

Tours

Miniguide to **CAÑO NEGRO**



© Paraiso Tropical Caño Negro



Introduction



Caño Negro is a tourism development center whose main attraction is the Caño Negro Mixed National Wildlife Refuge. It is of a mixed type, which means that part of the territory it covers belongs to the State and another percentage is in private hands.

It is located in the northern part of the country, near the border with Nicaragua, between the cantons of Guatuso and Los Chiles, and covers an area of 9969 hectares. It was created to protect wetlands important for wildlife, both terrestrial and aquatic, and as a reservoir in perpetuity for species unique to the area.

The refuge was declared a RAMSAR Site, one of two in Costa Rica, on December 27, 1991, because it is considered of international importance due to the resources it protects. This protected area is well known by biologists and nature lovers from all over the world, as well as fishing enthusiasts, due to its majestic biodiversity.

Before its creation as a refuge, it was a system of wetlands used ancestrally by the Guatuso (Maleku) Indians as a fishing area and for tribal rites and worship.

The main attraction is the shallow freshwater lake of Caño Negro, with an area of about 800 hectares, on which boat tours are conducted to observe wildlife. Caño Negro is a stagnant outflow from the adjacent Río Frío and its tributary, the Río Mónico.

Caño Negro is a wildlife refuge, characterized by rivers (Río Frío is the main flow), lagoons and secondary canals. During the rainy season, the large canals overflow, flooding large tracts of pasture, which become navigable.

During the dry season, these pastures return to their natural state, offering good pasture land for cattle. Several secondary channels dry up almost completely, and the smaller lagoons attract migratory birds. Several lagoons remain available that are suitable for sport fishing, as well as the Río Frío and its secondary rivers.

The rainy season is usually from May to January, with an annual rainfall of 3500 mm.

In addition, the area constitutes a habitat with a great variety of flora and fauna species and natural communities, many of which are unique or in danger of extinction, making the area a site of international importance, as it constitutes, along with the wetlands south of Lake Nicaragua, one of the most important examples of a wetland in Mesoamerica.

This refuge is a food source for migratory birds from the north. There are species of plants and animals that are not found in other parts of the country, an abundance of birds and fish for human consumption and it is one of the few places where the tropical gar fish can be found.

Caño Negro is a true paradise for nature lovers. Birds are its primary attraction, with more than 377 bird species, according to 7 bird counts, or more than 450 species according to eBird, 100 of which are directly related to wetlands. The migratory birds come mainly from Canada and the United States, resting and feeding at the refuge before continuing their journey to South America. The Refuge has a series of conditions that make it special in terms of bird diversity. Influenced by both the Caribbean and the Pacific, it presents species from both areas, in addition to the migratory species that stop in the wetland. It is a site of interest not only for the abundance of birds, but also for the presence of some species of great ornithological interest, including endemic species.

Caño Negro is a place visited by fishing enthusiasts. Highly sought after is the tarpon, a large prehistoric fish, as well as the rare gar fish. In addition, jaguar guapote, machaca, grunts and other fish species recognized by the IGFA (International Game Fish Association) can also be found here.

You can travel in a small boat or a speedboat, both of which provide an excellent way to observe the extraordinary surrounding nature. The trees that line most of the river slopes are home to iguanas, monkeys, birds and other species typical of the coastal wetlands.

At sunset, caimans can be observed feeding. Exciting boat rides through adjacent streams are also offered.

Caño Negro is a district of the canton of Los Chiles, Alajuela. Its head, of the same name, is located about 30 km southwest of Los Chiles.

In addition, the Caño Negro Mixed National Wildlife Refuge is equipped with a biological station set up as a visitor's center, a battery of restrooms, parking areas, a dock and ramp for the canals and a bird watching tower (18 meters high) located in a key spot to provide a view of all the lagoons that make up the wetland.

You will also be able to observe the magical sunsets that occur in this area. The sun sets between the Tenorio and Miravalles

Introduction





volcanoes and, if you turn your head a little, you will also see the Arenal volcano.

The cantons of Los Chiles, Upala, Guatuso and La Cruz are part of the San Juan river basin (except for part of La Cruz, which is located on the Pacific slope). Accustomed to emphasizing what it separates, in this case as the political boundary between Nicaragua and Costa Rica, we tend to lose sight of the fact that the territory under consideration is part of a natural unit of operation. The San Juan River basin is one of largest in Central America, second only to the Usumacinta River. It has an area of 38,569 square kilometers, of which, 24,569 belong to Nicaragua and 14,000 to Costa Rica.

Tourist activities

Visitors can enjoy sustainable recreational, cultural and/or productive activities in the area. In general, the observation of nature includes visits to the lagoons to contemplate the flora, fauna and landscape. In some cases, horseback riding and guided hikes take place when the terrain is dry, always accompanied by amateur photography or filming. Adventure tourism is limited to excursions in kayaks, canoes and rowboats, as well as day and night tours with duly accredited local guides.

It is important to note that, since Caño Negro is a mixed refuge, tourism services offered by locals are available within its territory. These include lodging, meals and water transportation. There are other complementary services for both locals and visitors, including sodas, restaurants, cabins, grocery stores and bars, staffed almost exclusively by family members. Most of the services are located in the community of Caño Negro. Some services are also available in the communities of Playuelas, Las Cubas and San Antonio.

Bird watching

Caño Negro and the surrounding areas are home to a remarkable number of birds, making it a unique bird sanctuary for local and foreign tourists. It is estimated that more than 450 species of native and migratory birds can be observed in Caño Negro; having sighted 192 species in a single day is a good indicator of how important this wetland ecosystem and Ramsar Site is for this activity.



Caño Negro



Caño Negro, considered a bird sanctuary, is among the highest ranking in Central America and the most outstanding in the world.

The results of a recent count place our country and Caño Negro in a privileged position for birders from around the world to come and observe the wide variety of species in the Caño Negro node, Río Frío - Maleku corridor and wetlands of the Río Medio Queso of the ICT National Bird Route.

Rural tourism

Caño Negro offers its visitors a unique experience that brings them closer to the lifestyle of the nearby towns with hostel or lodge type accommodations that, due to the local characteristics, focus on rural tourism or agritourism. These lodging sites provide tour services in Caño Negro including bird watching, boat or canoe rides, night or fishing tours and sometimes agritourism.

Maleku indigenous population

Another attraction is that indigenous families of the Maleku community live within its territory, in Guatuso, with whom religious ceremonies can be practiced in areas considered sacred, allowing visitors to immerse themselves in the culture of the native people. Visitors will be able to enjoy theatrical plays, handicraft sales, medicinal plant tours, traditional gastronomy and Maleku cultural tourism.

The indigenous population is mainly located in the canton of Guatuso, within the "Maleku Indigenous Territory". It currently has a population of 1423 people, located in three palenques or settlements: Margarita, El Sol and Tonjibe. The El Sol palenque is located 4 km from San Rafael of Guatuso; Margarita is located 6 km east and 2 km southeast of San Rafael and Tonjibe is located 2 km from the Margarita palenque.

 facebook.com/catuchiFN



How to get there

Access

There are two points of access to Caño Negro at the intersection towards Mónico at the Río Celeste bridge (32 km to Caño Negro). This route must be followed until the intersection in Veracruz to continue to Caño Negro. The second access is to continue along the main road towards Guatuso-Upala to Colonia Puntarenas where the entrance to Caño Negro is located, approximately 25 kilometers. The roads from both Río Celeste and Colonia Puntarenas are gravel and provide access to automobiles. (There is also an internal route from Tilarán- Guatuso- Colonia Puntarenas and another route from Cañas -Bijagua- Upala- Colonia Puntarenas).

