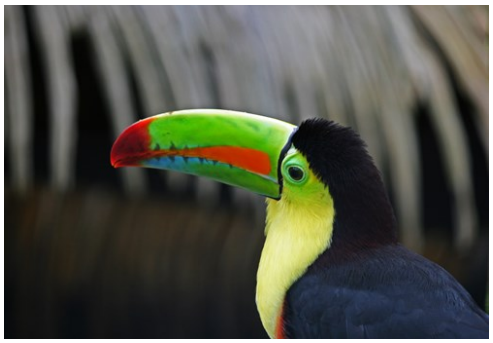
ArrivalGuides
A SMARTVEL COMPANY

San José

Photo: Saintdags/shutterstock

Robin Canfield/unsplash.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 praised for its abundance of wildlife, rainforests, volcanoes, beaches, and national parks.



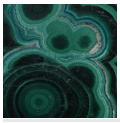
Mo82/Shutterstock.com

Tilo G/Shutterstock.com

Featured

Poás Volcano National Park
Poás volcano is a truly a geological wonder. You will find steamy, natural l...

Metropolitan Cathedral of ...
Located right by Central Park, the Metropolitan Cathedral cannot be missed w...



Jade Museum
Refurbished in 2014, the Jade Museum museum holds one of the biggest collect...

Orosi River Valley
Located about 35 km southeast of San José, this tropical lush paradise hidde...

Spirogyra Butterfly Garden
The butterfly garden is a must-visit for every San José traveller who apprec...

Top 5

Cafeoteca
Cafeoteca is a place where one can truly have an authentic coffee experience...

Alma de Café
Sitting inside the National Theatre, Alma de Café lets you enjoy your meal s...

Aquiares Coffee & Communit...
The Aquiares Estate is one of the largest coffee farms in Costa Rica. Book a...

Cafe La Mancha
Cafe La Mancha is a lovely coffee shop tucked away in the busy downtown of S...

Dulce Junio Café
Dulce Junio Café not only has some of the best coffee in San Jose, but also ...

THE CITY

QArts/Shutterstock.com

Boasting marvellous 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 colourful 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 grey 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 beaches, mountain hikes and natural parks.

TOP 8 ATTRACTIONS FOR COFFEE LOVERS

Ricardo Arce/unsplash.com

Coffee production has played a key role in Costa Rica's history and continues to be important to the country's economy. The volcanic soil, high altitudes, and good climate come together to create some of the best coffee crops in the world with its lively acidity, lighter body, and smooth, sweet, floral flavours.

As a small country, Costa Rica now provides under 1% of the world's coffee production, so don't expect to find their coffee beans on just any supermarket shelf back home. All the more reason to explore the hyperlocal coffee culture, from farm to cup.

Don't miss the chance to visit local hipster joints for your third-wave coffee experience while in San José. You can even take cupping classes to develop your palate! A farm visit is an absolute must when you are ready to leave the city and explore the countryside.

Cafeoteca

Cafeoteca is a place where one can truly have an authentic coffee experience in a stylish space with 50s Scandinavian design and

a cozy outdoor space. Choose the coffee beans of your liking, as well as 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, Avenida 5, Barrio Escalante, San José
Opening hours: Daily 9am–6pm
Phone: +506 2253 8367
Email: info@kalu.co.cr

Alma de Café

Sitting inside the National Theatre, Alma de Café lets you enjoy your meal surrounded by frescoes and chandeliers, 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
Internet: www.teatronacional.go.cr/Cafeteria

Aquiares Coffee & Community Experience

The Aquiares Estate is one of the largest coffee farms in Costa Rica. Book a tour with them to see the process from seed to cup and visit the local community to learn about coffee agronomy and fully appreciate its importance to Costa Rica. This tour is ideal for foodies and coffee lovers.

Photo: Tarrazu/public domain/Wikimedia(image cropped)
Address: Turrialba, Cartago Province, Costa Rica
Internet: www.aquiares.com/visit-us

Cafe La Mancha

Cafe La Mancha is a lovely coffee shop tucked away in the busy downtown of San Jose — yet sitting inside provides a respite from the busy noise of the city. The staff as well as the owner will eagerly chat with you about their coffee. Pair your perfect cup of caffeinated goodness with freshly made carrot cake or lemon pie. Take a break under the glass roof of the courtyard and recharge your batteries.

Photo: Brooke Cagle/unsplash.com
Address: Calle 1, Avenidas Central & Primera, San José
Opening hours: Mon–Sat 10am–7pm, Sun closed
Phone: +407 533 1433
Internet: www.cafelamancha.com

Dulce Junio Café

Dulce Junio Café not only has some of the best coffee in San Jose, but also offers you great variety of desserts. Try the creme de menthe chocolate cake — it comes with a frosting of rich fudge-like chocolate topped with a mint frosting that balances out the sweetness perfectly. For lunch, get the huge curry chicken sandwich made with the perfect focaccia bread. Dulce Junio's inner courtyard is a a quite space to enjoy a coffee and brief rest while out walking around the city neighbourhoods.

Photo: Austin P/unsplash.com
Address: Calle 11, Avenidas 9 & 11, Barrio Escalante, San Jose

Opening hours: Mon–Fri 11am–8pm, Sat & Sun 8am–8pm
Phone: +506 4081 8812
Internet: www.dulcejuniocafe.com
More Info: 200 m east of the Santa Teresita church

Britt Coffee Tour

Since 1991 Britt Coffee Tour has educated and entertained nearly 1 million coffee lovers from around the world by inviting them to their working plantation and roastery. Join the tour to find out why Costa Rican climate and diverse landscape provide ideal growing conditions for gourmet coffee beans.

