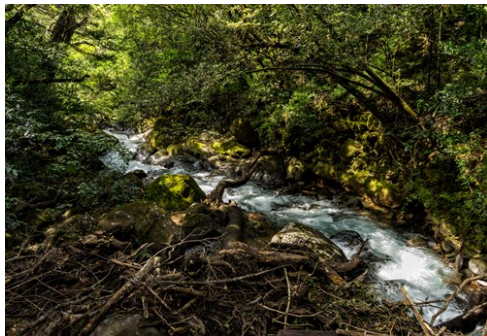




Liberia, Costa Rica

Photo: Inspired By Maps/Shutterstock.com



Nicholas Courtney/Shutterstock.com

Liberia, both the capital and largest city of Guanacaste province, is – despite its lower profile – the country's major center for tourism, as well as a regional hub of Costa Rica's northwest. The town attracts visitors from all over the world thanks to its beautiful natural surroundings, interesting architectural heritage, and a rich culture that is yours to be explored.

NOTE: This Guide has been limited to 20 points of interest per section. For the full guide, please visit [ArrivalGuides.com](https://www.arrivalguides.com)



Gianfranco Vivi/Shutterstock.com



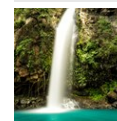
L11324/Wikimedia.org

QUIZ

*What Type of Traveller
Are You Based on
Your Travel IQ?*

TAKE THE QUIZ

Top 5



Rincón de la Vieja Nationa...
Only 15 miles northeast of Liberia, this national park boasts an ecological ...



Santa Rosa National Park
Santa Rosa National Park northwest of Liberia is one of the oldest natural r...



Ponderosa Adventure Park
This private wildlife reserve allows you to get close and personal with more...



Guanacaste National Park
East of Santa Rosa National Park, this park is a bird watcher's paradise for...



Gulf of Papagayo Beaches
The gulf and its coastline are a major tourist magnet, and thanks to its spl...



THE CITY



Patrick Nouhailer/Flickr.com (image cropped)

Nicknamed 'la ciudad blanca' ("the white city"), after the white gravel that was once used to build the city's roads and the bleached colonial houses, the city no longer retains much of its white hue, despite many of the buildings still standing. Thousands of tourists flock to Liberia every year, and in contrast to old-time travelers who used to pitch their tents here centuries ago, the visitors of today see Liberia as not just a stopover on a longer journey, but a prime destination for experiencing the rich and diverse culture of the country's high north.

Liberia experienced around 150 years of a most interesting history: founded in 1769 as a strategic settlement between the roads leading from Rivas, Bagaces and Nicoya, the city not only formed itself without a legal act, but was also caught in between the countries of Costa Rica and Nicaragua. Holding ties with Nicaragua until 1826, Liberia (formerly Guanacaste, until 1854) grew in importance that further increased after being adjoined to Costa Rica, and it has held the status ever since.

Today, Liberia's city center features modern buildings as well as multiple attractions of its unique cultural heritage, while the surroundings boast beautiful nature with a rich flora and fauna, that is best experienced one step at a

time.

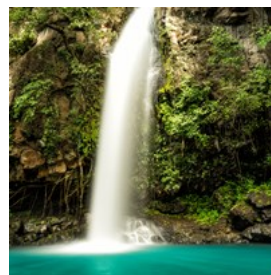
DO & SEE



Tizianok/Wikimedia.org (image cropped)

With its historic buildings and a growing cultural scene, Liberia boasts a lot of opportunities to learn about its rich history and culture – start your stroll at Calle Real, Liberia's oldest street, to see where it all began, and where renovation and expansion are already planned ahead. The town makes an excellent launch pad for exploring the nature and beaches nearby (and farther afield), as well as getting around the impressive province of Guanacaste for a deep dive into the diversity of Costa Rica and its unfathomably beautiful nature.

Rincón de la Vieja National Park



Only 15 miles northeast of Liberia, this national park boasts an ecological diversity that spreads over more than 34,000 acres with two volcanoes, 32 rivers and streams, and an incredible variety of flora and fauna. While guided hiking and horseback riding trails will allow you to come closest to Costa Rica's impressive wildlife, you can also take a day-long hiking trip to the top of the Rincón de la Vieja volcano and witness its activity, as well as take in the great views of the Nicoya Peninsula and the Lago de Nicaragua.