Access routes from the Caño Negro Mixed National Wildlife Refuge to the communities in the area of influence:


Liberia-Cañas-Upala-Caño Negro Route:

From the airport, take the road to Liberia and then continue on the road to the city of Cañas. Before reaching the city of Cañas, you will come across the intersection to Upala. Take the road to Upala, passing through Bijagua. When you reach Upala, take the road to Guatuso to the community of Colonia Puntarenas, where you will find the intersection to Caño Negro. This route to Caño Negro is approximately 146 kilometers, with an approximate duration of 2 hours and 30 minutes.


Palenque Maleku: Is located on the San Rafael de Guatuso-Fortuna route. The closest route from the Caño Negro Mixed National Wildlife Refuge is to take the Caño Negro road to Veracruz, take the turnoff to Mónico and continue to the crossing at the Río Celeste bridge. At this junction, take a detour to San Rafael de Guatuso and then to Palenques Maleku. This trip takes approximately 1 hour and 30 minutes.

Caño Negro: The town is where the official access to the Caño Negro Mixed National Wildlife Refuge, the administration and infrastructure for tourism use is located, thus they have the same access route.

Los Chiles: Is located on the main road to Caño Negro. To get to Los Chiles from the Caño Negro Mixed National Wildlife Refuge, you must take the Caño Negro - Comunidad el Jobo route, a gravel road, and then take the Comunidad el Jobo - Los Chiles route, which is a paved road. The duration is approximately 40 minutes.

 **Means of transportation available:** In Caño Negro, there is a company that provides public transportation from Upala to Los Chiles. This trip is made three times a day, round trip.

Buses from Los Chiles depart for Ciudad Quesada and San José. The service runs all day, around every 45 minutes. On the Upala route, public transportation is available to Cañas, Guatuso, La Fortuna and San José.

 **Los Chiles Airdrome:** Costa Rican Aviación Civil has designated it as a Category 4 Airdrome, enabling its use for domestic flights, air taxis and charters. Not limited to medical emergencies.

Contents

General Tours Caño Negro

Caño Negro Wildlife Refuge.....	8
Wetlands tour.....	8
Secrets of the rainforest	8
Tenorio National Park and Celeste River Tour....	8
Conservation Tour.....	8
Night Tour	8
Bird watching	9
Bat Tour.....	9
Photography Tour	9

Adventure Tours

Customs and nature.....	11
Río Frío Viejo Hiking	11
Jaguar trails.....	11
Horseback riding tours	11
Canoe tours.....	11
Kayaking.....	11
Sport fishing.....	12

Rural tourism tours

Kiwandamji Farm.....	13
La Finca Tour	13
One day tour.....	13
Maleku Indigenous Reserve.....	13
Cinco Ramas.....	13
Bazú Sugar Mill	13
MUVA Dairy.....	14
Oasis Rural Inn and Trails	14
Balfour chocolates Costa Rica	14
Butterfly farm.....	14

Directory of tourism companies	16
Map of the area.....	16
National Birding Route	20

Caño Negro General Tours





Caño Negro Wildlife Refuge

Just 90 minutes from the hotel, visit the Caño Negro Wildlife Refuge, which has been designated a Ramsar site, a conservation wetland of international relevance, of great importance for the northern zone of Costa Rica.

[Caño Negro Natural Lodge](#)
[facebook.com/catuchiFN](#)

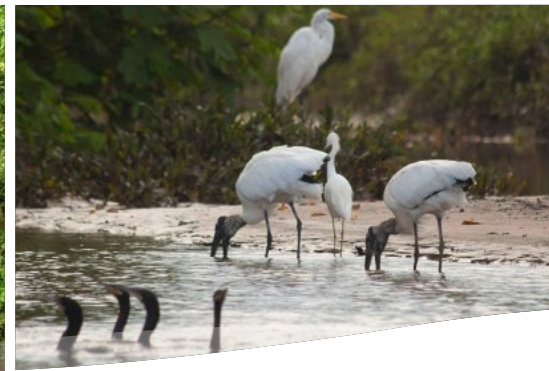


Wetlands tour

Ideal for nature lovers, families and groups of friends who enjoy nature and biodiversity.

Tour along Rio Frio and the lagoons where you will experience breathtaking scenery, abundant wildlife and get a glimpse of the daily life of the people who live near the wetlands.

[Caño Negro Natural Lodge](#)
[canonegroexperience.com](#)



Secrets of the rainforest

The forests of Caño Negro are a unique domain that connects life where monkeys swing through the trees, birds of many sizes fly stealthily through the vegetation and even the smallest of nature's treasures represent millions of years of evolution.

[Caño Negro Natural Lodge](#)



Bird watching

The Caño Negro wetland, Rio Frio and Medio Queso wetlands are widely recognized for their incredible diversity of resident birds and as a winter home for thousands of returning migratory birds. Discover unique species found only in these special ecosystems.

[Caño Negro Natural Lodge](#)
[facebook.com/catuchiFN](#)
[facebook.com/tropicalparadise](#)
[canonegroexperience.com](#)



Bat Tour

Did you know you can find 114 species of bats in Costa Rica: how many are you familiar with? This tour will present you with the dazzling world of bats.

[facebook.com/catuchiFN](#)
[facebook.com/tropicalparadise](#)



Photography Tour

Boat tour for photography or bird watching

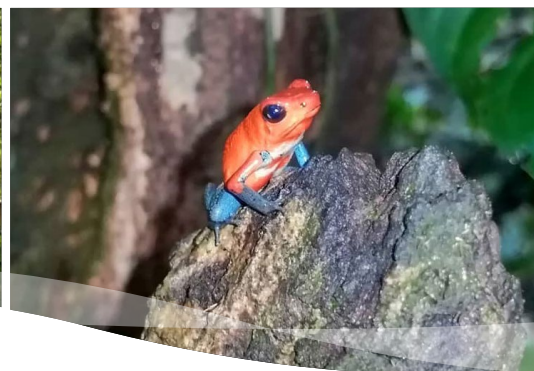
[facebook.com/catuchiFN](#)
[canonegroexperience.com](#)



Tenorio National Park and Rio Celeste Tour

This beautiful tour includes a 4-hour hike through the rainforest trails of the Tenorio Volcano National Park.

[Caño Negro Natural Lodge](#)



Conservation Tour

Every effort made to preserve nature makes a difference and we want you to be part of this fascinating experience. Walk the trails and learn the secrets of a forest that has been managed exclusively for conservation for more than 30 years.