Foodies will appreciate the buffet lunch at the Don Próspero restaurant. Don't forget to take some freshly roasted beans home with you.

Photo: Andres Hernandez/unsplash
Address: Santa Lucia de Barba Heredia DE, Costa Rica
Internet: www.coffeetour.com

Franco

Franco's Marzocco never stops churning out rich espressos, ready for the most spectacular latte art you'll find in San José. The space itself is pretty spectacular: plenty of space for everyone, both indoors and outdoors. The place is pet friendly, so get ready to see some fluffy cuties around! The food doesn't disappoint! Try their breakfast burger, the all star pancakes, a coffee or a smoothie. The menu has lots of vegan and gluten free options. Pastries are top-notch, as are their cocktails.

Photo: Nathan Dumlao/unsplash.com
Address: Avenida 7, Calle 31 & 33, Barrio Escalante, San José
Opening hours: Mon–Fri 7am–7pm, Sat & Sun 9am–7pm
Phone: +506 8956 2626
Internet: www.franco.cr
More Info: 100 m south & 25 m east of the Fresh Market

Coffee Tour & Adventure

Costa Rica is well-known to provide the perfect conditions for coffee plants. While you are in San José you shouldn't miss out on 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

DO & SEE

aceshot1/Shutterstock.com

San José is home to great world-class museums, lush parks, hip hostels with pools, and some seriously amazing restaurants. The most exciting neighbourhood of the city is Escalante — the hippest people are hanging out there. Besides having a vibrant urban life, San José is also the perfect starting point for day trips to many major destinations spread throughout the country. Hop on a bus and explore the local forest regions or a hike in 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 history enthusiast.

Hourly guided tours in Spanish and English take place between 9am and 4pm. Stop for lunch or grab a coffee at the theatre's cafe.

Photo: Joe Ferrer/Shutterstock.com
Address: Avenida 2, Calle 1, San José
Opening hours: Daily 9am–5pm
Phone: +506 2010 1100
Internet: www.teatronacional.go.cr

Museum of Costa Rican Art

Located on the eastern edge of Sabana Park, the indoor-outdoor Museum of Costa Rican Art showcases the works of Latin American artists. The 1930s building is not big, yet cool and well managed, perfect for a short respite from the heat. The wooden room above the main gallery is a highlight. After that, spend some time in the shade of the sculpture garden.

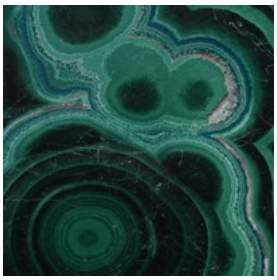
Photo: Rodtico21/cc by-sa 2.0/Wikimedia(image cropped)
Address: Museo de Arte Costarricense, Calle 42, Sabana, San José
Opening hours: Tue–Sun 9am–4pm, Mon closed
Phone: +506 4060 2300
Internet: www.govisitcostarica.com/travelInfo/museums/cost a-rican-art-museum.asp

Metropolitan Cathedral of San José

Located right by Central Park, the Metropolitan Cathedral cannot be missed while in San José. The original building of the cathedral was lost in numerous earthquakes. The Metropolitan Cathedral's current neoclassical design dates back to 1878.

Photo: milosk50/shutterstock
Address: Calle Central, Avenida 2, San José
Phone: +506 2221 3820

Jade Museum



Refurbished in 2014, the Jade Museum 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: Museo del Jade, Avenida Central / calle 13 y 13 bis, San José
Opening hours: Daily 8am–5pm
Phone: +506 2521 6610
Internet: museodeljade.grupoins.com

National Park

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: Parque Nacional, Avenida 3, Calles 15 y 19, San José

Parque Francia in Barrio Escalante

Parque Francia in the hip Escalante neighbourhood is a tiny but beautiful space with a small fountain at the centre. During the day you'll find people picnicking and just hanging out on the lawn in the shade of an enormous tree. Some days you can grab something delicious from a food truck. At nights you'll see a bohemian life — probably the most alternative hangout you'll find in San José.

Photo: Ryan Jacobson/unsplash.com
Address: Parque Francia, Calle 29, Barrio Escalante, San José, Costa Rica

Simón Bolívar National Zoological Park and Botanical Garden

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: Zdeněk Macháček/unsplash.com
Address: Parque Zoológico y Jardín Botánico Nacional Simón Bolívar, San José
Opening hours: Daily 9am–4:30pm
Phone: +506 2256 0012
Internet: www.fundazoo.org/zoosimonbolivar
More Info: From the Quisco del Parque Morazán, walk 300 meters north and 175 meters northeast

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: Museo del Oro Precolombino, underneath the Plaza de la Cultura, San José
Opening hours: Daily 9:15am–5pm
Phone: +506 2243 4202
Internet: museosdelbancocentral.org/eng
More Info: Between central and 2nd avenue

Coffee Tour & Adventure

Costa Rica is well-known to provide the perfect conditions for coffee plants. While you are in San José you shouldn't miss out on 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

Morazán Park

At Morazán Park you can have a relaxing afternoon while observing the locals go about their daily life. Join the vibrant community in this lush architectonic paradise right in the heart of San José. The park is constantly used for many cultural events and activities, so you'll never find it empty.

Photo: Gianfranco Vivi/shutterstock
Address: Calle 7, El Carmen district of San José

The Pedestrian Central Avenue

The pedestrianised Central Avenue is the heart and soul of San Jose. It is lined with shops, restaurants and bars. The avenue's mile-long brick pavement is busiest around 5pm when locals get off work and mill around downtown to hang out with friends, eat, enjoy live music and dance marimba. This is a great place to encounter the real urban Costa Rica and buy a few souvenirs. Bronze statues, elegant lampposts, and nostalgic architecture add beauty to the avenue.

