

Costa Rica Cottages Fact Sheet

This sheet is intended to serve as a summary of some of the more mundane considerations that might be important in planning your holiday. We recommend the Moon or Lonely Planet guides as the most informative guidebooks, especially if you are planning to travel around the country.

Electricity – Mains electricity that supplies the house is 110V A/C at 60Hz (same as U.S.A.).

Appliances – The kitchen is fully equipped, with large fridge, gas stove with oven, blender, pots, pans, crockery, cutlery and utensils.

Drinking Water – We recommend bottled water or boiling it first.

Money Exchange – Credit cards are becoming more widely accepted, but most places still expect to be paid in local currency (colones) or US\$. There are two banks in Puerto Viejo, and a number of cambios. US\$ are widely accepted.

Internet Access – Internet access is available at the cottages for a small fee. Otherwise there are internet cafe's nearby.

Passport/Visa Requirements – A passport with validity of more than 6 months is required and a return ticket. North (and some South) American, & Western European nationals are allowed 90 days, most other nationalities, 30 days. Visas are required for some countries. If in doubt, check with the nearest consulate.

Bugs, Creepy-Crawlies, etc. – We are on the edge of a Reserva Indigena, so wildlife is one of the area's main attractions. Most of the creatures are incredibly shy, and do not come near the house, although you will hear monkeys and other animals, and hopefully see some. Lizards are ubiquitous, charming and keep many little flying objects at bay. Mosquitoes are not a major problem, but bring insect repellent and soothing creams like Anthisan. All beds have mosquito nets.

Medical Facilities – The nearest hospital is in Limon, and there is a clinic at the Bri Bri junction. Telephone is (506) 750 0136. There are doctors in the area and there is also an ambulance service. We recommend bringing a basic first aid kit and essential/desirable medicines with you. For serious problems, there are excellent facilities in San Jose.

Things to Bring – The lifestyle is very laid-back. Shorts and t-/polo shirts are the order of the day (and night). If you like to dress for dinner, think no further than sarongs or jeans. It can get chilly so bring a sweater. Whatever you feel most comfortable in will be appropriate. There is an eclectic collection of books and games. We are very happy to add to our library if you don't want to carry your latest potboiler home.

Air Conditioning, TV? – Absolutely not! The standing fans are more than adequate for cooling at any time of year, and you are meant to be escaping the real world.

Car Hire - Car hire is best arranged in San Jose, where there are many major franchises. We recommend POAS, which has a branch in Puerto Viejo if you don't want to drive from San Jose. Rates vary, but reckon on about US\$300/week for a small car or US\$400 for a jeep. Public bus is excellent and comfortable and there is also a private bus service (Fantasy, Easy Ride or Grayline)

Bicycles - are a popular way of getting around, and can be rented nearby. Motor scooters and ATV's can also be rented in Puerto Viejo.