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The capital is San Jose.

Holidays

The following holidays are observed:
January 1, New Year's Day; Holy Thursday; Holy Friday;
May 1, Labor Day; August 15, Mother's Day; September 15,
Independence Day; and December 25, Christmas Day.

Industries

The main industries are food processing, textiles and clothing, construction materials, fertilizers, and plastic products.

Tourism and the export of bananas, coffee, and other agricultural products are important to the economy.

Languages

The official language of Costa Rica is Spanish. English is spoken in the area of Puerto Limón.

Regulations

No vessel is allowed to enter a Costa Rican port until visited by a Health Inspector, the Captain of the Port, and a Customs Officer.

Time Zone

The Time Zone description is SIERRA (+6).

U.S. Embassy

The U.S. Embassy is situated at Pavas Road, San Jose. The mailing address is APO AA 3402.

General

Costa Rica is located in Middle America, bordering the Caribbean Sea and the North Pacific Ocean, between Panama and Nicaragua.

The climate is tropical, having its dry season from December to April, and its rainy season from May to November.

The terrain is primarily coastal plains separated by rugged mountains.

Buoyage System

The IALA Buoyage System (Region B) is in effect.

See Chart No. 1 for further IALA Buoyage System information.

Currency

The official unit of currency is the Costa Rica colon, consisting of 100 centimos.

Government

Costa Rica is a democratic republic comprised of seven provinces.