The Central Avenue connect major points of attraction: the Central Market, the Central Bank, the Cultural Plaza, the Gold Museum, the Jade Museum, the Arts and Crafts Market, Democracy Plaza, and the historical Congress buildings.

Take a free walking tour to get a better understanding of downtown San José. Don't forget to tip your guide!

Photo: Bernal Fallas/unsplash.com
Address: Avenida Central, from Calle 14 to Calle, San José
Internet: sanjosewalking.com

La Sabana Park

Being the biggest and, some would argue, the only city in Costa Rica, San José's urban atmosphere can become overwhelming. Known as "the lungs of San José", La Sabana park just west of downtown provides the much needed change of scenery. Families flock here for Sunday picnics. It's a great place to exercise and breathe fresh air, with walking trails and a lake. Thick tree canopies will keep you dry in the rain and cool under the sun.

Photo: LACSACR/cc by-sa 3.0/Wikimedia(image cropped)
Address: Avenida de las Américas, Sabana, San José
Internet: www.icoder.go.cr/interactivas/parques-recreativos/68-parque-la-sabana

Children's Museum

The Children's Museum combines hands-on learning for kids with an art gallery — an exciting experience for the whole family. The building is located in an old prison complex that looks like a typical fairytale castle. Quite an unusual juxtaposition!

Photo: Makistock/Shutterstock.com
Address: Museo de los Niños, Avenida 9, Calle 4, San José
Opening hours: Tue–Sun 9am–2pm
Phone: +506 2258 49 29
Internet: museo.museocr.org
Email: info@museocr.org
More Info: Located in the Costa Rican Center of Science and Culture

Bites and Sights Food Tour

Discover the beauty and culture of the Costa Rican life with a San Jose walking tour that takes you through the streets, pedestrian shopping areas, busy markets and quiet parks. Meet the locals, indulging in typical cuisine and Costa Rica's delicacies, learn about traditional herbal remedies and folk medicine. An expert guide will teach you to handle exotic plants, fruits and vegetables.

Photo: Michaela Kadlecová/unsplash.com

Cementerio General de San José

Cemeteries in Latin America have always attracted visitors. Their maze-like layout, over the top architectural features and mysterious atmosphere are present in Cementerio General de San José as well. Wander through the winding paths and admire mausoleums and tombstones that belong to the who's who of Costa Rican politics, business and arts. When you walk towards the south of the cemetery, you have a beautiful view over the mountains on a sunny day.

Photo: Julia Kadel/unsplash.com
Address: Cementerio General de San José, a short walk northwest from downtown San José
Opening hours: Mon 7:30am–3pm, Tue–Sun 7:30am–4pm
Internet: www.msj.go.cr/MSJ/Servicios/SitePages/servicios_cementerios_municipales.aspx
More Info: www.patrimonio.go.cr/biblioteca_digital/publicaciones/2009/cementerio_general.pdf

Monte Sky

Monte Sky is a lush, dreamlike natural paradise with unrivalled landscapes, waterfalls and virgin rainforests. The hiking trails are not an arduous, making it a perfect destination for all travellers: young and old, amateurs and professionals.

Monte Sky is a private ecological reserve. It's a good idea to make a reservation before your trip, especially if you plan to stay overnight at one of the cabins.

Photo: Zdeněk Macháček/unsplash.com
Address: Monte Sky Mirador Ecológico, Purisil, Valle del Rio de Orosi, San José
Opening hours: Tue–Sun 7am–4pm
Phone: +506 2228 0010

Spirogyra Butterfly Garden

The butterfly garden is a must-visit for every San José traveller who appreciated the natural beauty. Wander through this enchanting garden and discover the colourful insects from 50–60 species fluttering around among the lush trees in a climate-controlled, glass-enclosed habitat.

The Spirogyra Butterfly Garden is located just north of the Simón Bolívar zoo. The conservatory includes flowering plants, cascading waterfalls and trees. A truly magical place just to sit and breathe. You can also take a short hike along the Torres river.

Photo: Peter Wollinga/Shutterstock.com
Address: Mariposario Spirogyra, 50m east and 150m south from the El Pueblo shopping centre, San Francisco, San José

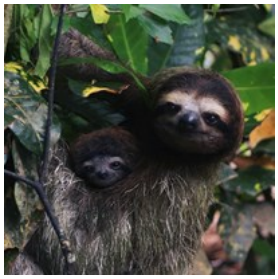
Opening hours: Daily from 9am till early afternoon
Phone: +506 2222 2937
Internet: www.butterflygardencostarica.com

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. Besides the unparalleled natural beauty, explore one of the few remaining colonial churches and stop for a tasty typical lunch at one of the local restaurants. Keep in mind that humidity is very high here — don't forget to bring a raincoat.

Photo: Dudarev Mikhail / Shutterstock.com
Address: Southeast from Cartago, San José

Meet the Sloths at Toucan Rescue Ranch



If the zoo was not enough for you — head to the Toucan Rescue Ranch for some close encounters with exotic animals. The stars of the show are sloths, who come in all ages and sizes, and will make your heart melt. The staff at the wildlife rescue centre is there to take care of sloths, monkeys, parrots and owls with the ultimate goal of releasing these animals back into the wild rainforests.

Best of all, the Toucan Rescue Ranch is only 30 minutes away from downtown San José.

Photo: Manuel Oppel del Rio/unsplash.com
Address: Toucan Rescue Ranch, San Josecito, Costa Rica
Phone: +506 2268 4041
Internet: www.toucanrescueranch.org

Corso Lechería Tour

Located 50 minutes north of San José, the Corso Lechería dairy farm provides an all-in-one tour. You will have the chance to meet their pampered cattle and taste their organic produce in many forms, such as milk and cheese. You're also invited to stroll around the adjoining strawberry farm and taste the berries you pick yourself. You can book a tour that includes lunch.

