

## Travel to Costa Rica

### Passport and Visa

In order to travel to Costa Rica, it is generally mandatory that a person hold the following; a passport valid for at least 6 months and a pre-paid airline ticket to exit Costa Rica or proof of financial resources (at least \$400.00US in cash, traveler checks, and/or credit cards) to pay for the market value of a one-way airline ticket out of the country.

### Money

The national currency of Costa Rica is the colon. The current exchange rate is roughly 425 colones to the U.S. dollar. Exchange rates at the airport are the worst, and you can change your dollars in many stores and even with taxi drivers. The banks give the best rates but are generally crowded and slow. Many of the Automatic Teller Machines accept foreign cards. Western Union and MoneyGram services are available in San Jose and other locations.

### Transportation

Transportation in Costa Rica is probably the best in Central America. The buses are both clean and inexpensive. However, they are not air conditioned and do sometimes fill up. If you are traveling a great distance, it is advised that you buy your ticket in advance. Two domestic airlines service the country, Sansa and Travel Air. Renting a car is also an option for getting around Costa Rica. If you are 25 and have a valid US or international license and a major credit card you'll be on the road. Keep in mind that most of the cars in Costa Rica are manual.

### Phone Calls

International phone calls from Costa Rica are not cheap. However, recently calls made through the internet have become more popular and are offered in a few locations. To call collect just dial 09 on any telephone, followed by the international access code of your country, followed by the phone number. If you need an English peaking operator, dial 116. You can use calling cards from any pay phone as long as you have the country access code.

### Language

The official language of Costa Rica is Spanish. And, of course, we will assist you with whatever barriers you may encounter. Depending on where you are, generally someone speaks English, or at least understands it. This is true, especially in larger hotels and more expensive restaurants. Language is not something you should worry about, but should learn some basic phrases before arrival out of respect.

### Postal Services

The main branch post office in San Jose is the most reliable but, there are post offices located in all parts of the country. Articles of mail may be sent to you at General Delivery in the post office for a charge of ten cents per letter. However, we have no problem receiving and forwarding your mail at Europa Consultores. Outgoing packages are generally inspected thoroughly by customs, it is therefore suggested that you leave your packages open until the minute they are handed over for shipment.

### Medicines

While narcotics are strictly prohibited, prescription drugs should be clearly marked and carried only in the amount that you would consume during the period of your travel. Have a written statement from your doctor that the medicine is being used legitimately. Be sure to declare such drugs or medications to the Customs officer.

Though this information will help you plan for the departure for your wedding, it is general and is not meant to be your only source of information. Any questions you may have should be brought to the attention of one of our wedding

consultants. Assisting you is what we are here for!