ROAD TRIP · COSTA RICA

Honeymoon

Two weeks in the finest lodges: hot springs at Arenal, the cloud forest, and a week of beach at Santa Teresa and Tamarindo.

Length	14 days, 13 nights
Distance	640 km, 5 driving days
Behind the wheel	14 h 10 min
Travellers	2, 1 room, 1 car
Hotels	Comfort: a good hotel (3 stars)
Flights	Amsterdam – San José (SJO), Liberia (LIR) – Amsterdam

CONTENTS

La Fortuna	Days 1–3	**6**
Monteverde	Days 4–5	**8**
Santa Teresa	Days 6–9	**10**
Tamarindo	Days 10–13	**12**

Day by day

DAY	DATE	NIGHT	KM	DRIVE	°C
1		La Fortuna	120	2 h 30 min	
2		La Fortuna			
3		La Fortuna			
4		Monteverde	110	2 h 40 min	
5		Monteverde			
6		Santa Teresa	180	4 h 10 min	
7		Santa Teresa			
8		Santa Teresa			
9		Santa Teresa			
10		Tamarindo	150	3 h 30 min	
11		Tamarindo			
12		Tamarindo			
13		Tamarindo			
14		Flight home from LIR	60	1 h 20 min	

640 km · 14 h 10 min behind the wheel · on average 130 km a driving day

Kilometres and drive times by road (OSRM, OpenStreetMap), without stops: plan generously.

The route



Map: Natural Earth (public domain) · roads © OpenStreetMap contributors

ON THE ROAD

Day 1	Land at San José (SJO), drive to La Fortuna · About 120 km, 2 h 30 min
Day 4	La Fortuna, drive to Monteverde · About 110 km, 2 h 40 min
Day 6	Monteverde, drive to Santa Teresa · About 180 km, 4 h 10 min
Day 10	Santa Teresa, drive to Tamarindo · About 150 km, 3 h 30 min
Day 14	Tamarindo to Liberia airport (LIR), fly home to Amsterdam · About 60 km, 1 h 20 min

Well prepared

Passport and entry

Dutch and Belgian travellers need no visa for a holiday of up to 180 days. Your passport must be valid for the whole trip on arrival, and you show a return ticket at immigration. There is no ESTA or form beforehand; the departure tax is included in your air fare.
nederlandwereldwijd.nl/reisadvies/costa-rica

Driving licence and 4x4

Your Dutch or Belgian driving licence is valid for 90 days. For Monteverde, Santa Teresa, Drake Bay and the Nicoya coast road you want a 4x4: dirt roads, potholes and in the green season rivers to drive through. The compulsory liability insurance (SLI/TPL) is always bought from the rental company, even if your credit card gives cover.

On the road

Count on 40 to 50 km an hour on average: mountain roads, lorries and villages. Don't drive after dark; it is dark by six, all year round. Waze knows every road and warns of closures. Never leave anything visible in the car, not even for a moment.

Money

The currency is the colón, but almost everywhere takes dollars and credit cards. Bring a few small dollar notes for tips and parking. Restaurants add 10% service to the bill; an extra tip for a good nature guide (about $10 a person) is customary.

When to go

The dry season runs from December to April: sunny on the Pacific side and in Guanacaste. May to November is the green season, with sunny mornings and afternoon showers, quieter and cheaper; September and October are the wettest months, except on the Caribbean coast, where they are the driest.

Parks and entry fees

The national parks cost foreigners about $12 to $18 a person a day. For Manuel Antonio, Poás, Irazú and Corcovado you buy your ticket online beforehand from SINAC; Manuel Antonio is closed on Mondays.
serviciosenlinea.sinac.go.cr

Health

No vaccinations are required when you come from Europe. Protect yourself against mosquitoes (dengue), especially on the Caribbean coast. Tap water is drinkable in most places; ask in remote areas.

Packing list

- [ ] Passport (valid for the whole trip)
- [ ] Driving licence and credit card in the driver's name
- [ ] Travel and cancellation insurance
- [ ] Confirmations: flights, car, hotels, park tickets
- [ ] Rain jacket or poncho, even in the dry season
- [ ] Walking shoes that may get wet
- [ ] Insect repellent with DEET
- [ ] Reef-safe sunscreen
- [ ] Binoculars for birds and sloths
- [ ] A jumper for Monteverde and the volcanoes
- [ ] Plug adapter for type A/B (120 volts)

DON'T FORGET



DAYS 1–3

La Fortuna Alajuela

The cone of Arenal volcano

Land at San José (SJO), drive to La Fortuna: about 120 km, 2 h 30 min

3 nights

DON'T MISS

- Lava trails in Arenal National Park
- La Fortuna waterfall
- Hanging bridges through the rainforest
- Hot springs at the foot of the volcano

With an extra night

With an extra night: canyoning or rafting on the Balsa, or a day along Lake Arenal.