Photo: Nicholas Courtney/Shutterstock.com
Address: Rincón de la Vieja, Guanacaste Province
Opening hours: Tue-Sun 8am-4pm
Phone: +506 26 660 630
Email: jonaskatja@live.se

Santa Rosa National Park

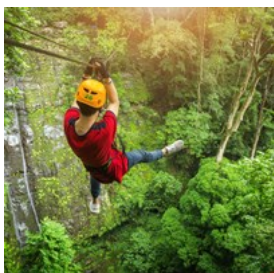


Santa Rosa National Park northwest of Liberia is one of the oldest natural reserves in Costa Rica, founded in 1971 to protect the natural

habitat: the savannas, deciduous forest, marshlands, and mangrove woodlands. Nestled in the Gulf of Papagayo, and reaching far into the ocean's depth, the park and its beaches are great for watching sea turtles coming ashore, while the inland boasts a whole different variety of flora and fauna, such as Bignoniaceae trees and howler monkeys.

Photo: EQRoy/Shutterstock.com
Address: Santa Rosa National Park, Guanacaste Province
Opening hours: Daily 8am-3:30pm
Phone: +506 26 665 051

Ponderosa Adventure Park



This private wildlife reserve allows you to get close and personal with more than 290 exotic animals, and to enjoy both the calming nature and thrilling adventures. Besides getting to know the country's fascinating variety of flora and especially fauna, horseback riding trips and zip-line rides are only some of the other experiences that await you here.

Photo: Tong_stocker/Shutterstock.com
Address: Salto, Guanacaste Province
Opening hours: Daily 8am-5pm

Phone: +506 22 881 000
Internet: www.ponderosaadventurepark.com
Email: info@Ponderosaadventurepark.com

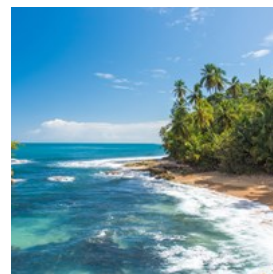
Guanacaste National Park



East of Santa Rosa National Park, this park is a bird watcher's paradise for a good brisk walk, or a leisurely stroll, along its winding paths right into the woods. While looking out for exotic birds and their nests, you can also spot other park dwellers such as Capuchin monkeys or collared peccaries, and thus explore Costa Rica's wildlife at its best.

Photo: Jorge A. Russell/Shutterstock.com
Address: Guanacaste National Park, Guanacaste Province
Opening hours: Daily 8am-4:30pm
Phone: +506 22 000 399

Gulf of Papagayo Beaches



The gulf and its coastline are a major tourist magnet, and thanks to its splendid beaches, Guanacaste province is an excellent choice for waterside pursuits.

Playa Panamá is one of the most attractive beaches in Guanacaste province, perfect for enjoying a swim as well as beautiful views over the ocean – take a walk along the shore, and savour drinks and treats only a stone's through away.

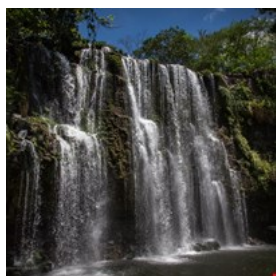
Playas del Coco is laid-back during the day but vigorous at night, so a great night out after a chilled day of sunbathing can best be enjoyed here – do also try out some of the water sports

practiced here.

Playa Hermosa is a grey-sand beach perched between two mountains and, in fact, seldom as crowded as its neighbors – head here for having a calm day in tranquil surroundings.

Photo: Simon Dannhauer/Shutterstock.com
Address: Gulf of Papagayo, Guanacaste Province

Llanos del Cortés Waterfall



Visiting a waterfall is on almost every traveler's bucket list but finding one in the rather flat and dry region around Liberia might seem like a

challenge. And yet, Llanos del Cortés raises its magnificent cascades in the middle of nowhere, amidst arid landscapes, and it barely has any comparable rivals – at least in Costa Rica.

Photo: Mike Baird/Flickr.com (image cropped)
Address: Llanos del Cortés, Guanacaste Province

Ermita de La Agonia Church



Right in the heart of Liberia, this ancient church is a jewel of beauty from days gone by, which still remains of great significance for the people of Liberia today. A remnant of Liberia's spirited past, this cultural sanctuary allows you to catch a breath after a day of sightseeing and take in its devotional and inspiring atmosphere.

