of Alajuela</b>		
Balneario Agua Caliente	La Marina S. Carlos	48-71-92
Balneario El Americano	Turrúcares	
Balneario El Cerro	Atenas	
Balneario Las Musas	San Ramón	
Balneario Los Ranchos	Atenas	
Complex Los Trapiches	Santa Gertrudes Sur de Grecia	44-66-56
Balneario Club Naranja	Naranja	45-00-86
Balneario San Carlos	Ciudad Quesada	46-07-47

Balneario Tropical	Grecia	44-52-19
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### **Province of Cartago**

Balneario Aguas Termales		
Los Patios	Orosi	51-30-05
Balneario Las Américas	Turrialba	56-09-86
Balneario Ujarrás	Ujarrás de Paraíso	
Paradero Lacustre de Charrara	Ujarrás de paraíso	74-75-57
Balneario Termal Orosi		
Martínez y Brenes	Orosi	51-32-50
Motel Río	Palomo de Orosi	51-31-56

### **Province of Heredia**

Balneario Ojo de Agua	San Antonio de Belén	41-28-08
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### **Province of Limón**

Paradero Turístico de Moín	Mile 7, Moín	
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### **Province of Puntarenas**

Balneario Municipal El Carmen	El Carmen Suburb	61-02-50, ext 16
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## **XVI National Parks of Costa Rica**

Costa Rica is one of the countries in the world, according with its size, that has a larger diversity of flora, fauna, geology and sideviews. The country is divided into 12 life zones or natural formations with several ecosystems: land and sea. The tropical forests that yet are edging the coast on the Caribbean as well as on the Pacific. They are extended from the sea level toward the volcanic prairies of the interior and to high of 10.000 feet they are turned into a treesless view.

Although Costa Rica is one of the smallest countries in Central America, it has been one of the first in all Latin America to stablish a national park chain on February 5, 1970, the National Park System begun, which one decade later, has obtained 18 national parks, and reserves that cover about 200.000 hectares, 3.9 percent of surface of the country. The national parks show the most diverse



and beautiful elements of wild life.

The National parks' Service of Costa Rica has established two natural areas categories: national park and biological reserve.

A national park is a relatively extended area that presents one or several ecosystems, not transformed a little modified by the exploitation and human occupation, where the vegetable species and animals the geomorphological spots and the habitats are of special scientific interest; and where the entry is allowed to visitors, under certain condition, with inspiration, educational, cultural and recreational purposes.

The biological reserves are essentially unaltered areas by human activity, that contain ecosystems, rests, and flora and fauna species of scientific value, and in which the ecological processes follow a spontaneous course with a minimum of interference.

For more informations see the National Parks' brochure by the I.C.T.

## **XVII Sport Activities**

### **Recreation and Sports**

The national sport of Costa Rica is soccer, which it's played everywhere, from the big cities to the smallest villages. Every Sunday, the first division's teams play. Each capital province has its own soccer stadium and the city of San José has several. The National Stadium, in Parque Metropolitano La Sabana. (Sabana Estadio Bus) and Saprissa Stadium in Tibás, 6 Blocks east and 4 blocks north from the church. (Tibás Saprissa bus).

### **Horse Back Riding**

Many outstanding horses are stabled and trained at Club Hípico La Caraña in Villa Colón. International competitions take place there each year.

Horses are also available through the Hotel Cariari at El Tajo.

Horse-lovers will enjoy Finca Ob-la-di, Ob-la-da's tours which combine horseback riding with visits to the beautiful isolated waterfalls of the Villa Colón area.

## **Basketball and Volley-Ball**

These sports are regularly practiced at high schools, many cities have a public court.

The semiprofessional teams are played at the National Gymnasium, at the Parque Metropolitano La Sabana.

## **Tennis**

This sport is principally practiced in private clubs and hotels.

In order to play in the private clubs, it is necessary to be a member, or to be invited by a member, and pay an extra fare. There are public courts in Parque Metropolitano La Sabana, and Ojo de Agua Swimming Resort.

## **Aquatic Spots**

"Calm sea" in El Coco Beach, rent sail boats for the day, to experimented sailmen. Phone: 66-03-66; ext. 196.

