



# Steph's Quick Budget Fact Sheet

## Costa Rica - Monteverde

### Quick Facts

- ✓ **Capital:** San Jose (Chepe)
- ✓ **Language:** Spanish
- ✓ **Population:** ± 6500 (Santa Elena)
- ✓ **Currency:** Colones / Dollars
- ✓ **Country code:** +506
- ✓ **Visa:** Fore some countries, [check here!](#)
- ✓ **Alarm code:** 112
- ✓ **Vaccinations:** Hep-A / Hep-B / Typhoid / Yellow fever / DTP / Malaria prevention
- ✓ **Ecosystem:** 100 mammals species / 400 bird species / 10,000s insect varieties / over 2,500 plant varieties.

### 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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: 1800m. Climate: Tropical rain/cloud forest, cool mountain air.

### Bucket List For Free

- ☺ Ask around for the hidden hollow tree and climb all the way to the top.
- ☺ Visit the hot springs.
- ☺ Free coffee tasting at Coffee Center (watch out, ice coffees cost \$5, prices not displayed).
- ☺ Hike the Cerro Amigos trail and spot Volcán Arenal, the Pacific Ocean and Southern Nicaragua.
- ☺ Visit the local cementery.
- ☺ Walk down the road to Monteverde into the forest.

### Worth The Extra \$€¥

- 👉 Paid tours: [Canopy skywalk \(bridge\)](#) or [Teleferico](#), [Community Fund walking tour](#), [horse tour](#), [coffee tour](#), [bird watching](#), [night tour](#), [sugarcane tour](#), [ATV & Canopy ziplining](#).
- 👉 Visit the Santa Elena Reserve (\$4 bus + entrance)& Monteverde Reserve (1:30hr walk or \$12 bus + entrance). Both have 50% student discount! Other: Children's Rain Forest Reserve / San Luis waterfall.
- 👉 Visit the Herpetarium, Serpentarium, [Ecological Sanctuary](#), Frog Pond, Bat Jungle, Butterfly Garden.

## Tourist Trap Alert

⊗ You don't need a tour to go hiking or visiting a national park. Save some money, enjoy the peace and quiet without 15 other tourists around you and go by yourself! Trails are really well marked.

## Sleep Cheap

- ❖ Casa Tranquilo Hostel, +50626456782, Carretera.
- ❖ Sleepers Sleep Cheaper Hostel, +50683050113, main road.
- ❖ Go [Couchsurfing](#) or [house-sitting](#)! Also check [WorkAway](#).

## Budget Bites

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

⌘ Saturday 6:30AM to noon: La Feria, Farmers' Market @ Santa Elena Gymnasium.

⌘ The main supermarket is located next to the bus stop.

## Knowledge I'm Taking Home

- 📖 Hable español: [Monteverde Institute](#).
- 📖 Biology/Conservation/Sustainable development classes: Also [Monteverde Institute](#).

## Festivals

🌟 Monteverde Music Festival: Latin/Jazz, Jan-Apr.

## Free-Riding?

■ Everything within Santa Elena is walkable. Within 1,5 hours you can walk to the Monteverde Reserve. It's too far to walk to the Santa Elena Reserve.

■ Intercity buses arrive at and leave from the Santa Elena bus terminal. Buy the tickets at least 1 day in advance as buses fill up quickly. More info [here!](#)

■ This place is made for mountainbiking. Rent one and explore! (Hotel El Viandante)

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

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.

## Mama Said

💀 Watch your bag, buy a lock. Smartphones are popular. Pickpockets work tourist destinations.

💀 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: La Fortuna, Puntarenas, Heredia, San Jose, Santa Teresa.

➔ International destinations closeby: Panamá, Nicaragua.

The Earth Becomes My Throne