Photo: Kognos/Wikimedia.org (image cropped)
Address: Parquécito de La Agonia, Liberia

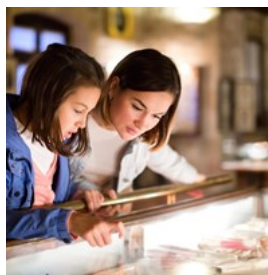
ArtWood Museum



This museum displays the natural variety of wood found in the province of Guanacaste, and also its inhabitants' richness of ideas and skill for creating unique artwork. Head here to admire beautiful sculptures and masks, and experience woodworking at a whole new level.

Photo: newsony/Shutterstock.com
Address: Colegio Tecnico de Liberia, Liberia
Opening hours: Mon-Sat 9am-5pm
Phone: +506 22 0156 15

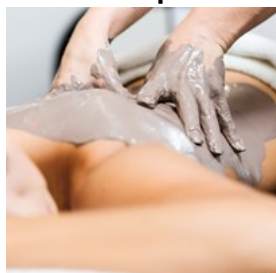
Guanacaste Museum



This museum is committed to safeguarding the natural, social, ethnic, cultural and artistic history of the province of Guanacaste. Featuring temporary exhibitions as well as various projects that are all meant to preserve the area's history, this former city jail boasts an authentic experience of Costa Rica's rich culture by displaying both interesting artifacts and architectural exhibits.

Photo: Iakov Filimonov/Shutterstock.com
Address: Avenida 1, Liberia
Opening hours: Tue-Sun 8am-4pm
Phone: +506 87 037 719
Internet: www.museodeguanacaste.org
Email: museodeguanacastecr@gmail.com

Simbiosis Spa



After experiencing a volcano visit at Rincón de la Vieja National Park, take the experience one step further by immersing yourself into a volcanic

mud bath or swimming in a volcanic clay water pool. Apart from massages and treatments all featuring volcanic by-products, the Simbiosis Spa at Hotel Hacienda Guachipelin also offers a sauna where you can reach an even deeper state of relaxation.

Photo: Josep Suria/Shutterstock.com

Address: Rincón de la Vieja, Guanacaste Province

Opening hours: Daily 7am-6pm

Phone: +506 26 902 900

Internet: www.guachipelin.com/en/hot-springs/simbiosis-spa-hot-springs.html

Email: info@guachipelin.com

DINING



Yulia Grigoryeva/Shutterstock.com

Dining in Liberia can be as distinct as its culture, and as most Costa Ricans love good food, dining out can become a great opportunity to mingle with locals. Make sure to try jugo de caña (sugar cane juice) and copos (snow cones), and take a stroll around town to locate your own hidden gems of authentic cooking.

Toro Negro Steak House



The name gives away what this particular restaurant is all about, but the menu extends to include seafood alongside a wide variety of meat

dishes.

Photo: Bernd Juergens/Shutterstock.com

Address: Cnr Calle 1 / Avenida 25 de Julio, Liberia

Opening hours: Daily 11:30am-11pm

Phone: +506 26 662 456

Email: toronegrosteak@hotmail.com

El Pilón



This restaurant is a great find for seafood lovers, as their menu always features fresh catches, and great drinks to enjoy them with. Take a seat at

their wooden tables within the dark-tiled dining room, and soak in a laid-back yet classy atmosphere, preceding it with, perhaps, an aperitif at the bar.

Photo: zhgee/Shutterstock.com

Address: Cnr Calle Central Rafael Iglesias / Avenida 5, Liberia

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 7:30am-3pm

Phone: +506 26 660 616

Liberia Social



This restaurant has it all, from delicious dishes making up a huge menu to a great atmosphere forged by impressive furniture and tasteful

decor. With fresh ingredients and ideas when it comes to flavors and tastes, this venue and its most friendly staff will definitely draw you back

in again – the wine selection certainly works towards it.

Photo: Africa Studio/Shutterstock.com

Address: Cnr Calle 7 / Avenida 25 de Julio, Liberia

Opening hours: Mon-Thu 12pm-12am. Fri-Sat 12pm-2am. Sun 5pm-11pm

Restaurante Jauja



Jauja serves authentic Costa Rican cuisine along with dishes from all over the world, all making for an extensive menu that calls for more than just a single visit. Come hungry, as the generous portions can easily feed two. Live music played some nights.