Photo: Collins93 / Shutterstock.com
Address: Poasito, Alajuela, Costa Rica
Opening hours: Sun–Sat 8am–4pm
Phone: +506 4002 1430
Email: info@corsolecheria.com
More Info: Located northwest of San Jose in Monteverde

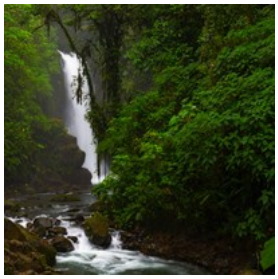
Arenal Volcano

Located 90km northwest of San José, the active Arenal Volcano and its lush surroundings attract countless visitors every year. The surrounding jungle and the Lake Arenal — perfect for kayaking — make for an unforgettable nature experience.

Most day tours to Arenal volcano will include a stop for some delicious local coffee, some adventurous experience like a zip-line flight through the rainforest, close encounters with exotic animals, a visit to hot springs and plenty of gorgeous views from viewing platforms.

Photo: Rikin Katyal/unsplash.com
Address: Arenal Volcano, Sendero Coladas

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 mesmerised. Take a trail that matches 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
Internet: waterfallgardens.com

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 colourful bird species, such as the resplendent quetzal. The caldera of Poás volcano is all the way up at 2,708 meters (8,885 feet) — on your way up you get a great opportunity to see the landscape change with the altitude.

Photo: Michal Sarauer / Shutterstock.com
Opening hours: Access to the park is allowed from 8am to 4pm. Most tours from San José depart around 8am
Phone: +506 2482 2165
Internet: www.sinac.go.cr/EN-US/ac/accvc/pnvp/Pages/default.aspx

The All-in-One Package

If you're not the one for spending all of your vacation time on the beach but also don't feel like creating a detailed adventure plan from scratch — go for the all-in-one option that's hustle free and exciting at the same time. Your 8-day tour will include accommodation in four-star hotels, comfortable transportations and quite a few delicious meals. And most importantly — the peace of mind. No hurried research, last-minute plan changes and missed bus rides.

Photo: Štefan Štefančík/unsplash.com

DINING

sahana/Shutterstock.com

Rice, vegetables, black beans, and fruit (especially plantain) 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 centre is filled with a good amount of small cafes, 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, between Avenidas 6 and 8, San José
Opening hours: Mon–Fri 11:30am–2:30pm / 6pm–8:30pm, Sat 11:30am–8:30pm, Sun 11:30am–8pm
Phone: +506 2221 7605
Internet: www.tinjo.com

Saúl Bistro

Dine under a starlit sky at Saúl Bistro. Their spacious outdoor terrace and the candle light setting invites you for an extended meal. Choose from a great selection of local specialties, Italian cuisine or crepes and let the helpful staff take good care of you.

Photo: Ali Inay/unsplash.com
Address: Calle 31, Avenida 9, Barrio Escalante, San José
Phone: +506 2234 7936
Internet: saulemendez.com/cr
More Info: Located 300m east of the Santa Teresita church

El Patio Del Balmoral

Located in Hotel Balmoral, El Patio offers you an amazing outdoor dinner experience. It fuses Costa Rican and American cuisine and offers a wide selection of dishes for every taste. Come here for dinner or grab some cocktails, it's always worth a visit.

Photo: Louis Hansel/unsplash.com
Address: Calles 7 y 9, Avenida Central, San José
Opening hours: Daily 6:30am–8pm
Phone: +506 2222 50 22
Internet: www.balmoral.co.cr/restaurant
More Info: Located at Hotel Balmoral

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

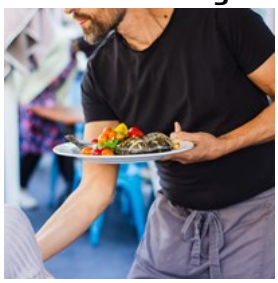
Photo: Bea Rue / Shutterstock.com
Address: Calle 11, Avenida 2 (Plaza de la Democracia), San José
Opening hours: Mon–Fri 11:30am–10:30pm, Sat & Sun 12pm–10pm
Phone: +506 2222 8906
Internet: saporetrattoria.com
Email: saporelatrattoria@gmail.com
More Info: 75 m east from the Plaza de la Democracia

Ram Luna

If you are looking to dine with a view, Ram Luna the right fit for you. Regular dance shows and performances add some excitement to the romantic atmosphere. Take in some culture with your meal and enjoy your evening.

Photo: Nathan Dumlao/unsplash.com
Address: 14 km south of San José
Opening hours: Tue–Fri 4pm–10pm, Sat noon–10pm, Sun noon–9pm, Mon closed
Phone: +506 2230 3022
Internet: www.restauranteramluna.com/en
More Info: All ingredients are gluten free

Restaurante Jürgen's



With over 100 wines and French cuisine on the menu, Jürgen's Restaurant in San Jose is a top location to dine. It is located in the beautiful Jade boutique hotel and offers guests a unique experience in a luxurious atmosphere. Gourmets and wine lovers should not miss this place!

Photo: Louis Hansel/unsplash.com
Address: Boulevard Dent, Dent neighbourhood, San José
Phone: +506 2283 2239
Internet: www.jurgensrestaurante.com

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

Photo: Fredy Estuardo Maldonado / Shutterstock.com
Address: Calle 19b, Trans. 17, Barrio Luján, San José
Opening hours: Daily 6am–7pm
Internet: latorticr.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: Maroldan/shutterstock
Address: Calle 40, Avenida 4, San José
Opening hours: Mon 11am–6pm, Tue–Sat 11am–10pm, Sun closed
Phone: +506 2248 4815
Internet: www.instagram.com/lamuny_restybar

La Esquina de Buenos Aires

La Esquina de Buenos Aires transports you into the Argentine capital in the 50s. Fantastic service, excellent food and rustic atmosphere. It’s hard to get a booking - but we’ll worth the effort, especially for a special occasion.

