



Steph's Quick Budget Fact Sheet

Costa Rica - Cartago / Paso Ancho / Orosí

Quick Facts

- ✓ **Capital:** San Jose (Chepe)
- ✓ **Language:** Spanish
- ✓ **Sq km:** 152.7
- ✓ **Population:** ± 147,900
- ✓ **Currency:** Colones / Dollars
- ✓ **Country code:** +506
- ✓ **Visa:** Fore some countries, [check here!](#)
- ✓ **Alarm codes:** 112
- ✓ **Vaccinations:** Hep-A / Hep-B / Typhoid / Yellow fever / DTP / Malaria prevention



History Recap Over 1 Drink

1502: Columbus → disease & local resistance. 1540: Vice-royalty of Spain. 1561: Cavallon first successful coloniser. 1723: Irazú erupts, Cartago destroyed. 1808: Coffee introduced from Cuba → principal crop. 1821: C-America independent from Spain. 1823: CR joins the United Provinces of Central America (El Salvador/Guatemala/Honduras/ Nicaragua). 1838: CR independent. 1849-59: C-American resistance against Walker (US/ took over Nicaragua in 1855). 1874: US introduces banana cultivation. '10: Earthquake Cartago. '40-44: Pres Guradia: Liberal reforms/workers' rights/minimum wages. '48: 6-week civil war over disputed presidential election results. '49: New constitution → women/Africans voting right/social security system/nationalising banks. '63-64: Irazu erupts. '68: Arenal erupts. '74: Oduber pres. '78: Odio pres. '82: Monge pres. '86: Sanchez pres → peace plan Nicaragua/El Salvador/Guatemala/ Honduras: Nobel Peace Prize. '90: Calderon pres (corrupt). '91: Earthquake Limon. '94: Olsen pres. '98: Rodriguez pres. '02: Pacheco pres. '03: Strike. '06: Arias pres. '07: CAFTA (C- American Free Trade Agreement). '09: re-established ties with Cuba (since '81). '10: Chinchilla 1st female pres. **Costa Rica has no army.**

Travel Seasons

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Dry												
Wet												
Best												
Budget												

Altitude: 1435m. Climate: Cool mountain air / many micro-climates.

Bucket List For Free

- ☺ Take a public bus to Valle de Orosí and check out the [Mirador](#), Ujarrás ruins and some free hikes (double-check safety in advance).
- ☺ Visit the [Prusia NP](#) for free (part of Volcán Irazú NP): Don't take the official entrance but at the last cross-roads go to the left instead of the right.
- ☺ Visit the Cartago church (Nuestra Señora de los Ángeles).
- ☺ Hike in the beautiful highlands around Paso Ancho.
- ☺ Visit the little town of Cot.

Worth The Extra \$€¥

- 👍 Visit the Sanitorium (Sanatoria Durán).
- 👍 Surrounding nature: Braulio Corillo NP, Tapantí NP, Chirripo NP, Reserva Savegre... the cheapest & least known: Prusia, part of Volcán Irazú NP.
- 👍 Volcano spotting: Volcan Irazú, Volcan Barva & Volcan Poás.
- 👍 Drive down to the [National Monument](#) in Guayabo: Aquaducts (on-site camping possible).

Tourist Trap Alert

⊗ Don't book tours to waterfalls or national parks. Most are easily accessible by bus, car or hitch-hiking and it's more fun to explore by yourself.

Budget Bites

Costa Rica is *very* expensive. If possible, bring basic food from Nicaragua/Panamá to save some bucks.

⌘ Markets: Mercado Municipal.

⌘ Cheaper supermarkets: Palí, Pequeno Mundo.

Festivals

⊗ Virgin of Los Angeles Day: 2-Aug.

⊗ Independence Day: 15-Sep.

⊗ Virgin of Pilar Day: 12-Oct (Tres Rios).

Mama Said

☠ Watch your bag, buy a lock. Smartphones are popular. Pickpockets work the centre.

☠ Be careful with taxi's, only use the official, red ones.

☠ With whatever transport you arrive, odds are high they ask for a return ticket out of the country. That said, Photoshop is a solution, nothing is double-checked.

Next?

➔ In Costa Rica: San Jose, Heredia, Alujeala, La Fortuna, Monteverde, Limón, Tortuguero.

➔ International destinations closeby: Panamá, Nicaragua.

Tip: Download the free Triposo Costa Rica app for an offline map, offline guide & more. Load Google Maps when you have wifi and leave it open, you will still be able to use it offline.

Sleep Cheap

❖ Montana Linda Youth Hostel & Spanish School, +50625333640, Orosí.

❖ Casa Aura B&B, +50625918161, 75m north of Parque Jesús Jiménez Cartago.

❖ Go [Couchsurfing](#) or [house-sitting](#)! Also check [WorkAway](#).

Nights Best Spent

◆ [Costa Rica Crafts Brewing Co](#), Brasil (suburb).

◆ [Club C](#), 228.

◆ Rubik, in front of Walmart en Oreamuno.

... Seated Down

◆ Cinopolis Tres Ríos, San Diego (suburb).

◆ Anfiteatro Municipal de Cartago, before Iglesia Maria Auxiliadora.

◆ Teatro Espressivo, Centro Comercial Momentum Pinares.

Knowledge I'm Taking Home

📖 Hable español: [Montana Linda Youth Hostel & Spanish School](#).

📖 Dance like a Latino: [Academia Expresarte](#).

Free-Riding?

■ In the centre everything is walkable. Don't walk on the streets at night.

■ Buses leave just behind the train station (Lumaca). Ask locals which one to take if you're confused. At night the Pacaya location changes to downtown.

■ Biking is possible. Keep an eye on the mental traffic though!

■ Taxi's are quite expensive and take your precautions. Foreigner = money, which can attract robbers. Use only the official, red cabs.

The Earth Becomes My Throne