[Caño Negro Natural Lodge](#)



Night Tour

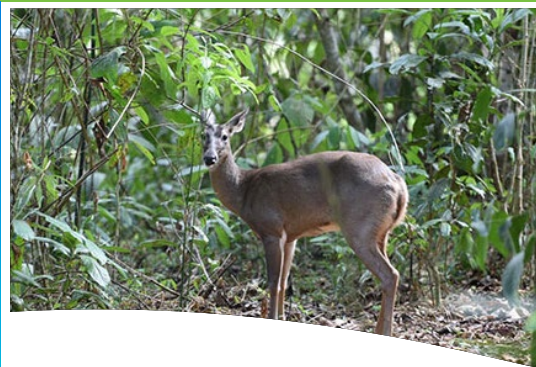
Experience the nocturnal habits of wildlife!

At night, Caño Negro reveals nature's strange secrets. The world of nocturnal wildlife, hidden during the day but active at night, resonates with incredible sounds and fascinating behaviors.

[Caño Negro Natural Lodge](#)
[facebook.com/catuchiFN](#)
[canonegroexperience.com](#)



Adventure Tours



Customs and nature

Learn about life in Caño Negro by visiting one of the farms located within the protected area, which is normal because it is a mixed category refuge.

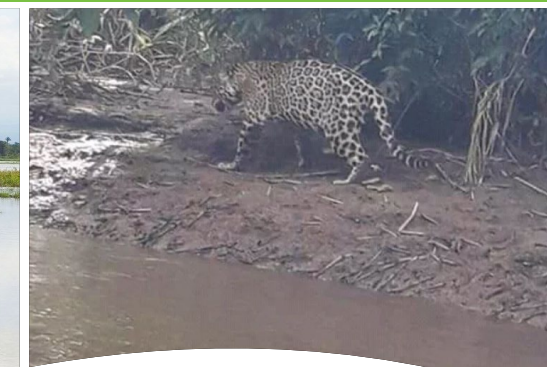
canonegroexperience.com



Hiking Rio Frío Viejo

Travel by boat to the old Rio Frio riverbed to hike through one of the best ecosystems in Caño Negro. Duration: 6 hours

canonegroexperience.com



Jaguar trails

A long boat ride, an extensive hike and stories about the "tiger" in Caño Negro. Learn about the reality of the jaguar as we enter its territory.

canonegroexperience.com

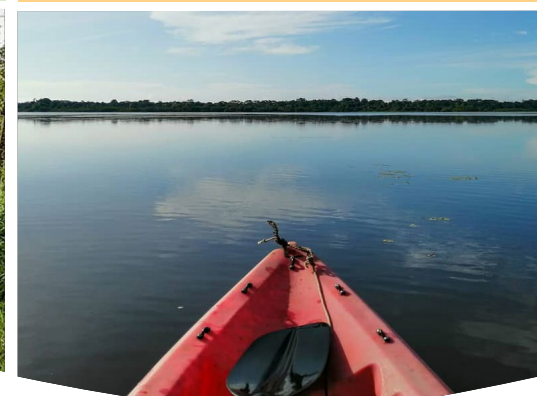


Horseback riding tours

Ride through the impressive landscapes of Caño Negro.

The opportunity to enjoy the early morning hours in the forest, move through different ecosystems, gaze at a spectacular waterfall or observe fauna up close, are just some of the privileges that horseback riding allows.

facebook.com/catuchiFN/



Canoe tour

One of the best ways to become in tune with the wetland is by canoe. It is a quiet and peaceful way to enjoy the most representative landscapes of Caño Negro.

Caño Negro Natural Lodge



Kayaking

Enjoy a magical experience touring the wetlands of the Caño Negro Mixed National Wildlife Refuge and a panoramic view from the observation tower at a height of 18 meters.

facebook.com/catuchiFN/



Sport fishing

Northern Costa Rica is truly a paradise for freshwater anglers. A region covered by rivers and lakes, home to a variety of fish such as tarpon, a saltwater fish that lives in the Atlantic Ocean, with Costa Rica being one of the few places in the world where it can be found in fresh water, 300 miles from the sea. Snook is also a species appreciated by anglers.

[Caño Negro Natural Lodge](#)



Rural tourism tours



Kiwandamji Farm

Kiwanda Maji is the perfect combination of exuberant nature and the real time operation of a farm. The property has an area of 180 ha, of which some areas are dedicated to farming. Here visitors can enjoy activities such as visiting the cattle, the dairy and the cheese factory to learn about the milking process and the production of artisanal cheese, as well as the opportunity to taste these incredible cheeses.

[facebook.com/kiwandamaji/](#)



La Finca Tour

Share the lifestyle of many Costa Ricans on this family farm with its varied and picturesque landscapes. Learn how everyday agricultural practices, in gardens, orchards and forests, demonstrate how an environmentally friendly lifestyle is viable. This family combines ecotourism with agriculture and environmental conservation providing a model for others to follow.

[Caño Negro Natural Lodge](#)



One day tour

Come and have fun on this incredible tour to the heart of the Caño Negro wetlands, inside the wildlife refuge.

We will take you on a journey through the wetlands in our safe and comfortable boats, with experienced guides that will help you feel as if you were in paradise.

[canonegroexperience.com](#)



Maleku Indigenous Reserve

Sumérjase en la cultura de los indígenas. Immerse yourself in the culture of the Maleku Indians. Learn about their daily life and the traditions they have kept alive for generations. You will have the opportunity to enjoy a typical Maleku meal.

[facebook.com/IndiosMalekus](#)

[infocostarica.net/turismo/ict](#)



Cinco Ramas

An internationally certified organic farm that produces pepper, vanilla, turmeric, ginger, tabasco chili, and other crops. We offer you a tour to explore the processes of cultivation, harvesting and utilities of these products.

We would love to show you around the approximately 27 hectares (67 acres) of productive lots, agroforestry and conservation areas.

[facebook](#)



Trapiche Bazú

A variety of delicious typical food prepared on a wood fire, sugar mill tour, tortilla classes with a grinder, wood-fired restaurant and more.

[facebook.com/catuchiFN/](#)

[facebook.com/centrorecreativo.bazu](#)



MUVA Dairy

Family business dedicated to the production of dairy products such as palmito or string cheese, fresh cheese, yogurt, eggnog and other products obtained from milk.

facebook.com/catuchiFN

facebook.com/LACTEOSMUVA/



Oasis Rural Inn and Trails

The ideal place to rest and enjoy nature. The inn offers lodging, gardens, fruit trees, organic vegetable garden, trails, antique museum and camping area with bathrooms and kitchen.

facebook.com/catuchiFN

facebook.com/Posada-Oasis



Balfour Chocolates Costa Rica

Balfour Foods S.A. is a proud Costa Rican company committed to quality.

We are involved in every step of the production line, from ensuring that the farmers provide us with the best cocoa beans, to producing a delicious product with the well-being of our consumers in mind.

Balfour Foods S.A.'s identity is based on two main concepts: fair trade and healthy combinations.

