

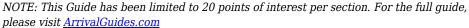


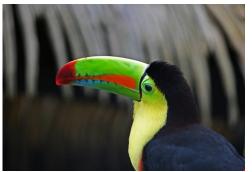
Photo: Jiri Stoklaska/Shutterstock.com



Tilo G/Shutterstock.com

Costa Rica is a unique Central American country nestled between the Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean Sea. San José, the capital, holds diverse activities for visitors and has an exciting urban life with art galleries, parks, and a vibrant nightlife scene. The country is a worldwide-renowned travel destination due to its abundance of wildlife areas, rainforests, and national parks.





Mo82/Shutterstock.com



robert cicchetti/Shutterstock.com



Top 5





to 1897, the Natio... Jade Museum

Refurbished in 2014, this museum holds one of the biggest collections of jad...



National Park

Go for a walk and have a relaxing stroll under the lush trees of the San Jos...



Parque Zoológico & Jardín ...

If you haven't had enough of Costa Rica's wildlife yet, visit Parque Zoológi...



Monte Sky

Monte Sky is a lush, dreamlike natural paradise that will present you with l...





THE CITY



OArts/Shutterstock.com

Boasting marvelous tropical wildlife and outdoor adventures, Costa Rica is truly a traveler's paradise. Whether you want to explore a diverse fauna—with big wild cats, curious birds, and colorful fish—or to dive into the rainforest flora, this Central American paradise offers its visitors an outstanding glimpse of nature.

While the city of San José might contrast with its green surroundings, the cultural and political capital is well worth exploring. Among the gray buildings and the hectic urban life, you will find a number of art galleries, historic monuments, and market areas that will make your visit unforgettable.

San José is also a central travel hub with easy access to nationwide beaches, mountain hikes, and natural parks.

DO & SEE



aceshot1/Shutterstock.com

Besides having a vibrant urban life, San José is also the perfect starting point for day travelling to many major destinations spread throughout the country, just perfect for a day-tour to the local forest regions or a hike to the nearby mountains. The city's energetic and vibrant life and unique nature will make for unforgettable experiences.

National Theatre of Costa Rica



With an architectonically impressive building dating back to 1897, the National Theatre of Costa Rica hosts a number of famous paintings and

statues, as well as constantly-changing exhibitions featuring works by local artists. This is a place not to be missed by any art lover or historical enthusiast.

Photo: Joe Ferrer/Shutterstock.com

Address: Avenida 2, Calle 1, San José, Costa Rica

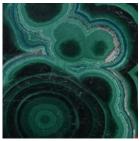
Opening hours: Sun-Sat 9am-5pm

Phone: +506 2010 1100

Internet: www.teatronacional.go.cr More Info: Between 3rd and 5th street



Jade Museum



Refurbished in 2014, this museum holds one of the biggest collections of jade exhibits in the world. Explore this archaeological museum

and dive deep into the rich history and archaeological heritage of the region.

Photo: fullempty/Shutterstock.com

Address: Calle 13 y 13 bis, Provincia de Av Central, San José

Opening hours: Sun-Sat 10am-5pm

Phone: +506 2521 6610

National Park



Go for a walk and have a relaxing stroll under the lush trees of the San José National Park. On sunny days, many Ticos—as Costa Ricans refer to

themselves—come here for picnics and lunch breaks. Along the way, you will come across historical monuments, such as the magnificent National Monument of Costa Rica.

Photo: Marek Poplawski / Shutterstock.com Address: Avenida 3, Calles 15 y 19, San José Opening hours: Sun-Sat Open 24 hours

Phone: +506 2547 6272

Parque Zoológico & Jardín Botánico Nacional Simón Bolívar Park



If you haven't had enough of Costa Rica's wildlife yet, visit Parque Zoológico & Jardín Botánico Nacional Simón Bolívar Park and get a

glimpse of the diverse biological life of Central America. After contemplating the lovely sloths head over to the botanical garden and immerse yourself in the country's colorful flora.

Photo: Nacho Such/Shutterstock.com

Address: Del quisco del Parque Morazán 300 metros norte y

175 metros noreste, San José

Opening hours: Mon-Fri 8am-3:30pm, Sat-Sun 9am-4:30pm

Phone: +506 2256 0012 Internet: www.fundazoo.org

Monte Sky



Monte Sky is a lush, dreamlike natural paradise that will present you with landscapes like you will find nowhere else. It is not an arduous

hike, making it a perfect destination for all hikers, young and old, amateurs and professionals.