There are also sailboats in Tamarindo Beach. Phone: 68-04-74.

## **Surf**

This sport is practiced on the Pacific and Atlantic coast of the country. The main places are: In the Pacific: Boca de Barranca; or Doña Ana Beach; Hermosa de Jaco Beach; Tamarindo Langosta, Avellanas o Playa Grande, and in the Atlantic: Bonita Beach, Portete and Puerto Viejo.

The waves on the Atlantic are larger and stronger than the ones in the Pacific.

## **Squash**

This Squash sport is practiced at the Squash Monterreal Club, near La Sabana. It's not necessary to be a member of the club. Phone: 32-32-41.

## **Fishing**

Fishing is excellent on the Pacific Coast as well as on the Caribbean. There is, sail fish, marlin, wahoo, barracudas, and porgy, on the Pacific, robalos, and sabalos, in the canals and inlets of the Caribbean and many other rivers and sea fish. Among the best fishingf

sports you'll find Barra del Colorado, Parismina, and Tortuguero in the Caribbean and Pez Vela Bay, El Coco Beach, Ocotal, Tamarindo, Blanco Cape, Quepos, Del Caño Island, Golfito in the Pacific.

For river fishing you may obtain the license with a \$10.00 deposit at the M.A.G. Vida Silvestre No. 112156-5. Banco Nacional bank account transacting the right, with the Bureau of Vida Silvestre of the Agriculture and Cattle Ministry, located on 6 and 8 St, 2 Ave. Caribbean Building.

## **Bowling**

It's practiced in private clubs. Also Available for the public at Boliche Dent. Phone: 24-48-00. It's 75 mts north of the gas station next to Auto Mercado.

## **Golf**

There are three golfs courts to play in the metropolitan region located at the Cariari Country Club, at the Costa Rica Country Club, and at Hacienda Los Reyes.

## **Autódromo La Guácima**

It's in La Guácima of Alajuela, with an extension of 40 square blòks and 2100 meters long, the average speed that the vehicles can run is 110 km/hr. On Sunday, there are several activities such as: car races, 1/4 mile, autocross, motorcycle speed race and motocross it has some fast foods restaurants with sodas, stands with seats and stage and rest rooms.

## **XVIII Tourist Circuits**

The costarrican Tourism Institute has the purpose of inviting you to know the different important and tourist costarrican spots, has restructured 12 tourist circuits for the joy of experiences and services in places, of special beauty of our country.

The circuits are as follows:

1. The magic High Lands.
2. The secrets of the valley.

Will let you know San José, its capital city, where you can

find cultural activities, museums, theaters, recreational parks, restaurants, hotels and besides take it as a start point to the different interest spots in the rest of the country.

The third circuit belongs to the province of San José which is "La Ruta de los Santos". The route of the Saints. It has this name because you'll find out the names of these villages have the name of a Saint such as: San Marcos de Tarrazú, San Pablo de León Cortés, Santa María de Dota, and San Gerardo de Dota.

In this region the landscape is beautiful. It's composed by small simple houses, vegetable and coffee plantations which edge the villages, where the chimeneys' smoke invite us to enjoy the typical foods, and the pleasant neighbors' treatment of "Los Santos".

## **Cartago**

The romantic and traditional province. The old Metropolis, opens its arms so you'll enjoy its traditions in which the religious spirit is the starting point. But Cartago is also the solid Irazú Volcano, the Ujarrás and Orosi enchanted valleys and one so mysterious as Guayabo Turrialba.

That province's weather, has one of the coldest in the country, but its neighbors human warmth will help you enjoy the stay.

You'll also find Heredia, "La Ciudad de las Flores". "The city of the flowers", with its towns, Santo Domingo, San Joaquín among others, with antique homes, painted on white and blue that reminded us Costa Rica at the beginning of the century.

The province of Alajuela offers Poás Volcano at 57 kms, from San José, you may observe the eruptions and the very active smoke holes on the crater's walls, beside its natural beauty, you can't forget the recreational spots in the Poás Volcano National Park, as well as within its surroundings. Inside the same province you can visit the city of Grecia, Sarchí with its small red roofs' houses, that from a distance looks like a manger planted with the most beautiful flowers.