This means that when you buy one of our Balfour chocolates, you are ensuring that our family organic cocoa suppliers receive fair remuneration for their products, and that you get a healthy treat.

facebook.com/catuchiFN

balfourfoods.com visiteloschiles



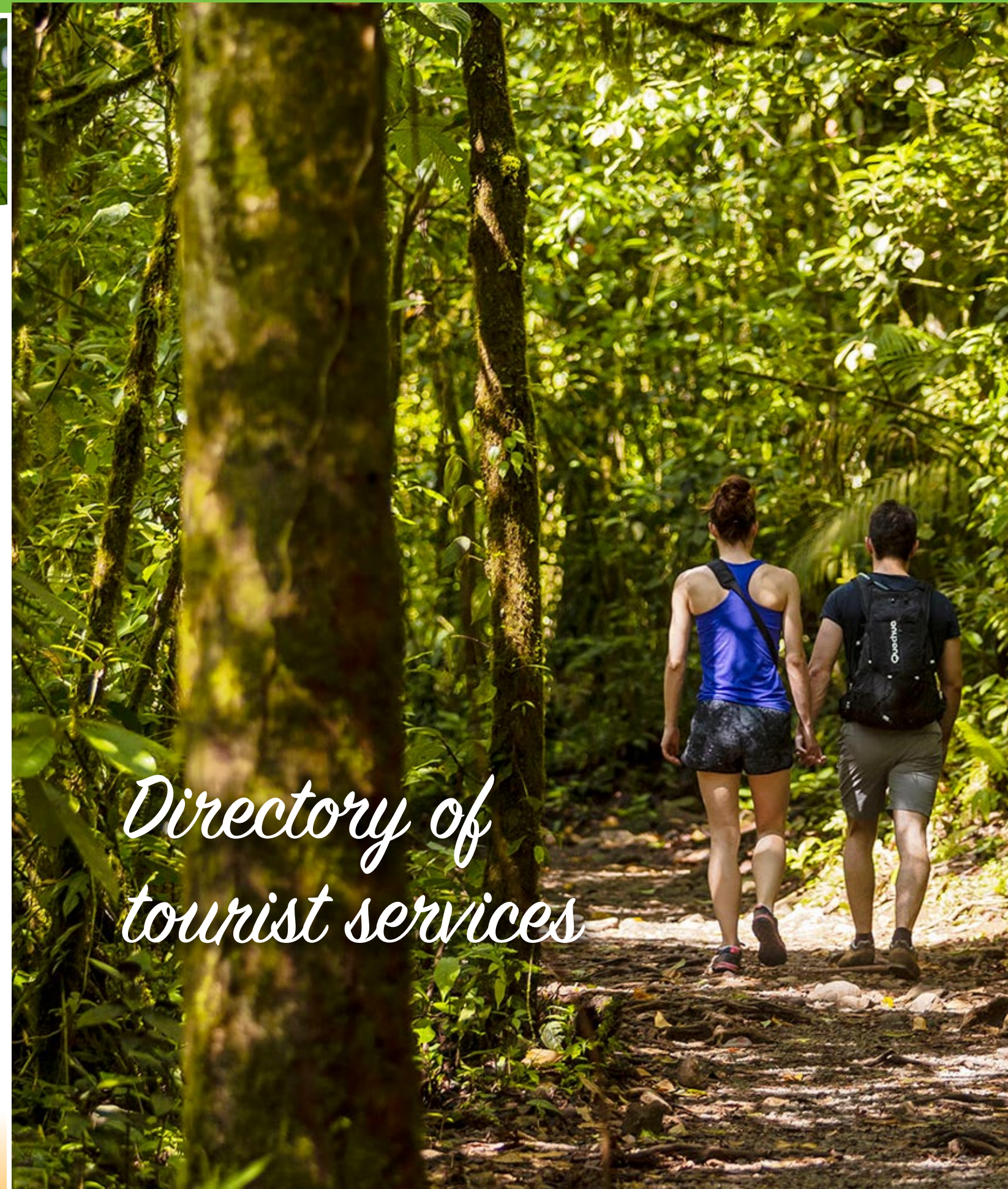
Butterfly farm

Caño Negro is a community inhabited by people willing to share their experiences and exchange them with visitors.

In this community, we will visit farming families, who will show us the different attractions of their butterfly farm and explain their reproduction process.

We will walk through the garden of a home where we will find a great variety of orchids. The family has managed to reproduce and protect many endangered species with great effort.

costaricaruraltours.com/granja_mariposas



*Directory of
tourist services*

COSTA RICA COUNTRY CODE: **506** (If you are calling from another country)

General Services

Service	Contact
---------	---------

Emergencies:

Bomberos de Costa Rica (Firefighters) - Los Chiles	(506) 2471-1290
Comando Fuerza Pública (Police) - Los Chiles	(506) 2471-1183
GAR Police La Fortuna	(506) 2479-9689
CCSS Clinic La Fortuna	(506) 2459-1700
SANAR Clinic La Fortuna	(506) 2479-9420
UNIMED AMBULANCE - TRAUMA CENTER	(506) 2479-1903
Hospital Los Chiles - Los Chiles	(506) 2471-2000
Cruz Roja de Los Chiles (Red Cross) - emergencias	(506) 247-11037

Banks:

POPULAR	2479-9422
NACIONAL	2479-9022
COSTA RICA	2479-9113
BAC SAN JOSÉ	2479-8576
COOIQUE LA FORTUNA	2401-1500

Center of attention to the citizen
Hours: M-F from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Sundays closed
Migration Call Center, 1311

More information

Los Chiles Tourism Chamber (CATUCHI) www.ict.go.cr/es/
Los Chiles Municipality www.muniloschiles.go.cr/

