



Costa Rican Country Guide

Passport and Tourist Visa Conditions

Australian ordinary passport holders travelling as a tourist may usually enter Costa Rica without a visa for a stay of up to 90 days. All travellers must have an onward travel ticket (out of Costa Rica within 90 days), a visa to their onward country (if required), and sufficient funds to maintain themselves during their stay. It is recommended that passports be valid for six months beyond the period of intended stay in Costa Rica.

A embarkation tax of US\$29 is payable when leaving Costa Rica (unless previously included in the ticket cost). Persons who have recently travelled to countries where yellow fever is endemic will require a yellow fever vaccination certificate upon entry.

Additional conditions may apply to minors. Travellers are recommended to contact a Costa Rican mission on the details below for further information and to ensure their specific circumstances make them eligible to enter Costa Rica without a visa. Persons travelling via the US are reminded of their obligation to comply with US entry and transit visa requirements.

Vaccinations and Health Precautions

The following information is intended as a guide only and in no way should it be used as a substitute for professional medical advice relative to a travellers individual needs and vaccination history. No guarantee is made as to its accuracy or thoroughness. For further information, please contact The Travel Doctor on 1300 658 844.

Vaccination against hepatitis A is recommended for travellers to Costa Rica. Frequent or long stay travellers should consider vaccination against hepatitis B and rabies (particularly if working with animals). Vaccination against typhoid should be considered particularly when travelling to areas with poor sanitation and hygiene. There is a low risk of malaria in Costa Rica; dengue fever and the zika virus also occurs, thus insect avoidance measures are recommended and anti malarial medication may be necessary depending on your itinerary. Costa Rica is listed as a zika category 1 country. For information on the risks the zika virus poses to pregnancy, including up to 6 months following the exposure of either parent, see www.who.int/csr/disease/zika/en/. Travellers are advised to drink bottled water and avoid ice cubes and raw/undercooked food.

Regardless of destination, all travellers should be up-to-date with their routine "background" vaccinations including a recent annual influenza vaccination. Please consult a medical practitioner or contact The Travel Doctor for your specific risk to these preventable diseases and the appropriate avoidance measures. Australians travelling to Costa Rica should ensure that they have adequate travel insurance to cover the length of their stay. Medications that are legal in Australia may be illegal in other countries. For further information on insurance, taking medication overseas, the zika virus and other issues please visit www.smarttraveller.gov.au/tips.

Costa Rican Representation in Australia

Embassy of Costa Rica, Canberra

15 London Circuit
Suite 09.03
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Tel: (02) 6113 0271

Consulate General of Costa Rica, Sydney

Suite 301 B, Level 3
50 Margaret Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Tel: (02) 9262 3883
Fax: (02) 9279 1440



Costa Rican Country Guide

Page 2 of 5 Important Information while Travelling in Costa Rica

Time Differences between Costa Rica and Australia

Costa Rica is Greenwich Mean Time -6 hours. Daylight saving time is not observed. The applicable time zone is called Central Standard Time (CST). The following times in Australia are a day ahead of the time in Costa Rica, for instance if it's Sunday afternoon in Costa Rica, it's Monday morning in Australia.

Costa Rica, 12 noon, June = Perth 2am; Adelaide, Darwin 3:30am; Brisbane, Hobart, Melbourne, Sydney 4am.

Costa Rica, 12 noon, December = Perth 2am; Darwin 3:30am; Brisbane 4am; Adelaide 4:30am; Hobart, Melbourne, Sydney 5am.

Important Contact Numbers

Country Code for Costa Rica: +506

To Dial Australia Call:
00 61 <City> <Number>

Travelex Card Services:
Call the US on +1 954 838 8294

Visa Global Assistance:
0800 011 0030

MasterCard:
0800 011 0184

American Express Travellers Cheques:
0800 011 0826

Emergency Services: 911

The emergency services may not always have English speaking staff available. To avoid delay it may be best to seek the assistance of a Spanish speaker to call the emergency services.

Important Information to be Recorded

Travellers are encouraged to carry photocopies of all important documents separately to their originals and to leave a set of these photocopies with someone in Australia. This includes those documents listed below.

Passports

Name: _____ Passport #: _____
Name: _____ Passport #: _____

Credit Cards

Name: _____ Institution: _____
Card Number: _____
Name: _____ Institution: _____
Card Number: _____

Travel Insurance

Name: _____ Institution: _____
Policy #: _____ Emergency #: _____
Name: _____ Institution: _____
Policy #: _____ Emergency #: _____

Australian Representation in Costa Rica

Australian Embassy, Mexico

Ruben Dario 55
Col. Polanco
MEXICO CITY 11580

Tel: (+52 55) 1101 2200
Fax: (+52 55) 1101 2201

Web: www.mexico.embassy.gov.au

Australian Consulate, San Jose

L 3, Oficentro Torre La Sabana
LA SABANA, SAN JOSE

Tel: (+506) 8995 9900
Tel: (+506) 4700 6400

The Honorary Consulate in San Jose only provides limited services. The Australian Embassy in Mexico City, Mexico is accredited to this country and can provide full consular assistance.

