

About Costa Rica – a brief insight

Covering only 0.03% of the surface of our planet, Costa Rica has approximately 6% of the world's biodiversity. In addition, Costa Rica is characterized by impressive scenic beauty, a consolidated system of protected areas, social and political stability, high educational levels, and efficient infrastructure and services.

The land – and especially the **flora and fauna** – is very diverse and has **countless natural wonders** to see and experience. With numbers like 10.000 species of plants, 850 of birds, 218 of reptiles, 205 of mammals, 160 of amphibians and 160 of continental fish, Costa Rica earns its name, the “Rich Coast”.

The **climate** is tropical and subtropical depending on the region, and very **comfortable all year round**. The dry season spans from December to April, while the green season includes the months from May to November. It is very hot all through the year in the level coasts. The Central Plateau has a more moderate climate and it is quite cool in the highest places.

Costa Rica's society is well **educated** considering the rate of alphabetization, which is the highest within all Central America. People are extremely friendly and hospitable, while this country hosts a great range of races and creeds. The **familiar traditions** are very important and many activities revolve around the family.



Costa Rica's **political situation** has been **peaceful** since its independence from Spain and the **economy flourishes**, especially in the agricultural sector but also in tourism and electronic exports. Costa Rica is proud of having one of the oldest and most stable democracies in Latin America and of being the only country in the world (other than Iceland) without an army. This has allowed the country to achieve positive indicators in health and education, while remaining a neutral country with a tradition of non-violence.

The very popular Costa Rican expression “**Pura Vida!**” derives from a movie named Pura Vida, which was first shown in 1956. Nowadays you will hear this expression at every corner in Costa Rica. People use these two short words to express the state of **happiness**, peace, and tranquility that the **political stability** and freedom in Costa Rica brings. It has become a meaningful expression in informal Spanish and has even been added to the **dictionaries**. By using these magic words, Costa Ricans identify themselves with their beautiful country and by addressing someone that way, you will **cause a smile** on the person's face. Use it and you will cause sympathy everywhere you go!

The country's strategic position, in the heart of the western hemisphere, the Government's positive attitude towards foreign investment, its infrastructure, access to international markets, and the quality and cost of labor, make Costa Rica an **ideal place to establish commercial operations**.