



# COSTA RICA



## GOVERNMENT

### Chief of State

President Carlos ALVARADO Quesada

### Head of Government

President Carlos ALVARADO Quesada

### Government Type

presidential republic

### Capital

San Jose

### Legislature

unicameral Legislative Assembly or Asamblea Legislativa (57 seats)

### Judiciary

Supreme Court of Justice (consists of 22 judges organized into 3 cassation chambers each with 5 judges and the Constitutional Chamber with 7 judges)

### Ambassador to US

Ambassador Fernando LLORCA Castro

### US Ambassador

Ambassador Sharon DAY

## GEOGRAPHY

### Area

Total: 51,100 sq km  
Land: 51,060 sq km  
Water: 40 sq km

### Climate

tropical and subtropical; dry season (December to April); rainy season (May to November); cooler in highlands

### Natural Resources

hydropower

## ECONOMY

### Economic Overview

exports of bananas, coffee, sugar, and beef form the backbone of Costa Rica's exports, and political stability, relatively high education levels, and a special free trade agreement with the US help it enjoy strong and stable economic growth

### GDP (Purchasing Power Parity)

\$83.85 billion (2017 est.)

### GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity)

\$16,900 (2017 est.)

### Exports

\$10.55 billion (2017 est.)

partners: US 40.9%, Belgium 6.3%, Panama 5.6%, Netherlands 5.6%, Nicaragua 5.1%, Guatemala 5% (2017)

### Imports

\$15.55 billion (2017 est.)

partners: US 38.1%, China 13.1%, Mexico 7.3% (2017)

## PEOPLE & SOCIETY

### Population

4.9 million (July 2017 est.)

### Population Growth

1.16% (2017 est.)

### Ethnicity

white or mestizo 83.6%, mulatto 6.7%, indigenous 2.4%, black or African descent 1.1%, other 1.1%, none 2.9%, unspecified 2.2% (2011 est.)

### Language

Spanish (official), English

### Religion

Roman Catholic 71.8%, Evangelical or Pentecostal 12.3%, other Protestant 2.6%, Jehovah's Witness 0.5%, other 2.4%, none 10.4% (2016 est.)

### Urbanization

urban population: 79.3% of total population (2018)  
rate of urbanization: 1.5% annual rate of change (2015-20 est.)

### Literacy

97.8% (2015 est.)

