

Living the Pura Vida!

So, you're interested in moving to Costa Rica? Kaypacha receives many inquiries from folks interested in relocating to Costa Rica. Here are some commonly asked questions and additional information to help give you an idea of life there. Pura Vida!

Is relocating to Costa Rica an easy process?

I'd be lying if I said it was easy, but that doesn't mean it is impossible or not worth it. For starters, it helps if you speak Spanish. Second, residency is no problem, but the cost of living is not as cheap as I thought it would be. Land, housing, and services are cheap, but food, gas, and utilities are the same as in the United States.

What places do you recommend visiting while in Costa Rica?

You should rent a car and visit Nosara, Santa Teresa, Monte Verde, and then head down to Uvita and Dominical to get a good feel for the country on the Pacific side. On the Caribbean side, Puerto Viejo is a great experience that is very different from the Pacific. Just remember, this is not a first-world country. There are limited amenities, infrastructure, organization, police, English, and trash pickup. Expensive restaurants and luxury hotels are few and spread apart.

Pacific side:

Nosara
www.pachamama.com
Santa Teresa
Uvita
Drake Bay

Caribbean side:

Puerto Viejo
www.puntamona.org

Jungle & Mountains:

La Fortuna & Río Tabacón
Monte Verde
Volcán Rincón de la Vieja
Volcán Tenorio & Río Celeste
Volcán Arenal

I'm interested in knowing more about the different communities available.

There are bunches of different communities of different kinds ranging from condominium types like Laecovilla.com or Pachamama.com to neighborhoods that are not "officially" communities but have markets and gatherings regularly, to off-grid "camp style" communes.

Unfortunately, there is no central list of them anywhere. It is word of mouth. There are many for which I don't have contact info. There are different types of communities scattered all over the country.

Are there towns or areas with more Europeans?

There are a few expat communities. Check out AlegriaVillage.com and Pachamama.com. Beach towns like Nosara also attract many foreigners.

Is Costa Rica a good place to set up a small business or retire with little savings?

There's no money to be made in this country. People who move here from other countries bring their money with them, retire, or support themselves through internet services. Don't plan on selling much of your work here. There is more poverty than wealth. Anyone who is considering moving here should come and stay for an extended period before doing so.

Is there a significant demand for house-sitters?

No, I can't say that folks are looking for house sitters as almost everybody rents out their places when they go somewhere. The best way to figure it out is to take a month or so and visit the different areas.

Why do you consider Costa Rica to be a safe and relaxed place at the moment?

Most people live a simple life with a mellow mentality.

They follow and trust their president/leaders, so there are few demonstrations. For example, people wear masks because they are told it's the way to save lives, so they are happy to do so.

Costa Rica is not a rich country, and that has its ups and downs. It doesn't have the money for 5G development. Instead, the government invests in free education and free healthcare instead of the military.

Food grows all year round, and nature and surroundings are breathtaking.

What's the situation with EMFs and cell towers?

There are many towers but nowhere near as many as more developed countries. There is still plenty of wilderness where there is no internet at all. There is no 5G, no 4G, nothing G. Many mountain and beach areas have only dirt roads and offer few services, with no English-speaking people.

Are there demonstrations, strikes, and civil unrest at the moment?

No. Although, occasionally they will be roadblocks or demonstrations if the President does something that is not popular.

I hope this helps and wish you the best on your journey!

***So Much Love,
Kaypacha***