Photo: robert cicchetti/Shutterstock.com

Address: Purisil, Valle del Rio de Orosi, San José

Opening hours: Sun-Sat 7am-4pm

Phone: +506 2228 0010

Spirogyra Butterfly Garden



The butterfly garden is a must-visit for every San José traveler. Wander through this beautiful garden and you discover the colorful insects

between that inhabit in the lush trees. Such colorful views can only be matched in dreams.

Photo: Peter Wollinga/Shutterstock.com

Address: De la entrada principal de Centro Comercial El Pueblo, 50m Este y 150m Sur San Francisco, San José Opening hours: Mon-Fri 9am-2pm, Sat-Sun 9am-3pm

Phone: +506 2222 2937

Internet: www.butterflygardencr.com



Children's Museum



Museo de los Niños combines hands-on learning for kids with an art gallery in an exciting experience for the whole family. The building is

located in an old prison complex, making it an even more interesting place.

Photo: Makistock/Shutterstock.com Address: Avenida 9, Calle 4, San José

Opening hours: Tue-Fri 8am-4:30pm, Sat-Sun 9:30am-5pm

Phone: +506 2257 1433 Internet: www.museocr.org

Metropolitan Cathedral of San José



Located right by Central Park, the Metropolitan Cathedral cannot be missed while in San José. Its neoclassical architecture and

impressive statues make this sacred building stand out as one of the city's most important landmarks.

Photo: Andy Rusch (image cropped) Address: Calle Central, Av. 2, San José

Phone: +506 2221 3820

Orosi River Valley



Located about 35 km southeast of San José, this tropical lush paradise hidden in the nature is perfect for a scenic day-hike. Keep in mind

that humidity is abundant here-don't forget to bring a raincoat.

Photo: Dudarev Mikhail / Shutterstock.com Address: Al sureste de Cartago, San José Internet: www.costaricaplus.com/orosi-valley

Morazán Park



At Morazán Park you can have a relaxing afternoon while witnessing the locals' life. Join the vibrant community in this lush architectonic

paradise right in the heart of San José, and experience what it feels like to be a local in San José.

Photo: Richie Diesterheft (image cropped)

Address: Calle 7, San José

Corso Lechería Tour



Located 50 minutes north of San José, this Costa Rican dairy farm provides an all-in-one tour. You will have the chance to witness their beloved

cattle and taste their organic produce in many forms, such as milk and cheese.

Photo: Collins93 / Shutterstock.com Address: Poasito, Alajuela, Costa Rica Opening hours: Sun-Sat 8am-4pm

Phone: +506 4002 1430

More Info: Located northwest of San Jose in Monteverde

Pre-Columbian Gold Museum



Located in a subterranean building underneath the Plaza de la Cultura, this museum features a great collection of gold

artifacts. With some artifacts dating back to AD 500, the museum will give you a glimpse over Costa Rica ancient history.



Photo: alessen/Shutterstock.com Address: Calle 5, San José

Opening hours: Sun-Sat 9:15am-5pm

Phone: +506 2243 4202

Internet: www.museosdelbancocentral.org
More Info: Between central and 2nd avenue

La Paz Waterfall Gardens



Just 30 miles north of San José you will come across La Paz Waterfall Gardens, a set of hiking trails that will leave anyone mesmerized. Take a trail

that suits your hiking skills and end up in one of the five dream-like waterfalls that will make for the perfect photo.

Photo: Maricel Quesada / Shutterstock.com Address: Provincia de Alajuela, Costa Rica

Poás Volcano National Park



Poás volcano is a truly a geological wonder. You will find steamy, natural lakes in the volcano crater, as well as a lush vegetation and colorful

bird species, such as the esplendent quetzal.

Photo: Michal Sarauer / Shutterstock.com

Coffee Tour & Adventure



Costa Rica is well-known to provide the perfect conditions for coffee plants to grow and when you are in San José you shouldn't miss out visiting

one of the several plantations. Tour providers offer combinations of plantation and adventure programs. Learn about the cultivation of coffee plants and visit Costa Rica's rainforests, wildlife

and waterfalls, all in one excursion.