Photo: Patrick Le/unsplash.com
Address: Calle 11 esquina Av. 4, detrás de la Iglesia Nuestra Señora de la Soledad, San José, Costa Rica
Phone: +506 2223 1909
Internet: laesquinadebuenosaires.net

Machu Picchu

Restaurante Machu Picchu is a Peruvian hidden gem in the middle of San José. This place is as authentic as they come. The ceviche is the real deal: fresh fish with the real rocoto pepper sauce. This restaurant is a must for every foodie.

Photo: Leo Roza/unsplash.com
Address: Calle 32, Avenida 1 & 3, Pitahaya, San José
Phone: +506 2255 1717
Internet: www.restaurantemachupicchu.com

Silvestre

Silvestre is widely known as one of the best restaurants in Costa Rica. Don't miss an opportunity to dine here. Their 3 course lunch menu is an amazing way to enjoy quality food and be surprised by the creative of the chef. Wine pairings amplify the amazing flavours of the meals prepared. For that special dinner, try their 6 plates of contemporary Costa Rican food with a twist. Ingredients are sourced from small organic farms and producers around Costa Rica.

Photo: Edward Howell/unsplash.com
Address: Calle 3a, Avenida 11, Barrio Amón, San José
Phone: +506 2221 2465
Internet: www.restaurantesilvestre.com

COFFEE AND LUNCH

JIL Photo/Shutterstock.com

Cafes in San José are usually cozy and intimate, yet welcome everyone to a quick refreshment or an extended break on a busy day of sightseeing. You will come across plenty of places to grab an ice cream to eat as you stroll through the city, or just a small coffee shop to sit down and enjoy an afternoon snack. San José is one of the world's capitals of coffee, so don't miss out!

Kalú

Kalú's meals are prepared with fresh, seasonal ingredients and locally grown meat. Whether you're looking for juicy burgers, healthy salads or sweet crepes, Kalú has got it all. Serving brunches and lunches, hop in at any time and prepare to be amazed by this groundbreaking Costa Rican cafe and restaurant.

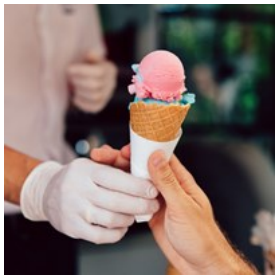
Photo: Kate Darmody/unsplash.com
Address: Cafeoteca Coffee Shop by Kalú, Calle 31, San José
Opening hours: Daily 9am–6pm
Phone: +506 2253 8426
Internet: www.instagram.com/cafeoteca_costarica

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. Their specialty is cold coffee — just what you need on a hot day.

Photo: Maslova Valentina / Shutterstock.com
Address: Between Calle 11 & 13, Avenida 9, San José
Opening hours: Mon–Fri 9am–6pm, Sat 10am–6pm, Sun 1:30pm–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 flavours, such as banana, sour kiwi, and sweet strawberry.

Photo: Maksym Azovtsev / Shutterstock.com
Address: Calle 3, Avenida Central, San José
Opening hours: Mon–Fri 9am–9:30pm, Sat & Sun 9am–7pm
Phone: +506 6061 6252
Internet: www.pops.co.cr
More Info: Close to the Pre-Columbian Gold Museum

Café Rojo

Café Rojo is unlike anything else you will come across in San José. Located in a quirky building, this cafe 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: Calle 3, Avenida 7, San José
Opening hours: Daily 12pm–8pm
Phone: +506 2221 2425
Internet: amon.cr/listing/cafe-rojo

Cafeoteca

Cafeoteca is a place where one can truly have an authentic coffee experience in a stylish space with 50s Scandinavian design and a cozy outdoor space. Choose the coffee beans of your liking, as well as 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, Avenida 5, Barrio Escalante, San José
Opening hours: Daily 9am–6pm
Phone: +506 2253 8367
Email: info@kalu.co.cr

La Criollita

La Criollita is a well established restaurant offering generous plates of classic Costa Rican eats in a relaxed setting. The place is popular with locals so that's always a good sign. You get the best value for money if you go for their breakfast or lunch (ejecutivo) menus. Each lunch starts with a delicious soup, a juice, and ends with a dessert or coffee.

Photo: Louis Hansel/unsplash.com
Address: Avenida 7, Calles 7 & 9, San José, Costa Rica
Opening hours: Mon–Sat 6:30am–7pm
Phone: +506 2256 6511

Jardín de Lolita

Jardín de Lolita is an extremely popular food court serving drinks and good food in a backyard garden with many levels. You will have several good food options, most of them pretty healthy, too. Same for drinks, from coffee to any cocktail you want. There is also an ice cream shop at the entrance.

Across the street you'll find several shops selling beautiful craft items. There's also a lovely cafe

Encafeinados with exceptional espresso drinks prepared by an award-winning barista.

Photo: Paula Vermeulen/unsplash.com
Address: Avenida 3, Calles Jaime Carranza & 29, Barrio Escalante, San José, Costa Rica
Opening hours: Mon–Wed & Sun noon–10pm; Thu, Fri & Sat noon–midnight
Phone: +506 8542-5623
Internet: www.jardindelolita.com/sanjose
Email: hola@jardindelolita.com
More Info: A block away from Parque Francia

Selina

Selina is a renowned chain of hostels located in trendy and up-and-coming locations around the world. Popular with younger hip crowd, Selina in San José is the place to meet cool people. The hostel features a coworkind space and a restaurant-cafe-bar combo. Stop by any time of the day to get a delicious and fairly priced meal (Costa Rican curry with fish is the star of the show), sit around with your laptop while sipping coffee or sip a cocktail in the evening.