Airports

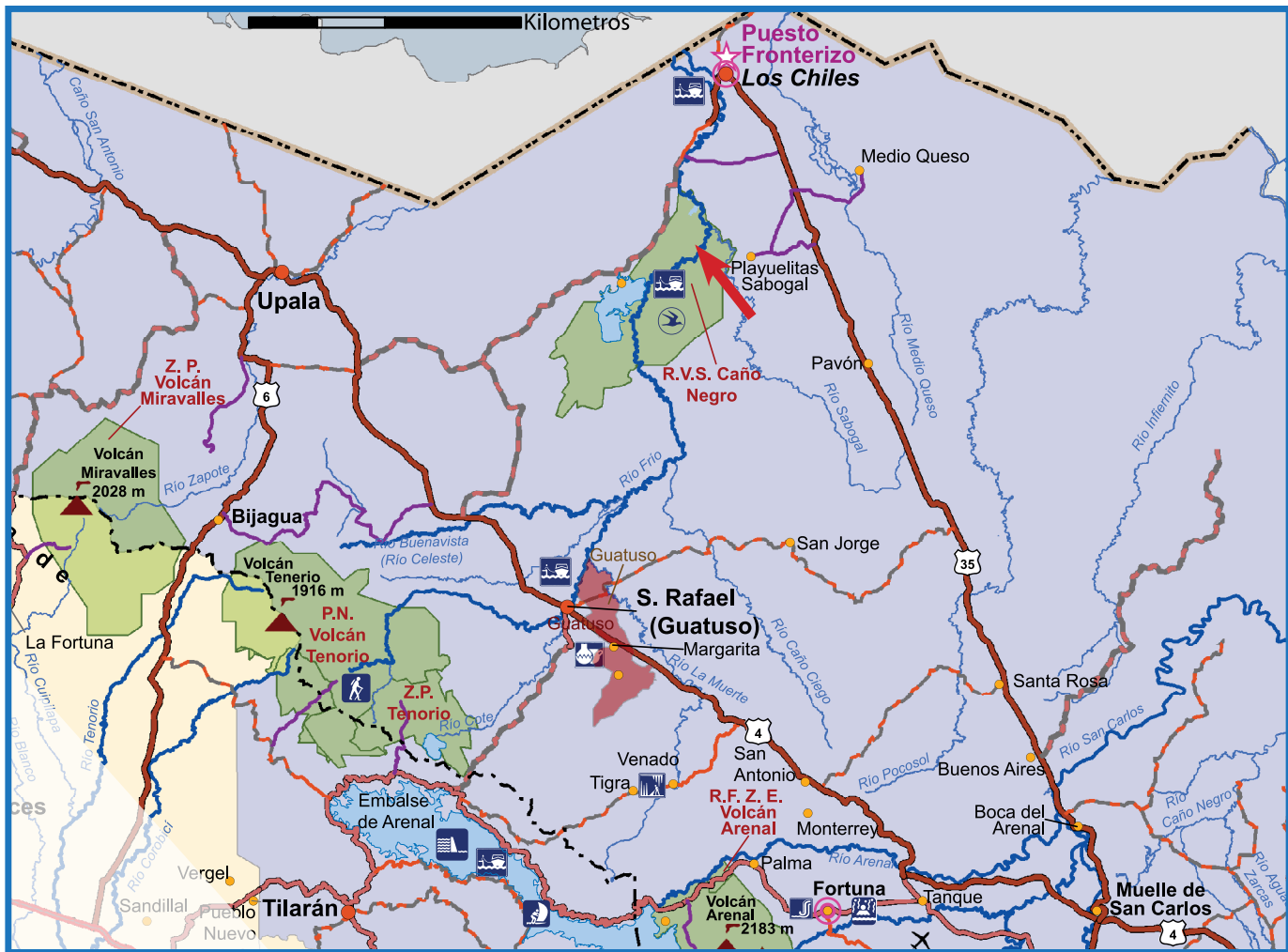
Place	Contact
-------	---------

Tobías Bolaños Airport, Pavas.	Tel.: 2232-28201/ 2232-7330
Juan Santamaría International Airport: Flight Information	Tel.: 2437-2626
Daniel Oduber Quirós International Airport, Liberia Guanacaste	Tel.: 2668-1010 Administration and Information

 **Costa Rica is a place where nature abounds and adventure awaits you, just remember:**

- Book tours offered by authorized travel agencies.
- Make sure that the place you wish to visit is within the permitted sites of SINAC's Protected Wildlife Areas.
- Make sure that the activity you wish to perform is allowed.
- Make sure that the tour guide provides you with safety instructions and the rules of the activity before starting a tour.
- Make sure the company has an operating permit issued by the Ministry of Health, insurance policies and certified tour guides.

[facebook.com/catuchiFN](https://www.facebook.com/catuchiFN)



COSTA RICA COUNTRY CODE: **506** (If you are calling from another country)

LIST OF LODGING COMPANIES WITH TOURIST DECLARATION 2021

NAME	TELEPHONE	E-MAIL	WEB SITE
C.T. TILAJARI	24621212	info@tilajari.com	www.tilajari.com
HOTEL EL TUCANO RESORT & TERMAL SPA	2-4606000	reservaciones@hoteltucano.com	www.hoteltucano.com
ARENAL LODGE (Hotel La Posada del Arenal- Hotel y Spa Arenal Lodge)	24791881	reservations@arenalodge.com	www.arenalodge.com
HOTEL ARENAL SPRINGS RESORT AND SPA	24013300	reservations@thespringscostarica.com	www.thespringscostarica.com
HOTEL ARENAL SPRINGS RESORT AND SPA	24791212	info@arenalsprings.com	www.hotelarenalsprings.com
HOTEL GARZA DEL PLATANAR	2-4755222	info@hotellagarza.com	www.hotellagarzaarenal.com
ARENAL OBSERVATORY LODGE	2-4791070	info@arenalobservatorylodge.com	www.arenalobservatorylodge.com
HOTEL LA CENTRAL	2-4600301	hcentral@racsa.co.cr	www.hotellacentral.com
Albergue LA LAGUNA DEL LAGARTO	22004629	lagarto@racsa.co.cr	www.lagartolo-lodge-costa-rica.com
HOTEL EL CONQUISTADOR	2-4600546	hconquistador@ice.co.cr	www.hconquistador.com
TABACON GRAND SPA THERMAL RESORT	24792000	sales@tabacon.com	www.tabacon.com
HOTEL ARENAL COUNTRY INN	2-4799669	info@arenalcountryinn.com	www.arenalcountryinn.com
LUIGI'S HOTEL	2-4799898	info@luigishotel.com	www.luigishotel.com
Hotel LOMAS DEL VOLCAN	2-4799000	info@lomasdelvolcan.com	www.lomasdelvolcan.com
HOTEL ARENAL PARAISO RESORT & SPA	24791100	reservas@arenalparaiso.com	www.arenalparaiso.com
LOS LAGOS HOTEL SPA & RESORT	2-4791000	reserve@hotelloslagos.com	www.hotelloslagos.com
ALBERGUE DE MONTAÑA MAQUENQUE ECOLOGE	24798200	info@maquenqueecolodge.com	www.maquenqueecolodge.com
HOTEL LA PRADERA DEL ARENAL	24799644	info@lapraderadelarenal.com	www.lapraderadelarenal.com
FINCA VILLA TINA	2-4609609	fincavillatina@gmail.com	www.fincavillatina.com
HOTEL ARENAL VOLCANO INN	2-4791122	reservaciones@arenalvolcanoinn.com	www.arenalvolcanoinn.com
HOTEL LAS TABLITAS	2-4780411	hotelyrestaurantelastablitas@gmail.com	www.hotelparaisonatural.com
HOTEL ARENAL RABFER	2-4799187	info@arenalrabfer.com	www.arenalrabfer.com
HOTEL ARENAL MANOA	2-4791111	info@arenalmanoa.com	www.arenalmanoa.com
HOTEL ARENAL KIORO	2-4791700	reservas@hotelarenalkioro.com	www.hotelarenalkioro.com
CASA LUNA HOTEL & SPA	2-4797368	info@casalunalodge.com	www.casalunahotel.com
HOTEL MOUNTAIN PARADISE	2-4791414	guesservice@hotelmountainparadise.com	www.hotelmountainparadise.com
HOTEL LA FORTUNA	2-4799197	reservas@lafortunahotel.com	www.hotellafortunahotel.com
CABINAS FARO ARENAL	2-4797092	info@cabinasfaroarenal.com	www.hotelfaroarenal.com
HOTEL ROYAL CORIN WELLNESS AND SPA RESORT	2-4792200	info@royalcorin.com	www.royalcorin.com
HOTEL LAS COLINAS	2-4799305	info@lascolinasarenal.com	www.lascolinasarenal.com
ARENAL NAYARA HOTEL & GARDENS	2-4791600	reservas@arenalnayara.com	www.arenalnayara.com
HOTEL VISTA AL CERRO	24797029	info@hotelvistadelcerro.com	www.hotelvistadelcerro.com
SELINA LA FORTUNA	24795279	reception.lafortuna@selina.com	www.selina.com
HOTEL MONTAÑA DE FUEGO	24791220	reservaciones@montanadefuego.com	www.montanadefuego.com