EXCURSIONS

- [ ] Arenal hanging bridges guided tour — roughly €60 a person
- [ ] Tabacón hot springs — roughly €90 a person
- [ ] Zipline over the rainforest — roughly €80 a person

HOTEL

- [ ] Alojamientos N&S · 3★
  La Fortuna de San Carlos
- [ ] Cabañas Litos · 3★
  Av. 331
- [ ] Jarabacoa Family Hostel · 3★
  san isidro de peñas blancas
- [ ] Natural Green Lodge · 3★
- [ ] Fortuna Retreat · 3★
  C. Don Vital Castro

NOTES



DAYS 4–5

Monteverde Puntarenas

Walking in the cloud forest

La Fortuna, drive to Monteverde: about 110 km, 2 h 40 min

2 nights

DON'T MISS

- Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve
- Hanging bridges through the canopy
- Hummingbirds at the Hummingbird Café

With an extra night

With an extra night: the Santa Elena reserve, or a coffee and chocolate tour.

EXCURSIONS

- [ ] Cloud forest with a nature guide — roughly €50 a person
- [ ] Cloud forest night walk — roughly €30 a person
- [ ] Monteverde zipline — roughly €80 a person

HOTEL

- [ ] El Nido Lodge · 3★
  50m este de gasolinera 606
- [ ] ÉWA Homes Monteverde · 3★
- [ ] Finca Aquarius · 3★
- [ ] The Green Tree Lodge · 3★
  60109
- [ ] Villa Golondrina · 3★
  Calle los Leitón

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Waves, yoga and sunsets

DAYS 6–9

Santa Teresa Puntarenas

Waves, yoga and sunsets

Monteverde, drive to Santa Teresa: about 180 km, 4 h 10 min

4 nights

DON'T MISS

- Santa Teresa beach
- Montezuma waterfall
- Cabo Blanco reserve

SANTA TERESA · DAYS 6–9

With an extra night

With an extra night: by boat to Tortuga Island, or a hike in Cabo Blanco.

EXCURSIONS

- [ ] Santa Teresa surf lesson — roughly €60 a person
- [ ] Tortuga Island boat trip — roughly €100 a person
- [ ] Yoga class — roughly €20 a person

HOTEL

- [ ] Seataya Oceanview Luxury Villas · 3★

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DAYS 10–13

Tamarindo Guanacaste

Surfing and sunset at Playa Tamarindo

Santa Teresa, drive to Tamarindo: about 150 km, 3 h 30 min

4 nights

DON'T MISS

- Playa Tamarindo
- Playa Grande and the leatherbacks
- Playa Conchal

TAMARINDO · DAYS 10–13

With an extra night

With an extra night: a sunset sail, or snorkelling at Playa Conchal.

EXCURSIONS

- [ ] Tamarindo surf lesson — roughly €60 a person
- [ ] Sunset catamaran sail — roughly €90 a person
- [ ] Estuary kayak tour — roughly €50 a person

HOTEL

- [ ] Tamarindo Bay Hotel & Apartments- Self Check In, Adults Only · 3★ — roughly €570
  100 metros sur del Banco Nacional
- [ ] Baliyana Lodge · 3★
  San Antonio del Cruz
- [ ] Epic Tamarindo Boutique Hotel · 3★
  Calle Tamarindo, 1
- [ ] Casa Leona · 3★
  100 Meters Sur 75 Este del
- [ ] Casa Mapache Pool and Breakfast Available near Tamarindo Beach · 3★
  La Garita Nueva

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What it costs

DAY	PLACE	HOTEL	TOURS	CAR	TOTAL
1	La Fortuna	€230	–	€70	**€300**
2	La Fortuna	€230	–	€70	**€300**
3	La Fortuna	€230	–	€70	**€300**
4	Monteverde	€200	–	€70	**€270**
5	Monteverde	€200	–	€70	**€270**
6	Santa Teresa	€320	–	€70	**€390**
7	Santa Teresa	€320	–	€70	**€390**
8	Santa Teresa	€320	–	€70	**€390**
9	Santa Teresa	€320	–	€70	**€390**
10	Tamarindo	€250	–	€70	**€320**
11	Tamarindo	€250	–	€70	**€320**
12	Tamarindo	€250	–	€70	**€320**
13	Tamarindo	€250	–	€70	**€320**
14	Flight home from LIR	–	–	€70	**€70**

Flights	€1,800
Hotels	€3,370
Excursions	€0
Car hire	€910
Total	**€6,080**
	€3,040 a person

An estimate to plan with (prices of 2026-10): hotels, the ticked excursions, car hire and flights. No fuel or meals.

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About this booklet

Made on rondreis.expert. Your trip is still there, to change and print again: costa-rica.roundtrip.expert/tours/honeymoon/

PHOTOS

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La Fortuna	nature/la-fortuna-waterfall_01_l.jpg · Press photo
Monteverde	nature/group-birdwatching-closeup-curi-cancha-reserve-monteverde.jpg.webp · Press photo
Tamarindo	Costa Rica Langosta Beach near Tamarindo 0208.jpg · ImagePerson, CC0

MAP AND TYPE

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