



Steph's Quick Budget Fact Sheet

Costa Rica - Tortuguero

Quick Facts

- ✓ **Capital:** San Jose (Chepe)
- ✓ **Language:** Spanish
- ✓ **Sq km:** 312 (National Park)
- ✓ **Population:** ± 1200-1500
- ✓ **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									driest			
Wet							wettest					
Turtle												
Budget												

Altitude: m. Climate: Humid / Tropical, always rainy.

Bucket List For Free

- ☺ From the beach there are many short paths going up to a longer hiking trail. This trail is enjoyable in itself, but also gives you free access to Tortuguero National Park. There will be a sign 'end/fin', ignore it: Keep going, no one checks *anything*. There are no guards there, so why pay for their 'work'? Nature belongs to all of us, as long as we don't pollute or abuse it.
- ☺ Enjoy the beach life. Be careful with the currents.
- ☺ No money for a boat trip? No worries, lots of wildlife can be spotted on the trip from La Pavona which you have to take to get there anyway.

Worth The Extra \$€¥

- 👍 #1: Turtle-spotting. The beach is only accessible with a tour at night, so inform about a reliable guide (should cost about \$20). Boots-rental possible.
- 👍 Next to the beautiful green turtles, much more other wildlife can be discovered: Manatee, sea cow, caiman crocodile, crustacean, jesus christ lizard, bull shark and a wide variety of bird and fish species. A guide can help to spot them. Or check the kayak tour.
- 👍 Sea Turtle Conservancy Museum: \$1.

Tourist Trap Alert

⊗ Watch out for (English-speaking) people selling you both the bus and boat ticket at the same time, they might overcharge you.

Mama Said

☠ Watch out when alone on the beach. Don't display valuables.

☠ Drinking water comes out the tap. Go ahead.

☠ With whatever transport you arrive in Costa Rica, 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: Limón, San Jose, Cartago, Alajuela, La Fortuna, Monteverde.

→ 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

❖ Aracari Garden Hostel & Suites, +50627672246, south of soccerfield.

❖ 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. If you're already here, get some from the previous destination: Everything has to be imported by boat here and is therefore expensive.

⌘ Fresh fruit & vegetables can be bought by the little supermarkets.

⌘ The biggest supermarket is on the paved path, close to where the boat arrives.

Free-Riding?

■ From San Jose, take a bus to Cariari, from there take a bus to La Pavona (go to the bus terminal yourself, don't get involved with English-speaking 'guides', they overcharge: If you don't have a suitcase, DON'T pay the extra \$2). From there take a boat.

■ Try to take the boat before 11AM. Again: If you don't have a suitcase, DON'T pay the extra \$2.

■ The centre exists of 1 paved path and a network of sand paths. No cars are allowed. Everything is walkable.

The Earth Becomes My Throne