COSTA RICA COUNTRY CODE: **506** (If you are calling from another country)

LIST OF LODGING COMPANIES WITH TOURIST DECLARATION 2021			
NAME	TELEPHONE	E-MAIL	WEB SITE
ARENAL OASIS ECOLOGE	24799526	info@arenaloasis.com	www.arenaloasis.com
HOTEL SECRETO LA FORTUNA	24797047	gerenciahotelsecreto@gmail.com	www.secretolafortuna.com
MUSSAENDA POSADA & GARDENS	24791900	info@mussaenda.com	www.mussaenda.com
HOTEL MONTE REAL	24799357	gerencia@monterealhotel.com	www.montereal.com
ALBERGUE RyA del VOLCAN	83505305	ryadelvolcan@gmail.com	
Posada de Turismo Rural Finca 360	85305373	finca360cr@gmail.com	
HOTEL SAN BOSCO INN	24799050	gerencia@hotelsanbosco.com	www.hotelsanbosco.com
LA FINCA LODGE	40001305	info@lafincacr.com	www.lafincacr.com
HOTEL AMOR ARENAL	24797070	reservations@amorarenal.com	www.amorarenal.com
Volcano Lodge Hotel & Thermal Experience	24792800	info@volcanolodge.com	www.volcanolodge.com
HOTEL LAVAS TACOTAL	24791210	reservaciones@tacotal.com	www.tacotal.com
LA FORTUNA SUITES LODGE	24798419	reservations@lafortunasuites.com	www.lafortunasuites.com
HOTEL MIRADAS ARENAL	24791944	info@miradasarenal.com	www.hotelmiradasarenal.com

COSTA RICA COUNTRY CODE: **506** (If you are calling from another country)

LIST OF TRAVEL AGENCIES WITH TOURIST DECLARATION 2021			
NAME	TELEPHONE	E-MAIL	WEB SITE
Viajes COLIBRI	24721068	info@viajescolibri.cr.com	www.viajescolibricr.com
A.V.AVENTS ARENAL AZUL	24799133	info@arenaladventures.com	www.arenaladventures.com
DESTINOS ECOLOGICOS	2-4601507		
EAGLE TOURS	2-4799091	solarenal@racsa.co.cr	www.eagletours.net
AG.V RECEPTIVA JACAMAR NATURALIST TOURS	2-4799767	info@arenaltours.com	www.arenaltours.com
AG. PURA VIDA	2-4799045	info@puravidatrips.com	www.puravidatrips.com
Canoa Aventura	2-4798200	info@canoaaventura.com	www.canoaaventura.com
Agencia de Viajes Emisora Aeronort	2-4603711	aeronortagency@gmail.com	www.aeronortcr.com
Anywhere Costa Rica	2-4798811	info@anywherecostarica.com	www.anywherecostarica.com
Desafío La Fortuna	24790020	info@desafiocostarica.com	www.desafiocostarica.com
Wave Tours	24797262	info@waveexpeditions.com	www.waveexpeditions.com
Agencia de Viajes Ecoterra Costa Rica	24798333	info@ecoterracostarica.com	www.ecoterracostarica.com
Agencia de Viajes Rainforest Travel CR	89267424	info@rainforesttravelcr.com	www.rainforesttravelcr.com
Agencia de Viajes Emisora Soluciones Turísticas CA7	24744057	info@solucionesturistica7.cr	www.solucionesturistica7.cr
Agencia de V. Emisora San Carlos	24612030	ventas@viajessancarlos.com	www.viajes-sc.com
Agencia de Viajes Receptiva Ride CR N° 1	24692020	info@ridecr.com	www.ridecr.com
Agencia de Viajes Receptiva Arenal Volcano Shuttle	83219888	info@arenalvolcanoshuttle.com	
Agencia de Viajes Callidryas Tours	24797007	gerencia@callidryastours.com	www.callidryastours.com
Agencia de Viajes Travel Arenal	24799656	info@travelarenal.com	
Agencia de Viajes Seven Tours Costa Rica	24790770	jrodriguez@seventours.com	
Agencia de Viajes Lobos Tours	24799208	lobostours@gmail.com	
Agencia de Viajes The House of Tours	24797530	info@thehouseoftours.com	
Agencia de Viajes Rainforest Explorers	24798111	info@rainforestexplorers.com	
Agencia de Viajes Traluxu Travel	47023434	info@traluxu.com	www.traluxutavel.com
Agencia de Viajes Flow Trips	24790075	info@flowtrips.com	www.flowtrips.com
Agencia de Viajes Dinghy Expeditions Mountains, Rivers and Coasts	84234653	info@dinghyexpeditions.com	www.dinghyexpeditions.com
Agencia de Viajes Find My Costa Rica	24797262	agen@findmycostarica.com	www.findmycostarica.com



Foto: Renato Paniagua

COSTA RICA COUNTRY CODE: 506 (If you are calling from another country)

LIST OF TRAVEL AGENCIES WITH TOURIST DECLARATION 2021			
NAME	TELEPHONE	E-MAIL	WEB SITE
Agencia de Viajes Bill Beards Costa Rica	24797089	agen@billbeardcostarica.com	www.billbeardcostarica.com
Agencia de Viajes Coopelesca Tours	24012319	tours@coopelesca.co.cr	www.coopelescatours.com
Agencia de Viajes Quercus Travel	47027265	reservas@quercustavel.com	www.quercustravel.com
Agencia de Viajes Fortuna Expeditions	24797500	carlos@slowtourismcr.com	www.slowtourismcr.com
Agencia de Viajes Kapi tours			
Agencia de Viajes Experiences Costa Rica	88625611		
Agencia de Viajes Modo Avión	88213442	info@modoavioncr.com	www.modoavioncr.com

LIST OF RESTAURANTES WITH TOURIST DECLARATION 2021			
NAME	TELEPHONE	E-MAIL	WEB SITE
HAMBURGS. CARLITOS	2-4602454		
BAR REST KLEAVERS	24606444		info@kleaver.com
REST PIZZA HUT	2-4608212		restaurantesancarlos@piezzahutcr.com
REST LA HACIENDA	24757340		
Restaurante LAVA ROCKS CAFÉ	2-4798039	lavarocks@ice.co.cr	
Inspira Café y Restaurante	24797139	inspiracafecr@gmail.com	
El Descorche de los Geranios BAR			

LIST OF ACTIVITIES WITH TOURIST DECLARATION 2021				
NAME	ACTIVITY	TELEPHONE	E-MAIL	WEB SITE
Green Earth Gardens S.A	Parque Temático de Captura y Depósito de Carbono	2-2969949	info@greenearthgardens.org	
Valle Monteverde S.A	Costa Rica Sky Adventures	24794100	info@skytrek.com	www.crskyadventurestravel.com
Puro Equipo USA S.A	Pure Trek Canyoning	24791313	canyoning@puretrek.com	www.puretrekcostarica.com
KM Tropicales S.A	Paradise Hot Springs	24791380	info@paradisehotsprings.com	www.paradisehotsprings.com
Rainforest Experience S.A.	Rainforest Chocolate Tours	24790090	info@rainforestchocolatetour.com	www.rainforestchocolatetour.com
Asoc.de Desarrollo Integral La Fortuna de San Carlos	Reserva Ecológica Catarata Río La Fortuna	24799515	administración@cataratalafortuna.com	www.cataratalafortuna.com
Sociedad Bioecologica del Norte S.A.	Reserva Biológica EcoCentro Danaus	24797019	danaus.gerencia@hotmail.com	www.ecocentrodanaus.com