Photo: Sonaal Bangera/unsplash.com
Address: Avenida 9, Calles 13 & 15, Otoya, San José, Costa Rica
Phone: +506 4020 5510
Internet: www.selina.com/costa-rica/san-jose

Alma de Café

Sitting inside the National Theatre, Alma de Café lets you enjoy your meal surrounded by frescoes and chandeliers, 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
Internet: www.teatronacional.go.cr/Cafeteria

Cafe La Mancha

Cafe La Mancha is a lovely coffee shop tucked away in the busy downtown of San Jose — yet sitting inside provides a respite from the busy noise of the city. The staff as well as the owner will eagerly chat with you about their coffee. Pair your perfect cup of caffeinated goodness with freshly made carrot cake or lemon pie. Take a break under the glass roof of the courtyard and recharge your batteries.

Photo: Brooke Cagle/unsplash.com
Address: Calle 1, Avenidas Central & Primera, San José
Opening hours: Mon–Sat 10am–7pm, Sun closed
Phone: +407 533 1433
Internet: www.cafelamancha.com

Dulce Junio Café

Dulce Junio Café not only has some of the best coffee in San Jose, but also offers you great variety of desserts. Try the creme de menthe chocolate cake — it comes with a frosting of rich fudge-like chocolate topped with a mint frosting that balances out the sweetness perfectly. For lunch, get the huge curry chicken sandwich made with the perfect focaccia bread. Dulce

Junio's inner courtyard is a a quite space to enjoy a coffee and brief rest while out walking around the city neighbourhoods.

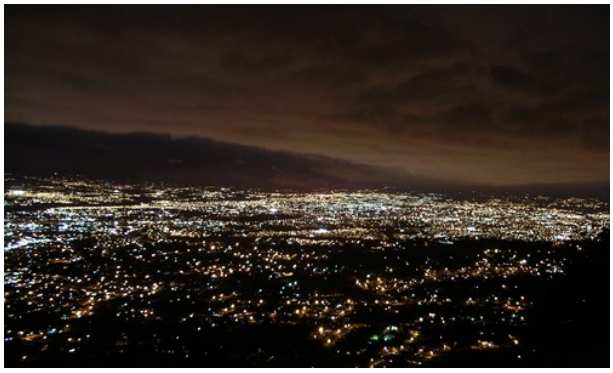
Photo: Austin P/unsplash.com
Address: Calle 11, Avenidas 9 & 11, Barrio Escalante, San Jose
Opening hours: Mon–Fri 11am–8pm, Sat & Sun 8am–8pm
Phone: +506 4081 8812
Internet: www.dulcejuniocafe.com
More Info: 200 m east of the Santa Teresita church

Franco

Franco's Marzocco never stops churning out rich espressos, ready for the most spectacular latte art you'll find in San José. The space itself is pretty spectacular: plenty of space for everyone, both indoors and outdoors. The place is pet friendly, so get ready to see some fluffy cuties around! The food doesn't disappoint! Try their breakfast burger, the all star pancakes, a coffee or a smoothie. The menu has lots of vegan and gluten free options. Pastries are top-notch, as are their cocktails.

Photo: Nathan Dumlao/unsplash.com
Address: Avenida 7, Calle 31 & 33, Barrio Escalante, San José
Opening hours: Mon–Fri 7am–7pm, Sat & Sun 9am–7pm
Phone: +506 8956 2626
Internet: www.franco.cr
More Info: 100 m south & 25 m east of the Fresh Market

BARS & NIGHTLIFE



NBphotostream/cc by 2.0/Flickr (image cropped)

From jazz cafes to dance clubs and beer pubs, San José offers visitors a diverse selection of nightlife entertainment. Experience the vibrant street life and an exciting music scene with events for every taste. Hangout with 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 favourite among locals and travellers alike. Located in a vibrant neighbourhood, it is the go-to for the typical burger and a beer.

Photo: momente/Shutterstock.com
Address: Calle 33, Barrio Escalante, San José
Opening hours: Mon–Fri noon–midnight, Sat & Sun 11:30am–midnight
Phone: +506 2234 2644
Email: reservas@costaricabeerfactory.com

Bar Bahamas

Pub grub, beer, wine, and cocktails are waiting for you at Bahamas Bar in San José. Its affordable drinks menu makes it the ideal bar to start your evening, right before diving deep it into the local club scene.

Photo: Bochkarev Photography/Shutterstock.com
Address: Avenidas 0 & 2, Calle 21, San José
Opening hours: Mon–Thu 4pm–10pm, Fri–Sun 3pm–10pm
Phone: +506 4030 1328
More Info: Between Avenidas 0 and 2

La Avispa — The Wasp

La Avispa is a gay-friendly bar that offers welcomes its visitors great music, a laid-back atmosphere, and a spacious dance floor. Grab a beer early in the evening or dance until early morning hours.

Photo: Patrizia Tilly/Shutterstock.com
Address: Avenidas 8 & 10, Calle 1, San José
Opening hours: Thu–Sat 8pm–6am, Sun 5pm–6am
Phone: +506 2223 5343
Internet: www.laavispa.com

El Sótano / Amón Solar

People crowd at El Sótano and Amón Solar 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, Avenida 11, San José
Phone: +506 2221 2302

Neon

Neon is an LGBT-friendly cocktail bar with plenty of outdoor seating. Their specialty is frozen cocktails, kind of like alcoholic slushies — perfect for hot days. The atmosphere is very relaxed, and the music is somewhat retro with lots of power ballads and disco megahits. If you feel peckish, they've got excellent food, too.