Alternatively, Australians may obtain assistance by contacting the 24 hour Consular Emergency Centre in Australia on (+61) 2 6261 3305. Australians in Costa Rica are encouraged to register their presence and contact details with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade at www.orao.dfat.gov.au.



Costa Rican Country Guide

Page 3 of 5 General Destination Information for Costa Rica

Duty Free Allowances for Costa Rica and Australia

Allowances when entering Costa Rica:

Alcohol: 3 L of alcoholic beverages.
 Tobacco: 400 cigarettes or 50 cigars or 500g of tobacco.
 Perfume: Reasonable amounts for personal use.

Allowances when entering Australia:

Alcohol: 2.25 L.
 Tobacco: 25 cigarettes plus one open packet of cigarettes.
 Other Goods: Up to a value of \$900 (\$450 if under 18 years).

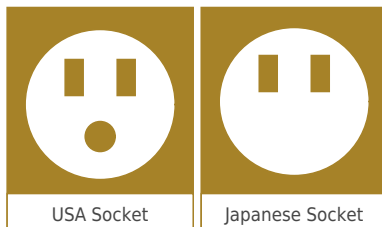
Minors may not claim alcohol or tobacco products. Further restrictions apply when entering/exiting Costa Rica & Australia. Travellers are encouraged to familiarise themselves with these restrictions before crossing the borders of either country. For further details on Costa Rican customs go to www.hacienda.go.cr (Spanish only), or for information on Australian customs visit www.border.gov.au.

Electrical Adaptors

Electrical Socket type: USA (type B) and Japanese (type A).

Supply: 110-120 V, 60 Hz (different to Australia). A voltage converter will usually be required to use appliances designed for Australia.

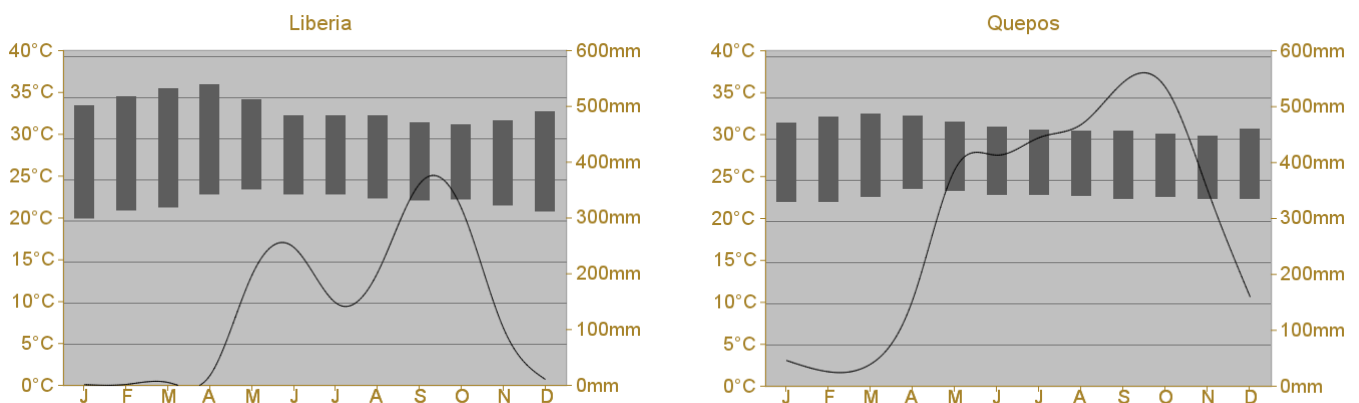
Travellers are urged to check the electrical info panel on their device. If it says "Input: 100-240V, 50-60 Hz" then a voltage converter should not be required.



Costa Rican Public Holidays 2018

01 Jan: New Years Day	02 Aug: Patron Saint Day
29 Mar: Maundy Thursday	15 Aug: Mother's Day
30 Mar: Good Friday	15 Sep: Independence Day
11 Apr: Santamaría Day	12 Oct: Day of Cultures
01 May: Labor Day	25 Dec: Christmas Day
25 Jul: Guanacaste Day	

Average Temperature (Bar) and Precipitation (Line) in Costa Rica



For local forecasts please go to the Costa Rican Institute of Meteorology at www.imn.ac.cr (Spanish) or www.bbc.com/weather.

TRAVEL ADVICE COPYRIGHT INFORMATION - Source Document: Travel Advice for Costa Rica. Author: Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Commonwealth of Australia. The Travel Advice information presented in this report is copyright Commonwealth of Australia. This advice is a synopsis only, more information relevant to specific issues is available from the website listed below. This material has been reproduced by permission, but does not purport to be the current official or authorized version. The Commonwealth does not warrant that the information is accurate, comprehensive or up to date, and you should make independent inquiries, and obtain appropriate advice, before relying on the information in any important matter. A current version may be obtained from www.smarttraveller.gov.au.



