

About Costa Rica

Escape to paradise.

Serene Costa Rica connects North and South America. It offers an abundance of wildlife from howler monkeys who live in the rainforest's dense canopy to pelicans diving into ocean swells to catch their afternoon meal. It also is home to tropical canals and lagoons, mountain ranges, volcanoes and pristine beaches—making it an ideal location for nature, sun and pura vida or "the good life."

The nation borders the Caribbean Sea to the east and the North Pacific Ocean to the west, with a total of 802 miles of coastline. It has more than 51,100 sq km of land to explore—or an area mass of slightly smaller than West Virginia—with terrain consisting of coastal plains separated by rugged mountains and more than 100 volcanic cones. It also is home to a rich variety of plants and animals. In fact, while the country has only about 0.1% of the world's landmass, it contains 5% of the world's biodiversity and more than 25% is composed of protected forests and reserves. Spanish is the country's official language.

In addition, the nation's democratic principles make it a safe getaway from a hectic lifestyle or as an ideal place to put down roots or retire in luxury. The literacy rate in Costa Rica is of 96% (CIA World Factbook, February 2007)—one of the highest in Latin America. Economically speaking, electronics, pharmaceuticals, financial outsourcing, software development and ecotourism have become the country's prime industries. High levels of education among its residents make it an attractive investing location. Land ownership is widespread.

Costa Rica is an active member of the United Nations and holds a seat on the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, the United Nations University of Peace and many other international organizations related to human rights and democracy.