Photo: EQRoy/Shutterstock.com

Address: Cnr Calle 10 / Avenida 25 Julio, Liberia

Opening hours: Mon-Fri 11am-10pm. Sat 12pm-10pm

Phone: +506 26 652 061

Email: juanpabloberrocalsalazar@gmail.com

Ozaki Liberia



Of all the international flavors that already waft around Liberia, Asian ones are some of the most successful, and are a staple favorite among

locals and tourists alike. With a focus on Japanese specialties, Ozaki serves all kind of dishes as well as the town's reportedly most famous sushi, excellent both visually and flavor-wise.

Photo: zhgee/Shutterstock.com

Address: Cnr Calle 5 / Avenida 5, Liberia

Opening hours: Tue-Sat 12pm-10pm. Sun 12pm-9pm

Phone: +506 26 651 505

Email: ozaki.liberia@hotmail.com

CAFES



Free-Photos/Pixabay.com (image cropped)

Coffee has played a key role in Costa Rica for ages, playing a part in the country's history as well as Liberia's cafe lineup. Most cafes do not only serve the black bean's best drink, but also sweet and savory treats that come in the Costa Rican tradition, along with specialties from all over the globe.

Donde Pipe



This low-key cafe serves everything from fresh salads and Costa Rican wraps to home-baked cakes and shakes, with a cantina-style buffet to pick and choose from. Self-service.

Photo: EM Karuna/Shutterstock.com

Address: Crn Calle 8 / Avenida 3, Liberia

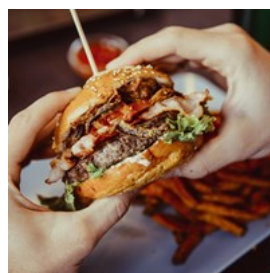
Opening hours: Daily 7am-6pm

Phone: +506 26 654 343

Internet: www.dondepipe.com

Email: info@dondepipe.com

Coquitos Cafe



Start with one of their fresh salads before savoring a burger, pasta or Costa Rican specialties, and do not forget to finish off with a

piece (or two) of their wonderful cakes – in fact, the sweet treats are already worth the visit all by themselves.

Photo: veryulissa/Shutterstock.com

Address: Crn Calle Central / Avenida 7

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 11:30am-7:30pm. Sun 2pm-6pm

Phone: +506 40 341 029

Posada Real Café



This cafe is the perfect spot if you're in the market for sweet treats or even a proper lunch. With its extensive menu of dishes ranging from meat grills to homemade desserts, Posada Real Café serves everything one's heart desires.

Photo: LStockStudio/Shutterstock.com

Address: Crn Calle Central / Avenida 4, Liberia

Opening hours: Mon-Fri 9am-7pm. Sat 9am-8pm. Sun 11am-6pm

Phone: +506 26 650 219

Email: info@posadarealcafe.com

BARS & NIGHTLIFE



TORWAISTUDIO/Shutterstock.com

Nightlife in Liberia happens – apart from resort premises – in bars and small pubs, neighborhood dive bars where locals and tourists come to socialize over a drink. Start off at a bar around the corner, and see where the night will soon take you – it will likely be across several good

spots in town.

Maderos Brewery



This brewery is living proof that the craft beer scene is alive and well Costa Rica, and the owner Doug is very knowledgeable on the subject. Only a short drive out of Liberia, just north of the city, this bar is absolutely worth a visit, as the well-selected variety of beers and accompanying snacks should not at all be missed.

Photo: IntoTheWorld/Shutterstock.com

Address: 125 Norte del Rio Santa Ines, Barrio Guadalupe, Guanacaste Province

Opening hours: Thue-Sat 4pm-11pm. Sun 4pm-10pm

Phone: +506 26 664 243

Guana's Restaurante Bar Pizzeria



Right next to Parque Central, this open-air bar is known for decent pizza and a beer selection that will take hours to read, and days to be sampled.

The place picks up fast, especially so at the weekends, and when the crowd spills out into the courtyard, you can mingle with locals and toast with your friends.

Photo: William Perugini/Shutterstock.com

Address: Crn Calle 2 / Avenida 1, Liberia

Opening hours: Daily 11am-2am

Phone: +506 26 653 022

Restaurante Bar LIB



This bar has it all, from Costa Rican dishes with heavy American influences to beers and cocktails of all kinds, and you will never miss any

important sporting event thanks to the venue's big screens. You can also enjoy live music from time to time, with genres from rock to country. Start off with a set of mini burgers and a cocktail, and see where the night takes you.

