

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Do I need any shots?

No, you do not need any special immunizations to enter Costa Rica. It is a good idea to update your current vaccinations before you go. Travelers coming from some African countries as well as Bolivia, Venezuela, Brazil, Peru, Columbia, Ecuador and Guyana must have a yellow fever vaccination certificate.

Are there any health concerns to take into consideration?

Dengue fever is a virus transmitted by a species of mosquito present in Costa Rica and Central America. If you're traveling to rural or natural areas, make sure to pack bug spray. Insect repellent with deet is recommended if you are traveling deep into the jungle.

Keep in mind that Costa Rica is internationally recognized for its top-notch medical services, both public and private. There are local pharmacies and clinics available mostly everywhere you travel.

What's the food like?

Mostly rice and beans and some kind of meat such as chicken, beef or fish. Fresh tropical fruit is plentiful and is usually a part of every meal. Meals will range from the low end of \$3 for a plate of "casado" to \$20 for a nice dinner.

In our trips, breakfast is included with lodging. If you have special dietary needs, please let us know ahead of time so we can accommodate you.

Can I drink the water?

Yes, tap water is drinkable in every part of the country.

Should I tip for services?

Tipping is not customary in Costa Rica, but in the tourism industry tipping for professional services is universal. It is considered polite to tip guides and drivers for performance and services rendered. While largely a personal decision, a tour guide may be tipped \$2-\$10 per person per day. Note that all restaurant bills include a mandatory 10% tip, and leaving extra is uncommon and not necessary.

Do I need to speak Spanish?

If you hire a guided tour, you will have a full-time bi-lingual tour guide with you for the entire trip. It's a great time to practice your Spanish, but no, you do not need to be able to speak it fluently.

If you are traveling independently, keep in mind that many Costa Ricans speak conversational English in the tourism industry. As you travel into more rural areas of the country, you will encounter more people who speak only Spanish. Costa Ricans are known for being friendly, you should be able to work it out.

Should I bring cash or how do I pay for local goods and services?

Traveler's checks are NOT widely accepted in Costa Rica. Credit cards are widely accepted, though. ATM machines are common and you will be able to use your card for cash and purchases. American dollars are also widely accepted. The Costa Rican currency is the colon. There is no need to convert money ahead of time. Especially, do not change currency at the airport, since the rate is very unfavorable.

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How do we get around?

If you bought one of our packages, you will have your own bus or van, all the time. If you travel independently you can choose to drive a rental (with the help of Google Maps or Waze you will not get lost), or you can hire point-to-point shuttles. Public transportation is the cheapest, but it is not comfortable and it will take time to get from one place to another.

Will I see wildlife?

Yes! There is no guarantee that you will see the specific animals you hope to, but you will possibly see monkeys (howler, capuchin, spider monkeys and squirrel monkeys), sloths, butterflies, crocodiles, coati, caiman, dolphins, raccoons, deer, peccaries, and countless tropical and migratory birds.

What do I pack?

Remember you are visiting a tropical country, but Costa Rica has many life zones that have different climates. So, in general you can prepare for warm and humid, but it will depend on the places you will visit and the activities you will do. You might need a jacket and cooler weather clothing. In general you can keep it casual.

Most likely you will do some outdoor activities, including hiking, so bring appropriate shoes and pants. Don't forget your insect repellent and sunscreen! And of course...your passport.

Is internet available?

Internet is very common throughout the country and many tourism destinations. Hotels and restaurants often provide free WiFi service. You can also buy a cheap SIM card for your smart phone right at the airport.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT US

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