Photo: Chester Wade/unsplash.com
Address: Corner of Avenida 7 & Calle 31, Barrio Escalante, San José, Costa Rica
Internet: www.instagram.com/neonicecr

Antik Restaurant + Bar

Whether you are looking for an outstanding 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, Avenida 10, San José
Phone: +506 7204 9909
Internet: www.antik.cr

Stiefel Pub

At Stiefel Pub not only do you get excellent local beers, but also do it while having one of their outstanding burgers. Hop in and be amazed by the

environment and the impressive beer selection. Chill with your friends in one of the cosy rooms of the eclectic old house.

Photo: bogdanhoda / Shutterstock.com
Address: Avenida 7, East of Parque España, San José
Phone: +506 8850 2119

San José by Night Tour

Get up close and personal with the nightlife in San José with the help of a local guide. You can choose a private tour or join a small group — perfect way to hit the ground running as soon as you arrive in the busy capital city. Walk around Downtown during the golden hour and finish your night with a 3-course meal and wine or beer pairings at a gourmet Costa Rican cantina.

Photo: Simon Maage/unsplash.com
Address: Tours start at the Morazán park

El Observatorio

El Observatorio is the venue for live music in San José's trendy Barrio La California. The stage is never empty, showcasing musical acts, stand-up comedians, audiovisual productions and exhibitions. There are drinks and pub crag to keep you going until 2 am.

El Observatorio can be found in the narrow alley across from the Cine Magaly. Inside you'll find a large performance space with high ceilings and exposed brick walls.

Photo: Ardian Lumi/unsplash.com
Address: In front if Magaly cinema, Calle 23, Avenida Central, San José
Opening hours: Tue–Sat 6pm–2am
Phone: +506 2223 0725
Internet: elobservatorio.tv

El Cuartel de la Boca del Monte

El Cuartel has been around for more than a decade, entertaining guests with live music and a menu filled with over 200 cocktails and traditional Central American dishes. You can always count on having a good time here. El Cuartal is just a short walk from Parque Nacional.

Photo: Louis Hansel/unsplash.com
Address: Avenida 1, Calle 23, San José
Phone: +506 2221 0327

SHOPPING

Guanlong D./cc by 2.0/Flickr (image cropped)

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

Hand-carved wooden figures, colourful hammocks and t-shirts with prints are among the most popular souvenirs from Costa Rica. You

can pick them up at one of the many markets in the city centre or look for specialty shops in the area.

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: Engin Akyurt/unsplash.com
Address: Alameda, San Pedro, San José
Opening hours: Mon–Sat 10am–9pm, Sun 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 cheap restaurants.

Photo: Curioso Photography/shutterstock
Address: Mercado Central, Avenida Central, Calle 6 & 8, San José
Opening hours: Mon–Sat 6:30am–5:45pm, Sun closed
Phone: +506 2222 5981

Feria Verde de Aranjuez

The Feria Verde de Aranjuez 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. The market is a great place to have brunch — delicious crepes, thick sourdough bread sandwiches and strong Yellow Cup coffee, plus interesting locals and tourists milling around.

Photo: Peter Bernik/Shutterstock.com
Address: Calle 19, Avenida 15, San José
Opening hours: Sat 7am–12:30pm

Plaza América

Located southwest of San Jose, this mall is the perfect place for shopaholics and fashionistas. Get a new outfit, buy some comfy shoes or get that outdoor gear for your adventure holiday. Whatever you are looking for, you will make a find in here.

Photo: fizkes/Shutterstock.com
Address: Centro Comercial Plaza América, Ruta 110, San José
Opening hours: Daily 7am–11pm
More Info: Located near Avenida 50

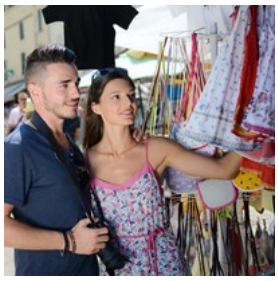
Galería Namú

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

carved woodwork, and handcrafted jewellery. Look at the exhibits for hours or just buy a little piece of native culture for reasonable prices.

Photo: aceshot1/Shutterstock.com
Address: Calle 5 & 7, Avenida 7, San José
Opening hours: Mom–Sat 9am–6:30pm, Sun 1pm–5pm
Phone: +506 2256 3412
Internet: www.galerianamu.com
Email: info@galerianamu.com

Holalola Gift Shop



Holalola is a gift shop like no other. Its unique colourful 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: Avenida 11 & 13, Calle 35, Barrio Escalante, San José
Opening hours: Mon–Fri 10am–6pm, Sat 10am–5pm, Sun closed
Phone: +506 2234 5648
Internet: www.holalolashop.com
Email: infoholalola@gmail.com
More Info: Apart from the flagship store, you can find Holalola in 5 more locations around San José

La Casa del Montañista Outdoor Store

Once you're ready to leave the city limits and explore rain and cloud forests, natural parks and hike up the volcanos, you will find yourself in need of some quality hiking gear. Head to La Casa del Montañista for great selection and quality, as well as expert advice.

Photo: Toomas Tartes/unsplash.com
Address: Plaza La Paulina Shopping Center (second floor), 200 m east of the Betania roundabout, San José
Opening hours: Mon–Sat 9:30am–6:30pm, Sun closed
Phone: +506 6323 8446
Internet: la-casa-del-montanista-outdoor-store.negocio.site

Pura Vida Souvenirs

For attention-grabbing souvenirs and crafty mementos head to the Pura Vida Souvenirs store. Good variety and fair prices, plus a quirky bonus — peacocks in the garden! If you don't find exactly what your heart desires, check out the numerous small shops on the same street.