In this handicrafts city, such business has occupied a very

important place in its citizens lives, specially on painted oxen carts.

Through these circuits you'll be able to identify yourself plentifully with the most beautiful country town's costumes and traditions.

As the fourth circuit, appears San Carlos, located at the north of the province of Alajuela.

The dazzling green zone with its beautiful towns such Venecia, Aguas Zarcas and Arenal Volcano itself. Through this pinturesque and uneven road, you'll have the opportunity to know Zarcero with its white church sorrouded by the green fields, where flowers bloom or a multicolored rain. Across the stated, you'll see one of the most beautiful parks in Costa Rica, where with the plants, many animals shapes have been made it surely in a park where nature has let itself mold by man's imagination.

In the province of Puntarenas you'll find circuit 5, sand, sun, and sea.

Number six the coastal city and its romantic golf. In this circuit you can know the city of Puntarenas, where you can find pleasure, sports, recreation and beaches.

Moreover, you'll be able to visit the Nicoyan Golf islands on pretty yachts.

These islands have been declared biological reserves, here you'll enjoy the white sandy beaches. For this reason we called it circuit "7". El Mar de la Tranquilidad". The Calm Sea.

Puntarenas is also high lands , by the way, you cannot avoid to know the mountain zone, Monteverde is waiting on you to show you its great variety of flora and fauna.

Circuit "8". Dazzling Mid Pacific is another of the runs that the province of Puntarenas offers, this is one of the most atractives since there you can visit beaches such as Herradura, Jacó, Quepos, and the National Park Manuel Antonio, this last one considered as one of the best beaches in Costa Rica.

The province of Limón offers you two circuits "9" and "10" overabundant Caribbean and Shining Tropical respectivately Limón is called "La Perla del Caribe". The

Caribbean Pearl and among other things, you'll find an architecture in which the tracks of an afro-caribbean influence is molded.

Limón is music, greenness, clear sand beaches, and specially typical foods.

Northward you'll enjoy a run through the Tortuguero Canals where the green of the jungle shines over the water as a pearl.

To the South we find Cahuita, where you find a National Park, this shows a fulfilled color, and magic underwater world for the ones who want to explore the Atlantic ocean water.

In the province of Guanacaste you can see several circuits easy to visit called "El Corazón de la Pampa". "The Heart of the Pampa". Liberia is called the white city, as a place to stay or point to start, for the search of a world full of sun and sea.

Number "12" is "La Tierra del Sol" "Guanacaste". "Land of the Sun".

Guanacaste, with its beaches: El Coco, Hermosa, Panamá, Sámará, among others, most of them with clear sand they seem to be asleep by the shade of the palm trees. The integrated beaches have all kinds of conveniences, and room and board at your hand's reach. It also offers its National Parks, among them, "Santa Rosa", scenery of the battle against the filibusters and National Park "Quebrada Honda" with its caverns besides other natural areas protected.

The city of Santa Cruz is a folklorical city, for its typical dishes, and for the "Chorotega" indian handicrafts, which is a good remembrance of the beauties, and experiences of the northern lands.

### **Consulates and Embassies**

American	Ctl St, 1 and 3 Ave	33-11-55
Argentina	21 and 2 St, 6 Ave	21-34-38
Austria	2 St, 2 Ave. Patterson Building, 4 floor	23-88-22
Bolivia	9 and 11 St, 9 Ave.	21-00-09
Colombia	3 and 9 St, 5 Ave.	22-92-05
Denmark	1 St, No. 736	22-50-47

