



Country Profile: Costa Rica

Costa Rica is a middle-income, developing country with a strong democratic tradition. Tourist facilities are extensive and generally adequate. The capital is San Jose. English is a second language for many Costa Ricans. Read the Department of State [Background Notes](#) on Costa Rica for additional information.

COUNTRY OVERVIEW



Country Name:	Costa Rica
Continent:	Central America
Capital City:	San Jose
Boundary Countries:	Nicaragua, Panama
Recommended Hospitals in Capital:	Heredia: Centro Medico Cambronero, Centro Medico Cabezas San Jose: Advance Dental, Centro Digestivo Dres. Con, Hospital CIMA San Jose, Hospital Clinica Biblica, Hospital La Catolica, Hospital Santa Maria Heredia: Clínica Cedcas Puntarenas: Clinica San Rafael, Monsenor Sanabria Hospital San Jose: Hospital Cristiano Jerusalem
Main Cities:	San Jose, Alajuela, Heredia, Puntarenas, Cartago, San Isidrio, Limón, Guapiles, Jaco
Country Size:	51,100 sq km, including Isla del Coco
Population:	4,075,261

COUNTRY GENERAL INFORMATION

Language:	Spanish (official), English
Currency:	Costa Rican Colon (CRC)
Predominant Religions:	Roman Catholic 76.3%, Evangelical 13.7%, Jehovah's Witnesses 1.3%, other Protestant 0.7%, other 4.8%, none 3.2%
National Holidays:	Independence Day, 15 September (1821)
Economic Status:	Costa Rica is a middle-income, developing country with a strong democratic tradition. Costa Rica's basically stable economy depends on tourism, agriculture and electronics exports. Poverty has been substantially reduced over the past 15 years, and a strong social safety net has been put into place. Foreign investors remain attracted by the country's political stability and high education levels, and tourism continues to bring in foreign exchange.
Security:	Note: no regular military forces; Ministry of Public Security, Government, and Police
US Presence:	U.S. Embassy in San Jose Calle 98 Vía 104, Pavas San José, Costa Rica Telephone: [506] 2519-2000

Major Airports:	Airports: 157, Airports with paved runways: 32San Jose - Juan Santamaria Airport (SJO/MROC) San José Airport, Costa Rica, PO Box 5026-1000, San Jose, Alajuela, COSTA RICA Tel: (Ops/Commercial) +506 443-08-40, +506 66-06-95, +506 32-28-20, +506 31-32-80 Fax: (Ops/Commercial) +506 443-12-44, +506 31-21-07 Customs Hours: 24 hours
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