



Steph's Quick Budget Fact Sheet

Costa Rica - San Jose

Quick Facts

- ✓ **Capital:** San Jose (Chepe)
- ✓ **Language:** Spanish
- ✓ **Sq km:** 44.62
- ✓ **Population:** ± 334,000
- ✓ **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.

Travel Seasons

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

Altitude: 1172m. Climate: Tropical / many micro-climates

Bucket List For Free

- ☺ Pick up a free copy of GAM Cultural: Their [website](#).
- ☺ Free museums: [Museo de Arte Costaricense](#), [Museo de Arte y Diseño Contemporáneo](#) (free on Monday), Galeria Nacional and [TEOR/ética-Lado V](#).
- ☺ Free movies are displayed in Centro Cine, Thu-Sun, 7PM, Avenida 9 / Calle 9 y 11. More: [Universidad de Costa Rica](#) (newsletter) & [Alianza Francesa](#).
- ☺ Free sights: Cementerio General, Catedral, Iglesia de la Merced, Parque La Sabana / España / Central, Mercado Central and Universidad de Costa Rica.

Worth The Extra \$€¥

- 👍 Paid museums: [Museo Nacional](#). 50% off with a (fake) student pass & [Museo del Jade y la Cultura Precolombina](#) & [Museos del Banco](#) & Pueblo Antiguo.
- 👍 Surrounding nature: Braulio Corillo NP, Valle de Orosí / Tapantí NP, Chirripó NP, Monteverde, La Cangreja NP, Los Quetzales NP, Juan Castro Blanco NP, Tortuguero NP, Volcan Irazú / Barva / Poás / Arenal, Cataratas de Aquires.
- 👍 Adventure sports: Bungee-jumping / Rafting / Tubing / Canyoning / Helicopter Tours.

Tourist Trap Alert

⊗ Unless you are disabled or over 70 years old, you can't be in the tourist bus without losing your dignity. Very expensive too.

⊗ Don't book tours to waterfalls or national parks. Most are easily accessible by bus or car.

Budget Bites

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

⌘ Markets: An overview on [this website](#). Around (not in) Mercado Central fruit/veggies are the cheapest.

⌘ Cheaper supermarkets: Palí, Pequeno Mundo.

Festivals

⚙ Cenac Film Festival: Feb.

⚙ Independence Day: 15-Sep.

⚙ Festival de las Luces: Christmas, Dec (1st w).

Mama Said

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

☠ 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.

☠ Dangerous areas: Around Coco Cola & San Carlos Terminal. Be careful in parks at night.

Next?

➔ In Costa Rica: Cartago, Heredia (both great day trips), Alujeala, La Fortuna, Monteverde.

➔ International destinations closeby: Panamá, Nicaragua.

Sleep Cheap

❖ [Monkey's Tribe Hostel](#), +50640300491, Calle 43 / Avenida 12.

❖ Aldea Hostel, +50622336365, Avenida 2.

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

Nights Best Spent

◆ El Lobo Estepario, Avenida 2.

◆ El Sótano, Avenida 11 # Calle 3.

◆ Calle La Amargura / Calle 3.

... Seated Down

◆ Teatro Nacional, Avenida 2 # Calle 3 y 5.

◆ Teatro Urbano, Avenida 2 # Calle 13 y 15.

◆ Teatro La Aduana, Calle 23 # Avenida 3 y 7

Knowledge I'm Taking Home

📖 Hable español: [Forester Instituto](#).

📖 Dance like a Latino: [CRLA](#).

📖 Cook like a Tico: [CRLA](#).

Free-Riding?

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

■ Buses go anywhere in San Jose and have different prices displayed on the front. Ask locals which one to take if you're confused. Intercity or international buses leave from a wide variety of stations: Download the bus schedule by clicking on the link in my blog.

■ Biking is possible and in the centre there are even bicycle lanes. 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.

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.