Ecuador	1 St, 5 Ave.	
	Paseo Colón	22-62-81
El Salvador	5 St, Ctl Ave.	25-55-36
France	Los Yoses	25-09-33
Haití	13 St, 1 and 3 Ave	33-32-22
Honduras	5 St, 1 and 3 ave. Jiménez de la Guardia Building, 2 floor	23-48-43
Jamaica	Urb. Los Anonos	22-08-02
Nicaragua	25 and 27 St, Ctl Ave.	24-98-83
Panamá	La Granja, San Pedro	25-34-01
Perú	Ctl 1 and 1 St, 1 Ave.	22-18-41
Venezuela	Los Yoses	25-58-13
Finland	9 St, 43 S.	22-13-07
Guatemala	24 and 28 St, 1 Ave	33-52-83
Paraguay	Los Yoses	25-28-02
Mónaco	38 St, Paseo Colón	23-50-17
Suecia	La Uruca	32-85-49
Gran Bretaña	Centro Colón Building	21-55-66
Canadá	3 St, Ctl Ave. 23-04-46	
Colombia	5 St, 5 Ave.	21-07-25
Corea	2 and 4 St, 1 Ave.	33-10-56
Spain	32 St, Paseo Colón	22-19-33
Holland	1 St, 2 Ave.	22-73-55
Uruguay	2 St, 1 Ave.	23-25-12
Dutch Low Countries	1 St, 2 Ave.	22-73-55
Germany	Rohmorser	32-55-53
Belgium	Los Yoses	25-62-55
Brazil	4 St, Ctl Ave.	33-15-44
Chile	Barrio Dent	24-42-43
Honduras	5 St, Ctl Ave. 22-21-45	
Israel	2 St, 2/4 Ave.	21-60-11
Italy	29 St, 8/10 Ave.	25-20-87
Japan	Rohmorser	32-12-55
México	5 St, 1/3 Ave	22-54-96
Perú	4 St, Ctl Ave.	22-56-44
China	Los Yoses	24-81-80
Dominican Republican	Mata Redonda	31-24-67
Hungary	Bello Horizonte	28-51-01
Czechoslovakia	29 St, 8-10 Ave	25-20-81
Yugoslavia	21 and 25 St, 8 Ave	21-73-62
Rumanía	Ctl St, 2981	22-54-79
Union of Sovietic Socialist Republics	Curridabat	25-57-80

## XX Holidays

Costa Rica is characterized for its strong catholicism, thus in each one of its towns whether a metropolis or the most isolated village in the country, for tradition the holidays are celebrated. Some of these are very flaring, and can be divided into civic popular, or religious holidays.

The civic popular parties are performed in order to commemorate the anniversary of the city, a historical date or a tradition. These activities can last from 2 to 3 days, a week or even more. Among other activities there are, the parade, horse exhibit, bulls costarrican stile: "a la tica", beauty contests, clowns, carrousels, pyrotechnical games, typical food sales, as well as sports, and cultural activities.

The religions holidays are in honor of the Saint day, and they are always dressed with a great deal of solemnity. The very same day the procession is guided by the saint's image followed by children dressed like angels. You may see altars in the nearly streets to the church, and sometimes the procession passes on beautiful and colorful rags made with flowers. It ends with a solemn mass. More over, a complement to these celebration are the concert, marching parades, pyrotechnical games, and cultural events.

Most comercial and official activities are closed during the following holidays:

January 1	New Year
March 19	San José day (Saint of the Capital)
Eastern Week	
April 11	Juan Santamaría day, national heroe
May 1	Labor Day
June 29	Saint Peter and Paul
July 25	Guanacaste Annexation
August 2	Virgen de los Angeles day (Virgin of Costa Rica)
August 15	Mother's Day
September 15	Independence Day
October 12	Columbus Day
December 8	Inmaculate Conception Day
December 24	New years Eve. Relatives and friends get together to eat dinner on their



their homes. Some attend to "Misa del Gallo". "Rooster's Mass", which is celebrated in the midnight. These dates many houses exhibit in their living rooms a manger. Typical food is also cooked. Which most popular dish is "the tamal.

December 25 Christmas The birth of Jesus Christ is celebrated. Posadas: Groups of children while visiting different houses, they sing christmas Carols.

December 25-31 San José is popular parties.

### **Tope:**

It's a beautiful horse parade that through town, where you'll admire hundreds of beautiful valuable horses some of them exhibit the reaches of the delicate and professional training of their owners

### **Carnival Parade:**

The grand coach march, orchestras, and other attractions that go through San José.

### **December 31**

The year end party:

At night people get together in the main parks, where bands play cheerful popular songs for the joy of the audience. Many people wellcomes the New Year in their homes or in social clubs.