Photo: StudioByTheSea/Shutterstock.com

Address: Crn Calle 16A / Avenida 25 de Julio, Liberia

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 12am-1am

Phone: +506 26 650 741

Bar La Selegna



This bar is one of the city's most popular meeting places. Head here for a couple of drinks, to catch a game broadcast or wash down some quality pub grub with a few chilled beers.

Photo: Syda Productions/Shutterstock.com

Address: Crn Calle 6 / Avenida 7 Ricardo Jiménez Oreamuno, Liberia

Opening hours: Daily 12pm-12am

Phone: +506 26 660 029

SHOPPING



Curioso/Shutterstock.com

While the manifold variety of restaurants and cafes will introduce you to Costa Rican food customs, the city's shops will allow for a glance at local culture and craft tradition. Stroll along the town's streets, and drop into tiny shops that draw your attention.

Santa Rosa Plaza



This shopping mall, right at the entry point to Liberia when coming from (or heading to) the airport, offers great variety when it comes to

fashion and accessories, along with a range of cafes and restaurants bound to suit your taste. You can find both everyday necessities as well as unique souvenirs all under one roof.

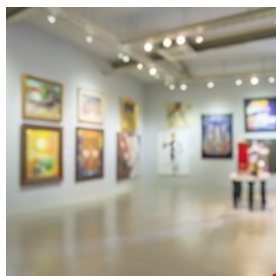
Photo: ESB Professional/Shutterstock.com

Address: Crn Calle 20 / Highway 21, Liberia

Opening hours: Daily 8am-10pm

Phone: +506 26 657 079

Hidden Garden Art Gallery



This gallery is an art lover's paradise, and a great spot for picking up unique pieces. 15 rooms full of paintings, sculptures and diverse

products of artistic expression. More than 60 artists have contributed to the great idea of supporting the region's art development with more than 400 pieces on display, and while some of them are on sale, others are just there to be admired.

Photo: Pla2na/Shutterstock.com

Address: Highway 21, Liberia

Opening hours: Tue-Sun 10am-4pm

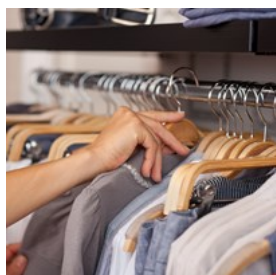
Phone: +506 26 700 592

Internet: www.hiddengardenart.com

Email: info@hiddengardenart.com

More Info: This gallery is around 10 km west to the airport.

Nahüa



This boutique offers brands exclusively of Costa Rican artists and designers, and the items on sale - ranging from clothes to accessories for

men, woman and children - are executed in detail and are of excellent quality. While Liz, the owner, can tell a story about each piece, you will probably find a most unique gem that will conjure up its own story in your imagination.

Photo: stockfour/Shutterstock.com

Address: Crn Calle 2 / Avenida 25 de Julio, Liberia

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 10am-7pm

Phone: +506 26 661 666

Café Tio Leo



Coffee lovers should head to Café Tio Leo for high-quality coffee beans sold by staff with comprehensive expertise. Just drop in on the way to

or back from the beach, and encounter a world that revolves around the beloved black beans and aromatic brews. Coffee can be sampled on-site.

Photo: mavo/Shutterstock.com

Address: La Gran Nicoya, Guardia, Guanacaste Province

Opening hours: Daily 8am-6pm

Phone: +506 70 119 786

Internet: www.cafetioleo.com

Souvenir Ocarina



This quirky shop is a hidden gem in Liberia, selling handcrafted items and artisan works that all range from carefully carved sculptures to cloth

bags and glass work. Head here for browsing through the venue's abundant offer, and for finding that special souvenir to bring back home.

Photo: Riderfoot/Shutterstock.com

Address: Crn Calle 4 / Avenida 25 de Julio, Liberia

Opening hours: Mon-Fri 9am-6pm. Sat 9am-12pm and 3pm-5pm

Phone: +506 26 667 833

Email: galeriaocarina@gmail.com

TOURIST INFORMATION



Photo: Gianfranco Vivi/Shutterstock.com

Best Time to Visit



The climate in Liberia falls into either 'dry' or 'wet' season category, which last from either November to April and from May until October

respectively. While the city can be visited all year long, both humidity and rainfall are heaviest in September and October. However, as Liberia is observed to be dry in comparison to the rest of Costa Rica, do not fear to travel during off-season as you will still enjoy many sunshine hours.

