



Steph's Quick Budget Fact Sheet

Costa Rica – Nicoya & The Coast

Quick Facts

- ✓ **Capital:** San Jose (Chepe)
- ✓ **Language:** Spanish
- ✓ **Population:** ± 25,000
- ✓ **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: Irazu 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 a 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									peak	peak		
Best												
Budget												

Altitude: 3m. Climate: Tropical / hot.

Bucket List For Free

☺ Nicoya's centre, church and Casa de Arte (Curime).

☺ The true advantage is Nicoya's proximity to the Pacific Coast and its beaches. Easy reached by bus or hitch-hiking:

- Playa Sámara
- Playa Nosara
- Playa Carrillo
- Playa Tamarindo
- Playa Grande
- Playa Conchal
- Playa Santa Teresa
- Playa del Coco
- Playa Junquillal
- Playa Brasilito
- Playa Flamingo
- Playa Guiones
- Playa Azul
- Witch Rock etc. etc. etc.

Worth The Extra \$€¥

👉 Guanacaste has many gorgeous national parks to choose from. They all charge an entrance fee:

- Barra Honda
- Marino Las Baulas de Guanacaste (Tamarindo)
- Diria
- Cabo Blanco Absolute Natural Reserve
- Montezuma
- Palo Verde

👉 Blend in and rent a surfboard, bodyboard or stand-up paddle board to ride those waves.

Budget Bites

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

- ⌘ Markets: Next to the Nicoya bus terminal.
- ⌘ Cheaper supermarkets: Palí (Sámara).
- ⌘ D'Melon: Affordable food & smoothies and free wifi (Nicoya).

Festivals

- ⚙ Dia de Guanacaste: Annexation, Jul.
- ⚙ Dia Virgin Los Angeles: Religious, 2-Aug.
- ⚙ Independence Day: 15-Sep.

Mama Said

- 💀 Watch your bag, buy a lock. Smartphones are popular. Pickpockets work the centre. Don't go swimming in the sea while leaving your stuff behind.
- 💀 Locals don't walk around at night, not even the smallest distances. With a reason.
- 💀 Be careful with taxi's, only use the official, red ones.

Next?

- ➔ In Costa Rica: La Fortuna, Monteverde, San Jose.
- ➔ International destinations closeby: Panamá, Nicaragua.

Sleep Cheap

- ❖ Hostel El Cactus, +50626563224, 10 meters Sur de Casa Coba (Playa Samara).
- ❖ Nosara Beach Hostel, +50626820238, Punta Guiones (Playa Nosara).
- ❖ Go [Couchsurfing](#) or [house-sitting](#)! Also check [WorkAway](#).

Nights Best Spent

Nicoya doesn't have much of a nightlife going on. Head to the beach destinations for some drinks at the bars or bring your rum to the beach.

Knowledge I'm Taking Home

📖 Hable español: [Academia de Español](#).

Free-Riding?

- In the centre of Nicoya and the beachtowns everything is walkable. Don't walk on the streets at night.
- Buses to the beach towns leave from the Nicoya bus terminal and have the destinations displayed on the front. You can also hail the bus down at any bus stop along the road. If you missed the bus: Hitch-hiking is a thing here.
- Although it might be too hot, biking is possible.
- 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.

The Earth Becomes My Throne