

Costa Rica -General Information

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

The official language is Spanish. The second language for a large portion of the population is English.

OFFICIAL RELIGION

The official religion is Catholic. Freedom of religious choice is respected.

OFFICIAL CURRENCY

Colon

NATIONAL SYMBOLS

The Purple Orchid

National Flag -Flag used for civil acts

Guanacaste Tree

Enterolobium cyclocarpum. It was declared as the national tree of Costa Rica, on August 31, 1959. National Emblem of Costa Rica Enacted since May 5, 1998.

TERRITORY

Costa Rica is divided into seven provinces, these are: San José, Alajuela, Heredia, Cartago, Puntarenas, Guanacaste, and Limon. Each province is subdivided into regions and these are subdivided into districts.

TRANSPORTATION

Airports

The main airport is the Juan Santamaria International Airport, located in Alajuela. This airport is only twenty minutes away from San José.

Other important airports are:

The Daniel Oduber Quiros International Airport, located in Liberia, Guanacaste.

The Tobias Bolaños Airport located in Pavas, San José, for local as well as international flights.

There are also landing fields for local flights situated in different parts of the country such as: Limon, Tortuguero, La Fortuna, Tamarindo, Samara, Tambor, Quepos, Palmar North, Golfito, and San Vito.

Highways and roads

The whole country is adequately connected by internal infrastructure. The main artery is the Interamerican Highway, which connects the two borders from Peñas Blancas all the way to Paso Canoas.

HIGHEST PEAK: Chirripo summit of 3,819 meters above sea level.

HIGHEST VOLCANO: Irazú Volcano

LARGEST VOLCANIC CRATER: Poas Volcano crater. It has a diameter of 1,320 meters with a depth of 300 meters.

ELECTRICAL SERVICE: Costa Rican Electricity Institute (ICE). Ninety seven percent of the national territory has electrical service. The voltage in residential areas is 110v.

OFFICE HOURS

Government sector: From 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. from Monday to Friday. National Banks: From 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. from Monday to Friday. Some banks offer their services after regular hours until 7:00 p.m. and others that are located in some shopping centers are open on Saturdays.

PRIVATE SECTOR

From 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. from Monday to Friday. Commerce in general, opens Saturdays and Sundays up to mid-day.

NATIONAL HOLIDAYS

January 1st: New Years Day

April 11th: Juan Santamaria Day, National Hero.

Holy Thursday and Good Friday: Religious activities.

May 1st: International Labor Day.

August 15th: Mothers Day.

September 15th: Independence Day.

December 25th: Christmas Day.

OTHER HOLIDAYS

July 25th: Annexation of Guanacaste Day.

August 2nd: Virgin of the Angels Day.

October 12th: Christopher Columbus Day.