The National Hymn is played in the midnight. There are also fireworks.

## **XXI Information for Retired People "Pensionados"**

The cordiality of the "ticos" "costarricans", the perfect weather and the beautiful scenin make yourself ask the

following question: Why not retired and live in this country?

There is a very generous law, the 4812 that makes it easy for anyone with a monthly income of not less than \$600.00 for retired ones and \$1000.00 for foreign or national bankholders to obtain the state of residence or retired condition "Pensionado" (Subject to a variation by disposition of the Legislative Assembly).

The pensionados have all the privileges that a costarrican has, except to vote or work although they can work for themselves, or establish their own business or enterprise as long they don't receive a salary for that. For a whole year of being a Pensionado, the new residents can acquire in Costa Rica, or import their own household equipment and personal items duty free.

Once the first important is done, the person has twelve months to bring his household furniture. The pensionado has the right to import a duty free car (except the 10% tax on sales), up to a maximum price of \$16.000, each five years, that's if he has followed the rules base on the law No. 4812, with the right of selling his last vehicle free at the end of those five years, or after obtaining costarrican tags for the stated vehicle if such. The documents that certify the amount of his incomes, good conduct certificate, etc, must be authenticated by the Costarrican Consul in the country from where the interested person is from. There are agencies and lawyers in Costa Rica that can help you with the legal errands.

The Costarrican Tourism Institute will gladly help you with any doubt at P.O. Box 777 San Jose.

## **XXII Practical Suggestons**

So your stay in Costa Rica will be the ideal one, we suggest you take these points in account.

Tips: Its compulsory to the restaurants to charge you 10% more what you eat and drink. That if you have spent more than ₡10.00. It's a custom of the client to add something extra, if he feels that he's been well served.

### **Clothing**

The comfortable costarrican weather lets you use sport

clothes the year arround. Costarricans don't dress formally but they do, to go out to dinner, and to the theater. Men wear a tie and a coat and women a cocktail dress. In general is not common to see people wearing short pants, but they do in the sport resorts.

### **Schedulles**

Offices and the commerce are often open from 9 A.M. to 12 at noon and from 2 P.M. to 6 P.M.

Government offices are open from 8 A.M. through 4 P.M.; they don't close for lunch time. From Monday through Friday.

### **Streets and Avenues**

The address system in San José is easy, but require to understand certain points. In all the cities, the center is on "0 zero" street and 0 zero avenue. The avenues run from east to west. North of Central Avenue (0) you'll see the odd numbers (1, 3, 5, 7...) and south the even numbers (2, 4, 6, 8...). The corner buildings have the number of the street and avenue on their walls. In the other hand, its frequent among costarricans to give the adresses using known places as reference points and pointing the address and distance in meters. That's why is very common to listen that certain store is "200 meters south from Banco Central" in other words 2 blocks south. This is the "tica = costarrican" way to give an address. It's frequent also to listen to the term in "varas" as well as "meters". For example "200 varas south from Banco Central" which it's also two blocks.

### **Timing**

Costa Rica has the same hour as in the rest of Central America and México, as well as, the same one as in the Central Part of the United States of America.

The hour in Costa Rica never changes.

### **XXII I.C.T. Offices**

Information office, Plaza de la Cultura, 5 St, 0-2 Ave.  
Phone: 22-10-90, or 23-17-33 ext 277.

Executive Presidency office, Manager, Marketing Chief or director, Planification Development, Administration, Finances, Services and Tourist Resources, located on 5 and 7 St, 4 Ave, Jenaro Valverde Building Annex C.C.S.S. (Social Security building) (10, 11, 12 and 13 floors).

International Airport's office (Juan Santamaría) Phone: 41-85-42

Miami Office  
Miami 33131  
200 Southeast First street suite 402  
Phone: (305) 3582150

Los Angeles Office  
Suite 404  
3540 Wilshire Blvd.  
Los Angeles C.A. 90005  
Phone: (213) 3809823  
(213) 3828080

Border Office Paso Canoas  
Phone: 78-21-01

Border Office Peñas Blancas  
Phone: 69-04-44



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