Photo: Egor Myznik/unsplash.com
Address: Calle 5, Avenida 1a, El Carmen, San José
Opening hours: Mon–Fri 9am–6pm, Sat 8:30am–6pm, Sun 8:30am–5pm
Phone: +506 2221 2024
Internet: puravidasouvenirs.business.site
More Info: Across the road from Morazán park

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 — you'll get plenty of sunshine, ideal for

exploring beaches. The forests, however, are not as lush this time of the year. 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: Birger Strahl/unsplash

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 Costa Rican visa requirements that apply to citizens on your country.

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

Addresses

San José and other towns in Costa Rica use a rectilinear roadway grid. The roads going north and south are called calles (streets) while the ones going east and west are called avenidas (avenues).

Let's pretend that Calle Central is number 0. From there, calles count up by odd numbers to the east and even numbers west. Avenidas have odd numbers north of the pedestrian Avenida Central and even going south. Parque Central and Mercado Central (Central park and market) are usually at the centre of town.

Many addresses will be written down as Calle 4, Avenidas 4 & 6 — somewhere on the north-south street 4 between avenues 4 and 6.

However, many businesses will describe their location in relation to major landmarks. For example, Dulce Junio Café's address is "200 m Este De la Iglesia Santa Teresita y 25 norte, contiguo a Saúl Bistro, Barrio Escalante, San José" — that's 200 m from the Santa Teresita church and 25 m north, next to Saúl Bistro, Escalante neighbourhood.

Photo: LI1324/Public Domain/Wikimedia (cropped)(image cropped)

Aeropuerto Internacional Juan Santamaría (SJO)

The Juan Santamaría International (SJO) airport is located about 17 km northwest of the city centre. 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$.

The most common bus you'll see is the big red TUASA bus. The final stop of this bus is close to La Merced park.

Photo: Stoschmidt/cc by-sa 3.0/Wikimedia(image cropped)
Address: Autopista Bernardo Soto, Río Segundo, Costa Rica
Phone: +506 2437 2400
Internet: sjoairport.com/en

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 centre, but the fares are slightly more expensive.

If you are taking a bus between cities, be very mindful of your belongings. The bags are often stolen from overhead luggage racks. If anyone is trying to help you put your bag up there — they are very likely to grab it and leave at some point. If they go for your bag and you try to stop them, that's when you will be pickpocketed by their accomplices.

Photo: The LEAF Project/Public Domain/Wikimedia
Internet: www.vacationscostarica.com/travel-guide/public-transportation
More Info: costa-rica-guide.com/travel/transportation/san-jose-bus-station-map

Taxi

Taxis in San José usually have a meter and are inexpensive. Official taxis are coloured in red or orange, and one km costs about 640 colones. It is strongly recommended to only use official taxis and make sure that the meter is ticking. Alternatively, use Uber or Didi. Note that exact street names are hardly used in Costa Rica so you better refer to some well-known places nearby.

As in many countries in Latin America, you want to know who is driving you so that they are less likely to scam you or drive off with your belongings. For your safety, do not take regular taxis — call for one or use a ride sharing app.

Photo: Guanlong D./cc by 2.0/Flickr (cropped)
Internet: ticotimes.net/2021/09/19/taxis-costa-rica-ultimate-guide

Post

There are several post offices spread throughout San José. One of the main branches is located on Via 204. The Telegraph and Post Office building dates all the way back to 1917 and is located close to La Merced park (officially known as Braulio Carrillo Colina Park).

Photo: Ali Bakhtiari/unsplash
Address: Correos de Costa Rica, Calle 3, Avenidas 1 & 3, San José, Costa Rica
Opening hours: Mon–Fri 8am–5:30pm, Sat 8am–noon, Sun closed
Internet: www.correos.go.cr

Pharmacy

There are three major chains of pharmacies in Costa Rica that sell medicine as well as personal hygiene products: Fischel In front of the Correos de Costa Rica (Central Post Office), San José, plus many other locations in the country.
+506 2248 1682

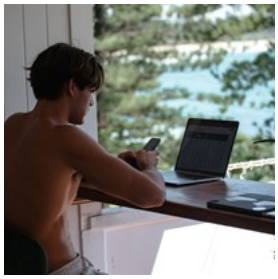
Farmacia Sucre
Plaza de la Democracia, the Sauter building, on the corner of Calle 11 Avenida Central
+506 2248 9302

Farmacia La Bomba
Calle 1, Avenida Central, close to the
Pre-Columbian Gold Museum
+506 4001 3647

Photo: Mariano Baraldi/unsplash

Internet:
costaricabestride.com/how-are-pharmacies-in-costa-rica

Telephone



Country Code: +506 Area Code: 22

Photo: Mark Broadhead/unsplash

Electricity

Costa Rica uses 110 volt, 60 cycle electricity. The plugs are typically the 2-pronged flat type common in North America and some Asian countries.

Photo: Kelly Sikkema/unsplash

Population
342,000 — the capital city
1.5 million — the urban area

Currency
1 Colón (CRC) = 100 céntimo
US Dollar is also accepted by many businesses

Opening hours
General opening hours are from 8 am to 6 pm, though some businesses close as early as 4:30 pm. Big shopping centres stay open until 9 pm. Note that many shops and museums might be closed on Mondays.

Internet
www.visitcostarica.com

Newspapers
In English: Tico Times — ticotimes.net

Diario Extra — www.diarioextra.com
La Nación — www.nacion.com
La República — www.larepublica.net

Emergency numbers
911
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 Mon–Fri 8am – 4pm
+506 2299 5800