Photo: Serge Goujon/Shutterstock.com Internet: www.coffeetour.com/home

DINING



sahana/Shutterstock.com

Rice, vegetables, black beans, and fruit are the main ingredients of Costa Rica's gastronomy. As it is common in Central America, you will find a healthy and delicious variety of dishes. The city center is filled with a good amount of small cafés, cozy restaurants, and lovely eateries where you can have a taste of the country's mouth-watering cuisine.

Tin Jo



Located in the heart of San José, Tin Jo is said by many to serve the best Asian food in town. Southeast-Asian dishes can be enjoyed in a cozy,

dimmed-light setting. With vegetarian and gluten-free alternatives, no one will feel left behind.

Photo: alekseigl / Shutterstock.com

Address: Calle 11, San José

Opening hours: Mon-Fri 11:30am-2:30pm 6pm-11pm, Sat

12pm-3:30pm 6-11pm, Sun 12pm-9pm

Phone: +506 2221 7605 Internet: www.tinjo.com

More Info: Between Avs. 6 and 8



Park Cafe Antiques



Park Café will offer you the finest gastronomic experience in San José. Their beautiful patio and delicious dishes will make your meal unforgettable.

Each meal is carefully prepared by the skilled cooks and served in creative arrangements.

Photo: Maksim Toome / Shutterstock.com Address: Calle 48, Gral Cañas, San José

Opening hours: Mon-Tue 9am-5pm Wed-Sat 9am-9pm

Phone: +506 2290 6324

Internet: www.parkcafecostarica.blogspot.com

Email: richardneat@hotmail.com

More Info: 75 meters north of De Rosti Pollo

Sapore Trattoria



At Sapore Trattoria you will come across a piece of Italy right in the heart of Costa Rica. Indulge in their homemade pastas, try the savory lasagna, or

have one of their heavenly pizzas. Its coziness will make you want to come back.

Photo: Bea Rue / Shutterstock.com Address: Plaza de la Democracia, San José

Opening hours: Mon–Sat 11:30am–10:30pm, Sun 12pm–10pm

Phone: +506 2222 8906

Email: saporelatrattoria@gmail.com

Alma de Amón



With dishes inspired by countries from all around Latin America, Alma de Amón will serve you outstanding culinary creations in a cozy

atmosphere. Try one of their many delicious and colorful dishes, and travel through the whole

continent without leaving the dining table.

Photo: SteAck / Shutterstock.com Address: Calle 5, San José

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 6am-10pm, Sun 6am-11am

Phone: +506 4700 2637

Internet: www.almadeamon.com

Kalú



Kalú's meals are prepared with fresh, seasonal ingredients and locally grown meat. Whether you're looking for savory burgers,

healthy salads or sweet crepes, Kalú has got it all. Serving brunches, lunches, and dinners, hop in at any time and prepare to be amazed by this groundbreaking Costa Rican restaurant.

Photo: SURKED / Shutterstock.com

Address: Calle 31, San José

Opening hours: Tue-Fri 12-10pm, Sat 9am-10pm, Sun

9am-4pm

Phone: +506 2253 8426 Internet: www.kalu.co.cr

La Tortillería de Luján



It is almost impossible for a restaurant to be more Costa Rican than La Tortillería de Luján. Wether you're looking for a cheesy dish packed with

beans, or simply a traditional cup of coffee, La Tortillería de Luján is certainly a must-go for any traveler in San José.

Photo: Fredy Estuardo Maldonado / Shutterstock.com Address: Frente al edificio del PANI , Barrio Luján, San José

Opening hours: Sun-Sat 6am-7pm

Phone: +506 2685 3455

Internet: www.tortilleriaycafe.com



La Muny



Boasting one of the friendliest services you will come across in San José, La Muny is what Costa Ricans see as a comfort restaurant. Try

one of their many traditional dishes, such as Gallo Pinto—Costa Rican rice and beans—and experience the warmth of Costa Rican food and culture.

