

## **COSTA RICA**

Costa Rica, officially the Republic of Costa Rica, is a country located in Central America, bordered on the north by Nicaragua and Panama by the southeast. Its territory, with a total area of 51,100 square kilometers, has the Caribbean Sea in its east coast and the Pacific Ocean in the west coast. It has a population of 4,200,000 people and the Spanish as the official language.

The capital, San José, is the political and economic center of the country. One of the most striking features of the country is that Costa Rica was the first country in the world to abolish the army since 1948 and established it officially in its Constitution since 1949.

Before traveling to Costa Rica:

### **Vaccines:**

No mandatory vaccines to travel to Costa Rica; A vaccination certificate including the yellow fever vaccine is required for travelers from countries where there is a risk of yellow fever transmission. However, there are other recommended vaccines such as Hepatitis A and B, typhoid and tetanus.

The best way to have more information, is to visit your nearest international vaccination center.

### **Visa:**

As for the visa, the vast majority of citizens do not need visas to travel to Costa Rica; you just have to present a passport valid for at least 6 months and a return ticket. At the airport, you

will get you 90 days visa, which can be renewed for another 90 days. The price of tourist visa is approximately \$ 20 (the cost of the visa is always subject to changes).

For more information, a useful website for consultation can be the official website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica:<http://www.rree.go.cr/>

### **Weather:**

Costa Rica is a small country; however, it has many climatic varieties depending on the region where one is. Generally classified as a tropical country because of its proximity to Ecuador. It has no real winter period and the sun shines throughout the year. In this country you can enjoy 12 hours of sunlight as the sun rises at 5 am and sets at approximately 6 pm. The main reason of the variety of climates of Costa Rica is the mountains that allow different climates in the country.

In Costa Rica the average annual temperature ranges between 21 and 27 degrees; the coldest months of the year are November, December and January and the months of March to May are the hottest.

For more information,

- <http://www.govisitcostarica.co.cr/travelInfo/climate.asp>
- <http://www.imn.ac.cr/educacion/CLIMA%20DE%20COSTA%20RICA.html>

### **Currency:**

The currency of Costa Rica is the Costa Rican Colon; currently circulating coins are 5, 10, 25, 50, 100 and 500 colons. As for paper money, there are the 1,000, 2,000, 5,000, 10,000, 20,000 and 50,000 colons. The best option is to travel with Dollars and change once you get there either at the airport or in an exchange office/agency.

<http://www.xe.com/ucc/es/>