COSTA RICA COUNTRY CODE: 506 (If you are calling from another country)

LIST OF ACTIVITIES WITH TOURIST DECLARATION 2021				
NAME	ACTIVITY	TELEPHONE	E-MAIL	WEB SITE
Acufa Parque Ecológico S.A	Parque Ecológico Arenal Mundo Aventura	24799762	reservaciones@arenalmundoaventura.com	www.arenalmundoaventura.com
Nalavi Verde S.A.	Mistico Park	24798282	info@misticopark.com	www.misticopark.com
Eden Chocolate Tour S.A.	Eden Chocolate Tour	22005497	edenchocolatetourcr@gmail.com	
La Vaca Muca S.A.	Chocolatería y Cafetería Estukurú	24797083	frivas@estukuru.com	
Inversiones El Macizo RMM S.A.	Actividad Temática Ecoglide Arenal Park	24797120	contabilidad@arenalecoglide.com	
Arenal Natural Ecuestre S.A.	Actividad Temática Arenal 1968	40011968	info@arenal1968.com	www.arenal1968.com
Pedro Cordero Nuñez	Actividad Temática Finca Agroecológica Vivencias Campesinas	88538405	vivenciascampesinascr@gmail.com	

LIST OF LODGING COMPANIES WITH TOURIST DECLARATION AS BOUTIQUE			
NAME	TELEPHONE	E-MAIL	WEB SITE
ARENAL NAYARA HOTEL & GARDENS	2-4791600	reservas@arenalnayara.com	www.arenalnayara.com
HOTEL ARENAL SPRINGS RESORT AND SPA	24013300	reservations@thespringscostarica.com	www.thespringscostarica.com
TABACON GRAND SPATHERMAL RESORT	24792000	sales@tabacon.com	www.tabacon.com
HOTEL ARENAL KIORO	2-4791700	reservas@hotelarenalkioro.com	www.hotelarenalkioro.com
HOTEL ROYAL CORIN WELLNESS AND SPA RESORT	2-4792200	info@royalcorin.com	www.royalcorin.com

SPA			
NAME	TELEPHONE	E-MAIL	WEB SITE
Albergue Observatorio Volcán Arenal S.A	22907011	tours@arenalobservatorylodge.com	www.arenalobservatorylodge.com

NATIONAL BIRD WATCHING ROUTE COSTA RICA



Chloroceryle inda
Green-and-rufous Kingfisher
Photo: Barnaby Romero

CAÑO NEGRO



CAÑO NEGRO



Main birding spots in Caño Negro

- National Mixed Wildlife Refuge Caño Negro
- Los Chiles
- Pocosol
- San Carlos Pier
- San Rafael de Guatuso
- Bijagua de Upala
- Medio Queso
- Biological Corridor Río Frío
- Llanos de San Emilio
- Río Frío southern sector (Caño Blanco & Betel)
- Bosque de Terrón
- Volcán Tenorio National Park
- National Mixed Wildlife Refuge Maquenque



The **Caño Negro Node** is an impressive green treasure to observe an enormous amount of birds of all sizes and colors. Here you can find the 6 species of kingfishers present in America, roseate spoonbills, and the largest colony of cormorants in the country. Also, purple heron, tricolor egret, jabiru, and some specialties of the area such as the white cotinga, the yellow-chested chick, the marsh hawk, and the gray-headed pigeon, among others. You can also see turtles, caimans and fish.

It is located in the north of the country near the border with Nicaragua between the cantons of Guatuso, Upala and Los Chiles. It mainly protects wetlands of great importance for wildlife, both terrestrial and aquatic, and as a reservoir in perpetuity for species unique to the area.

It has 12 identified ecosystems that provide shelter and food for more than **500 species of birds**, including migratory and resident birds, 2 of which are endemic species.

377 Bird Species

2 Endemic Species

1 National Park

2 Wildlife Refuge

377 Bird Species

2 Endemic Species

1 National Park

2 Wildlife Refuge

It includes major birdwatching sites such as: Medio Queso, Ruta los Malecu Medio Queso Biological Corridor, Llanos de San Emilio, Caño Negro Mixed National Wildlife Refuge, and Volcán Tenorio National Park, where you can find at least half of all the bird species found in Costa Rica, including the **bell bird** (*Procnias tricarumculatus*), **umbrella bird** (*Cephalopterus glabricolis*) and the **sunbittern** (*Eurypyga helias*). **This is complemented by the cultural manifestations of the Maleku indigenous community, who live in 3 palenques or settlements: Margarita, Tonjibe and El Sol.**

The **Caño Negro Node** is a very important biological corridor between the ACTO, ACAHN and ACAT, the Tortuguero conservation area, and the Maquenque Mixed National Wildlife Refuge.

Three protected areas are highlighted: **Caño Negro National Mixed Wildlife Refuge, Tenorio National Park, and Maquenque National Mixed Wildlife Refuge.** The Caño Negro Mixed National Wildlife Refuge is a wetlands and wildlife protection area, located in the northern part of Costa Rica, about 14 km as the crow flies from the ASP to the border and approximately 33 km from the border with Nicaragua. With a protected area of approximately 10,000 hectares, **it was declared a RAMSAR Site** on December 27, 1991 and a core area of the Agua y Paz Biosphere, designated by UNESCO in 2007.

It is a site of great importance for the conservation of more than 500 species of birds including the anhinga, snail kite, tiger heron (*Tigrisoma lineatum*), sun grebe, yellow-headed vulture, red-capped manakin, birds of prey, antbirds and rare species such as the curassow (*Crax rubra*) and the spot breasted wren (*Pheugopedius maculipectus*). It is also possible to observe 6 species of kingfishers. The Refuge is of vital importance because it is home to the largest colony of cormorants (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*) in the country. It is also the only region with permanent populations of the Nicaraguan grackle (*Quiscalus nicaraguensis*), a bird endemic to the Lake Nicaragua basin. It is an important area for the sighting of the Nicaraguan seed finch (*S. nuttingi*) throughout the year.

Rio Celeste, and more particularly the Tenorio Volcano National Park, is located in the Guanacaste mountain range, between the provinces of Guanacaste and Alajuela. Among the biggest attractions of the place is the waterfall of the famous Celeste River, whose attraction is precisely its light blue coloration. Along with panoramic views, collapsed fumaroles, hot springs, streams within the forest, natural forest, nature trails and wildlife sightings.