Photo: La Muny

Address: Avenida 10, San José

Opening hours: Mon 9am-10pm, Tue-Sat 9am-11pm, Sun

10am-6pm

Phone: +506 2233 0279

CAFES



JIL Photo/Shutterstock.com

San José's cafes are usually cozy and intimate, and welcome everyone t a quick refreshment or an extended break on a busy day of sightseeing. You will come across plenty of places where you can grab an ice cream to eat as you stroll through the city, or just a small venue to sit down and enjoy an afternoon snack. Coffee is certainly something you will not want to miss when in one of the world's coffee capitals.

Café Miel Garage



Café Miel is one of the best places for a quick coffee and a snack in San José. Serving a wide range of coffee, sandwiches, and

cupcakes, this places also presents its visitors with a cozy and lovely atmosphere. Do not forget to try the chai tea with milk and honey.

Photo: Maslova Valentina / Shutterstock.com

Address: Av 9 13, Otoya, San José Opening hours: Mon-Sat 9am-6pm Internet: www.cafemielgarage.com Email: cafemielcostarica@gmail.com

POPS



POPS will satisfy all your ice cream cravings. Have a refreshing break and enjoy fruity, homemade ice cream flavors, such as banana, sour kiwi, and

sweet strawberry.

Photo: Maksym Azovtsev / Shutterstock.com

Address: Calle 21, San José Internet: www.pops.co.cr

Café Rojo



Café Rojo is unlike anything else you will come across in San José. Located in a quirky building, this café boasts a wide selection of

natural and handmade juices, cakes, and salads that will make you want to go back there more than once. Do not miss one of their many Vietnamese-inspired dishes.

Photo: Josie Grant / Shutterstock.com



Address: Avenida 7, San José

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 12pm-8pm, Sun 12pm-7pm

Phone: +506 2221 2425

Cafeoteca



Cafeoteca is a place where one can truly have an authentic coffee experience. Here you can choose the coffee beans of your choice, as well as

the cup size and the brewing method. In case you get addicted to their particular blends (which can easily happen), you can even purchase bags of their roasted coffee beans.

Photo: Aumnuaysin Pookraksa / Shutterstock.com Address: Calle 31, Barrio Escalante, San José

Opening hours: Mon 8am-4pm, Tue-Fri 8am-8pm, Sat 9am-8pm, Sun 9am-4pm

Phone: +506 2253 8367 Internet: www.kalu.co.cr

Alma de Café



Sitting inside the National Theater, Alma de Café lets you enjoy your meal while being surrounded by frescoes and chandeliers on the

ceiling, a marble checkerboard floor and pale green walls decorated with paintings and portraits. Their signature Café 7 Provincias is made with grains coming from different provinces of Costa Rica, and can be coupled with snacks like quiche and crepes.

Photo: Cherry b l o s s o m/Shutterstock.com

Address: National Theatre of Costa Rica, 1, Catedral, San

José

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 9am-7pm, Sun 9am-6pm

Phone: +506 2010 1110

BARS & NIGHTLIFE



NBphotostream/Flickr.com (image cropped)

From jazz cafés to dance clubs and beer pubs, San José offers its visitors a diverse selection of nightlife entertainment. You will experience a vibrant street life and an exciting music scene with events for every taste. Hangout with some friends in the pub around the corner and head out to the hottest disco in town afterwards—you won't be disappointed with the Latin nightlife of San José.

Costa Rica Beer Factory Inc



With over 100 different beers, the Costa Rica Beer Factory is a favorite among locals and travelers alike. Located in a vibrant neighborhood, it

is the go-to for the typical burger and a beer.

Photo: momente/Shutterstock.com

Address: Barrio Escalante, Calle 33, San José

Opening hours: Mon-Thu 12pm-12am, Fri-Sun 12pm-1am

Phone: +506 2234 2644

Email: reservas@costaricabeerfactory.com



Bar Bahamas



Finger food, beer, wine, and cocktails are waiting for you at Bahamas Bar in San José. Its affordable drinks menu makes it the ideal bar to kick start

your evening, right before diving deep it into the local clubbing scene.

Photo: Bochkarev Photography/Shutterstock.com

Address: Calle 21, San José

Opening hours: Mon-Fri 3-11pm, Sat 6am-2am, Sun

6am-12am

Phone: +506 4030 1328

More Info: Between Avenidas 0 and 2

La Avispa



This gay-friendly bar offers welcomes its visitors with great music, a laid-back atmosphere, and a spacious dance floor. Grab a beer early in

the evening or dance until early morning hours, it will be daytime by the time you notice it.

