

# Costa Rica

## Essential Information

### WEATHER



About 12 hours of sunlight per day for the entire year.



Located between **8 and 12 degrees** north of the Equator, the climate is tropical year round.



**12 Climate zones** varying from hot and humid to cold and frosty.



Average annual temperature: between 70° and 81° Fahrenheit (12° and 27° Celsius).



Golden season (dry season): December to April

**TWO SEASONS:**



Green season (rain season): May to November

### ECONOMY



**Main agricultural products:** Pineapple, bananas, coffee, non-traditional products



**Other industries:** Electronics, medical components exports, medical manufacturing, IT services



Costa Rica generates **98.5%** of its electricity from renewable sources: rivers, volcanoes, wind, and solar power.



Tourism is Costa Rica's **No. 1 business**

### COSTA RICA AS A TRAVEL DESTINATION



Time zone: **6 hours** behind Greenwich Mean Time (GMT-6)



Year round destination due to steady weather conditions



Visitors can swim in the ocean all year round



High level of education allows for knowledgeable, multilingual tour guides.



**Official language:** Spanish although English is widely spoken



**Population:** approximately 5 million



Literacy rate: **97.8%**



**Extension** 51,100 km<sup>2</sup> / 19,730 mi<sup>2</sup>

**TWO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS:**



**Guanacaste Airport (LIR):** Northwestern province of Guanacaste, main beach resort area

**San Jose (SJO):** Capital and largest city in the center of the country

### NATURE



Home to about **5% of the species** on Earth



**25% Of** the country's land is protected



**850 Bird species**



More than **200** mammal species



**1500 Species** of orchids



**5 Active** volcanoes



**2 Stunning coastlines** on the Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean Sea