Costa Rican Country Guide

Page 4 of 5 Costa Rican Currency Information and Cheat Sheet

Exchange Rate

Interbank Rate

1 Australian Dollar (AUD) = 419 Costa Rican Colónes
 1,000 Costa Rican Colónes (CRC) = 2.38 Australian Dollars

With 4% Margin

1 Australian Dollar (AUD) will buy 403 Costa Rican Colónes
 1,000 Costa Rican Colónes (CRC) will cost 2.48 Australian Dollars

All rates were correct at a point in time on Monday, 05 Nov 2018. The "Interbank Rate" does not take into account any exchange fees, while the "With 4% Margin" adds 4% to the exchange rate to simulate a typical margin that would be paid when exchanging currencies. These rates have been rounded and should not be used when calculating transactions of large value.

Purchasing-Power Parity

The following is a purchasing-power comparison of the Costa Rican Colón and the Australian Dollar, using the Big Mac as a common good. While it does not present a faultless comparison, it is a useful indicator of the purchasing-power of the currencies.

Big Mac Australia: \$5.95 (AUD) = 2,496 Colónes
 Big Mac Costa Rica: 2,290 (CRC) = 5.46 Australian Dollars

A Big Mac in Costa Rica is therefore 8% less expensive than in Australia.

This comparison is based on 2018 prices using current exchange rates. Prices may not include variations by locality or local taxes.

Currency Cheat Sheet

This cheat sheet uses the "With 4% Margin" rate of exchange listed above.

500 CRC = \$1.24 AUD	10,000 CRC = \$24.80 AUD	100,000 CRC = \$247.97 AUD
1,000 CRC = \$2.48 AUD	20,000 CRC = \$49.59 AUD	200,000 CRC = \$495.93 AUD
2,000 CRC = \$4.96 AUD	30,000 CRC = \$74.39 AUD	300,000 CRC = \$743.90 AUD
3,000 CRC = \$7.44 AUD	40,000 CRC = \$99.19 AUD	400,000 CRC = \$991.86 AUD
4,000 CRC = \$9.92 AUD	50,000 CRC = \$123.98 AUD	500,000 CRC = \$1,239.83 AUD
5,000 CRC = \$12.40 AUD	60,000 CRC = \$148.78 AUD	600,000 CRC = \$1,487.79 AUD
6,000 CRC = \$14.88 AUD	70,000 CRC = \$173.58 AUD	700,000 CRC = \$1,735.76 AUD
7,000 CRC = \$17.36 AUD	80,000 CRC = \$198.37 AUD	800,000 CRC = \$1,983.72 AUD
8,000 CRC = \$19.84 AUD	90,000 CRC = \$223.17 AUD	900,000 CRC = \$2,231.69 AUD
9,000 CRC = \$22.32 AUD		1 million CRC = \$2,479.65 AUD

Banknotes

The legal currency of Costa Rica is the Colon (plural Colones), which is abbreviated using the symbol ₡. The subunit of the colon is the centimo, but it is obsolete for day to day transactions. The following banknotes are the most common in Costa Rica but other versions and denominations are also in circulation. Pictures are not to scale. As it is illegal in many countries to print copies of bank notes, travellers are advised to remove the below images before travelling. US dollars are also widely accepted in Costa Rica.





Costa Rican Country Guide

Page 5 of 5 About Costa Rica and Costa Rican Travel Map

About Costa Rica

Full Name: Republica de Costa Rica (Rich Coast).
Independence: 15 September 1821 (from Spain).
Size: 51,100 sq km (75% the size of Tasmania).
Population: 4.8 million. San Jose (capital) 1.5 million.
Language: Spanish is the predominate and official language.
Religion: Catholic 76%, Evangelical 14%.
Ethnicity: European and mestizo 84%, mixed European and African 6.7%, indigenous 2.4%.
GDP Per Capita: \$12,900 (Australia US\$40,800).

Significant Dates:
 Pre 1500's - Several indigenous groups including the Caribs, Corobicis and Chibchas sparsely inhabit the region.
 1502 AD - Columbus reaches Costa Rica on his fourth voyage.
 1563 - First European settlement is made at Cartago. A lack of slave labour and precious minerals results in the small colony growing slowly.
 1723 - Irazú volcano nearly wipes out Cartago.
 1808 - Coffee is introduced, becoming the dominant crop.
 1821 - Independence from Spain is declared.
 1856 - National hero Juan Santamaria is killed in battle.
 1869 - First free and democratic elections are held.
 1949 - Women and ethnic minorities are given the right to vote. Costa Rica abolishes its armed forces.