Photo: Patrizia Tilly/Shutterstock.com Address: Avenidas 8 y 10, Calle 1, San José

Phone: +506 2223 5343 Internet: www.laavispa.com

Opening hours: Thu-Sun 8pm-6am

El Sótano



People crowd at El Sótano to take part in one of their regular music shows. In this Neo-Classical building you will come across

delightful live acts every night, making this the perfect destination all the culture-lovers and party-goers.

Photo: Vinogradov Illya/Shutterstock.com

Address: Calle 3, San José

Opening hours: Mon-Tue 5pm-2:30am, Thu-Sat 5pm-2:30am

Phone: +506 2221 2302

More Info: Between Avenida 11 and Calle 3

Antik Restaurant + Bar



Whether you are looking for a nourishing dinner or an exciting night out, Antik Restaurant and Bar is your fit. Come early for a taste of the local cuisine

and stay late for the party. You will want to come back for more!

Photo: ne3p/Shutterstock.com

Address: Casa Matute, Calle 21, San José

Opening hours: Tue-Thu 11:30am-3pm 6-11pm, Fri

11:30am-3pm 6pm-6am, Sat 6pm-6am

Internet: www.antik.cr

Castro's Discotheque



If you want to brush up your dance moves, head over to Castro's. The long opening hours and low prices make it the ideal spot for partying all night

long in a cheerful environment filled with energetic music.

Photo: Jag cz/Shutterstock.com

Address: Calle 20, Barrio México, San José Opening hours: Sun-Tue 6:30pm-3am, Fri-Sat

6:30pm-4:30am

Phone: +506 2256 8789

Internet: castrosbar.wixsite.com/castros



Stiefel Pub



While traveling, there are quite few experiences that are as good as tasting locally brewed beers. At Stiefel Pub you can not only do that, but

also do it while having one of their outstanding burgers. Hop in and be amazed by the environment and the impressive beer selection.

Photo: bogdanhoda / Shutterstock.com

Address: Avenida 7, San José

Opening hours: Mon-Thu 6pm-0:30am, Fri 6pm-1am, Sat

6pm-1:30am

Phone: +506 8850 2119

SHOPPING



Guanlong D. (image cropped)

Carvings from polished coconut wood, colorful bead bracelets, and handmade ceramics are popular souvenirs that you can bring home from Costa Rica. Jewelry and skillfully crafted woven fabrics that will delight your friends and family can be bought at the various markets in the city center.

Mall San Pedro



Fashion shops, cafes, and restaurants are waiting for you at San Pedro Mall. Make the best out of a rainy day and explore this shopping mall—it will be

impossible to leave it without buying a new addition to your travel luggage.

Photo: nicom tunlong/Shutterstock.com Address: Alameda, San Pedro, San José Opening hours: Sun-Sat 10am-8pm

Phone: +506 2283 7540

Internet: www.tumallsanpedro.com Email: info@tumallsanpedro.com

San José Central Market



Among the beautiful outdoor markets in San José, Mercado Central stands out as the biggest and the oldest. Established in 1880, this

market is formed by countless narrow alleys with over 200 fresh produce shops, stalls, and cheep restaurants.

Photo: Marissa Strniste (image cropped) Address: Avenida Central, San José Opening hours: Mon-Sat 6:30am-6pm

Phone: +506 2547 6104

Feria Verde de Aranjuez



This farmers' market is a meeting point for local producers and consumers. People from all backgrounds gather here every Saturday to

purchase organic and environmentally friendly products that range from food products to design pieces.



Photo: Peter Bernik/Shutterstock.com

Address: Calle 19, San José Opening hours: Sat 7am-12:30pm Internet: www.feriaverde.org

Lincoln Plaza



With over 170 shops, Lincoln Plaza presents itself as one of Costa Rica's biggest malls. Check out the latest fashion, grab a bite at the

food court, and have a break in one of the many cafes within.

