



CULTURE

Costa Rica has two coasts and with that, two cultures; on the Pacific Ocean and Central Highlands the Ticos (Costa Ricans) share a unique and welcoming Latin culture and on the Atlantic Ocean, especially in and around Limon, it is English-speaking influenced by Jamaican African-Caribbean culture Costa Rica is a cultural melting pot. It shows indigenous origins and Spanish colonial influence, with a peppery splash of other immigrant cultures thrown in the stew such as Jamaican and Chinese.

HISTORY

Columbus came to what is now Costa Rica on his fourth voyage to the New World. Columbus landed in what is now Puerto Limon. On this voyage to the New World, Columbus named the land Costa Rica, or "Rich Coast". Some say he chose the name because of the natural beauty he found there, and because he heard rumors of gold.



TRADITIONS/CELEBRATIONS

Costa Rica is a country with strong traditions. One tradition that is ingrained in Ticos is that they are especially friendly and hospitable towards foreigners and often invite them to family gatherings or celebrations. Traditions in Costa Rica revolve around the tight knit bonds of the family structure. These are traditions that are recognized, taught, and practiced from birth until death. Of course with traditions come the celebration of different holidays in Costa Rica



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The Costa Rican folk tradition has diverse cultural manifestations that include music, dance, legends, traditions, songs, popular proverbs, tales, sayings, romances, riddles, which are common and recognizable by the majority of the population of the country and which are generally used during popular and patron festivities, and vary according to each region and town.



Costa Rica is well-known for its gourmet coffee beans with the famous Tarrazú considered among the finest beans in the world.

Costa Rica

City Tours and Adventures

TOURISM

Costa Rica is a rugged, rainforested Central American country with coastlines on the Caribbean and Pacific. Though its capital, San Jose, is home to cultural institutions like the Pre-Columbian Gold Museum, Costa Rica is known for its beaches, volcanoes, and biodiversity. Roughly a quarter of its area is made up of protected jungle, teeming with wildlife including spider monkeys and quetzal birds. e combination of breath-taking white-sand beaches, sweeping mountain views and an ideal tropical climate has made Guanacaste one of Costa Rica's most popular regions. It boasts many of the country's popular beaches, including Playa del Coco, Playa Flamingo, Playa Conchal and the Papagayo Peninsula. By day visitors can challenge themselves with a surf lesson, cool off under a waterfall at Rincón de la Vieja National Park, discover the craters of an active volcano with the same name and more before enjoying the active nightlife in Tamarindo.



GEOGRAPHY

Costa Rica, officially called the Republic of Costa Rica, is located on the Central American isthmus between Nicaragua and Panama. Because it is on an isthmus, Costa Rica also has coastlines along the Pacific Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico. The country features numerous rainforests and a plethora of flora and fauna, which make it a popular destination for tourism and ecotourism. The climate of Costa Rica is tropical and has a wet season that lasts from May to November. San Jose, which is located in Costa Rica's Central Valley, has an average July high temperature of 82 degrees (28°C) and an average January low of 59 degrees (15°C).

GOVERNMENT

Costa Rica is a republic with a single legislative body made up of its Legislative Assembly, whose members are elected by popular vote. The judicial branch of government in Costa Rica is comprised only of a Supreme Court. Costa Rica's executive branch has a chief of state and head of government—both of which are filled by the president, who is elected by popular vote. Costa Rica underwent its most recent election in February 2010. Laura Chinchilla won the election and became the country's first female president.



COFFEE GROWING REGIONS

Costa Rica has one of the widest ranges of microclimates, due to the drastic change in altitude and climate over relatively short distances. These differences in climatic factors determine the flavor of the final cup. Costa Rican coffee has set the standards for fine wet-processed coffee for the rest of Central and South America.

ECONOMY

Costa Rica is considered one of the most economically prosperous countries in Central America and a major part of its economy comes from its agricultural exports. Costa Rica is a well-known coffee producing region, while pineapples, bananas, sugar, beef, and ornamental plants also contribute to its economy. The country is also growing industrially and produces goods such as medical equipment, textiles and clothing, construction materials, fertilizer, plastic products, and high-value goods such as microprocessors. Ecotourism and the related service sector is also a significant part of Costa Rica's economy because the country is highly biodiverse.