The Annexation of Guanacaste Day is celebrated on July 25th with major parades, performances and festivities.

Photo: VectorA/Shutterstock.com

Passport / Visa



Citizens of the European Union as well as from Australia, New Zealand, North America, and most countries in South America do not require a

visa to visit Costa Rica. Visitors with a valid, multiple-entry visa or residence permit issued by any country of the European Union, Canada or the United States can also visit without a visa, for a stay of 30 days maximum. Other visitors' requirements in order to enter Costa Rica depend on their nationality, and these can be checked with your local consulate.

Photo: TukTuk Design/Shutterstock.com

Internet: www.visitcostarica.com/en/costa-rica/planning-your-trip/entry-requirements

Liberia International Airport



The Daniel Oduber Quirós International Airport is located around 13 km west of Liberia. As a hub for visitors of the Pacific coast and Western Costa

Rica in general, the airport features every service needed, from ATM and money exchange services to small food venues and car rental companies. Liberia's city center, and the airport on the way home, can be reached by public buses that operate daily from 6am to 6pm, as well as by official taxis (red) and private shuttle services.

Keep in mind to check whether the departure tax for Costa Rica - US \$29.00 (as of late 2018) - is already included in your air plane ticket, as if not, you have to pay it upon arrival.

Photo: Juan Garces

Address: Liberia Airport Boulevard, Guanacaste Province

Phone: +506 26 669 600

Internet: www.lircr.com

Email: lirinfo@airportsworldwide.cr

Public Transport



A large public bus network serves Liberia, linking the city with Jan José, the beaches and the Nicaraguan border: while the Pulmitan de Liberia

station is the hub for travels to the capital and the beaches, the Municipal station serves destinations close or within Nicaragua. Both stations are located within two blocks of each other, and both provide schedules while tickets can be bought directly on board the buses.

Getting around the city center is easily done on foot, as most downtown attractions are within arm's reach from each other.

Photo: Pierre-Luc Auclair

Taxi



Most taxi companies essentially serve as shuttles operating between the city center and International Airport, as private transportation

generally isn't needed to get around town (unless your accommodation happens to be farther afield).

Liberia Shuttle can also be booked for other travel occasions.

Photo: Taxi

Address: Crn Calle 8 / Avenida 6, Liberia

Phone: +506 88 626 407

Post



The main post office of Correos de Costa Rica can be found right in the city centre, and it provides every service needed: from selling

stamps to sending packages. At the Aeropost centre nearby, certain services are offered as well:

Aeropost

Avenida 5, Liberia

+506 26 654 764

Opening hours: 9am-6pm

Private shipping services, such as DHL, are also available and best for sending valuables and/or speedy deliveries.

Photo: Andy Fuchs

Address: Crn Calle 8 / Avenida 3, Liberia

Opening hours: Mon-Fri 8am-5pm. Sat 8am-12pm

Phone: +506 26 661 649

Pharmacy



Despite its compact size, Liberia features many pharmacies with different services. While Farmacia San Rafael Arcangel in the centre of Liberia is

open 24/7, keep in mind that opening hours can significantly vary for other locations:

Farmacia Sucre Liberia Centro

150 Metros del Banco de Costa Rica, Liberia

+506 26 657 729

Opening hours: Mon-Fri 9am-8pm

Farmacia Elimar Liberia

Avenida 1, Liberia

+506 26 661 900

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 8am-8:30pm

Photo: Gemma Garner

Address: Crn Calle 3 / Avenida 2 Francisco Mayorga Rivas,
Liberia

Opening hours: 24/7

Phone: +506 26 905 544

Telephone



Country Code: +506 Area
Code: 26

Photo: Jardson Almeida

Electricity



120 V, 60 Hz, A/B

Photo: Stirling Tschan

Population

56,900

Currency

1 Colón = 100 Céntimos

Opening hours

Opening hours in Liberia significantly vary from business but most shops are open Mon-Fri 10am-4pm. Bigger shops may open on Sundays as well, while smaller ones may also close for midday breaks.

Newspapers

The Costa Rica News
The Tico Times
Al Día
Diario Extra
La Nación

Emergency numbers

Emergency Number: 911
Police: 117
Ambulance: 128

Fire Brigade: 118