Photo: Dragon Images/Shutterstock.com Address: San Vicente Moravia, San José

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 9am-6pm, Sun 10am-5pm

Phone: +506 2240 1412 Internet: www.lincolnplaza.cr Email: info@lincolnplaza.cr

Galería Namu



Art lovers and craft enthusiasts will find Galeria Namu the perfect fit for their needs. Here you can buy beautiful paintings, carefully

carved woodwork, and handcrafted jewelry. One could look at the exhibits for hours or just buy a little piece of native culture for reasonable prices.

Photo: aceshot1/Shutterstock.com Address: Avenida 7, San José Phone: +506 2256 3412

Internet: www.galerianamu.com Email: info@galerianamu.com More Info: Between Calles 5 and 7

Holalola Travel Gifts



Holalola is a gift shop like no other. Its unique colorful designer pieces are perfect souvenir for yourself or for a loved one. It will be difficult to

leave Holalola empty-handed.

Photo: Jean-Philippe WALLET/Shutterstock.com

Address: Los Yoses Blvd, San José Opening hours: Mon-Sat 10am-6pm

Phone: +506 2234 5648

Internet: www.holalolashop.com Email: infoholalola@gmail.com

TOURIST INFORMATION



RHIMAGE/Shutterstock.com

Best Time to Visit



The best time to visit
Costa Rica is during the
dry season, from
mid-December to April
(the dry season). This is
the peak tourist season,

with plenty of sunshine ideal for exploring rainforests and beaches. However, the dry season is the most crowded and expensive time to visit. The rainy season lasts from May to November, with incessant rain showers—it is the cheapest season to visit. During June and July,



rain showers stop briefly and the forests burst with green foliage.

Photo: VectorA_ / Shutterstock.com

Passport / Visa



Costa Rica allows for visa-free travel periods up to 90 days to citizens from most EU, America, and Oceania countries. Before traveling, check

your country's visa policies at https://costarica.org/travel/visas/

Photo: TukTuk Design / Shutterstock.com

Aeropuerto Internacional Juan Santamaría (SJO)



The Juan Santamaría
International (SJO)
airport is located about
17 km northwest of the
city center. Right outside
the entrance, you will find

local shuttle buses that take you downtown. The journey is usually inexpensive. If you prefer taxis. make sure to get a licensed "Taxi Aeropuerto". One journey is about 25 minutes and costs about 25 US\$.

Photo: Juan Garces

Address: Autopista Bernardo Soto, Río Segundo, Costa Rica

Phone: +506 2437 2400 Internet: www.fly2sanjose.com

Public Transport



There is a good and inexpensive bus system in San José, as well as outbound buses to the rest of the country.

Interbus and Gray Line

Fantasy Bus will also take you to touristic places outside the city center, but the fares are slightly more expensive.

Photo: Pierre-Luc Auclair

Taxi



Taxis in San José usually have a meter and are inexpensive. Official taxis are colored in red or orange, and one kilometer costs about 640

colones. Note that exact street names are hardly used in Costa Rica so you better refer to some well-known places nearby.

Taxi San Jorge +50 2221 3434

La Guaria +50 2226 7125

Coopetaxi +50 2235 9966

Photo: ArrivalGuides

Post



There are several post offices spread throughout San José. One of the main branches is located on Via 204.

Photo: Andy Fuchs

Address: Via 204 10105, Av 34C, San José

Opening hours: Sun-Sat 8am-5pm Phone: +506 2202 2900

Internet: www.correos.go.cr



Pharmacy



Fischel Frente a Correos de Costa Rica, San José +506 2248 1682 Farmacia Sucre Multiplaza Escazú, San Rafael de Escazu +506

2289 0283

Premafarma

From Casa Italia, 50 meters South, Calle 29, San José

+506 2225 3774

Photo: Gemma Garner

Telephone



Country Code: +506 Area

Code: 22

Photo: Jardson Almeida

Electricity



110 volt, 60 cycle

Photo: Stirling Tschan

Population

339.588

Currency

1 Colón (CRC) = 100 céntimo

Opening hours

General opening hours are from 8:30am to 4:30pm. Note that many shops and museums might be closed on Mondays.

Newspapers

Diario Extra Al Día La Nación

Emergency numbers

Q11

Ambulance: 128 Fire: 118

Tourist information

San José Tourist Information Office Located in the east side of Juan Pablo II bridge, over the motorway General Canes, San Jose Open Monday–Friday 8am–4pm. +506 2299 5800