EMBLEMATIC BIRDS CAÑO NEGRO



Jabiru mycteria
Common name: Jabiru

Photo: Bernardo López



From November to February



Leptotila plumbeiceps
Common name: Gray-headed dove

Photo: Renato Paniagua



May



Phalacrocorax brasilianus
Common name: Neotropic Cormorant

Photo: Bernardo López



From March to September

Quiscalus nicaraguensis
Common name: Nicaraguan grackle

Photo: Bernardo López



Ixobrychus exilis
Common name: Least Bittern

Photo: ICT



From June to September



Busarellus nigricolis
There is no records for CR

Common name: Black-collared Hawk

Photo: Renato Paniagua



Beginnings of rainy season

Heliornis fulica
Common name: Sungrebe

Photo: Barnaby Romero



Nesting season



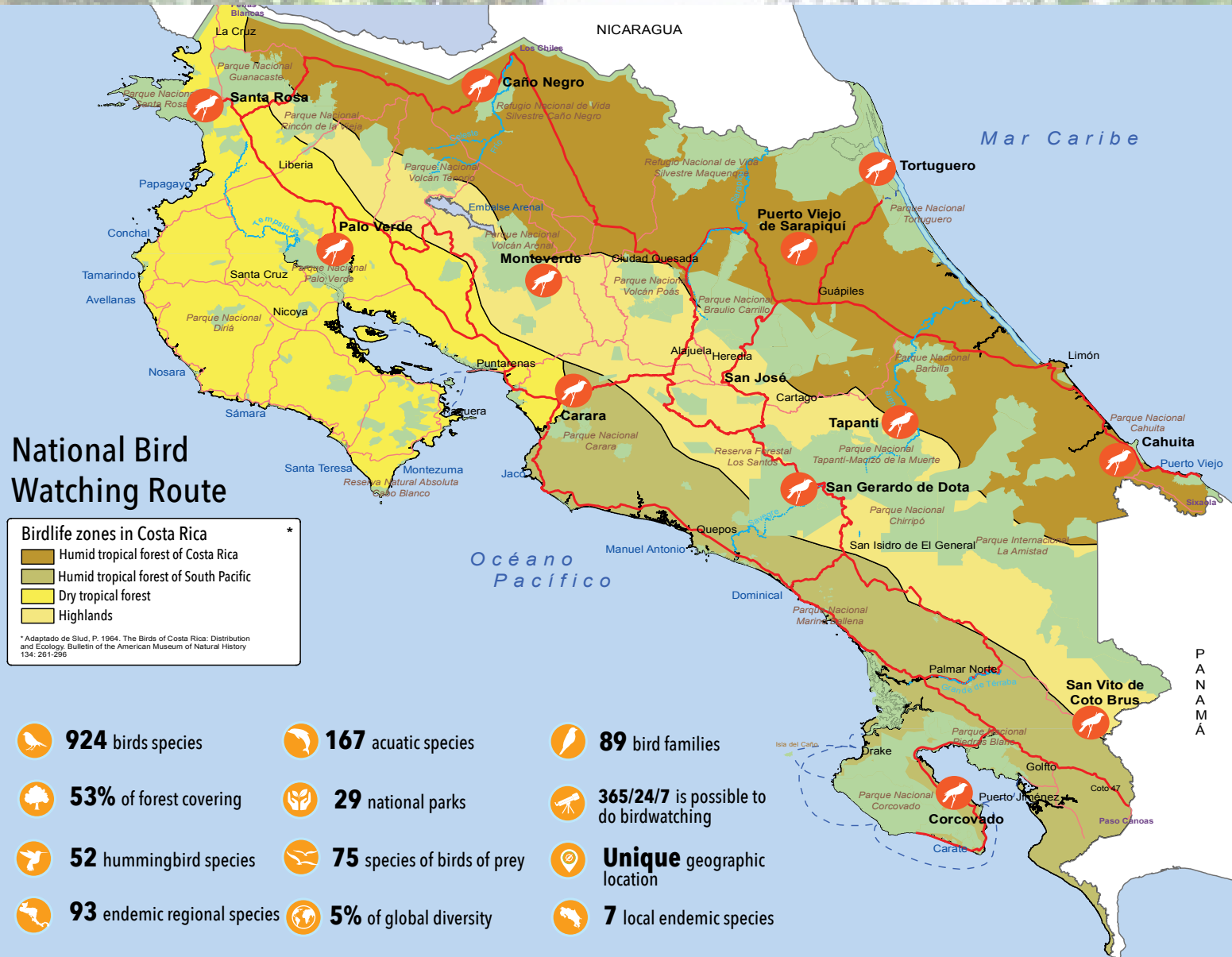
For more information visit:

cañonegroebird.org [Birds list V. Tenorio-río](#)

[Celeste](#) [Asoc. ornitológica de CR](#)

[Video](#) [Unión de Ornitólogos CR](#)

[Video of Volcán Tenorio birds - río Celeste](#)



BIRD WATCHING IN Costa Rica

For national and international birdwatchers, Costa Rica is one of the most important tourist destinations in the world. A country with a small territory of 51,100 km² of land area (0.03% of the world's surface) and 589,000 km² of territorial sea, it has an avifauna with more than 900 species that surpasses all of Europe. Costa Rica is possibly the country with the most bird species and habitat types in the world in relation to the size of its territory.

The diversity of birds is divided into four ornithological provinces: Highlands, Caribbean Slope, North Pacific and South Pacific. Including Cocos Island and its territorial waters.

The country has developed the National Bird Route which is composed of 12 nodes or main birding sites, involving 7 National Parks, 1 National Wildlife Refuge, private reserves and surrounding communities, distributed practically throughout the country and differentiated into 4 Bird Zones: Tropical Dry Forest, Highlands, Caribbean Tropical Rainforest and South Pacific Tropical Rainforest. All of them with a high diversity of bird species that is complemented by the culture, rurality and local communities that are integrated into this route.

Costa Rica has:

- 3 million migratory birds of prey fly through the sky from August to November.
- 220 species are migratory and correspond to Nearctic migratory species from North America.
- 19 are globally threatened.
- One of the top 5 favorite birding countries in the world.
- 7 endemic species, 4 on the mainland, 3 on Cocos Island.
- In total, Costa Rica's bird species constitute 9% of the world's known species. (Stiles and Skutch, 2007, p. 13-31)



www.ict.go.cr | Tel. (506) 2299-5800

Credits

The Costa Rican Tourism Board thanks the National System of Conservation Areas, tourist guides, companies and individuals for their collaboration in the development of the Caño Negro Infogram

Coordination and production: Mario B. Badilla Jara.
Workgroup: Mario Badilla, Luis Humberto Elizondo, Pablo González (maps), Rafael Soto, Rodolfo Lizano, Ruth Alfaro.
Advisory: Rosa Iris Arguedas, Renato Paniagua, Barnaby Romero, Bernardo López, Pablo Camacho, Luis Humberto Elizondo.
Photography: Rosa Iris Arguedas, Bernardo López and Barnaby Romero
Graphic design: Floria Leiva Pacheco.

A production of the Tourism Development Department, Planning and Development Directorate, Costa Rican Tourism Board - National Bird Watching Route.

The total or partial reproduction of this publication is prohibited, by any means or procedure, without the prior, express and written authorization of the Costa Rican Tourism Institute. Any form of unauthorized use will be prosecuted with the provisions of INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS, LAW No. 6683, Copyright and related rights law. Rights reserved according to this law. Costa Rican Tourism Institute. San Jose, Costa Rica 2023. Copyright 2023.

